


VHG
Koninklijke Vereniging van
Hoveniers en Groenvoorzieners

Excursion programme of the ELCA Committee of Firms

23 - 26 SEPT 2024



Introduction

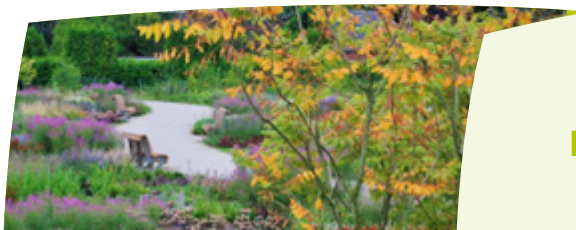
We invite you to the ELCA Presidium 2024 in Utrecht, the Netherlands! This year, the event coincides with Future Green City World Congress, providing us with the perfect opportunity to combine our event with the congress.



The city with a future is green. Green addresses almost all pressing challenges our growing cities face. It promotes health, happiness, cools, purifies, provides renewable materials and food, and offers natural habitats. Cities globally seek a new balance between nature and culture, linking urban areas with the countryside: the Future Green City.

Urban regions face significant challenges as populations grow, increasing pressure on infrastructure. We need to create sufficient housing, maintain accessibility, ensure energy and food supplies, and provide attractive public spaces. Global warming exacerbates these issues. Cities contribute to CO2 emissions and suffer the effects, such as heat and excessive rainfall. Green transformations can help cities become more circular and climate-neutral, enhancing livability and biodiversity.

Cities harbor the talent needed to tackle these challenges, from scientists to entrepreneurs. Urban areas are innovation hubs, showcasing successful interventions from small neighborhood changes to large-scale strategies. The Future Green City World Congress unites these innovators to inspire, share knowledge, and form coalitions for creating healthy, green urban environments for current and future generations.



**Watch the video
Introducing
Future Green City**

Welcome to The Netherlands

We invite you to the ELCA Presidium 2024 in Utrecht, the Netherlands! This year, the event coincides with Future Green City World Congress, providing us with the perfect opportunity to combine our event with the congress.

Organized by Royal Association Stadswerk Netherlands and Royal Dutch Association of Landscapers and Gardeners (VHG), in collaboration with World Urban Parks (WUP) and the International Federation of Municipal Engineering (IFME), this congress connects construction, greenery, infrastructure, and water management. Together, we are building cities of the future.

The programme of Future Green City World Congress is unbelievable! Seven programme lines will address the most pressing social issues: climate adaptation, energy transition, biodiversity, inclusiveness, transformation strategies, asset management, design, circularity, and health. Besides lectures and case studies, there will be excursions in Utrecht and to other Dutch cities, debates, design workshops, master classes, science labs, workshops, film, theatre, serious games, early bird sessions, a photo exposition, a trade fair, side events, and much more. There will be a choice of over 200 sessions by over 400 speakers. Especially for ELCA, we have organized exclusive programme during this conference.

We encourage you to ask us all your questions, as we enjoy sharing our thoughts and experiences. You can read more about our views in this brochure.

Looking forward to meeting you,

John Koomen

Chairman of Royal VHG

Marc van Rosmalen

Director of Royal VHG





EUROPEAN **LANDSCAPE** CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

Monday 23th of September: The board of ELCA

09.00 - 12.00 Board meeting

12.15 - 13.30 Lunch Beatrix Theater (Jaarbeursplein 6)

13:45 - 16.00 Presidium

17.30 - 18.30 Drinks & Bites

We invite you to join us for drinks at City Hall in Utrecht

19.00 Dinner



Monday 23th of September: The start

Visiting Future Green City World Congress

On Monday 23 and Thursday 26 September, we will go in depth. Take part in 4-hour Workshops XL covering a wide range of topics or join Fieldtrips XL to other Dutch cities. See for more information, the website of Future Green City!



GO TO THE WEBSITE!



Programme

On this day we will see what the combination of Future Green City and ELCA can do. And we will see the project Wonderwoods and the old city. Lunch will be provided at the Future Green City Congress and we will be having dinner at the end of our excursion by the Foodtruck festival.

Tuesday 24th of September

1 Future Green City World Congress

Be inspired in this dazzling opening show on how we can make our public space healthier, more attractive, more natural, more climate-adaptive and more inclusive. On to green and sustainable cities with a future!

- Dafne Schippers, World Athletics Champion
- Marco te Brömmelstroet about rethinking our streets
- Kongjian Yiu about Sponge Cities
- Linda Voortman, deputy mayor of the municipality of Utrecht
- Gerdo van Grootheest, chairman of Royal Association
- Stadswerk, The Netherlands
- John Oomen, chairman of the Royal Association of Gardeners and Landscapers (Royal VHG)

2 Workshop Future Green City World Congress

You can follow any workshop that is available on the congress. With workshops like valuing nature or the obvious and curious benefits of becoming a green city. For the whole programme see the agenda over [here](#).

3 Wonderwoods - Ginkel Group

Before we start our trail Lars van Ginkel will tell us about his company Ginkel Group and the project Wonderwoods. Wonderwoods is the building right across from the Beatrix Theater. It is one of the first buildings in the city where they included so much green in the making of it.

4 Excursion at the new city of Utrecht

This trail guides us on a walking tour from Jaarbeursplein through projects in Utrecht's new city center promoting healthy urban living. We begin at Jaarbeursplein near the Bomenbal of the Green Business Club Centrum, passing the Beatrixhal to Wonderwoods, a sustainable residential and office complex with green facades and roofs. An optional tour with Van Ginkel and/or Van den Berk Nurseries is available.

Next, we visit the Tuinen van Croese, where Bureau Brick discusses the park's development created through placemaking without a budget. Planned activities for the Future Green Cities World Congress include a research project by the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences on urban pergolas' impact and an extreme green makeover over four days.

We witness Croeselaan transformed into a park avenue, accommodating slow traffic and greenery. Continuing to the Greenhouse, a temporary circular building with locally grown organic vegetables, and the Rabobank Garden. Crossing Moreelse Bridge to Moreelse Park, a greening project for a work area.

Lastly, we learn about the Singelpark, a green oasis replacing a former highway, and plans for Smakkelaarsveld and Lombokplein before returning to Jaarbeursplein. This trail showcases urban integration efforts.



Programme

On this day we will see the new side of the city! Lunch will be provided at the Future Green City Congress and we will be having dinner at the end of our excursion at the restaurant in Maximapark.

Wednesday 25th of September

1 Future Green City World Congress

We start our day at the Future Green City congress with again a variety of experts! You can see the whole program here. The keynote speaker is Siew Leng Fun of Growth within limited space. Led by Siew Leng Fun, Singapore took brave measures to meet up urgent demands in city development. As Singapore's Chief Urban Designer, she shows the world how innovative and sustainable solutions can be implemented in a planned manner, helping the city grow in a limited area. The English historian and publicist Ben Wilson wrote the critically acclaimed bestseller "Urban Jungle." In it, he takes readers on a breathtaking journey through nature in cities from the Stone Age to the present. Wilson uses compelling examples from cities worldwide to show how the balance between nature and urban environments is shifting. He suggests envisioning future cities with plants, urban farms, and forests intertwined with buildings. This new perspective can help us develop innovative, sustainable living methods in a century increasingly shaped by climate change.

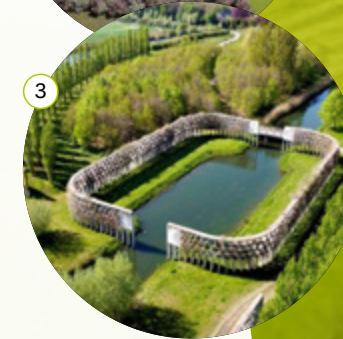
2 Workshop Future Green City World Congress

You can follow any workshop that is available on the congress. With workshops like valuing nature or the obvious and curious benefits of becoming a green city. For the whole programme see the agenda over [here](#).

3 Excursion at the new city of Utrecht

Leidsche Rijn, Netherlands' largest urban expansion with 100,000 residents, showcases sustainability and climate adaptation. Its water system covers one-third of Utrecht, featuring rainwater management systems and natural infiltration beds (wadi's) integrated into the district's green infrastructure. Starting our bus tour at Jaarbeursplein, our first stop is Pecanlaan 50, Kindcentrum Rijnvliet, where we explore a food forest. Rijnvliet, a new neighborhood with 1,100 homes, boasts 15 hectares of public green space filled with edible greenery, co-created with residents. It's a pilot project aligning with Utrecht's strategy for healthy urban living, winning an international ecology innovation award in 2022. The municipality oversees maintenance but encourages residents to engage in self-management initiatives.

Continuing our journey, we visit Vicuslaan at Castellum Hoge Woerd in Máximapark, Utrecht's largest urban park spanning 300 hectares. The park features a reconstructed Roman castellum, now home to a theater, museum, restaurant, and city farm. Next, we explore Vlinderhof, a perennial garden in Máximapark designed by Piet Oudolf. This resident-maintained garden celebrates its 10th anniversary on May 25, 2024, drawing visitors from around the globe.



Programme

Thursday 26th of September

Workshop Future Green City World Congress

Create your own programme! You can follow any workshop that is available on the congress. With workshops like valuing nature or the obvious and curious benefits of becoming a green city. For the whole program see the agenda over [here](#).

1

Equitable Green (Park) Investments

Three cities in the heart of America—Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, and Louisville—developed comprehensive investment action plans for their park systems to promote equitable access and investment in public parks and recreation services for all residents. These plans prioritize serving people and neighborhoods that have long been forgotten, underserved, and marginalized. In the Netherlands, the municipality of Rotterdam has interesting experiences in this area. Upload USA and NL knowledge in this Workshop XL and work on your own equitable access initiatives.

2

Liquid gold: new ways to deal with (rain)water

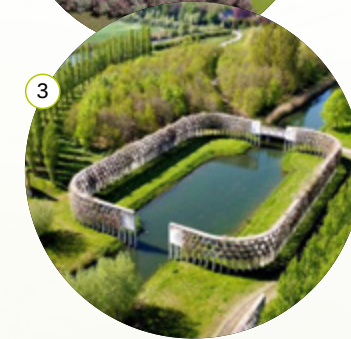
Availability of drinking water is under pressure worldwide, with frequent occurrences of heavy rainfalls leading to floods or prolonged dry spells making headlines. This calls for action and a water transition—elevate your water management! Are you ready to be inspired to consider a new form of integrated and circular water management in your urban areas? Gain insights into linking ‘indoor and outdoor water’ in fully integrated water systems. In this Workshop XL, dedicated specialists from WaterPro Foundation will provide all the expertise you need for your challenges. Participants will work on designing an integrated circular water system for a specific property using various case studies, exploring obstacles in regulation, finances (business cases), and responsibilities within existing structures.



1



2



3

Participation

As Royal VHG, we believe we can offer you a fantastic offer! An amazing congress with participants from all over the world, featuring many different working methods and new insights and innovative excursions with expert guides. Includes lunch everyday (4) and dinner at the first three days at beautiful locations!

For ELCA members, we offer a complete and fully serviced package with 3 dinners at a price of €745. Get more and at a discount! The regular price for a 4-day conference ticket (with one dinner) is €895. All prices include excursions, excess to the Future Green City congress, transport, lunches, dinners, and drinks at the congress venues Explore a comprehensive program full of highlights and unforgettable moments. Don't miss this opportunity and book today!

Contact

For your questions, requests and more information, please contact:
Richard Maaskant (r.maaskant@vhg.org) & Elfri Verstegen (e.verstegen@vhg.org).

Yes, I participate!

**The booking is definite after
payment of the invoice.**

Accommodation

During your visit to Utrecht, you have several hotel options, all located in the city center. The excursions, congress, and restaurants are within walking distance. To ensure your participation and accommodation, please confirm your participation and make your reservation before July 1st, 2024.



Park Plaza

Westplein 50
3531 BL Utrecht

 **RESERVE YOUR ROOM**

Hampton by Hilton

Boven Catharijnepoort 4
3511 WN Utrecht

 **RESERVE YOUR ROOM**

Apollo/ Leonardo Hotel

Vredenburg 14
3511 BA Utrecht

 **RESERVE YOUR ROOM**