



staatsbosbeheer

The Oostvaardersplassen in the picture

Towards a dynamic and amazing landscape

nieuwland
Oostvaardersplassen

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Towards a dynamic and amazing landscape

nieuwland / oostvaardersplassen

A Staatsbosbeheer publication
in collaboration with Feddes/Olthof Landscape Architects

Lelystad, February 2019



Overview of the Oostvaardersplassen and its respective landscapes



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Introduction

The Oostvaardersplassen is one of the largest nature reserves in the Netherlands. It is a varied marshland area of international significance for breeding and migratory birds, surrounded by wooded areas. A bird paradise formed in the land drained by man. An area that is constantly changing and full of dynamics and surprising developments in all seasons. Together with other wetland areas – Marker Wadden, Lepelaarplassen and Markermeer – it is the newest national park of the Netherlands. Nieuw Land.

Since July 2018, the Oostvaardersplassen has had a new policy. This policy gives direction to the future of this special bird area. In the coming years, a number of major tasks will be carried out, which will create a varied and diverse landscape in the Oostvaardersplassen, and thus give a boost to the diversity of plants, birds and other animals. Visitors will have more opportunities to enjoy the special natural features.

What are the tasks?

There are three main tasks that herald a new phase in the young bird sanctuary.

1. Birds first

From its beginnings in 1968, the Oostvaardersplassen has been internationally known as an extensive wetland, with an enormous wealth of bird species. Bird species that had never bred in the Netherlands before, such as the egret and the white-tailed eagle, discovered the area and have spread across the Netherlands from here. Since 2010, the Oostvaardersplassen has been a Natura 2000 area and therefore forms part of the top European nature reserves that are worth protecting. This means that the conservation and improvement of the habitat of special bird species, which depend on the large wetland, is of paramount importance.

2. A varied and attractive landscape

The number of large grazers in the Oostvaardersplassen will be reduced in 2019. For the smaller populations there is an abundance of grasses and herbs in spring and summer. The herd helps create an alternation between shorter grazed areas and rougher areas where bushes and shrubs develop. In order to give shelter to the large grazers during the winter, trees and bushes are planted. The area is developing into a varied landscape with groups of trees and shrubs, open grassy areas and wet grasslands.

3. *Nieuw Land Nationaal Park*

In October 2018, Nieuw Land National Park became a reality. The Oostvaardersplassen together with the Markermeer, the Markerwadden and the Lepelaarplassen are part of this National Park. Both on the Almere side and on the Lelystad side, gate areas are being developed as entrances for the National Park. From the motorway, there is a diverse view from where the unique values of the area can be seen at a glance.

An impression of the landscape as a look into the future

In order to see how the Oostvaardersplassen will develop in the coming years, an impression of the landscape has been prepared. This includes all the spatial developments that will be carried out in the next five or so years. These are:

1. Shelter
2. Marshland-reset
3. Water in the grassy areas
4. Almere Oostvaardersplassen
5. Lelystad Oostvaardersplassen
6. Recreation in the priority area
7. Window on Nieuw Land National Park

Why, which measure, and where?

The following considerations were taken into account to determine the location of the measures:

1. Where is the greatest environmental benefit?
2. Where does a specific measure fit the types of natural areas? From the north to the south this includes the open water of the Markermeer, the reed lands of the marsh, the wet grassland with shallow water, and the dry grassland and wooded areas.
3. Where does a specific measure fit the successive landscapes from Almere to Lelystad? These are dense woodland, semi-open woodland-meadow landscape, open grassland, semi-open woodland-meadow landscape and dense woodland.
4. Where is the holiday-maker best served and how is the marshland experience enhanced?





Plan chart

Developments in the Oostvaardersplassen area

Key

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
|  | Water |  | Viewing point/Observatorium |
|  | Mud flats | <small>Part of the Eokar excursion</small> | |
|  | Reeds |  | Cycle path |
|  | Dike |  | Foot path |
|  | Bank |  | Fish migration route |
|  | Wet grasslands |  | Adventure path |
|  | Dry grassland | <small>In the priority area</small> | |
|  | Rough reed growth |  | Viewing point/
observation tower |
|  | Woodland | <small>Publicly accessible</small> | |
|  | Holding pen |  | Viewing point/
observation tower |
|  | Boat excursion route | <small>Access under supervision</small> | |
|  | Eokar excursion route |  | Viewing point/bird hide |
| | |  | Picnic area |
| | |  | Visitor's centre |
| | |  | Parking facility |
| | |  | NS Station |

1

Shelter





The large grazers will have 300 hectares of shelter at their disposal in the priority area. With this shelter, a varied and semi-open woodland-meadow landscape will be created at Het Stort and De Driehoek. A type of landscape that many holiday-makers appreciate and that is an extra habitat for birds that love thickets and woodland.

This measure will be implemented so that:

- approximately 150 hectares of the sheltered area will become overgrown with planted and partially planted thickets and trees;
- the plants will be placed within a fenced boundary to

- limit grazing damage caused by the large grazers;
- spaces will be created between the planted areas that will soon form shelter for the large grazers;
- when the vegetation has become resistant to grazing, the fencing will be gradually removed. The whole area will then be accessible to the large grazers.

The shelter-area map also shows the holding meadow and the holding pen that will be used for catching the Konik horses.



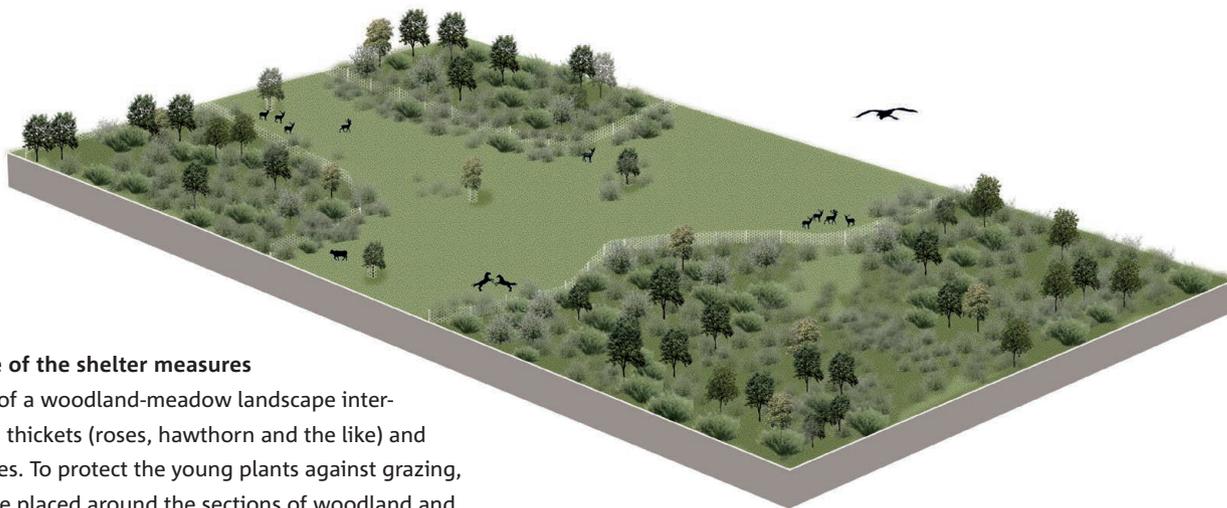


Plan chart

Shelter

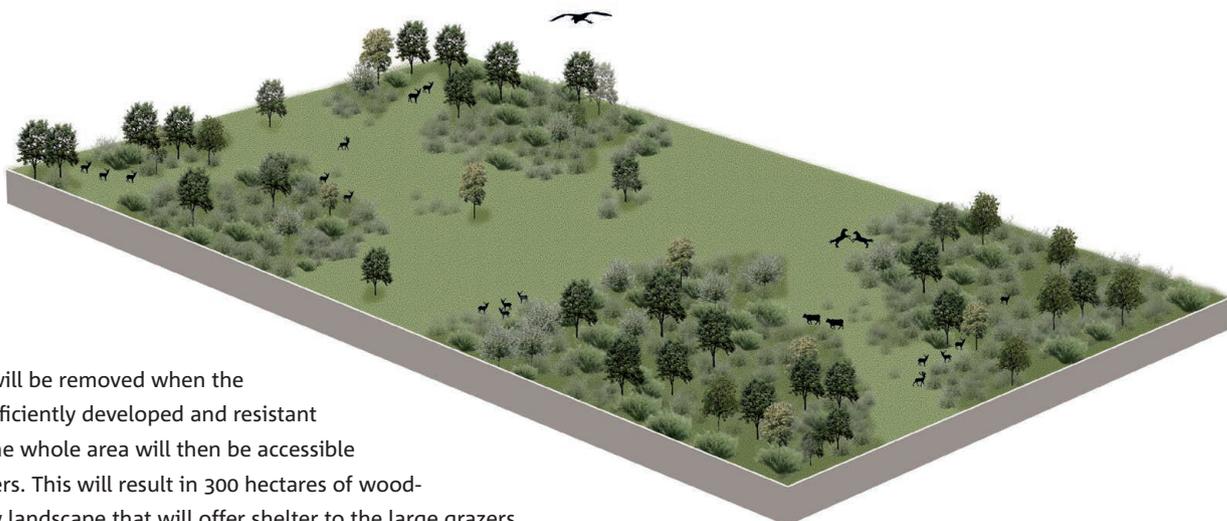
Key

- 
Plant zone with fencing
- 
Plant zones
50% planted - 50% self-seeded
- 
Individual fence-protected trees
Inside and outside of planted areas
- 
Water
- 
Holding pen
- 
Viewing point/bird hide
Publicly accessible
- 
Sight lines

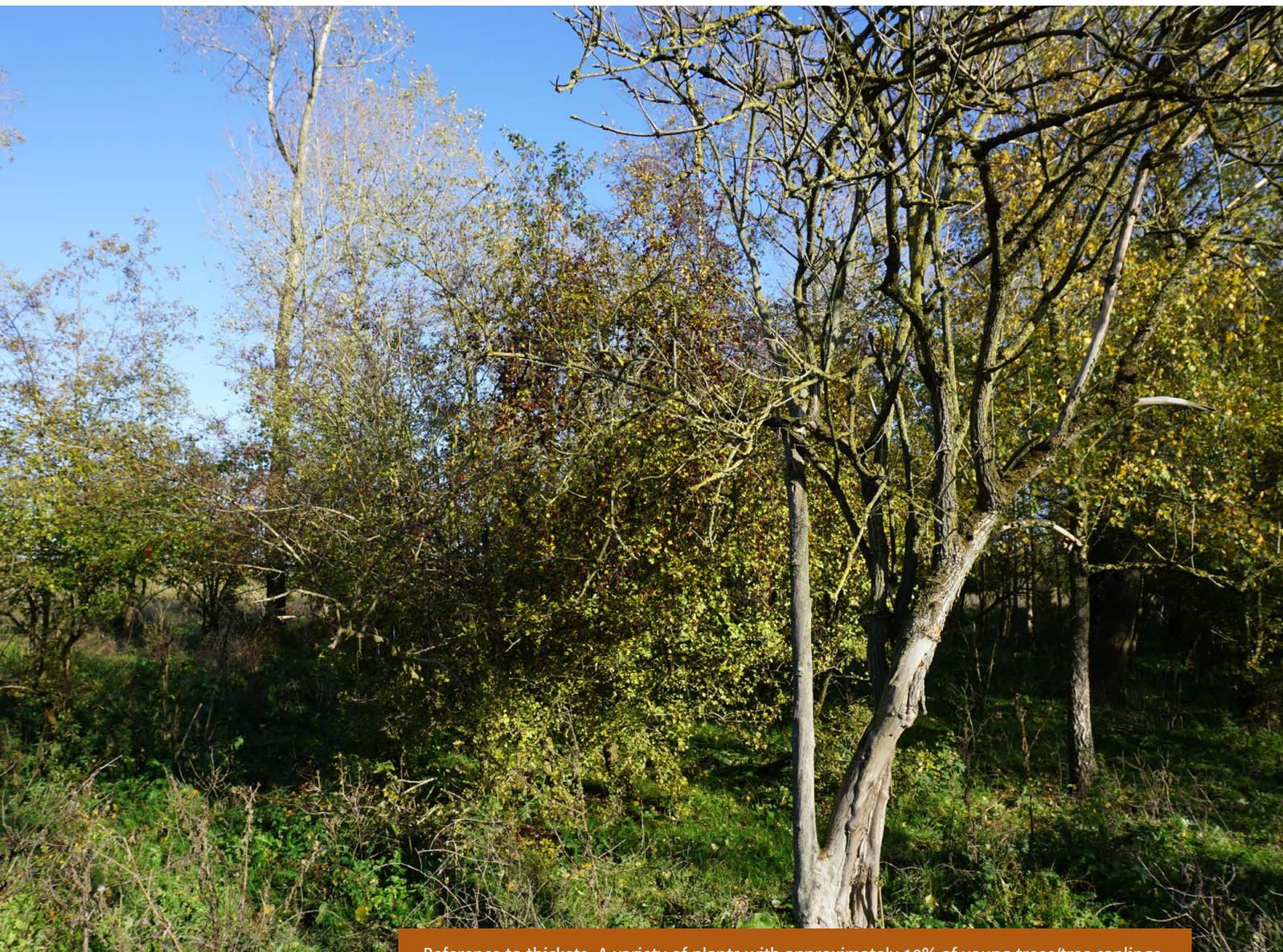


The principle of the shelter measures

The planting of a woodland-meadow landscape interchanged with thickets (roses, hawthorn and the like) and individual trees. To protect the young plants against grazing, fencing will be placed around the sections of woodland and trees for the first years.



The fencing will be removed when the plants are sufficiently developed and resistant to grazing. The whole area will then be accessible to large grazers. This will result in 300 hectares of woodland-meadow landscape that will offer shelter to the large grazers and provide an extra habitat for birds that prefer thickets and woodland.



Reference to thickets. A variety of plants with approximately 10% of young trees/tree saplings

2 Marshland reset





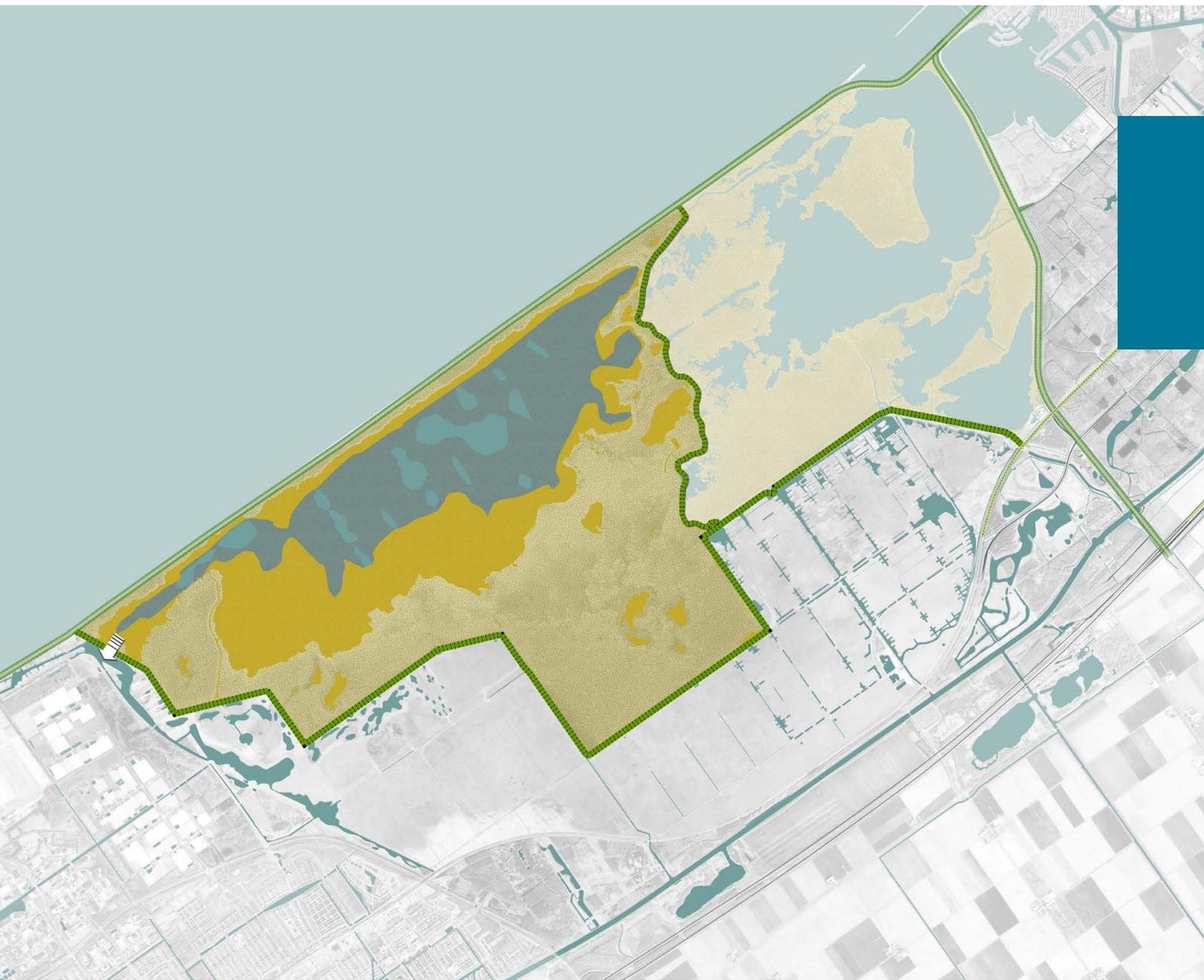
Marshland reset

In recent years, the area of reed land and marsh plants has declined sharply in the marshland area. Wave action on the water and grazing geese have led to more and more open water. As a result, the habitat and the foraging area have become considerably smaller for a number of marsh birds. By restoring the marsh vegetation through a so-called marshland reset, bird life will be given a boost again. Over a period of around three years, the water in the marsh will be lowered until the bed of the lakes start to dry up.

Reed and marsh plants spread easily on this dryer, marshy

land. As soon as there is a lot of new reed growth, the water level will be raised again. This 'reset' is expected to add some 500 hectares of reed land to the reserve where-by an optimal habitat will have been realised again for the marsh birds. The marshland reset consists of three steps that overlap in time. These steps are explained on page 20 of this brochure.

The result of the marshland reset is an expansion of 500 hectares of well-established reed marshes for marsh birds that live in this habitat.



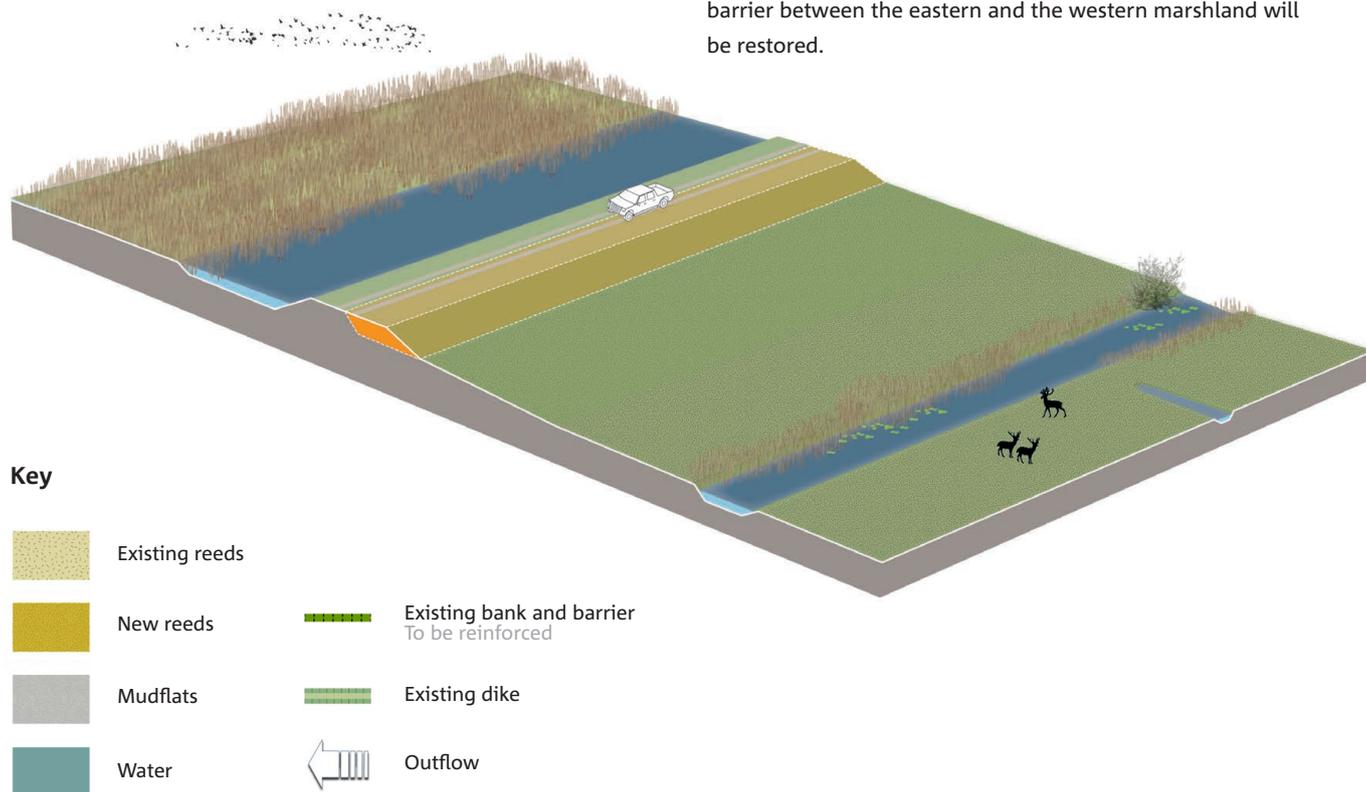
Plan chart

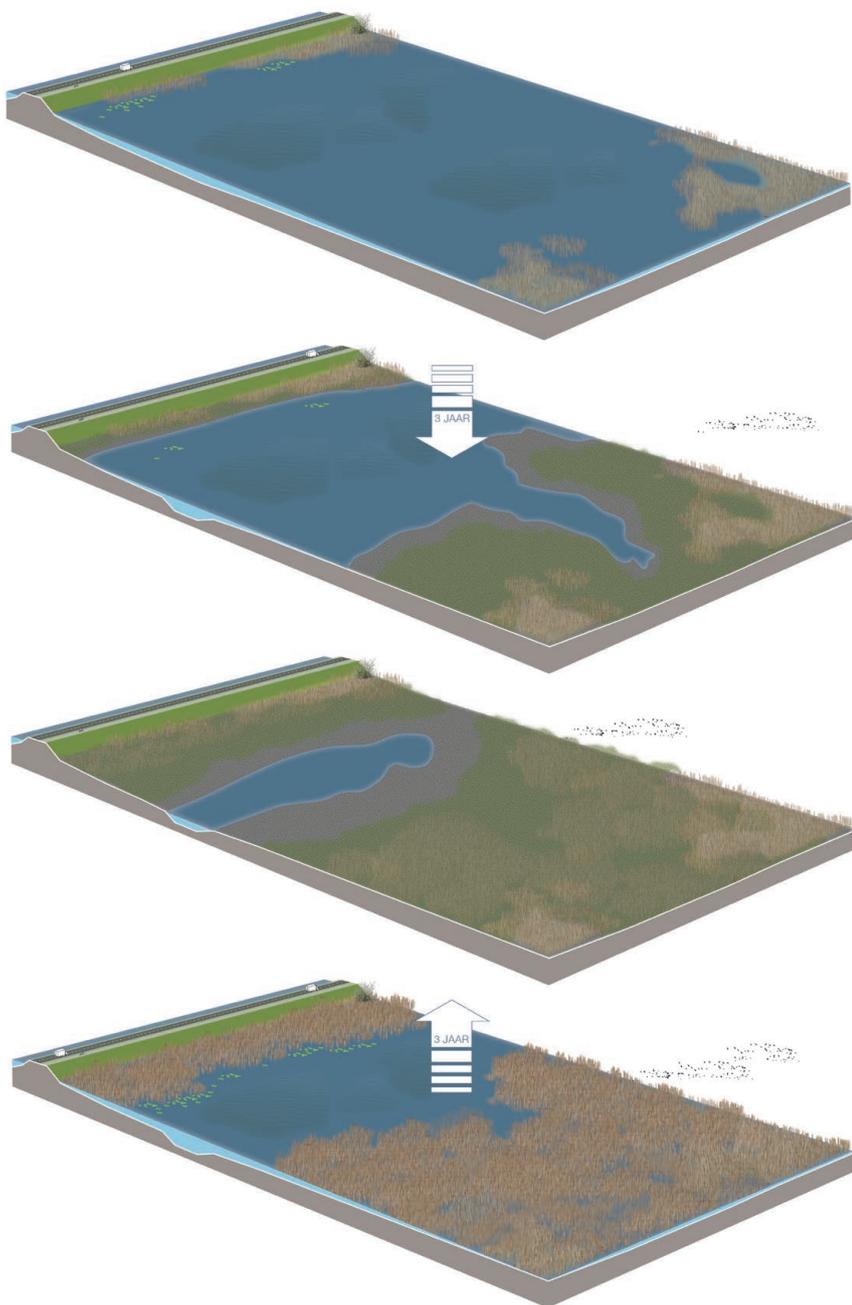
Marshland reset

The principle of strengthening the banks

Along with the marshland reset, the existing banks around the marsh are being reinforced. During the reinforcement activities, the banks will be widened so that they are more accessible for maintenance personnel driving a car.

The barrier between the eastern and western marshland area will also be reinforced. The eastern marshland will be retained in its current form as a habitat for the birds. To prevent the water in the eastern section from subsiding, the barrier between the eastern and the western marshland will be restored.





The principle of the marshland reset

Due to wave action and grazing geese, the marshland is now largely made up of open water. By restoring the marsh vegetation through a marshland reset, bird life will be given a boost.

- 1 Over a period of about 3 years, the water level in the western part of the marsh will be lowered, creating a landscape with mud flats and shallow pools. In order to prevent heavy fish mortality, as many fish as possible will be caught and released into the Markermeer.
- 2 New reed will develop on the dry parts of the marshland.
- 3 With the reed, different pioneer vegetation will also develop, which will ensure diversity in flora and fauna. After a period of reed growth, the water level will be gradually raised by rainwater. The result of the marshland reset is an expansion of 500 hectares of well-established reed marshes for marsh birds that live in this habitat.



An impression of the marshland during the marshland reset, looking from the Oostvaardersdijk

3

Water in the grassy areas





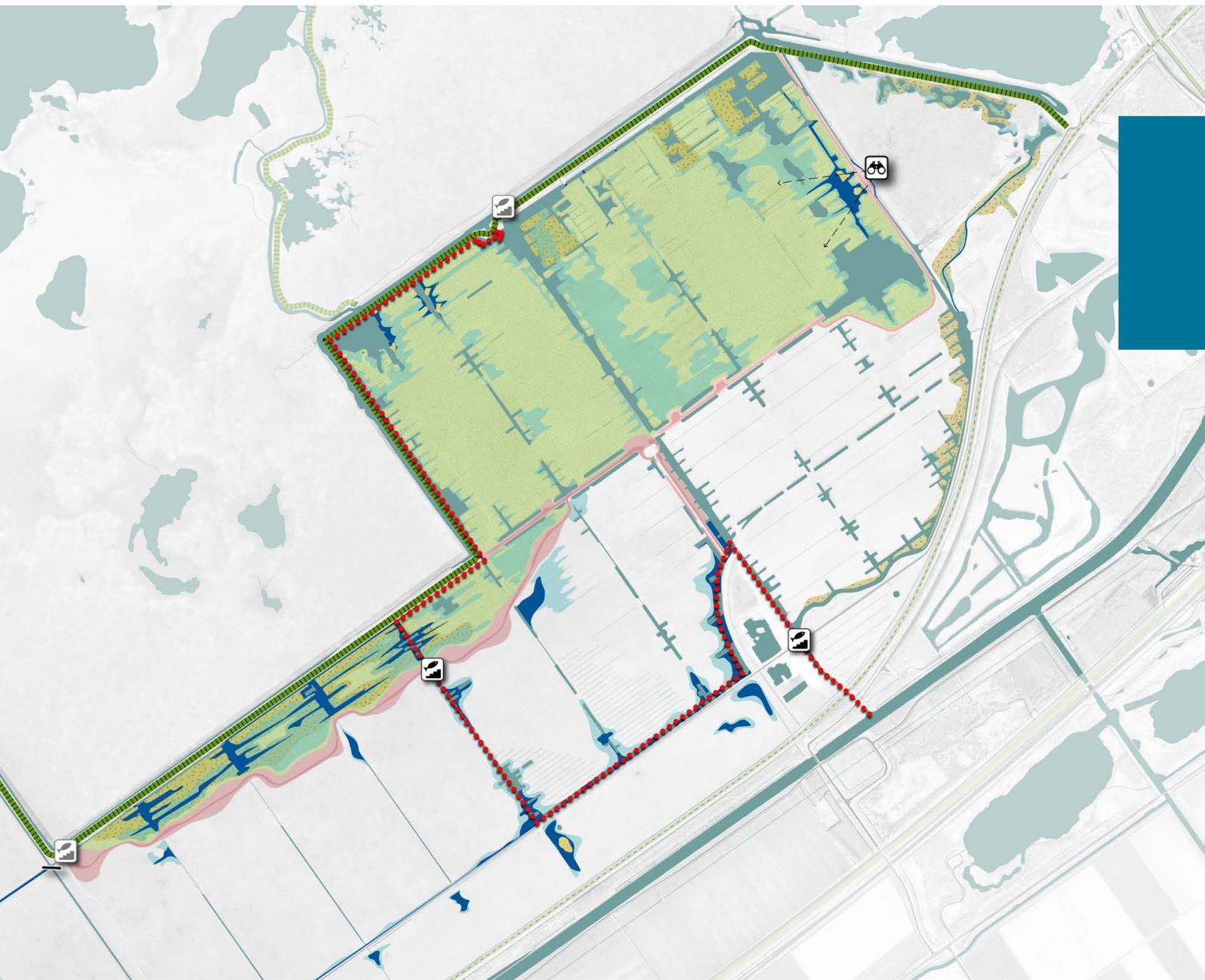
In the grassy section of the Oostvaardersplassen, a set of measures is being taken to increase bird life and biodiversity. There will be more wet grasslands; these are areas that are flooded from autumn to spring in wet years. The 300 hectares of wet grasslands that are already present in the grassy section will be expanded by another 200 hectares of wet grasslands and pools.

The result will be a varied landscape with flooded grasslands, ponds and deeper pools, interspersed with reed collars, muddy banks and small, ungrazed islands. A

paradise for geese, widgeons, herons and waders.

Fish ladders

Small fish, such as stickleback, are the basic food for spoonbills, egrets and little grebes. To ensure that these fish reach the Oostvaardersplassen, two fish ladders will be constructed. Using these ladders, fish from the Lage Vaart can reach the pools and the water in the wet grasslands via the Kitstocht.

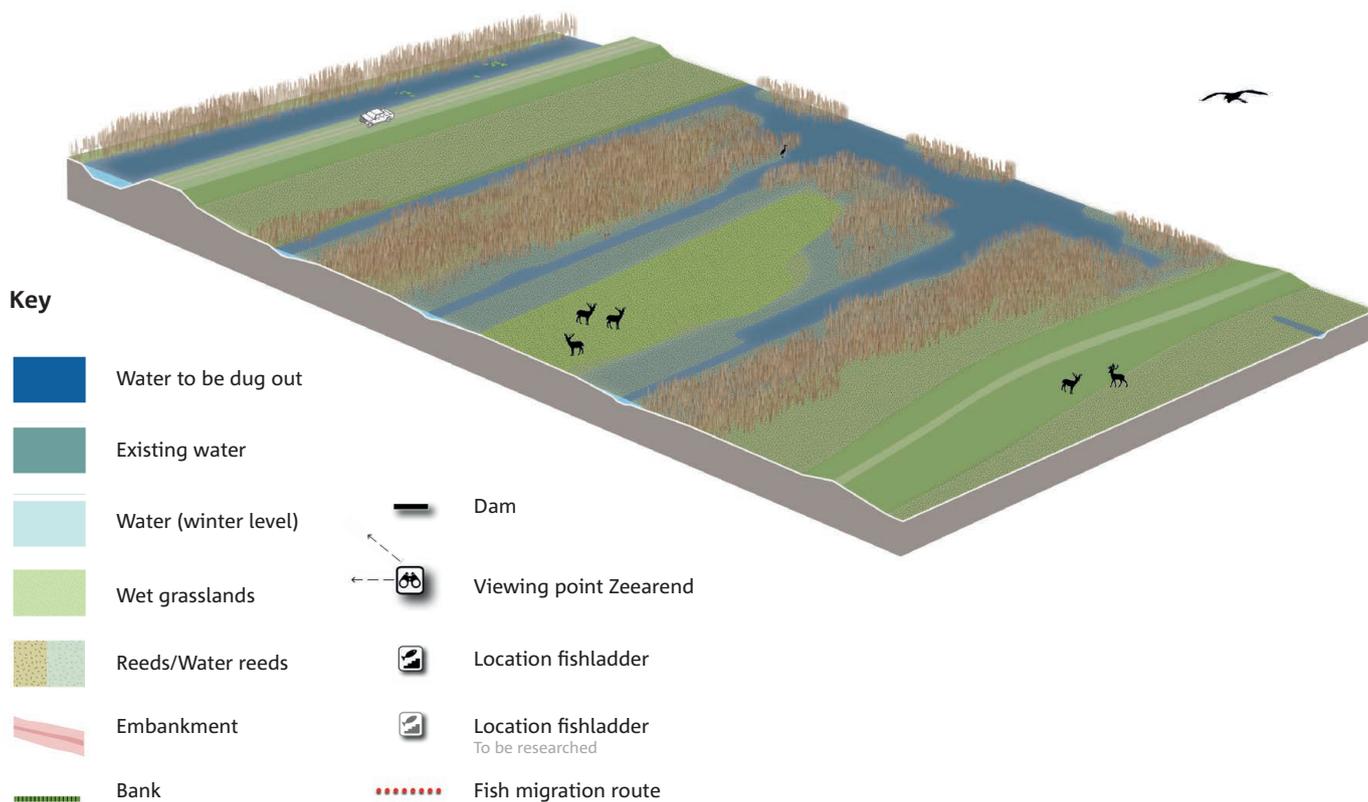


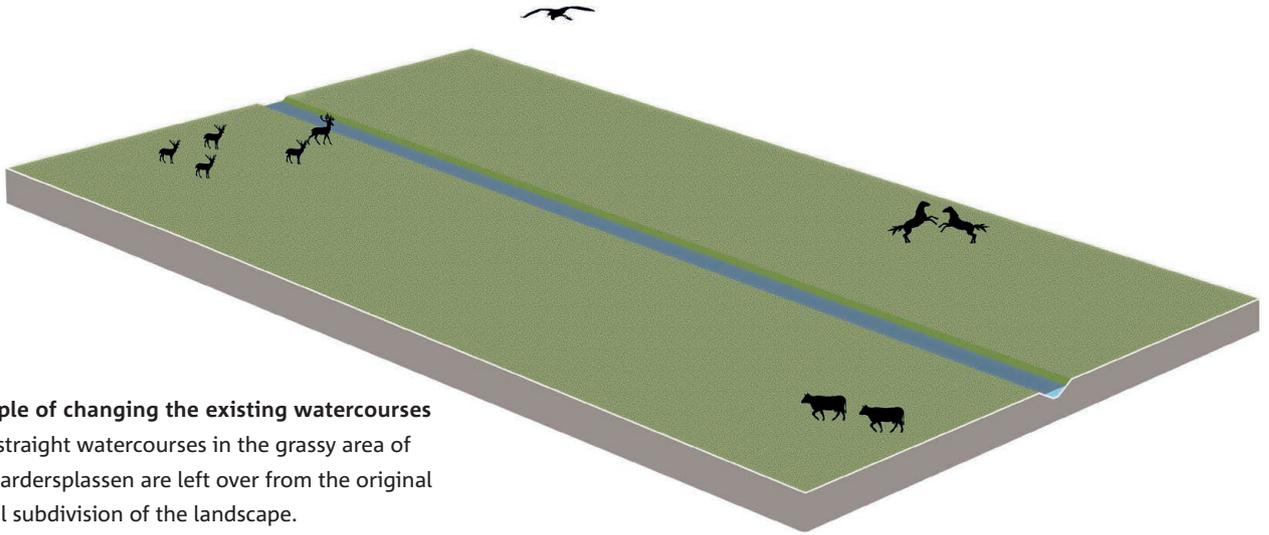
Plan chart

Water in the grassy areas

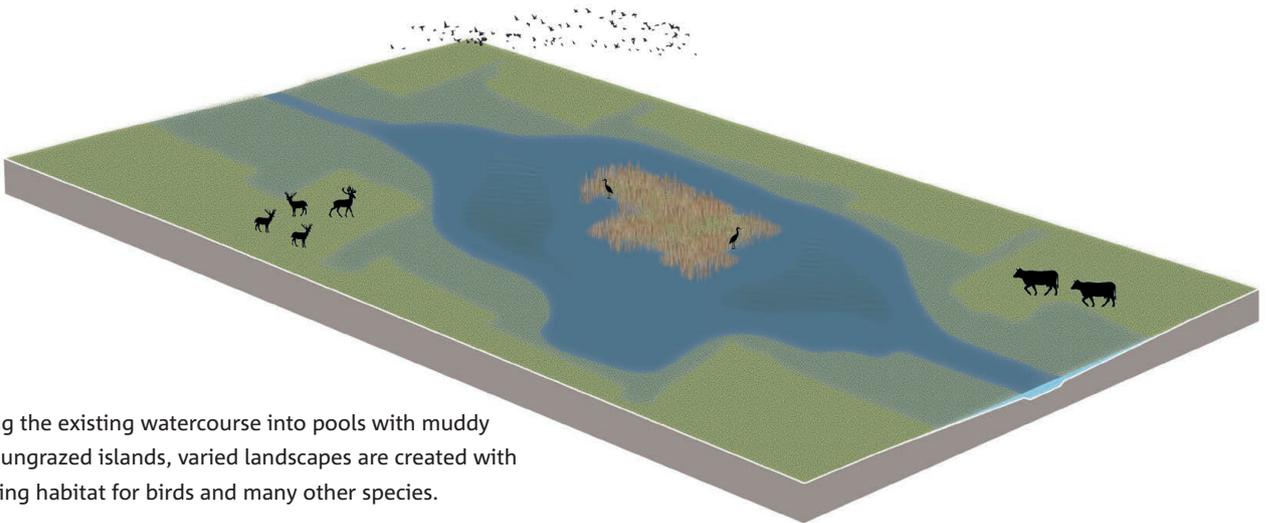
The principle of the peripheral marshland

In the Beemlanden, south of the existing banks around the marshland, a low embankment is being constructed in the grassy area, creating a zone of wet grasslands, ungrazed islands, pools and ponds between the marshland and the grasslands. This will create a zone that is important for many birds and for biodiversity.





The principle of changing the existing watercourses
The many straight watercourses in the grassy area of the Oostvaardersplassen are left over from the original agricultural subdivision of the landscape.



By changing the existing watercourse into pools with muddy edges and ungrazed islands, varied landscapes are created with an interesting habitat for birds and many other species.



An impression of the view from the Zearend observation hut

4

Almere Oostvaardersplassen



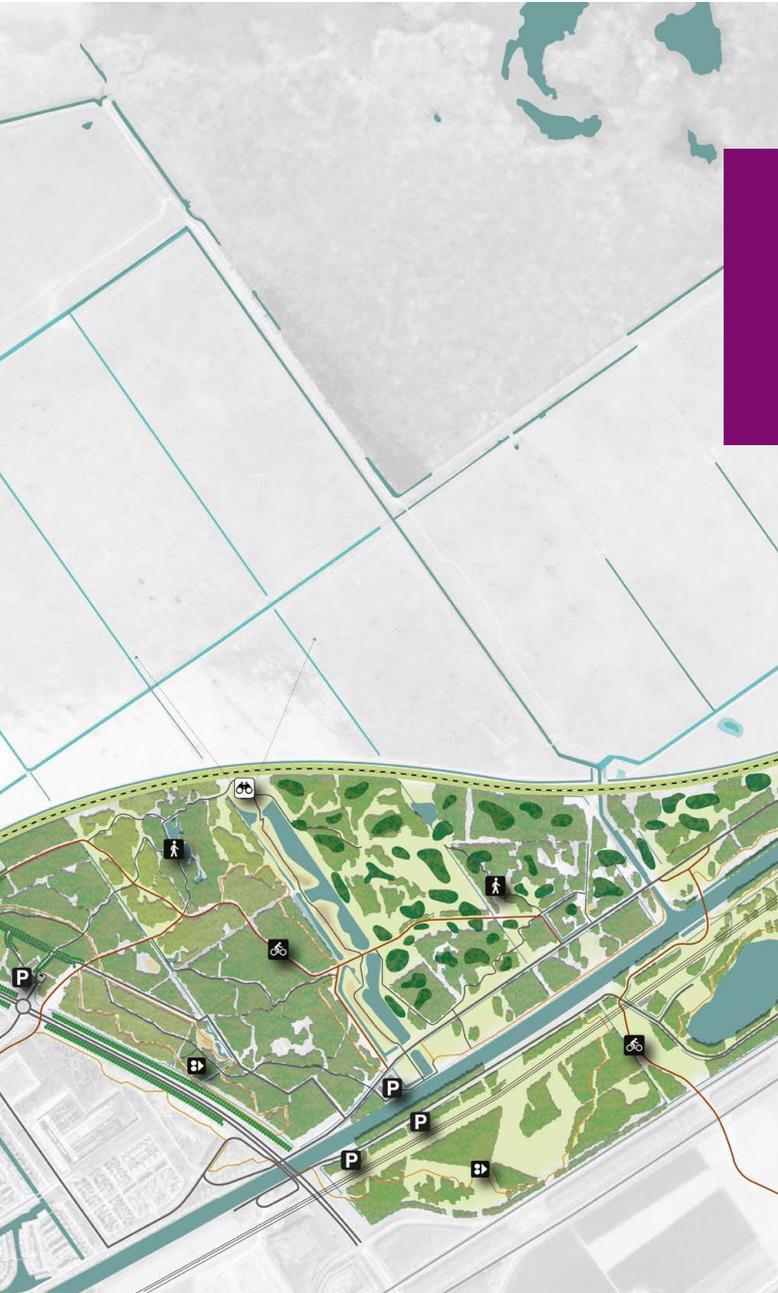


Almere Oostvaardersplassen

Almere Oostvaardersplassen is the adventurous meeting place where the holiday-maker can experience the unique nature of the Oostvaardersplassen. Thanks to its favourable location on the outskirts of Almere, the gateway area is easily accessible and forms the wild back garden of pioneering Almere. On entering, the visitor immediately notices the atmosphere and nature of the Oostvaardersplassen.

In the coming years, a lot of work will be done on improving foot paths and cycle paths, on constructing viewing points and on laying out a more varied landscape. The visitor will have ample opportunity to enjoy the area and nature in the Almere Oostvaardersplassen, among other things because the 'Oostvaarders' Nature Experience Centre will be expanded.





Plan chart

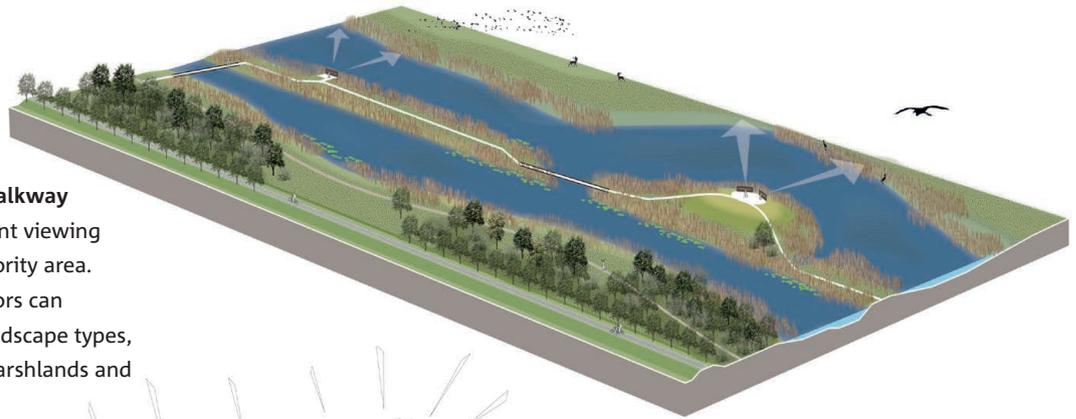
Almere Oostvaardersplassen

Key

-  Existing water
-  Water to be dug out
-  Woodland
-  Marshy woodland
-  Enclosure for trees and newly-planted woods (indication)
-  Trees and groups of trees
-  Row of trees
-  Reeds
-  Cycle path
-  Foot path
-  ATB route
-  Viewing point/bird hide
Publicly accessible
-  Parking facility
-  NS Station

The principle of the board walkway

A varied foot path with different viewing points on the fringe of the priority area. From the board walkway, visitors can experience all the different landscape types, ranging from woodlands to marshlands and flat, open areas.



The principle of the dense woodland border

On the western edge, a dense woodland zone will be created of at least 100 metres wide. This zone is intended to hide as much as possible of the view of the greenhouses that are located behind, also in the winter when the trees have no leaves and the greenhouses are lit.



The principle of the woodland-meadow landscape

A thick edge of woodland that is increasingly open towards the priority area. As with the shelter, the young trees in Almere Oostvaardersplassen will also be protected from the large grazers in the first years with fencing.

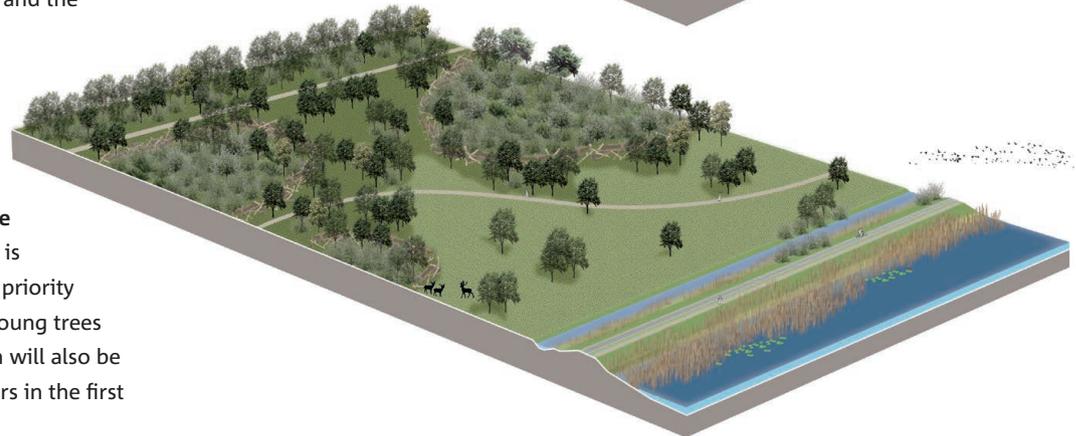




Photo after realisation; young trees at the edge of the woodland (photo bureau Nieuwe Gracht)

5

Lelystad Oostvaardersplassen

Lelystad Oostvaardersplassen





Located in the Hollandse Hout region, between Lelystad and the Oostvaardersplassen, a reception area for visitors to the National Park will be realised. A beautiful area where the visitor can enjoy a wide range of experiences and which is the start for further exploration in the Oostvaardersplassen. Foot paths and cycle paths are being renewed and an adventurous canoe route through the area is being developed. A gatehouse lodge will be built at Buizerdweg, which will be the starting point for

hikes and excursions and the reception centre for visitors. The construction of water features and the creation of height differences in the terrain will transform the existing commercial woodland into a varied woodland landscape. Good for the diversity of nature and attractive for visitors to the Lelystad Oostvaardersplassen.



Plan chart

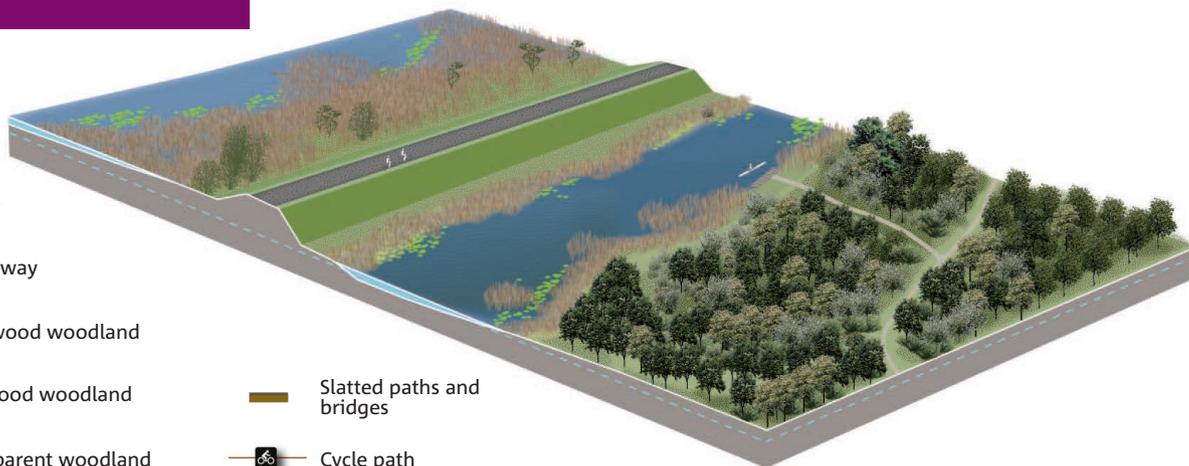
Lelystad
Oostvaardersplassen

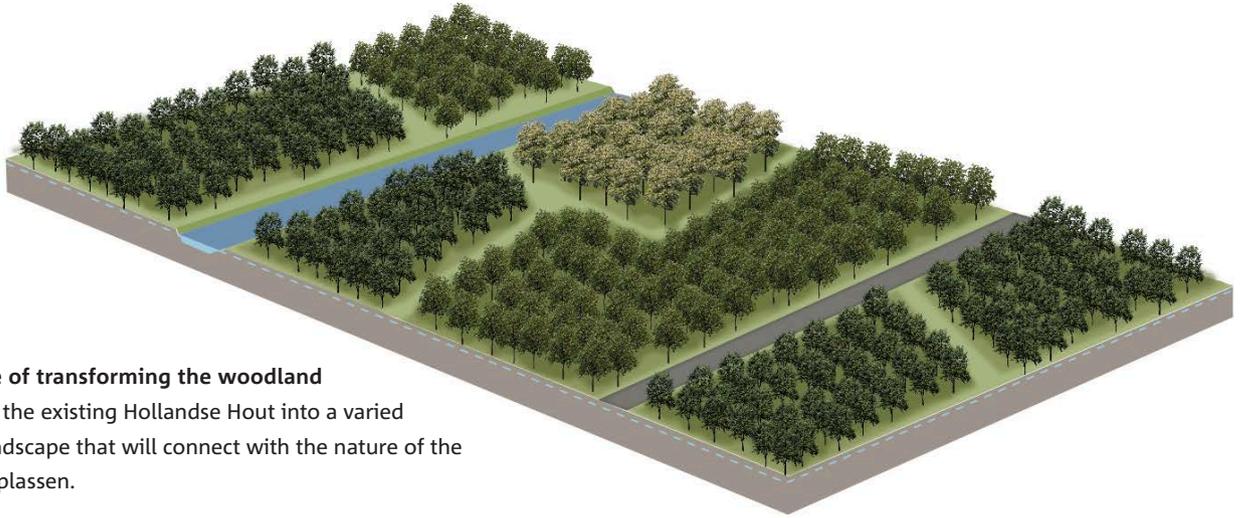
The principle of recreation

The Hollandse Hout is a recreational wooded area with many opportunities for walking and cycling. Adventurous canoe routes will be created through the introduction of water.

Key

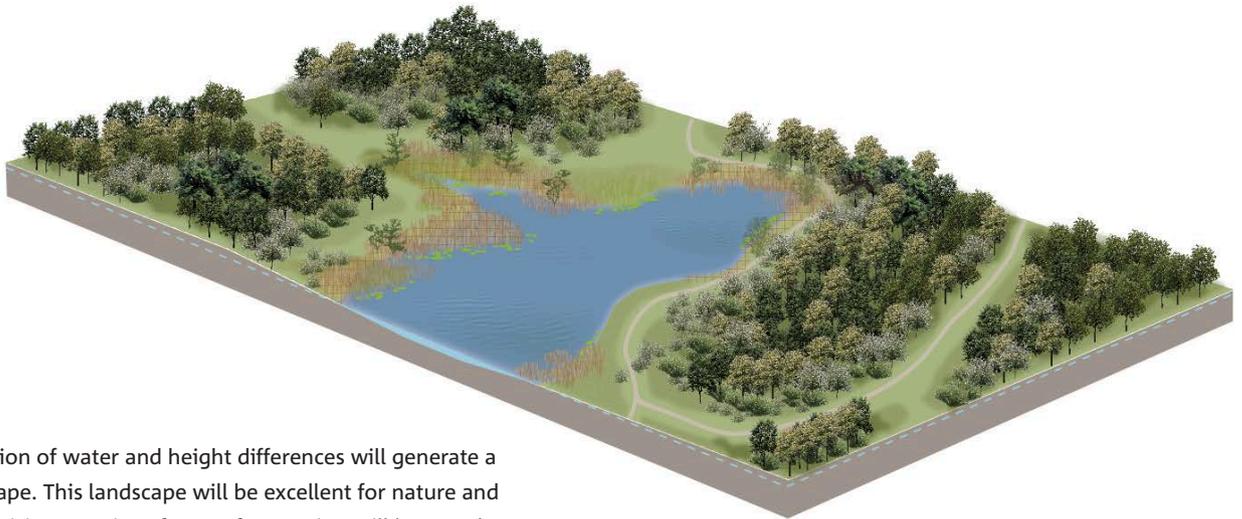
	Water		Slatted paths and bridges
	Waterway		Cycle path
	Hardwood woodland		Foot path
	Softwood woodland		Observation tower <small>Publicly accessible</small>
	Transparent woodland		Viewing point/bird hide
	Trees and groups of trees		Viewing point/bird hide <small>Precise location to be determined</small>
	Reeds		Picknick area
	Knardijk		Parking facility
	Railway line		
	Paved car route		
	Semi-paved car route		





The principle of transforming the woodland

Transforming the existing Hollandse Hout into a varied woodland landscape that will connect with the nature of the Oostvaardersplassen.



The introduction of water and height differences will generate a varied landscape. This landscape will be excellent for nature and attractive for visitors. Various forms of recreation will have a place in this new woodland landscape.



An impression of a varied woodland in the Hollandse Hout

6

Recreation in the priority area



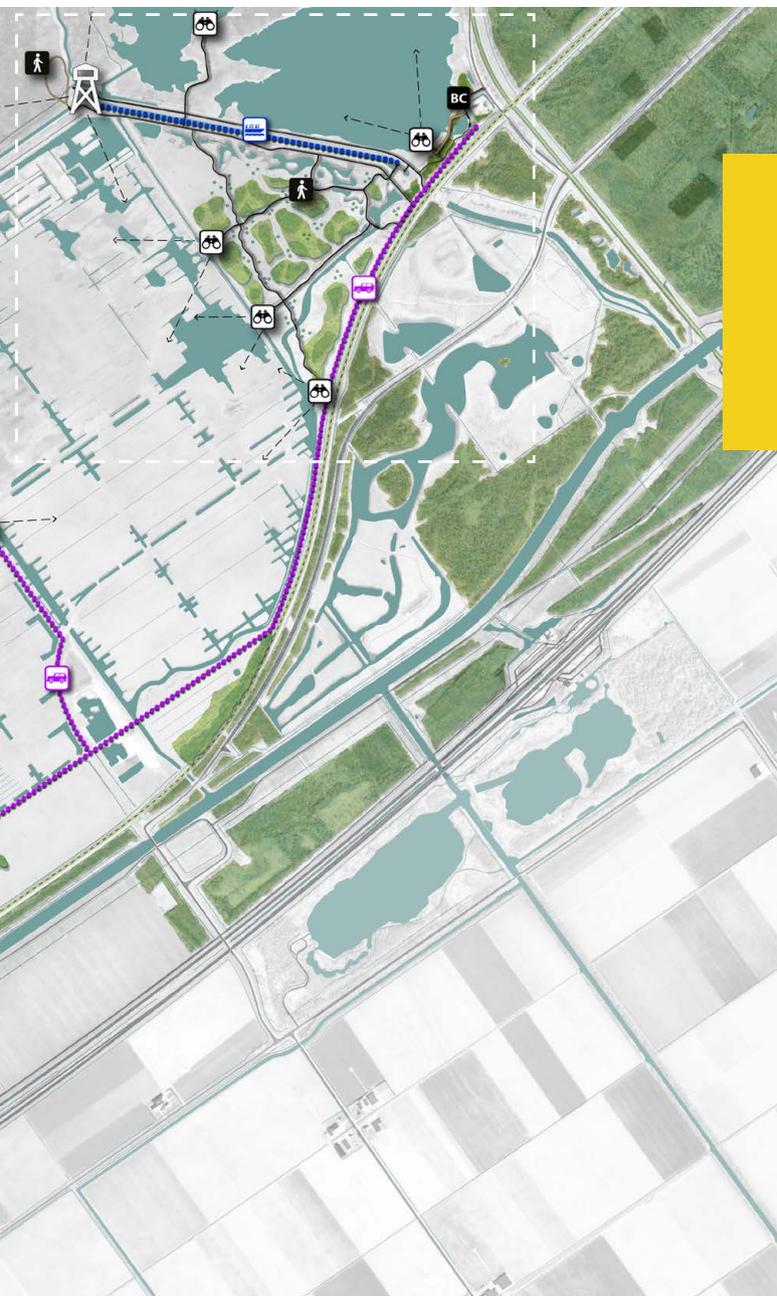


The area surrounding the Oostvaardersplassen Outdoor Centre will become more attractive and accessible to visitors. A walk from the Outdoor Centre through reed borders over a slatted path leads the holiday-maker through and along the habitat of the marsh birds. A new observation tower near the marsh provides an opportunity to look out over the marshland area. This tower can be reached on foot and by water.

The excursion routes from Lelystad and Almere will be adapted, making the encounter with nature more

exciting for the holiday-maker. The excursion routes from Lelystad and Almere will be partially changed, and will automatically blend into the landscape through the construction of embankments along the routes and around the return point. The disturbance of birds and animals by the moving Eco car will be reduced, so that more can be seen along the route and at the viewing points (such as the new observatory).



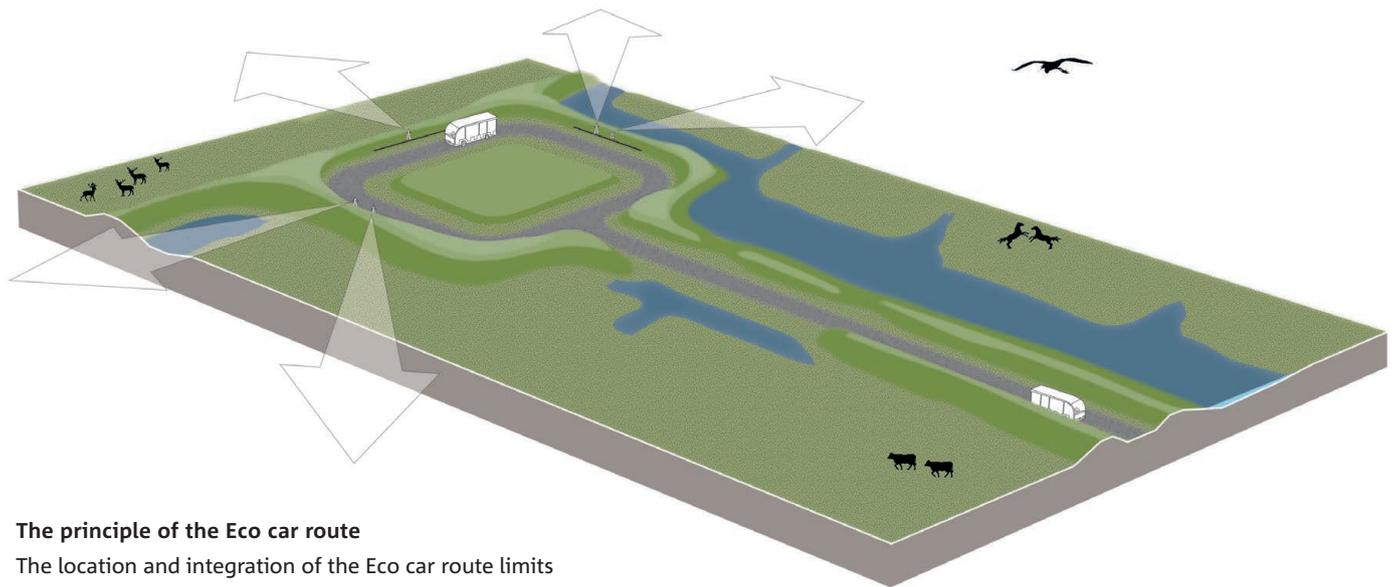


Plan chart

Recreation in the priority area

Key

-  Water
-  Woodland
-  Foot path
-  Boat excursion route
-  Ecomar excursion route
-  Viewing point/Observatorium
Part of the Ecomar excursion
-  Viewing point/Bird hide
Publicly accessible
-  Viewing point/observation tower
Publicly accessible
-  Visitor's centre
-  Board walkway



The principle of the Eco car route

The location and integration of the Eco car route limits the disturbance of nature. The route largely follows the existing maintenance roads that cross the priority area. The construction of embankments along the route means that the Eco car will be concealed as it drives through the landscape. The low embankments make it possible for the holiday-maker to have a view over the Oostvaardersplasen with minimal disruption to nature. This means that you can see more at the viewing points along the route.



Impression of boating recreation in the priority area

7

Window on the Nieuw Land National Park





Window on the Nieuw Land National Park

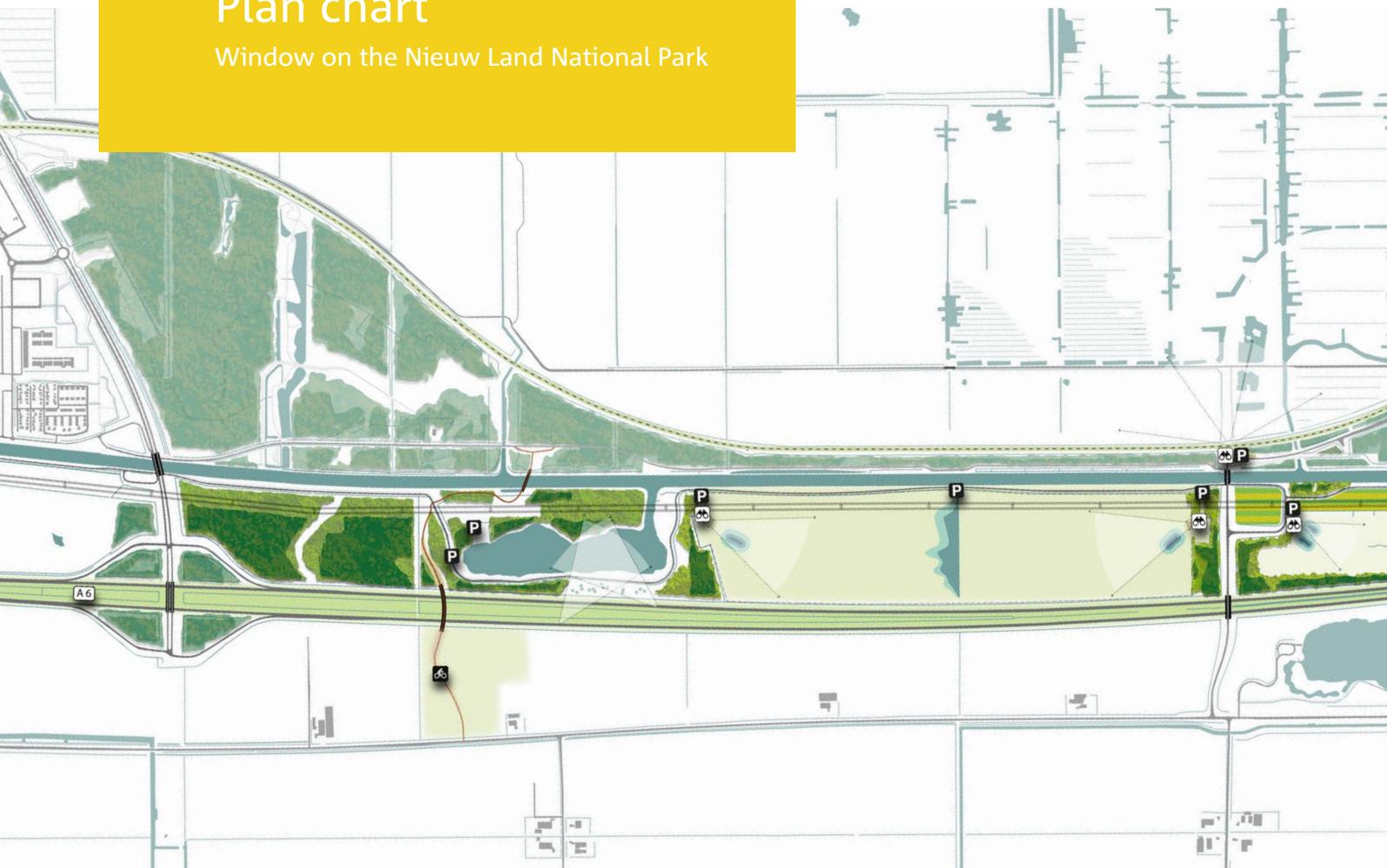
For motorists, the Nieuw Land National Park already starts on the A6. The Trekweg area will be given a boost by designing it in such a way that harriers and herons will have an optimal habitat.

The 60,000 motorists that drive along the A6 daily will get an impression of what the Oostvaardersplassen has to offer.

A varied landscape with water features and woodlands where many birds live and cattle and horses graze. An invitation to visit the Nieuw Land National Park and the Oostvaardersplassen.

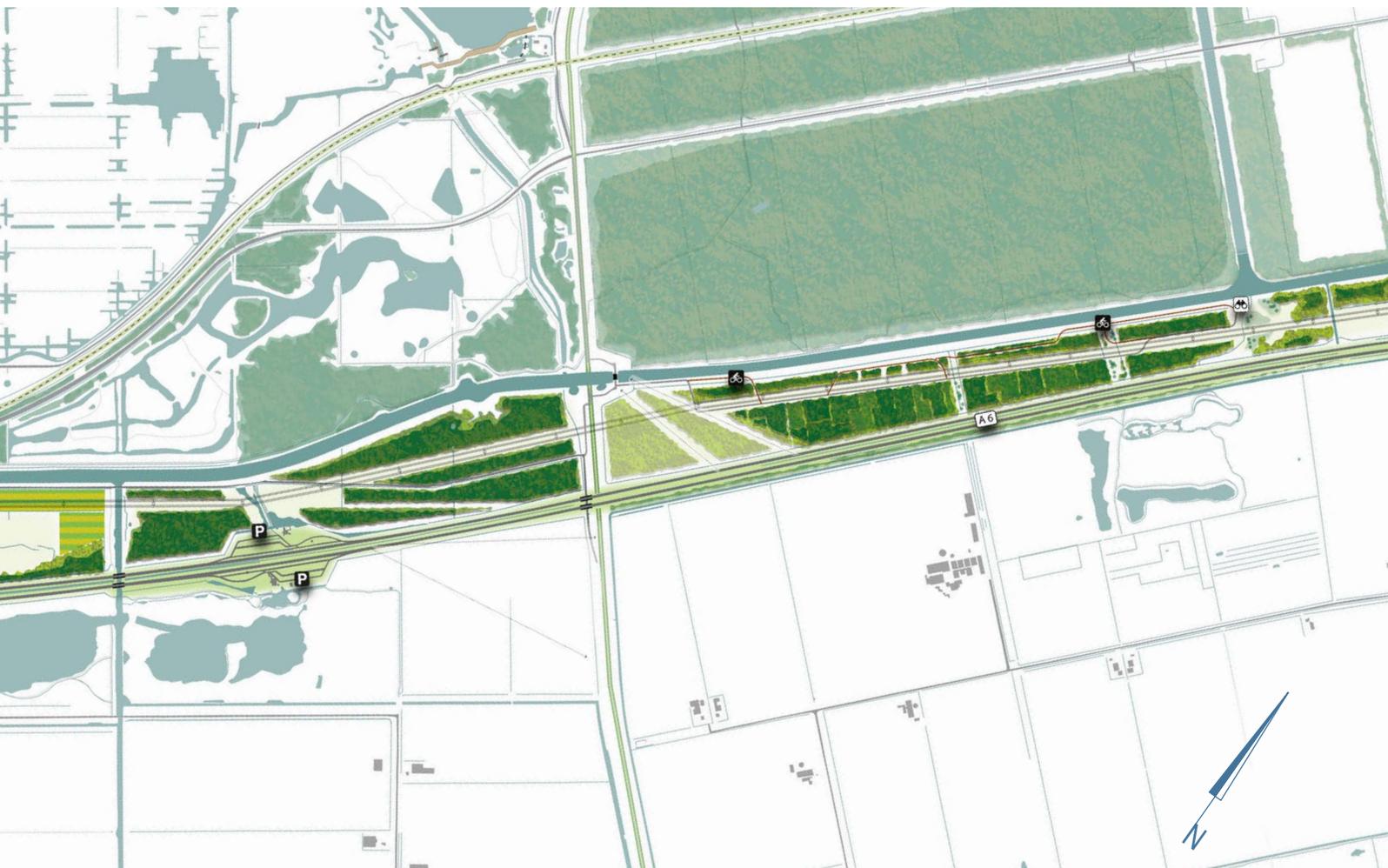
Plan chart

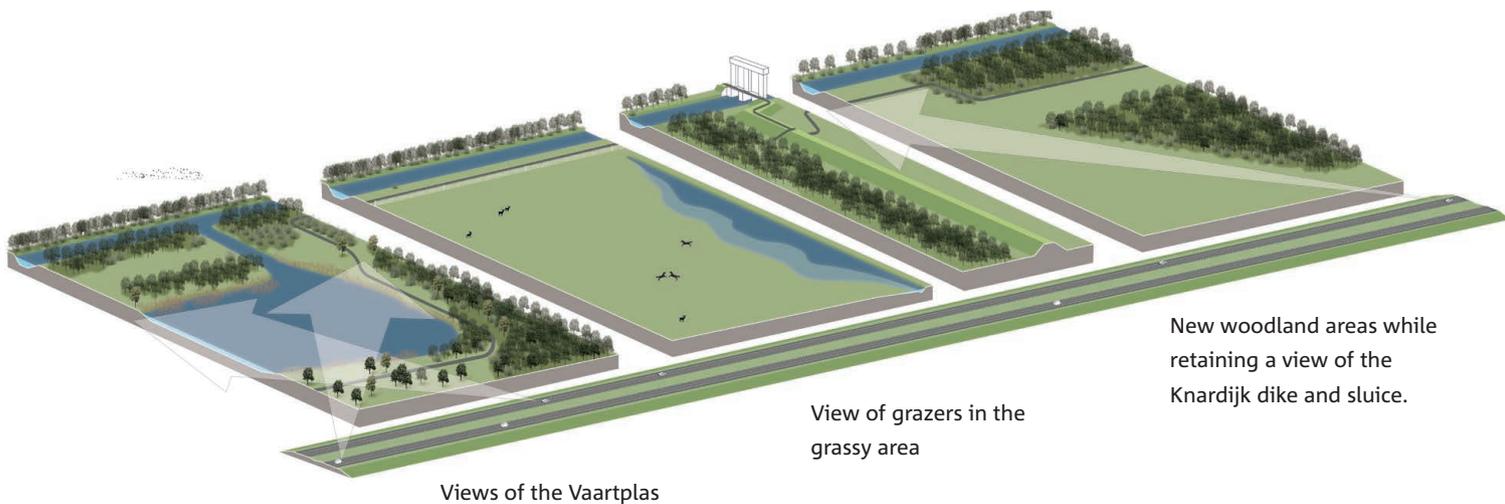
Window on the Nieuw Land National Park



Key

	Grassy area		Water		Road		Viewing point
	Woodland		Deep pool		Maintenance road		Sight lines
	Strip cultivation		A6 motorway		Cycle path		Parking facility





The principle of the Window on the Nieuw Land National Park

By making the scenic qualities of the Oostvaardersplassen already visible from the motorway, an invitation to visit the area is sent to the 60,000 motorists that pass every day.

The natural grassy areas, the wooded borders and the water-rich landscape will be created between the railway line and the A6.



Impression of the grassy areas in the Window on the Nieuw Land Nationaal Park

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FEDDES/OLTHOF
landschapsarchitecten

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