



FORM BEST PRACTICES CONTEST 2020

Municipality Borger-Odoorn Country The Netherlands

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Name project

**Il sentiero dei frutti dimenticati al comune di Borger-Odoorn.
Un collegamento tra il passato, il presente e un futuro sostenibile.**

Forage Path Borger. *Learn to love the food in your own neighbourhood*
A connection between the past, the present and a sustainable future.

Category Certification Criteria: mark the category of your project

- Energy and environmental policies (politiche energetiche e ambientali);
 - Infrastructure policies (politiche infrastrutturali);
 - Quality of urban life policies (politiche per la qualita' urbana);
 - Agricultural, touristic and artisan policies (politiche agricole, turistiche, artigianali);
 - Policies for hospitality, awareness and training (politiche per l'ospitalita, la consapevolezza e la formazione);
 - Social cohesion (coesione sociale).
- *Cittaslow Solidarity Covid-19

Summary project



With respect for the past, the municipality of Borger-Odoorn is committed to the development of the unique landscape shaped during the last Ice Age. The original landscape serves as a source of inspiration for this. In the more sensitive nature areas we adapt the roads for motorised traffic for cyclists and walkers, so that the experience of the area gets a boost.

We are currently working on the redevelopment of the Hunze Valley. In addition to strengthening nature, the project aims to give the 'valley' a greater experiential value, thereby strengthening the economy, recreation and tourism. Within the project we also focus on educating the inhabitants and visitors with the food path that is being constructed along the outskirts of Borger.

Various so-called Meet & Eat meetings on the theme of food, organised by the Natuur en Milieufederatie Drenthe (Nature and Environment Federation Drenthe, <https://www.nmfdrenthe.nl/>) in recent years, have shown that in Drenthe and beyond there is a great need for training and exchange of knowledge and experience on the construction of a food forest. About 100 people attended each theme evening. The food path in Borger will serve as an example and as an educational and experimental space, also for other food forest initiatives.

The forage path consists of fruit trees, berry bushes, herbs, root crops, ground cover and climbing plants. The path forms a nice diversion through the beautiful landscape of Borger. The food path is a process by and for people: developing together, executing together and harvesting together.

The aim is to create a balanced ecosystem made up, where possible, of indigenous species. In addition, old fruit varieties are used. The project fits in with the increased interest in healthy food and shows in an easily accessible way where local food comes from. Along the path, forest rooms will be set up with food bushes. This allows the visitors to see how many different plants are suitable for consumption.

In addition, the food path also has an educational character, with an image that is broader than the local situation. Children, residents and visitors learn which species used to grow in this area and which food was taken from the forest in the past and still fits into a tasty and sustainable diet today.

In time, the harvest will be processed into new local products that will be sold locally, creating an economic and social earning model. This will be done in cooperation with vocational education and the university.



1. Experiencing and understanding how food was grown and collected in the past.
2. Enriching biodiversity.
3. Making children, residents and guests of the municipalities aware of healthy food.
4. Making the entrance to the village of Borger more attractive.
5. Natural water storage and management by the bushes along the path, making them of value for the climate resistance of the area.

Result project

1. An educational site that can serve as an example for other food initiatives, where people like to stay and taste what nature has to offer.
2. A beautiful walking route along the outskirts of the village.
3. A special Cittaslow garden on the occasion of the 10 year membership, with trees, shrubs and plants from all the Dutch Cittaslow municipalities. With this, the municipalities underline their mutual cooperation.
4. Guided tours along the Food Path to show visitors which crops have been grown in Drenthe and what you can do with them (some of them now considered weeds, while long ago they were a treasured crop), but also how to eat them and how to process them into a dish.
5. A network of restaurant owners who process the harvest from the food path into their products, anticipating the choice of crops together.

Finance (costs and benefits)



The total cost is estimated at € 50,000.-. The municipality contributes € 8,000 and makes the land available. Local environmental institutions Natuur en Milieu Federatie Drenthe and IVN Drenthe (<https://www.ivn.nl/provincie/drenthe>) are contributing in kind to the project, and various funds are making contributions. The project is made possible in part by volunteers from Borger. The costs are for the planning, preparation and construction of the food path and the supervision of the educational and harvesting process. By constructing the project in phases and combining it with other activities in the public space, the costs will be saved. Little management will be needed at the forest strips because the system will keep itself in balance here. The fruit trees and shrubs do require intensive maintenance.

Staff (staff involved and use of time)

This project is an initiative of the municipality of Borger Odoorn, the Hunebed Museum (<https://www.hunebedcentrum.eu/en/>), Landschapsbeheer Drenthe (<https://lbdrenthe.nl/>), Natuur en Milieufederatie Drenthe, IVN Drenthe, volunteers and involved residents. It is organised in a partnership between Landschapsbeheer Drenthe and the municipality of Borger-Odoorn. Residents and volunteers from Borger Odoorn and surroundings are the foundation of the project. By developing and maintaining it together with them, we create support and a social earning model.

The total number of hours of preparation is estimated at 250. The construction will take about 2,000 hours. The projects for education and regional products will take place in the longer term.

Additional information (if necessarily)

The project is located in the Hunze Valley. The Hunze Valley is a special area, stretching from Emmen to the Wadden Sea. It is a stream valley with high-quality nature and unprecedented opportunities for tourists and residents to experience it. An area where nature management, agriculture and recreation and tourism go hand in hand. We are working on one coherent, robust and climate-proof stream system, with opportunities for agriculture, energy, climate, recreation, liveability and a distinctive area identity.



Link website <https://prezi.com/view/ukaVnoPTAZzoaRU94dg8/>

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- Participation Deadline 5 September 2020 -**