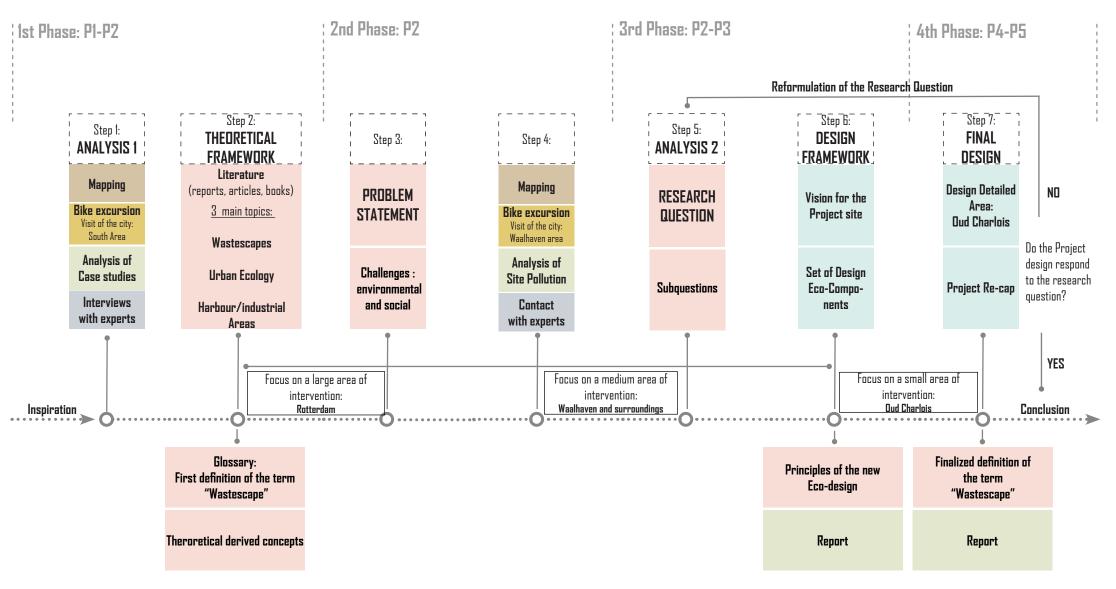
# AN ECO SYNERGIST HUB IN ROTTERDAM:

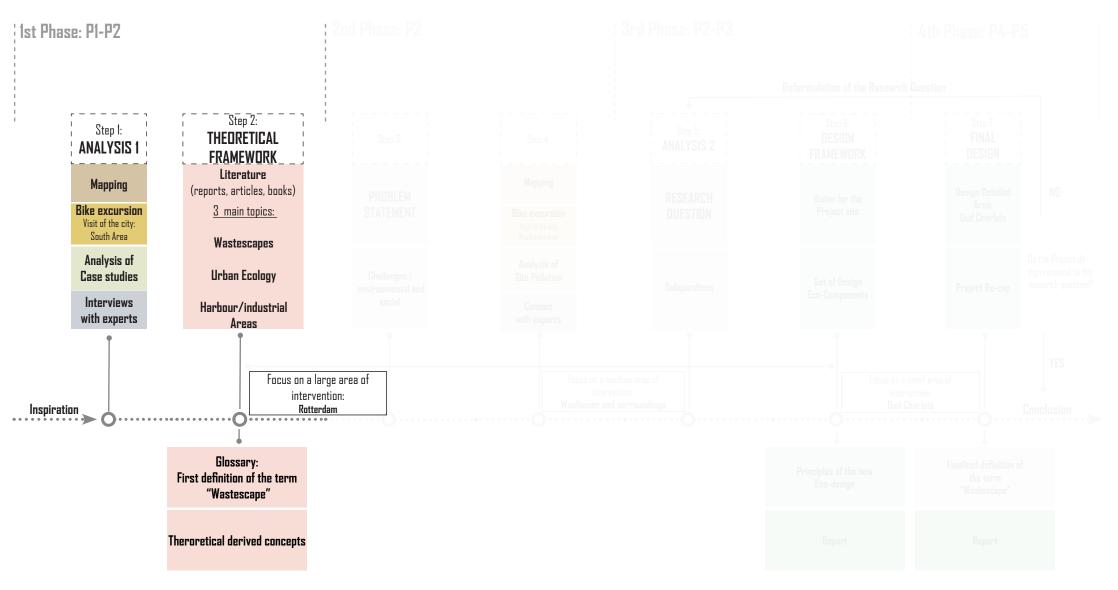
Reuse and Regeneration of neglected urban fragments into ecological hotspots Francesca Mazza - 4831497

Mentors: Dr.ir. Nico Tillie, Prof. Dr.ir. Arjan van Timmeren, Dr. Libera Amenta Urban Ecology & Eco-Cities Lab. - MSc Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences: Landscape Architecture track

## **RESEARCH PLAN**



## **RESEARCH PLAN**



## INSPIRATION

#### WASTESCAPES



Schöneberger Südgelände Park, Berlin, Germany



Chausseestraße, Berlin, Germany



"C-mine" Cultural Square, Genk, Belgium



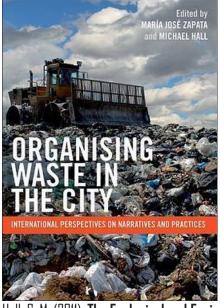
Building complex in the Zhongzheng district of Keelung city in northeastern Taiwan

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### LITERATURE (Reports, Articles, Books)

- Wasteland is not a waste!
- Wastelands beneficial for urban biodiversity
- Wastescapes as means of urban and social regeration

#### WASTESCAPE



Hall. C. M. (2011). The Ecological and Environmental Significance of Urban Wastelands and Drosscapes.

- Integration of nature in the city is
- necessary, no more separation.
- Ecosystems should be preserved at any scale
- Rotterdam: future eco-city

ECOLOGY

# water.

- Common Qualities and Issues in

Harbour/Industrial areas along the

#### HARBOUR/INDUSTRIAL AREAS



Municipality of Rotterdam, Rotterdam "**Structural Vision on Plan Stadhavens**" (adopted in 2011).

- Techniques of soil remediation and relative usage of plants against pollutants

#### SOIL POLLUTION

#### From degradation to productive rehabilitation; a cross-sectoral exploration of a renewable production landscape and bioremediation for the rehabilitation of the contaminated industrial site of Shell-Pernis

Sarlijn Simone Besse; 4297415; Delft Universityof Technology Seywords: Biorefinery, Phytoemediation, Productive landscapes, 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Biomass, Shell-Pernis

#### Abstract:

The issues of asing per capita demand and decreasing finite stocks ar unition Theoher for gromer , mass for energy, bealth with 2<sup>rd</sup> reneration biomass feedstock In the cannot be neglected. Tis paper investigates the situ industrial site of Sbell-Pernis in the Port of Rotterdam. The soils of Sbell-Pernis are highly con oils, heavy metals (e.g. Zn, Cu, Cd, Hg, etc), and PAHs. In order to clean these soils and provide feedstock for a propose biorefinery, a set of 25 different plant species is contrived, which form building blocks for ecological rated. fossil-based industrial site into an accessible bio-industrial park. The rule of multiple functions, as all plants provide various ecosystem services such as production of biofuels, bioremediation attracting wildlife, fixating nitrogen, preventing erosion and other additional benefits. Hence, the im potential to make a polluted industrial area safer and healthier, and provide a pleasant stav for the public. In conclusion this papersbous how Shell-Pernis has the potential to become a flagship site of the green industry where his-economic and rehabilitating activities are shown to the outer worldin order to educate and stimulate sustainable growth

Besse, S. K. (2020). From Degradation to Productive Rehabilitation; a cross sectoral exploration of a renewable production landscape and bioremediation for the rehabilitation of the contaminated industrial site of Shell-Pernis.

Quodlibet Gilles Clément Manifesto del Terzo paesaggio

Clement, G. (2004). **Manifesto del Terzo paesaggio** (Manifeste du Tiers Paysage).

## GLOSSARY

Puelteel Neture	Brownfield/Greenfiel	d
Cyclical Nature		<b>Disordered Nature</b>
Invisit	ole Nature	"Terrain Vague"
Abandoned Nature	V	alueless Nature
Unintentional Nature		Ambiguous Nature
	WASTESCAPE	Marginal Nature
Mysterious Nature	Fragmented Nature	Empty place
Forgotten Natu	re	
Neglected Nature		'Post Romanticism' Nature
	Regenerative Nature	
Wild Nature	Non place	Dangerous place

## GLOSSARY

Cuelte el Neture	Brownfield/Greenfie	ld
Cyclical Nature		<b>Disordered Nature</b>
Invisible Nature		
Abandoned Nature		Valueless Nature
	WASTESCAPE	Ambiguous Nature Marginal Nature
Mysterious Nature		
Forgotten Natu	Ire	
	Regenerative Nature	
	Non place	

Dangerous place

## PERSONAL DEFINITION

## A **WASTESCAPE** is :

- a space of social and environmental **regeneration**. It can help to overcome the divisions between people and to improve the quality of species' life. Its appearance and function are continuously **changeable** according to different times and places.

- a '**Non-place**' of passage where there is no local identity to recognize. Its nature is invisible and apparently **worthless to citizens**.

- a place where nature, with its **wild** and **disordered** aspect, takes on a charm of its own, **mysterious**, **ambiguous** due to its indefinite form and function.

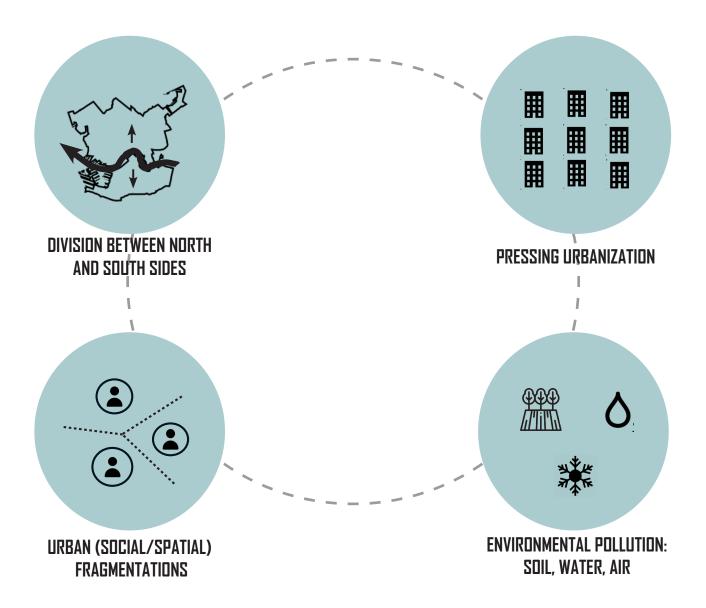
- a space lacking of own **identity**, recognizable social, spatial and cultural features by a community.

## SITE: ROTTERDAM (SOUTH HOLLAND)

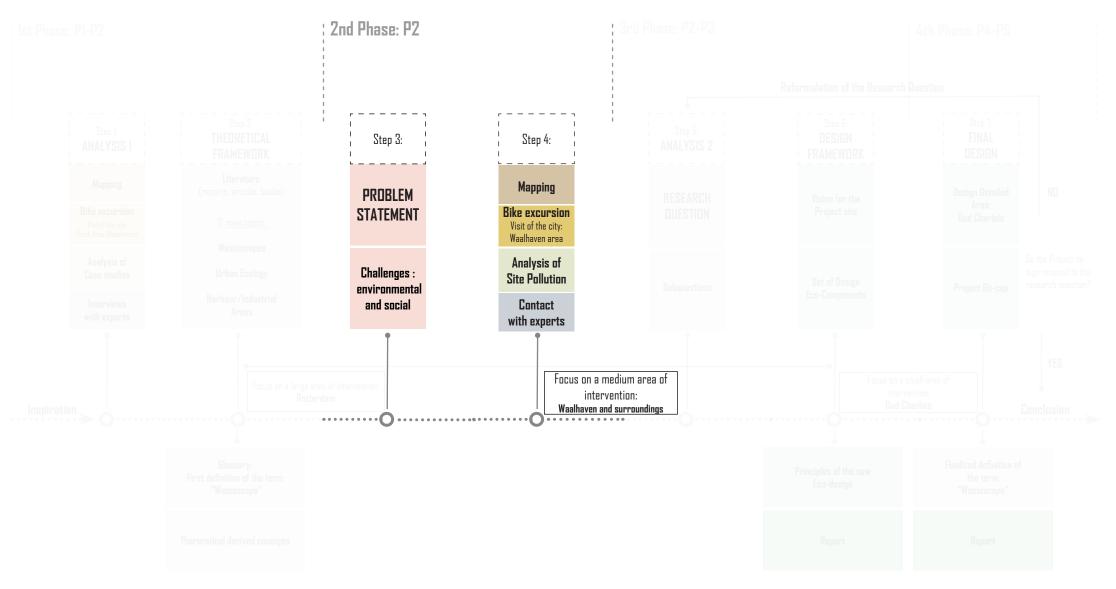




## **CHALLENGES IN ROTTERDAM**



## **RESEARCH PLAN**



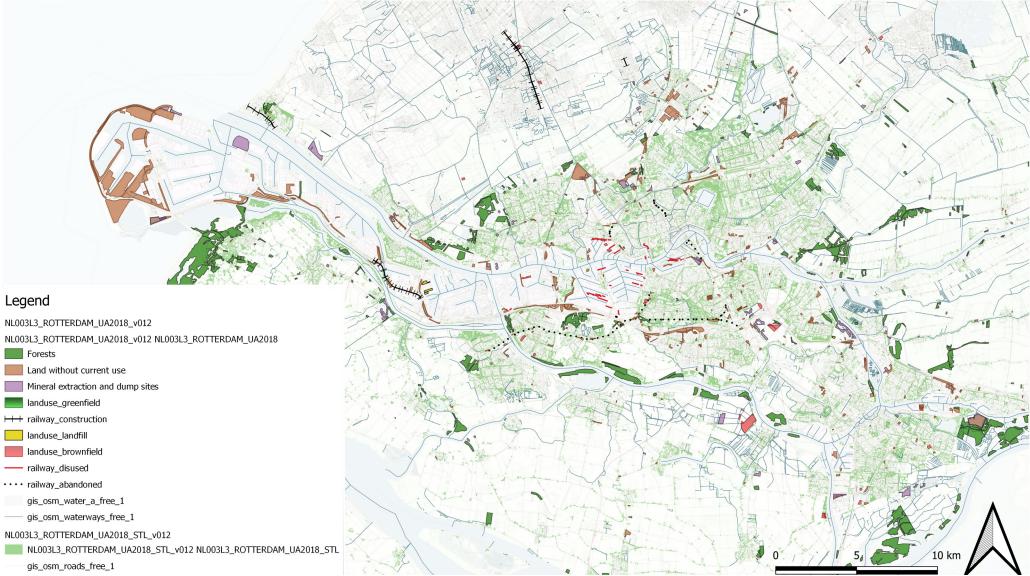
## **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

# What is the future of the Wastescapes in the city of Rotterdam ?

Due to an economic process of "urban pressure" undergoing in the city, the majority of the old industrial, harbour areas or buildings are demolished and replaced by new structures with different functions and forms 'erasing' the memory of the past urban structures. Some lands instead are used and then abandoned or even never used and left uncultivated. These, usually covered by wild vegetation, can host a high range of biodiversity, especially in not polluted soils.

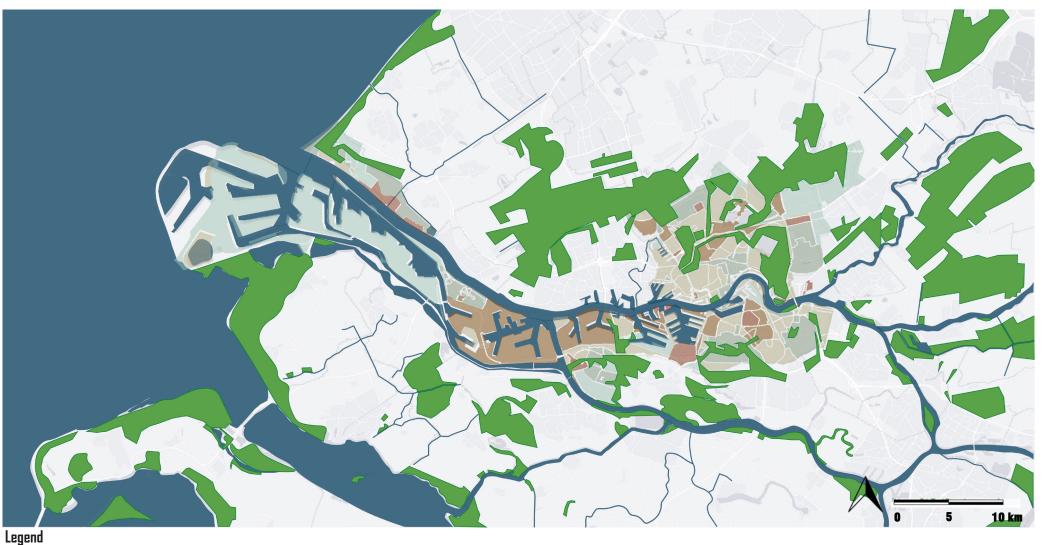
#### Abandoned spaces and Green areas

- Combination of wasted areas and vegetation in and around the city of Rotterdam.



#### ANALYSIS : REGIONAL>CITY>DISTRICT Green areas and Soil pollution

- Soil quality in/around the city of Rotterdam varies considerably. Some areas have a high rate of pollution, while others a lower one.



Nature (clean)

Agriculture (very light contaminated)

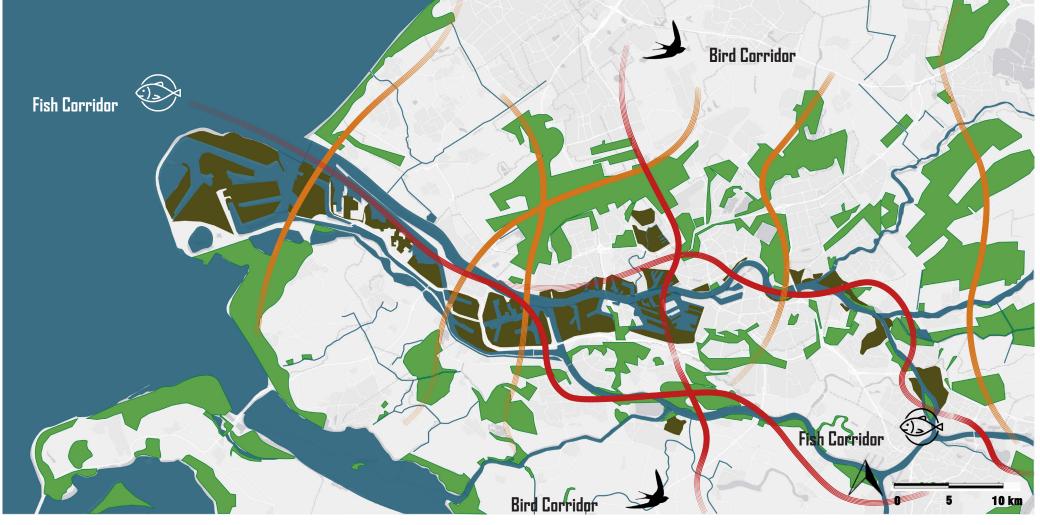
Living (light contaminated)

Industry (moderately contaminated)

Strongly contaminated

Potential Green Connections ("Green Sewing Corridors") through industrial areas.

- Potential ecological corridors can be created or other existing ones to be strengthened.
- A central vertical one is for **BIRD MIGRATION**, while the horizontal one is important for **FISH MIGRATION**.



#### Individuation of Four Critical Points

- Due to the central industrial zones, four important points along the Maas river show a discontinuity of green areas between North and <u>South. The presence of such industrial areas also hinders</u> the accessibility to the river from the city.



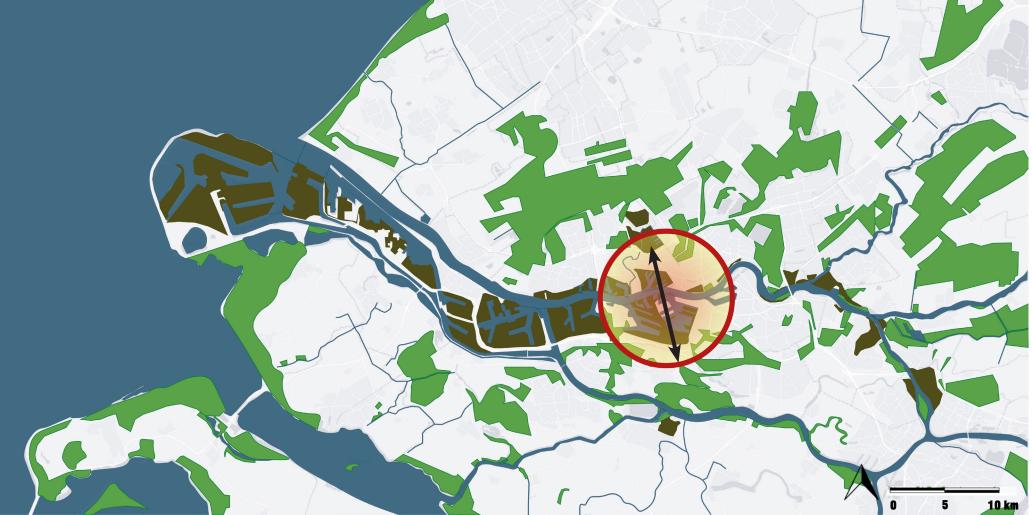
#### Industrial Areas converted into New Eco-Hotspots

- The transformation of industrial critical areas into new ecological hotspots leads to the increase of urban vegetation (biodiversity), the depollution of the soil, water and air.



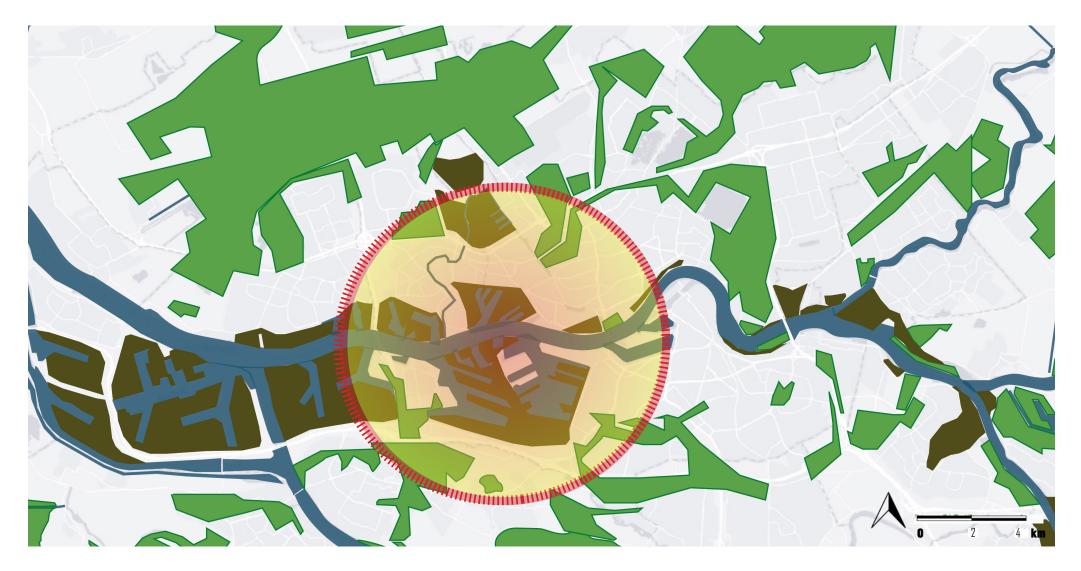
#### Selection of a critical area of interest. Large Scale.

- The chosen area of intervention represents a crucial crossing point where the contrast between city and harbour/industry is much stronger and more evident.



#### Area of Intervention: Waalhaven and surroundings. Medium scale.

- The area is going to host a future increase of population, building densification and green urbanization.



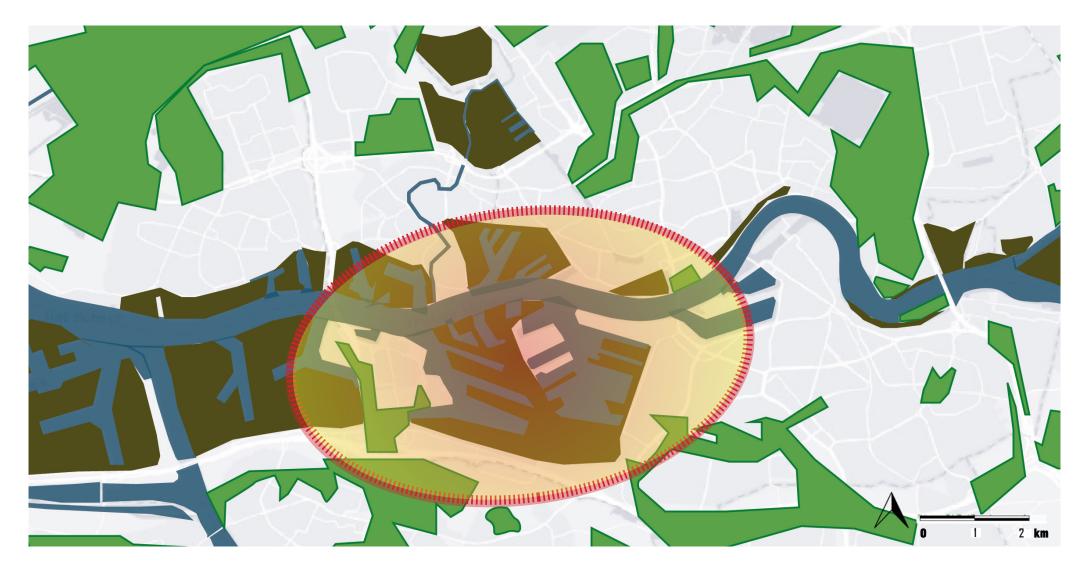
#### Area of intervention: Waalhaven and surroundings. Connections.

- The presence of a Vertical/Horizontal Green Connection in the area fosters the mobility along the water and the improvement of relation between North and South.

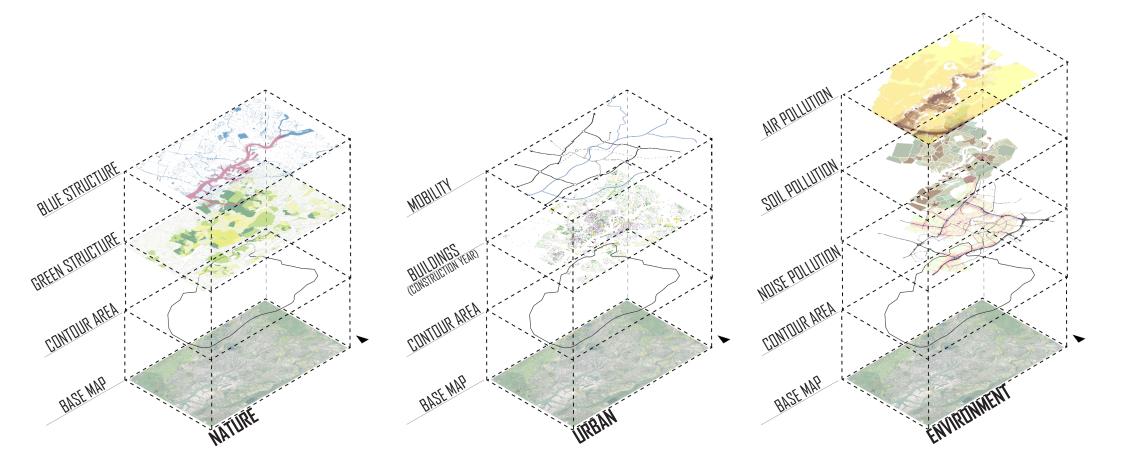


#### Area of intervention: Waalhaven and surroundings. Small Scale.

- Current Plan of Urban Intervention and reconnection between the city and the port: "Plan StadsHaven".



#### ANALYSIS : OVERVIEW ROTTERDAM - NATURAL /URBAN/ ENVIRONMENTAL LAYERS



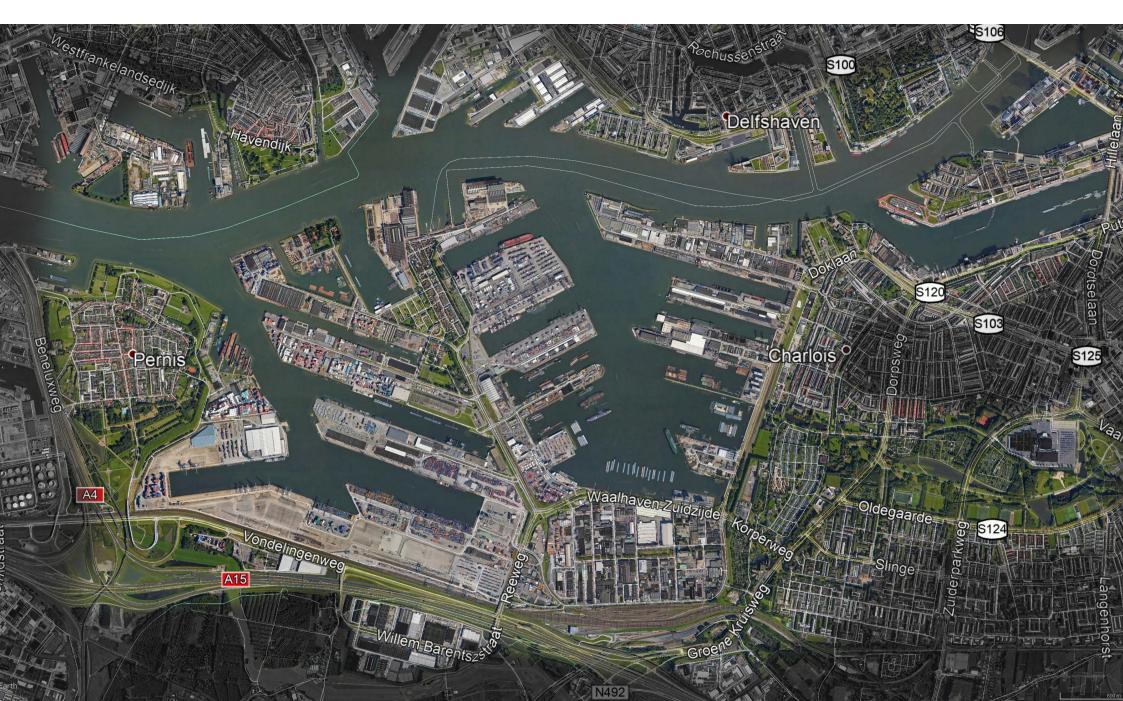
The analysis of the city of Rotterdam and its surronding region under multiple aspects led to the following **STATEMENTS**:

- Highest levels of pollution along the main communication routes: the Maas (Water) river or the highways (Air, Noise).

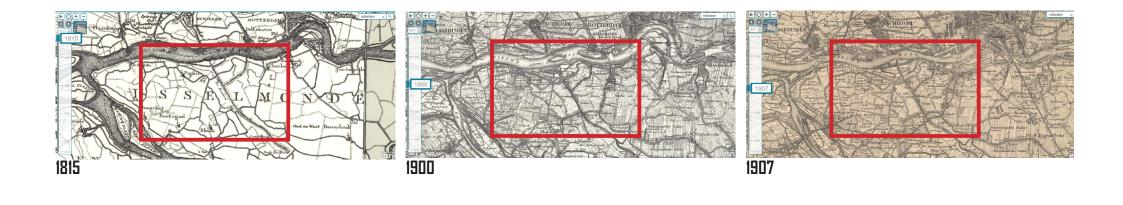
- The **quality of the urban space** varies according to the location: <u>Near the port</u>: scarce vegetation and fragmented urban agglomerations. <u>Inner-city:</u> green and built areas more dense and aggregated.

- The **relationship between the density of industrial and building areas** is inversely proportional: in the city center there are fewer industrial areas, and vice versa.

## WAALHAVEN AREA



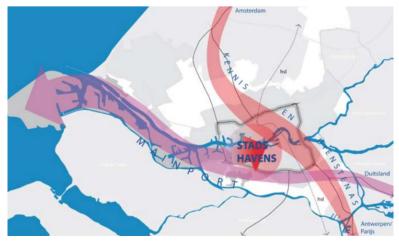
## A GRADUAL FRACTURE OVER TIME BETWEEN THE PORT AND THE CITY



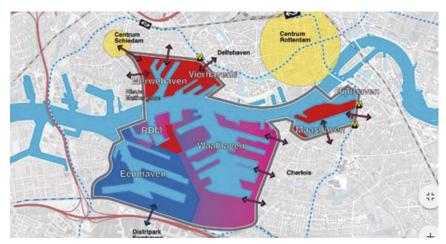


- **Containerization** and **technological revolution** in second half of 20th century: important breakthrough for the port. Port and city drifted apart, and huge areas were left behind for new urban uses.

#### PLAN "STADHAVENS": A WAY OF RECONNECTING THE PORT AND THE CITY



Plan Stadhavens, contextualized on a regional scale.



Plan Stadhavens and its links to the surrounding urban areas.

Stadshavens: extensive area consisting of Merwehaven and Vierhaven, Rijn- and Maashaven, RDM site and Heijsehaven and Waal- and Eemhaven.

**Plan Goal:** -Increase in scale and relocations of port companies create space for new functions.

- Coexistence of different stakeholders: Port of Rotterdam, Business Companies and Citizens.

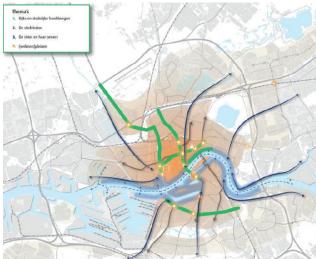


Plan Stadhavens: Program.

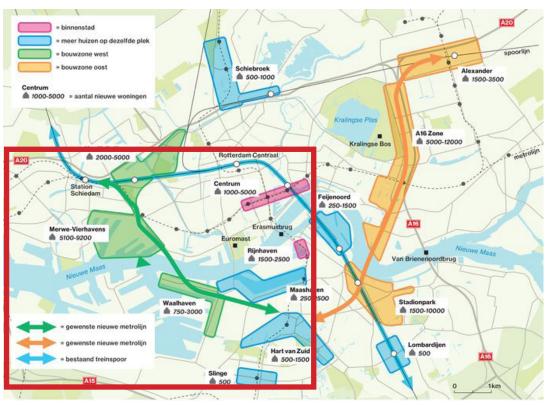


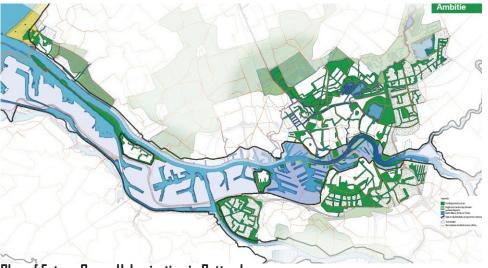
Sub-areas belonging to Plan Stadhavens.

#### FUTURE UILDING DENSIFICATION AND GREEN URBANIZATION IN ROTTERDAM



Future Urban Traffic Plan. Improvement of connection between Northern and Southern sides of the city.



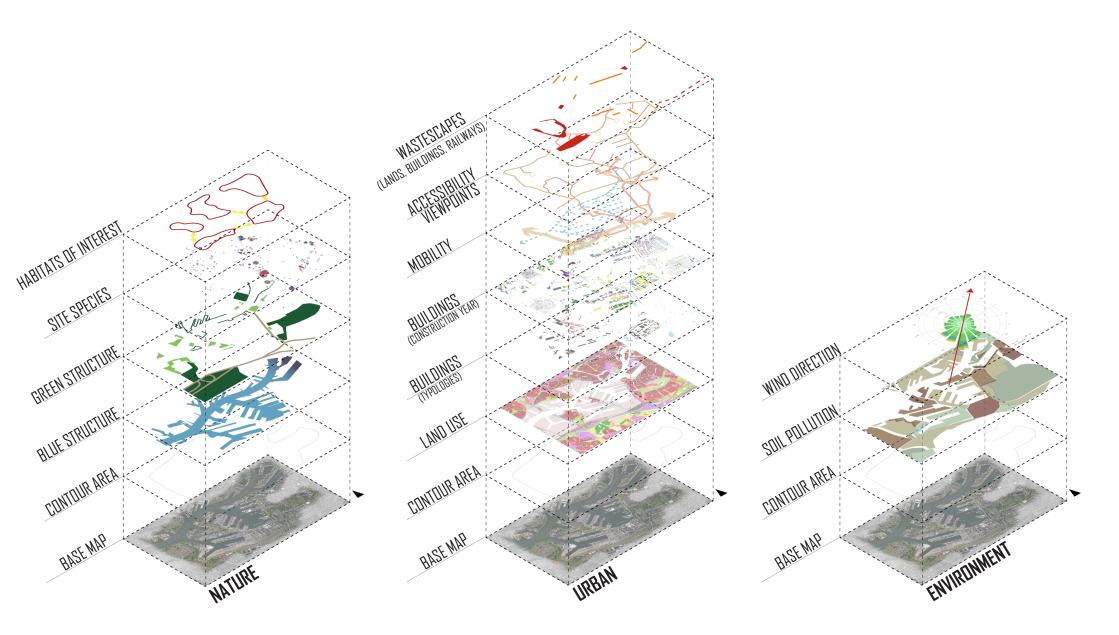


- Plan of Future Green Urbanization in Rotterdam.
- $\underline{50,000} \text{ new houses}$  or more will be needed in open and green areas within the ring road.
- **East side**: <u>22,000 homes</u>.
- Other side of the Maas: 10,000 homes.
- West side of the city: 5000 homes, including a new metro station 'Spangen'.

Regarding urban mobility, the **car** wil be **less central** and there will be **more space for cyclists, pedestrians and green spaces**.

Increase of population in the South of Rotterdam by 2040.

#### ANALYSIS : OVERVIEW PROJECT AREA - NATURAL /URBAN/ ENVIRONMENTAL LAYERS



The analysis of the city of Waalhaven area and its surrondings under multiple aspects led to the following **STATEMENTS**:

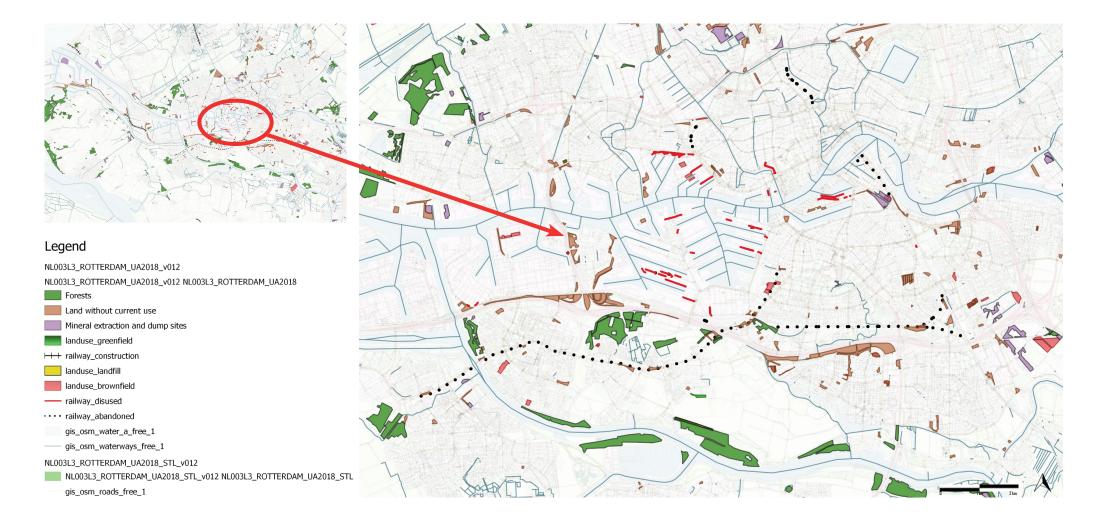
- The quality of the urban space varies according to the land use.

<u>Near the port</u>: fragmented Vegetation and Biodiversity, concetrated in some punctual areas. Some of them are easily accessible, others not.

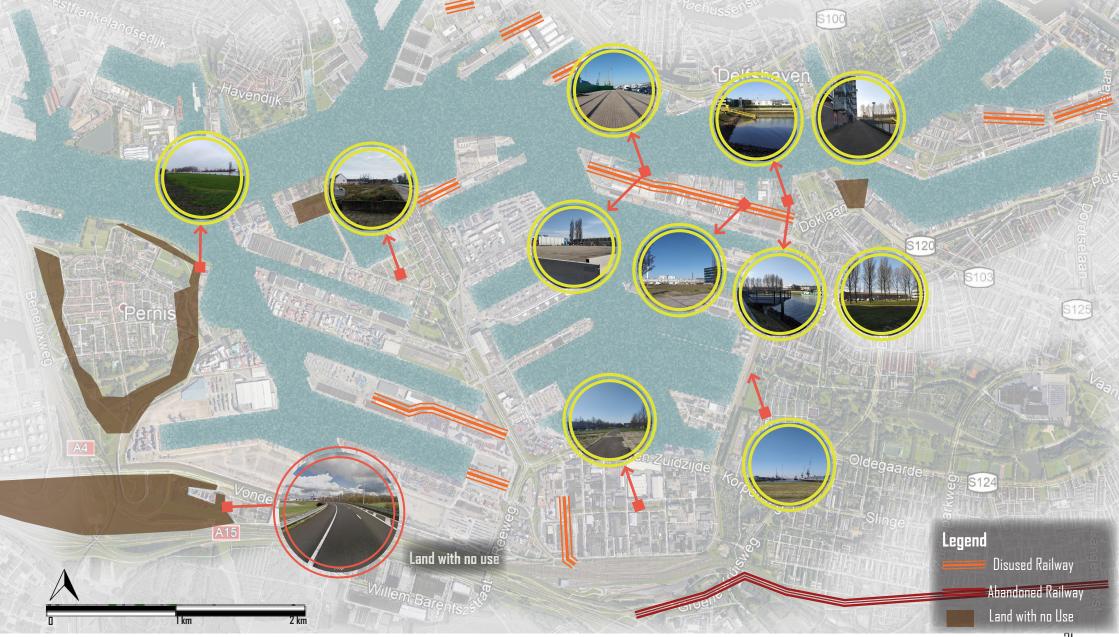
- The most urbanized areas in and around Waalhaven present **high concentrations of mapped species** due to the presence of built structures (shelter).

- Due to a strong urbanization, the **presence of historical port structures** is almost nil. In fact, most of them have been replaced by other, more advanced and modern structures.

#### WASTESCAPES AROUND WAALHAVEN AREA



#### **WASTESCAPES IN WAALHAVEN AREA**



#### WASTESCAPES AND SOIL POLLUTION AROUND WAALHAVEN AREA



NL003L3\_ROTTERDAM\_UA2018\_STL\_v012 NL003L3\_ROTTERDAM\_UA2018\_STL ais osm roads free 1

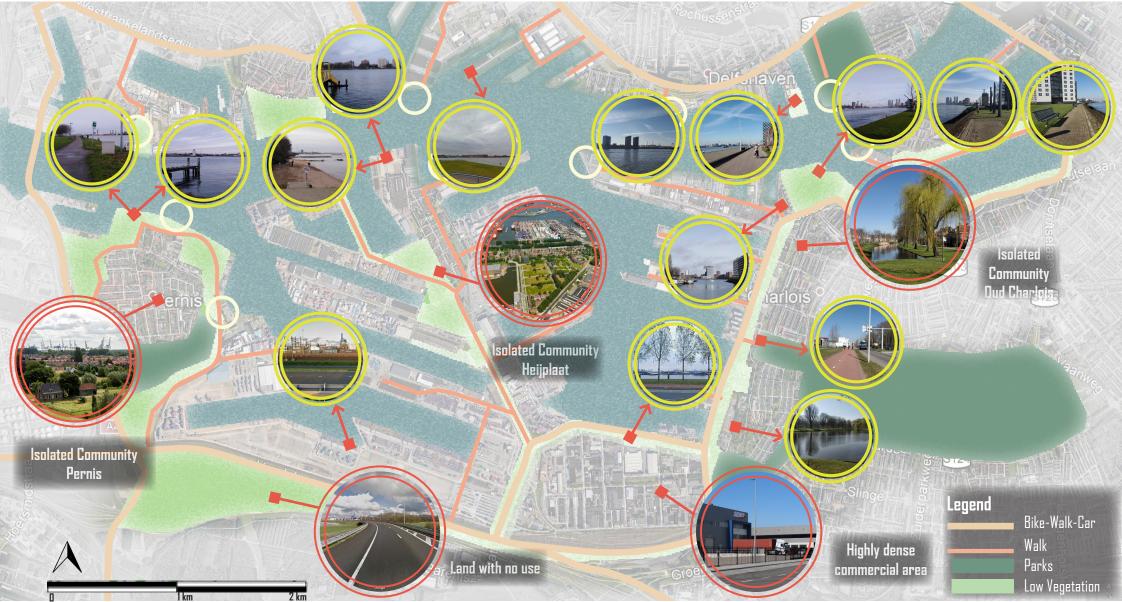
#### SOIL QUALITY

- Nature (Clean)
- Agriculture (Very lightly contaminated)
- Living (Lightly contaminated)
- Industry (Moderately contaminated)
- Remnant Areas (Strongly contaminated)

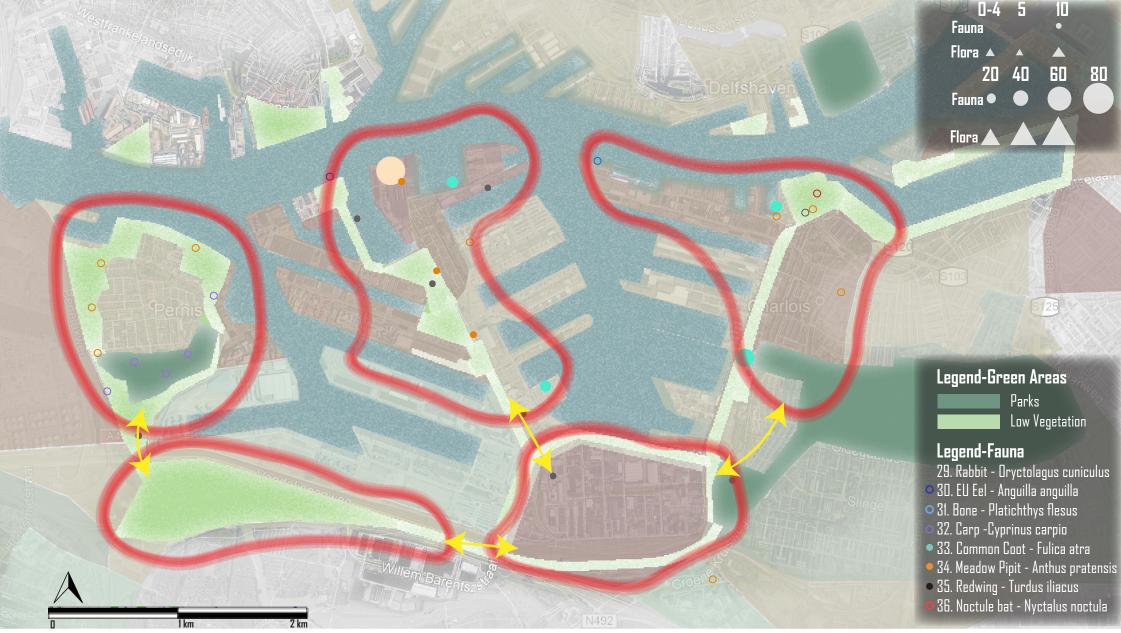
#### SOIL POLLUTION IN THE PROJECT AREA

Legend-Soil Quality
Nature (Clean)
Agriculture (Very lightly contaminated)
Living (Lightly contaminated)
Industry (Moderately contaminated)
Remnant Areas (Strongly contaminated)
Legend-Pollutants
Cd Pb As
Ba Zn
Cu Ni
Co PAH's
Hq Mineral Dil (various)

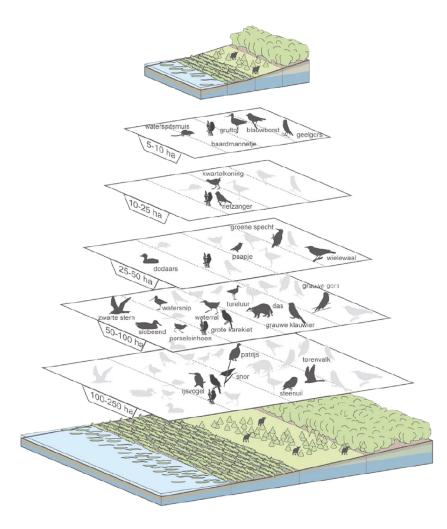
#### **SPATIAL QUALITY IN THE WAALHAVEN AREA**



#### **BIODIVERSITY IN THE WAALHAVEN AREA**



#### **SPECIES AND THEIR RELATED HABITAT**



Source: Jansen, Sjef. "Introduction on Ecology". 10 March 2021, Online Lecture.

## **TYPOLOGIES OF GRADIENT**



## **SELECTED SPECIES (FLORA/FAUNA) IN WAALHAVEN AREA**

#### Legend

FLORA - Plants against pollution, tolerant to wind, idoneous for sandy/loamy soils Forest: 1. Quercus Robur 2. Salix Nigra 3. Populus x canescens Shruhland: 4. Taxus baccata 5. Crataegus monogyna 6. Berberis vulgaris 7. Amelanchier rotundifolia 8 Rosa canina 9. Salix niora Grassland: 10. Helianthus rigidus 11. Brassica Juncea 12. Tvoha angustifolia 13. Phragmites australis 14. Lythrum salicaria 15. Hypericum calycinum 16. Phalaris arundinacea 17. Chrysopogon zizanioides Wetland: (Underwater plants) 18. Ranunculus aquatilis 19. Hottonia Palustris 20. Callitriche palustris 21. Elodea canadensis (Plants with floating leaves) 22. Eichhornia crassipes 23. Patamogeton natans

24. Polygonum amphibium 25. Phragmites australis

(Floating plants) 26. Stratiotes aloides 27. Ceratophyllum demersum

 FAUNA
 - Target species (endangered)

 29. Rabbit - Oryctolagus cuniculus

 30. EU Eel - Anguilla anguilla

 31. Bone - Platichthys flesus

 32. Carp - Cyprinus carpio

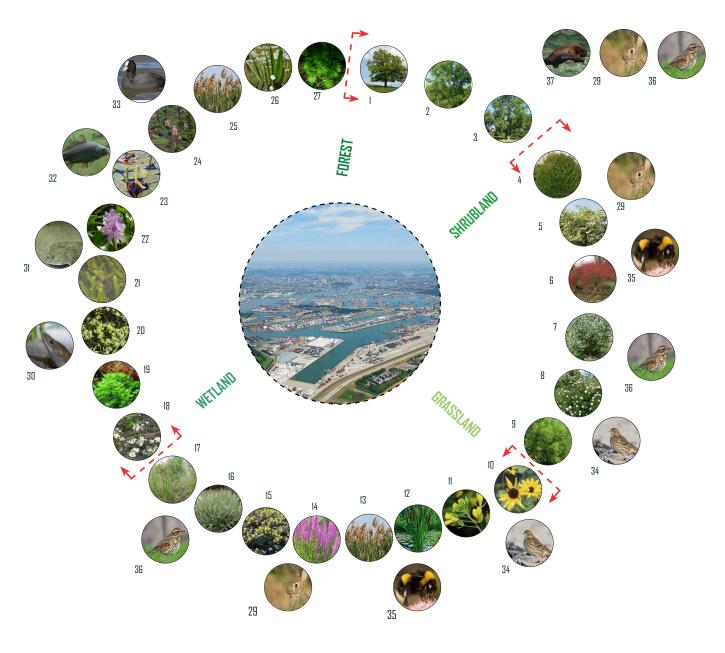
 33. Common Coot - Fulica atra

 34. Meadow Pipit - Anthus pratensis

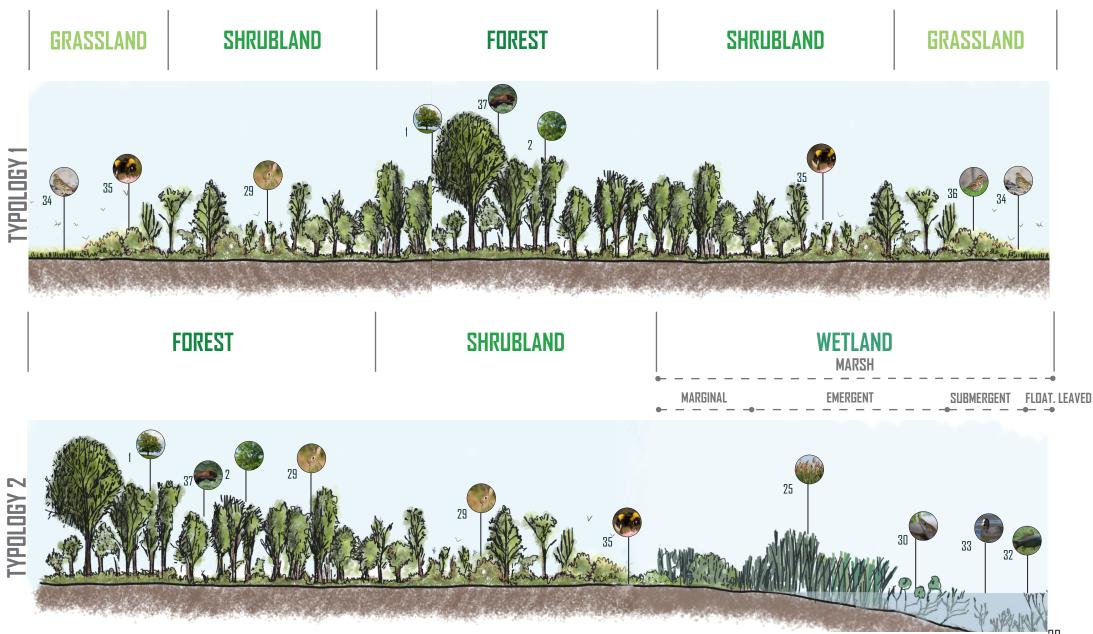
 35. Bumble bee - Bombus

 36. Redwing - Turdus iliacus

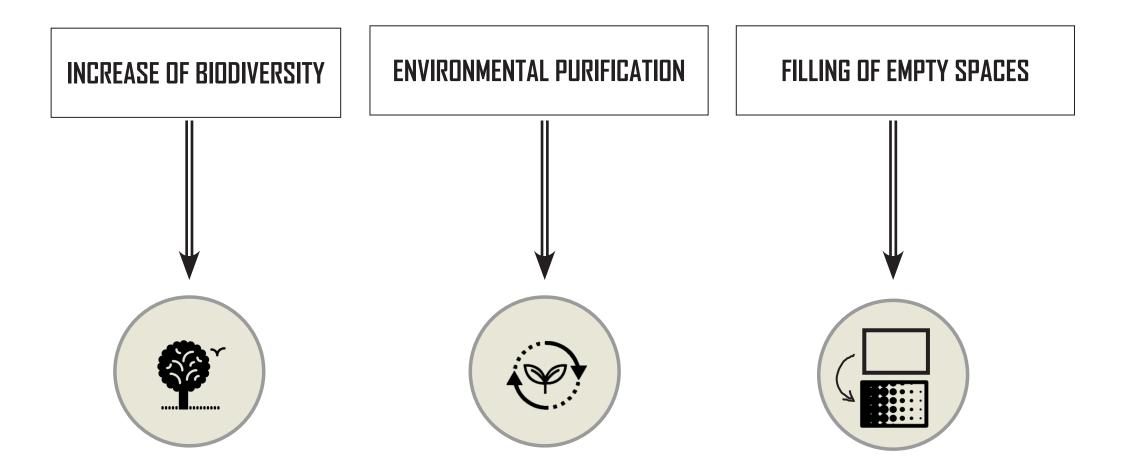
 37. Noctule bat - Nyctalus noctula



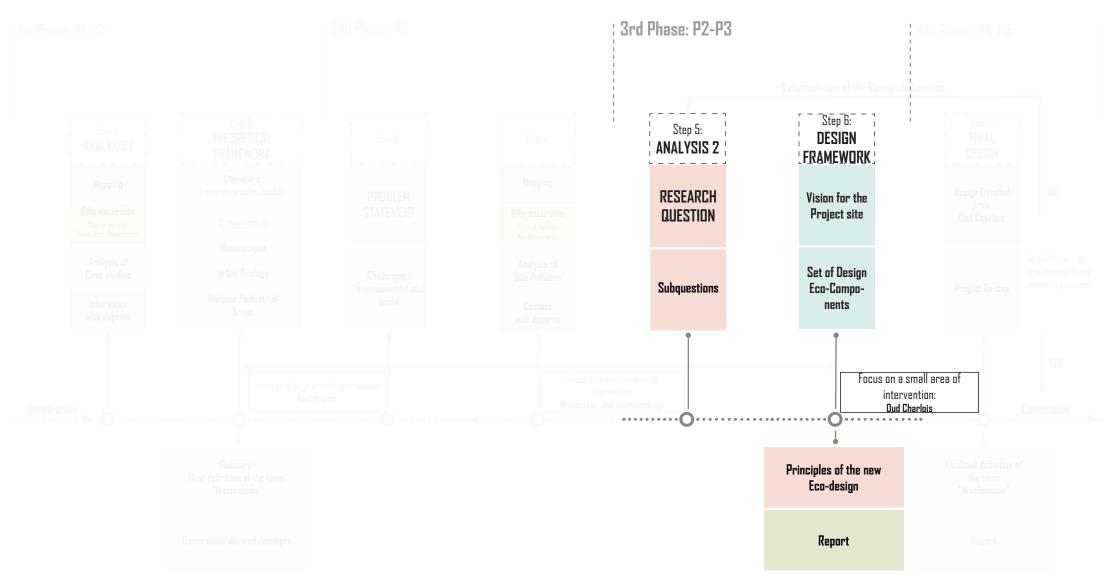
### **TYPOLOGIES OF GRADIENT WITH SOME SELECTED SPECIES**



### **POTENTIAL OF A VEGETATION GRADIENT IN A CITY**



## **RESEARCH PLAN**



## **RESEARCH QUESTION AND SUB-QUESTIONS**

What spatial framework can guide the transition of Wastescapes in Rotterdam into ecological valuable spaces which can foster biodiversity, and improve the quality of people and species' life aspects on small, medium or large scale ?

- Which exact kind of Wastescapes can be considered within the design framework?

- What particular reuse of "Wastescapes" can represent the best, efficient, sustainable and flexible eco-solutions against climate change, urban fragmentation and loss of biodiversity?

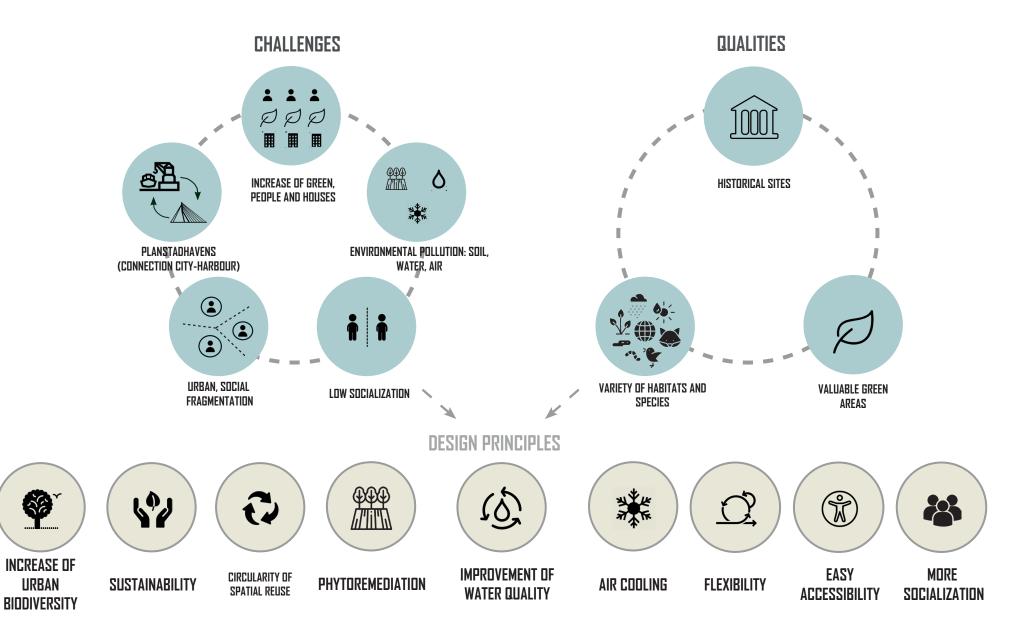
- Which green design solution can help to overcome the urban and social fragmentations of the southern districts of the city?

- How can the wastescapes and the existing green areas be combined in order to create new ecological corridors at large scale?

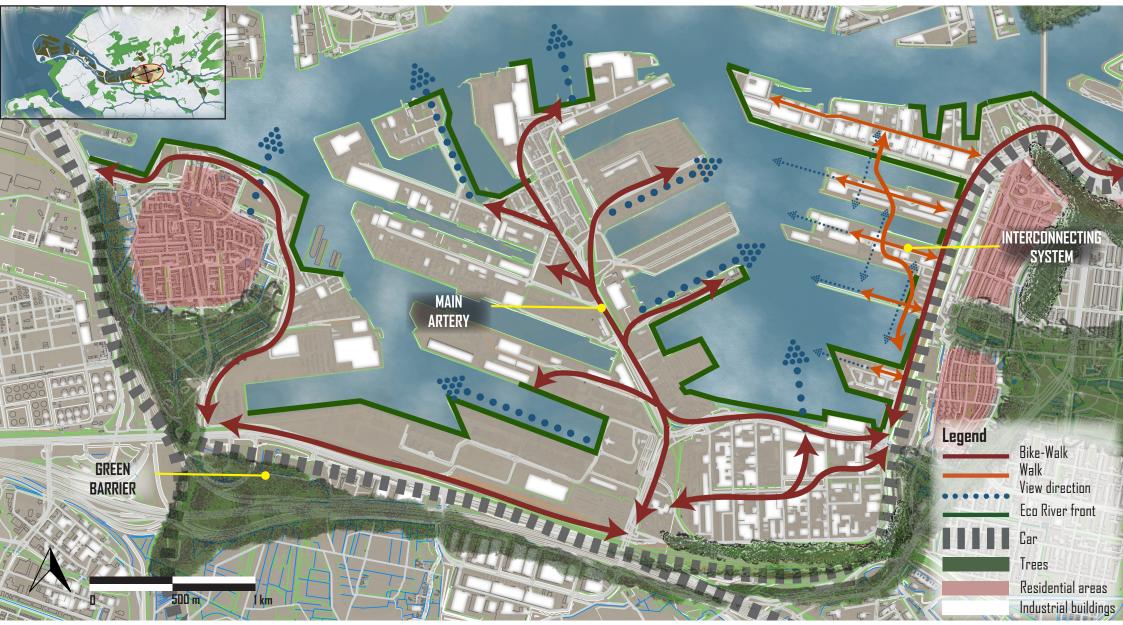
- Which is the best ecological way to depollute the Brownfields improving the quality of the soil, increasing the biodiversity in the city?

- How can certain techniques of Phytoremediation be applied on certain gradients in order to tackle environmental and social issues in the project area?

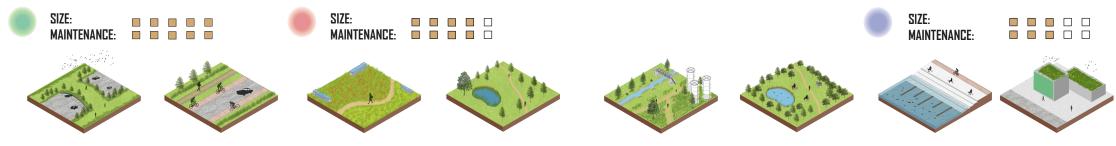
## **DESIGN FRAMEWORK**



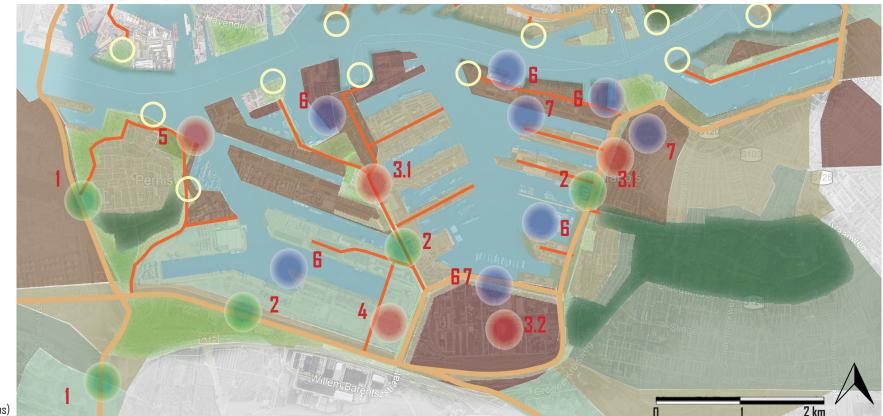
## **CONCEPT MASTERPLAN - WAALHAVEN AREA**



### SOIL MAP WITH SITE INTERVENTIONS BY DESIGN ECO-COMPONENTS



1- Highway Bridge - > Ecoduct 2-Abandoned, disused railway- > Green Boardwalk 3.1- Brownfield -> Community garden (by Soil Remediation) 4-Reuse industrial Heritage (ex. structures)-> Urban Park 6-Neglected River banks -> Sitting areas 3.2-Brownfield -> Urban Park (by Soil Remediation) 5- Land with no use-> Urban Park with Recreational areas 7-Harbour buildings - > Green RooF/Walls



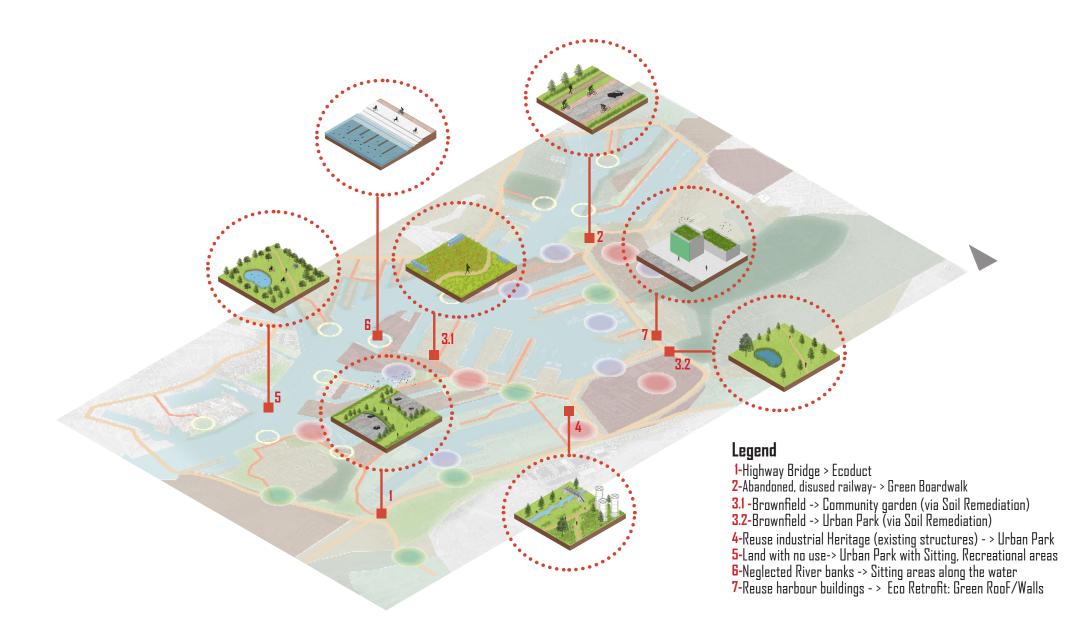
#### Legend

- Nature (Clean)
- Agriculture (Very lightly contaminated) Living (Lightly contaminated) Industry (Moderately contaminated)
- Remnant Areas (Strongly contaminated)
- Viewpoints
- Main connections
- Secondary connections -

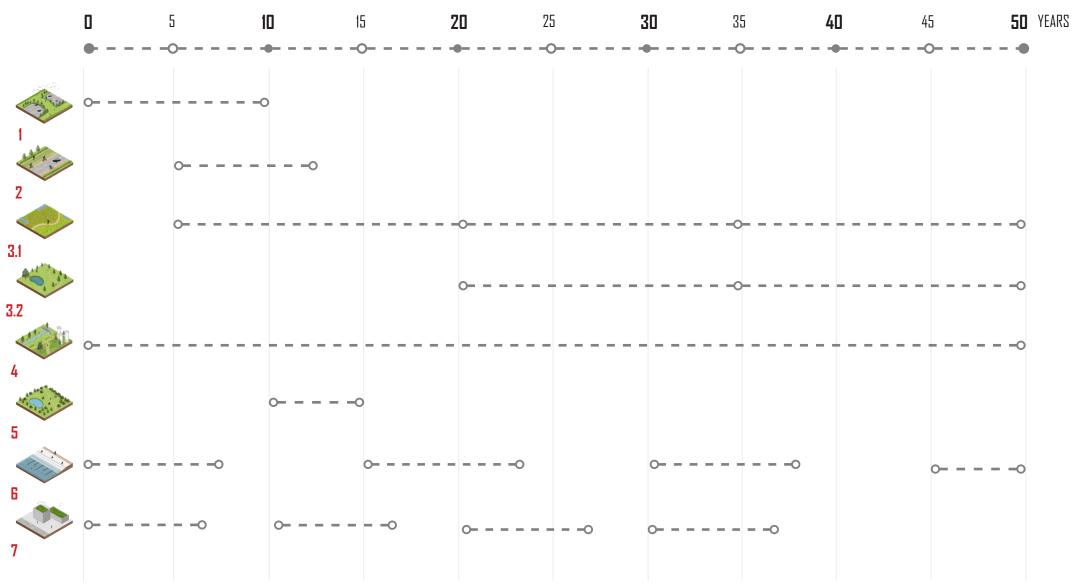
Parks

Low vegetation (Grass, Shrubs)

### **DESIGN ECO-INTERVENTIONS ON SITE - WAALHAVEN AREA**



### TIMEFRAME ECO-INTERVENTIONS - WAALHAVEN AREA (TIME SPAN: 50 YEARS)

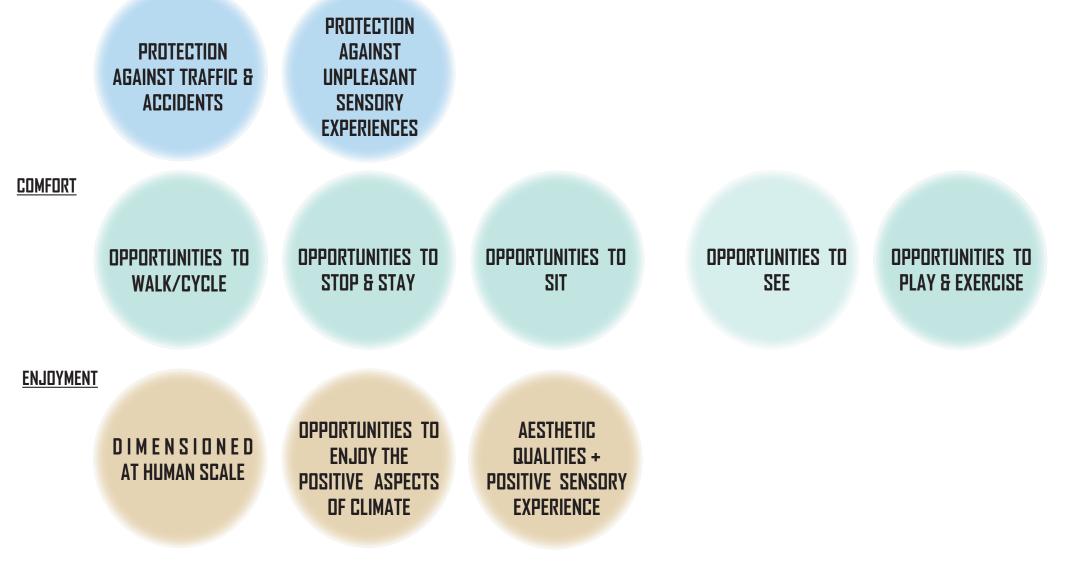


\*The interventions located in areas subject to phytoremediation may undergo some variations in duration.

## **URBAN QUALITY CRITERIA FOR PUBLIC SPACE - SELECTION**

### 12 Urban Quality Criteria by Gehl Architects : Selection

#### <u>Protection</u>



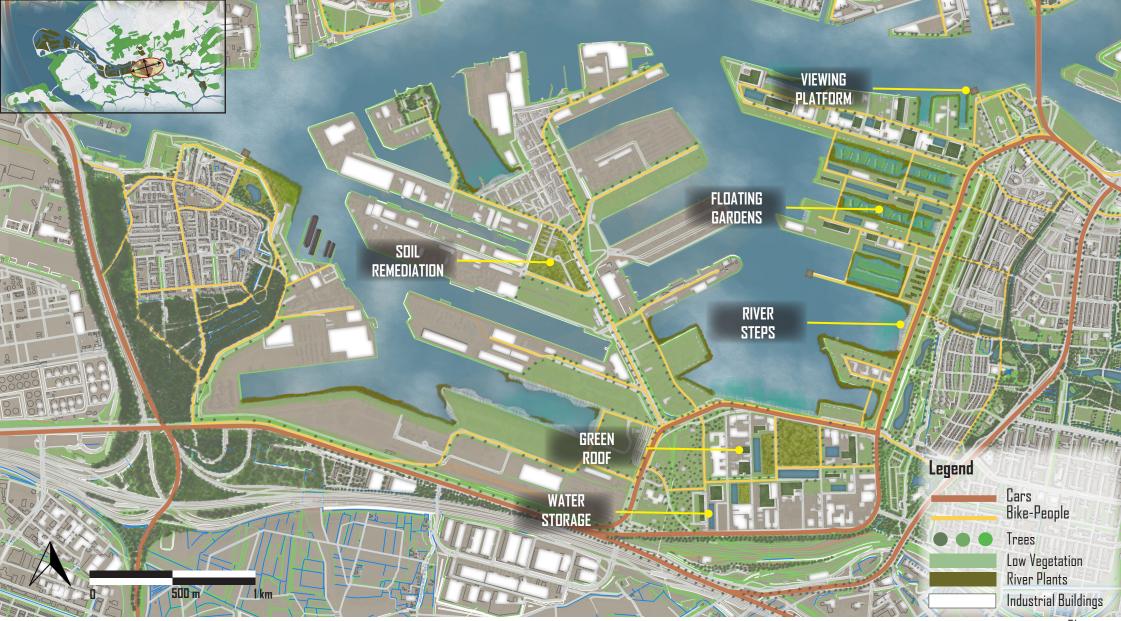
## **MASTERPLAN (CURRENT SITUATION) - WAALHAVEN AREA**



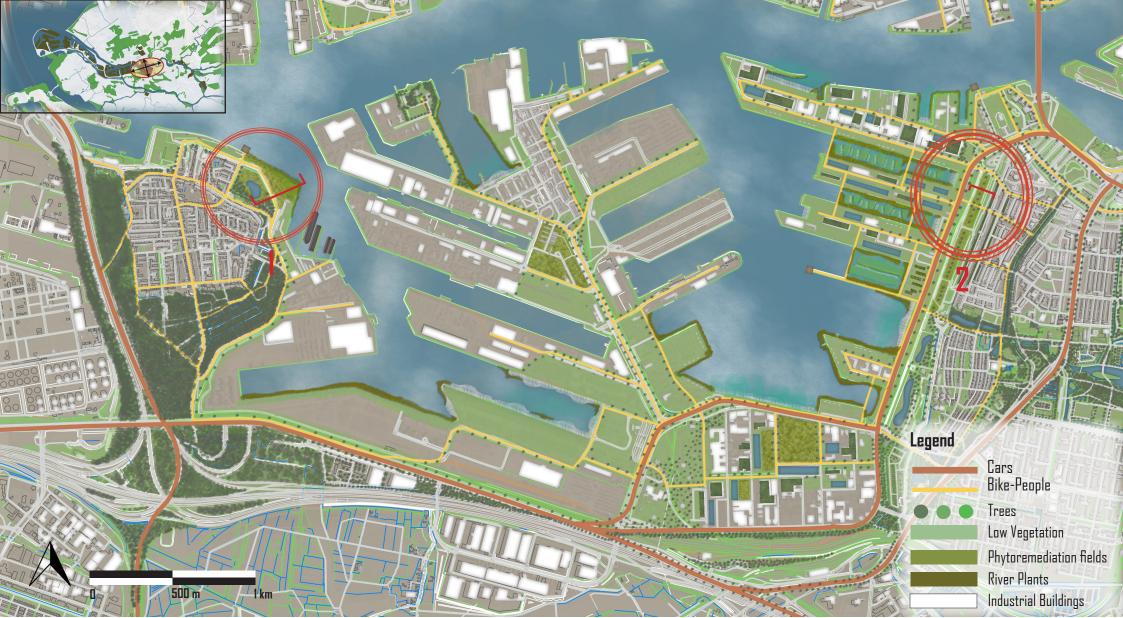
## **MASTERPLAN (CURRENT SITUATION) - WAALHAVEN AREA**



## MASTERPLAN (20 YEARS BY NOW) - WAALHAVEN AREA

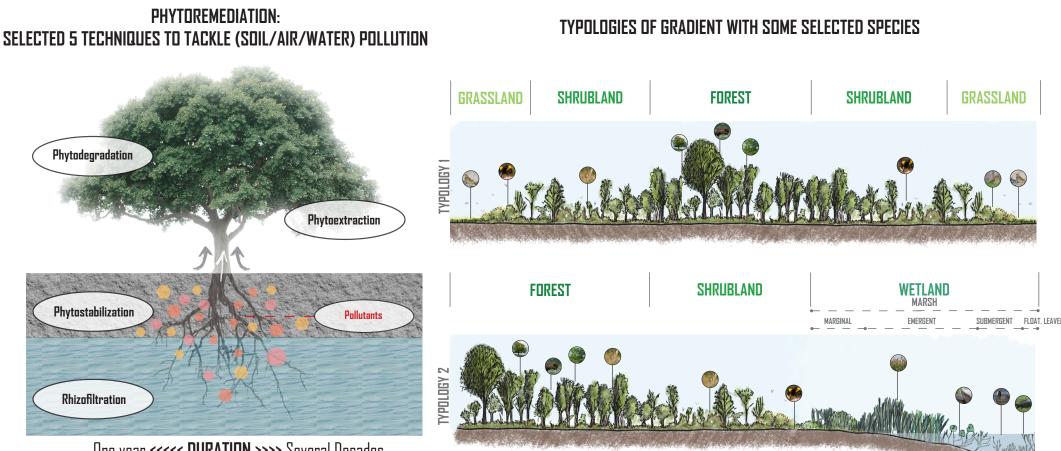


## MASTERPLAN (20 YEARS BY NOW) WITH EXPERIMENTAL SITES



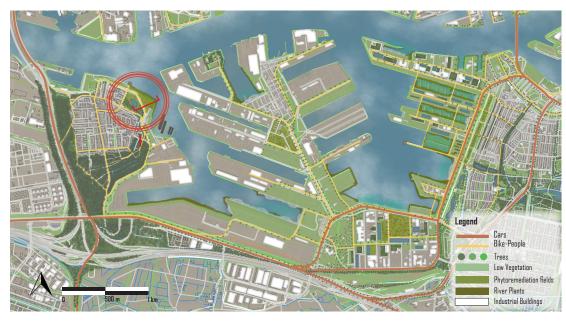
### **PHYTOREMEDIATION - VEGETATION GRADIENT: COMBINATION**

### How can certain techniques of Phytoremediation be applied on certain gradients in order to tackle environmental and social issues in the project area?



One year <<<< DURATION >>>> Several Decades

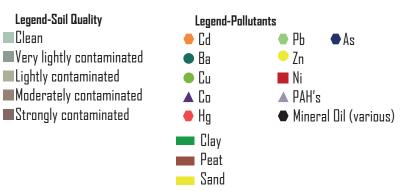
### **INTERVENTIONS ON SITE WITH GRADIENTS/PHYTOREMEDIATION - SITE 1**



# **CHOSEN TECHNIQUES:** according to the type of Pollutants and the related purifying Plants

- Phytoextraction

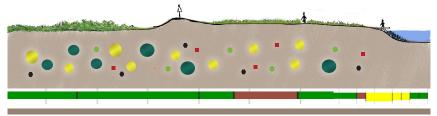
- Rhizofiltration



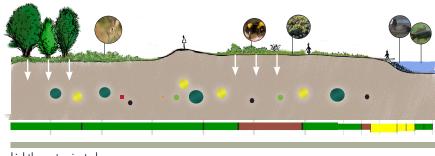
#### SECTIONS OF INTERVENTIONS: COMBINATION: GRADIENT/PHYTOREMEDIATION (BY 20 YEARS)

Before

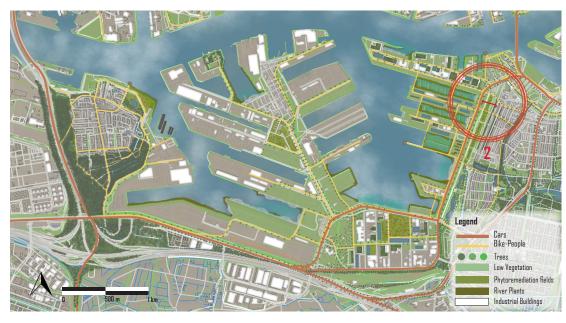
After



Moderately contaminated

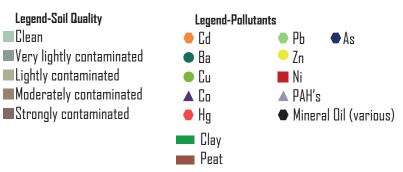


### **INTERVENTIONS ON SITE WITH GRADIENTS/PHYTOREMEDIATION - SITE 2**



# **CHOSEN TECHNIQUES:** according to the type of Pollutants and the related purifying Plants

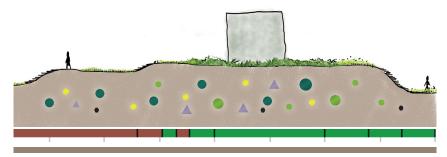
- Phytodegradation
- Phytostabilization



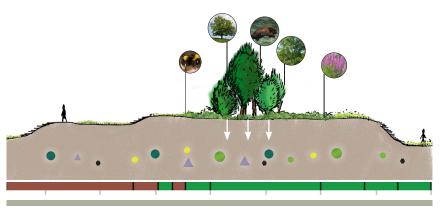
#### SECTIONS OF INTERVENTIONS: COMBINATION: GRADIENT/PHYTOREMEDIATION (BY 20 YEARS)

Before

After

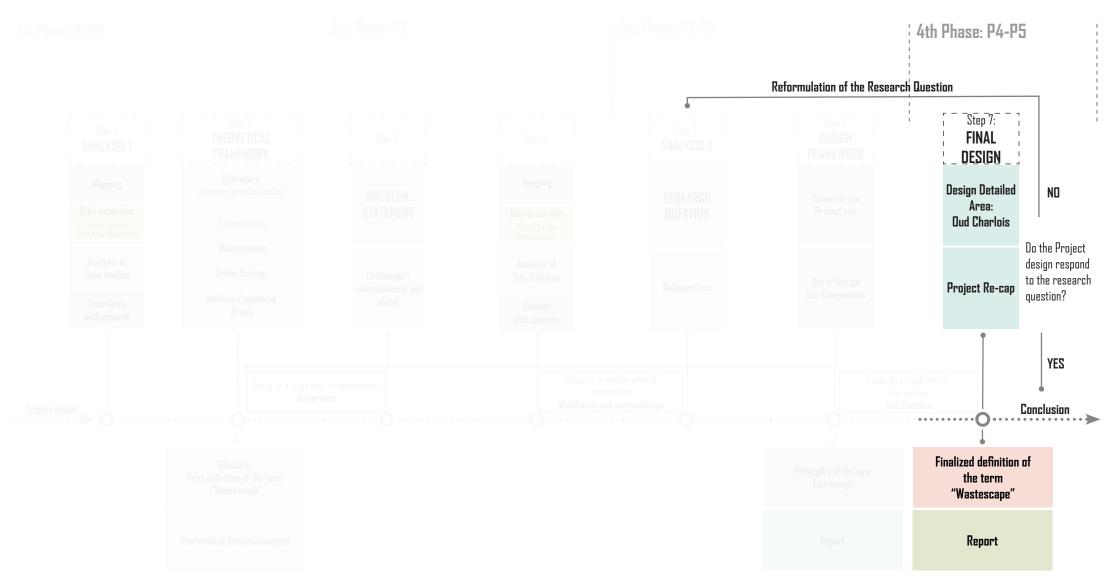


Moderately contaminated

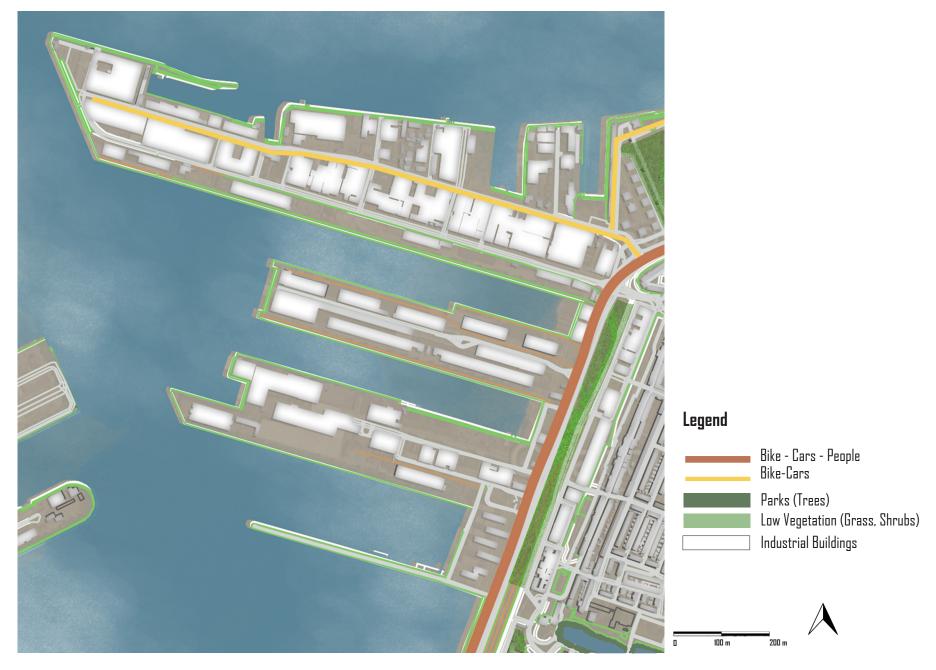


Lightly contaminated

## **RESEARCH PLAN**



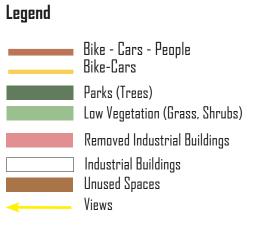
## **OUD CHARLOIS - CURRENT SITUATION**



## **OUD CHARLOIS - CURRENT SITUATION - INTERVENTION**



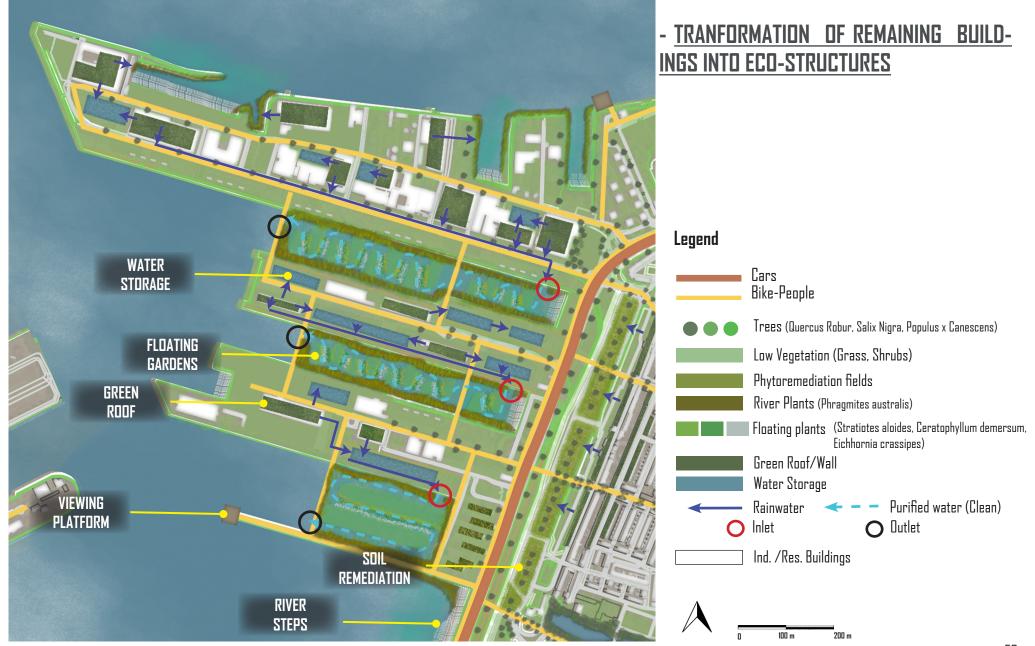
#### - <u>REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTING BUILDINGS</u>



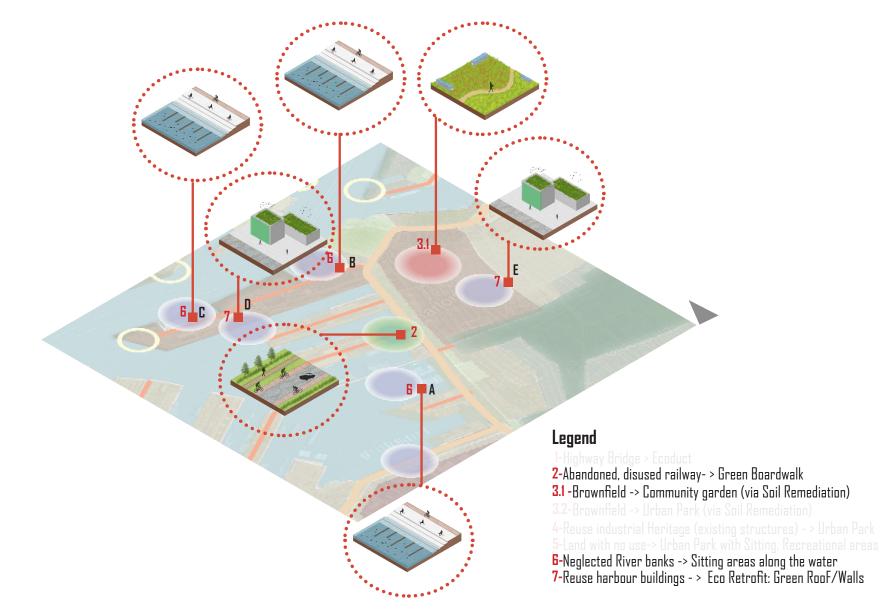
100 m

200 m

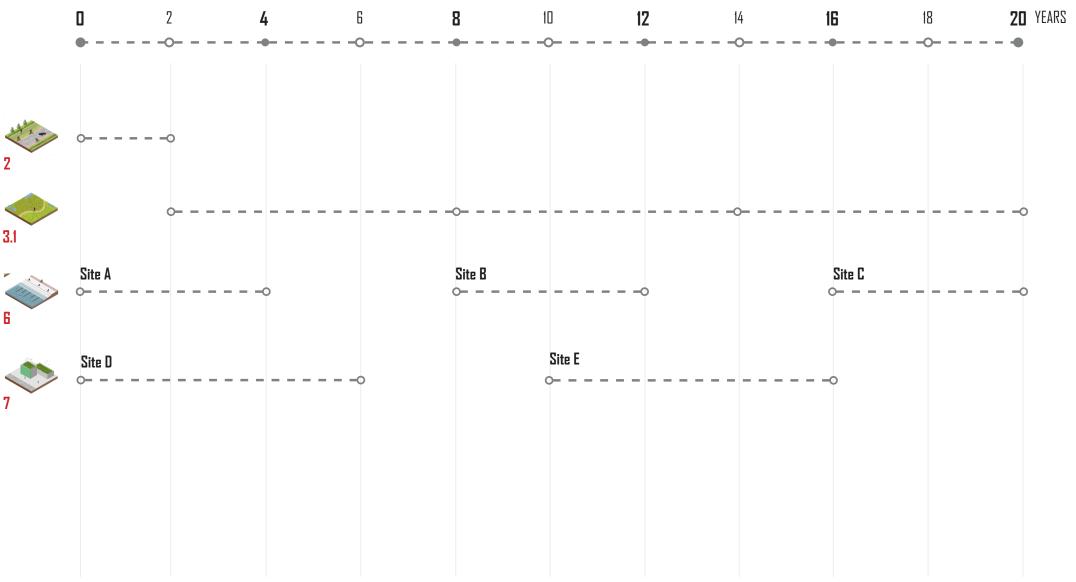
## OUD CHARLOIS - PROPOSAL (BY 20 YEARS)



### **DESIGN ECO-INTERVENTIONS ON SITE - OUD CHARLOIS**

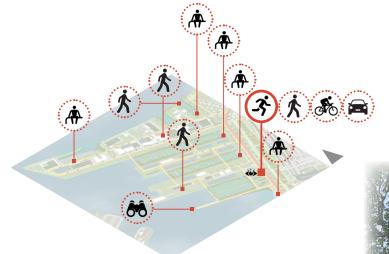


### TIMEFRAME OF DESIGN ECO-INTERVENTIONS - OUD CHARLOIS (TIME SPAN: 20 YEARS)



\*The interventions located in areas subject to phytoremediation may undergo some variations in duration.

### HUMAN ACTIVITIES ON SITE - OUD CHARLOIS



#### Legend



Running

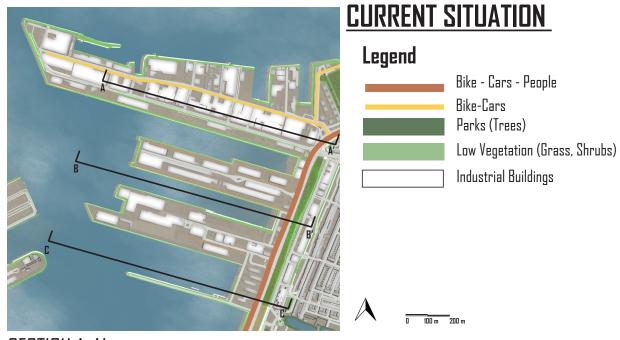
💰 Cycling

🝙 Driving

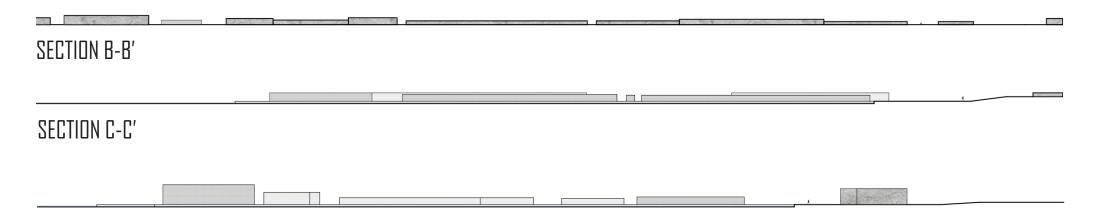
🙈 Birdwatching



## **OUD CHARLOIS - SECTIONS**



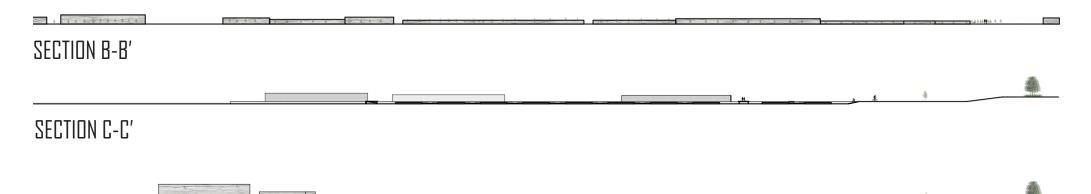
### SECTION A-A'



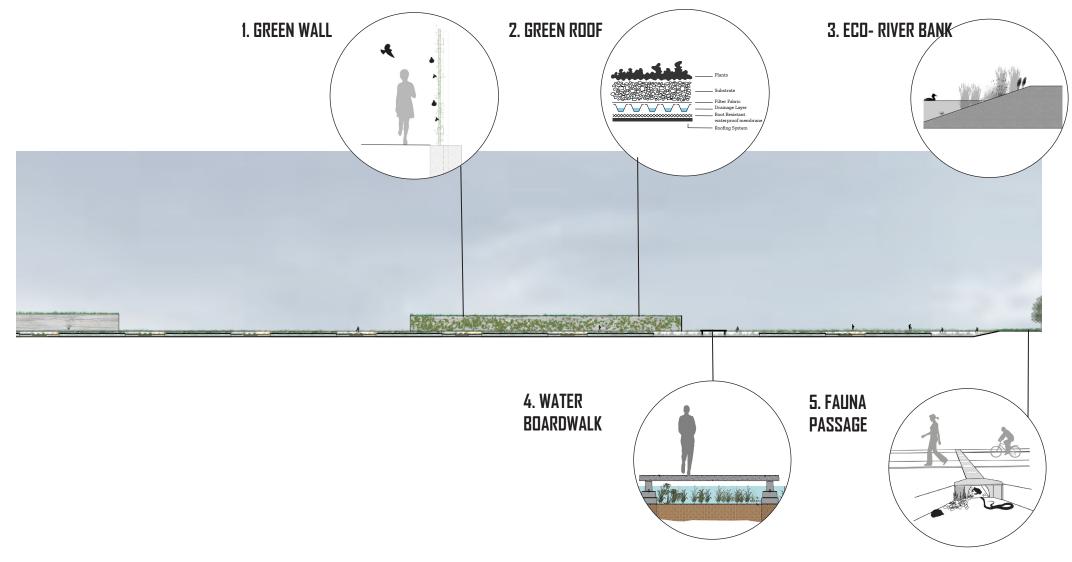
## **OUD CHARLOIS - SECTIONS**



#### SECTION A-A'



### **SECTION B-B': DESIGN DETAILS**



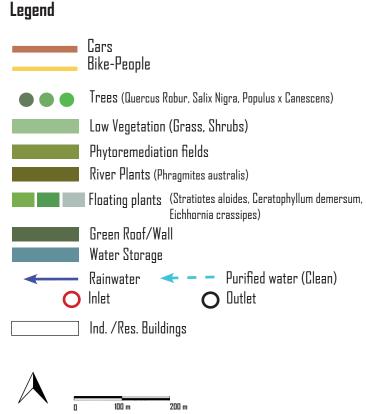
\* Source images 3.5: "Twenty ideas for integrating biodiversity in urban planning and development". Gemente Amsterdam 4: https://greatriversgreenway.org/design-guidelines/trail-design/boardwalk/

## **OUD CHARLOIS - PROPOSAL (BY 40 YEARS)**



### **DEVELOPMENTS:**

Increase of Puryfing plants (River Banks, Floating Gardens, Slope)
Increase of Green Roof Structures
Transformation of Green Roof/Wall Buildings into Water Storage areas or vice versa



## OUD CHARLOIS - PROPOSAL (BY 60 YEARS)



### -DEVELOPMENTS:

- Increase of Puryfing plants (River Banks, Floating Gardens)
- Increase of Green Roof Structures and Water Storage pools

- Removal of a few buildings and conversion of other ones into Green Roof/Wall Structures Legend



## OUD CHARLOIS - BIRD VIEW (BY 20 YEARS)



## OUD CHARLOIS -VIEW EYE LEVEL



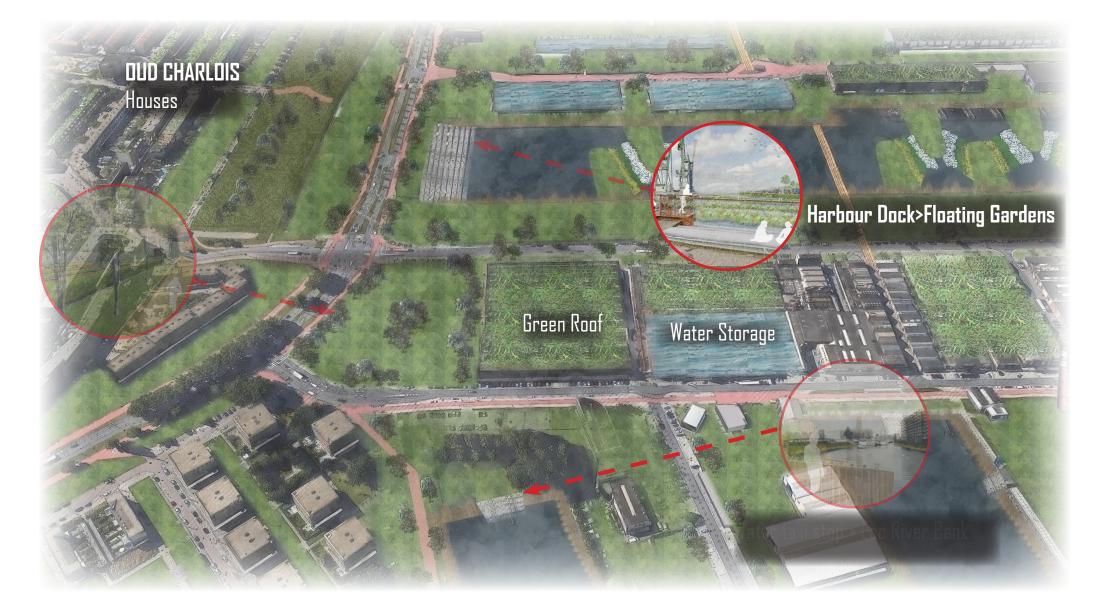
# OUD CHARLOIS - BIRD VIEW (BY 20 YEARS)



# **OUD CHARLOIS -VIEW EYE LEVEL**



## OUD CHARLOIS - BIRD VIEW (BY 20 YEARS)



## **OUD CHARLOIS -VIEW EYE LEVEL**



# FOUR CRITICAL AREAS - FEATURES





- Dunal Landscape
- Absence of Living areas
- Main Prevalence of Industrial settlements
- Urban Landscape
- Still Prevaence of Industrial areas
- Presence of a few Living areas

#### - Rural Landscape

- Balance of Living and Industrial Areas
- Minor presence of Industrial areas

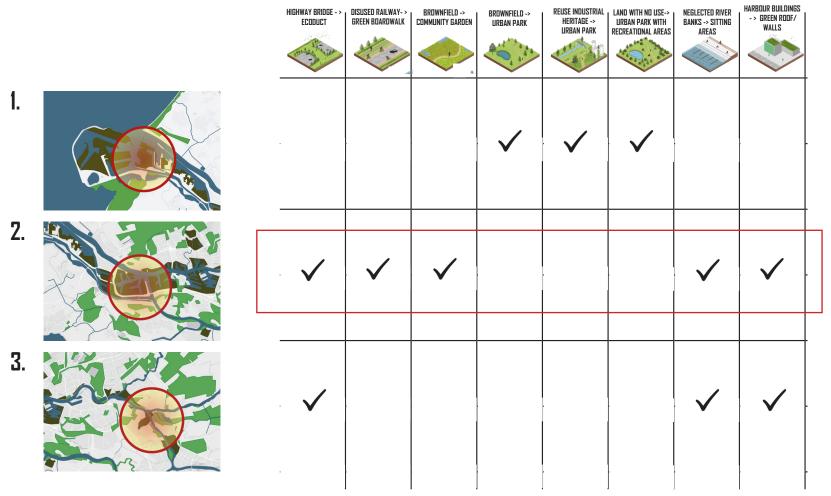


2.



## COMPARISON AND CONCLUSION

#### DESIGN ECO-COMPONENTS



The comparison of the four critical areas identified in Rotterdam led to the formulation of the following statements::

- Different physical conditions and area extensions require some solutions instead of others. It is not possible to apply all the design solutions in any of the other 3 areas.
- The area number 2 can be a subsequent intervention area after that of Waalhaven, given the need for more design interventions.
- The areas 1 and 3 they seem to require fewer design interventions, perhaps others different from those introduced in Waalhaven.

## **PROJECT RE-CAP**

#### **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Due to an economic process of "urban pressure", the majority of the old industrial, harbour areas, buildings are demolished and replaced by new structures with different functions, forms 'erasing' the memory of the past urban structures. Some lands instead are used and then abandoned or even never used and left untouched.



#### - SELECTION OF AN AREA OF INTERVENTION (FROM LARGE SCALE TO MEDIUM ONE)

- FORMULATION OF PROBLEM STATEMENT AND RESEARCH QUESTION

## **PROJECT RE-CAP**

#### **RESEARCH QUESTION**

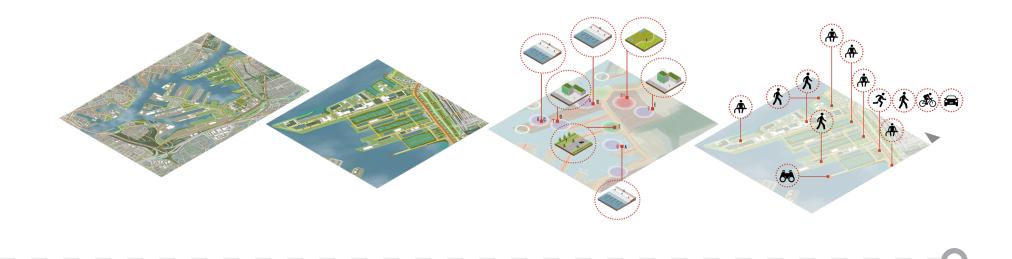
What spatial framework can guide the transition of Wastescapes in Rotterdam into ecological valuable spaces which can foster biodiversity, and improve the quality of people and species' life aspects on small, medium or large scale?



#### - SELECTION OF AN AREA OF INTERVENTION (FROM MEDIUM SCALE TO SMALL ONE)

- FORMULATION OF A CONCEPT + DESIGN FRAMERWORK

## **PROJECT RE-CAP**



- PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE DESIGN FRAMERWORK

- PROJECT DEVELOPMENT + CONCLUSION (ANSWER TO RESEARCH QUESTION)

## CONCLUSION

- Encouraging the citizens of Rotterdam to start appreciating and giving **importance to the abandoned spaces and structures** in the city.

- The reuse and regeneration of wasted places can offer great potential for **urban biodiversity** and also for the **improvement of socialization**.

- The **sense of belonging** to a place is fundamental and it can be discovered again via urban landscape design. A space can represent a **place of experience** and a point of **integration** and be perceived with its **own identity**.

- **Resilient, circular, sustainable, regenerative system** that show the potential of the Wastescapes, flexible urban elements to promote biodiversity, addressing climate change, ease urban fragmenta-tions, improve species and citizens' quality of life over time.

### TRANSFORMATION OF A WASTESCAPE (BEFORE) - OUD CHARLOIS



## TRANSFORMATION OF A WASTESCAPE (AFTER) - OUD CHARLOIS

