



What's it about?

The area around Utrecht Central Station, near the Jaarbeurs.

[Photo: Maarten Loeffen]

Stadswerk is organising the Future Green City World Congress together with branch association VHG, the municipality of Utrecht and conference bureau VNG Connect. From 23 to 26 September 2024, we expect thousands of participants from home and abroad at the Jaarbeurs in Utrecht. We will bring together the worlds of green professionals and civil engineers. Why are we taking on this challenge?

It is quite something; organising a four-day congress for 3,000 to 4,000 visitors, about 30 per cent of whom have to come from abroad. What is the need? First, the substantive answer. A Future Green City embraces the major changes (including climate change) that are com-

ing our way, by creating (and maintaining) a living environment (private and public) that contributes to healthy living. This is urgently needed because due to densification, the available space in the city is scarce. Greening and other tasks should therefore be supported by civil

engineers and green professionals. This requires that they learn to speak each other's language and understand each other's challenges.

However, within organisations as well as at congresses, we talk more about each other than with each other, and the Future Green City congress will change that. At our request, the two global umbrella organisations are integrating their congresses: that of green professionals (World Urban Parks, WUP) and that of civil engineers (International Federation of Municipal Engineers, IFME). The need for an integrated approach is becoming apparent. We are increasingly aware of the effects of climate change,



BY MAARTEN LOEFFEN,
KONINKLIJKE VERENIGING STADSWERK NEDERLAND

WORLD URBAN PARKS AND IFME

We are proud to host an integrated conference for two global umbrella organisations: International Federation of Municipal Engineering (IFME) and World Urban Parks (WUP). For both Dutch and foreign participants, this congress offers the opportunity to develop, gather and share knowledge outside of 'one's own community'. At this congress we aim to present the most innovative and novel ideas for greening cities and urban regions for a sustainable and liveable future. IFME was founded in 1960 and World Urban Parks emerged in 2015 from the International Federation of Park and Recreation Administration (IFPRA), founded in 1957. Through various legal predecessors, Stadswerk has been involved in this organisation from the very beginning.

the need for more sustainable resource use and the development of a circular economy. We want to accelerate this development by applying new technologies to achieve a positive human impact on nature. The digital world and the physical environment are becoming increasingly intertwined, with consequences for the way we live and work. The Future Green City Congress therefore addresses the most important issues at the right time. But why do we want to meet *live*?

In a Workshop XL, participants will work intensively on their own topic for four hours.

Future Green City World Congress: working together

We have four days at our disposal to work *live* on the Future Green City. Watching PowerPoint presentations together will not make the difference. We need more than that. That is why we are offering a wide range of Workshops XL and Fieldtrips XL on the first and fourth days of the congress. In a Workshop XL, participants will work intensively on their own topic for four hours, with input and feedback from national and international experts. During Fieldtrips XL, we will visit practical examples in various Dutch cities that can be reached by public transport within an hour of Utrecht. After all, as a green delta metropolis, we have plenty of wonderful practical examples. It will be inspiring to see how foreign eyes look at our work.

Top speakers and cases, surprising work formats, urban trails

On days two and three, we will take a different approach. For two days, we will programme top speakers and cases from around the world in the Beatrix Theatre. In addition, there will be a parallel programme in which we will address topics in a variety of working formats, such as a classroom, a science lab, a debate, serious games, and even cinema and theatre. Participants will also be able to explore Utrecht's practice along various 'urban trails'. With these different working methods, we ensure that participants leave Utrecht enriched. ✨



CALL FOR PAPERS, EARLY BIRDS, AND A FOUR-DAY PASS

Form is very important to us, but of course content comes first. That is why we have opened a Call for Papers, supported by a website from mid-October on, with a developing programme. From the beginning of January, it will be possible to buy an early bird ticket. Participants can choose between a one-day pass or a four-day pass, with a choice of over two hundred sessions. Welcome to the Future Green City 2024 conference, the international community of inspired thinkers and doers! The best of both worlds!

This was the sixth contribution in our series 'On the Road to Future Green City' in which we explore the ingredients we need for a green city with a future, in the run-up to the Future Green City world congress, Utrecht 23-26 September 2024.

Websites

WWW.STADSWERK.NL
WWW.IFMEWORLD.ORG
WWW.VHG.ORG
WWW.WORLDURBANPARKS.ORG