

Factsheet Almere

Feeding the City

Floriade 2022: Growing Green Cities

In 2022 the city of Almere will host the World Horticultural Expo 'Floriade'. As urbanization continues, quality of life is becoming increasingly dependent on the quality of our cities. This is the central issue of Floriade 2022: 'Growing Green Cities'. The development of Green Cities is of global importance, but there is a lack of a description of what a Green City actually is. In anticipation of the Floriade, Almere took an important role for itself in broadening and expanding the concept, to make a clear example of an internationally recognizable Green City, making the step from Garden City to Green City.

Growing Green Cities focuses on four themes:

- **FEEDING** the city.
Food production is (again) brought to the city.
- **GREENING** the city.
Green is deployed as a crucial part of a livable attractive city.
- **ENERGISING** the city
Focus on sustainable systems, closed cycles and self-proficiency.
- **HEALTHY-ING** the city.
Healthy food and the contribution of green to the well-being of people.



In preparation of 2022 the **'making of'** of the Floriade will take place throughout Almere. Within this process there are two simultaneous goals:

- ✓ **In word:** knowledge and skills which are scattered around the world will be brought together. An internationally-orientated dialogue is facilitated in which experiences and expertise can be exchanged.
- ✓ **In deed:** actions will take place in making the Green City reality and an international example. Various innovations of feeding, greening, energizing and healthy-ing will be put into practice.

Feeding the Neighborhood

Figure 1 shows the amount of urban agriculture initiatives in Almere since 2001, the number increased ten fold in the last 10 years. These initiatives contain many locally created initiatives.

Flevoland does have history! Where people used to live and feed themselves on the riverbanks of the 'Eem' 10.000 years ago, **VINDplaats ZENIT** (www.vindplaatszenit.nl) is created. As Almere banned building on this piece of land, two partners initiated the creation of a whole new place to discover the origins of our food today. In 2013 the plan started to create urban agriculture, an amphitheater and a teahouse to stimulate social cohesion, recreation and education. This focus on education can also be seen in 2010



when a father noticed his sons increasing interest in agriculture, this then lead towards the opening of **Schooltuinen Noorderplassen**, an urban agriculture education programme in primary schools, in 2014. Apart from recent initiatives there are also successful initiatives that have been running for some time, such as **Almeerse Weelde** (www.almeerseweelde.nl). This initiative exists of different people, who are all growing and producing local goods as marmalade, mustard, herbs, nuts and beef.

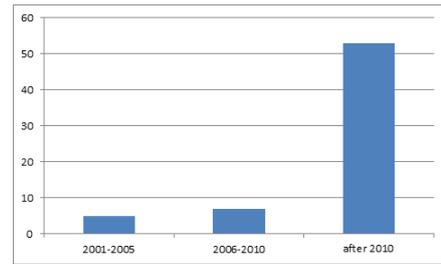


Figure 1: Amount of initiatives in Almere

Feeding the City

To facilitate the whole city in terms of sustainable regional food production a number of larger scaled initiatives are necessary to reach city level.

Containing 4.300 hectares east of Almere, **'Oosterwold'** has the potential of 15.000 new households and will consist for 50% of urban agriculture. Last years Almere was already actively involving citizens in city planning, now Oosterwold is the next step in this process which gives space to spontaneous, do it yourself urbanism. Citizens are invited to develop there own initiatives simultaneously with the open and natural environment. In the peri-urban area north of Almere a horticultural area named **'Buitenvaart'** (www.buitenvaart.com) is situated. As horticulture for the global market isn't the most feasible future for



entrepreneurs in the area, the location gives space for new initiatives with direct links to the city. An example is a greenhouse, **'ONZE'**, which will provides space for allotment gardens of citizens. Next to these new development, **Stadsboerderij Almere** (figure 2, www.stadsboerderijalmere.nl) was one of the first urban agriculture initiatives of the Netherlands. In 1996 the farm started producing in and around the city, with citizens as visitors and customers.

Figure 2: Products on Stadsboerderij Almere

Feeding the world

Almere hosts professional companies producing for the world market. Producers, consumers and citizens should be able to both benefit and contribute in the large-scale production landscape, as an element of the city of Almere. The production of **tulips** is a good example of production for world-scale and added value to the city landscape (Figure 3). Another example is **John's Farm** (www.johnsfarm.nl), where citizens are able to experience and contribute to large-scale biological farming.



Figure 3: Tulip field stretches out in front of Almere

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