

Seltz //



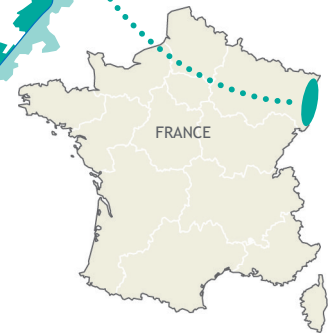
Associated Ramsar site :
Rhin supérieur
Accreditation date :
May 26th 2022
Coordinates :
48° 54' N, 8° 07' E

City's presentation

- The town of Seltz is located in Bas-Rhin (67), in the northern part of the French part of the Rhin supérieur/Oberrhein cross-border Ramsar site.
- This town of over 3,000 inhabitants is a veritable jewel of greenery, part of the Ried Nord or Petit Ried, a region of wet meadows and floodplain forests stretching from Strasbourg to Lauterbourg.
- The town of Seltz has been working to protect wetlands for over 30 years. Together with the neighboring municipality of Munchhausen, it was behind the classification of the Sauer Delta National Nature Reserve (RNN). This 486-hectare wetland is remarkable for its botanical (willows, mudflats, reedbeds), ornithological and hydrological richness, as well as for its landscapes.

Rhin supérieur
Oberrhein

Seltz

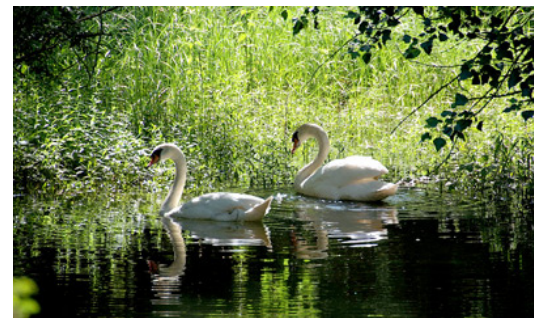


Informations about the city

Mayor : Jean-Luc BALL
Région : Grand-Est
Département : Bas-Rhin (67)
Population : 3 150 inhabitants (2020)
City area : 2 100 ha
Wetland area : 1 144 ha
Ramsar site area : 962 ha

Types of wetlands

- Permanent rivers / streams / creeks
- Permanent freshwater marshes/pools
- Shrub dominated wetlands
- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands



City's actions for wetlands



AVOIDING WETLANDS DEGRADATION AND DESTRUCTION

The town of Seltz was behind the classification of the Sauer Delta RNN in 1997, in recognition of the ecological interest of the town's natural environments.

It has set up leases with the Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels d'Alsace to promote biodiversity in the commune, notably through the creation of ponds.

Based on the general interest in preserving wetlands, the commune has classified these areas as N - natural - zones in its Local Urban Planning Scheme (PLU) to protect them from development.



ENCOURAGING WETLANDS RESTORATION OR CREATION

The commune is involved in various projects to restore and preserve wetlands and aquatic environments.

Natura 2000, Life, Interreg, Plan Rhin vivant..., these projects have led to the creation of several ponds, the restoration of several Rhine oxbows, spawning grounds and tributary streams of the Sauer, and the development of natural areas to welcome the public.

Maintenance of acquired or restored areas is entrusted to the Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels d'Alsace (CEN).



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

The commune revised its Local Urban Planning Scheme (PLU) in 2016, taking into account the recommendations of the SDAGE and SAGE regulations.

The PLU has made it possible to identify and take into account the role played by unprotected environments in relation to protected environments, as elements enabling exchanges between heritage environments, but also as habitats for wildlife.

In this respect, the Seltzbach river and its riparian zone, as well as the orchards, a large part of which are located in wetlands, have been identified as key areas.



ENGAGING THE POPULATION IN WETLAND MANAGEMENT

The Consultative Committee of the Sauer Delta National Nature Reserve acts as the local committee for monitoring the City of Wetlands label.

It brings together all the bodies concerned: elected representatives, users, environmental protection associations, government departments and scientific experts. It meets several times a year, and is often called upon to give its opinion on operations in favor of local wetlands, even when these are located outside the nature reserve.

Concerted management is thus ensured with various partners who benefit from the services provided by the wetlands (farmers, hunting clubs, etc.).



INFORMING AND RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT WETLANDS

The population is informed and made aware through municipal publications, CEN Alsace publications and public meetings.

Wetland users are involved in decision-making via the RNN advisory committee.

The CEN and the local Centre d'initiation à la Nature et à l'environnement (CINE) organize activities to discover and raise awareness of the importance and functioning of wetlands.

Particularly during World Wetlands Day, by taking part in the Franco-German seminar organized for the Rhin supérieur-Oberrhein Ramsar site.



RECOGNIZING VALUE AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY WETLANDS

The commune has a wastewater treatment plant and is committed to a zero-phytosanitary approach to the upkeep of public spaces.

Wetlands are regularly flooded, helping to recharge the water table and attenuate floods and heatwaves; alluvial forests provide islands of coolness and improve air quality.

The municipality's wetlands are also a tourist attraction, allowing local players - anglers, hunters, LPO, CEN, CINE, etc. - to organize nature discovery activities, with trails and a tramway linking the two banks of the Rhine.



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.