

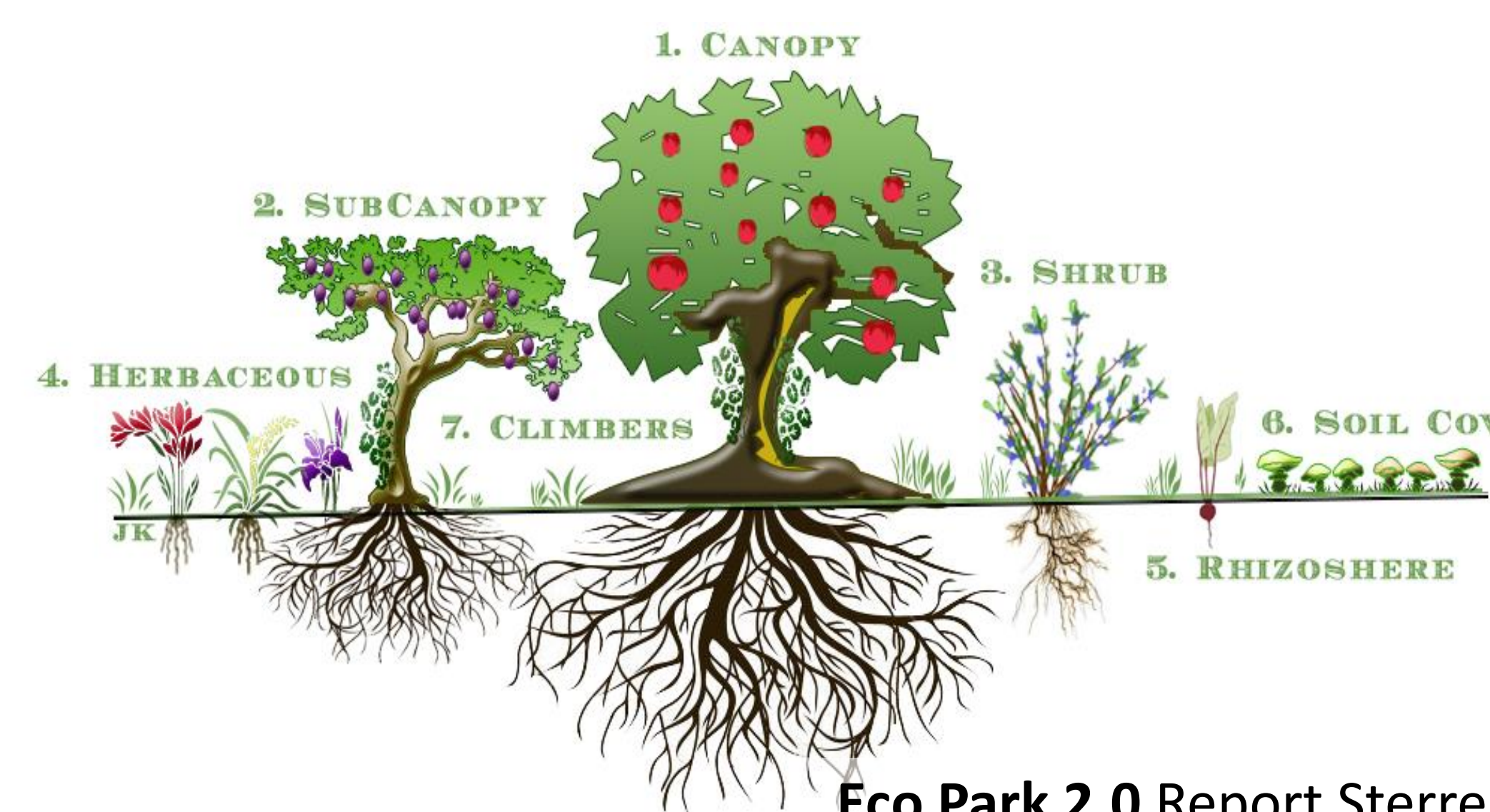
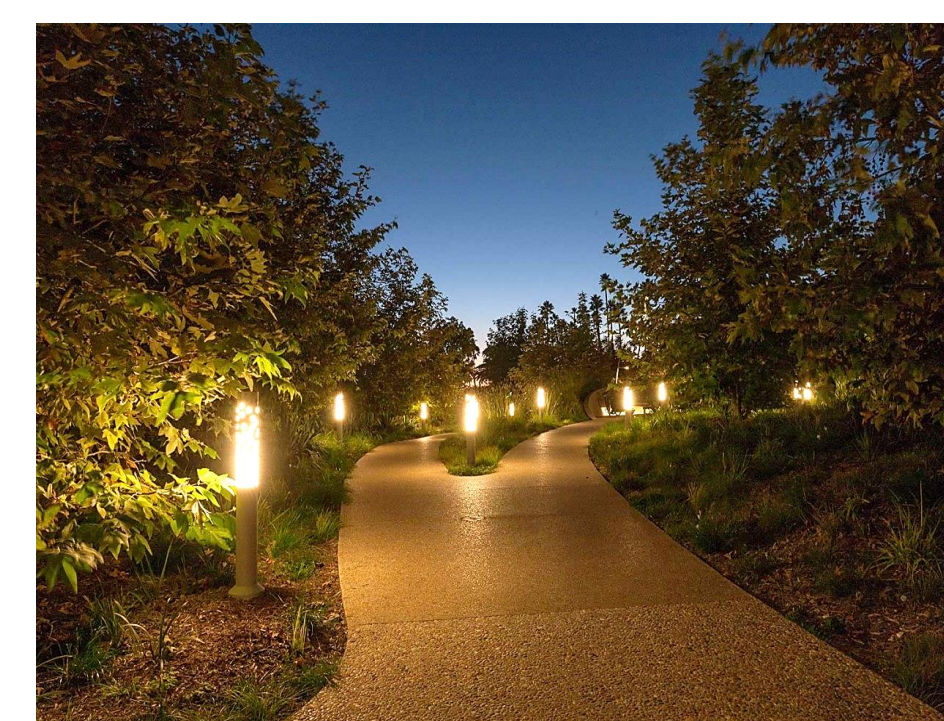
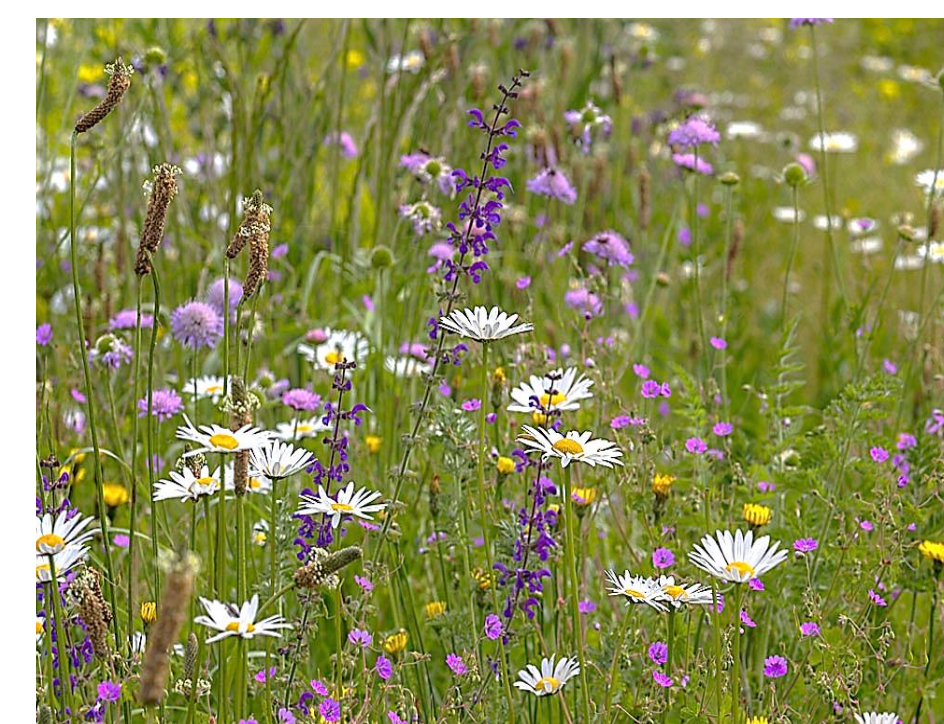
How green is your campus?

Designing an eco-park at Zernike

Nature plays a significant role in human well-being. Yet, this apparent vital idea is undervalued in the design of the Zernike campus area. And there's more than human interest. Design of green spaces in the urban characteristic of the campus offers an opportunity to incorporate biodiversity, habitat protection and sustainable development.



Creating ecological value should be one of the core values when (re)designing the campus. That's quite another process than adding some minor green elements. It requires a changed role for designers, as to match both ecosystem values and users' needs and desires. Sterre Koops (master student Ecology and Evolution) researched how to optimize the current development plan in an ecological fashion, and advised for a new design for an eco-park at the Duisenberg pond area. The design could offer a model to use when assessing the potential other green areas.



Eco Park 2.0 Report Sterre Koops



As to examine the preferences of the users of the campus, she performed a questionnaire. Almost all respondents (n=180) preferred a park for walking, with varied vegetation rather than only grass, in the vicinity of their working place. Some blue space is an option, seating facilities are required as well as good lighting for a sense of safety.



A combination of green and blue space matches well with requirements for ecological values. Insects could be served by a herbal garden. Birds and insects need shelter places, to be performed in various structures (plants, bushes, trees) with gradual transitions. A variety of biotopes, using native plant species, offers the potential to interconnect the eco-park and other new green areas to the nature areas surrounding the campus.

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