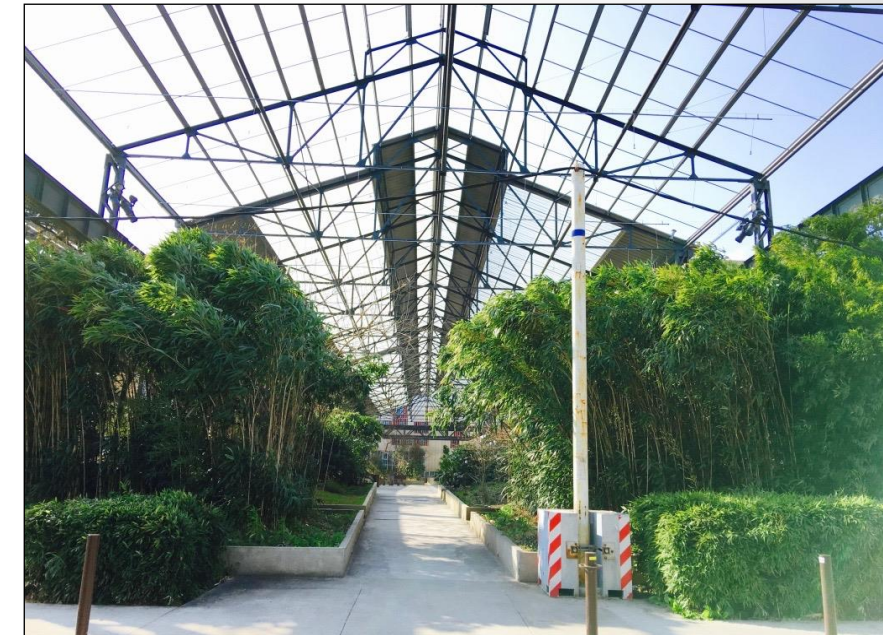




Examining the role of actors and tools in the management process of Urban Green Spaces - The case study of “Ile de Nantes”, France

Research Master Thesis Presentation

Research master Planning and Sustainability: Urban and Regional Planning

Polytech Tours – Université François-Rabelais

Duygu Suleymanogullari, 17th June 2016

Supervisor: Prof. Christophe Demazière

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INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- **FRAMEWORK, DEFINITION OF THE PROBLEM**

- **PROBLEM:** Lack of green spaces in growing cities. Cities are getting larger and bigger in terms of population and land use in the world. As more people live in urban areas, more built up area is created and the need for green spaces increases in the cities.
- **THE RESEARCH QUESTIONS:** “How do actors in the urban policy domain manage to enhance the presence of the green spaces in a fast-growing city since the city has other needs like creation of housing lots and conservation of heritage?
“What are the effects of creating green spaces in economic, social and environmental terms?
“How do they address public demand and participation?”
- **THE AIM OF THE STUDY:** To investigate the principles and concepts that the city follow to create and manage green spaces and parks in Nantes.

To answer the research questions, two interviews have been conducted separately with the actors who are Jean-Francois Cesbron from the green space department of the municipality (SEVE) and Alain Bertrand from the public developer company (SAMOA).

LITERATURE REVIEW

TYPE	DEFINITION	PRIMARY PURPOSE
Public Green Spaces	Includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks.	• informal recreation • community events.
Natural and Semi- natural Greenspaces	Woodlands, urban forests, scrub, grasslands (e.g. meadows), wetlands, open and running water and wastelands.	• environmental education and awareness • wildlife conservation, • biodiversity.
Green Corridors	Riverbanks, cycleways, the railway and tram lines, tow paths	• leisure purposes or travel • opportunities for wildlife migration • walking, cycling or horse riding.
Amenity Greenspace	Greenspaces which are in and around housing and village greens. They are most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Also includes informal recreation spaces.	• informal activities close to home or work, • enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Activity spaces for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.	• equipped play areas • skateboard areas • teenage shelters and areas • ball courts • outdoor basketball hoop areas
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Natural or artificial areas for public or private use, the sport and recreation spaces. Includes school playing fields.	• outdoor sports pitches • playing fields (including school playing fields) • water sports • tennis and bowls • golf courses • athletics
Allotments, Community Gardens/ Family Gardens	The shared or private fields for people to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. It may be also include urban farms.	• growing vegetables and other root crops •increase social cohesion •maintain sustainability
Cemeteries & Churchyards	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.	• burial of the dead • quiet space • wildlife conservation • promotion of biodiversity

As there are different types and facilities of urban green spaces, this work will try to concentrate on public green spaces and parks which are mostly recreational and located inside the city core or accessible by pedestrian ways or cycling paths.

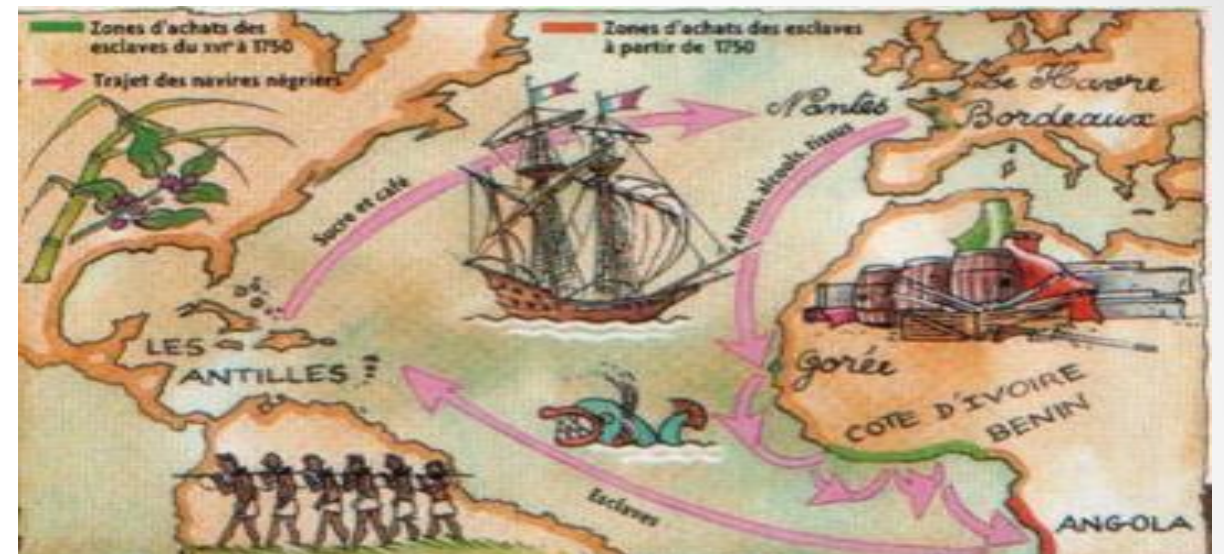
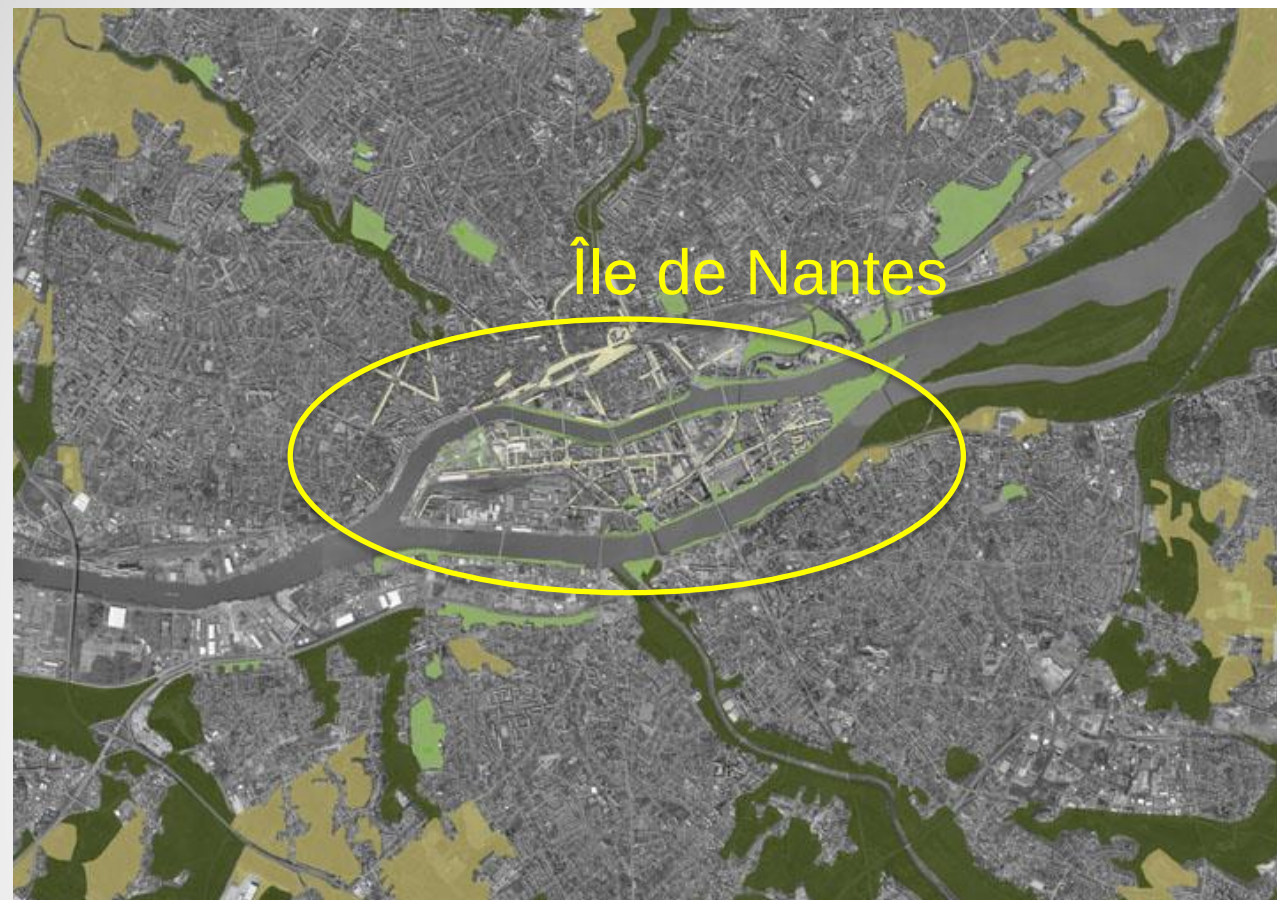
LITERATURE REVIEW

DIMENSIONS	DEFINITIONS
Ecological functions and environmental benefits	Effects on urban climate and energy use, raising air quality, promoting biodiversity, avoiding air pollution.
Physical and social functions	Providing health and well-being benefits, increasing level of the physical exercise, improving psychological health.
Economic Return	Increasing property prices, land values, recreation and tourist facilities, reduced energy, coast.
Public Demand and Participation	Citizen involvement in planning and taking into account the ideas of inhabitants before the decision process.
Heritage Conservation	Importance of preserving heritage value in the cities and the effects of historical buildings to improve the physical value of the neighborhood both in the way of environmental, cultural and aesthetic aspects.

Key dimensions of green spaces in growing cities

Source: Author

CASE STUDY: NANTES, KEY INFORMATION ABOUT GREEN SPACES



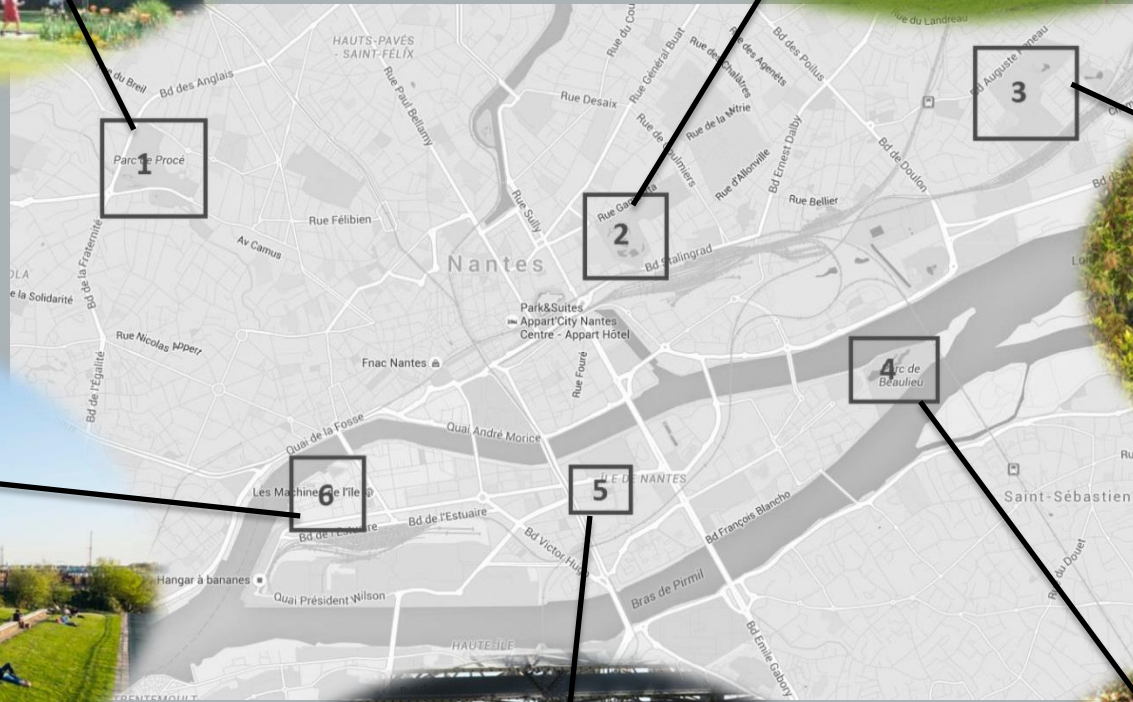
- ❖ Nantes has maritime history which is linked with the transatlantic slave trade particularly during the eighteenth century.
- ❖ Louis XV subjects captains of Nantes to bring seeds and plants from their voyages.
- ❖ Centuries of international trade brought exotic plants from around the world, preserved in the city's botanical gardens.

Nantes is rich in green spaces.

- ✦ 100 parks, squares and municipal gardens
- ✦ 1.050 hectares of public green space.
 - including 180 hectares of protected natural areas.
- ✦ 60% of the Nantes local area is made up of farming or natural areas
- ✦ 54,771 ha of **public green areas** in Nantes Métropole, i.e. mean 57 sqm of public green spaces **per inhabitant**.
- ✦ **100% inhabitants** in the City of Nantes living at less than **300 m away** from a green space.



GREEN SPACES IN NANTES



GREEN SPACES IN NANTES

	Name of the Park	Area	Date of Creation	Main Characteristics	Other Information
1	Parc de Procé	12 hectares	1912	English styled designed park, emblematic plant palette.	Fontain with the statues is a sembolic element.
2	Jardin des Plantes	7 hectares	17 th century	Botanical Garden in the center of the city, more than 10,000 living species, 800 square metres of greenhouses.	The most touristic park in the city. Cultural and plant manifestations are organised periodically
3	Parc du Grand Blottereau	22 hectares	1905	The Mediterranean, American, South Korea experiment continents.	Exotic plants, every September Folie des plantes festival is organized.
4	Parc de Beaulieu	30 hectares	1980	Protected natural area.	Available for children games, collective barbecues.
5	Jardin des Fonderies	2.6 hectares	2009	An old industrial structure restored as green space.	Exotic plants, games for children.
6	Parc des Chantiers	13 hectares	2007	Old Industrial site restored as park and green space.	Innovative developments (ie.the machines of the island) serve to inhabitants and tourists.

Development of “Île de Nantes”



The Project

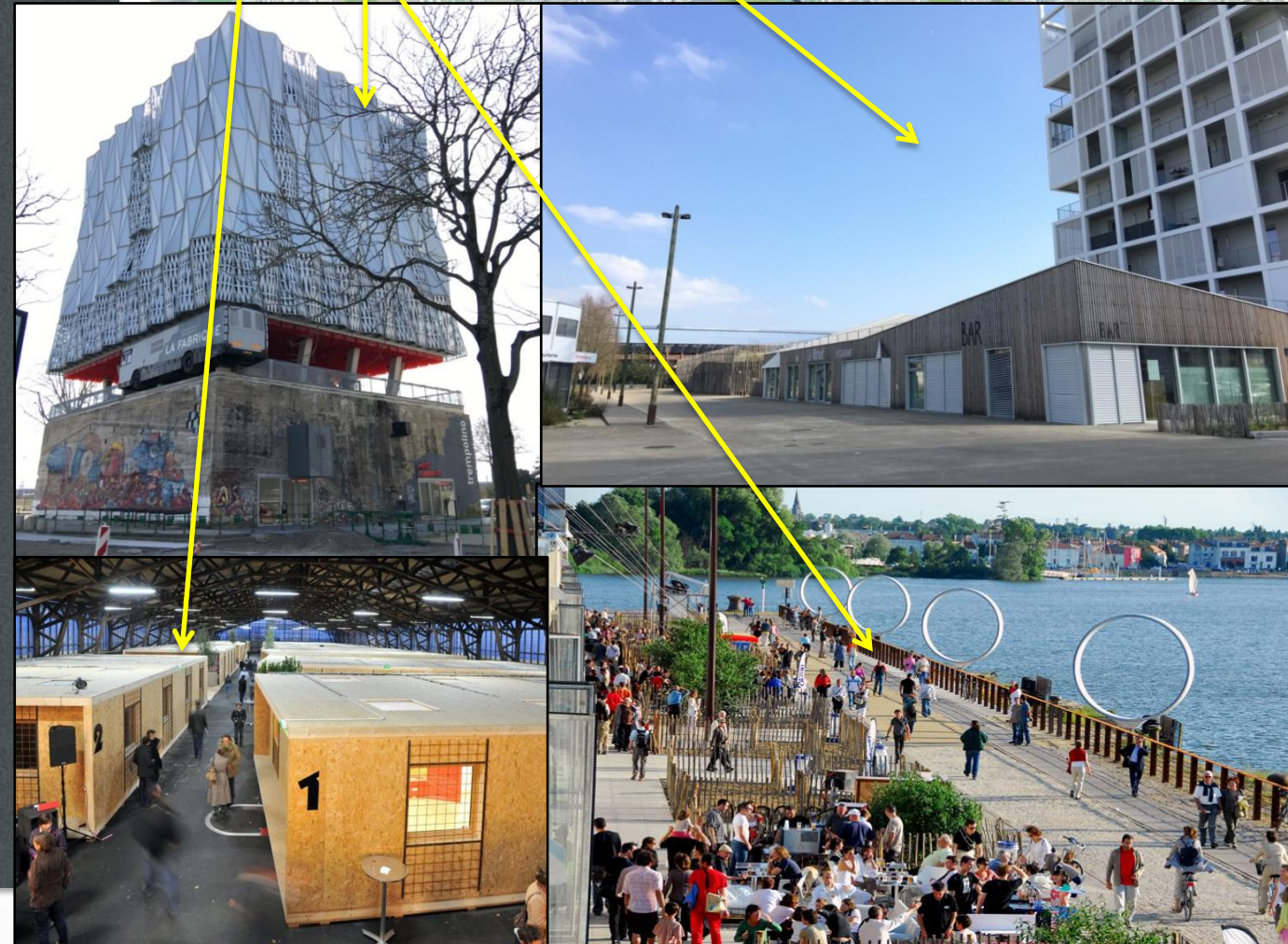
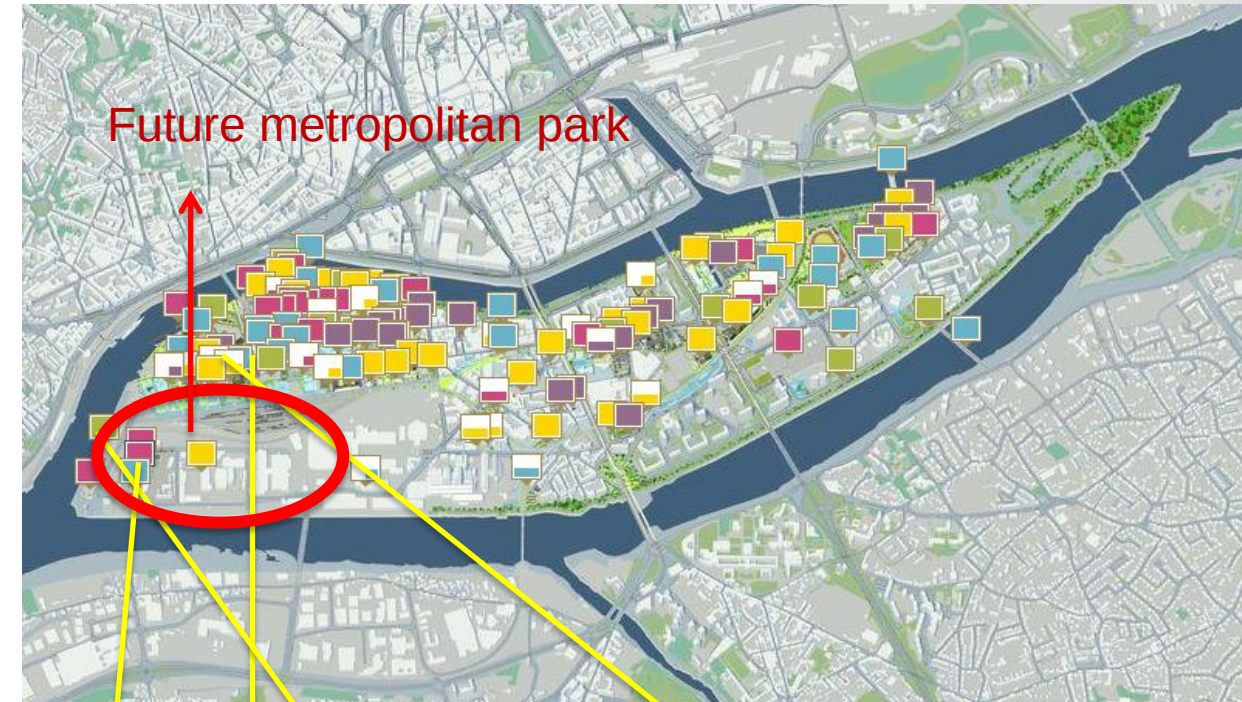
The project is the transformation of a long unused factory and warehouse district into a large working and housing neighborhood of 350 hectares. Chemetoff's vision for the project rests on two underlying ideas:

- ✦ make the most of the existing structures without demolishing,
- ✦ take into account the history and geography of the site, and its social environment.

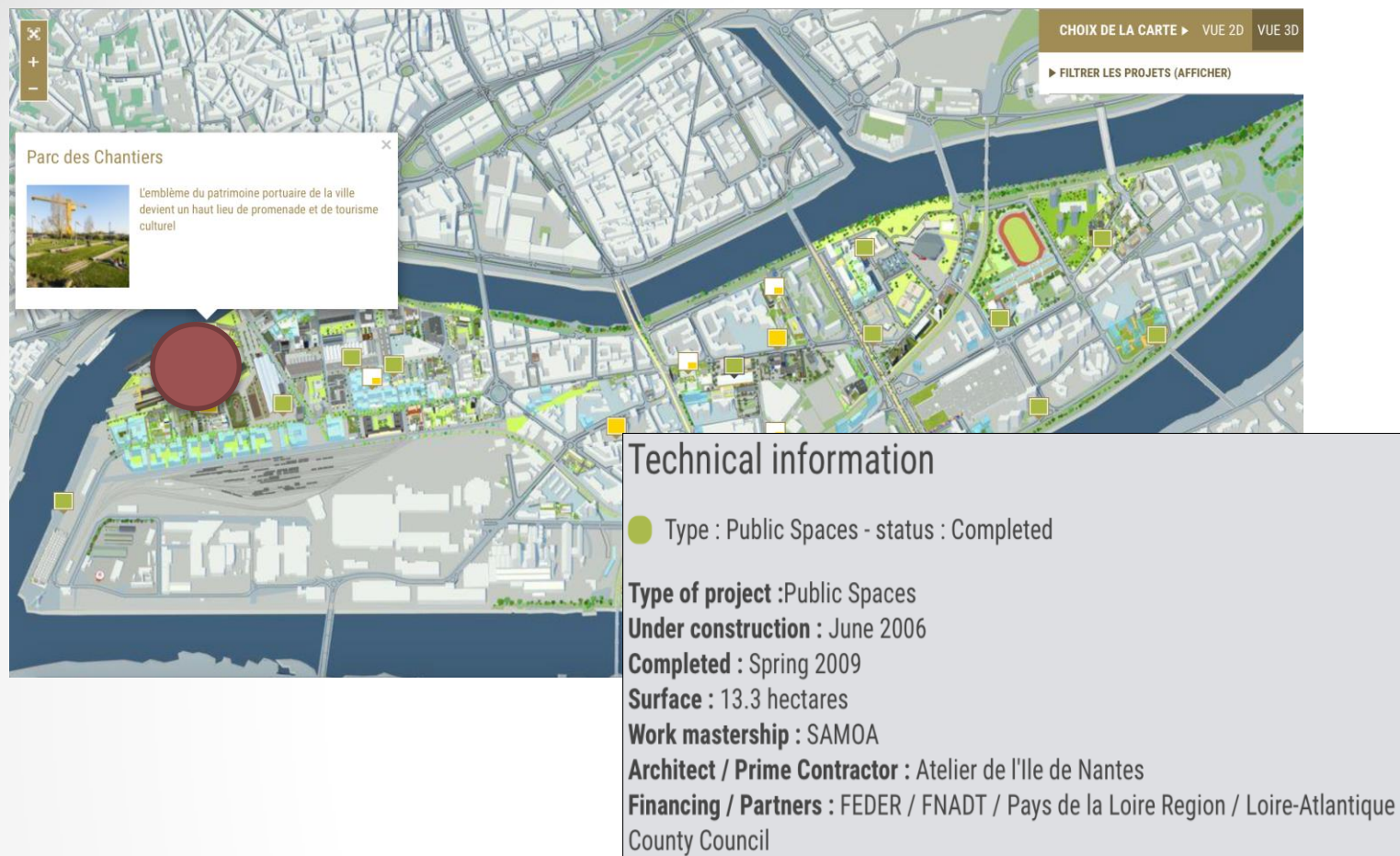
Since 2003, Samoa (West Atlantic Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency) has directed the Ile de Nantes urban project and acts as the contracting owner.

By 2020, the Île de Nantes project aims to:

- ┆ Create a new centrality in the city
 - ┆ Promote sustainable economic development
 - ┆ Reconnect the city to its river
 - ┆ Build 7500 energy-efficient homes for more than 15 000 people
 - ┆ Create 15 000 new jobs
 - ┆ Create and rehabilitate 150 hectares of green public spaces
 - ┆ Improve accessibility by public transport and car-free paths
- ✦ **Objective:** to create a new vibrant centre for Nantes and the entire agglomeration (Nantes Saint-Nazaire)

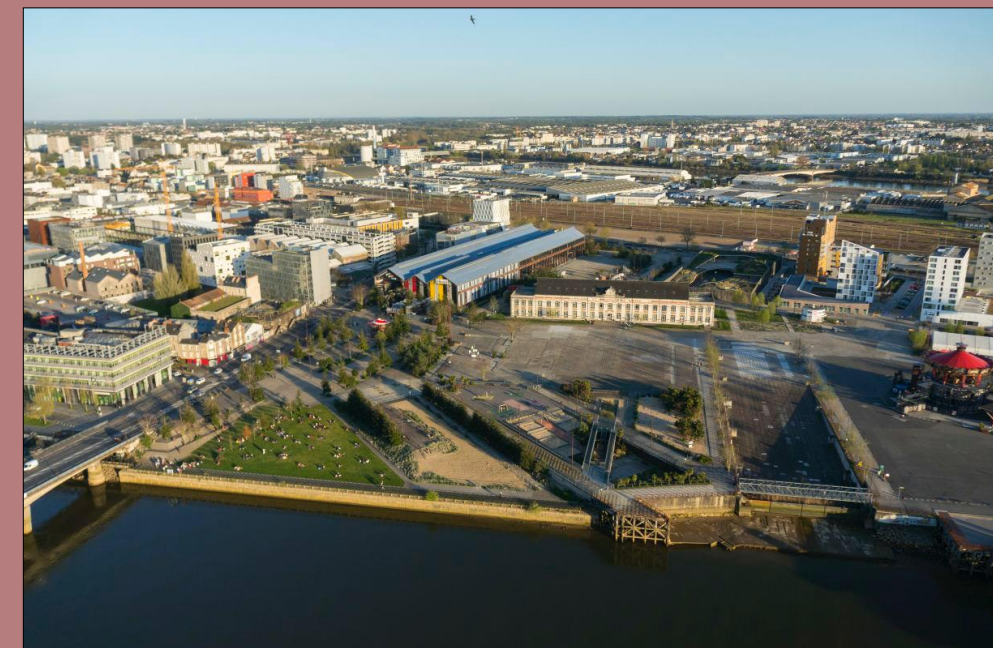


Case Study 1: Parc des Chantiers



Parc des Chantiers

- ✦ Located on the former shipyards of Nantes.
- ✦ The design of the park brings together heritage and contemporary architecture on the 13 hectares area.
- ✦ It has four theme gardens on the riverside; children's play areas and the renovated slipways. Also the gallery of Machines (the creative-innovative art works) is located nearby which promote the park for visits.
- ✦ Each of the galleries and terraced houses have different plant atmosphere with palm trees and exotic plants.
- ✦ There is only 10% of the area of the park is green space.
- ✦ Parc des Chantiers is an important project to re-active the island and its uses.



Case Study 2: Les Fonderies



Technical information

● Type : Public Spaces - status : Completed

Type of project : Public Spaces

Under construction : May 2007

Completed : November 2009

Surface : 2.6 hectares

Work mastership : SAMOA

Architect / Prime Contractor : Atelier Doazan - Hirschberger (33)

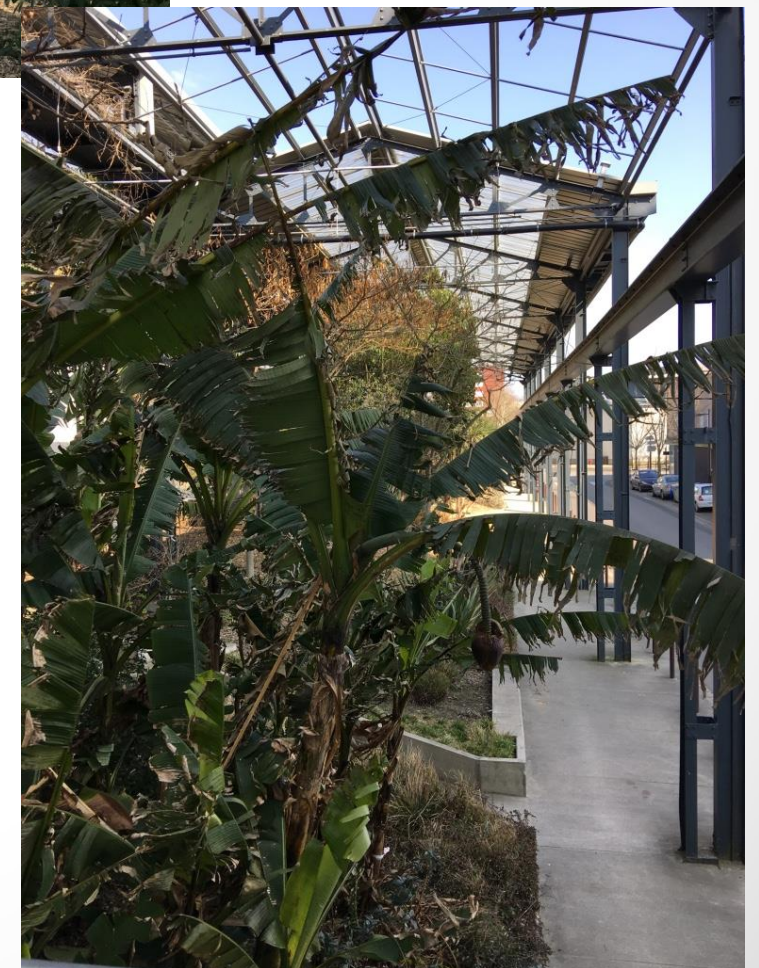
Financing / Partners : REVIT (European programme)



Jardin des Fonderies

- ✦ The Foundries' Garden project is located in the middle of the island, far from the river Loire, in a suburban zone with social housing and factories.
- ✦ The structure was built in 1937 to manufacture propellers for vessels.
- ✦ Industrial ovens, rails and three pits are visible traces of the old activity that remain on the site.
- ✦ The goals are to create a “garden under a roof”: a covered public space for everyday use and to showcase the former industrial activity.

Case Study 2: Les Fonderies



INTERVIEW WITH ACTORS

DIMENSIONS

QUESTIONS

Ecological functions and environmental benefits

- To what extent the parks (Les Fonderies or Park de Chantiers) contribute to the ecological/environmental aspects of the city?

Physical and social functions

- Do the elements of the parks help to increase the aesthetic value of the area?
- Does the presence of the parks (Les Fonderies or Park de Chantiers) effect to increase the social cohesion in the neighborhood?

Economic Return

- What's your target users, are they the tourists to promote the city? or local people to increase the social cohesion?
- Do you have any direct or indirect economic expectation on the parks? (Les Fonderies or Park de Chantiers) Did these parks increase the land value?

Public Demand and Participation

- Did you consider the ideas of local people before taking decision of creating green spaces/parks? (Les Fonderies or Park de Chantiers)
- A huge metropolitan park is planning to be built in the island. How do you publicize the creation of the new park? Is there a strong public demand for this park?

Heritage Conservation

- How did you decide to develop historical heritage into public spaces (green spaces/parks)?

Questions which address the key dimensions of green spaces in growing cities

Source: Author

FINDINGS

“What are the effects of creating green spaces in economic, social and environmental terms?

“How do they address public demand and participation?”

DIMENSIONS	QUESTIONS	FINDINGS
Ecological functions and environmental benefits	-To what extent the parks (Les Fonderies or Park de Chantiers) contribute to the ecological/ environmental aspects of the city?	-Creating the link with Loire river and its environment is the aim of the project. -The differentiated management policy promotes biodiversity through the choice of plants and pesticides considering the life of insects, birds etc.
Physical and social functions	-Do the elements of the parks help to increase the aesthetic value of the area? -Does the presence of the parks effect to increase the social cohesion in the neighborhood?	-Specific activities such as art works or cultural media events in the public spaces/parks promote the use and physical value of the spaces. -The aim is to create experiences that will capitalize in the park among inhabitants and to increase the social ties.
Economic Return	-What's your target users, are they the tourists to promote the city? or local people to increase the social cohesion? -Do you have any direct or indirect economic expectation on the parks? (Les Fonderies or Park de Chantiers) Did these parks increase the land value?	- The aim is to have different kind of users (local people, tourists etc.) due to the fact that Ile de Nantes project also has a metropolitan scale . - The developments of Ile de Nantes are to revive the heritage around the cultural and creative industries to offer new economic development horizons. - All the green spaces in Nantes have public interest rather than direct economic interest.
Public Demand and Participation	-Did you consider the ideas of local people before taking decision of creating green spaces/parks? (Les Fonderies and Park de Chantiers?) -A huge metropolitan park is planning to be built in the island. How do you publicize the creation of the new park? Is there a strong public demand for this park?	-It was not possible to have the ideas of inhabitants at the time project was lunched. because nobody was living there. But fot the recent projects in the island some workshops have been organized with inhabitants. -The aim is to create a large green space in connection with Parc des Chantiers and Loire river. -In the designing process, 30 people from Nantes metropole participated in the design panel. At the end 2 inhabitants will be present in the jury to give the final decision. -The agenda is not certain yet.
Heritage Conservation	How did you decide to develop historical heritage into public spaces (green spaces/parks)?	-The aim of Ile de Nantes project is to keep the parts of the old industrial buildings and to re-use them to activate the space. -The first designer Chemetoff wanted the heritage elements of the island to become public spaces also all the public spaces in the Nantes have primarily public interest rather than economic interest.

CONCLUSION

“How do actors in the urban policy domain manage to enhance the presence of the green spaces in a fast-growing city since the city has other needs like creation of housing lots and conservation of heritage?”

- ★ The city of Nantes tries to **increase the green spaces** in Nantes **in accordance with the political will of the city** which is a policy that every inhabitant in Nantes should have a green space within 300 m from his living place.
 - ★ “**Ile de Nantes**” project aims to **attract more people to the island in many possible ways**; to inhabit, to work or to visit so as to **make a new centrality in the city**. All the practices including creating creative neighborhood, transportation lines, green spaces and public spaces are one of the methods to develop the island in terms of usage and sustainability.
 - ★ **Nantes is rich in greenery, plants and plant for three centuries**. It comes from the slave trade, the maritime trade. The ship-owners who returned with full of plants at that time brought greenery culture and richness to the city. So it is assumed that gradually, this awareness has affected the political will to have green spaces. The green space policy, the will and **the desire among the politicians and inhabitants to have more green areas is believed to come from this past**.
 - ★ **Having a 350 hectares area waiting to be converted in the middle of the city gave a good opportunity** to the municipality and the developers, so they planned and designed it effectively to make use of these spaces.
- it can be concluded as**, the policy of the city, the political will and the aim of ile de Nantes project also the opportunity to have a large area waiting to be developed make it possible to create and increase green spaces in Nantes.

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