



**Surface area :** 350 hectares  
**Population :** 1,6 million residents  
**Region:** Nord-Pas-de-Calais

**Managing entity:** Syndicat Mixte de Parc de la Deûle

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**Area:** 350 hectares have been landscaped; a second phase is planned to start in 2004 with another 350 hectares.

**Stakeholders:** In its current phase, the park spreads across six districts. It will involve six more from 2004. Since 1<sup>st</sup> October 2002, it has been run by a mixed administrative body, *Espace Naturel Métropolitain*, representing forty districts and Lille borough council. *Le conseil général du Nord*, *le Conseil Régional Nord Pas de Calais* and the State are associate members.

**Population:** The park is within easy reach of about 1,600,000 French and Belgian residents within a 35 kilometer radius of its centre, a fifteen minute drive from the middle of Lille. The six original districts together have about 50,000 inhabitants.



In March 1995, the landscape gardeners Jacques SIMON, from Burgandy, and Jean Noël CAPART, from Brussels, sketched an outline plan for a park joining Lille and the old mining district of Pas de Calais. It was to extend 25 kilometers along the length of the *canal de la Deûle*.

The park was to feature three aspects: rediscovered wildlife (rehabilitation of natural ecological environments), domesticated nature (promotion of small-scale agriculture) and imaginary nature (creation of themed gardens).

To date, 350 hectares have been landscaped and preliminary studies are being made of over 300 hectares more. Over the last three years, 16 million euro have been spent on laying out natural scenery with ecological corridors, rehabilitating wildernesses, building observation posts, paths, etc.

The *Parc de la Deûle* team is working with the neighbouring institutions of Pas-de-Calais to establish priority connection routes in an ecological network of paths for walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and watersports enthusiasts.

#### Natural heritage

The *Parc de la Deûle* is rehabilitating industrial wastelands and improving farmland through the treatment of old slag heaps, navigable waterways, woods and polluted lakes. As experimental terrain, the Park can apply principles of sustainable development and high quality environmental research to eliminate the traces of a devastating industrial past.

#### Historical and cultural heritage

For "Lille European Cultural Capital 2004" the *Parc de la Deûle* is organising:

- a 33 hectare theme park featuring gardens evoking the different communities making up the region of Nord-Pas-de-Calais, from Belgian to Laotian workers including the Poles, Portuguese, Algerians etc.
- A demonstration of land art, transforming over 40 hectares of countryside into living works of art.

#### Principal activities

The Park arranges outings led by ecology wardens. It organises landscape insertion operations and agricultural diversification. From 2004, it will run a theme park based on gardens. In 2005, it is due to open a centre dedicated to fauna and flora and several thematic walks. In 2006, the Park will feature a food information centre.

