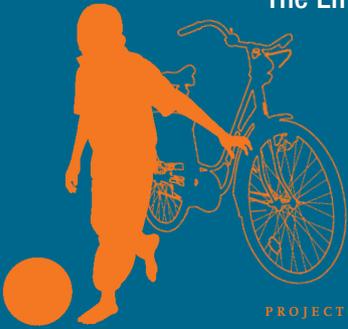




# Diverse. Vital. Appealing.

The Emscher redevelopment project – An inspiring once-in-a-century urban development project



PROJECTS UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE ›UNITED FOR THE NEW EMSCHER VALLEY‹ PARTNERSHIP.◀





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# Diverse. Vital. Appealing.

The Emscher redevelopment project – An inspiring once-in-a-century urban development project Projects under the umbrella of the 'United for the New Emscher Valley' partnership.

In the melting pot of the Ruhr district, old and young and German and international live side by side; rural rubs shoulders with urban, retail with industry and the Emscher flows through the heart of it all. Its transformation from a filthy stream to a blue, thriving river brimming with life has already changed the face of the region and will continue to be an important source of inspiration in bringing about new urban and ecological improvements in the Emscher valley.

The disadvantaged communities along the Emscher and its tributaries, which are negatively affected by the processes of economic and social change, will be particularly benefited by the unique Emscher redevelopment project. The new, modern subterranean sewers and the ecological redevelopment of the Emscher will free the waterway of waste water, revealing many opportunities for enhancing the quality of life and the ecological situation in the city's neighbourhoods.

This is something that the state of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Emschergenossenschaft have taken to heart. Between 2006 and 2010, the cooperation agreement between the Emschergenossenschaft and the Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy, Building, Housing and Transport of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia saw

numerous joint projects initiated and completed in districts belonging to »Soziale Stadt NRW« programme.

The successful cooperation will be continued between 2011 and 2014 and will receive support from the European Union. In future, the partners will also collaborate in the »Stadtumbau West« programme. Also on board the partnership is the Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Consumer Protection of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. The Emscher redevelopment project is of key importance for preventing water pollution, as only in this way will it be possible for this unique region of Europe to achieve the ambitious targets set out in the Water Framework Directive.

Creative ideas are also needed to breathe life into the cooperation agreement. Cultural events, neighbourhood festivals, educational water trails, stream sponsorship opportunities or rainwater projects – all of these projects clearly illustrate people's commitment to the Emscher river. It also demonstrates that people can achieve more when they work together and can open up new horizons for the Emscher valley. The projects cover a wide spectrum of different topics and aim to encourage people to come up with ideas, voice their opinions and get involved.

We would like to thank everyone for their commitment and hope that even more people will join us in shaping the future of the New Emscher Valley for the good of people and their natural surroundings.

*»Today's signing represents an important step forward for the region towards greater integration. The future of the various districts and cities can only be one based on a cross-generational and cross-cultural community spirit. The key to it all is in the banks of the Emscher.«*

**DR. JOCHEN STEMPELEWSKI //**

Chairman of the Board of the Emschergenossenschaft // October 2006

Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy,  
Building, Housing and Transport of the  
State of North Rhine-Westphalia



Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment,  
Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Consumer  
Protection of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia



EUROPEAN UNION  
Investing in our Future  
European Regional  
Development Fund



»Pristine waterways are essential for improving people's quality of life and making the Emscher valley the new green epicentre at the heart of the Ruhr district.«

DR. OTTILIE SCHOLZ // Mayor of Bochum // September 2008





# The New Emscher Valley. A vision becomes reality – Emscher 2020

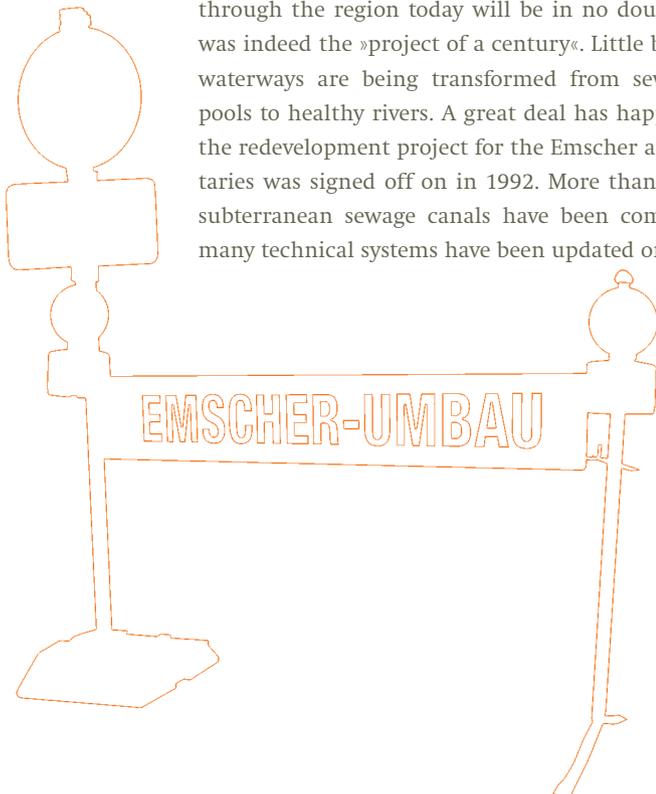
»Come on, let's go to the Emscher«. For decades, this was a sentence that could only be whispered. Back then, the river and its banks were a no-go area. The ambitious Emscher redevelopment project will soon restore parts of the river and urban landscape to the region's cities.

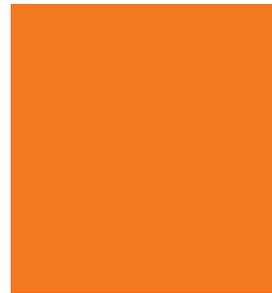
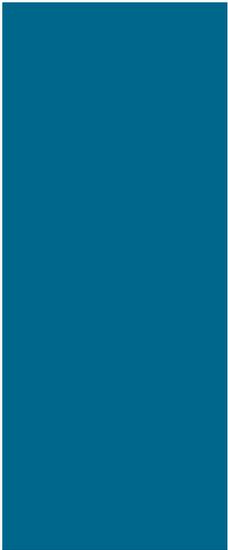


The Emscher region is at the centre of it all – at the centre of the Ruhr district, of the structural transformation and of the redevelopment work. Anyone passing through the region today will be in no doubt that this was indeed the »project of a century«. Little by little, the waterways are being transformed from sewage-ridden pools to healthy rivers. A great deal has happened since the redevelopment project for the Emscher and its tributaries was signed off on in 1992. More than half of the subterranean sewage canals have been completed and many technical systems have been updated or expanded.

Over 90 kilometres of the waterways have already been ecologically restored into a healthy green environment for animals, plants and people, indicating how the water landscape in the New Emscher Valley will change above ground.

However, the Emscher redevelopment project is not only an impressive technical feat, it is also a waste management policy requirement and a clear gain for the environment. For the 2.3 million people who live in the Emscher region, the above-ground redevelopment of the waterways means an immediate increase in quality of life. With appealing new footpaths and bike trails in place, families are once again able to make the most of the water and the urban landscape along the Emscher. Unused areas along the river are finding new uses and disadvantaged neighbourhoods, such as those under the umbrella of the »Soziale Stadt« and »Stadtumbau West« programme districts, are greener and more attractive for the people living there. This demonstrates clearly how the Emscher redevelopment project provides inspiration for urban development projects and is an important driving force for structural change in the region.







# Achieving more together. Joining forces for the common good



It is no secret that unity is strength. In fact, it is a time-honoured saying that has survived through the ages. What is more, it was the guiding force behind the activities undertaken in the Emscher region over 100 years ago. Many years later, there is still enormous potential for working together.

The Emschergenossenschaft, the Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy, Building, Housing and Transport of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Consumer Protection of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia have made it their common goal to improve the quality of life and the ecological situation in the cities of the Emscher region. This goal is being backed up with financial support from the European Union.

The wide variety of projects initiated and completed during the first period of collaboration between 2006 and 2010 was a clear indication that the cooperation agreement was a solid foundation for achieving these goals.

The successful outcome of these undertakings has motivated the partners to launch other projects in the areas of education, community involvement, residential improvement, culture and ecology between 2011 and 2014. Decision-makers from Emscher municipalities, the responsible state ministries, the Regional Association of

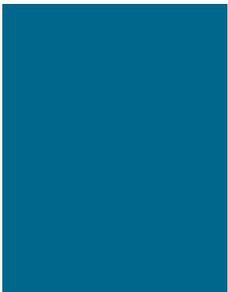
the Ruhr and the Emschergenossenschaft will continue to come together on a regular basis as the »Emscher Region Forum« to discuss urban redevelopment. Making contacts, exchanging experiences and developing new ideas – this is what breathes life into the cooperation agreement. This spirit is reflected in the slogan: »United for the New Emscher Valley!«



*The region comes together: Presenting project ideas at the first event in Bottrop-Ebel.*

*»These undertakings go well beyond the ambit of the municipal authorities. [...] we need effective central coordination [...]. Apart from the Emschergenossenschaft, I don't believe that there are very many organisations out there capable of doing so.«*

MARTIN OLDENGOTT // Office of Urban Development Castrop-Rauxel // October 2007





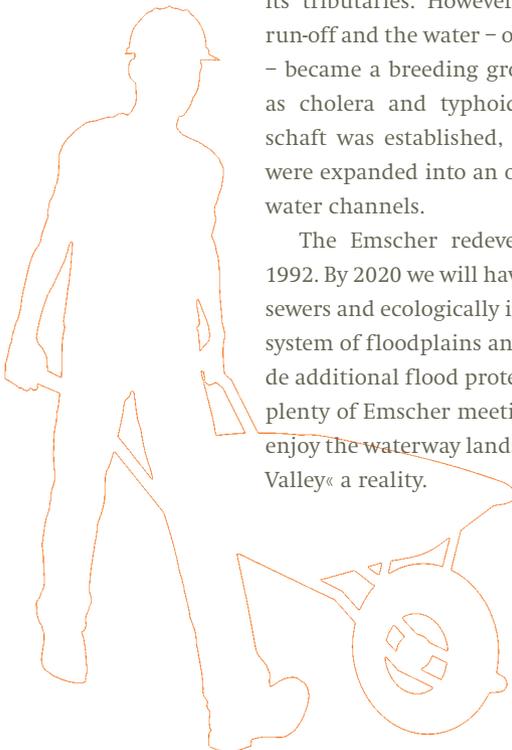
# The Emscher genossenschaft United for the region ...

Working hand in hand towards a common goal has been part of the Emscher genossenschaft tradition since 1899. Alongside our 160 members comprising municipalities, mining companies and other industries, we have a history of developing sound concepts for the future of the Emscher valley, assuming responsibility for waste water management in a catchment area of 865 km<sup>2</sup> that 2.3 million people call home.



When industrialisation reached the Emscher region in the second half of the nineteenth century and people started moving to cities in growing numbers, the resulting waste water began to be diverted to the Emscher and its tributaries. However, massive subsidence disrupted run-off and the water – often more stagnant than flowing – became a breeding ground for epidemic diseases such as cholera and typhoid. When the Emscher genossenschaft was established, the Emscher and its tributaries were expanded into an optimised network of open waste water channels.

The Emscher redevelopment plan was adopted in 1992. By 2020 we will have constructed roughly 400 km of sewers and ecologically improved 340 km of waterways. A system of floodplains and detention reservoirs will provide additional flood protection. With 170 km of paths and plenty of Emscher meeting points, people will be able to enjoy the waterway landscape, making the »New Emscher Valley« a reality.



Our goal is to restore the river to the local people and to enhance the quality of life in neighbouring areas. The first above-ground re-designed waterways already offer a glimpse into the future of the New Emscher Valley. However, there is still much to be done before it looks like that everywhere. Let's work together to make it happen.

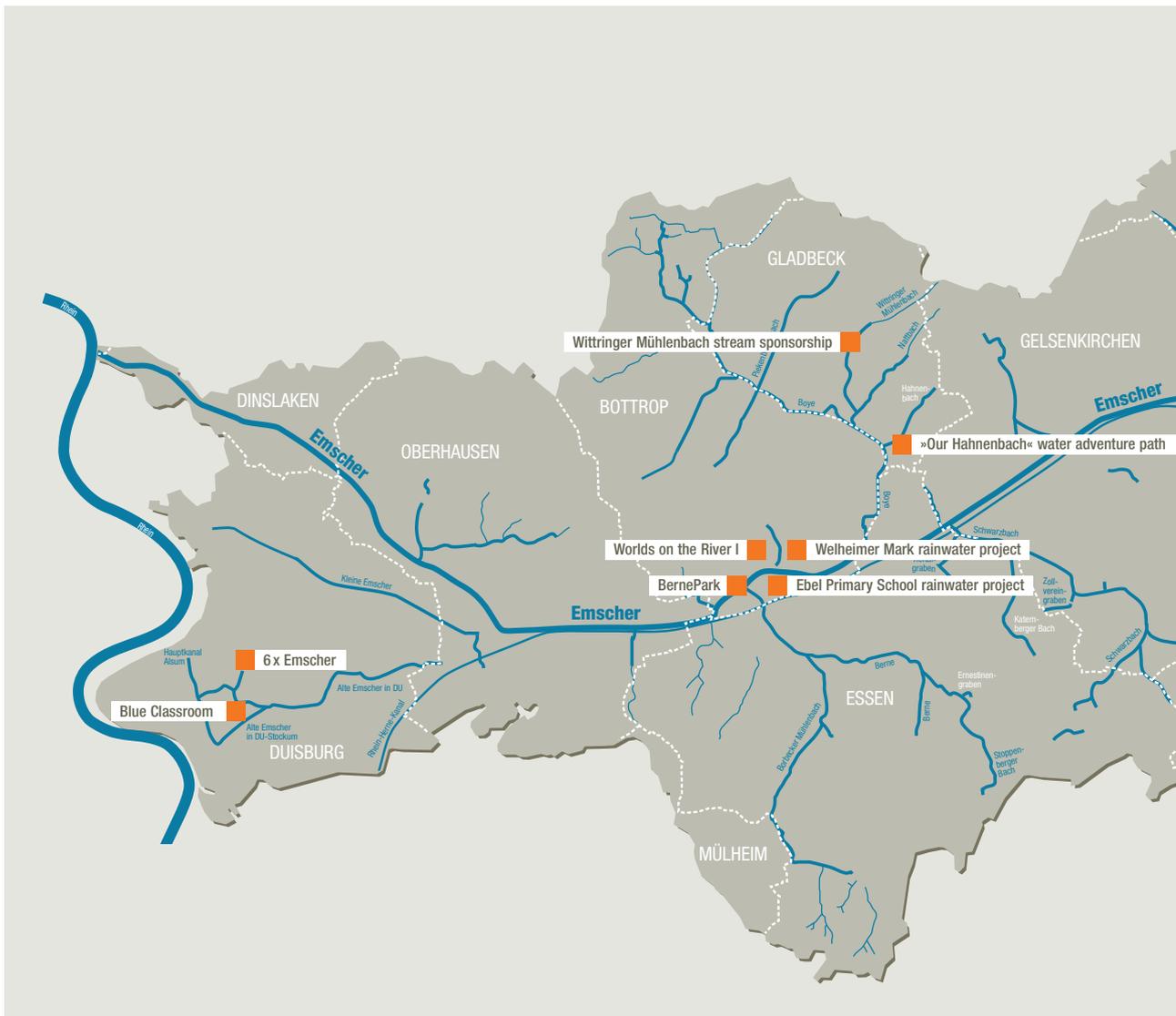
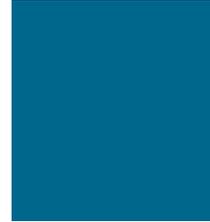
Please visit [www.emscher-genossenschaft.de](http://www.emscher-genossenschaft.de) to find out more about the Emscher genossenschaft and the New Emscher Valley.

## Facts and figures:

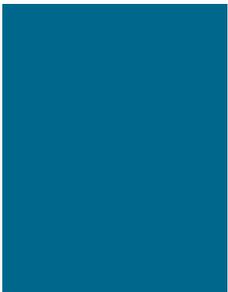
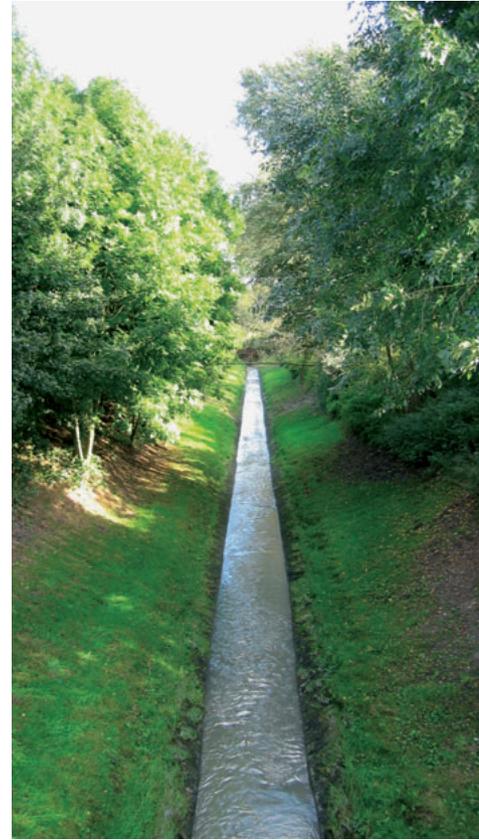
Total investment for the Emscher redevelopment:	€ 4.5 billion (1992 – 2020) As at: 30 June 2010
Members of the Emscher genossenschaft:	169
Catchment area:	865 km <sup>2</sup>
Population:	2,241,006
Population density:	2,590 people/km <sup>2</sup>
Waterways:	343 km
Dykes:	137 km
Drainage and receiving pumping stations:	102
Portion of the association region drained by the pumping stations:	37,8 %



# Selected projects under the umbrella of the »United for the New Emscher Valley« partnership in the Emscher region.









# It's all happening here. People are invited to voice their opinion, get involved and join in the celebrations

»... really letting people at the top know what I think«, »Let's see what all they have planned here«, »I would like to have my say as well«, »Amazing what we've been able to accomplish together« – these are the sorts of things you are likely to hear when people come together at a district festival or an informational event.

For the Emschergenossenschaft, it is particularly important to let residents know what kind of changes the streams behind their garden fences will be undergoing. When people are informed and personally involved, they

tend to identify much more with the project and the neighbourhood. Public events and festivals bring people together and strengthen community life – it is a fun way of showing that changes are happening.

## Hellbach Day. A school and neighbourhood festival in one



The Hellbach river in southern Recklinghausen is still an open sewer, but this will soon be a thing of the past. By 2015 the Hellbach will be babbling its way through the neighbourhood as an ecologically healthy waterway. Held on 30 April 2008, »Hellbach Day« primed local residents for the coming redevelopment work.

A tried-and-trusted principle is being followed in all the projects under the cooperation agreement, whereby points are discussed together, ideas are developed, personal preferences are put forward and joint efforts are made to create something new. In the schoolyard of Käthe Kollwitz School in the district of Recklinghausen Süd/Grullbad, a whole day was devoted to the Hellbach.

The Emschergenossenschaft, the project office and the school joined forces with other active community members to organise a colourful school and neighbourhood festival

with many attractions for local people, young and old. That morning green aliens, pink rabbits and Hellbach trout took centre stage as schoolchildren in imaginative costumes took part in a sponsored race for a good cause. Entertainment was provided by live musical acts, interactive events and culinary delicacies from all over the world. However, no one lost sight of the Hellbach redevelopment project – everyone went away better informed about the benefits of the project.



In the sponsored race, schoolchildren raised donations for their school and a social project in India.



## Onwards and upwards. The beauty of open spaces

Most people prefer to live surrounded by greenery. The redevelopment of the Emscher system benefits animals, plants and the environment in general while also increasing the quality of people's lives.

Whether in courtyards or in public areas, there is a shortage of open spaces in many programme districts. Now that the Emscher redevelopment project has redirected sewage underground, the surface is free for natural watercourses, interconnecting paths and open spaces by the water. To ensure that the greenery becomes more

than just a pretty backdrop, the city must seize the initiative. In Gladbeck-Brauck, people are making the most of the water redevelopment project with a water adventure path called »Our Hahnenbach«.

### Pilot project: »Our Hahnenbach« Enjoying the water



The »Our Hahnenbach« water adventure path in the Brauck programme district is intended not as an educational water trail, but rather as a fun experience for all residents and visitors to the city of Gladbeck. Like pearls on a necklace, the different stops on the trail invite visitors to experience water in its natural surroundings with all their senses.

For a long time, the Hahnenbach was a sight for sore eyes: murky water, concrete hulls and high fences all around kept people and animals at bay. Since September 2011, however, the stream is reclaiming its rightful role as a place for nature and relaxation.

Here, the icing on the cake is undoubtedly »Our Hahnenbach«, the water adventure path developed jointly by the Emscher genossenschaft and the Gladbeck-Brauck urban development representative. At eight stops along the waterway, aspects relating to the life-giving element of water are explored in a fun, exciting, and thought-provoking way. Stones featuring quotes and benches invite visitors to linger daydreaming. In the »blue classroom« amphitheatre, students can get acquainted with the stream and its floodplain. And the stream takes centre stage in a lighting installation from the bridge on a main road.





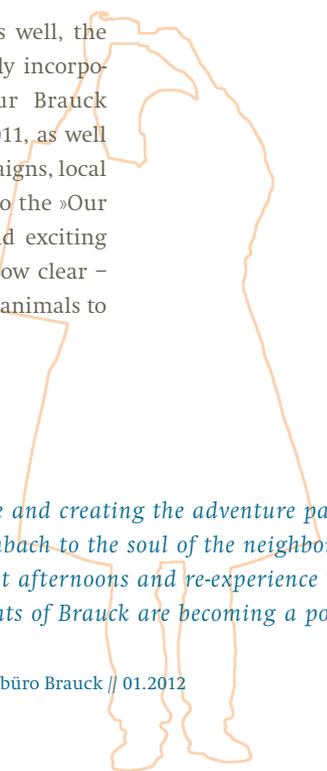
The stepping stones (top left) and the »blue classroom« (top centre) are just two of the eight stops on the water adventure path on the pristinely redeveloped Hahnenbach (bottom left). During the summer holidays 2011, children from Brauck drew 63 cocks in a drawing competition. Based on the winner drafts, sculptures shaped as cocks had been constructed, which now join the water adventure path.

To get the residents of Brauck involved as well, the urban development representative was actively incorporated within the process. As part of four Brauck neighbourhood festivals between 2008 and 2011, as well as in numerous community cooperation campaigns, local people were invited to contribute their ideas to the »Our Hahnenbach« think tank. After a creative and exciting planning and completion phase, the way is now clear – for pedestrians, cyclists, school classes and for animals to experience the water on the Hahnenbach.

The “blue classroom”, a small amphitheatre on the waterways, offers children, teachers and anyone else the opportunity to attend an informative lecture in the open air and to actively engage with the stream and its floodplain. “Blue classrooms” such as these can be found in Gladbeck-Brauck on the Hahnenbach river as well as in Duisburg-Beeck on the Alte Emscher – and more are in the pipeline.

*»By restoring it to its natural state and creating the adventure path, we have banished the old sewage traps and returned the Hahnenbach to the soul of the neighbourhood where residents can once again take a stroll, spend pleasant afternoons and re-experience the water and nature. The spigots designed together with the residents of Brauck are becoming a powerful symbol for the watercourses and the neighbourhood.«*

REGINA HERMANN S // Stadtteilbüro Brauck // 01.2012





## What exactly is a caddis larva anyway? Learning to understand the ecosystem of the waterways

Education is an important foundation for a solid start in life and in society. One of the main things that water projects teach us – and above all our children – is how to respect the environment.

To keep learning fun, it is important to convey the importance of ecology in a way that is both absorbing and easy to understand. The ecological redevelopment of the watercourses in the Emscher region are ideal for this purpose. With stream sponsorships, learning materials

and »blue classrooms«, children and young people enjoy a hands-on approach to learning about water. Which is why all participants will soon be able to recognise a caddis larva when they see one.



The learning material from the Emschergenossenschaft and the urban development representatives involved in the »Soziale Stadt« programme will soon make the »Wonderful World of Water« part of the curriculum for children in kindergartens and schools. The sponsors of the Ostbach (centre and right) show how informative knowledge-sharing can be.

## The wonderful world of water. Discover the hidden depths of water



Kindergarten and primary school children are curiosity itself – especially when it comes to things that are happening right outside their own front doors. The »Wonderful World of Water« learning material now offers young residents of the New Emscher Valley the opportunity to experience the hidden depths of water, discover the flora and fauna found there and learn how it winds its way through the city and countryside.

The Emscher Region Forum is bearing fruit: the »Wonderful World of Water« project was initiated by the close cooperation of the Emschergenossenschaft, the Gladbeck-Brauck and Recklinghausen Süd/Grullbad urban development representatives and various educationalists and is due to be launched in 2012. Specially designed working papers provide teachers, care givers and opinion leaders with the necessary equipment for lessons – and for expeditions into nature, where keen senses are the order of the day. »Find a plant on the banks that smells really nice« or »Does soft water feel dif-

ferent to hard water?«: these are just some of the tasks to be explored. Once it is up and running, the website [www.zauberweltwasser.de](http://www.zauberweltwasser.de) will gradually be updated with good examples and accounts of first-hand experiences that will provide a practical companion to the learning material.

In addition to providing their first scientific discoveries, the »Wonderful World of Water« uses play to familiarise children with their natural environment and to help them learn why sustainability is so important for their local watercourses.

# I'm going to be a stream sponsor!

## Children pull out all the stops for their river

»Where are they off to?«, wonders a passing walker as he sees a group of children kitted out with glasses, measuring cups and rubber wellies heading in his direction. They're on the way to »their« stream, of course. Since 1996, the Emscher Genossenschaft has arranged sponsorships for pristinely redeveloped sections of the watercourses for schools and clubs.

Watercourses and their banks are the lifeblood of any landscape. As stream sponsors, children and adults can explore »their« stream right near their own backyards. Through active involvement, the sponsors learn environmental awareness and responsibility in an informative and lively way and develop an understanding for the unique characteristics of the watercourses in our regions.

Many schools and clubs in the Emscher region have already taken advantage of this opportunity. A stone's throw from the areas in the »Soziale Stadt« and the »Stadtumbau West« programmes, stream sponsors are enthusiastically at work, for example at the Wittlinger Mühlenbach river near the Gladbeck Brauck area of the programme and at the Deininghauser stream in Castrop-Rauxel.

The range of things to do offers plenty of variety. Children and young people observe flora and fauna, free the banks and stream beds from rubbish and monitor the fish population and water quality. As well as measuring the air and water temperature, the water level and stream velocity, everyone loves finding out about stream ani-

mals. Having received a handful of nature conservation prizes and extensive media coverage, there is no doubt how valuable the active commitment of the sponsors is. Over the course of the Emscher redevelopment project, many new opportunities for future stream sponsorships will emerge, including in urban revitalisation areas. So what are we waiting for?

»It would be great if there were more projects like this. By learning from real things in their own environment, children and young people not only learn to be responsible for the world around them but also how to make practical discoveries in different subject areas under expert supervision.«

LENA BOSKAMP AND MARKUS VEERKAMP // Teachers at Willy-Brandt-Gesamtschule // February 2009



Stream sponsors enthusiastically at work at various rivers and streams: Ostbach (top), Wittlinger Mühlenbach (bottom) and Deininghauser Bach (centre). Here, they are busy observing the progress of the stream redevelopment, identifying animals, testing the water quality and tending to the banks.

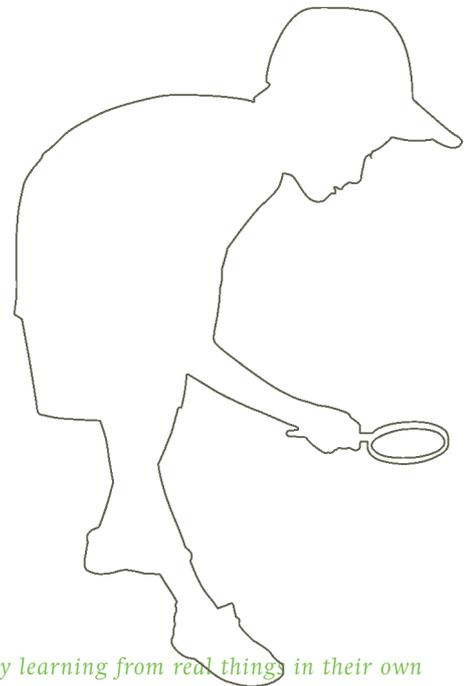


### How can I become a stream sponsor?

School classes, clubs or associations can become stream sponsors and care for the long-term welfare of their watercourses.

#### Further information:

Astrid Keune · keune.astrid@eglv.de  
www.eglv.de (key word »stream sponsorship«)





## Let it rain. Rainwater on the right path

For decades on end, clean rainwater disappeared into the dirty water of urban sewer systems. To keep enough water flowing through the streams, rain has to be directed to the right places.

With the »Rainwater Agreement« concluded in 2005, the EmscherGenossenschaft, the state of North Rhine-Westphalia and the various municipal authorities set an ambitious goal for themselves – namely to ensure that around 15 percent of clean rainwater will be directed into

the waterways within the space of 15 years. The visual appeal of a city is also enhanced when water can be seen in channels, swales or ponds. Project examples demonstrate that rainwater is as versatile as it is powerful.



*A combination of run-off, retention and controlled diversion in open channels in Welheimer Mark makes it possible to separate the rainwater from the sewer system while also enhancing the design.*

## Living by the water? New improvements in Welheimer Mark

Housing with a »waterside view« is usually expensive, but does it always have to mean the ocean, a lake or a river? A project in south Bottrop shows how simple rainwater can also contribute to improving a residential area.

Located between what used to be piles of coal, a motorway and the Emscher, the Welheimer Mark settlement is a textbook example of a Ruhr district. When it became clear that it would be increasingly difficult to find tenants for the 1950s apartments without extensive investments, owners VIVA West (former THS) decided to give the settlement an impressive facelift. Between 2003 and 2007, the apartment buildings were modernised and the open spaces redesigned.

Uniquely, it was rainwater that played the leading role. Roughly 20,000 square metres of roof area and paths

were disconnected from the canal system. Any rainwater that falls there now trickles onto the communal open spaces in swales or flows in open channels through a collection pond towards the Emscher. The benefit for the residents was twofold: the rainwater became an invigorating element in the design of the open spaces while also saving € 16,000 in maintenance costs every year.

The increased demand for apartments in the area shows that the Welheimer Mark project is a veritable success story, and that rainwater had an important part to play.



## A class of its own. Rainwater on the school yard

When it comes to preserving rainwater, many municipalities are setting a good example with public building projects. Redesigning a school yard, for instance, is an ideal opportunity to integrate a rainwater project. Projects of all sizes are possible and have already become reality in the »Soziale Stadt« and »Stadtumbau West« programme districts.

At the Hans Christian Andersen School in the programme district of Deininghausen in Castrop-Rauxeler, rain from a 3,200-square-metre area no longer flows into the sewer system. The dull asphalt on the school yard has been replaced with pavement and grass pavers which allow water to drain away or trickle through open gutters into green swales.

The Marienschule school in Recklinghausen Süd/Grullbad and the Ebel primary school in the Bottrop Ebel/Lehmkuhle programme district went one step further. Whenever it rains, the water becomes part of the children's playtime, inviting them to splash and skip about, pumping and spraying the water. Infiltration swales at the edge of the school yard in Ebel are fed by open gutters with the water from an area of roughly 3,600

square metres. The remarkable thing about the project is that children can become actively involved in the water cycle by pumping water out of a cistern and into the gutter, sending it splashing this way and that as they please. Here, where no safely accessible playgrounds were previously available, there is now – since 2006 – a place where children have the opportunity to enjoy imaginative games, even in the school holidays.

*»The diversion of rainwater in Bottrop-Welheim is a prime example of a win-win situation for the project partners. While the cost of retaining rainwater is now lower for the Emschergenossenschaft as canal operator, THS can offer its tenants an attractive residential area at lower operating costs. Finally, the environment profits from the restoration of the natural rainwater cycle.«*

MARCUS COLLMER // Environmental Officer THS // May 2009



The children of Bottrop (top) and Recklinghausen (bottom) are in their element when playing with water.



### Is it worth the cost?

**Working example: Marienschule**

Construction cost: approx. € 54,000  
(sponsorship: 80%)

Non-connected area: approx. 3,660 m<sup>2</sup>  
Rainwater fee: € 0.75/m<sup>2</sup>

Savings in fees: € 2,700/year

Amortisation without sponsorship:  
20 years

Amortisation with sponsorship: 4 years

### Further information:

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Klaus Juchheim · juchheim.klaus@eglv.de

[www.emscher-regen.de](http://www.emscher-regen.de)



## New for old. Increasing the appeal of the Emscher region

Just as the Emscher is being transformed from a putrid stream to a healthy blue river, many areas and buildings in the Emscher region are in a process of change. Whether residential buildings, shops, industrial plants or infrastructure systems – creative new uses can always be found for vacant buildings and unused land.

Many neighbourhoods along the Emscher lack the social and cultural infrastructure for people to interact. Reactivating buildings and unused spaces along the Emscher that are no longer needed owing to the redevelopment offers an opportunity to provide neighbour-

hoods with facilities that they had been previously been lacking. The old Bernemündung waste water treatment plant is a prime example of how technical infrastructure can be given a new lease of life.

## The BernePark. New lease of life for the Bernemündung waste water treatment plant



»Don't you agree that quite a bit has changed around here«, asks Michael, letting his gaze wander to the pond where his son Max is sitting on a wooden deck with his feet in the water. »It's amazing what you can do with an old waste water treatment plant ...«



The decommissioned purification reservoir of the old Bernemündung waste water plant is now a clear pond with banks where visitors can linger and relax.

Since October 2010, people have been spending pleasant Sunday afternoons at a place that used to be used for sewage treatment. The grounds of the Bernemündung waste water treatment plant had been lying dormant since 1997. Thanks to the combined efforts of the EmscherGenossenschaft, the city of Bottrop, the urban development representatives, cultural players and interested residents, it has been recreated as a cultural and recreational gathering point for people in the neighbourhood and the whole region.

At the heart of the redevelopment are two purification reservoirs, each roughly 73 metres in size. Formerly a smelly purification reservoir, the one to the south east is now a clear pond with people reading and relaxing on its banks.



A park complex has been built around the former waste treatment reservoirs and also offers innovative overnight accommodation in the »Parkhotel« (top left).  
 In summer 2011, the BernePark was unveiled as a place for recreation during the »Extraschicht« festival.



The reservoir to the north west is a livelier affair. Drained, terraced and beautifully landscaped, the seated »arena« serves as a venue for small concerts, theatre performances, etc. Here, visitors also have the opportunity to spend the night in a converted sewer pipe – the innovative »Parkhotel« created by artist Andreas Strauss.

The old operating building offers space for restaurants, exhibitions, seminars, the »Friends of the Emscher« association and information about the New Emscher Valley. BernePark is operated by GAFÖG, a not-for-profit association for promoting employment.

Further information is available at:  
 »www.bernepark.de« and »www.dasparkhotel.net«.



»Come to BernePark and experience the cultural diversity of our region for yourself, right at the heart of Bottrop Ebel..«

BERND TISCHLER // Mayor of Bottrop // 10.2010



## Colourful is wonderful! Art, culture and creativity breathe new life into the region

Young, old, German, Turkish, Russian, Italian, short, tall, fat, thin, tradesmen, businessmen, students, the unemployed, artists... It is this diversity that makes life in the neighbourhoods of the Emscher region so colourful. Even more so when a dash of art and a pinch of culture are added to the mix.

Diversity and change create the dramatic tension that inspires artists – something that is palpable right now in the New Emscher Valley. Art and cultural projects have extra impact when residents get involved themselves.

Photographs, music and theatre connect people and increase understanding of the region and other cultures while showing life in its brightest colours.



Video shoots in the Alte Emscher pumping plant (left) sculptures made from scrap (centre) and graffiti art in the Emscher skate park in Duisburg-Bruckhausen (right) are just three types of work in »6 x Emscher«.

## 6 x Emscher. Seeing the region from different perspectives

A converted old bunker in Duisburg-Bruckhausen created an interesting cultural and event venue for people in the area. The Kulturbunker Bruckhausen e. V. and the Emschergenossenschaft are co-initiators and sponsors of the »6 x Emscher« art initiative.

Whether as an endearing or a dark backdrop, centre stage or in a supporting role – the river is a constant presence in »6 x Emscher«. In a wide array of different works, musicians, photographers and graffiti artists find inspiration in the Emscher along with the youth of the neighbourhood in the Duisburg programme areas of Bruckhausen and Beeck.

In one case, the Emscher features in a hip hop video; in another, the green and blue of the Emscher can be seen in the graffiti in the Emscher Skate Park. Whether the photographic interpretation of architecture and landscape, stories about searching and finding the river in a podcast piece or old scrap from treatment plants transformed into sculptures by young girls – all of this is »6 x Emscher«.

At the end of 2009, videos, photographs, objects and recordings were showcased in the Kulturbunker Bruckhausen. The collective show of the different works made it clear that our region is a multifaceted and vibrant place. And exploring the Emscher theme will also continue in 2012 – we are eagerly awaiting »6 x Emscher« the show«.

### What is the »Kulturbunker«?

Further information on the projekt and the »Kulturbunker«:

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The »Worlds on the River« photo series reveals different perspectives of the New Emscher Valley. At the end of the project, the pictures are presented in the neighbourhood where they were created. Many residents then visit the exhibition and discuss the works.

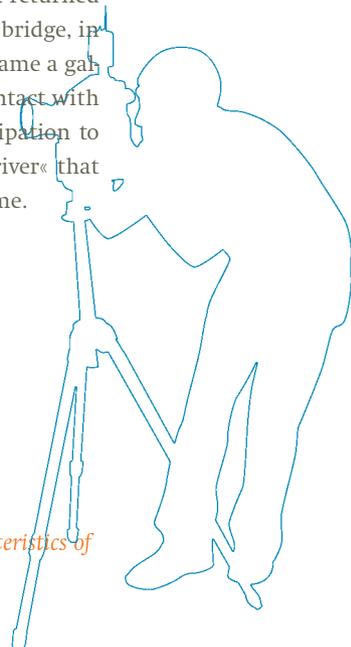
## Worlds on the river. Young photography transports us to the New Emscher Valley

Life on an island has special rules of its own. The photos taken by students at Dortmund Technical Institute show diverse facets of where and how people live on the Emscher island between the Rhine-Herne canal and the Emscher.

Under the heading »Worlds on the River«, up-and-coming photo designers set to work in the programme area of Bottrop-Ebel/Lehmkuhle in 2006, at Herne-Bickern/Unser Fritz in 2008 and at Recklinghausen-Süd/Grullbad in 2010. Whether the reaction is »I've never seen it quite like that before« or »that's exactly how it looks here« – collaboration with other people is necessary in order to create photographs that are capable of conveying the feel of a neighbourhood and raising awareness of the areas in question.

The photographs show a working world, wild nature, gardens and living rooms as well as traces of light from the

future sewage canal, artificially illuminated buildings or shrouded objects. Yet above all, it is the people themselves and their personal worlds on the river that are at the centre of it all. For one day, the students' work returned to the place where it was created: in flats, on a bridge, in garages and in gardens the neighbourhood became a gallery and a unique atmosphere developed in contact with people. We can look forward with great anticipation to the neighbourhoods and the »worlds on the river« that the students will transport us to in years to come.



*»It is a piece of local cultural work: with the local residents, with the particularities and characteristics of the place, and with the identity that this place has developed throughout the years.«*

G U D R U N T H I E R H O F F // Director of the Department of Culture of the City of Herne // July 2008



# Onwards and upwards!

## Making great things happen together

After what has been five years of working together for the New Emscher Valley, the partners have progressed in leaps and bounds towards the goals they set for themselves. This brochure illustrates many exemplary projects – some of which have been completed and some of which are still under development. However, we have no intention of resting on our laurels. The future will also see advancements in the transformation of the Emscher valley powered by new ideas and projects.

The complex tasks entailed in improving the way that people live and work along the Emscher calls for tireless commitment all round. The »United for the New Emscher Valley« cooperation agreement between the Emschergenossenschaft and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia – together with the support of the European Union – provides the necessary structure to enable everyone to work together hand in hand.

The projects outlined here reflect the diverse range of areas in which the cooperation partners are active. In future, the Emschergenossenschaft will also welcome neighbourhood suggestions for initiatives regarding education, community involvement, residential improvement, culture and ecology. This closes the gap between urban and waterway redevelopment.

Networks and partnerships require time to build up momentum and also need constant upkeep to make sure the desired goals and outcomes are achieved. It is often a

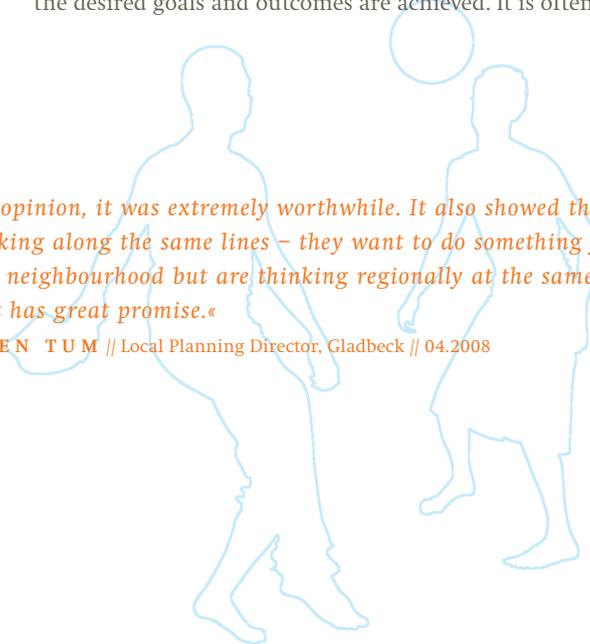
long road from original idea to tangible results – from initial planning to water adventure path. Over the next few years, intensifying the exchange of ideas and collaboration between the programme districts will be vital, as will recruiting committed partners from the ranks of politicians, administrators and residents.

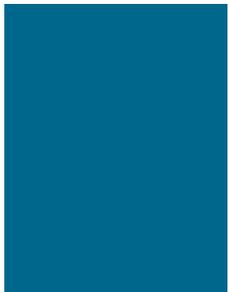
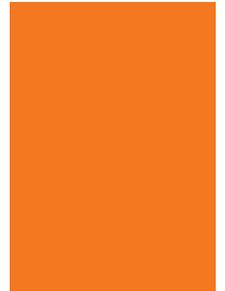
Good intentions will be followed up with effective action. Area residents must see that positive developments are being initiated in their neighbourhood. To make sure this happens, the results of discussions between cooperation partners need to be made visible to local people and ideas need to be translated effectively into projects. If we can carry on realising innovative and valuable projects together in the future, the »United for the New Emscher Valley« cooperation will continue to thrive far beyond 2014. However, what we need more than anything is input from the municipalities and urban development representatives in the programme areas to help make this a reality.

Together, we can build the New Emscher Valley project by project, hence our slogan: **»There's no stopping us now!«**

*»In my opinion, it was extremely worthwhile. It also showed that people are thinking along the same lines – they want to do something for their city and neighbourhood but are thinking regionally at the same time. [...] That has great promise.«*

CARSTEN TUM // Local Planning Director, Gladbeck // 04.2008





#### Picture credits

Emschergenossenschaft except: Cover: photo 1 Hanna Witte »Welten am Fluss«, photo 3 Oliver Blobel, Sebastian Mölleken »Welten am Fluss« // page 01: photo 2 Stefan Peters stadtkinder, photo 3 Writers Challenge Duisburg // page 10: photo 2 Stadt Recklinghausen Projektbüro Süd/Grullbad // page 11: photo 1 Stadt Gladbeck Stadtteilbüro Brauck, photo 2 Stefan Peters stadtkinder // page 12: photo 1 Hanna Witte »Welten am Fluss« // page 17: photo 2 Willy-Brandt-Gesamtschule Castrop-Rauxel, photo 3 Fischereiverein Gladbeck Ost e.V. // page 19: photo 3 Tanja Tenhofen plan-lokal // page 22: photo 2 Mabilda e.V., photo 3 Writers Challenge Duisburg // page 23: photo 1 Anne Müchler »Welten am Fluss«, photo 3 Annegret Hultsch »Welten am Fluss« //



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