

# Agricultural Parks in Europe for regenerating city-region landscapes

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*Roger Raveel, Voor een blauw gelijkende akker en een grijze lucht, 1975*

# Definitions

*agricultural parks are designed for multiple uses that accommodate small farms, public areas and natural habitats*

*they allow small farmers access to secure land and local markets*

*they provide fresh food, and are an educational, environmental, and aesthetic amenity for nearby communities*

# Agricultural parks

*facilitate the continuity of agriculture as the practice of cultivating the land in urbanised landscapes*

*the concept as a 'park' is intended to convey its role for open space preservation*

*suggests the permanent land conservation and recreational use exemplified by the public park*

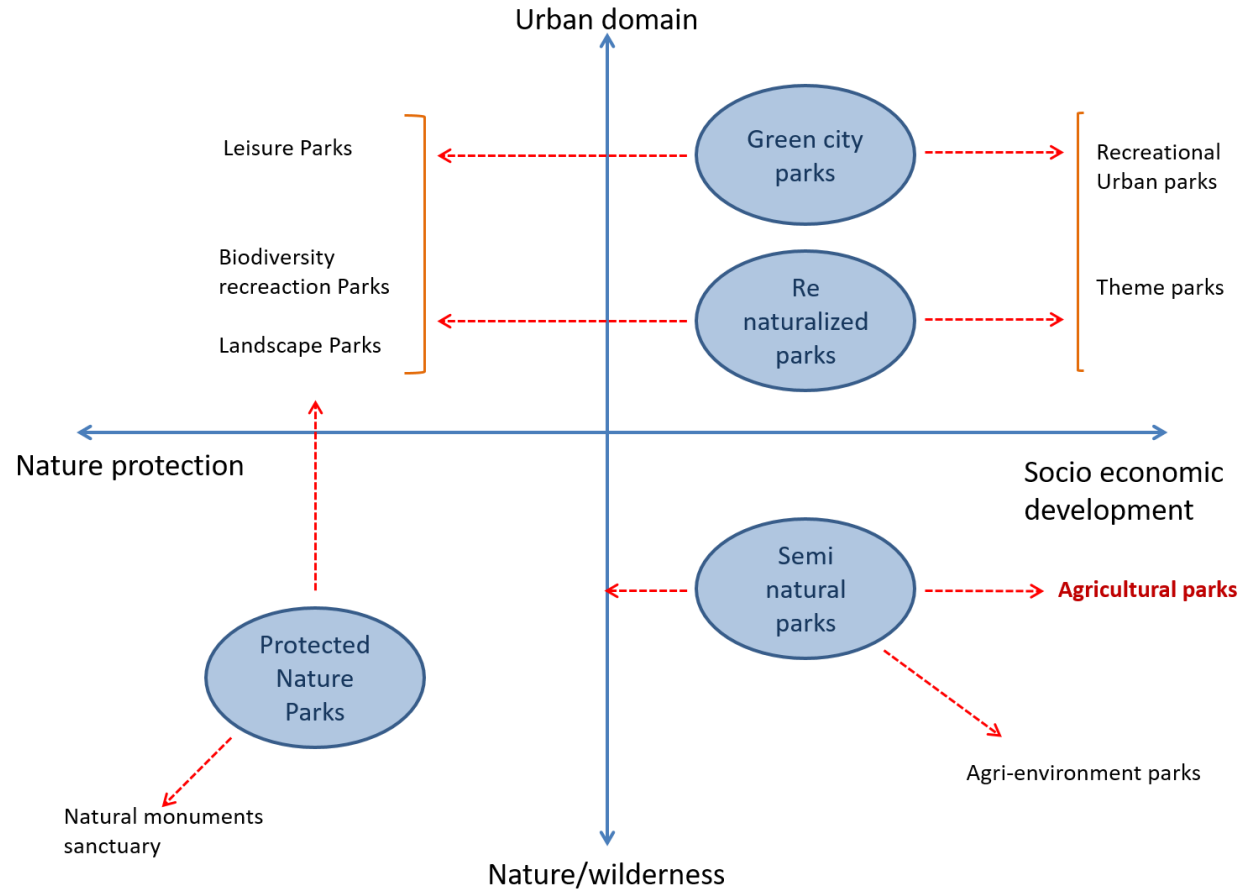
# Agroecological parks

*regaining control over the use of peri-urban land under urbanisation pressure*

*rules creating favourable circumstances for agroecological farming & preservation and protection of territorial assets against advance of the urban frontier and development of large scale, export oriented, extractive forms of farming*

*shared infrastructure, shared management, and technical assistance, for farming, food processing and marketing*

# Agricultural parks versus other parks



D. Fafani, 2019



# Several focuses for Agriparcs

Agrotechnology, not soil related, intensive agroculture. More like a business park and with industrial ecology.

Multiple use, multifunctional and a wide range of agricultural typologies. Ensuring agricultural land use. Not only food but also pedagogic, educational and recreational values and services (cf. ecosystem services).

Less focus on agriculture. Comparable with peri-urban, landscape parks. Areas with an ecological, landscape, societal importance, often interwoven with the urban context. Interpretatie

Focus on sustainable, more small scale agriculture, offering an alternative to the agrobusiness and large scale production of food.

Vanempten et al, 2018

# Quickscan by

- 1/ Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat, Barcelona, Spanje
- 2/ Espai rural Gallecs, Barcelona, Spanje
- 3/ Parc départemental des Lilas, Parijs, Frankrijk
- 4/ Triangle vert du Hurepoix, Parijs, Frankrijk
- 5/ Agropolis Kinrool, België
- 6/ Agrobiopool/Boeren Brussel Paysans, Brussel, België
- 7/ Landbouwpark Tuinen van Stene, Oostende, België
- 8/ Parco Agricolo Sud Milano, Italië
- 9/ Park Lingezegen, Nijmegen, Nederland
- 10/ Stadsakker Tienen, België
- 11/ Belvédère Landschaftspark, Keulen, Duitsland
- 12/ Bio Masse Park Hugo, Gelsenkirchen, Duitsland
- 13/ Pferdelandpark, Aachen, Duitsland
- 14/ Waldlabor, Keulen, Duitsland
- 15/ Parc fertile/Parc Agro-urbain Bernex, Genève, Zwitseri
- 16/ Plateau du Saclay, Parijs, Frankrijk
- 17/ Agricultural Park of Alta de Lisboa, Portugal
- 18/ Voedselbossen Nederlands Limburg
- 19/ Deltapark Agropark, Rotterdam, Nederland
- 20/ AFP - Agro Food Park, Aarhus, Denemarken
- 21/ Greenport Venlo, Nederland
- 22/ P.A.R.C. - Schéma Directeur, Lausanne, Zwitserland
- 23/ Agropolis Munich, Duitsland
- 24/ Parco Agricolo Urbano di Mirafiori/parco agricolo del sangone/Mirafiori Sud, Turijn, Italië
- 25/ Landschaftspark Mechtenberg, Essen, Duitsland

- 26/ Sacrofano, Rome, Italië
- 27/ Schotse Crofts, Verenigd Koninkrijk
- 28/ Portugese Baldios
- 29/ Dartmoore Commoners Council, Verenigd Koninkrijk
- 30/ Intervale Eco-Park, Vermont, USA
- 31/ Landbouwproject Afsnee, Gent, België
- 32/ Soutok Peri-urban park, Praag, Tsjechië
- 33/ Parco Agricolo della Piana, Florence, Italië  
(waarvan onderdeel: parco agricolo prato/Gran Prato)
- 34/ Praha-Troja Nature Park, Praag, Tsjechië
- 35/ Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord, Duitsland
- 36/ Plaines de Versailles, Parijs, Frankrijk
- 37/ Parc de la Deûle, Lille, Frankrijk
- 38/ Parc Naturel Agricole Pin-Bâima, Frankrijk
- 39/ Sabadell Agricultural Park, Spanje
- 40/ Voedselpark Beek, Eetbaar Nijmegen, Nederland



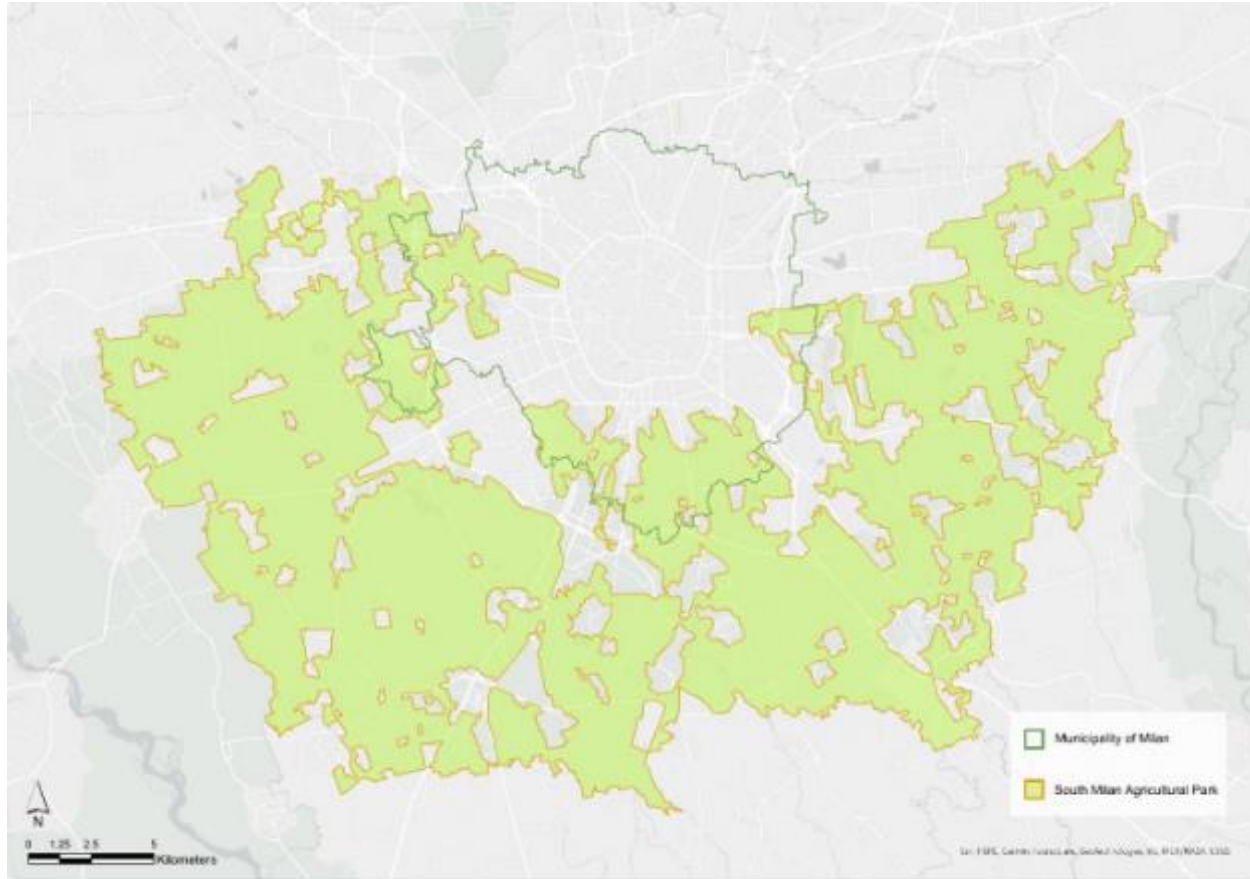
Vanempen et al, 2018

# Range of size of the Agriparcs

- Small like Agro Food Park in Aarhus, DK 4,4 ha -> 28 ha and Waldlabor, Cologne, DE 26 ha, Tuinen van Stene, Oostend, BE 35 ha.
- Larger like Lingezegen, near Arnhem, NL 1300 ha, Parc Agrari dell Baix Llobregat, Barcelona, ES over 3300 ha, le Triangle Vert de Hurlepoix, Paris, FR, 4200 ha and Parco Agricolo Sud Milano, IT, 37000 ha.



# South Milan Agricultural Park

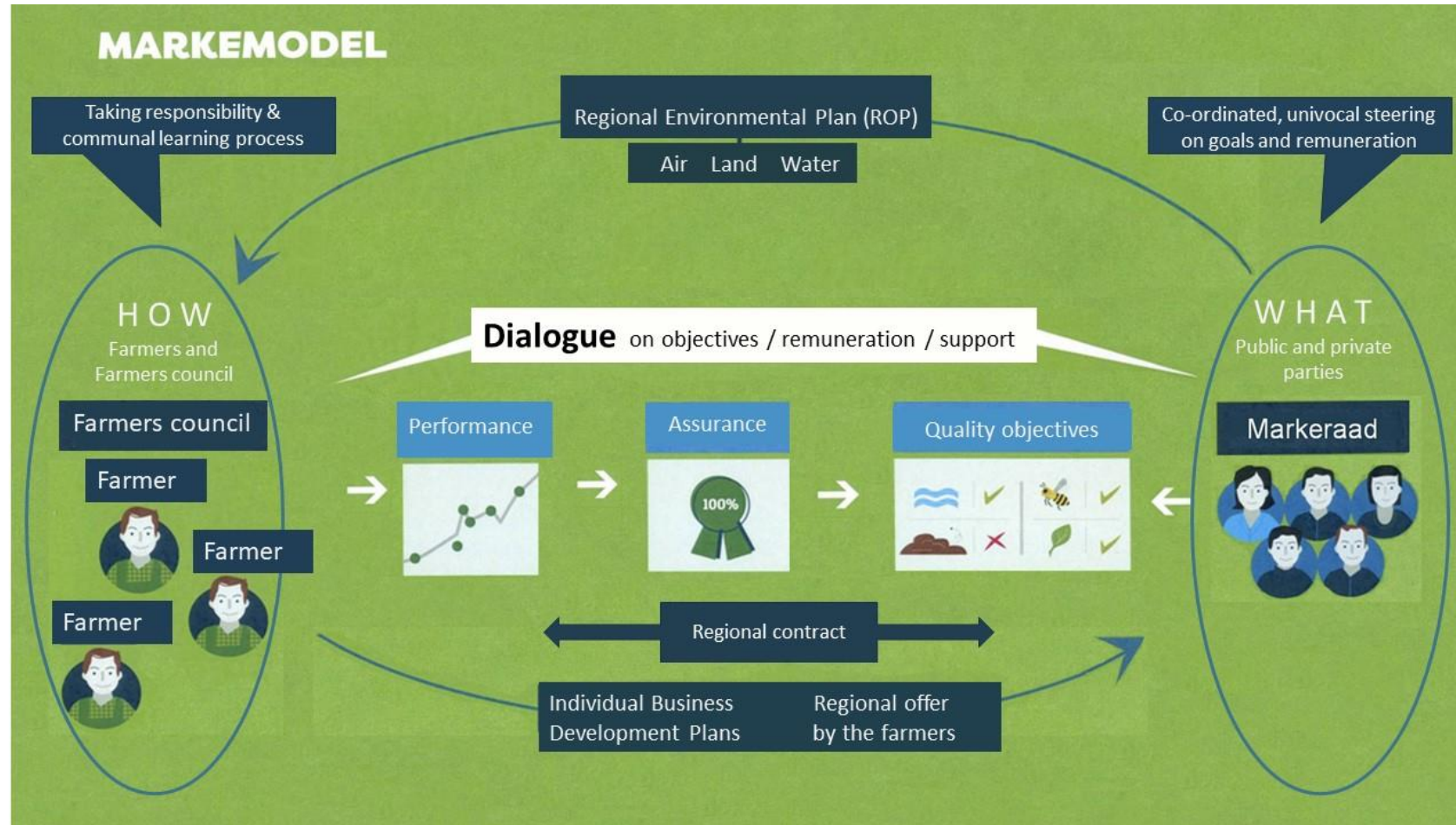


Source: Geoportal of Lombardy,  
elaborate by Weicheng Li, 2024

# Aims of current agricultural parks

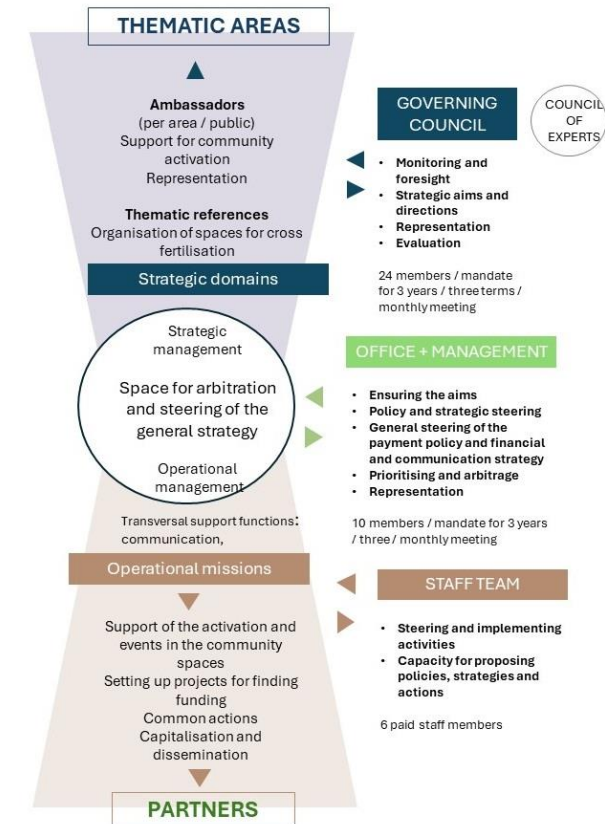
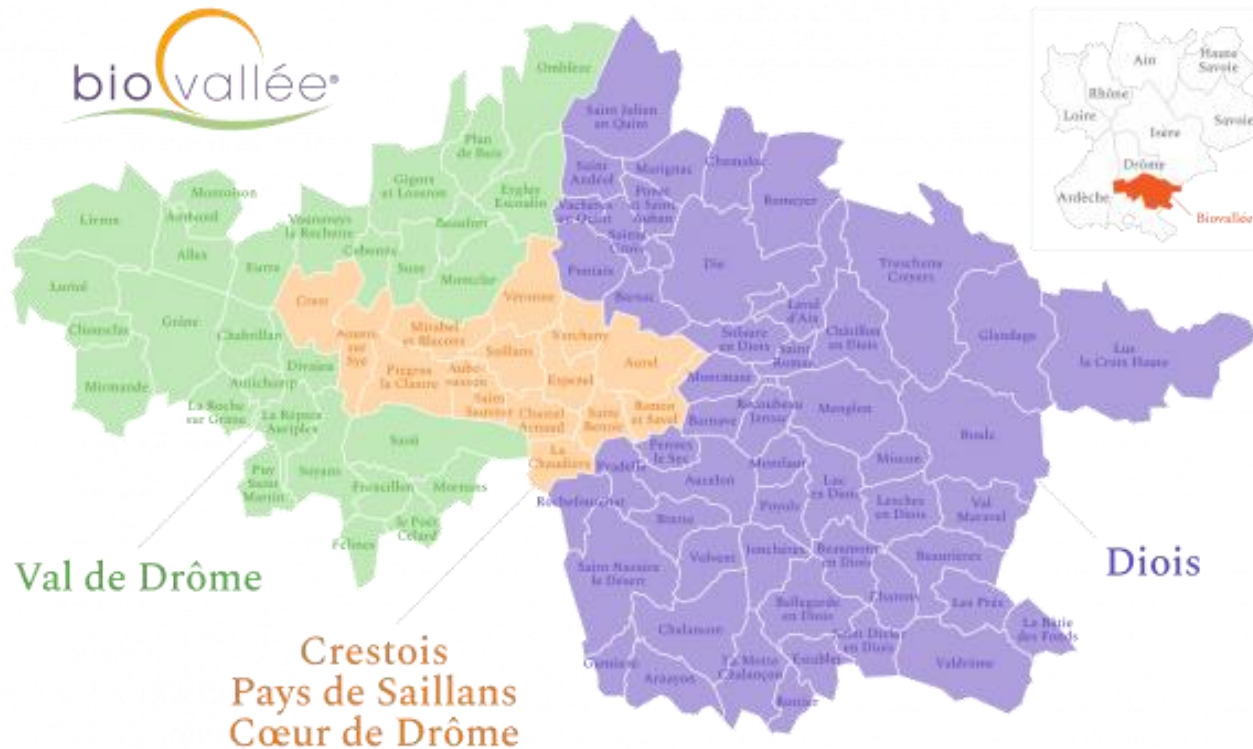
	Aspect	Aims
governance	land use	Regain control of land use & Counter urban sprawl
	organisation of governance	Including stakeholders at multi levels Co-production by actors & co-creation of strategies
economy	income	Fair income for farmers
		Workplaces: production, processing, environmental protection, education
	land use	Access to land for (new) farmers
	stability	Promoting innovation / diversification for a sustainable production model
social	infrastructure	Common infrastructure: machinery, facilities for sales, storage, composting.
	sales	Connection to urban markets / short chains
	well-being	Providing opportunities for leisure, recreation, nature experience, mainly in the form of routes for walking, cycling.
environment	food security	Providing fresh, healthy food
	territorial assets	Stewardship of: farmland, cultural heritage, nature areas
	ecosystem services	Climate mitigation, city cooling, water retention, clean water, healthy soils, clean air, improving biodiversity, landscape improvement.

# Comparable territorial organisation - NL





## Comparable territorial organisation - FR





# Principles for future agricultural parks -1

active land use protection  
strategies

profitability enhancement of agriculture  
locally driven market form: short chains  
circular flows of matter and energy

logistic & processing  
capabilities

community shared infrastructure

civic, fair, interactive local agrifood system

Local Food Hubs

hubs in the urban area: public space for selling,  
marketing, farmers' services provision and education

# Principles for future agricultural parks - 2

facilitation & support  
farmers cooperation

nature based and agroecological farming systems  
cooperative and aggregative schemes between farmers  
agroecological patterns design  
landscape aesthetic improvement and sustainability

common & mutual  
learning space

collective intelligence and cross-disciplinary approach  
involving producers, urban consumers, and policy  
environment. farm incubator place.  
production pacts (e.g. community supported agriculture)  
short food supply chains schemes  
food prosumerism and social inclusion

place tailored farming,  
food management &  
technology

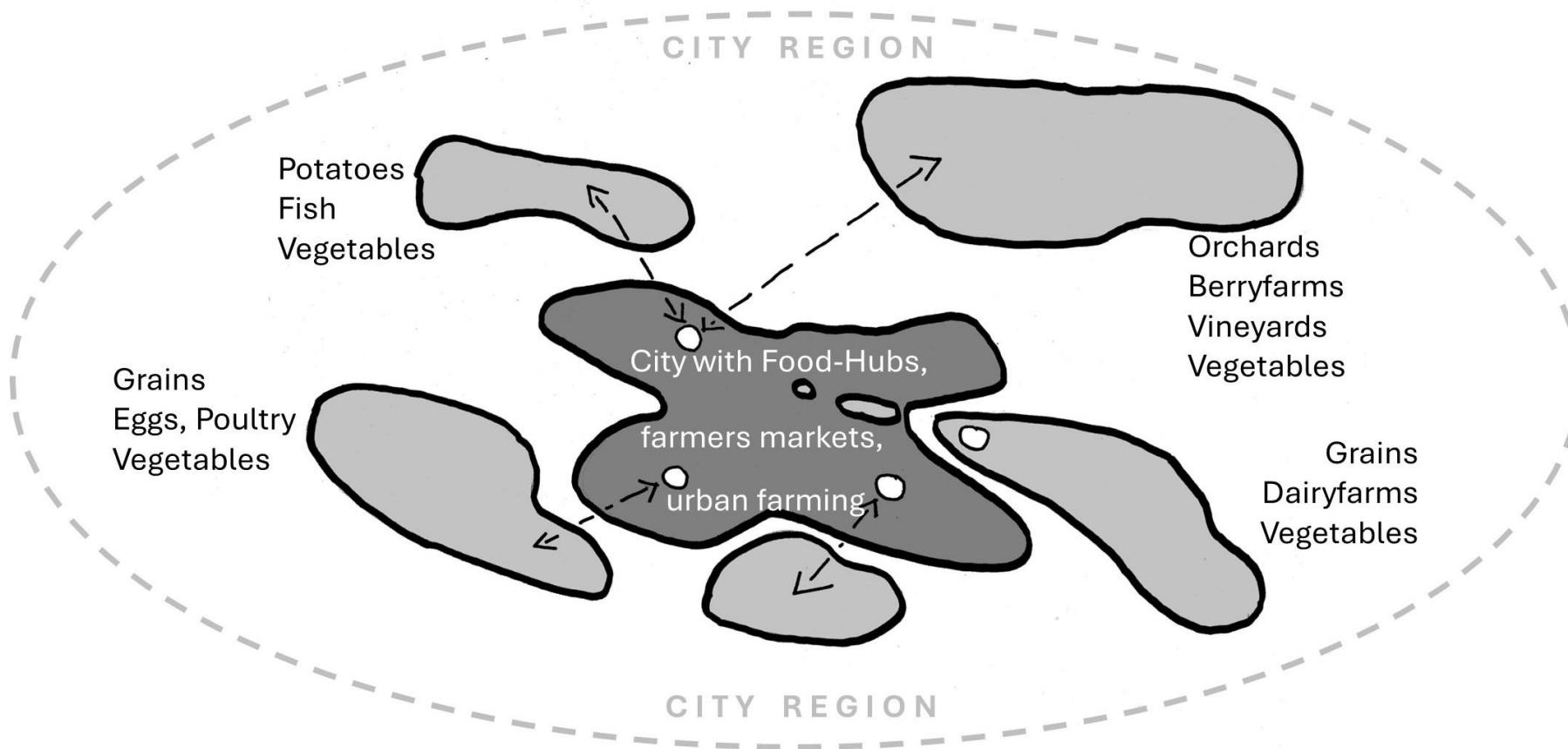
innovative technologies & organisation for small scaled  
farming  
diversification of farming, to meet the local food demands

# New Agricultural Park Model - NAPM

network of agricultural parks

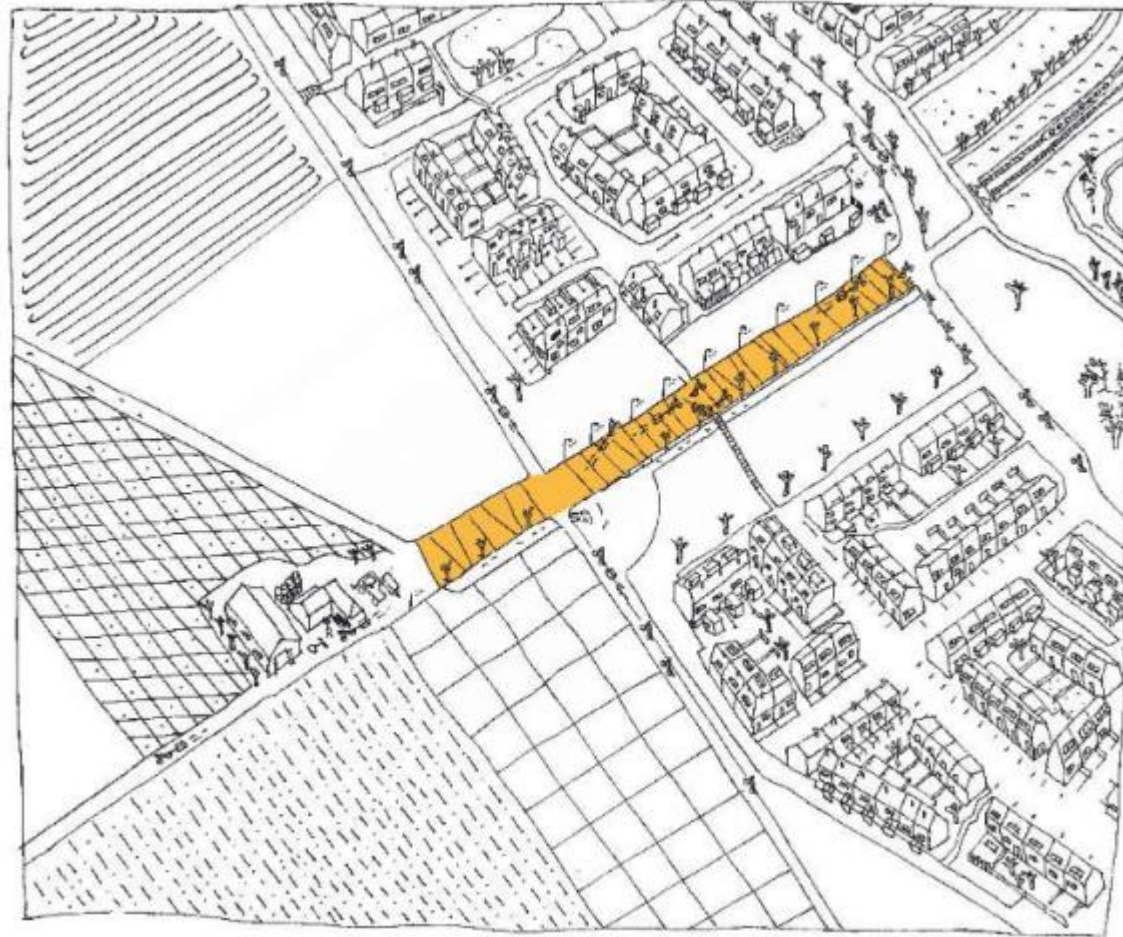
concept for the organisation and structure of  
the separate parks

# network of agricultural parks





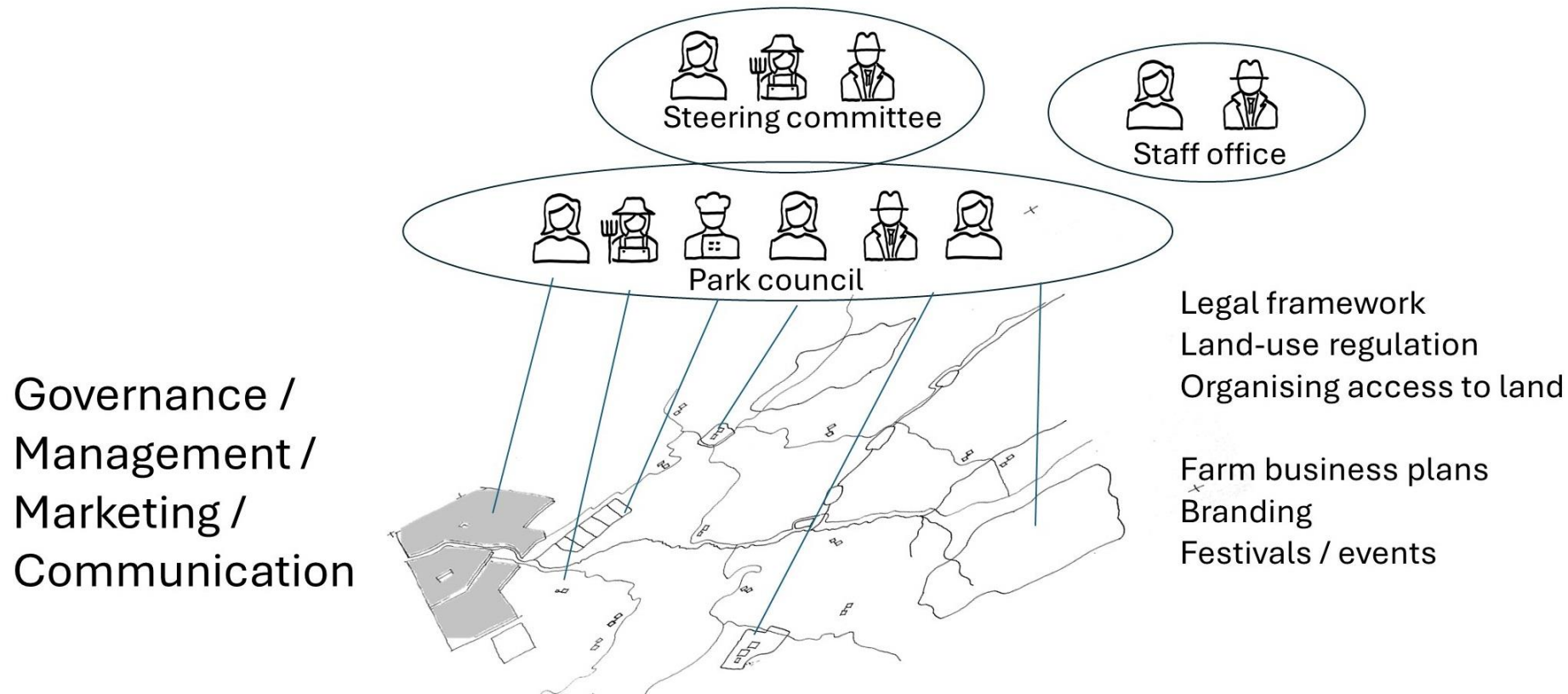
# Foodgate



The transition between city and rural area is activated by creating Foodgates on specific sites.

Public spaces connecting producers, processors and consumers.

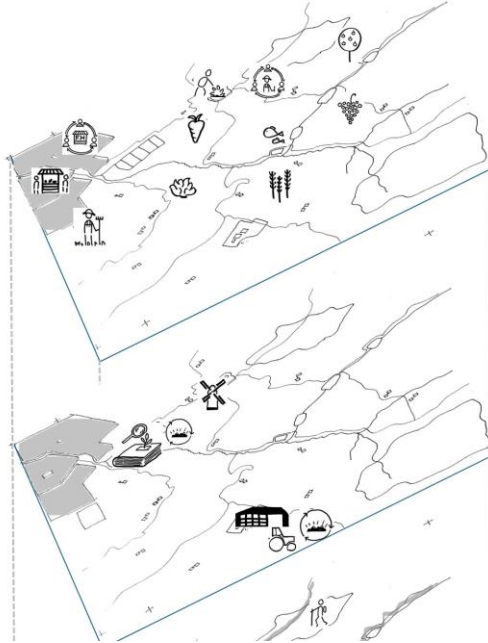
# governance





# Structure of the NAPM

agriculture /  
food

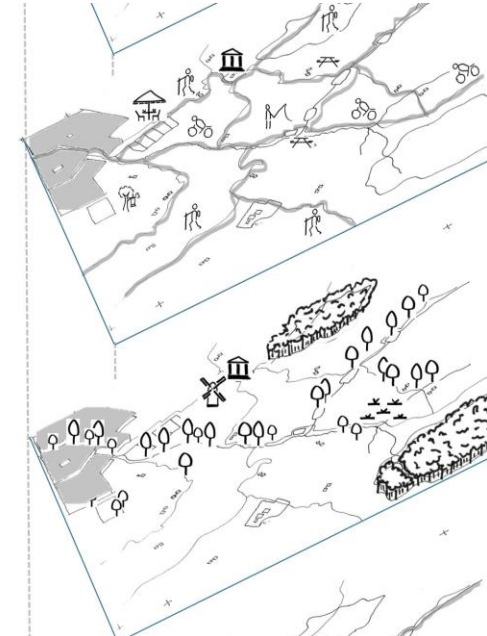


farm  
infrastructure

Diversification crops  
pick your own  
CSA  
Allotment gardens  
Food forests  
City-food hub  
Farmers market

Composting plant  
Collective storage / machinery  
Research / education  
Mills / food processing  
Farm incubators

recreation /  
leisure



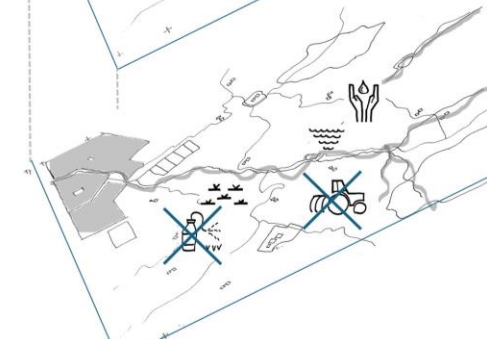
Walking / cycling routes  
Pick nick areas  
Farm café / playground  
Open air museum  
Fishing pond

nature /  
biodiversity /  
culture



Nature reserves  
Green-blue infrastructure  
Green-blue veining  
Agroecological farming  
Cultural heritage  
Agriculture traditions

water / soil



Water storage  
Water retention  
River restoration  
Reducing tillage  
Reducing pesticides  
Increasing % organic  
matter

# Conditions and Critical Success Factors

1. Creation of a wide and strong support for the concept

- 1.1 Local political support and support region
- 1.2 Local inbedding
- 1.3 Recognised leadership
- 1.4 An active connector
- 1.5 Development of competences

2. Willingness for and organisation of more multifunctional land use

- 2.1 Urban and rural connection
- 2.2 Diverse and innovative park functions
- 2.3 Collaboration of instruments and actors
- 2.4 Building upon a spatial landscape framework
- 2.5 Going beyond the concept of 'the user'

3. Active strengthening of local agriculture

- 3.1 The city as a potential sales market – short chain
- 3.2 Qualitative impulse of multi-functional agriculture
- 3.3 Engagement with the area while allowing various typologies of agriculture – also by large stakeholders

Vanempten et al, 2018



# Concluding remarks

*a newly developed agricultural park cannot include all features of the model*

*it must build upon the existing local situation, civic society and local policies*

*to be successful in the sustainable development of food systems and foodscapes, a democratic governance, an integration of social, environmental, and economic goals and the production of healthy food for all are essential*

# Main references

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## Webpages

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