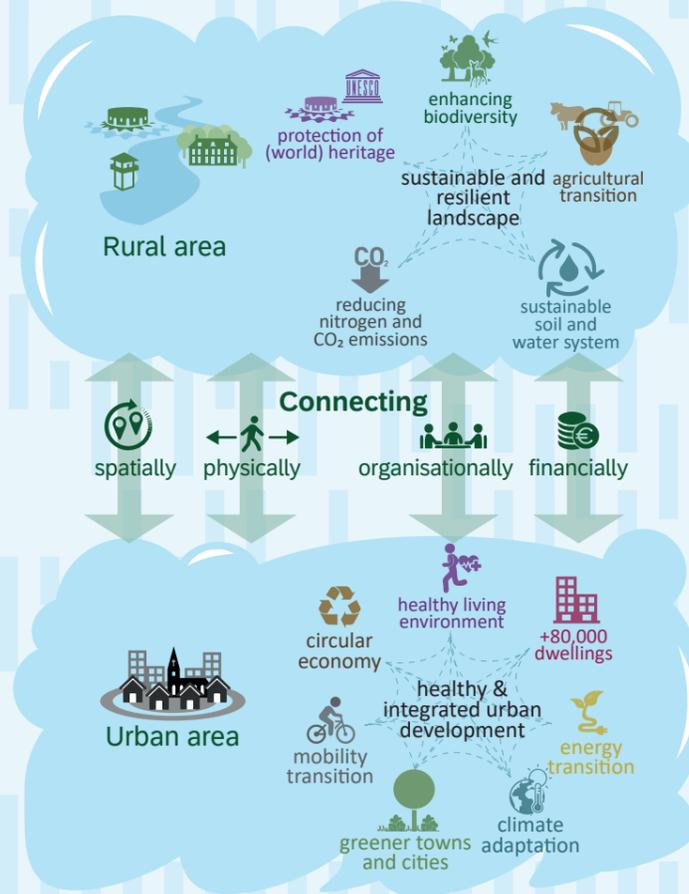


Why this development perspective?

To the south east of the city of Utrecht, from Nieuwegein to Zeist, lies an area where the Kromme Rijn and the Waterline intersect: the Kromme Rijn area. It is a beautiful landscape with country estates, open polder landscapes, the Kromme Rijn and, of course, the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of the Limes and the Dutch Waterlines.

It is a valuable area for people and wildlife, but it is under pressure due to the major housebuilding challenges in the region. Roads and railways have made the area less accessible and more difficult to experience. There are also urgent challenges relating to biodiversity, nitrogen emissions, agriculture and water management. This development perspective shows how we aim to preserve and enhance this landscape for residents, farmers, nature lovers and recreational users.

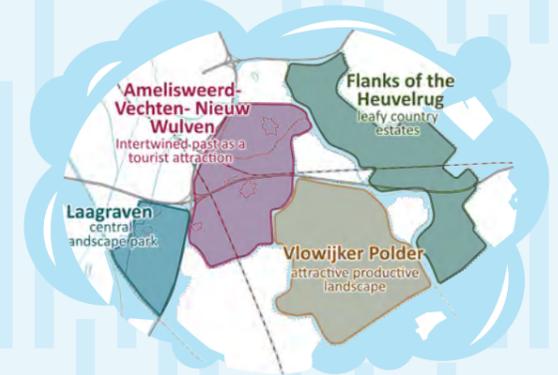
Connecting city and countryside



This is the Kromme Rijn area of the future:

- The landscape connects city and countryside and offers space for nature, agriculture and recreation. There is a strong relationship between urban and rural areas.
- The rural landscape in this busy region is of great significance to the people who live, work and engage in leisure activities here.
- The rich history of the Limes, the Dutch Waterlines and the country estates is tangible and easy to experience.
- Agriculture, recreation and nature reinforce one another and offer new opportunities for a sustainable balance.
- Improved nature and water quality provide clean (drinking) water and greater biodiversity.
- In an attractive landscape, food is (also) produced locally, strengthening both the region and the local economy.

Key qualities of the area



The Kromme Rijn area of the future is not the same everywhere. Nature, agriculture and recreation are present throughout, but the emphasis differs by area. Between Utrecht, Nieuwegein and Houten, more recreational opportunities will be available. Laagraven will become a landscape park where many people can enjoy the outdoors close to home. We connect Amelisweerd with the fort park at Vechten and Fort Fectio, and with Nieuw Wulven. The open area between Bunnik, Odijk and Houten will become a dynamic agricultural landscape focused on food production in a sustainable balance with its surroundings. On the flanks of the Utrechtse Heuvelrug, a beautiful small-scale landscape will develop where agriculture and nature blend seamlessly. Here, nature will be given space to rest in some places, while in other places people can enjoy it freely.

Made possible by:

Nieuwegein



gemeente Houten



Gemeente Zeist



Gemeente Utrecht



From perspective to implementation!

The perspective has been completed, but how do we make it reality? We cannot do this as public authorities alone. We therefore work together with residents, entrepreneurs and landowners. We are launching concrete projects in four areas: Laagraven, Nieuw Wulven/Fort Vechten, the surroundings of the Kersenweide, and the zone between Bunnik and Zeist. In addition, we will work on projects in Amelisweerd, around the Kleine Breul in Zeist, and collaborate across the whole area with farmers to achieve a vital and sustainable agricultural sector.

With these projects, we take the first steps towards the Kromme Rijn area of our shared ambitions, where nature, recreation and agriculture come together. Municipalities, the water authority and the Province of Utrecht will work together for several years to achieve this.

First projects



Development perspective Kromme Rijn area



Vision map 2040

The vision map shows how the Kromme Rijn area may look in 2040: a green and healthy landscape where people can walk, cycle and paddle to escape the bustle of the city.

The history of the area is the starting point for its development. Key features such as the Kromme Rijn, the Limes, the country estates and the Dutch Waterlines will be preserved and, where possible, made more visible. The soil, the (subtle) height differences and the Kromme Rijn will shape the future use and appearance of the landscape.

Nature has become more resilient. More species of plants and animals now live here that are suited to the landscape. This is because we have connected their habitats into a coherent network.

Agriculture remains important in the area and is increasingly combined with recreation, nature management and short food supply chains. In this way, the Kromme Rijn defence line landscape is developing into a place where nature and people flourish together, with a healthy living environment as the foundation.

The lines and locations shown on the map represent an initial concept. Together with the stakeholders, we will further elaborate and precisely define them.

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | New recreational areas | | Fauna passage (tunnel) |
| | Cycling connections | | Fauna passage (bridge) |
| | Recreational connections with green spaces and ecological design | | Green-blue network extension in agricultural areas |
| | Walking connections | | Watercourse with nature-friendly banks |
| | Existing major infrastructure structures | | Active farm ditches |
| | New large-scale artistic infrastructure | | Space for increasing water requirements |
| | Gateway entrances | | Canoe route (to be explored) |
| | Landscape attraction (indicative) | | Restoration of the tank ditch |
| | Waterline / Limes / estate route | | (Possible) Urban development site |
| | Recreational attraction | | Solar park |
| | Search area for new sports fields | | Country estate |
| | Existing sports ground / golf course | | Fort |
| | Nature Network Netherlands (NNN) | | Access |
| | Green contour areas | | Agricultural production landscape |
| | New green space | | Stimulating short supply chains |
| | New nature cores (indicative) | | Promoting diversified (multifunctional) agriculture |
| | Ecological connections | | Promoting nature-inclusive agriculture |
| | Habitat of roe deer | | Search area for solar fields |
| | Habitat of great crested newt | | Municipality of Houten - aspiration for area development, including housing in Houten East |
| | Habitat of otter | | Municipality of Bunnik - aspiration for area development including a potential future employment location |
| | Habitat of partridge | | |
| | New hedgerows / woodland patches | | |



Amelisweerd, Vechten, Nieuw Wulven | interwoven past



Laagraven | central landscape park



Flanken Heuvelrug | leafy country estates



Vloijkerpolder | attractive productive landscape