

**Country: France**

**Name of “garden correspondent”:**

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**1. Institution(s) in charge of gardens** (Name – address – website and/or webpage on gardens)

Ministère de la culture et de la communication

182 rue Saint-Honoré

75001 Paris.

<http://www.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/Politiques-ministerielles/Monuments-historiques-Espaces-protoges/Intervenir-sur-un-monument-historique/Focus/Parcs-et-jardins>

**2. Other actors: professional associations, networks, civil society, other actors, etc.** (Name – address - website and/or webpage on gardens + brief description):

a) Société nationale d'horticulture de France (SNHF)

84 rue de Grenelle – 75007 PARIS

Tel: 01 44 39 78 78

<http://www.snhf.org/>

The *Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France* was set up in 1827 as a way for plant and garden lovers to exchange information. Its members are united by a common belief in the importance of sharing and respecting the plant world and the environment in general. The aim of the association is to disseminate horticultural culture and skills.

b) Fédération Française du Paysage (FFP)

4 rue Hardy – 78000 VERSAILLES

Tel: 01 30 21 47 45

<http://www.f-f-p.org/fr/>

The *Fédération Française du Paysage* is an organisation representing professional landscape designers. With over 650 members and concerns ranging from landscape issues to promoting the profession, it is well placed to deal with any changes relating to qualifications, training, ethics and professional conduct, development etc.

c) HORTIS – les responsables d'espaces nature en ville

55 rue Jean-Baptiste Corot – 18000 BOURGES

Tel: 06 26 92 29 14

[http://www.hortis.fr/hortis\\_infos.php](http://www.hortis.fr/hortis_infos.php)

This association of managers of public green spaces and gardens was set up in 1936 by Eugène Le Graverend. Acting as an umbrella organisation, it provides professionals with opportunities to interact and capitalise on their expertise. The network is dedicated to promoting nature in urban areas, by marrying landscape and diversity in response to city dwellers' needs in terms of amenities. The association publishes a quarterly magazine “De ville en ville” and holds an annual conference.

**3. Relevant legislation** (name + weblink):

As immovable assets, parks and gardens which are of historical, artistic or architectural interest can be protected under the Heritage Code (book VI, titles I and II) on the ground that they are historic monuments. There are two levels of protection: listing and inscription, with listing being the higher of the two.

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

- a) Protected gardens: yes/no. If yes, level of protection: Yes.
- b) Number of gardens: 2,339 gardens protected as historic monuments, of which 612 are listed and 1,727 “inscribed”.  
Of the 2,339 gardens protected as historic monuments, 473 are owned by the state and 1,815 are privately owned.
- c) Inventory(ies) of parks and gardens: yes/no. If yes, name, number of gardens included in the inventory – weblink: yes. 4,700 parks and gardens inventoried. The practice of compiling “pre-inventories” of gardens was first introduced in 1981 by the Ministry of Infrastructure (Landscape Unit of the Sub-directorate for Protected Areas), and was later adopted by the environment and culture ministries in 1985. Together, these three ministries share responsibility for overseeing historic gardens. Sixty-four of France’s *départements* have been covered, 15 regions have been fully pre-inventoried and 8 regions – partially. 4,700 gardens have been examined so far. Publicising the findings of these investigations has been a challenge for the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Culture, which have arranged for the pre-inventories to be digitised. The information became available to the public in 2004 when data were transferred to the Mérimée database on the culture ministry’s website.

#### 5. Online information: inventories, databases, mapping systems/tools, photographs, etc. (name + websites)

- Pre-inventory of parks and gardens. In the early 1980s, an operation to compile an inventory of “gardens of botanical, historical or landscape interest” revealed the tremendous wealth of France’s parks and gardens. Thanks to this exercise, over 4,700 factsheets on the parks and gardens inventoried are now available for browsing in the Mérimée database:  
[http://www.culture.gouv.fr/public/mistral/merimee\\_fr?ACTION=RETOUR&USRNAME=nobody&USRPWD=4%24%2534P](http://www.culture.gouv.fr/public/mistral/merimee_fr?ACTION=RETOUR&USRNAME=nobody&USRPWD=4%24%2534P)
- Heritage Atlas: <http://atlas.patrimoines.culture.fr/atlas/trunk/>. The Heritage Atlas provides map-based access (by location) to cultural and heritage information. Gardens with historic monument status and gardens which have been designated “*jardins remarquables*” are gradually being added.
- Archives of parks and gardens. A survey of the archives of France’s parks and gardens and their designers has been carried out in order to take stock of existing archive collections and identify any which are at risk so that they can be protected. This survey has led to the publication of a guide to sources for researchers. The findings are available at Archives Portal Europe (APEX).

#### 6. Training: existing provision, levels of training, opportunities for specialised training, etc.

- a) Name of course: History of garden art  
In-service training: yes  
Name of training provider: Ministry of Culture and Communication  
Opportunities for specialised training: Introduction to the history of garden art  
Regular garden design from ancient times to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century  
Regular garden design from 18<sup>th</sup> century to 21<sup>st</sup> century  
Irregular garden design from 18<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century  
Irregular garden design from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- b) Name of course: Landscape interpretation  
In-service training: yes  
Name of training provider: Ministry of Culture and Communication

- c) Name of course: Courses for gardeners  
In-service training: yes  
Name of training provider: Ministry of Culture and Communication  
Opportunities for specialised training: Course on “covered areas”  
 Course on “open areas”  
 Course on “garden management plans”
- d) Name of course: Master’s course in “Historic gardens, heritage, landscape”  
In-service training: yes  
Name of training provider: École nationale supérieure d’architecture de Versailles et Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne  
 ([http://www.versailles.archi.fr/index.php?page=etudes&categorie=etudes\\_masters\\_specialises#master1](http://www.versailles.archi.fr/index.php?page=etudes&categorie=etudes_masters_specialises#master1))

## 8. Awareness raising:

- a) Name of event: Rendez-vous aux jardins (“Garden meetings”)  
Level: national  
Dates: 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in June  
Target groups: all  
 Growing awareness of the country’s rich garden heritage has led to a flurry of first private and then government-led initiatives with the aim of publicising this heritage and making it more accessible. Since 2003, the *Rendez-vous aux jardins* have been held across France the first weekend in June and, in some cases, throughout the summer season. Under the scheme, over 2,000 parks and gardens, including some which are normally closed to the public, open their doors and offer various activities. Every year, there is a different theme, which is discussed at seminars whose proceedings are then posted online.  
Websites: <http://rendezvousauxjardins.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/>
- b) Name of event: Adopt a garden  
Level: national  
Dates: school year  
Target groups: schoolchildren/students  
 The *Adopt a garden* scheme is aimed at primary and lower secondary school pupils as well as students attending agricultural college and seeks to raise awareness of garden art and history and to educate pupils and students about landscape, town planning and the environment. The idea is that studying gardens affords numerous opportunities for activities involving observation, analysis and expression in connection with the subjects taught and for enlisting the help of specialists (gardeners, landscapers, botanists, architects, town planners, archaeologists, historians) and artists (visual artists, choreographers, musicians, etc.).  
  
Website:  
<http://www.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/content/download/55015/426770/version/2/file/jardin%20-%202012%20-%20009%20-%20Adoptez%20un%20jardin%20-%20document%20m%C3%A8re%2028%2008%202012%20.pdf>
- c) Other awareness-raising initiative: The art history portal is designed for education practitioners and art lovers and spans the history of garden art from ancient times to the present day.

## 9. Existing terminology tools

a) Glossary/thesaurus: yes (monolingual)

- *Thésaurus de la désignation des oeuvres architecturales et des espaces aménagés*, Paris: Mission de l'Inventaire général du patrimoine culturel, Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication, 2013  
([http://www.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/content/search?SearchText=thesaurus&SearchButton=&node\\_id=66](http://www.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/content/search?SearchText=thesaurus&SearchButton=&node_id=66))
- Marie-Hélène Bénétière, *Jardin – vocabulaire typologique et technique*. « Principes d'analyse scientifique », Paris : Éditions du Patrimoine, 2000, 428 pages, 700 illustrations.
- *Système descriptif de l'architecture*, « Documents & méthodes » n°7, Paris : Inventaire général du patrimoine culturel, Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication, 1999, 264 pages.

**10. Bibliography: reference books, conference proceedings, journals, etc.** (List of resources, seminar proceedings, etc. or reference website(s)).

Members of the public can access an extensive collection of practical material via the culture ministry's website:

- [Bibliography of garden art](#)
- [List of specialist libraries](#)
- [List of landscape architecture schools in France](#)
- [Proceedings of the Barbirey-sur-Ouche seminar "What now for old gardens?"](#)
- [List of garden correspondents in the DRACs \(Regional Offices of Cultural Affairs\)](#)
- [Study on the behaviour of and proposals for managing architecturally pruned trees which have been left unpruned](#)
- [Art gardeners](#)
- [Managing jardins remarquables](#)
- [Coping with storms in a jardin remarquable](#)
- [Garden management plans](#)

**11. Other initiatives**

**Promotion**

The "[Jardin remarquable](#)" label was introduced in 2004 for parks and gardens of major historical, aesthetic or botanical interest which are open to the public, which are maintained in an exemplary and environmentally-friendly fashion, and which offer a rewarding experience for visitors. At the end of 2015, [there were over 420 "jardins remarquables"](#), a testimony to the quality, diversity and tremendous wealth of France's gardens. The label is awarded for a period of 5 years.

In 2011, national commemorations were held in honour of of Édouard André (1840-1911) and in 2013 in honour of André Le Nôtre (1613-1700).

The [Conseil national des parcs et jardins](#) was set up in 2003 to act as an advisory body to the Ministry of Culture and Communication. Its 30 or so members consist of central, local and regional government officials, representatives of the private sector and leading specialists.