



**ICLEI-CONFERENCE - BRUSSELS 12-14 September 2011**

**“CITIES IN EUROPE 2020. ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY NOW!”**

**Site visit on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011 :**

**Discovering some of Brussels' green spaces and natural sites  
along his “Green Walk”.**

**ORGANISER : BRUSSELS ENVIRONMENT  
(DIVISION GREEN SPACES AND DIVISION NATURE, WATER & FOREST).**

*The “Green Walk” or “Green Promenade” (“Promenade verte”, “Groene Wandeling”) project of Brussels Environment is a 65km trail that allows pedestrians and cyclists to tour around the green belt in the periphery of the Region in a comfortable, sustainable way. The path has been designed to connect as much as possible the numerous green spaces present in the periphery of the Region : over 40 parks and nature reserves can be visited along the path.*

*The green walk is just one element in the regional policy of green and blue meshing that also includes restoring historic parks, creating social parks and uncovering streams again.”*

*This excursion will show part of the Green Walk in the north-west of Brussels along the valley of the Molenbeek, trespassing the King Baudoin Park, consisting of three different kinds of green spaces : an old English landscape park, a more recreational park created in the 80's, and some relict rural areas with pastures, hedges and cattle along relict wetland areas. The park is adjacent to some ancient forests (Dieleghem, Poelbos and Laerbeekforest).*

*The walk will show the gradual landscape transition of the more urban parks, with high recreation pressure, to the more semi-natural areas and forests, with very high natural value. The whole park has status of Natura 2000-site, with core areas (marshes and forests) and connecting areas (the park and pasture zones).*

*Topics that will be discussed:*

*Realization of blue and green (ecological) network program, green walk program, restoration of urban rivers, Natura 2000-management in the peri-urban green spaces ecological management of urban green spaces, cultural-historical and landscape values of urban green spaces vs. natural/biodiversity value, general park management vs. recreational pressure, species actions (bats, IAS,...), social aspects of urban nature conservation, implication of volunteers.*

**Departure at 14h at BOZAR**

**Transport by Bus to Jette, King Baudoin Park**

**14.30h – 16.30h : walk from along King Baudoin Park (fase I -> fase II -> fase III) to the Laerbeekforest**

**16.30 h : pick up at the Laerbeekchalet and return to the city centre around 17h**

**Except walking shoes and if necessary a rain coat, no special equipment is needed.**