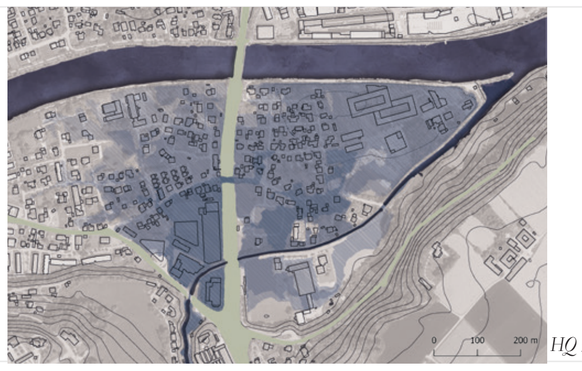
Inviting the beaver

The project addresses the problem of flooding, which affects a large part of the project area. However, if you look at historical maps, you can see that the area that the river used to meander through would swell and then shrink again. Now that only a fraction of the area is available for the river and most of the watercourses have been built over, the idea is to give the river landscape and its inhabitants more space again. This is to be achieved on the one hand by selecting vegetation typical of the location and, subsequently, by introducing fauna typical of the floodplain landscape, such as birds, insects and beavers. The involvement of the neighbourhood is important for the success of the project. There is generally a lot of green space available.

excerpt from the Franciscan cadastre



HQ 30 and 100 green areas

Set a starting point

view from the path | collage

The area is located at the end of a small riparian forest biotope. The riparian forest is to be expanded slightly here. This is exemplified by a small watercourse and a retention basin. A path runs through the park, connecting the natural biotope with the residential area, crossing the retention basin via a footbridge. Here, visitors can observe the dynamics of the water throughout the year.
The design is dynamic; only the topography is being changed, the path built and a kind of garden shed installed. This is where the park is maintained and further developed. It is also intended to be a place of exchange for the neighbourhood, which can also obtain plants here. Plants are grown and transplanted as in a tree nursery.
Over the years, some trees will establish themselves and grow into large mature trees. At the edge of the park, the tree population will be largely preserved and thinned out where necessary. There will also be deadwood.

floor plan

section trough the retention area | M 1:300

zoom in | wet and dry conditions of retetntion area | M 1:200

detail | path | M 1:100

How to get the habitat?

The selection of plants corresponds to the given soil conditions and the original floodplain landscape. The black alder swamp forest is the floodplain landscape that we find in this area.
The main trees are black alders and poplars, but willows and Prunus padus are also suitable for the area. Various shrubs are to be tested for the forest edge situation in the south-eastern corner. The perennial bed at the edge of the retention basin is a Filipendulina ulmaria community, which often occurs naturally in this area. The number of species in this seasonally wet meadow is not large, but it has a pleasant aesthetic effect and also benefits wildlife.
Grasses and ferns are to be planted along the edge of the embankment at the edge of the watercourse.
Two types of sowing are planned, one for wet locations where excavation is taking place and one for drier locations where the hills are being created.

	Alnus glutinosa	Populus alba	Salix alba	Prunus padus				
	Cornus sanguinea	Ribes nigrum	Rubus caesius	Viburnum opulus	Salix cinerea		Rosa pimpinellifolia	
	Filipendula ulmaria	Lythrum salicaria	Symphitum officinale	Crisium oleraceum	Iris pseudacorus			
	Carex elata	Carex acutiformis	Carex riparia	Phragmites australis	Phalaris arundinacea	Thypha latifolia	Osmund realis	Athyrium filix femina

2 years

The first step is to create a park by recreating the original local landscape on a small scale.
Plants that thrive in the variable moisture levels found here are also available for purchase.
Development is dynamic, and maintenance is carried out by trained gardeners.

5 years

The neighbourhood is involved in the renaturation process. Without their consent, large-scale adaptation to the original floodplain habitat cannot take place. Species-appropriate vegetation and awareness of the habitat are fundamental to this.

50 years

The green strip along the watercourse is connected. There is enough habitat for the Bieder.
There are small biotopes throughout the settlement area, the original floodplain landscape is preserved and the river is given more space.
Old trees grow where there is plenty of space.

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