

Amiens //



WETLAND CITY



Associated Ramsar site :
**Marais et tourbières
des vallées de la
Somme et de l'Avre**

Accreditation date :
October 25, 2018

City coordinates :
49° 53' N, 2° 17' E

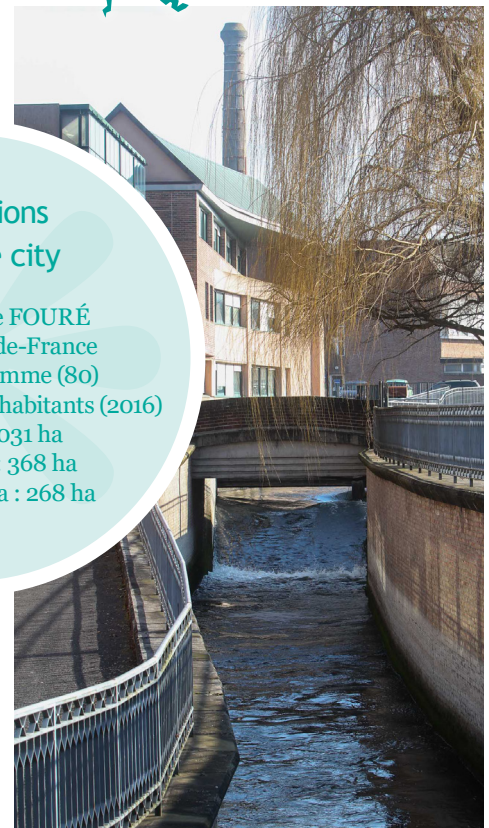
City's presentation

Amiens is located at the meeting point of three rivers : the Somme, the Selle and the Avre.

Historically, its economic and social life is turned towards water and wetlands, which have largely contributed to its growth: water mills, shipping ... and are today an important part of its living environment and its recreational and tourist offer.

The city, whose historical heart is crossed by 40 kilometers of canals, has mainly been spread on the slopes of the valleys, so the vegetated or water surfaces resulting from peat exploitation and vegetable crops have been preserved; more particularly its Hortillonnages: 265 hectares site, where 67 kilometers of "rieux" have created hundreds of islands occupied by vegetable and private gardens.

They contributed to the construction of the Our Lady of Amiens cathedral, a gothic jewel, and a UNESCO World Heritage site, built, according to legend, on a field of artichokes donated by market gardeners.



Informations about the city

Mayor : Brigitte FOURÉ
Region : Hauts-de-France
Department : Somme (80)
Population : 133 755 inhabitants (2016)
City area : 5 031 ha
Wetland area : 368 ha
Ramsar site area : 268 ha

Types of wetlands

- Permanent rivers / streams / creeks; including waterfalls
- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools
- Permanent freshwater marshes/pools
- Non-forested peatlands
- Wetlands dominated by bushes
- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands
- Canals and drainage channels, ditches

Ramsar city actions for wetlands



AVOIDING WETLANDS DEGRADATION AND DESTRUCTION

Amiens organizes its development outside wetlands.

In support of proactive political choices, the Local Urban Plan of Amiens classifies the main wetlands present as "natural areas", unqualifying them for construction.

In addition, measures dedicated to natural areas are applied, like Special Conservation and Special Protection Areas from the Natura 2000 network.

Finally, the city integrates the presence of wetlands into the definition of its projects, as well as their implementation.



ENCOURAGING WETLANDS RESTORATION OR CREATION

The omnipresence of water in the city requires wetlands preservation and restoration.

The thick network of rivers and streams is key element of flood management in the infrastructure of the urban area.

In addition, the City will develop and manage six public spaces, with more than 80 hectares dedicated to recreation, wetlands restoration and promotion.

Finally, restoration actions of branches of the Somme are underway, in order to restore ecological continuity.



INTEGRATING WETLANDS IN THE CITY'S SPATIAL/LAND-USE PLANNING

The City Council took a deliberation to develop its territory along the river while respecting the wetlands. He unanimously affirmed that "preserving, protecting and enhancing the wetlands of the city, and more widely of our territory, is a priority" and formalized a coherent urban project.

The communities act to maintain several hundred hectares of market gardening in the valley bottom, by professionals and individuals people. They also promote arrival by boat within the urban area, to develop river tourism.



ENGAGING THE POPULATION IN WETLAND MANAGEMENT

The city council relies on twenty six neighbourhood committees, associations open to every people, to exchange under a charter of local democracy. The dialogue with young people takes place within the municipal youth council.

Civil society manages at least 50% of the territory's wetlands, through owners and users associations.

The communities finance 2 to 4 of their projects per year and signed an agreement with an NGO to develop wetland-friendly projects on their territory.



RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT WETLANDS

The Community has a proactive policy of raising awareness among young people, on topics directly related to wetlands and water management.

Its program, with 31 events in 2018, has a budget of approximately € 150,000 and produces around 6,000 sessions/child per year. For other audiences, multiple activities are offered: 10 guided tours and 1 to 3 chantier nature per year, and a permanent presence on site during the summer months.

The City is also mobilized for World Wetlands Day. In 2019, it promoted the event and more than 15 actions.



APPLYING STANDARDS ON WATER QUALITY AND SANITATION

The city applies stringent national standards, and primarily treat water, household wastes and some businesses ones.

Amiens Métropole manages the wastewater of nearly 55,500 households, including 48,600 by collective sanitation and 96 companies, reducing pollution by more than 90%. It maintains a network of 646 km of pipeline and 9 treatment units.

For wastes, it covers 175,300 inhabitants and almost 100 companies and, in 2018, handled 116,037 tonnes, of which more than 64% were valued.



The Wetlands City accreditation of the Ramsar Convention

It aims to promote cities close to or dependent on wetlands of international importance, and which integrate the consideration of these areas in the development of their territory, thereby implementing a positive relationship with these invaluable ecosystems, particularly through preservation measures and greater public awareness.