

6 Permaculture

As part of the historical continuity of this area of the park, the current vegetable garden project is operated according to the principle of permaculture by the association Les Jardins de Voltaire. This global method takes into account the biodiversity of each ecosystem aiming

sustainable
agricultural
production

balanced, energy-efficient, respectful of living beings and their reciprocal relationships while leaving as much space as possible for nature. ***The association notably allows people with disabilities to find an activity that matches their abilities and expectations in order to gain greater autonomy. In the logic of sustainable development, the products of these harvests are called upon to provide a solidarity grocery store.***

The four seasons of Voltaire

Me **Platanus hispanica**, or plane tree with maple leaves, I have the distinction of losing my bark on sunny days in long shreds, giving my trunk a military camouflage look.

The plane trees were planted in Voltaire's time, as evidenced by photographs from 1850 already showing major subjects.

Me **Agaricus campestris**, or rosé des prés, I am a small mushroom that grows in the undergrowth when there has been enough humidity and sunshine to garnish the omelets of walkers. I can be recognized by the pink slats under my hat, but if you are not sure of yourself, it is better to leave me alone than to risk confusing me with a poisonous species.

Me **Eptesicus serotinus**, or common serotine, I am a species of bat that hibernates under the slopes roofs, or in the rocky cavities while waiting for the temperature is rising. I communicate and move around thanks to ultrasound that you can only hear with a detector, and I am recognized by my "samba" rhythm.

Me **Sciurus vulgaris**, or red squirrel, I live here all year round, but people notice me especially when I'm on a courtship parade chasing my peers. Many trees grow in unusual places because of me because I stock up on fruits and seeds in places I forget...

A certified domain



Strong with a century of commitment and more from 57,000 members and active in 83 departments, the League for the Protection of Birds

is today in France the first naturalist association working daily for the protection of species, the preservation of spaces, and for education and the environmental awareness. She targets both individuals and public authorities registering

in an eco-citizen approach by welcoming and preserving biodiversity proximity.

The Domaine of Voltaire has held this label for 2018



DÉFINITIONS

Biodiversity

Regularly restricted to the diversity of fauna and flora, its meaning is actually broader and involves even the differentiation of individuals within a same species. The pressure of human activities impacting ecosystems leads to a loss of biodiversity.

Ecosystem

It is a whole made up of an environment and the living beings that interact with it. Predators hunt their prey while other species live there in symbiosis. Thus, when one of them disappears, the others may disappear in their turn.

Sustainable development

It concerns all the ideas, means and practices implemented so that the living world does not have to suffer from human activity both in the present and in the future. The term sustainable is defined as a balanced meeting of social, economic and ecological aspects.

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CENTRE DES MONUMENTS NATIONAUX

ESTATE

Shelter of
biodiversity

OF VOLTAIRE

Restoring and animating a historic monument would not make sense if we did not focus on preserving and enhancing its environment. Depending on the season, tasks vary: mowing, weeding, pruning, gathering leaves... In order to protect biodiversity, no phytosanitary products are used on the 7 hectares that make up the park today and its management method is called "differentiated". This method, which appeared in the 1990s, is intended to be more respectful of natural environments. It consists in carrying out appropriate maintenance of green spaces according to their characteristics and uses. It's about practicing the right maintenance in the right place at the right time! This allows, among other things, to preserve ecosystems, limit pollution, better manage resources, and diversify know-how in a sustainable development approach.

A little bit history

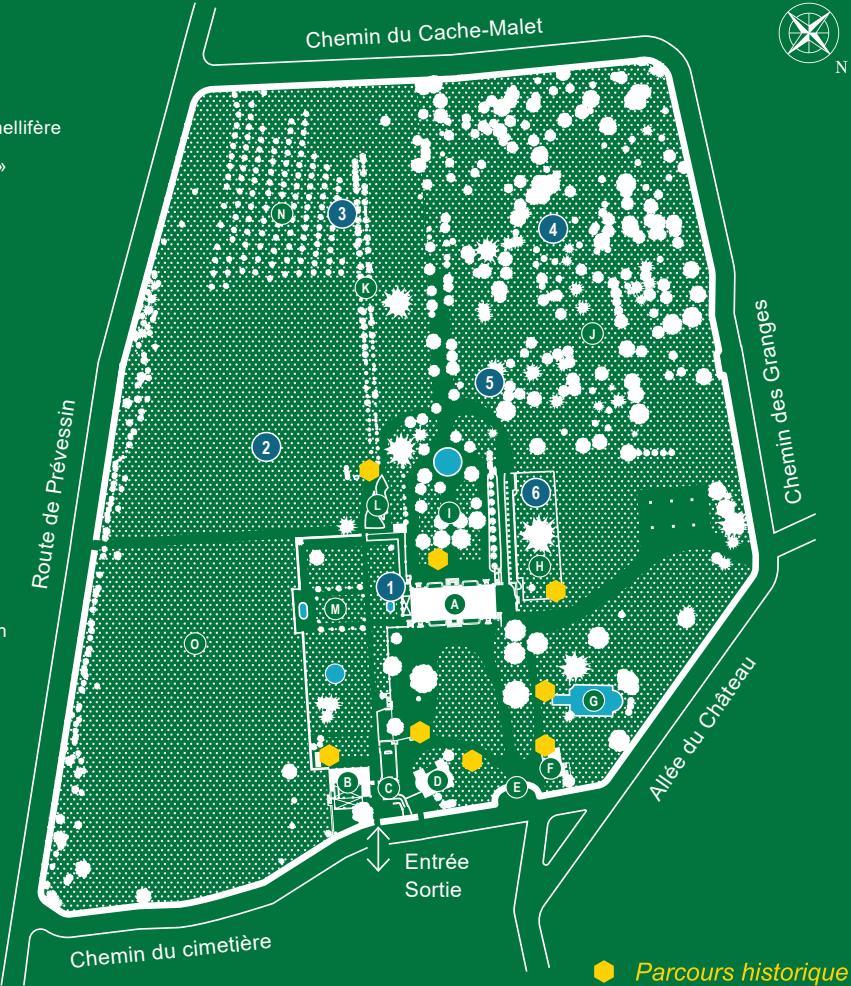
For Voltaire, the construction of the castle is inseparable from the development of the estate. In the eighteenth century it is open to the village, the courtyard of honor houses the parish church and a theater. In order to supply the table of his guests, the philosopher has a vineyard planted, a carpière maintained and a vegetable garden cultivated as well as an orchard. At the back of the castle, a private space, he created a regular French-style garden and planted the arbor. Caught between the mountains of the Jura to the north and those of the Alps to the south, Voltaire loves his park and closely follows its construction. At his death, the estate passed into the hands of several owners and each made changes to it. In the 19th century, the Lambert family made important additions: entrance of honor, English-style park, palmarium, orangery, fence walls... In 1999, the castle was acquired by the State which entrusted its management to the Centre des monuments nationaux. Since then, several projects have enabled the gardens to continue their development. To learn more about the history of the gardens, find the panels depicted in yellow on the map.

Parcours nature

- 1 Zones humides
- 2 Écopâturage
- 3 Verger et prairie mellifère
- 4 Bois mort « vivant »
- 5 Accueillir la faune
- 6 Permaculture

Le domaine

- A Château
- B Orangerie
- C Accueil-boutique
- D Chapelle
- E Grille d'honneur
- F Pavillon du gardien
- G Carpière
- H Jardin clos
- I Jardin du bassin
- J Bois
- K Charmille
- L Jardin alpin
- M Jardin français
- N Verger
- O Prairie



1 Wetlands

In this basin, the triton alpestre est king. It is a endangered and protected species who found in this pond a suitable habitat. As such, it is forbidden to move individuals there. Ichthyosaura alpestris is easily recognizable thanks to its spotted blue back and orange belly. It is a urodele, that is to say an amphibian which, unlike frogs and toads (anurans), keeps its tail in adulthood.

Will you have the chance to see it? Be careful, we only look for it with our eyes and we respect its tranquility!



2 Eco-grazing

Below the terraces, a large meadow serves as pasture for a flock of sheep of Suffolk and Charollais breeds. Eco-grazing involves maintaining a grassed area by allowing animals to graze. It is usually sheep or goats, but depending on the terrain, it can also be done by cows or horses. This ancestral practice, which had been abandoned in favor of mechanical and chemical maintenance, is now returning to the city as in the countryside. It avoids the destruction of natural habitats, which is inevitable with mechanical mowing, and contributes to biodiversity conservation. Using sheep means zero CO2 emissions, no noise and no waste! Here, the vegetation is more tapers and is not made up of the same plants than elsewhere. Trampled and grazed



some species disappear while others, more adapted to these living conditions, develop. This activity also attracts a micro-fauna, coprophage, such as the dung beetle Geotrupes stercorarius, which feeds of excrements and thus allows some to pass through the rapid degradation.

To protect the lambs from predators which are born on the spot, the herd is sometimes accompanied by shepherd dogs originating from the Pyrenees called "patous".



3 Orchard and melliferous meadow

At the end of the arbor, there is a permanent meadow, an orchard and an apiary. The meadow is neither turned over nor resown. A diverse flora develops there, thus welcoming wildlife that finds a favorable habitat. This area is not grazed but mown in late summer, allowing the maintenance of a high plant cover. The later the mowing, the more time the plants have to reach the degree of maturity necessary for their reproduction. Some farmers also practice fallow in flower strips or entirely. This allows the land of cultures to rest while offering resources.

to the foragers and to the earth of the natural amendment for the following year. The orchard was planted by the Lambert family. Gradually, the declining fruit trees are replaced by young plants from old local grafted varieties. Today in France, only about twenty species of apples are produced and marketed against the nearly five hundred recorded!



the apiary that is finds within the orchard is composed of a dozen hives that are the subject of the beekeeper's greatest care. Through pollination, bees play a vital role in plant reproduction. The introduction of an apiary allows the installation of new colonies, here buckfast bees Apis mellifera, and thus the maintenance of populations threatened by other species as well as by human activities.

Did you know? These hives produce on average between 120 and 180 kg of honey per year!

4 Dead wood "alive"

Why not get rid of all the dead wood? Except for public safety or phytosanitary risks, its preservation is essential. It can be old, cavity-ridden, or dead trees. on foot or lying down. Many are the mushrooms that live there. They play an important role in natural regeneration. The material they degrade gradually turns into humus, which, by incorporating itself into the soil, makes it possible to feed new plants. Dead wood promotes biodiversity because it is a real hotel for insects, birds and small mammals who, without him, would be weakened! He is for them: food, reserves, breeding grounds, shelter... The wood is being revalued: several cuts security measures have been implemented and the paths that run through it are gradually being redrawn. The most common tree species are linden, boxwood, beech, ash and oak.

5 Wildlife

Many animals find refuge on the estate. For birds, we can easily identify: the perfectly round holes dug by the green woodpecker in the arbor, the cavities of the plane trees used by the tawny owl, the bell tower occupied by the barn owl but also, more classically, the nests of the passerines in the garden. Some species such as the hoopoe or the red kite are also occasionally observable. Small mammals like the hedgehog huddle near buildings or take advantage of tree holes like the squirrel. The means, like the red fox, take advantage of nooks made of loose earth to dig their galleries there. More rarely, the larger animals, such as deer, come to roost under the shelter of slaughtered barrels. Chiropterans, for their part, have taken up residence on the roofs of buildings. Regarding reptiles, those with legs laze on the sunny stone walls and a plate project for the skitters is being studied. Amphibians are not remains with the few basins where teeming tritons and frogs. Regularly, workshops pedagogical have place to make huts to insects, to hedgehogs, at birds... to set in the park or to be taken back to oneself for one's turn become refuge LPO.

