



③ GARDEN OF OH – DEVIL'S RAFT/HELLEVLIJTJE

Since 2012, the meeting place Oh! has had a new, atmospheric city garden that draws in the charm and picturesque character of the Small Beguinage. Here you will find a historic stream that was discovered during works and then reopened. It makes this hidden spot a blue-green oasis of peace for residents and visitors.

④ GROEN WATERKE

Groen Waterke is one of the many idyllic spots in Mechelen. The stream gets its name from the water covered with duckweed. It is a remnant of the Melaan stream as well as being the only Mechelen stream that was not covered or filled in at the beginning of the 20th century. Enjoy the idyllic view that transports you back to the tranquility of the past. Just nearby is the Refuge of the Abbey of St-Truiden and the Refuge of the Abbey of Tongerlo.

⑤ RIK WOUTERS GARDEN

In Spring 2016, we created the Rik Wouters garden. In an area no less than 700 square metres, you will find play space, sofas and a nod to the artist and local resident Rik Wouters, after whom this city garden is named. The water in the stream is only 60 centimetres deep. On hot days, you can cool off your feet. Thanks to the water street, a bronze self-portrait by Rik Wouters and a mural by the Mechelen street artist Gijs Vanhee, this neighbourhood has come to life.

⑥ BOTERMARKT – KOOLVLIET

Botermarkt is a vibrant meeting place for young and old. Today, there is a visible stream once more, although it is shorter than the original watercourse. Thanks to the reopened stream, accents of green and cozy terraces, the square is the perfect place to meet and enjoy a good time with your loved ones. At the Bruul, there are also 20 fountains for plenty of watery fun on hot days.

Practical information

STARTING POINT

Visit Mechelen, Vleeshouwersstraat 6, 2800 Mechelen

LENGTH AND DURATION

4.2 km • 1h10min

OPENING HOURS WALKING TRAIL CLARENHOF

Apr - Sep: 8.30 am - 7.30 pm • Oct: 8.30 am - 5.30 pm
Nov - Feb: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm • Mar: 8.30 am - 5.30 pm

ROUTE AND ACCESSIBILITY

In the historic city centre, you may encounter some barriers. An alternative route for wheelchair users is indicated on the map.



EVEN MORE WATER IN THE CITY

Discover even more streams and stories in the free Visit Mechelen app:
www.visitmechelen.be/en/mobile-app.

This walk is available in the app in Dutch, French, English, German and Spanish.



CONTACT

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COLOPHON

In collaboration with: Stadsgidsen Mechelen, Stadsarchief Mechelen, **Editing & layout:** Visit Mechelen, **map:** Open street Map, Elke Feusels, **photos:** Stef Keynen, Visit Mechelen, **R.P.:** Greet Geypen, VVV Mechelen vzw, Vleeshouwersstraat 6, 2800 Mechelen



STREAM WALK

WALKING ROUTE - 4.2 KM

STREAM WALK

Mechelen, city of water

In the 16th century, Mechelen consisted of 13 islands connected by 43 bridges. The river Dyle meandered through the city, branching out into a web of small waterways called 'streams'. Water was therefore present almost everywhere in Mechelen and served various functions: for drinking water, fishing, tourism, and transport. Over the centuries, great volumes of water disappeared from the streetscape. In recent years, many of the streams have been reopened, so improving the quality of city life and enhancing the look of Mechelen.

HIGHLIGHTS

1 NIEUWE MELAAN

Nieuwe Melaan is proof that water breathes new life into a city. In 1913, this stream disappeared under the cobblestones, but since 2007 it can be seen flowing through our city again. Nieuwe Melaan is no less than 250 metres long, making it the longest visible stream in Mechelen. The project received European subsidies in the context of 'Water in Historic City Centres' and also won an award. By reopening streams, we provide cooling during hot days and an extra buffer for rainwater. Nieuwe Melaan is the blueprint for the revaluation of all Mechelen's 'vlieten'.

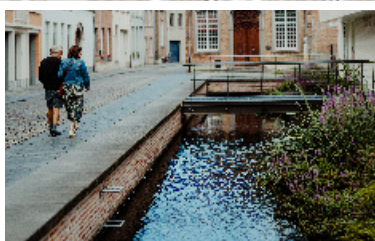
2 HEERGRACHT AND LANGE HEERGRACHT

On the streams in Zelestraat and Lange Heergracht – later on this walk – you will see several floating plant islands. These work to cool the atmosphere, purify the water, and ensure that fish, birds, insects or other living organisms feel at home in and around the water. There are more than 1000 plants here, all with different functions. Some attract wildlife, while others might be purely decorative.

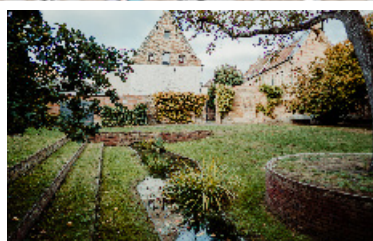
TIP Look out for the pavement slabs with droplet motifs along the route – they show where a stream used to flow. The water from these streams is still hidden underground.



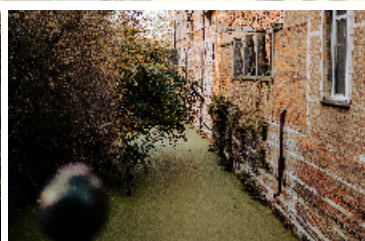
Nieuwe Melaan



Lange Heergracht



Garden of Oh – Devil's Raft/Hellevietje



Groen Waterke