

E U R O P A N
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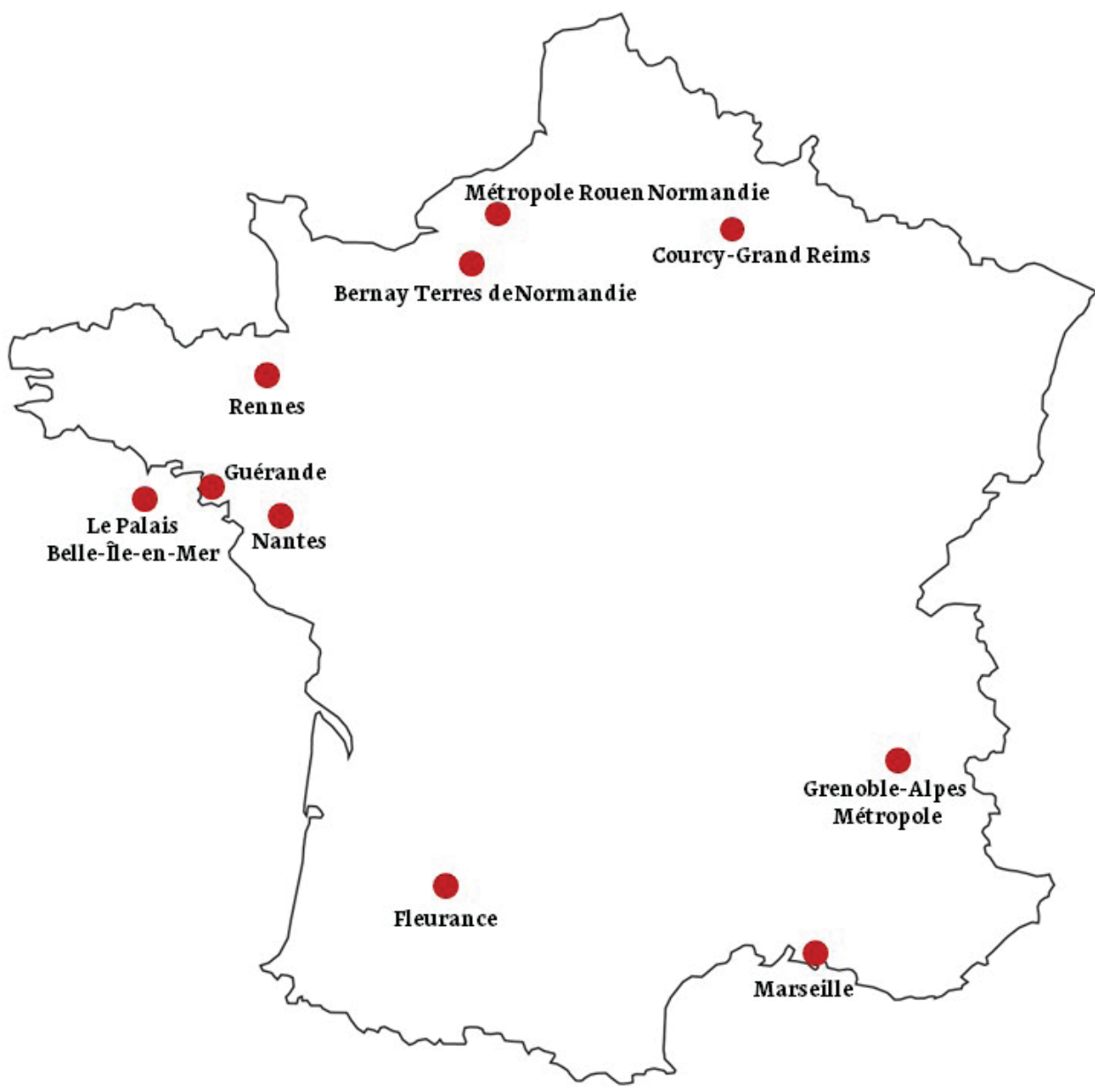


E17 - Living Cities 2

GRENOBLE ALPES METROPOLE

**A NEW NARRATIVE FOR THE
BOUCLES DE L'ISÈRE PARK**

Site brief



AVANT-PROPOS

The European sites in France may seem immense, out of proportion, out of bounds, whether they are listed among the “Petites villes de demain” or located in metropolitan areas.

They are. And this is why these sites are interesting for the candidates, because they require a reflection that is truly in line with contemporary issues, a reflection on the redefinition of our inhabited environments, whether dense or not. Indeed, these sites question the transformation of cities and architecture in the light of the civilizational transition. We find permanent stakes, the relation to water, to the living, to the productive human activities, societal, notions often destroyed during the last 2 centuries carried away by the industrial revolution.

How to think and conceive the architecture of the city, of inhabited places, of buildings, without a critical and prospective spirit, without considering repair, transformation, re-implantation, change? without re-imagining?

Designing a building, a public space, requires this critical spirit to take place in the manifestos and philosophical commitments that our time urgently calls for. All renaissance eras have done this, but today this is a matter of changing era.

Among the sites defined by broad perimeters of reflection, candidates will have to make their way and conceptualize along the way.

It can be a stretched, elongated thought, one or more layers of conceptual parameters, or it can be a small mechanism that will gear up.

The scales of the sites are often contrasting: the spatial and architectural dimension of the response is of little importance, because at European, it has never been a question of planning or redesigning an entire city or neighborhood.

It is still and always a matter of triggering projects and imagination, regardless of the scale.

But in order for proposals to «hit the bull’s eye», itineraries and processes for making projects are essential. What will your proposal be?

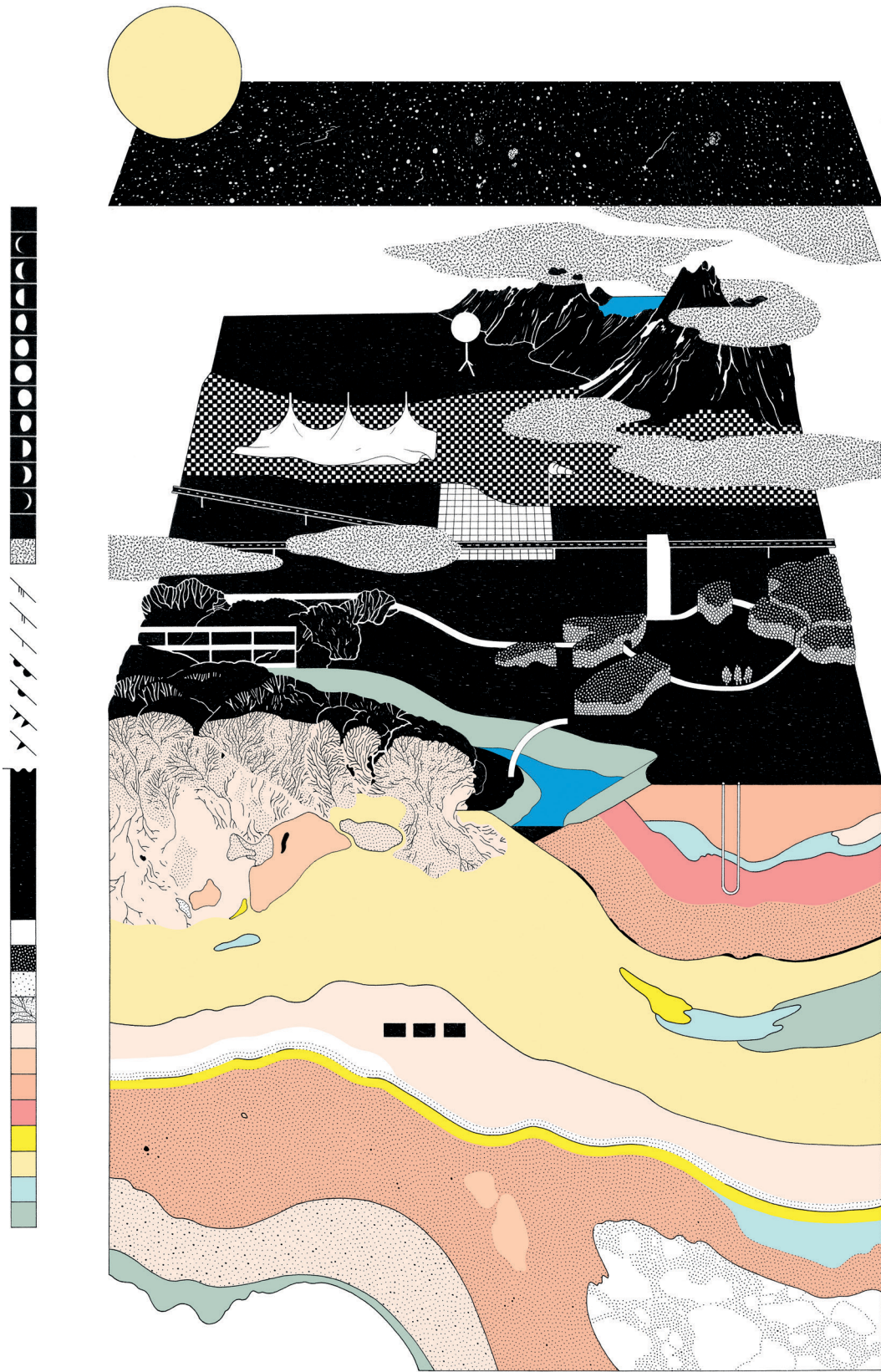
This prerequisite is valid for all sites in session 17. European, together with the local authorities, is always keen to broaden and open up the question, to reformulate beyond the concrete expectations that we know exist anyway, and which are often formulated.

What is it that makes several municipalities and/or principals meet around a park? a river? the desire for a thought to be built jointly, beyond the limits, and this through the project, from natural spaces to public spaces, from the hut to the building.

In all the sites, there is a question of buildings, whether they are standing, anchored, floating, in ruins, in activity, inhabited, used, in the process of..., real and/or symbolic. It doesn't matter if they are dilapidated, ugly for some, if they are qualified as warts or jewels of the 20th century heritage, they are part of our culture, of our present, they are unknown treasures, they are made of matter and memory. In a time that we call for sobriety, they exist and therefore, they remain.

To these strong questions, we, European and the communities of the 17th session, expect thoughtful, bold, lively and prospective answers.

EUROPAN FRANCE



THEME E17 : LIVING CITIES 2

REIMAGINING ARCHITECTURES BY CARING FOR INHABITED MILIEUS

The results of European 16, with its theme of “Living Cities: Metabolism and Inclusiveness”, largely confirm a profound change in the manner of envisioning projects in a context of ecological transition. This transition entails a transformation in the ways of thinking about and imagining the city and architecture.

That is why the 17th session of European has set itself the goal of pursuing the same theme while taking these changes in the content and methods of design further.

The aim is to explore the regenerative capacities of living milieus amidst new architectural, urban and landscape ecologies that attempt to overcome the opposition between nature and culture and anthropocentrism during times marked by natural disasters and a climate emergency.

How can we care for inhabited milieus?

The increasingly alarming nature of the different IPCC reports, most recently that of March 2022, and the COVID-19 pandemic with its planet-wide impact, have made the vulnerabilities of the living world and the metamorphoses of habitability even more starkly apparent. The very possibility of living is now in doubt for all, given the excessive consumption of natural resources by certain human groups to the detriment of the needs of the global population, exceeding what planet earth can replace.

Climate emergency, overexploitation, pollution, inequality and iniquity – all these ills, upheavals and disorientations demand actions of “care” that address the coexistence and interrelationship of all the elements of the living world, and thus mandate a radical shift in paradigm. Sensitivity, responsibility, creativity are aspects of care and of interest in other beings.

This demands an awareness of the affiliations and interactions at work in the situations put forward for the competition. For European 17, the contexts demand a radical change towards a more immersive approach to the conception and production of space, an approach founded in care for living milieus. A new paradigm is at work, prompting us to wonder how to reconcile things and beings at a time when the habitability of Planet Earth is in question. Local and translocal strategies are associated both with issues of metabolism (new ways of managing flows of natural elements, materials and human beings with the aim of developing

circular economy) and issues of fairness and solidarity (inclusivity of actors in processes) which were already partially operative in certain contexts in E16.

Reimagining architectures that are embodied in “visions” and “narratives” of the evolution of sites between present and future

In response to these territorial challenges, it is more than necessary to create complex, global and dynamic spatial reconfigurations in damaged inhabited milieus in order to revitalise biological and human communities.

The care-based approach will lead to a necessary interplay of innovative, dynamic and varied project processes:

- producing an active understanding of what is already in place (biological + socio-anthropological scales), a situational intelligence;
- on the basis of this immersion, repairing mistreated territories/spaces by subtraction and recreation;
- engage in sober urban projects (reduced land consumption) and in architectural projects that are economical in terms of materials, technicality, energy, attentive to resources in their impact on the Earth
- reinforcing, regenerating or creating qualities of hybridisation between nature and culture;
- linking the scale of strategic and dynamic reflection on territories (the large-scale structuring ecological challenges) with the scale of local spaces and their re-conception (everyday spaces and shared spaces);
- imagining/creating architectures with a view to the connection between present and future and therefore their production and adaptability over time (sustainable development);
- tackling projects with a readiness for design and production processes that involve all actors with their diversity and their differing roles.

In order to achieve this complexity, the situations that will be chosen for the European 17 competition must be such that the projects submitted can activate in different contexts and at different scales:

- symbiotic links between the living world and the cultural world, vital relations between human and nonhuman beings;
- spatial synergies (actions conducted in concert between different elements, entities or stakeholders): these are types of natural and cultural reconnections at different scales between elements that have become fragmented as a result of the modernist development of milieus;
- taking into account natural and human temporalities (cycles and rhythms of the living world and the social world) in process-projects.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SITE REPRESENTATIVE(S): Grenoble Alpes Métropole, North-East Polarity

INVOLVED ACTOR(S): Communes of La Tronche, Meylan, Gières, Saint Martin d'Hères, Domène, Murianette, Grenoble, CHUGA, Université Grenoble Alpes, Conseil Départemental de l'Isère, Région Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, Agence d'Urbanisme de la Région Grenobloise (AURG)

TEAM REPRESENTATIVE: Architect, urbanist or landscapist

DESIRED COMPETENCES FOR THE SITE'S CHALLENGES AND CHARACTERISTICS:

Architecture, urbanism, landscaping, urban strategy, ecology, sociology, biology and any other competence candidates may choose

COMMUNICATION: Post-competition project promotion: publication of the outcome in a catalogue and national exhibition

JURY – 1ST ASSESSMENT: with the site representatives' participation

JURY – PRIZE SELECTION:

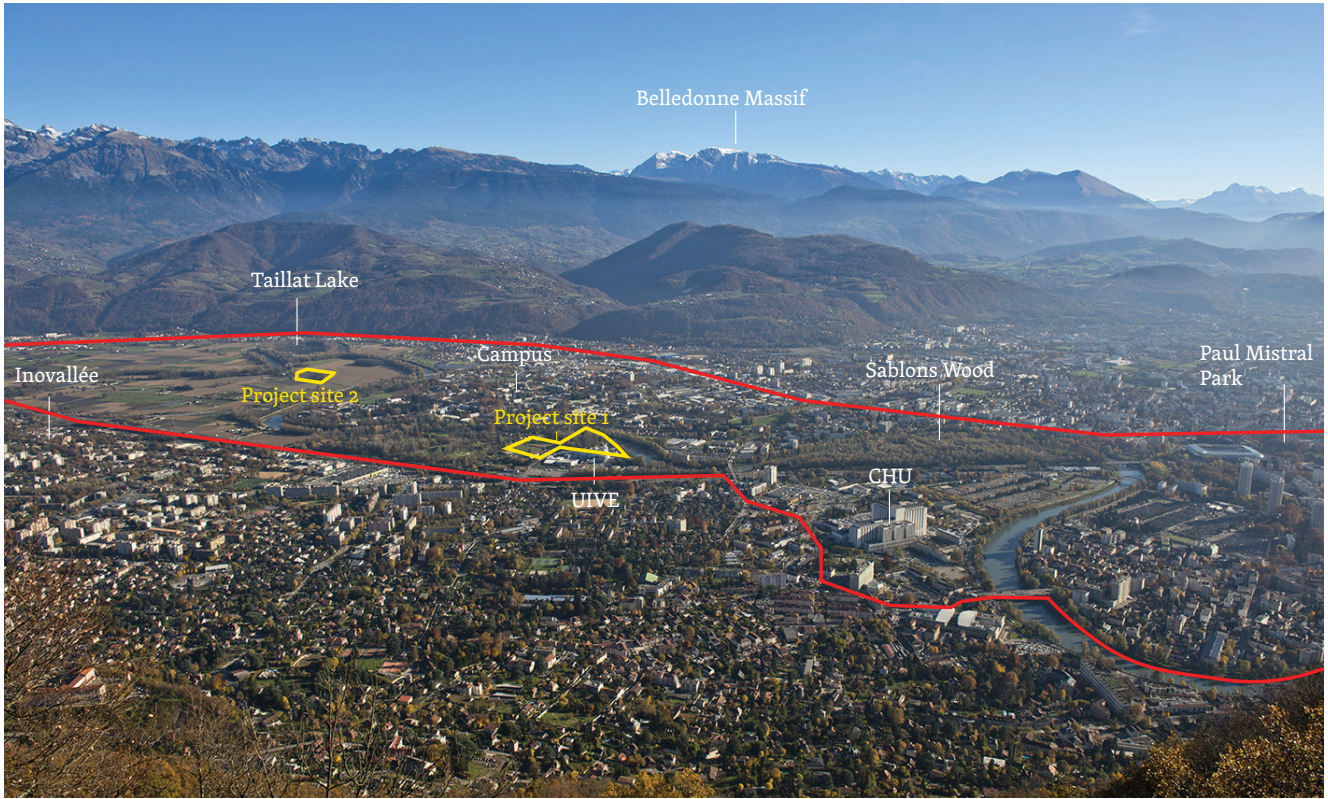
selection of three projects per site with the site representatives' participation
Prizes: the prizes will be attributed by the jury independently of the sites: winner (€12,000) / finalist (€6,000) / highly commended (no prize)

POST-COMPETITION INTERMEDIATE PROCEDURE:

Meeting of the cities and teams organized by the European France secretariat in Paris at the start of 2024 - On-site meetings of the cities and teams organized by the local authorities and their partners from January 2024 - Assistance and advice from European France to the local authorities and their partners for the implementation of the competition's continuation.

PROJECT ATTRIBUTED TO THE SELECTED TEAM(S) FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Workshop, urban feasibility study, architectural construction project.



AERIAL VIEW OF THE REFLECTION SITE WITH LOCATION OF DIFFERENT URBAN PARTS

FR-GAM-C-APo1
(GAM)

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE BANKS OF THE ISERE

FR-GAM-C-Po2
(GAM)



PHOTOGRAPH OF THE BANKS OF THE ISERE

FR-GAM-C-Po3
(GAM)

RELEVANCE TO THE THEME

THE SITE'S CHALLENGES IN RELATION TO THE THEME

The Vibrant Towns/Cities theme is an opportunity to investigate the area's environmental and metabolic qualities. More than a spatial perspective, it is a chance to take a fresh look at the Boucles de l'Isère nature, urban and agricultural park, to identify its qualities and potentials from the perspective of biodiversity, natural elements, economic dynamics and inhabitable qualities. The European initiative is a decisive contribution to the structuring of the park project and the creation of its narrative.

This is also an opportunity to consider the park's place in relation to the metropolis and central city of Grenoble, to change the mindset with regards to water, to move away from an engineering-based vision for urban and land planning, to start a «necessary transition from urban-design thinking focused on controlling the environment towards a perspective where urban objects enable space qualities, risk reduction and existing landscape valorisation»¹.

The European teams' external perspective will highlight the connections between the North-East Polarity, the Boucles de l'Isère park and the Grenoble Alpes metropolis, as well as consider the park as a **comprehensive and complex ecosystem** with its own workings.

The territory under consideration is located at the interface of various vast natural elements (mountain ranges and the Isère river) with important transport infrastructures and is home to a significant productive agricultural activity. So the challenge concerning the soils is this: on the plain, they are permeable and rich with mountainous sediments, but they are locally polluted, so their use is to be reviewed with regards to life.

This is a hybrid site: inhabited, productive, natural and fragmented where there are strong challenges in terms of creation and synergy maintenance at various levels, from the territory to nearby spaces, as well as life/agriculture symbioses.

One of the founding aspects that connect the inhabitants, policies and technical aspects to the area is the presence of water and the notion of risk that it entails. The element of water is historically mainly considered a risk factor, a driving force, producing energy or enabling the irrigation of cultivated lands. Hence the construction of levees and hydraulic works in order to contain, modulate and control the flow and floods. In the context of the Vibrant Towns/Cities theme, this

¹ Ambrosino C., Ramirez-Cobo I., Vers la ville de l'âge IV ?, Projets de paysage, 2019.

relationship needs to be rethought. Consideration must be given to all ecosystemic services that water may deliver (refreshing, habitat for living species, biodiversity, leisure, etc.). Water must be deemed a resource element, rather than solely a constraint, for the whole park and its inhabitants, and be seen as project material. Water will be placed at the core of the area once more and at the heart of this functional and prominently hydraulic environment.

«Water designs Water's modifying action, and not solely the project that concerns it, must be integrated into any space planning that involves it.»²

THE CITY AND ITS PARTNERS' EXPECTATIONS

The natural space shaped by the Boucles de l'Isère is a wonderful opportunity to establish a reconnection between the metropolitan area and its geographical surrounding. It is also the backbone of the North-East Polarity, which links its communes and various projects on either side of the river. The submission of the Boucles de l'Isère nature, urban and agricultural park to the European competition gathers several expectations from the metropolis, the communes and the associated partners.

BRINGING TOGETHER A COMPLEX RANGE OF ACTORS

State, communes, university campus, CHU (hospital), Symbhi, Chambre de l'Agriculture, sports associations, LPO. Focusing on the Boucles park, the European initiative will contribute to gather these actors – and possibly new ones – around a common table. It will initiate and set up collective and multi-partner work sessions around the initiative with an aim to bring out a shared vision of this nature, urban and agricultural park. European projects will need to support the cooperation between actors and users and integrate the spaces' ability to evolve and the use of the park.

SETTING THE NATURE, URBAN AND AGRICULTURAL PARK IN PEOPLE'S MINDS AND BRINGING ITS DIVERSITY TO LIGHT

The submission of the Boucles de l'Isère nature, urban and agricultural park to the European competition helps to stress the park's federal role, strategic position and diversity for the North-East Polarity.

This is about building the narrative of this new nature, urban and agricultural park, bringing it to light, setting it **in the collective mind** and encouraging its use. This reflection will complement the development of the guiding plan for the North-East Polarity the research for which will start at the same time as European's, helping to design the park's creation and the transformation of key spaces over time.

So an intervention strategy should be suggested in relation to the narrative, the process, the design and the implementation of the land planning:

² Viganò, P., *Métamorphoses de l'ordinaire*, Marseille, Édition Parenthèses, 2013, p. 84.

- **to «clean up»**: repair this fractured area, regenerate and bring back wonder in this space in all its diversity;
- **to take the living** (fauna, flora, humans, soils) into account for a «nature, urban and agricultural park» that brings together leisure, nourishing, productive spaces and the conservation and protection of natural spaces. «Life» in the park should also be considered beyond the fauna and flora – in all its diversity with regards to formal and informal uses – that it hosts.
- to be built over **time**, short, medium and long term, and include the unknowns linked to uncertainties of projects current underway and spontaneous events in the area.
- **to connect** the various urban pieces, creating territorial continuities, crossing infrastructures, making the park accessible and enabling a return to proximity between urban and ecosystemic services and between the various living beings. The park will therefore be approached via its boundaries, its interfaces with the city and its infrastructures.

PROGRAMME DIRECTIONS

The general question to be addressed in the context of the European competition is that of the park's identities, with the creation of its **narrative**, its anchoring into the collective mind (its geography, its scale, its diversity).

The secondary question is that of the consideration given to water's modifying action in the project. How can the territory absorb, in its materiality, the water-related risk and its events, while valorising its presence and its benefits?

A decision, design and implementation process will take place for the projects that will open and connect the park to its environment, activate synergies, reveal the metabolisms that operate in the park, work with water and its events and valorise the site's quality as a dwelling place.

This process will provide a range of common rules that can be applied to objects, projects and actions occurring within the park.

How do these rules help to reveal the park, bring it to life and enable it to make an impact?

The process will also be phased from short to long term; it will be transcalar, from micro to macro; it will include immediate actions to make the park accessible, encourage its use and finely tune the interfaces between current projects.

There are several key Vibrant Towns/Cities themes concerning the Boucles de l'Isère park and the correct approach should make it possible to address them:

- the relation to water and its integration other than as a risk;
- the mutation of an agricultural production on the metropolis's doorstep towards a resilient system;
- inclusivity: habitat and informal uses;
- the climate and the consequences of climate change;
- transition from an engineering-based vision for planning to a metabolic approach;
- the integration of technical facilities on the city's outskirts.



**COMPOSTING CENTER OF THE
GRENOBLE METROPOLE**
FR-GAM-C-Po5



**PEDAGOGIC GARDEN OF THE ILE
D'AMOUR PARK**
FR-GAM-C-Po6



**SEMI-AERIAL VIEW OF THE
WESTERN PART OF THE
REFLECTION SITE**
FR-GAM-C-APo2

CONTEXT

TERRITORY, GEOGRAPHY AND LANDSCAPE

Grenoble Alpes Métropole is often identified by its proximity to the mountainous massifs. Yet, it is the plain that is home to most of the inhabitants and their daily life, like a «base camp» more or less chosen by the metropolitan residents. Therefore, beyond the great majestic natural spaces of the Alps, Grenoble Alpes Métropole wishes to reconnect the urban space and its inhabitants to generous natural spaces integrated into the city and accessible to all. These natural spaces are biodiversity refuges, a platform for leisure, recreational and mobility activities, of course, but they also serve agricultural, economic and productive uses, linked to flood risks, and all these features are the elements that must shape the reflection and projects.

A DOUBLE TOPOGRAPHY

The representative topographical feature of the Grenoble region is of course that of the slope due to the three massifs that surround the city and belong to its metropolitan territory. The slope, or at least its upper parts, are sanctuarised. Mountains are an object of fascination, provide a place for sports practices, but historically they also inspire fear. Its second, and often forgotten, topographical feature is that of the plain, which is urbanised, inhabited and the basis of the Grenoble basin.

CLIMATE

Due to the landscape, the city's climate shows great disparities between winter and summer. In the winter, the climate is relatively cold. The summer season, however, can be really problematic with a heat island effect and quite significant heat waves due to the bowl-like topography and stagnant pollution. A local ecological policy has been followed by now several mandates, and many measures to improve the air quality are being implemented. However, there are remaining issues and in view of the climate challenges ahead, each project and each measure must aim to improve the air quality and limit its negative impact on climate change.

FLOW, MOBILITY AND BARRIERS TO BIODIVERSITY

This territory is criss-crossed by the Isère and road infrastructures, fracturing the urban fabric. The boundaries of the Boucles de l'Isère park are in fact largely delineated by the motorway in the north and the railway in the south. The motorway A41 was built for the 1968 Winter Olympic Games in Grenoble to

improve the access to the city. It runs through the Grésivaudan valley via the right bank of the Isère, ends at avenue de Verdun and reaches Grenoble along Paul Mistral park.

The railway is located on the left bank of the Isère, runs through the Grésivaudan valley and stops at the Gières railway station.

These two infrastructural axes, avenue Gabriel Péri in Saint-Martin-d'Hères and the Isère break up the area in an east-west direction.

Additionally, the ring road also cuts the university campus from the town of Gières in a north-south direction.

JUXTAPOSED URBAN PIECES

- The Grenoble Alpes University campus, considered to be the 50th metropolitan commune, welcomes 59,000 students and 10,400 members of staff. It's an open and accessible campus, but limited to a few users today, although it contains natural spaces and quiet routes at weekends that are favourable to recreational or sports uses.

- Some areas have distinct strategies or operating modes: shopping areas and craftwork areas (Glairon and Gières), or the hospital and Inovallée.

- Areas closed to the public or little used such as cemeteries, the metropolitan waste treatment and recycling plants that cause noise pollution.

This juxtaposition of contrasting monofunctional (or almost) urban pieces asks for the creation of connections and interfaces between these elements.

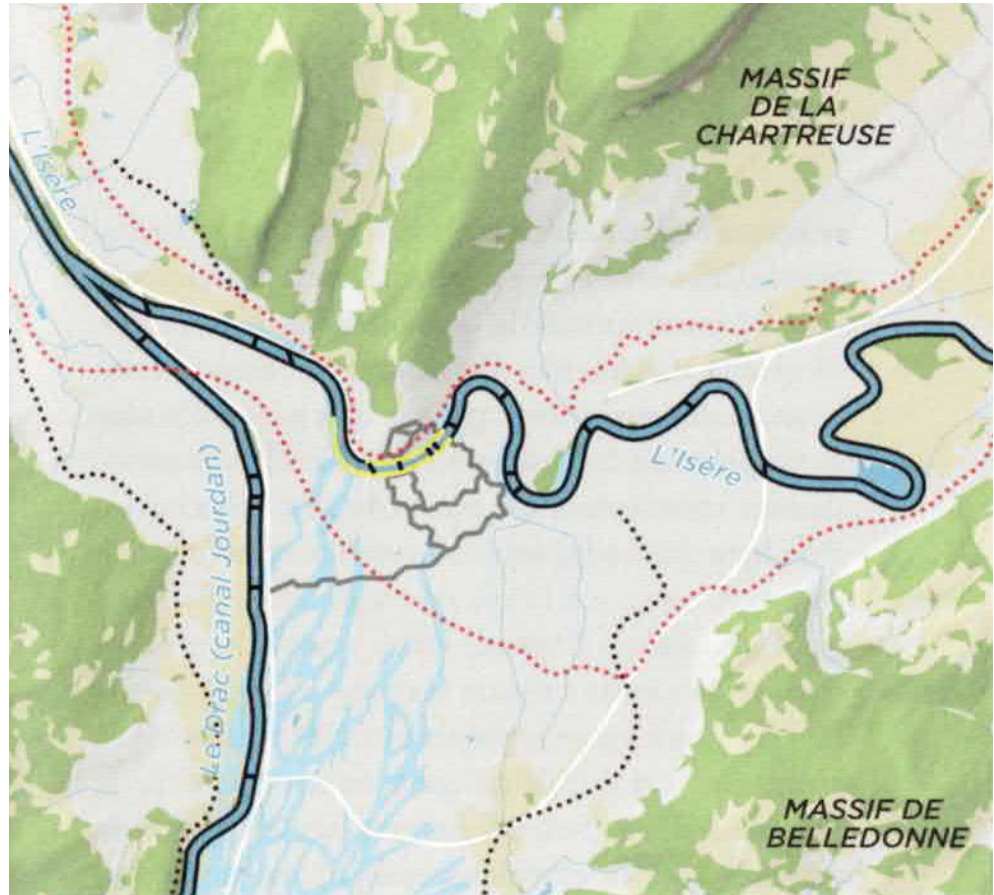
The park may support possible links as it offers a chance to rethink the metropolitan technical facilities' role, the agricultural production on the metropolis doorstep, mobilities, the amenities and infrastructures that serve and cross this territory.

ARCHITECTURAL AND URBAN HERITAGE

A RIVER FRAMED BY LEVEES AND URBANISATION ON THE PLAIN: AN ENGINEERING-BASED VISION OF THE TERRITORY

The Grenoble Alpes metropolis territory has a complex relationship to water that consists of controlling it and the rivers that flow through. The Isère, contained by levees, like the Drac, is perceived as a risk, especially flood risk when in spate. The Isère was navigable until 1957, used from the 17th to the 19th centuries as a trade route towards the Rhône valley and the Mediterranean Sea. The notion of risk already weighed on the locals' minds with the fear of avalanches. But deforestation, between the 18th and early 19th centuries, was the cause of new fears as it led to

**THE INVISIBILITY OF WATER ON
THE GRENOBLE PLAIN**
FR-GAM-C-Mo1
(Carcaud N., Arnaud-Fassetta G.
et Evain C., *Villes et rivières de
France*, CNRS éditions, 2019)



**DYKE OF THE ISERE WITH
BICYCLE PATH**
FR-GAM-C-P
(GAM)



erosion, sediment fall, soil rising and the subsequent modification of the river bed and water level, transforming the alluvial plain into marshes.

The flood of 1859 is a reference bicentennial event in the Isère region that testifies to the river's ability to move. It caused deaths, trauma and has greatly contributed to the Isère being perceived as a risk in people's minds.

SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DATA

Today the Boucles de l'Isère park is an area through which many users travel on a daily basis. Over 6,000 cyclists follow the Isère daily, thousands of cars use the A41 or avenue de Verdun, and the Gières railway station is a multimodal pole that already plays a role as a local service and should be further developed. The main perception of the territory is therefore of a place that one crosses by following the natural spaces that shape the Boucles de l'Isère park. The existing connections function well, so the aims of the reflection on mobility would be to move away from this corridor-like framework and encourage north-south crossings with stops along the park.

There are, nevertheless, other uses alongside this mobility: the Taillat loop, a farming area; the campus, a place for creation and knowledge sharing, where thousands of students live daily; at the entrance of the town of Meylan, there are shopping areas and housing estates; and Île d'Amour park, the Bois Français (woodland) and the Taillat lake, refreshing areas of leisure activities for the metropolitan residents.

Amid this mix of uses, metropolitan or private technical facilities (former sand quarry, materials platform) were implemented in what might be the metropolis' «backyard», namely with waste treatment plants.

Informal uses take place around or between these facilities: the use of several parts of the park by Travellers' communities, the growing number of shanties, prostitution in the Île d'Amour park, poaching and gleaning in the Taillat loop.

These many informal uses ask us to question what place the concerned living beings have within the metropolis, the needs and paradigms that some of these practices reveal (hunting, gleaning) and put inclusivity at the core of strategic and programme decisions carried out across the territory (integration and living space quality for Travellers, among other things).

HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN ENVIRONMENTS

SOILS AND VEGETATION

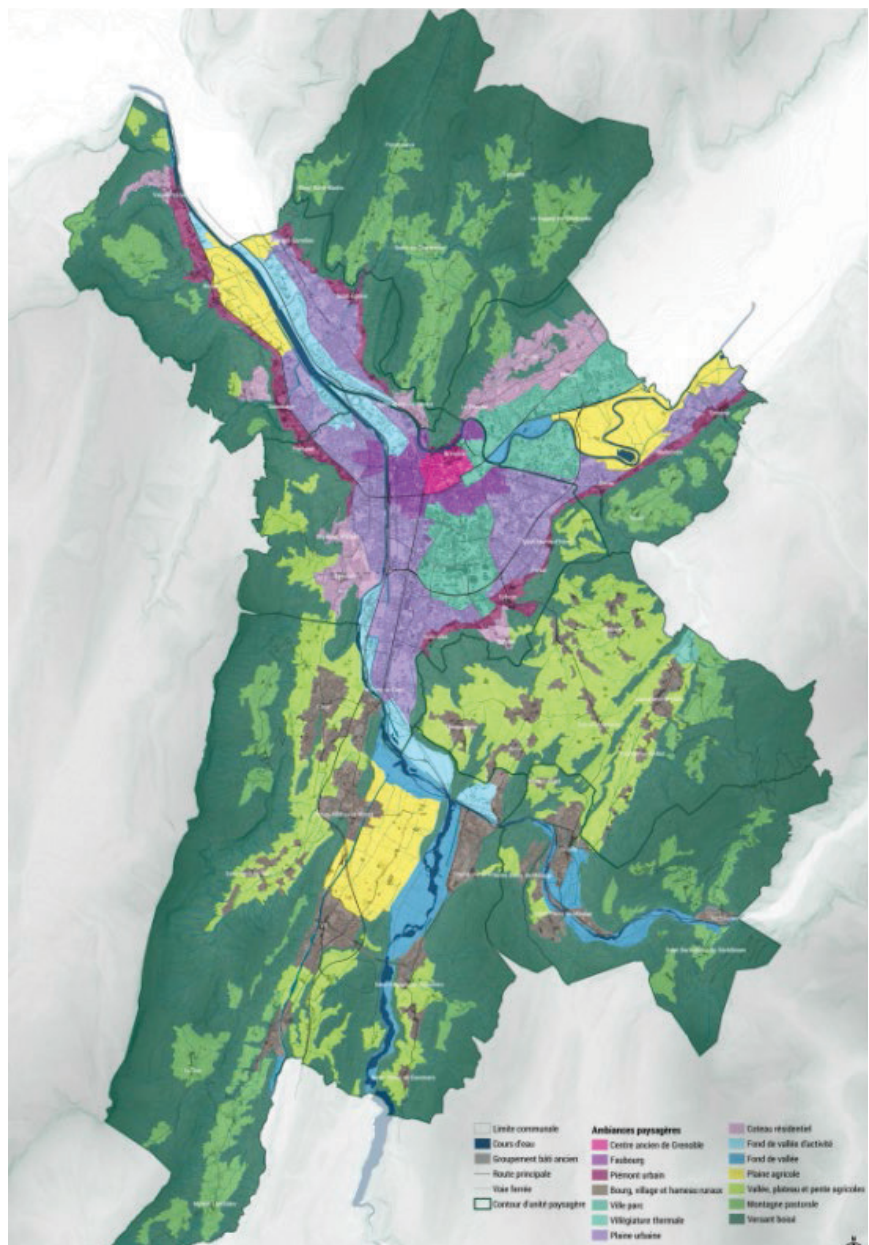
The lands at the bottom of the valley benefit from a favourable topography thanks to the sediment run-offs from the Chartreuse in the north and the Belledonne in the south, but also from the Isère's generous irrigation, all of which make for rich soils. These are old marshes with the ability to hold water. The territory is therefore

LES AMBIANCES PAYSAGÈRES DE LA MÉTROPOLE GRENOBLOISE

FR-GAM-C-Mo4
(Grenoble Alpes Métropole, OAP "Paysage et biodiversité" 2019)

TETTER WILLOW (OR TROGNE)
FR-GAM-PS2-Po1

This type of tree is typical of agricultural environments, the branches cut each year at the base of the trunk allowed to have thin stems for fences, baskets and fodder for animals. These are old trees whose trunk with cavities shelters birds and bats.



very much prone to flooding, which has led to the urban development of Grenoble to adopt a hydraulic control technology, while levees along the Isère have made the plain usable, mainly for agriculture.

Alluvial forests and woodlands ensure continuity with the massifs' foothills and are home to a range of animals and plants.

BARRIERS TO BIODIVERSITY

The roads, railways and cycle paths that cross the territory make it a busy land of mobility for humans, mostly used for journeys and commutes. For other living species, these infrastructures are barriers that hinder their movements through the area. The presence of these routes that fragment the landscape raises the question of access across the land for all living species.

THE PRESENCE OF WATER

Today still, there is little access to the rivers' banks and very little in terms of infrastructures on the banks throughout the metropolis, the urban fabric having been built with its back to the water. In the whole of the Boucles de l'Isère park, there is only one swimming area (in Bois Français) and it is payable. There is a real challenge here to create a link with water in people's minds and a contact with it in practice.

WHICH HUMANS?

The park's human inhabitants are: the students on the campus, Travellers, waste treatment plant staff, farmers.

The park's human users are: motorists and cyclists who cross the park or the valley to reach Grenoble, the metropolis residents who visit the Île d'Amour park, Bois Français, Taillat lake or go along the banks for leisure purposes.

NON-HUMAN LIVING SPECIES

(See appendices FR-GAM-SS-To1 and FR-GAM-C-To3) In terms of plant species, there is a great disparity between the various areas of the territory in question. With namely a count of 8 heritage species on the La Tronche area, but also the presence of 14 invasive exotic species on the project site 1, the projects' challenges and impacts on the fauna vary greatly.



**MAP OF THE NORTH-EAST
POLARITY**
FR-GAM-SS-M02
(GAM)

**BANK OF THE ISÈRE - PARK OF
THE ILE D'AMOUR**
FR-GAM-SS-P07



Ludovic Bustos, Grenoble Alpes Métropole Vice-President, Head of Land Strategy, Urbanism and PLUi (local urban-planning scheme):

«We wished to present to the European competition candidates the wonderful site of the great Boucles de l'Isère nature, urban and agricultural park.

A core thread of the North-East Polarity, we wish to create a network through the polarity's territory and go beyond the current organisation of distinct hubs (hospital, university campus, business areas...) to make it a resilient, coherent, vibrant and popular area.

As a counterpoint to the densely built city at the heart of the built-up area, this park offers a magnificent breathing space on the plain, a cooler place, accessible to all, close to water and nature.

It is a recreational space, a biodiversity refuge, but also a productive source of food on the metropolis' doorstep.

It extends beyond the boundaries of the North-East Polarity, while enabling us to build a linear «hub» that connects and federates the communes and PNE partners.

Grenoble Alpes Métropole has long applied a voluntarist policy to address climate change challenges. As the first French urban area to adopt a climate plan and a future citizen convention for climate on a local scale, the metropolis demonstrates through its actions, its projects and its public policies that it is aware of the challenges to come and shows its desire to act.

The projects concerning the agricultural pole, the modernisation of waste treatment plants and energy recovery facilities in place within the Boucles park set a tone and illustrate a desire to implement an urban nature park that addresses today's challenges: resilience, adaptation to climate change, greenhouse gas emission reduction, improvement to the inhabitants' living environment.

They also challenge the definition of what this park is and ask us to make these uses compatible between them, or even to create synergies. They question the place of living beings and make this vast Boucles park an area for experiments.

So seize this park, in all its complexity and wealth!

It requires a thorough understanding of its geography, risk issues, agricultural practices, ecosystems, hydrological issues, etc., but mostly it raises anthropological and social questions in terms of the uses it hosts.

We expect a new perspective on our land, from all over Europe. The European propositions will contribute to the Boucles park project, the North-East Polarity project, but also to bring out short- or medium-term tangible actions to implement the park. To this end, the winners may be mobilised for complementary projects.

It is therefore with much enthusiasm and trepidation that we entrust the Boucles de l'Isère nature, urban and agricultural park to the reflection and imagination of all young architecture professionals who may be inspired by this site. Surprise us by making our stunning territory more magnificent with your ideas.

Ludovic Bustos
Mayor of Poisat
Grenoble Alpes Métropole Vice-President

Romain Gardin, North-East Polarity Director, Grenoble Alpes Métropole:

The North-East Polarity today is a juxtaposition of archipelagos with undeniable intrinsic qualities: the university campus among the top 5 of French universities; the Béalières district, a true eco-district before its time; innovation with the Inovalée technopole; and the hospital of worldwide influence. Interactions naturally develop between these urban pieces between research, the university, start-ups and health. Landscape connections blend habitats and activities following a park-city model like in Meylan or on the campus between nature and culture in Saint-Martin-d'Hères and Gières.

Today, the Polarity's challenge is to create a common future, a shared and meaningful identity for this territory that can intensify its relations and develop on various space and time scales.

The Isère and its loops at the centre of this polarity's geography is the backbone, the common denominator that connects all these pieces.

The aim is to turn the concept of park, the «green and blue» line on a design plan, into a true landscape, environmental and urban project to match the North-East Polarity's ambitions:

- To be the platform for answers inherent to climate change challenges;
- To be an exemplary environmental project;
- To replace and innervate the landscape at the centre of the territory's development.

What a wonderful opportunity it is to present this subject to the young architect generation in the context of European 17. Especially as the Vibrant Towns/Cities theme - to imagine new architectures while taking care of inhabited environments - is at the heart of the directions introduced by the creation of this nature, urban and agricultural park.

We must therefore challenge the future teams about the ability to create interactions between the natural and urban environments, the soils and the architectures to first reveal the park's vast scale. This is a social challenge in order to provide a place designed for leisure activities and contemplation for those who are less able to go into the mountains. But this is also a wonderful opportunity to initiate and welcome new uses and services, new interactions for both humans and non-humans gathered within this park:

- to bring together agriculture and health to help school students

understand, from their canteen windows, the benefits of eating organic produce, delivered via a short distribution straight to their plates;

- to make water accessible, renature and thicken the banks to develop biodiversity, but also to reconcile the metropolis residents with the river so that it is no longer seen as a risk but as a place to cool down during hot summers;
- to better and responsibly integrate the implementation of metropolitan waste treatment facilities so they are no longer perceived as relegation places but beacons in the landscape, influencing the creation of new social places and emblematic of a circular economy implemented in the area.

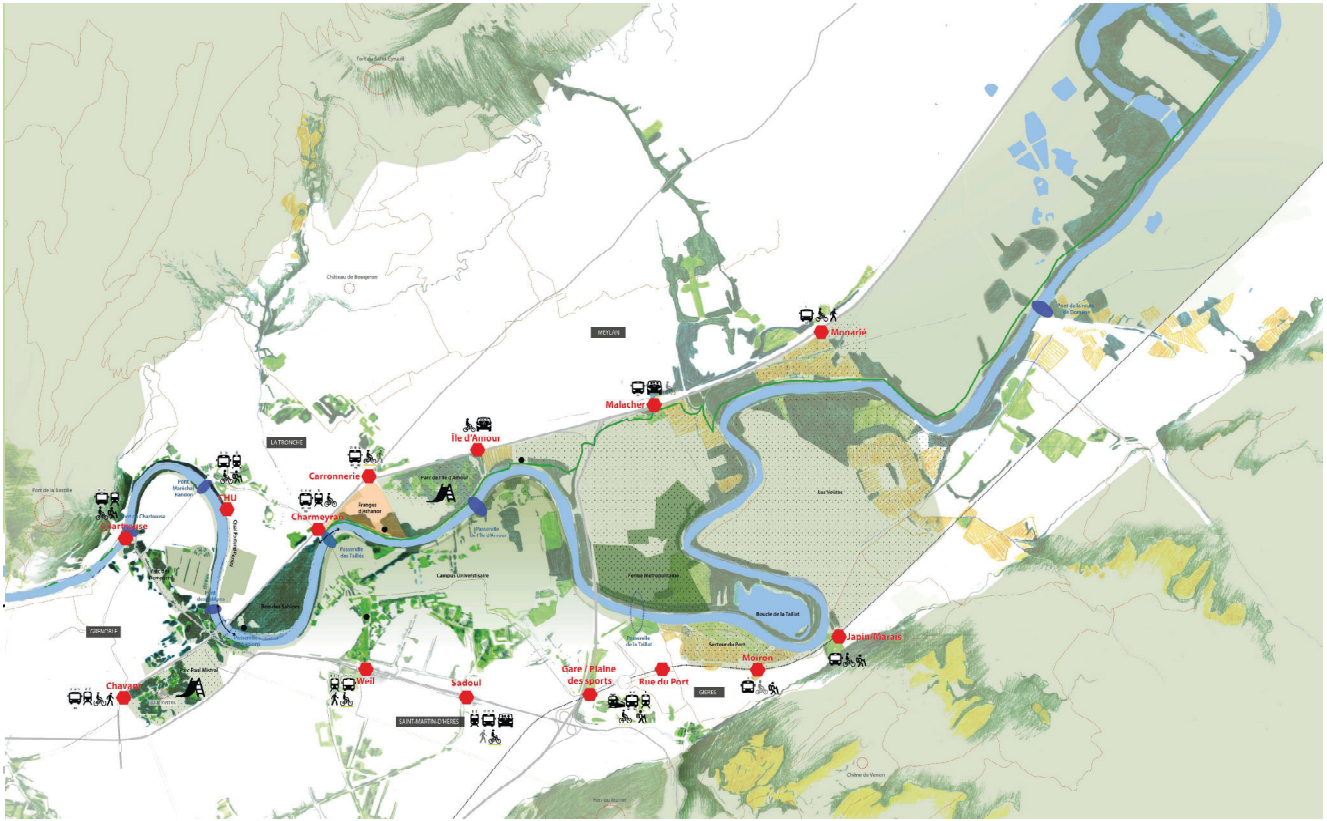
I wish all the best to all teams whose response will, I hope, bring a new perspective on to our territory. They should nevertheless be unique, make use of what is already there and be anchored in this land's fertile structure to extend the European adventure.

Romain Gardin
North-East Polarity Director



**AERIAL VIEW AND LAYOUT OF
THE PERIMETERS**
FR-GAM-SS-Mo1





**MAP OF THE PARK AND
LOCATION OF ITS GATES**
FR-GAM-SS-Mo4
(GAM)



LOCATION OF THE TRANSECTS
FR-GAM-SS-Mo4
(GAM)

SITE UNDER CONSIDERATION

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site under consideration corresponds to the metropolitan perimeter of the Boucles de l'Isère park. This is a hybrid park, between a natural park, an urban park and agricultural lands, the common thread being the Isère river and the «boucles» (loops) it makes. The park's boundaries are defined by the motorway (A41) in the north, the railway in the south, the urban fabric of the city of Grenoble (the park that includes the campus, the Paul Mistral park and the «Île Verte» (Green Isle)) in the east, and the administrative boundaries of the Grenoble Alpes metropolis in the west. This western boundary is meant to be extended towards the Grésivaudan valley.

While parts of the park are well known to the metropolis residents (mainly leisure areas), there is no common concept that helps to consolidate an overall idea of the park due to its size and the diversity of the spaces and functions it contains.

The facilities, from the metropolis or otherwise, the urban park and the agriculture that exist inside the park require that it be studied from the perspective of a productive space as much as a recreational space.

The – sometimes informal – housing and the travelling axes raise questions regarding its housing potential and mobilities.

Biodiversity and the presence of water raise questions regarding the living beings' place and the relation to risk.

«Transects» have been drawn within the strategic perimeter (white perimeters). By «cutting through the middle», they contain the wealth and diversity of situations that may be found within the park, as well as the tough challenge of connecting this park to its urban banks, or even beyond. These perimeters are designed to encourage the candidates to avoid a linear reading of the park, linked to the river, and ignore the city's gravitational pull. These divisions also help to look at a succession of characteristic elements of the park as a whole, such as the urban fabric (tertiary, shops, residential), the transportation infrastructure, the green or agricultural space, the Isère river, the railway infrastructure, and strengthen the perception of the park and the activities that take place there.

RELATED PROJECTS UNDERWAY

- North-East Polarity:

The metropolitan territory is the result of a complex multipolar development. The north-west, north-east and south polarities are the three structuring entry points



DOWNTOWN GIÈRES - TRANSECT C
FR-GAM-SS-Po3



AVENUE DE VERDUN (D1090) - TRANSECT A
FR-GAM-SS-Po4
(crédits : GAM)



SAINT MARTIN D'HERES CAMPUS - TRANSECT B
FR-GAM-SS-Po1
(crédits : GAM)



L'ÎLE D'AMOUR PARK - TRANSECT B
FR-GAM-C-Po1
(crédits : GAM)



BANKS OF THE ISÈRE, SAINT MARTIN D'HÈRES - TRANSECT C
FR-GAM-C-Po4



AGRICULTURAL ZONE LOOP TAILLAT - TRANSECT C
FR-GAM-PS2-Po2
(crédits : GAM)



GIÈRES STATION - TRANSECT C
FR-GAM-SS-Po2



UIVE METROPOLITAN WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY - TRANSECT B
FR-GAM-PS1-Po1
(crédits : GAM)

into Grenoble city centre.

The North-East Polarity aims to create a common future for its communes and partners, a shared and meaningful identity for this territory that would develop on various space and time scales. To do so, a call for bids to design a PNE-wide guiding plan will be launched in the first quarter of 2023. The winner should be announced in the last quarter of 2023.

- Renewal of the waste treatment and recycling facilities:

In the context of its leading waste programme, the metropolis is modernising and renewing its facilities by creating a shared sorting centre for the Sud Isère area, a new UIVE (incineration and energy recovery) unit (see project site 1) and a new methanisation and composting centre. The aim is to reduce domestic waste by 50% and to increase recycling by 2/3. Alongside the renewal of these equipments, many devices to stimulate change and awareness are being set up.

- Grenoble Alpes University campus - leading programme:

The campus, which has been designated as a «biodiversity laboratory», is currently implementing its leading programme for the development and valorisation of its park and building heritage. It will be delivered at the end of 2023. The aim is to requalify the real estate's energy, make the campus resilient with regards to flood risks, and open the campus up to the city.

- Health technology campus (hospital) - La Tronche:

Creation of a business zone dedicated to research and production activities in the field of health and biotechnologies near the hospital (8 ha (19.7 acres) - 40,000 m² (430,556 sq ft) ground surface). Studies and procedures: 2021-2026; works: 2027-2036.

- Support the economic renewal of Inovalée:

A loss of the technopole's readability, a strong growth of the tertiary sector and a drop in economic dynamism having been observed, a project for the renewal and densification of business zones is underway. The aim is to provide mixed premises (small production, prototyping, first series, hardware, laboratories) integrated in the city-park surrounding landscape.

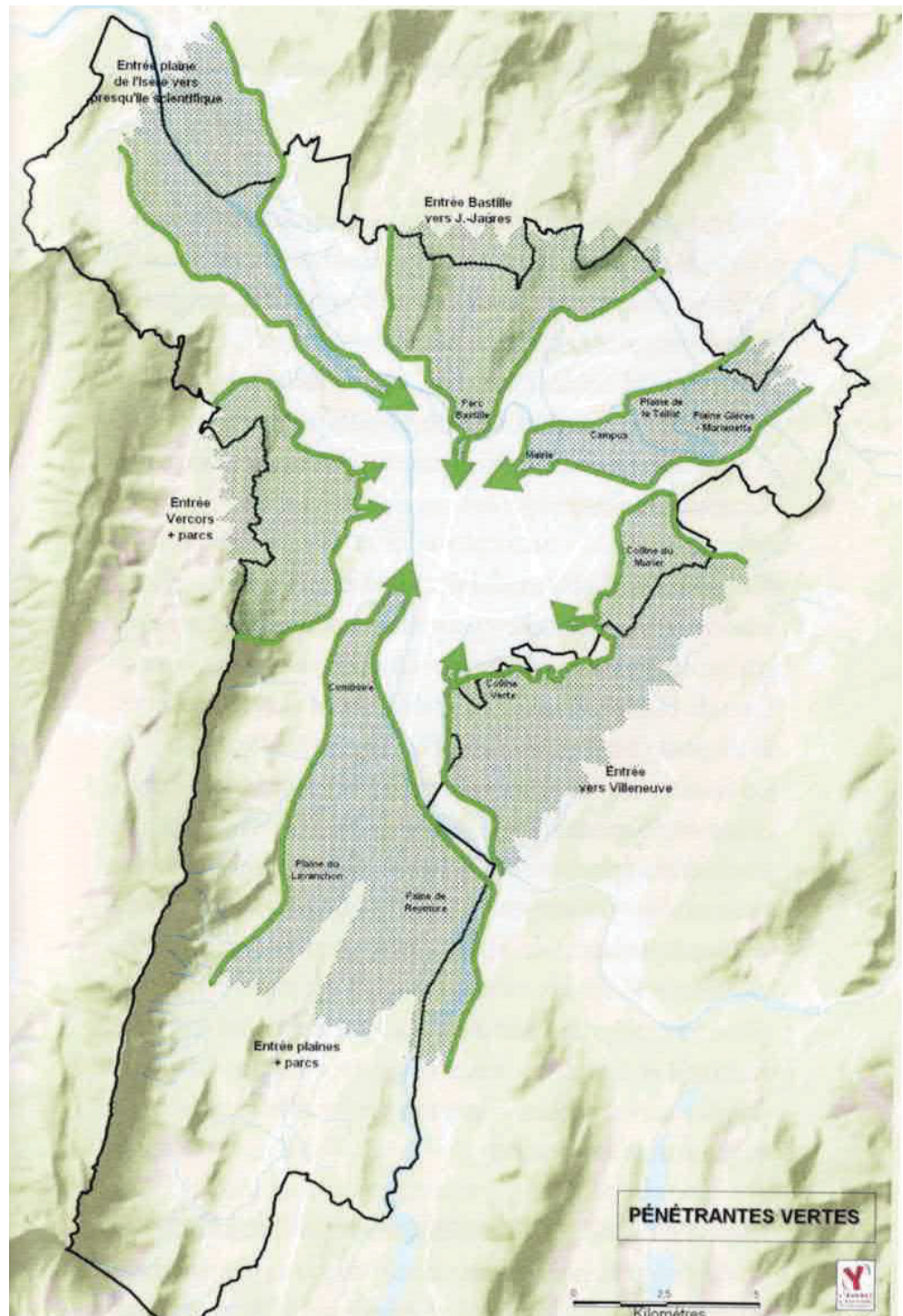
- Requalifying Glairons (3 ha (7.4 acres)):

The area is extremely disqualifying, industrial and productive. The aim is to requalify the public spaces and diversify the economic fabric (tertiary and productive).

- Gières railway station:

The small isle located between rue de la Gare and rue du Chamandier, a residential area, is an area to be investigated as the metropolis wishes to develop activities there. The aim is to bring services, shops and communal housing to the area.

A study for a footbridge project was carried out in late 2022 and the works study is due to start. Its position has not been clearly established yet.



THE GREEN SYSTEM OF THE
GRENOBLE METROPOLIS AND
ITS PENETRANTES
FR-GAM-C-M05
(Aurg, 2007)

SPECIFIC RELEVANCE TO THE TERRITORY

The Boucles de l'Isère park is one of six areas that spread into the green system of the Grenoble metropolis. These areas are made up of natural spaces of various types and quality. Namely, they include the surrounding massifs and their foothills, although they do form a coherent whole. However, they struggle to get through the urban density to connect together and thus create a true network of agricultural plains, natural spaces, large public spaces or urban vegetation areas.

So while one challenge is to create a vibrant park in terms of economy, identity and uses, it must also be connected to the network it belongs to, the metropolitan green network, which goes beyond polarity issues in order to address climate and environmental challenges.



TRAMWAY CROSSING OF AVENUE DE VERDUN - TRANSECT A
FR-GAM-SS-Po3
(crédits : GAM)



BANKS OF THE ISÈRE, LA TRONCHE - TRANSECT A
FR-GAM-SS-Po4

THE PARK'S LOOPS

(The loops are described as north-south or east-west for readability, without any priority order or other hierarchy.)

Île Verte Loop:

This includes the Île Verte district, the cemetery, the Paul Mistral park and the old Sablons interchange, now known as «Parc des Berges» (Banks Park). There is a strong desire to consolidate and strengthen the Île Verte park, also known as «Parc des Trois Tours» (Three Tower Park), historically criss-crossed by roads.

Sablons Loop:

Divided by boulevard Jean Pain and avenue de Verdun, the Sablons Loop has two contrasting sides. In the north, the cemetery, the hospital and the future health technology campus have broken up these mineral-rich spaces. In the south, lies the Sablons Loop, an old military ground, now an alluvial forest. A temporary and non-legal area used by Travellers uses part of this loop. Long term, this space should become a biodiversity sanctuary and refuge.

Île d'Amour Loop:

Between avenue de Verdun/A41 and the Isère, the loop includes the Île d'Amour park. Its strategic position, accessible but remote from residential areas, has resulted in the construction of technical facilities that are typically set up on the margins of urban lands.

Project site 1, see below.

Campus Loop:

It includes the Grenoble campus as well as craftworks and shopping areas, and abuts avenue Gabriel Péri. Built with its back to the river and protected by a levee that makes a corridor for a cycle path, the campus is nevertheless one of the park's pieces thanks to its large green spaces. The craftworks and shopping areas are the object of requalifying and diversifying projects, as is avenue Gabriel Péri. There are plans to build a cycle path to connect the campus' central entrance (G. Sadoul) to the Île d'Amour park footbridge.

Taillat Loop:

In the north, it abuts the Inovalée technopole, which gathers 360 businesses and 11,000 jobs. In the south, its neighbours are the commune of Gières, the sports plain, the railway station and the tramway depot. This loop includes mainly agricultural lands and farms, informal family gardens and the Taillat lake, a protected sensitive area used for recreational and guided educational uses (see appendix).

Project site 2, see below.

Vaults Loop:

The Vaults loop is mainly dedicated to agricultural activities, but is also equipped with hydraulic works, like the rest of the park, thus representing the residential, technical and policy relation to the element of water and its related risks. There is no crossing facility and it would be difficult to create one due to the banks being

high with dense vegetation.

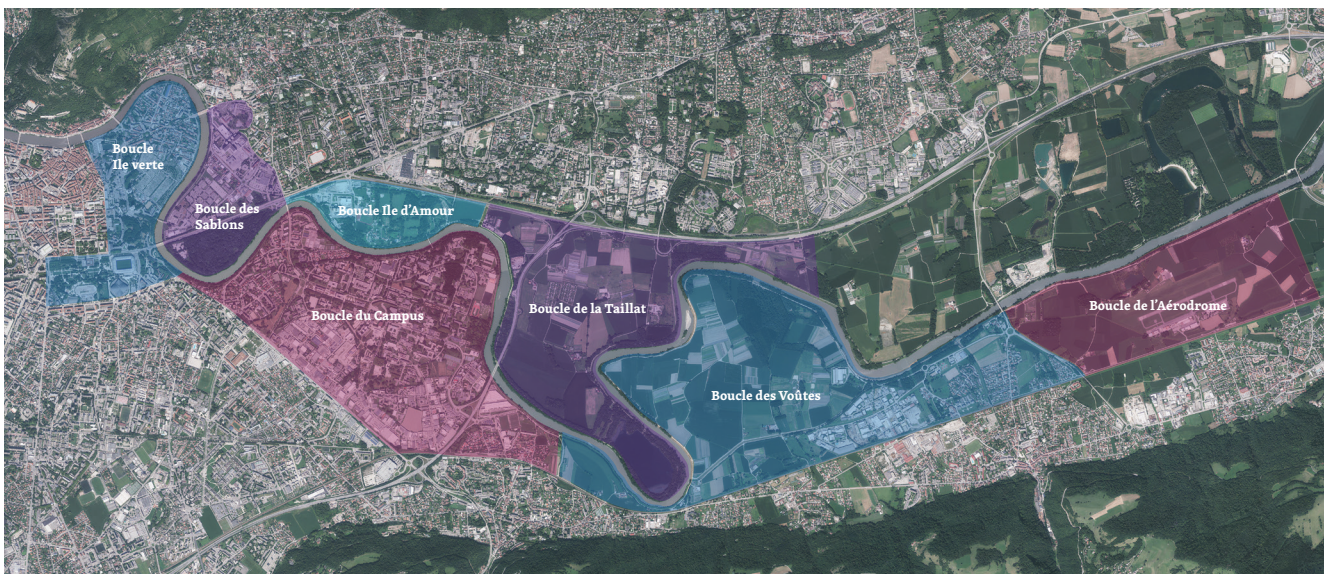
Airfield Loop:

There is a metropolitan infrastructure on that loop: the Versoud airfield. This loop is also linked to a requalification and land-planning project for a business area that brings together productive economy, environment, landscape and agriculture in the Tuileries area (see appendix).

«Immaterial» Loop of Circular Economy:

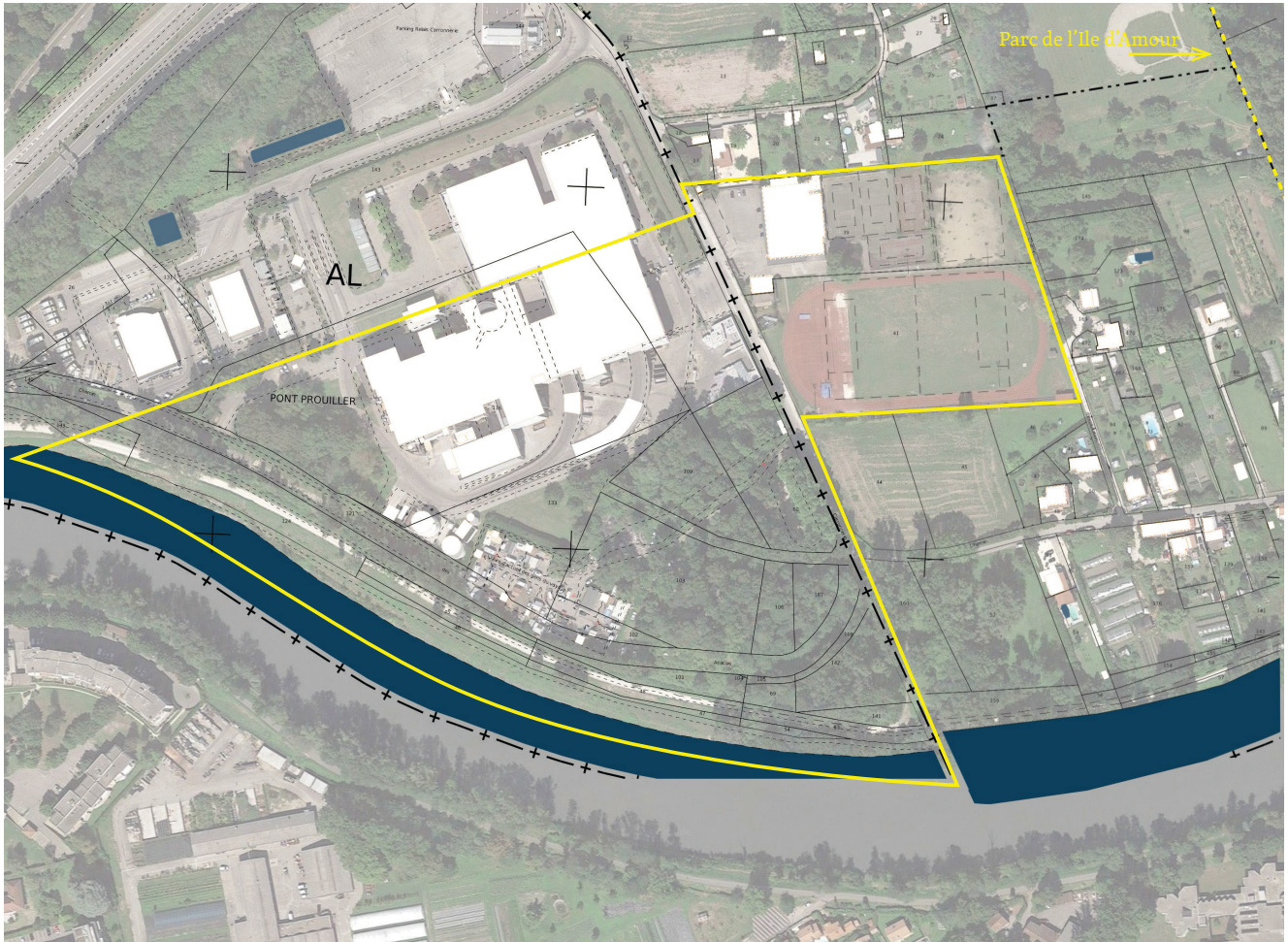
Agriculture and the waste issue are part of this park and make an «immaterial» loop that runs through it, one of circular economy with waste treatment (Île d'Amour), energy recovery (Murianette) and a return to the land and towards the plate (Taillat, Vaults).

How can a circular economy be developed and valorised within the Boucles de l'Isère park and become an integral part of its identity?



AERIAL VIEW AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE LOOPS OF THE ISERE

FR-GAM-SS-Mo3
(GAM)



AERIAL VIEW OF PROJECT SITE 1 WITH CADASTRAL PARCELS
FR-GAM-PS1-Mo1



ATHLETIC TRACK
FR-GAM-PS1-Po2



VIEW OF THE UIVE FROM THE ASPTT TRACK
FR-GAM-PS1-Po3

PROJECT SITE 1

SITE DESCRIPTION

This site gathers several projects, more or less developed and with separate timelines:

- new sorting centre (due May 2023);
- new incineration and energy recovery plant (UIVE: due 2029);
- a maison du réemploi (feasibility studies underway);
- The La Tronche municipal technical centre to move to a section of the “ASPTT” site.

How can metropolitan technical facilities, a source of fear and pollution (risks, air, noise and smell pollution) be integrated in an urban nature park? How can the local fauna and flora and these forms of pollution live together on the edge of the city?

The UIVE: A new incineration plant will be built north of the current one in order to modernise and optimise the facility. The building project has been entrusted to the AIA practice and its completion scheduled for 2029.

The current facility will be partly or fully dismantled, and the land will need to be renatured. The building of this future park has also been allocated to AIA but the programming and the design have not started yet.

The ASPTT: This 20,000-m² (almost 5 acres) area of land hosts the athleticism association ASPTT and is equipped with a covered ground that enabled pole vault and high jump practice in winter, a 360-m (1181 ft) track, several jump and throw fields, as well as a building formerly used as offices for the administration, sports equipment storage or events logistics.

Please note that the site also used to host a mountain bike trial club and bike polo (20 to 30 people, 4 days a week) and a pétanque association (Travellers), which took place on old tennis courts.

The future use of this plot is planned in two stages.

- Initially, the La Tronche municipal technical centre will need to move as it is currently located where the new incineration plant will move to. The new intended location is the ASPTT covered ground for about 10 years, which will require a substantial transformation of the existing building. The rest of the site (fields, track and car park) will host the cabins on the building site of the future UIVE between 2024 and 2029. Meanwhile, to prevent squatting on the site, the metropolis plans to store skips and materials on the site while questioning the landscape integration of such a use. The candidates are free to question the quality of such a (temporary) programme and make alternative suggestions that could help their project and/or to focus their response on the second stage of the site’s use;
- the second stage of the site’s use plans to set up a maison du réemploi. This is a facility that generates sound pollution, with the visits of heavy vehicles, so these

facilities would need to be organised together in one place, but their relation to the fauna and integration into the park is an issue.

The area assigned to Travellers demands a reflection on the transformation of this particular environment, including the issue of flood risks. Health conditions should also be ensured and a legitimate place for some communities established within the metropolis. The setting up of communities in the Boucles de l'Isère park raises issues in terms of health conditions and risk consideration that the metropolis struggles to integrate in its operational approach. At the moment, the maintenance of settled areas on a daily basis in floodable areas is undesirable and these settlement areas will be relocated away from risk areas for the middle term.

Île d'Amour Park:

There are issues within the park in terms of access by public transport, on foot or for people with reduced mobility, an issue that the metropolis would like to see resolved. This park is, however, used for many purposes: by students from the campus as well as families, to play, to cool down in the summer and many metropolis residents have barbecues there. This is an opportunity to investigate the place for play and cooling areas in the metropolis.

The park plays host to sports practices (base ball, BMX, pétanque) that have an impact on the surroundings and are not compatible with the "black" network (no public lighting). However, new leisure facilities (e.g. games, pétanque ground) could be added and carefully integrated into the park.

Activities relating to gardening and biodiversity are also taking place in the 3.2-ha (7.9 acres) educational garden.

The Île d'Amour park is also a place used for flirting, sexual encounters and prostitution, namely by campus students or minors. This is a problem faced by many parks on the outskirts of cities that raises issues of inclusivity and consideration of some people and their gender identity within the metropolis, as well as the precariousness of part of the urban population. Public institutions (metropolis and town administrations) have few tools or skills to tackle these very complex issues. The European candidates are free to develop and defend a vision on this topic.

European 17's Vibrant Towns/Cities helps to step away from legal constraints during the conception phase to truly question these communities' place in the metropolitan space and suggest ways to transform the inhabitable environment, define common resources, consultation and action tools to harmonise interactions between the various people and their environment and show more respect towards a large part of the population by the metropolis.

EXPECTATIONS, PROGRAMME DIRECTIONS OR USE PROPOSAL EXPECTATIONS

A maison du réemploi:

It would be shared between Meylan and La Tronche and comprise a seed bank, potentially a zero-waste garden, workshops, a sheltered area for materials, sorting awareness spaces, a recycling centre and any other uses deemed useful by the candidates.

The integration of a glass collection platform is also being considered here or west of the UIVE.

The creation of a green waste chain is being planned between Murianette and the maison du réemploi with harvest, methanisation, compost. Long term, it is hoped that the compost will be used by the Taillat farm.

European candidates are invited to suggest programme proposals for the maison du réemploi: content, interactions, synergies, operation, evolution and proposals to ensure its integration within the park. This could be detailed in a single process plan of «heavy technical facilities integration» into the park.

Former-UIVE Park:

There are plans to create a park where the UIVE currently is in order to improve the facilities' integration within the Boucles park, help the residents to accept it and change its image. Renaturing this plot will help to increase the Boucles park's density, which is restricted in this spot, to reach 35% full-soil green spaces to meet PLUi standards.

A mixed programme is expected and the metropolis wishes, if possible, to retain the existing ditches, ramps and supporting walls as foundations for the new programmes to be established.



**AERIAL VIEW OF PROJECT SITE
2 AND ITS EXPERIMENTAL
GROUNDS**
FR-GAM-PS2-Mo1

**AERIAL VIEW OF PROJECT SITE
2 WITH CADASTRAL PARCELS**
FR-GAM-PS2-Mo2



PROJECT SITE 2

SITE DESCRIPTION

This site is home to a pilot project on local food resilience financed by the metropolis. The aim is to develop local food industries, produce vegetables at a controlled cost to sustain the MIN and collective kitchens. Eight farms, that grow vegetables for the most, have already been set up. The production practices are responsible and respectful of soils and the environment. This project, financed by the metropolis, aims to be experimental and innovative, run by the public with novel ambitions. It focuses mainly on agricultural production; there is no plan to encourage public access, develop an educational programme or support “niche” markets (such as small farming associations).

The whole of the Taillat loop shows issues concerning the management of visitors and thoroughfare. Indeed, this site is very busy and used for a range of activities: joggers, cyclists commuting to/from the Gières railway station, foragers and farmers. These various uses and commutes are not always compatible with each other or with the site’s agricultural and productive use. One of the challenges on this site is therefore to coordinate and channel the traffic through the Taillat Loop.

Questions: What is the inclusive potential of an agricultural area? For humans and non-humans? What types of uses, of roads/paths and commutes would give access to the site to all without compromising its productive nature. Which part of the site or production can/should be accessible and to which living beings?

There are three buildings on the site suggested to candidates as part of the competition; all three belong to the metropolis:

- the master house: a 19th-century three-storey building with a total surface of about 200 m² (2,153 sq ft). The roof has recently been redone but the interior is dilapidated, especially on the upper floors.
- the big barn: requires substantial restoration.
- the small barn: currently used to store farmers’ equipment. Containers have been set up to accommodate immediate needs.



**FROM LEFT TO RIGHT AND FROM
TOP TO BOTTOM :**

SMALL BARN
FR-GAM-PS2-Po3

OUTSIDE OF THE LARGE BARN
FR-GAM-PS2-Po6

INSIDE OF THE LARGE BARN
FR-GAM-PS2-Po4

HOUSE OF MAITRE
FR-GAM-PS2-Po5

EXPECTATIONS, PROGRAMME DIRECTIONS OR USE PROPOSAL EXPECTATIONS

An agricultural experimental programme has been launched, and farmers will start in the next few months. Housing needs for the new and future farmers has been identified. A long- or short-term housing solution is expected for the pilot project. The farmers also need enclosed spaces for some of their activities in relation to their practice, namely to store their equipment or to carry out experiments.

Flood risks limit the possibility of uses and programmes in the existing buildings and prevent the construction of new ones. The candidates are therefore expected to think about the uses and building approaches that would make it possible to integrate the potential presence of water. Given the operational nature of the suggested site, tangible architectural solutions would be appreciated.

Agricultural production is key on this site and the suggested projects will need to support this production as well as contribute to good working conditions for the farmers.

Grenoble Alpes Métropole wishes to focus on two operational sites within the Boucles de l'Isère park. The site no. 1 must find long-term solutions and fit within a perspective of complex projects. The site no. 2 is more about its integration into the park (mobilities, access, landscape, parking...), architectural strategy and a vocation to be identified.

The programme directions formulated for both project sites correspond to projects currently underway in the metropolis. Depending on their site analysis and strategy, the candidates may suggest other project sites to develop a solution, architectural in nature or otherwise, and suggest another programme.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS TO DOWNLOAD

URBAN AREA - TERRITORY

FR-GAM-C-To1	pdf	Grenoble Alpes economic strategy
FR-GAM-C-To2	pdf	Isère upstream territory profile
FR-GAM-C-To3	pdf	Lists of living species and soils
FR-GAM-C-Mo1	png	Land map
FR-GAM-C-Mo2	pdf	Map of urban figures
FR-GAM-C-Mo3	pdf	Hydraulic network
FR-GAM-C-Mo4	pdf	Map of the landscape of the metropolis
FR-GAM-C-Mo5	pdf	The green system of the metropolis
FR-GAM-C-Mo6	pdf	PPRI
FR-GAM-C-Mo7	dwg	Cadastre
FR-GAM-C-Mo8	pdf	Invisibilization of water on the Grenoble plain
FR-GAM-C-APo1 and o3	jpeg	Semi-aerial photographs of the context
FR-GAM-C-Po1 to	jpeg	Context photographs
FR-GAM-C-P13		

STUDY SITE - URBAN

FR-GAM-SS-To1	pdf	New UIVE environmental part of the impact study
FR-GAM-SS-To2	pdf	North-East Polarity socio-economic synthesis
FR-GAM-SS-To3	pdf	Tertiary and technological campuses
FR-GAM-SS-Mo1	pdf+ai	European perimeters map
FR-GAM-SS-Mo2	pdf	North-East Polarity perimeter map
FR-GAM-SS-Mo3	pdf	Park map - loop names
FR-GAM-SS-Mo4	pdf	Park map - «doors»' location

PROJECT SITE - ARCHITECTURE

Site 1

FR-GAM-PS1-To1	pdf	UIVE presentation
FR-GAM-PS1-To2	pdf	Waste strategy consultation file
FR-GAM-PS1-To3	pdf	Project phasing
FR-GAM-PS1-Mo1	pdf	Cadastre and perimeter aerial view
FR-GAM-PS1-Mo2	jpg	New UIVE macro mass plan
FR-GAM-PS1-Mo3	dwg	Existing plans Athanor (to come)
FR-GAM-PS1-Mo4	pdf	Right of way of the technical center of la tronche
FR-GAM-PS1-APo1 and o2	jpeg	Semi-aerial photographs of the site
FR-GAM-PS1-Po1 à	jpeg	Photographs of project site 1
FR-GAM-PS1-P18		

Site 2

FR-GAM-PS2-To1	pdf	Soil study - agricultural potentiality
FR-GAM-PS2-To2	pdf	Presentation - sensitive natural area
FR-GAM-PS2-To3	pdf	Study of large barn structure
FR-GAM-PS2-Mo1	pdf	Cadastre and perimeter aerial view
FR-GAM-PS2-Mo2	pdf	Cadastre and perimeter aerial view zoom
FR-GAM-PS2-MO3	jpeg	Plot division map
FR-GAM-PS2-APo1 et o2	jpeg	Semi-aerial photographs of the site
FR-GAM-PS2-Po1 à FR-GAM-PS2-P16	jpeg	Photographs of project site 2

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