

## **The Port aux Cerises open air leisure centre,** Joint Committee for Investigation, Planning and Management of the Port aux Cerises Outdoor Leisure Centre

The Port aux Cerises open air leisure centre is 160 hectares large and receives more than 1 million visitors each year. The area was recovered from hosting a waste pile in the 1960s, and was converted into an urban natural space with a focus on equality and to increase the quality of life. The reason for its great success is that the people who were to actually use it were consulted in the planning phase as to their needs and desires. It hosts a wide variety of activities designed to let the visitors escape from the urban environment. It is under constant change and construction and not one part is left to chance but the land is moulded so as to exactly suit its purpose and the aspirations of the users. The leisure centre offers a wide variety of recreational activities, each of which not only caters to individual desires but also follows the general theme of the centre. The facilities on offer include swimming pools and a mini-train to allow visitors to easily move about the area.



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recognised the great value of the project: considering that as fine example of the successful planning of a degraded landscape and of its adaptation to the changing times for the well-being and quality of life of the population.

[www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/prix/2011-France.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/prix/2011-France.pdf)