

Re-use of excavated soil from construction sites to transform an industrial wasteland into an urban forest : the case of the Van Pelt site (Lens, France)



Project objectives

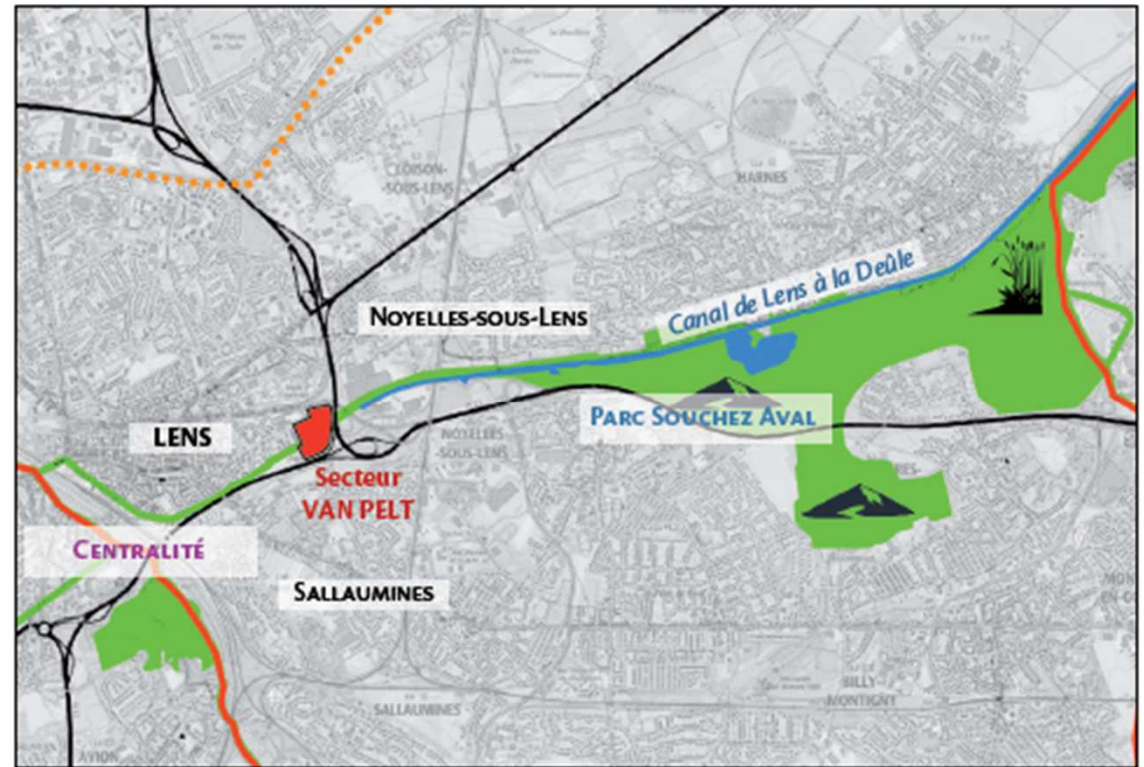
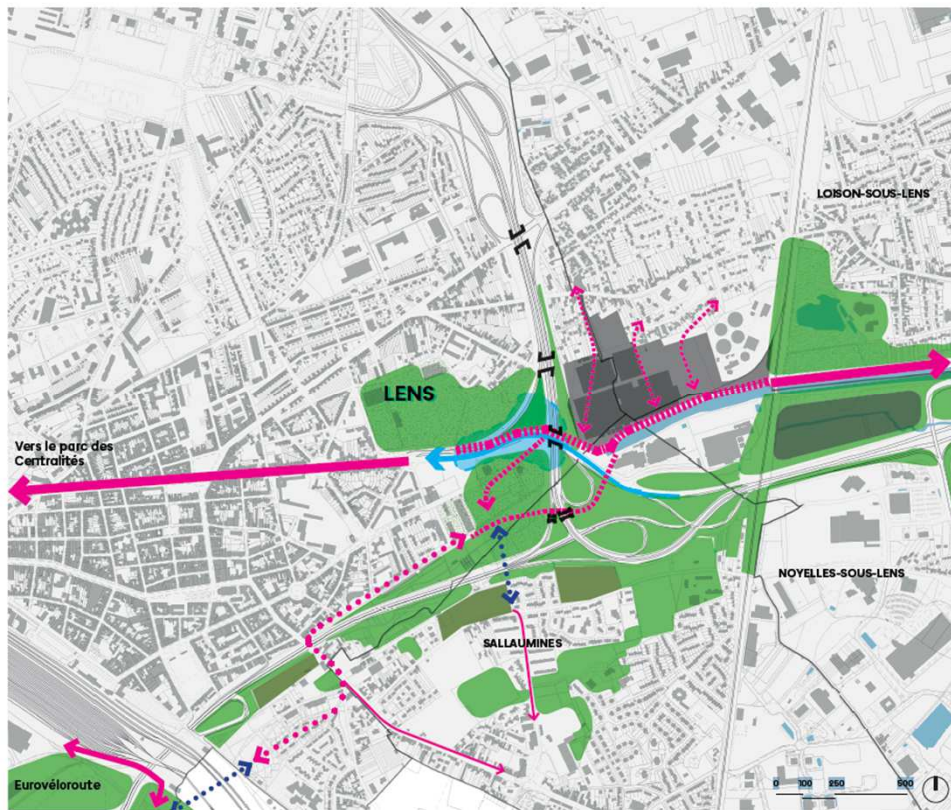


Located in Lens (Pas-de-Calais, France), the renaturation of the Van Pelt site was carried out by **ECT**; at the request of the State-owned Land Agency, **EPF Hauts-de-France**, as part of a public-private partnership.

The aim was to carry out an "urban forest" project supported by the City of Lens and the Lens-Liévin Urban Community and in line with the regional forest plan.

- Redeveloping a brownfield area,
- Develop an alternative project to a reconstruction project
- Developing a heart of nature for a public access (3 ha)
- Planting a regional forest (2 ha)
- Fighting climate change and biodiversity collapse

The urban forest, a link in the “parks chain”(chaîne des parcs)



Secteur Van Pelt comme maillon des Parcs « Centralité » et « Souchez Aval »

Main steps



- Expression of a need (Ville de Lens – EPF agreement)
- Property acquisition (EPF)
- Deconstruction of abandoned factories and buildings (EPF)
- Plantings (1st phase) : EPF, Ville, CALL, citizens
- Adding excavated earth and landscaping (ECT)
- Plantings 2nd and 3rd phases (ECT, students)
- Renaturation of the surroundings (dry meadows) (ECT and EPF)
- Transfer of land ownership to CALL
- Local urban masterplan (PLU) adaptation (wood preservation) : City of Lens
- Management and public access : City of Lens and/or CALL
- Green belt territory integration (CALL, Artois metropolitan pole, Euralens)

Budget elements and partnerships



Key data

- Acquisitions : 2,3 millions euros
- Management and land portage : 546 000 euros
- Deconstruction works : 2 millions euros
- « offer of contest » for adding excavated earth, landscaping, plantings and renaturation (free for partners)
- 40,000 m³ of earth were thus brought
- 9000 trees and shrubs planted.



Contribution to the ecological and climate transition ECT



This project, which has been awarded the *Euralens* label (November 2022) by the Grand Forum of the Artois Metropolitan Pole, contributes to the eco-transition of Artois and to the de-artificialisation of the territory.

Contribution to the ecological and climate transition



- Recycling of construction land and excavated earth
- Reduction of truck traffic (greenhouse gases)
- Recycling of plants present and restoration of neighbouring environments (dry meadows)
- Recycling of waste elements (for bats winter habitat)
- Regional forest with a « local genetic origin »
- Density and size of plants adapted to limit management costs and facilitate the plantation recovery
- Diversification of mixtures and vegetation states (edges)
- Innovative rainwater management (concave profile)
- pollinators preoccupations
- Citizen approaches (employees, schools, etc.)



Thank you for your attention

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