

Country: Belgium (Walloon Region)

Name of “garden correspondent”: Frédérique DESMET

1. Institution(s) in charge of gardens

SPW – DGO4- Département du Patrimoine - rue Brigades d'Irlande, 1 – 5000 Namur
(dgo4.spw.wallonie.be/DGATLP/DGATLP/.../Patrimoine/.../default.asp)

2. Other actors: professional associations, network, civil society, etc.

- a. **L'institut du Patrimoine wallon (IPW)** is a public-interest body which, through its property management department, helps owners of listed properties in need of special assistance. That means rescuing monuments which are under threat and providing “intensive care” for local heritage.
The assistance in question is available to public and private owners of listed properties (or properties that have been granted provisional protected status) which have been identified by the Walloon government.

➤ www.institutdupatrimoine.be;

- b. **L'ASBL Valorisation touristique des parcs et jardins exceptionnels de Wallonie.** A non-profit organisation whose committee is made up of private and public-sector owners of outstanding local parks and gardens and representatives of the *Commissariat au Tourisme* [tourism advisory service], the parks directorate of the *Département des cours d'eau et des voies navigables*, DGO3, and the protection directorate of the *Département du patrimoine*, DGO4. Examples of the organisation's activities include hosting a series of picnics with the *Commissariat general au tourisme* as a novel way for members of the public to discover the gardens concerned. The website seeks to promote outstanding parks and gardens in Wallonia.

➤ www.jardins.tourismewallonie.be/accueil;

- c. **L'association royale des Demeures historiques et des jardins de Belgique** brings together owners of public and private historic gardens and other organisations and publishes a magazine entitled “*Demeures historiques&jardins*” (“Stately homes and gardens”) in Dutch and French. The magazine is mainly geared towards the study, discovery and protection of historic properties and raising awareness of their heritage value.

➤ www.demeures-historiques.be/fr/revues;

- d. **L'ASBL Jardins ouverts de Belgique.** Members of this organisation receive advance information about forthcoming events and can participate in all the activities in return for a yearly membership fee. The organisation publishes a programme of the activities (guided tours, rallies, garden parties, etc.) taking place in over 200 privately-owned gardens and parks across Belgium.

➤ www.Jardinsouverts.be

3. Protection: number of gardens, levels of protection, status (public/private), inventories/ Relevant legislation:

Spatial planning, town planning and heritage code (CWATUP)

- <http://dgo4.spw.wallonie.be/dgatlp/dgatlp/Pages/DGATLP/PagesDG/CWATUP/GEDactualise/GED/qedListeArbo.asp>

4. **Protection: number of gardens, levels of protection, status (public/private), inventories /**

a. Protected gardens:

YES

b. Number of protected gardens:

To date, 180 parks and gardens have been listed as sites, in whole or in part. Of these, five are listed as monuments and 9 are on the Outstanding Heritage list (cf.: C System of protection/legislation)

c. System of protection/legislation:

Listing based on the decree of 1 April 1999

Wallonia is home to an extremely diverse common immovable heritage which includes prehistoric caves, grand houses, châteaux, churches, industrial buildings, fountains, public baths, natural sites, gardens, parks, etc.

The task of the Heritage Department's heritage protection directorate is to provide protection for properties with recognised heritage value so that they can be passed on to future generations.

- <http://dgo4.spw.wallonie.be/DGATLP/DGATLP/Pages/Patrimoine/Pages/Directi ons/Protection/default.asp>

Listing

Listing is a means of officially recognising a property's heritage value. Listed status is conferred by order of the Walloon government.

To ensure the long-term future of the region's heritage, a property may be listed:

1. as a **monument**: any architectural or sculptural work considered in isolation, including such facilities and decorative features as form an integral part thereof;
2. as an **architectural entity**: any group of urban or rural buildings, including connecting elements, which are sufficiently consistent to be topographically defined and distinguished by a high degree of homogeneity or integration into the landscape;
3. as a **site**: any work of nature or combined work of man and nature which forms a sufficiently distinctive and homogeneous area to be topographically defined.

- [CWATUPE – Book III](#)

Walloon list of outstanding architectural heritage

Every three years the Walloon government compiles a list of the region's outstanding immovable heritage. The selection criteria are taken from directives governing the Unesco World Heritage List. The list drawn up by order of the Walloon government of 7 February 2013 currently contains 193 properties classified as "outstanding heritage" plus 22 heritage elements.

d. Status of gardens (protected or not): public/private (number or ratio):

No account is taken of the form of ownership when listing properties. Around half of the Walloon Region's listed heritage is believed to be in private ownership, with the other half owned by the state.

4. Online information: inventories, databases, mapping systems/tools, photographs, etc.

The inventory website is under construction.

- **Thematic Inventory of Historic Gardens and Parks of the Walloon Region (paper version)**

Description/comments (if necessary):

The Thematic Inventory of Historic Gardens and Parks of the Walloon Region was compiled in accordance with the Florence Charter and the Granada Convention.

The inventory was compiled by Nathalie de Harlez de Deulin in collaboration with Serge Delsemme, Catherine Guisset-Lemoine and Marie-Hélène Sohet.

The inventory lists 1,036 historic gardens and parks. Not all the gardens and parks examined have been featured. Although it does not include recent creations, urban gardens and private gardens which are inaccessible, the inventory does nevertheless demonstrate the uniqueness and diversity of the region's garden and park art.

The inventory covers the Walloon Region and consists of 9 volumes: the first volume was published in 1993, when the theme for the Heritage Days festival in the Walloon Region was "public spaces and gardens"; the 9th volume was published in 2008.

The inventory is organised by district. The gardens are identified by province, district, municipality, area and name.

Each volume published contains a short glossary by the landscape architect Serge Delsemme.

The inventory factsheets contain:

- A few standard details: form of ownership (private/public), whether or not the property is open to the public, and whether or not it is listed;
- A map showing how the parks and gardens examined have evolved over time;
- Information on the history of the gardens;
- Bibliographical references;
- A technical description of the parks and gardens, specifying where possible: the type of garden, who created it and when, the surface area, architectural features, details relating to plants, vegetable gardens, water;
- A brief assessment of the conservation status of the garden/park as a whole or specific elements;
- Comments on maintenance;
- All the entries are illustrated by photographs.

Database-online maps

- The **service de coordination cartographique** of DGO4 has developed user-friendly applications for viewing cartographic data and related documentary data (alphanumeric information and scanned documents).
- The website of DGO4 (General Operational Directorate) includes the Department of Spatial Planning, Housing, Heritage and Energy.

➤ <http://dgo4.spw.wallonie.be/dqatlp/dqatlp/Pages/Observatoire/Pages/Di rOHG/Geomatique/WebGIS/index.asp>

- **The Heritage Department** comprises 3 directorates: protection, restoration and archaeology. The directorate for the protection of heritage provides online access to a database of listed properties, with details of their location. It includes listed parks and gardens.

➤ <http://dgo4.spw.wallonie.be/DGATLP/DGATLP/Pages/Patrimoine/Pages/Directions/Protection/default.asp>

5. Training: existing provision, levels of training, opportunities for specialised training:

- The **Institut du Patrimoine wallon** includes the **Centre des métiers du patrimoine** whose function is to preserve and pass on knowledge and skills in the field of architectural heritage. The centre runs various awareness-raising, training and information activities for a wide range of target groups, from the very young to adults with specialist knowledge.

With the Institute's encouragement, the five universities (UNamur, UCL, ULB, ULg, UMONS) and the *Haute école Charlemagne* have teamed up to create a **master's course in the conservation and restoration of cultural and immovable heritage**. The course secretariat is located at the Centre and one of the modules is dedicated to historic gardens and parks. The course is the only one of its kind in the Walloon Region.

➤ www.institutdupatrimoine.be/index.php/.../metiers-du-patrimoine

6. Awareness raising

- The **Institut du Patrimoine wallon** organises the Heritage Days in the Walloon Region. These are not confined to gardens.

- a) Name of event: "Heritage Days"
- b) Level: regional
- c) Dates: 2nd weekend in September
- d) Target groups: as wide as possible

➤ www.institutdupatrimoine.be

- The **ASBL valorisation touristique des parcs et jardins exceptionnels de Wallonie** has teamed up with the *Commissariat général au tourisme* to host a series of picnics as a novel way for members of the public to discover the gardens in question.

- a) Name of event: "Garden picnics"
- b) Level: regional
- c) Dates: recurring
- d) Target group: general public

➤ www.jardins.tourismewallonie.be/accueil (the website aims to promote outstanding gardens located in the Walloon Region)

7. Existing terminology tools

Glossary/thesaurus: NO.

8. Bibliography: reference books, conference proceedings, journals, etc.

- **Heritage Library:**

This library specialises in archaeology, cultural heritage and decorative arts in Belgium and Europe. It contains over 20,000 monographs and some 500 periodicals and new material is regularly added from private collections. The library consists mainly of collections inherited from the former *Service national des Fouilles*, the Ministry of the French-speaking Community for Regionalised Matters and the *Commission royale des Monuments, Sites et Fouilles*. The works are directly accessible and can be borrowed free of charge. The Heritage Library serves as a complement to Docatel, the documentation centre of DGO4.

- <http://dgo4.spw.wallonie.be/DGATLP/DGATLP/Pages/Patrimoine/Pages/Bibliop/default.asp>

- **René Péchère Library:**

The website contains the catalogue of the René Pechère Library which mainly consists of works on garden art and landscape architecture. This library has taken the initiative of creating a digital catalogue of the contents of its book and journal collections.

Thanks to the development of numerous partnerships, the catalogue has expanded as new public and private collections have been added.

The library features new multimedia collections from institutions such as ICOMOS (**International Committee on Cultural Landscapes ICOMOS-IFLA**) and IFLA (**International Federation of Landscape Architects**) but also treasures entrusted by the owners of archival materials of landscape architects who have shaped the history of garden art.

www.bvrp.net/fr-fr/lecatalogue.aspx

- **Bibliothèque royale de Belgique**

The *Bibliothèque royale de Belgique* is the national scientific library of the Belgian federal state and home to a large collection of cultural heritage items.

It acquires and manages access to publications produced in Belgium and works by Belgian authors which have been published abroad.

Together with other scientific libraries in Belgium, it performs key tasks relating to the provision of scientific information.

It responds to requests for information in all areas of research, drawing both on its own collections and on information stored elsewhere.

As part of its co-operation with other libraries at national and international level, it is represented in organisations and activities that relate to its operation in general and in specific areas.

- www.kbr.be/accueil_fr.html

- **State archives:**

Belgium's State Archives are accessible to the public.

- www.arch.be

- **Reference books:**

- **S. dir. de HARLEZ de DEULIN N., coll. Delsemme S., Moreau O., Hoyas D., *Inventaire thématique, Parcs et jardins historiques de Wallonie*, Namur, 9 volumes, édité par la Région Wallonne. 1993-2008**
- **de HARLEZ de DEULIN N., *Parcs et jardins historiques de Wallonie*, Région Wallonne. – I.P.W., Namur, 2008**

- **Journals:**

- **L'association royale des demeures historiques et des jardins, *Demeures historiques §jardins*, trimestriels**