



AGRIPARKS IN MONTPELLIER

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Case Study: Montpellier, France

- 500 000 inhabitants, very attractive (tripling of the population since 1960)



The long trends of the relations between the city and agriculture

Until 1960: a mid-size agricultural city

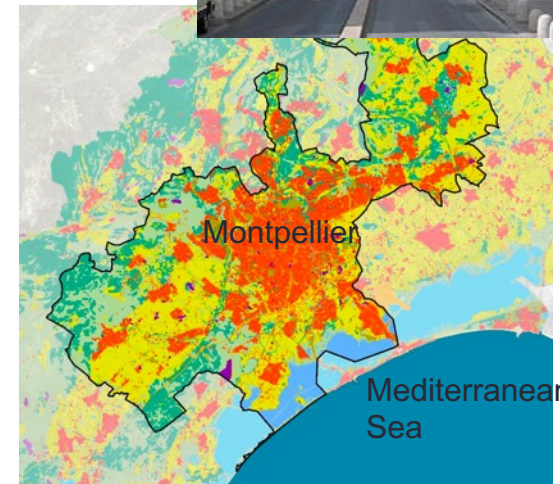
- Wine economy, monoculture

1960-2000: sea, sun & science !

- Tourism
- Tertiary economy, French “Silicon Valley”
- Urban sprawl

Since 2000: towards a reconnection ?

- New Metropolitan authority (31 municipalities)
- New initiatives at the rural-urban interface



Farming diversification: adaptation to urban demands for food, agriculture, nature



- The wine crisis left land available for other farming styles:
 - Commodity producers (cereals)
 - Urban-oriented direct marketers (vegetable)
 - Small recreational farms (horse, olive trees)

NOVELTY

- New productions, new types of “farmers” (small, agroecological + city dwellers)
- Multifunctionality of agriculture
- New periurban agricultural landscapes

Quality wine as a new territorial resource



- Renewal of the wine sector: quality turn, heritage, tourism
- The city of Montpellier ties high quality wines to its image



NOVELTY

- The city changes its perspective on the wine sector
- Territorial marketing strategy
- Periurban vineyards (wine routes)
- Urban public spaces (wine festivals)

Food & UA community initiatives (2004)

- Short food chains (CSA, farmers' markets)
- Allotments and community gardens

NOVELTY

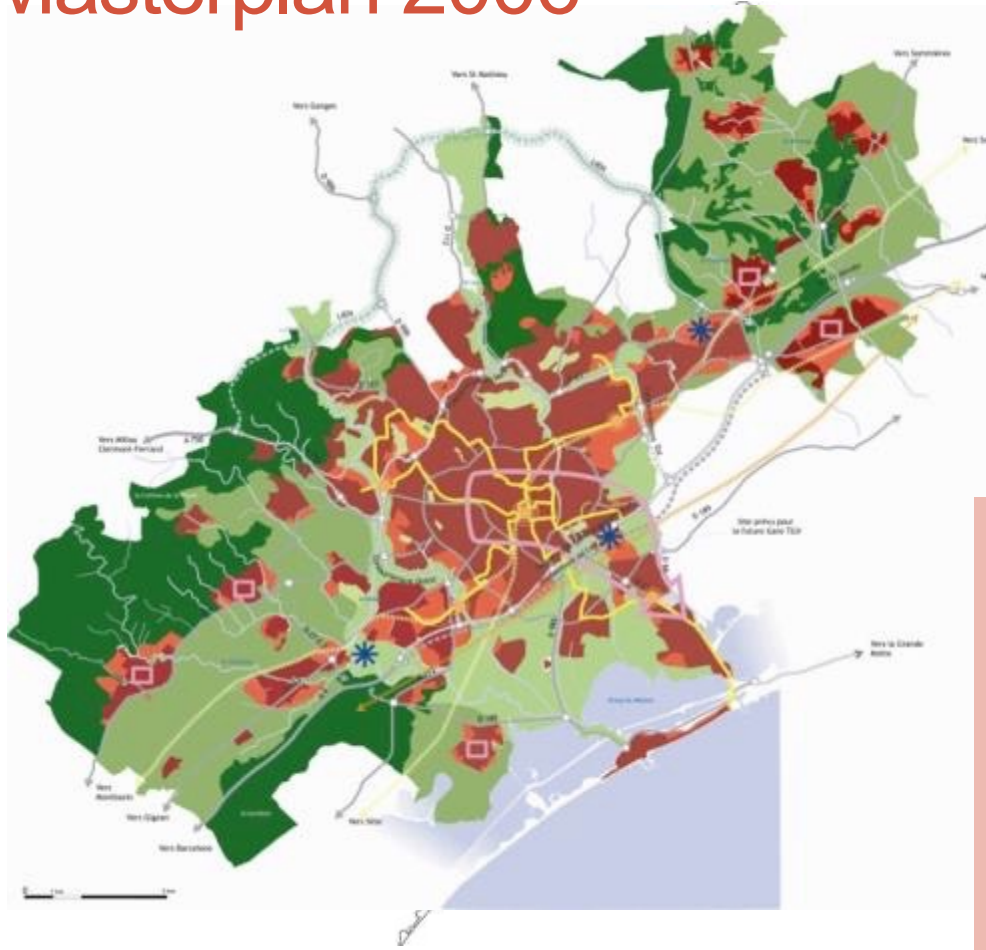
- Bottom up initiatives
- New alliances btw producers & consumers
- Community initiatives are being institutionalized
- New places for direct sale
- New economic spaces
- New productive farmland within the city

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Integration of agriculture in urban planning

Masterplan 2006



« Sight inversion »

Protection of open space as rationale for urban containment

NOVELTY

- Adaptation of a normative urban planning tool
- Recognition of UA by planners

ACTORS

- Researchers, Planners (top down)

SPACE/SCALE

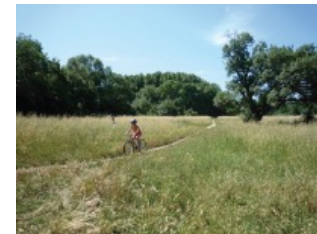
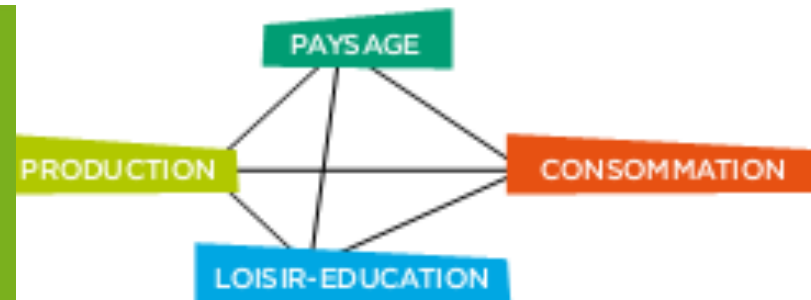
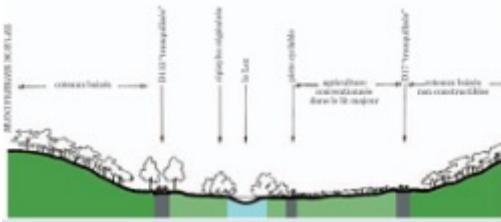
- Urban growth boundaries
- Restrictive zoning: end of sprawl

Urban agricultural parks (2010)

Guide des Agriparcs - Agenda 21 (2010)



projet pour l'agriparc du Lau Naud



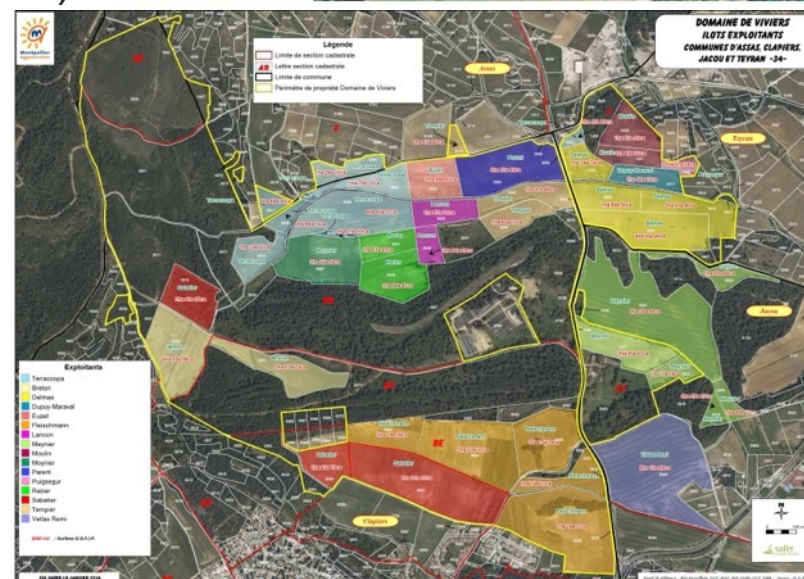
NOVELTY

- 2 former wine estates identified in the 2006 masterplan
→ planners, top down
- New spatial patterns/interfaces
- UA as urban green infrastructure
- Multifunctional farming on public land

Agriparc Viviers 2012



190 ha former wine estate - public property (Métropole)



• Allocation to 16 conventional farmers:

- 10 vinegrowers (30 ha)
- 5 crops farmers (60 ha)
- 1 market gardener (10 ha)

• Allocation by the Safer

- It went fast (2 months) and reproduced the local relations of powers within agriculture

Activité	Nombre de producteurs	Mode de culture	SAU à Viviers	Type de bail
Viticulture	8	Conventionnel	33,5 ha	18 ans
Céréaliier	3	Un seul bio	37,5 ha	1 an renouvelable
Maraîchage	2 (dont 1 coopérative)	Biologique/conventionnel	14,5 ha	18 ans
Fourrage	1	Conventionnel	18 ha	1 an renouvelable
Oliviers	1	Biologique	2 ha	18 ans
Horticulture	1	Biologique	1,5 ha	18 ans
Héliciculture	1	NR	4 500 m2	18 ans

Ref: Jarrige & Perrin 2017;
Hasnaoui Amri & Perrin 2020

- **1 farm incubator (TerraCoopa) (10 ha):**
SFSC, organic market gardening +
environmental management (tree pruning)



Teste Toi dans les
métiers de
l'environnement !

Agriculture bio - Arbres -
Paysage - Formations -
Alimentation Bio

Information Collective
et visite de l'Espace test
Agricole de Viviers

10 Sept 2024



TerraCoopa

InPACT
Occitanie
Département Occitanie
Montpellier Métropole

Montpellier
métropole

Allocations 2015-2017

10 ha (public property, Métropole)



- **Allocation by the local authority**
 - It took 2 years: slow process...
 - Development of a method for other allocations
 - call for applications, with weighted criteria, scoring
 - consulting service by an organic farmer
 - site visits, FAQs, etc.
- **To support food relocation**
 - 1 organic market gardener in CSA (4,5 ha)
 - 1 collective multifunctional farm (vegetables, chicken recreational & pedagogic activities, food catering) (6 persons, 6 ha)
 - Issues related to water access, restorations of old buildings, compensation for biodiversity...

Agriparc Mas Nouguier

17 ha - public property,
Montpellier municipality
Former wine estate → new urban project



- **Urban green infrastructure (2007)**
 - Leisure, recreation, education
 - Vines, olive trees, beehives, aromatic plants
 - Environment (flood control), biodiversity (ecological corridors)
- **Social inclusion (2010)**
 - ESAT: Etablissement de Service et d'Aide par le Travail (Workplace for people with disabilities)
 - organic viticulture
- **Agro-ecological food park (2015)**
 - Permaculture market gardening, community gardens
 - Restaurant (staff: ESAT)



AgroEcoPôle de Mirabeau (2017)

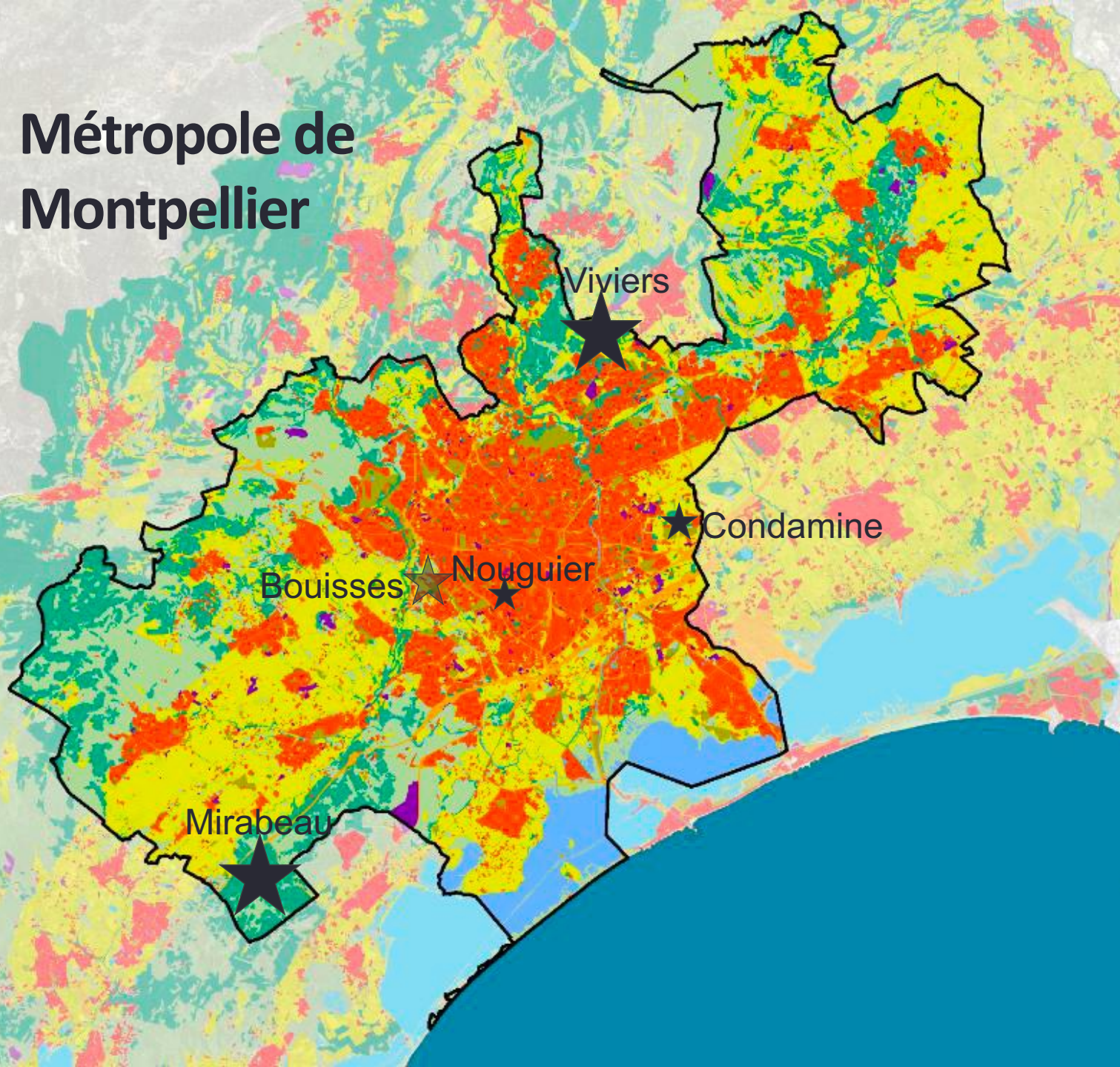


220 ha (public prop – Fabrègues municipality)

- **Former wine estate**
 - Residents' struggle against a new waste disposal site
 - Land purchase through biodiversity compensation
- **Public investment after purchase: 7-8 Millions €**
 - Renovation of 2000 m2 building
- **Biodiversity recovery**
 - Research experiments (CEN, INRAE)
 - Cultural and pedagogic activities
- **Agricultural diversification**
 - social inclusion/reintegration: vineyards / market gardening
 - arboriculture (pistachio, pomegranate), beekeeping
 - poly-breeding (goats, sheep and chicken)
 - open-air pork breeding (in the oak forest).



Métropole de Montpellier



New masterplan 2019



- **Archipelago of multifunctional resource farms**
- Large estates designed to host different types of food-related activities
 - agronomic research, agro-ecological production, educational and reception functions, shared logistics and composting services, etc.
- Authorization to change the use of spaces / buildings in order to make this multi-functionality possible

Conclusion

- **Public acquisition of abandoned former wine estates**

- Diversification of farming systems beyond wine
- Multifunctionality of agriculture, reconnection to the city (food, recreation)
- From inner city to periurban areas
- Small (17 ha) or large scale (220 ha)
- Towards an agripark on private land?? Or network of multifunctional farms?

- **Agriparks reflect different times in urban agri-food policies**

- Evolution of the public policy instruments & partners
- Tenant farmers chosen (criteria calls for applications)
- Professional or non-professional agriculture
- Employment support schemes (farm incubator, disabled, marginalized)

Références

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