

Press kit

November 11th, 2023



Hofbogenpark Rotterdam

Final Design

DE URBANISTEN

PRESS RELEASE - long version

November 11th , 2023

Longest roof park in the Netherlands on iconic Hofbogen railway viaduct

Final design for Hofbogenpark has been approved

On top of the iconic Hofbogen, a special city park is being created. Where trains used to run, you will soon be able to walk among the treetops on the 2-kilometer-long roof of the former railway viaduct. This is the Hofbogenpark. The Hofbogenpark invites residents, and visitors to meet and relax in a natural environment. The abundance of greenery increases biodiversity in the city and provides cooling during the summer. With a self-sustaining water system, the park will combat water overflow and drought.

Monumental city icon

For nearly 100 years, the Hofpleinlijn was the railway connection between Rotterdam and The Hague-Scheveningen. It was the first electric railway in the Netherlands. The comfort and novelty of the modern train, along with the attractive destination – the beach, led to long queues of passengers during the weekends.

Not only was the train innovative, but the viaduct it traveled on in Rotterdam from 1908 was as well. The Hofpleinviaduct was built using reinforced concrete, which was unconventional for the era, as metal was the more common choice. Concrete allowed for an extremely strong and lightweight construction that would be difficult to improve even today. Since 2002, the Hofpleinviaduct has been a national monument

Hofbogen connects

The former railway viaduct traditionally served as an important social function for the surrounding neighborhoods by housing shops and businesses in its arches. Dudok Real Estate, the owner of Hofbogen since 2019, has strengthened this role by providing space for local businesses and facilities. Once the park is completed, there will be even more opportunities for social gatherings and entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurs can organize (joint) activities on the roof, and neighbors can, for example, dine together at the picnic table in the park. The viaduct, as a structure, acts as a barrier between the surrounding neighborhoods, but with streets running beneath and around the arches, as well as the development of the park, it fosters connection more and more.

A ark for everyone

Hofbogenpark is welcoming to everyone, including Rotterdam residents and city visitors. This includes animals as well. Worldwide, the diversity of plants and animals is under pressure. Cities play a significant role in preserving and restoring biodiversity. The Hofbogenpark design accommodates both humans and flora and fauna. Careful consideration has been given to the choice of plants and how the park can become a habitat for species such as bees and butterflies, toads, bats, birds, and hedgehogs. The park will provide them with food, shelter, and breeding places. Special entrances for small mammals will be provided so they can find their way into the park.

Changing landscape

Much like a train journey, the landscape undergoes a transformation during the two-kilometer walk along the Hofbogen. At Hofplein Station, the bustling city life takes center stage. Heading towards the northern neighborhoods, the landscape adopts a more tranquil character with the addition of flowing water.

The inspiration for the planting is drawn from railway embankments. Along the track, a rugged blend of naturally occurring plants will pop up, and those that have blown in from the surrounding area. Native planting and a naturalistic approach to maintenance will be employed, creating a dynamic landscape that changes from season to season. As a result, the vegetation won't remain the same each year but will gradually develop variations

A park with various activities

Walking, playing, or sitting back and enjoying nature – all of this is possible in Hofbogenpark. Along the walking path, there are balconies and platforms. On the balconies, you can take a break during your walk and enjoy the vistas of the adjacent streets. The platforms are located near the entrances and are places where people can meet and engage in activities. Each platform is unique, tailored to the desires of the local residents and the character of the neighborhood. For example, there will be a platform with tables and benches for working in the Zomerhofkwartier (ZOHO). The water platform at Bergselaan is ideal for quietly reading a book or reflecting, and a play area will be created at Ammersooiseplein, with a slide for children.

Circular water system

Hofbogenpark will have a water system that captures and purifies rainwater. This helps the city prepare for heavy rainfalls and periods of drought. Rainwater is collected on the roof and then naturally purified (through a sand filter with plants). The water is then stored deep in the ground. After spending several days subsurface, the water is bacteriologically clean and can be used for irrigation of the plants and trees, water for the fountains and for water streams in the park.

Greening dense urban neighborhoods

The Hofbogenpark crosses four densely populated urban neighborhoods in the north of Rotterdam. With the realization of Hofbogenpark, the currently concrete-dominated adjacent area, will become greener, permeable, and more pleasant. This addition is important because connecting with greenery and nature is essential for people. Moreover, the greenery provides relief during hot days. . Creating more green spaces is essential for cooling the city during hot weather and preventing waterlogging during heavy rainfall.

Construction starts in 2025

The city council of Rotterdam have approved the final design of the Hofbogenpark. The tender procedure will now start. Construction of the park will start in 2025. The design was made by De Urbanisten in collaboration with DS Landschapsarchitecten.

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Final design Hofbogenpark has been approved

All signals are green for the Hofbogenpark

This week, the Rotterdam city council approved the final design for the Hofbogenpark. This unique new city park is being built on the almost two kilometer long roof of the monumental viaduct Hofbogen, which crosses four densely populated districts in the city of Rotterdam..

A landscape at height

The Hofbogenpark invites residents and visitors to walk among the treetops and to relax and meet in a lush, colorful and fragrant landscape at height. Spread across the roof park, various platforms provide space for activities such as lingering, working, exercising and playing.

A welcome to people and animals

The Hofbogenpark is hospitable to everyone and designed not only for people but also for animals. Native plants and water provide shelter, food and space for bees, butterflies, toads, bats, birds and hedgehogs. The last even get their own stairs to the Hofbogenpark.ven.

Clean Water

The Hofbogenpark will have a circular water system that collects rainwater from the surroundings, purifies it naturally and stores it in a underground aquifer. Thanks to this water system, clean rainwater is always available. Tap water is not needed for the plants, fountains and water features in the park.

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Practical information

Client:	Municipality of Rotterdam & Dudok Group	
Design:	De Urbanisten (Masterplan and landscape design) DS Landschapsarchitecten (planting plan)	
Advisors:	Bureau Van Eig (entrances and balconies) Tak Architecten (fencing) Atelier Licht en Kleur (lighting plan) De Dakdokters en Wavin (roof construction and water storage) HB Watertechniek (technical installations for water features) Field Factors (technical structure of the helophyte filter)	
Project name:	Hofbogenpark Rotterdam	
Status:	Final design	
Location:	Rotterdam, the Netherlands	51° 56' NB, 4° 28' OL
Specifications:	City park on railway viaduct Length: approx. 1.9 kilometers Width: approx. 6.5 meters Height: approx. 6 meters above ground level	
Costs:	€ 53.7 Mio	
Websites:	www.urbanisten.nl/work2-sjMEF/hofbogenpark www.rotterdam.nl/hofbogenpark	
Contact:	De Urbanisten: Dirk van Peijpe info@urbanisten.nl www.urbanisten.nl	

Disclaimer: The presented design for Hofbogenpark has the status of a final design. The final design is now available for inspection by interested parties. No rights can be derived in any way from the content of the plan.



1. Gordelweg



2. Voorburgstraat



3. Spoorpunt



4. Bergweg



5. Winter Zomerhofstraat



6. Ammersoioseplein



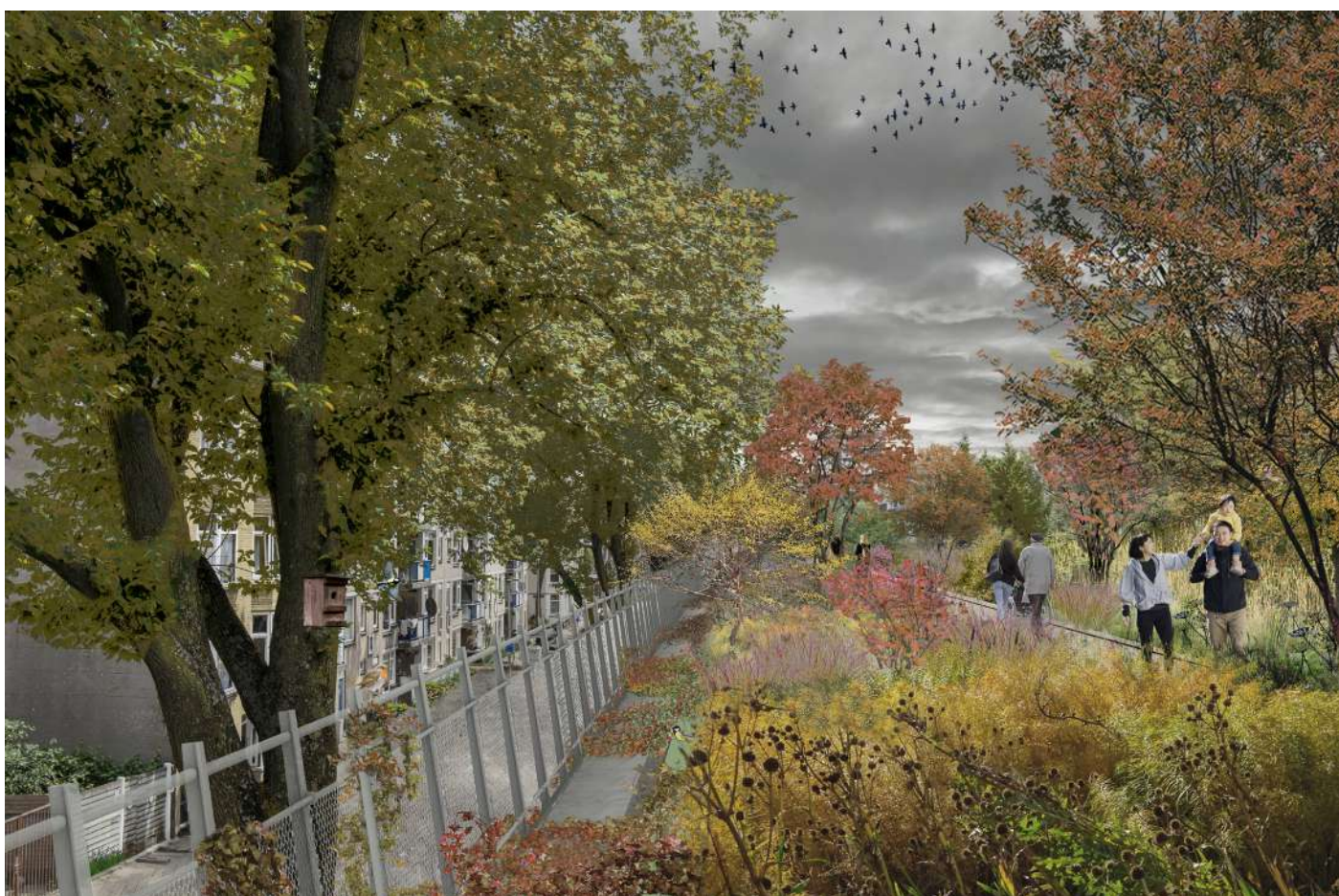
7. Heer Bokelweg



8. ZOHO -platform



9. Balcony Zomerhofstraat



10. Autumn Vijverhofstraat



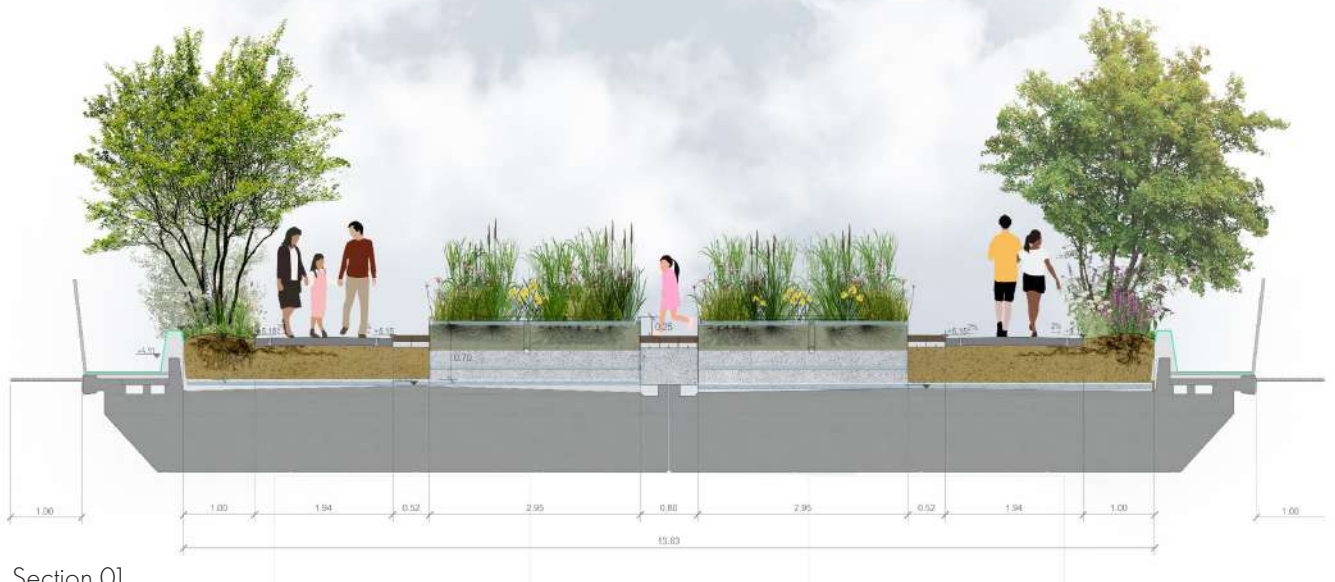
11. A park for humans and animals too



12 + 13 Hofbogenpark is a nature inclusive design from facade to facade



14 Night Hofbogenpark



15 Section 01



16 Section 02



17 Railway sleepers return back to the park as bird bath, insect and bee hotels and hiding places for smaller animals.



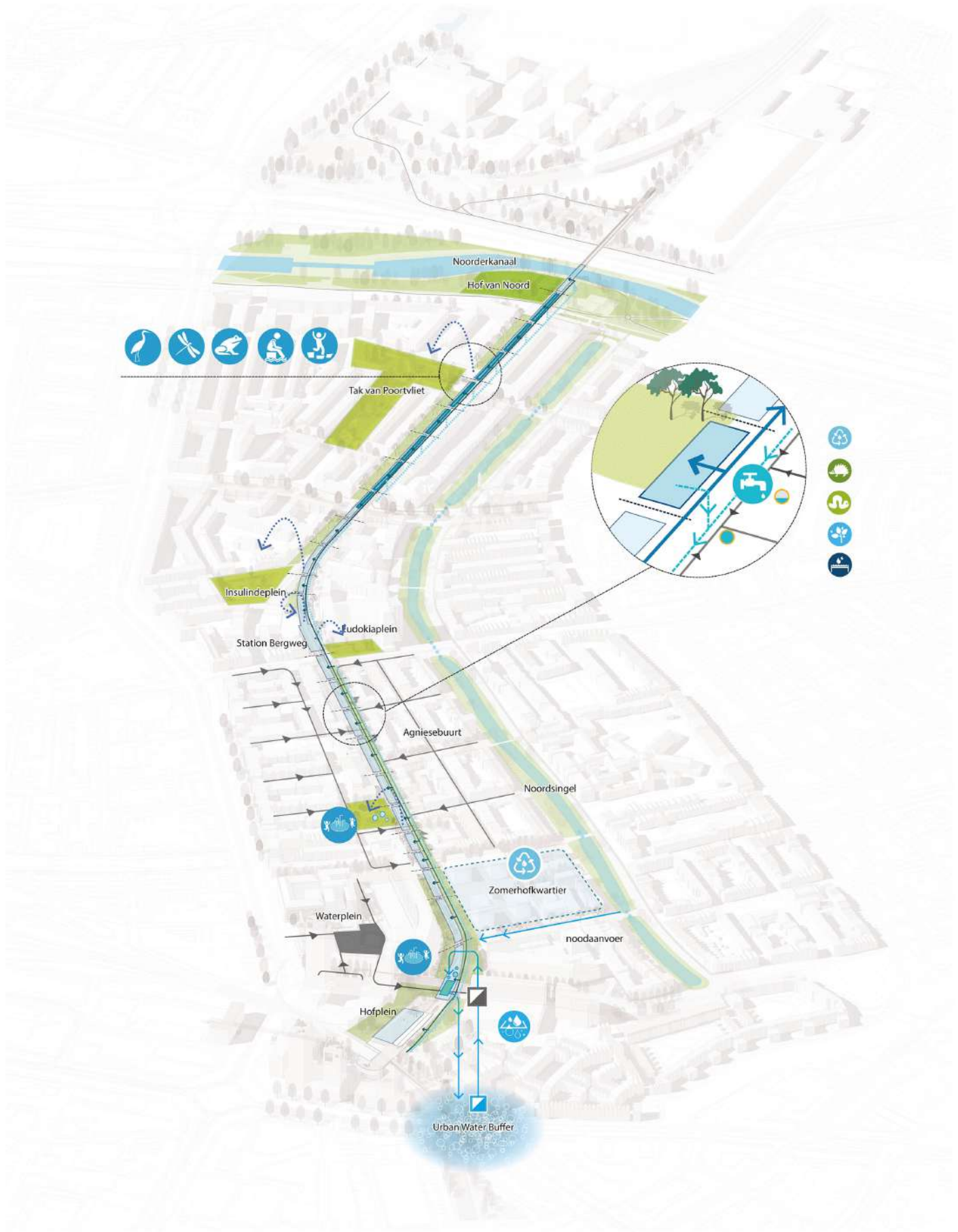
18 Summer and winter plants "bouquets"



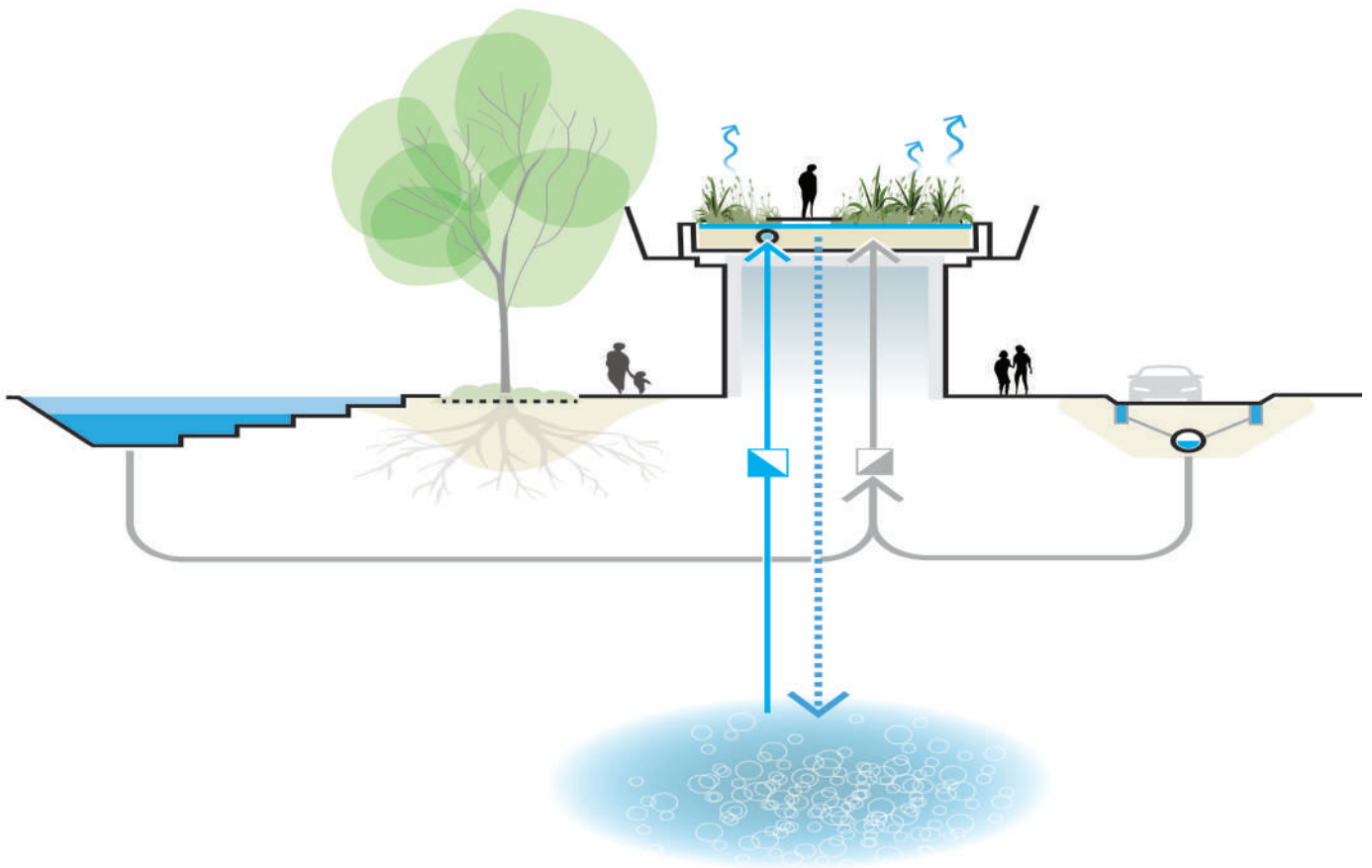
19 Birdseye view on the Hofbogenpark and its surroundings



20 Ecological network of the Hofbogenpark



21 Birdseye view on the circular watersystem of the Hofbogenpark



22 Scheme of the circular watersystem of the Hofbogenpark



24 Current situation: roof view - Bergpolder towards city centre



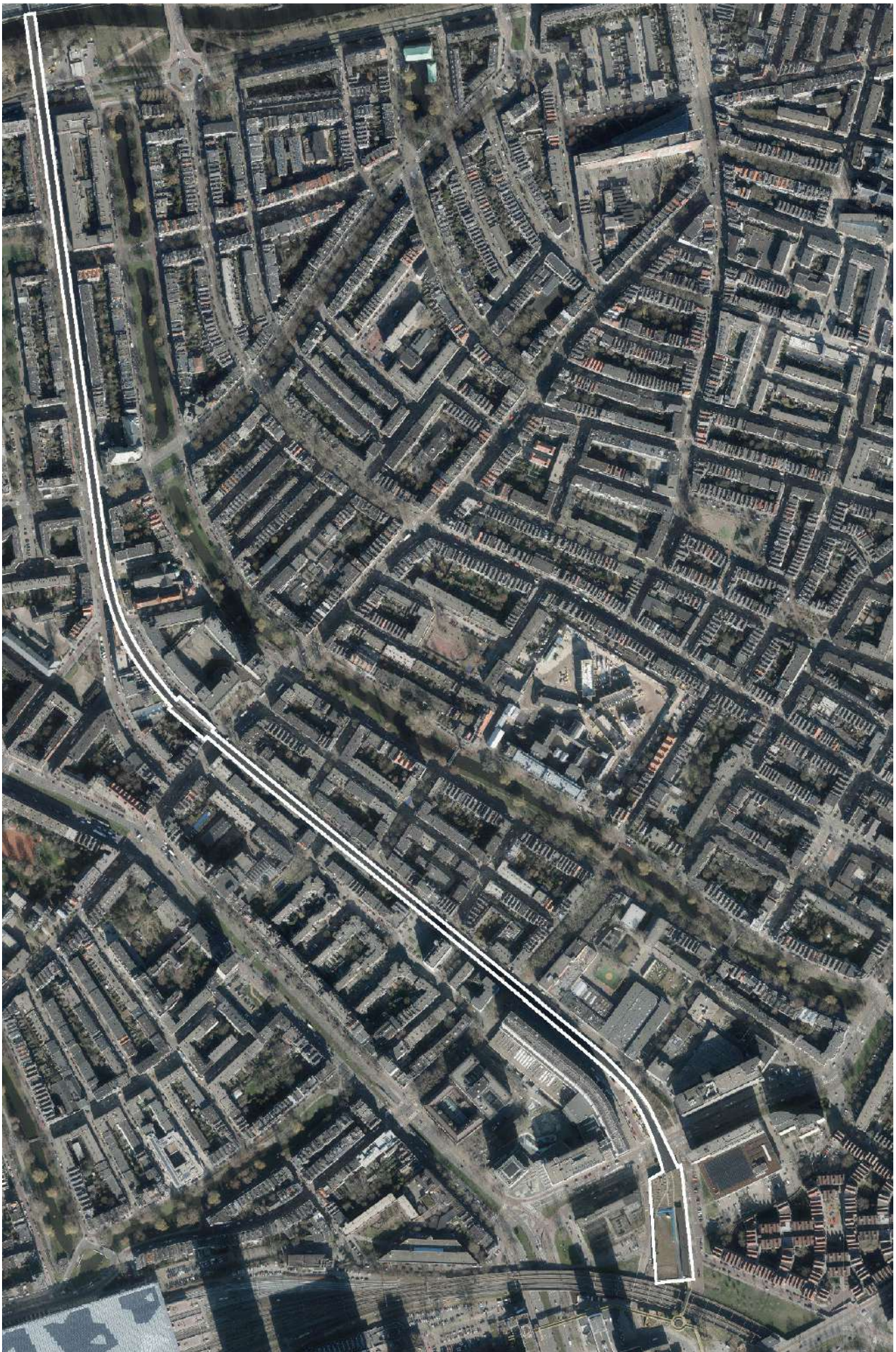
25 Current situation: roof view in the Northern part. Spoorpunt



26 Current situation: street view in the Northern part. Bergpolder



27 Current situation: street view in the Southern part. Agniesebuurt



28 Aerial view of the project area