

Antoni-Park



paddling pool, Stadtpark early 20th century



Alstervorland



bathing area at Alster, early 20th century



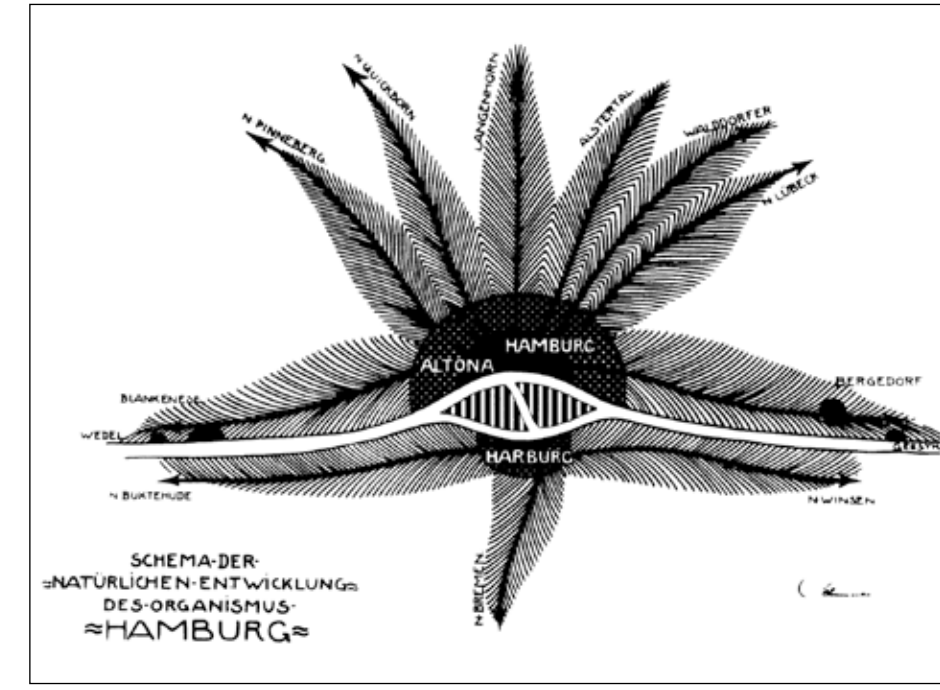
playground Belleisalanckstraße, early 20th century



playground Belleisalanckstraße, early 20th century

The "GrünesNetzHamburg" – A Short History

"GrünesNetzHamburg" could be translated as Hamburg's Green Network and is the main part of Hamburg's "Open Space Interconnecting System". Hamburg largely owes its high proportion of green and public open space to the foresighted planning schemes of Fritz Schumacher and Gustav Oelsner. In his Axial Concept of 1919 Schumacher, Head of Hamburg's Building Department from 1909 to 1933, concentrated development in Hamburg and its hinterland in axes radiating from the city centre. Green interaxial spaces were meant to provide green and public open space – parks, allotments, playgrounds and sport fields – close to the residential areas. Furthermore green corridors were designed to provide structure within the city and connect the large public parks and the countryside.



plan with feather structure 1920

These aims are still respected in all of the development plans for Hamburg and its environs. Gustav Oelsner, Senator for Architecture in the previously independent town of Altona and Building Officer from 1924 to 1933, laid down the basic structure for a green Altona with his Green Belt Plan of 1925. The three green belts forming a semi-circle around Altona still exist in the shape of public parks and provide the basis for the con-

cept of Green Rings within the "GrünesNetzHamburg". The Heads of the Park Departments, Otto Linne in Hamburg and Ferdinand Tutenberg in Altona, contributed considerably to the development of a green Hamburg in the early 20th century.



Green Belt Plan 1925

The Masterplan of 1947 and the so-called Reconstruction Plans of 1950 and 1960 attribute great recreational value to the various green open spaces and their links. Schumacher and Oelsner's aims and the combination of radial and circular green infrastructure were stipulated in the so-called Development Model for Hamburg and its Hinterland of 1969 and in the Unitary Development Plan of 1973. The green corridors radiating from the countryside deep into the urban fabric as well as the First Green Ring along the former fortifications and the Second Green Ring with all its large parks approximately eight kilometres from the city hall should be kept free from development and preserved for agricultural, recreational and ecological use.

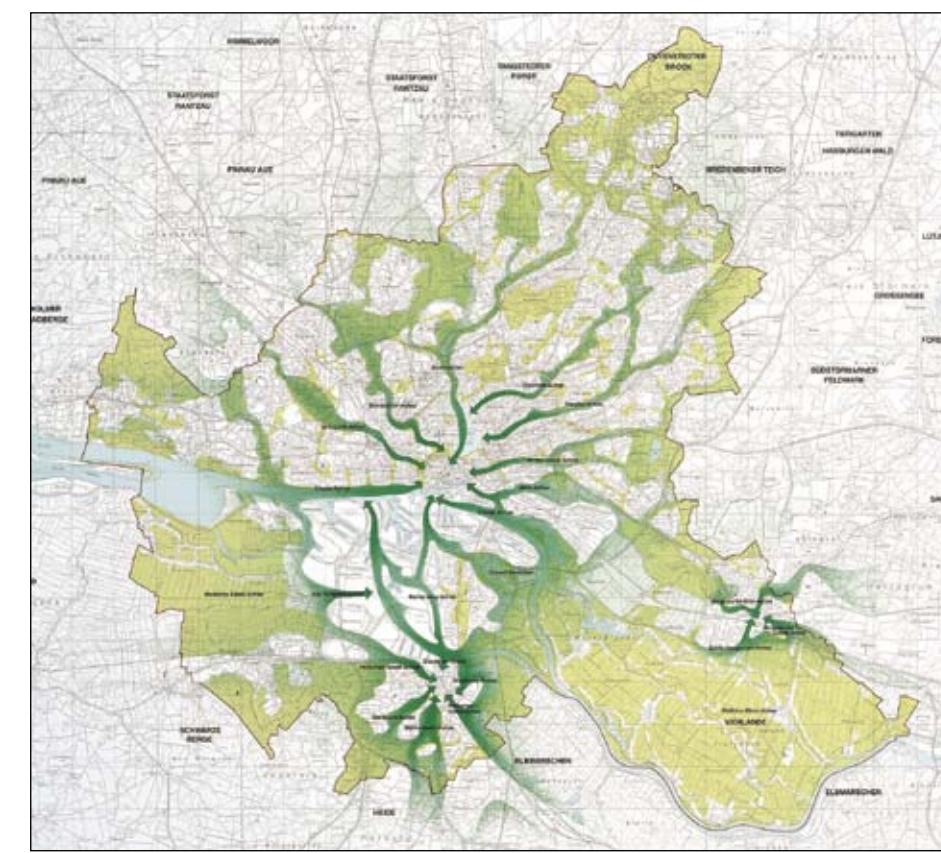
The aptly named Landscape Axes Model was drawn up as an essential part of Hamburg's Open Space Concept in 1985. It developed the green corridors between the residential axes further into Landscape Axes, which reach from the surrounding countryside right into the inner city.



Wilhelmsburger Dove-Elbe

Green Corridor of the Elbe

Finally a comprehensive Open Space Concept – the "Open Space Interconnecting System" – was produced as part of the Landscape Programme. It connects the designated Landscape Axes with the Green Rings. The Landscape Programme was adopted by the city parliament in 1997 as an environmental blueprint. It comprehensively determines Hamburg's aims for the environment and open space provision.



Landscape Axes Model 1985

Although all those plans mentioned attach great value to the preservation of the city's system of green open space and public parks, the green open spaces of the "GrünesNetzHamburg" are under immense pressure from residential and commercial development as well as from roads. Therefore green spaces – especially those in the inner city – have suffered substantial losses.

How does the "Open Space Interconnecting System" look at present?

Hamburg's geographical formations are still recognizable despite extensive development in the last fifty years. These formations shape the landscape and give the city its distinctive identity. They form the basis for the "GrünesNetzHamburg", which consists of radiating Landscape Axes and two Green Rings, complemented by key recreational areas, such as borough parks, district parks and urban recreational areas. A finely woven network of smaller green open spaces and green links for outdoor activities and relaxation close to residential areas exists between the Landscape Axes and the Green Rings. Many destinations can be reached by bicycle or on foot on various paths within the Green Network. And sometimes the journey through the urban green spaces is its own reward.



Hammer Park



The Landscape Programme Hamburg



Hamburg – Green Metropolis on the Water

Hamburg is famous for being a Green Metropolis. Watercourses framed by lush greenery are typical – from the rivers Elbe, Alster and Bille to the small streams, canals, lakes and ponds. Many parks, cemeteries, allotments and nature reserves also contribute to the city's green image as do woods, fields and meadows and last but not least the large number of trees lining the streets. Other metropolises around the world only started planting street trees over the last few decades. Watercourses, open space and trees combine to form a green network within the town, thereby uniting urban settings and countryside and thus contributing largely to Hamburg's beauty. This asset deserves to be preserved and strengthened. But why is Hamburg so much greener than many other metropolises?

HISTORY



Outer Alster



Elbe-Strand



Elbe-Promenade

Landscape Axes – Green Connections between City and Countryside

The Landscape Axes of the "GrünesNetzHamburg" consist of connected green open spaces that stretch from the surrounding countryside right into the city centre, lying between built-up areas. North of the river Elbe they radiate outwards from the ring of the former fortifications and are between 18 and 25 kilometres long. The districts of Bergedorf and Harburg have their own radial system of Landscape Axes, which are five to six kilometres long. A first impression indicates the diversity of the Axes:

- The watercourses with their accompanying Green Corridors, e.g. the axes along the riverbanks of the Elbe, the Alster, the Osterbek, the Wandse and the Bille. The green corridors and footpaths along the watercourses are particularly attractive and characteristic of Hamburg's cityscape.
- The marsh areas with grassland, vegetable and flower production in the east (known as "Vier- und Marschlande") and the fruit production in the western Elbe-Valley-Axis (known as "Altes Land").
- The arable fields or meadows and the woods, such as the Sülldorfer, the Eimsbütteler and the Harburger Geest-Axis, mainly situated on the higher, slightly undulating alluvial geest to the north and in the hills of the Harburger Berge to the south.

The extensive glacial valley of the river Elbe with the Elbe Green Corridor, the Vier- und Marschlande to the east and the Süderelbmarsh with Altes Land to the west form the most important Landscape Axis. The valley is bordered by the steep slopes of the geest on the northern banks of the river Elbe in Altona and Wedel as well as in Bergedorf.

On the periphery the Landscape Axes still consist of large stretches of unspoiled countryside, agricultural land, woodland and semi-natural landscapes. Specifically these are: the Rissen-Sülldorfer Feldmark with Kiovensteen in the west; the Duvenstedter Brook with Wohldorfer Wald and the agricultural landscape of the geest with its hedgerows, arable fields and livestock breeding in the north; the Vier- und Marschlande

with vegetable and flower production in the east; and the hills of the Harburger Berge with the heathland Fischbeker Heide and the marshes of the Altes Land with its fruit production in the south. These are valuable areas for recreation, for nature conservation and other ecological functions, due to their size, their diversity, their unspoiled character and because they are within easy reach from the city, including by public transport. In addition agricultural areas within a conurbation such as Hamburg are important providers of locally produced foodstuffs and flowers.

Further towards the city these large areas are continued by green corridors with parks, allotments, cemeteries and sports grounds, which serve urban recreation close to residential areas. Altonaer Volkspark, Öjendorfer Park, Wasserpark Dove-Elbe and Harburger Stadtpark are situated at crucial links between the Landscape Axes and the Second Green Ring. They are also important public open spaces in their own right. The further the Landscape Axes continue towards the city, the narrower, thinner and more fragmented they become. At the city centre, where the axes meet the First Green Ring along the former fortifications, they are often no more than footpaths framed by trees or shrubs.

The city's visitors often remark upon the many trees, lining the streets. They create a green impression even in densely built-up areas and often ensure the continuation of the wider Landscape Axes into the inner city. These around 245,000 trees lining the streets not only beautify the city, they are also vital for the micro-climate, the mitigation of air pollution, and they are habitats for a variety of wildlife, especially birds.

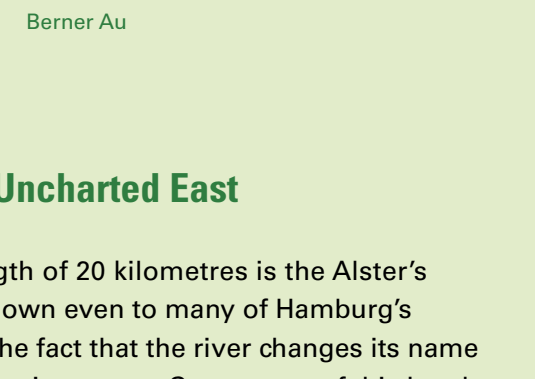
Eimsbüttler Park



Bunthäuser Spitze



Höltingbaum



Berner Au

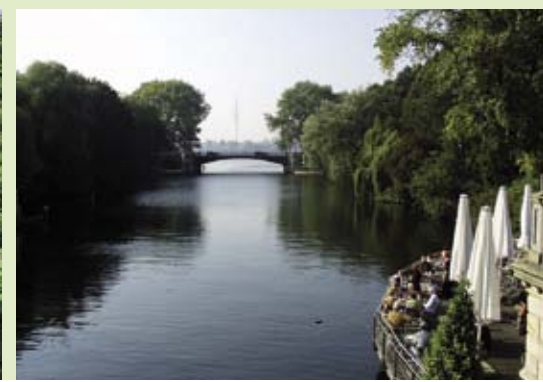
The Wandse-Axis – A Tour Through Hamburg's Uncharted East

The Wandse river with its total length of 20 kilometres is the Alster's longest tributary, but remains unknown even to many of Hamburg's citizens. This is probably owing to the fact that the river changes its name and appearance several times during its course. Some parts of this Landscape Axis are already popular destinations on afternoons or at weekends, others are real insider tips. But let's start at the source: The Wandse originates east of Hamburg near the village of Siek. From there it runs through the 558-hectare Höltingbaum nature reserve, an open, expansive landscape with a steppe character. Half of it lies within the district of Stormarn, a part of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein. The Stellmoor and the Ahrenshurger Tunnel, two further nature reserves covering a combined 541 hectares, abut to the west and the north. This undulating, impressive and diverse landscape offers many opportunities for leisure pursuits – from rollerblading or cycling on long concrete tracks (remains of 60-years of use as a military training site) to sunbathing and picnicking on the grass or observing nature, especially in the rare unimproved grassland, heathland and bogs. Leaving the Höltingbaum Nature Reserve the Wandse meanders through the ecologically valuable wetlands of the Tonndorfer Feuchtwiesen, which are a habitat not only for rare species of orchids, but also for the kingfisher and several species of bats. Citizens' groups sponsor, improve and tend individual stretches of the river. Pulverhofpark with its many rare tree species surrounding a former manor house lies at the centre of this semi-natural stretch of the Wandse.

Botanischer Sondergarten



Wandse at Schwannenk



Stadtpark



Boberger Dünen



Jenischpark

Two Green Rings connect the Landscape Axes

The First and the Second Green Rings together with the Landscape Axes form the basis of the "GrünesNetzHamburg" in 2004 they were adopted with their precise delineations as part of the Landscape Programme.

The First Green Ring runs along the boundary of the inner city along the lines of the former fortifications, with approximately one kilometre radius from the city hall. The Ring connects the port with the Alster and is the starting point of many Landscape Axes. The western, green part of the Ring consists of Elbpark, Wallanlagen, Pflanzen un Blumen and the smaller green open spaces that lead to Lombardsbrücke, the bridge separating the two Alster lakes. East of the Alster the First Green Ring stretches into the HafenCity, but is not easily recognizable.

The Second Green Ring forms a circle between the inner and the outer city at a distance of eight to ten kilometres from the city hall. It is 90 kilometres long. Starting from Jenischpark in the west it runs in a northerly direction via Altonaer Volkspark and Niendorfer Gehege, then eastwards to Ohlsdorf Cemetery and Trabrennbahn Farmsen, and then south towards Öjendorfer Park, the wetlands of Boberger Niederung and Wasserpark Dove-Elbe in the east. South of the river Elbe the Ring continues via the marshes of Vier- und Marschlande and the lake Neuländer See, Harburger Stadtpark, Meyers Park and further via Süderelbmarsh to Rüschnpark opposite Jenischpark on the northern bank of the Elbe. The Second Green Ring is almost unbroken and consists mainly of high quality parks and public open spaces. North of the inner city and south of the Elbe at the centre of Harburg these are mainly public open spaces, such as parks, allotments and woodland, in the southeast and southwest it mainly runs through the typical agricultural landscapes of the marshes with grassland, flower and vegetable production as well as fruit production. Thus many different types of open space and landscape can be experienced along its course – accordingly the choices of use are varied. It offers the chance to circumnavigate the city by bicycle or on foot mostly within pleasant green spaces, while detours into the Landscape Axes or the large parks and recreational areas are possible via attractive green corridors. The Second Green Ring is a special feature of Hamburg due to its situation within the urban fabric. Green Rings or belts do exist in other cities as well, such as Hanover, Leipzig, London or Moscow, but there they are usually situated in the open countryside on the outskirts of the city.

THE RINGS

THE AXES



Altonaer Balkon



Friedhof Ohlsdorf



Pflanzen un Blumen

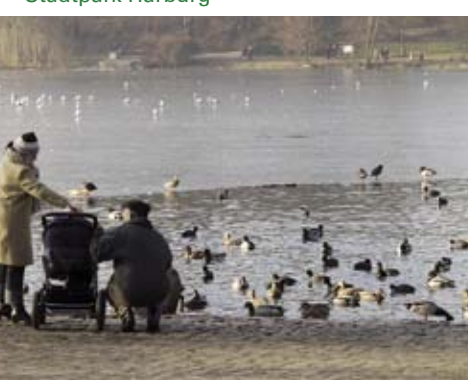
Key Recreational Areas Within the Green Network

The already mentioned urban recreational areas within the Landscape Axes on the outskirts or nearer the city centre alongside water courses with their diverse cultural and natural qualities are favourite destinations for weekend trips and contribute immensely to recreational opportunities in the city. They can be as diverse as the water-dominated green corridors along the rivers Elbe, Alster and Wandse or the woodland and heathland areas of the Harburger Berge and the Boberger Niederung. Agricultural landscapes with arable fields, meadows and hedgerows such as on the geest in Sülldorf or in the marshes with typical ditches among the grassland and with vegetable, flower or fruit production round off the picture, as do the historic centres of geest and marsh villages.

The attraction and value of these key recreational areas is increased by choices of footpaths, cycle routes, places for swimming or water sports, picnic areas and catering and of places to experience peace and quiet or observe nature. Due to their situation within the city boundaries most of them can be reached relatively quickly by public transport or by bicycle. This reduces the need for car journeys and long-distance weekend trips, and consequently decreases traffic and its environmental impact.

Due to their size and facilities, borough and district parks offer varied choices for leisure and relaxation in purpose-made surroundings. There are playgrounds for children of all ages, a choice of recreational sports for youths and adults, opportunities for tranquillity or interaction, walks, nature observation, and much more. Depending on their location and history these parks can be divided into semi-natural parks for extensive

Stadtpark Harburg



Altonaer Volkspark



Römischer Garten

use (such as Hirschpark or Alstervorland) and parks for intensive use with facilities for a range of activities (such as parts of Winterhuder Stadtpark or Sola-Bona-Park in Eidelstedt).

Around 30 borough parks are close to residential areas, such as Hammer Park or Sternschanzepark. They are between eight to 60 hectares in size and are unevenly distributed around the city.

The eight district parks, such as Harburger Stadtpark or Öjendorfer Park, are mostly located at the cross-section of the Landscape Axes and the Second Green Ring and can therefore be reached via attractive green links. Their size ranges from 65 to 150 hectares, so that they not only serve their local neighbourhood, but a larger catchment area within a five-kilometre radius.

Hamburg possesses around 130 neighbourhood parks, plus pocket parks and linear green open space covering a total area of more than 980 hectares. Among these parks are some historical gems, such as Stadtpark, Jenischpark and the Römischer Garten. More than 35,000 allotments fulfil important functions for recreation and ecology as part of the green infrastructure, at the same time they substitute gardens for

those living in flats. Due to the uneven distribution of green open spaces not all boroughs are equally well supplied.

Some of the very large cemeteries appear like parks. They are home to rare plants and wildlife and are used for quiet recreation. The Friedhof Ohlsdorf, at almost 400 hectares the world's largest park cemetery and Hamburg's largest green open space, is the best-known.

The approximately 7000 hectares of public open space are made up of parks, playgrounds, sports grounds, allotments, lidos and cemeteries.

Green Spaces in Neighbourhoods

The smaller parks and playgrounds in close proximity to residential areas are especially important for less mobile sections of the population, such as parents with babies, children and older people, but youths and the working population also use them. They offer varied choices for children's play, communication and relaxation out of doors during the day or after work. The protection of existing open space – and where possible the creation of new parks and playgrounds – is the main aim, especially since in some neighbourhoods with high density buildings and dense population there are substantial deficits in the supply of open space. Greening courtyards and multiple or different use of school grounds, sports grounds, car parks or streets will be used to increase the supply of open space in areas where it is impossible to create new public open space.



Lohmühlenpark

Narrow green corridors and footpaths in the shape of green streets with reduced traffic will connect the smaller green open spaces and create links to the Landscape Axes and the Green Rings. Many journeys home, to work, to the shops and to the recreational areas can be separated from the traffic and take place in pleasant green surroundings.



"Alpine meadow" – Hafencity, concept: Bjarke Ingels Group, Copenhagen



Doppelstraße, today



Doppelstraße, idea of development
Concept: Schaper+Steffen+Runtsch and Roswitha Düsterhöft, image editing: Felix Holzappel-Herzig

FUTURE PROSPECTS

The Future of the "GrünesNetzHamburg"

Green and public open spaces make up around half of Hamburg's territory. They are highly important for the quality of life within the town and therefore must be protected and strengthened. The "GrünesNetzHamburg" connects – even if not completely – the parks, play areas and sports grounds, allotments and cemeteries within the city and through to its outskirts. It thereby creates routes among green surroundings, undisturbed by traffic. The "GrünesNetzHamburg" supplies the population with a range of public open spaces for recreation and in doing so increases the choices for leisure activities. At the same time it is highly valuable for the town's green infrastructure, for ecological diversity and the (micro) climate. Last but not least the "GrünesNetzHamburg" contributes to Hamburg's distinctive cityscape. Therefore the "GrünesNetzHamburg" is not only an important part of the Landscape Programme, but can also be found in the latest development plans – Spatial Masterplan and Unitary Development Plan – as a general principle for the protection of Hamburg as a Green Metropolis.

Enhancing the existing open spaces and their interconnections is part of the scheme to improve key recreational areas and green spaces. Connecting the inner city to the site of the international garden show in Wilhelmsburg, strengthening the Alster-Elbe-Green-Corridor and connecting the two large parks in Winterhude and Harburg to the "GrünesNetzHamburg" are some of the future plans.

The quality of the Landscape Axes and the Green Rings will be improved and existing gaps will be closed. Proposals for the improvement of Volkspark, the Eimsbütteler and the Wilhelmsburger-Dove-Elbe-Axis are already being drawn up. The distinctive features of the individual axes will be emphasized during this process. Their usefulness will be examined and where possible improved by installing new facilities. Additional measures affect the ecological improvement, such as almost continuous planting throughout the network. Green streets and squares around the Museumsinsel, the main station and the Deichtorhallen will continue the First Green Ring eastwards through to HafenCity. The Second Green Ring will be strengthened by closing gaps, improving signposting and links with the adjacent residential areas. Thus its structural function between the inner and the outer city and the importance of its large parks will be acknowledged.

LEISURE + RELAXATION