



LIFE ON THE MAP

AMSTERDAM WATER SUPPLY DUNES

LIFE IN DE AMSTERDAM WATER SUPPLY DUNES

The **Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen** (Amsterdam water supply dunes) is a beautiful and special nature reserve. The reserve forms part of Natura 2000, a network of special protected areas in Europe. An exceptional nature reserve of this calibre requires intensive management, and that costs money.

The EU granted Waternet, the manager of this reserve, a Life+ subsidy for the 'Source of nature' project. The Province of Noord-Holland is also helping to fund the project.

Thanks to this financial assistance we will be able to give this nature reserve an extra impulse between September 2012 and December 2016. We will be able to safeguard the quality of the drinking water supply and visitors will be able to enjoy the beautiful and varied nature here for years to come.

SOURCE OF NATURE

During the coming years we will be working hard here in the dunes on the 'Source of nature' project. Visitors to the reserve may well come across us at work, earthmoving with excavators, or felling a copse of black cherries. We will do our best to ensure that you are hindered by the work as little as possible. You can see which work we will be carrying out and where on the map. Want to know more? We will regularly be holding excursions during which our experts can tell you everything you want to know about the project. You can find the latest information about the project and the excursions at www.waternet.nl/AWD.

We hope you have a great time strolling through the dunes, today and in the future too. Kind thanks to Life+ and the Province of Noord-Holland for their financial support!

DESIRED SITUATION: THREE HABITATS

In recent decades, acidification, over-fertilization and desiccation have taken their toll on the dunes. Proliferate species such as the black cherry expanded their territories to the detriment of typical dune species. Now we are going to turn this trend around. There are three habitats that we want to see expand and flourish: 'grey dunes', wet dune slacks and thickets of sea buckthorn.

GREY DUNES

Fully developed grey dunes are characterized by a range of low vegetation, such as short grasses, herbs, mosses and burnet rose.

They are rich in insect life, including blue-winged grasshoppers, grizzled skippers, niobe fritillaries and many species of bees, wasps and beetles. These species are hampered by acidification and over-fertilization.

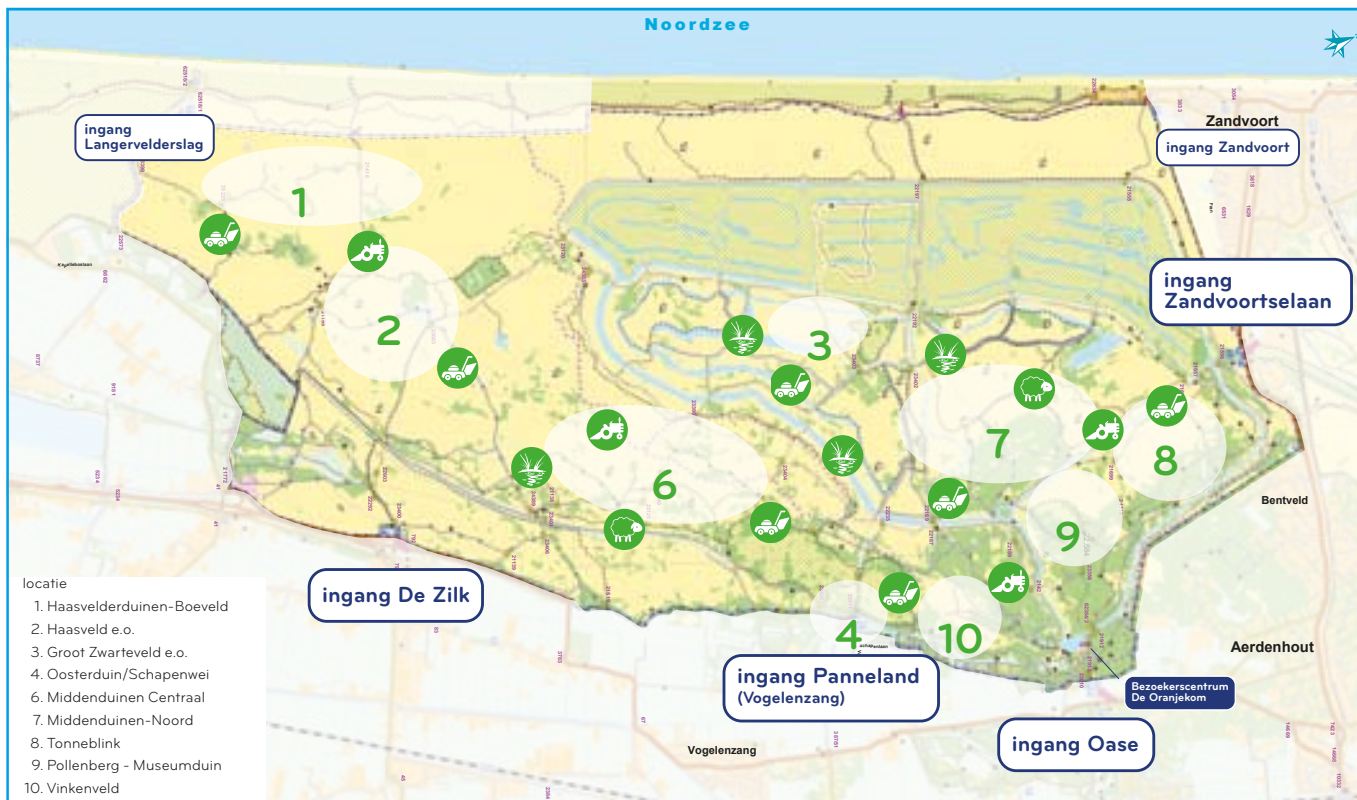
SEA BUCKTHORN THICKETS

Sea buckthorn thickets are high in biodiversity, especially when mixed with other shrubby species such as elderberry and hawthorn. In the bushiest thickets with plenty of undergrowth we find thicket birds such as the nightingale and the lesser whitethroat. In the more open thickets with patches of grassy vegetation we might find the willow warbler, the common whitethroat, the chiffchaff, and the European stonechat. Thickets are important habitats for breeding birds and even more so for migrating birds. Healthy thickets of sea buckthorn in the wet dune hollows are an important biotope for the narrow-mouthed whorl snail. The black cherry spreads like wildfire and poses the biggest threat to these thickets


WET DUNE SLACKS


Wet dune slacks are an ideal biotope for a huge array of rare and special species, such as grass-of-parnassus, brookweed, jersey cudweed, seaside centaury, blue sedge and autumn gentian, to name just a few. If these areas are left in peace they are perfect breeding sites for the little ringed plover, the natterjack toad and the common newt. Wet dune slacks are particularly threatened by the process of desiccation.

LIFE ON THE MAP




MEASURES


 We will be mowing in all the areas indicated on the map to remove the nitrogen-rich vegetation.

 The nutrient-rich topsoil will also be removed from the areas with the thickest vegetation (maximum 10 centimetres).

We aim to restore the wet dune slacks at locations 1 and 2. We will do this by removing the topsoil and excavating a number of overgrown blow-outs. We will also be removing a stand of pine trees planted at location 2.

Coppices of black cherries and sycamores will be cut down at locations 3, 7 and 10, after which we will remove the topsoil. This will ensure that the seeds of these trees are removed from the soil as well.

 We are restoring twenty ponds in the central dune area. These ponds are rich in species and the gems of this nature reserve.

 Waternet will allow another herd of sheep to graze this area. Once the black cherries have been removed, the sheep will prevent the species from regenerating by eating the seedlings. This will help ensure that the restoration work is sustainable.

This is a Waternet publication. You can find more information on this project at www.waternet.nl

September 2012

