



Building on yesterday's Wallonia to create Wallonia's tomorrow

## Bois Saint-Jean

### Seraing

Bois Saint-Jean is a 146.27 ha plateau located on the territory of the City of Seraing at the centre of a triangle formed by the old commune of Ougrée in the northwest, the Renory shunting yard in the northeast and the university domain of Sart-Tilman in the south.



# Bois Saint-Jean

The «slag heap» or Bois Saint-Jean spoil heap was put into operation by the company Ougrée-Marihaye in 1920. From the outset it was used to deposit slag and domestic refuse from the commune of Ougrée.



Initially, the domestic waste was mixed with molten slag and tar-based products, and subsequently dumped on the slag heap.

In the 1950's, two spoil heaps were in operation on the site.

Until 1987, the year in which the slag heap was closed, it was used to deposit, in addition to domestic and construction waste, gas scrubbing sludge from blast furnaces, sludge from blast furnaces, solid and liquid industrial residues, phytopharmaceutical waste, waste (oils, hydrocarbons, cyanides, heavy metals, etc.) from various plants in the Liège industrial basin, as well as numerous illegal landfills.



## Prior to the rehabilitation

Based on the soil analyses, the site was divided up into 18 zones, characterised by a varying level of contamination, limiting or permitting direct reuse of the site, with the following categories :

- non-polluted and directly usable land ;
- lightly polluted land, usable subject to a minimum of development effort ;
- lightly polluted land, usable subject to limited clean-up work ;
- heavily polluted land to be contained or cleaned up.



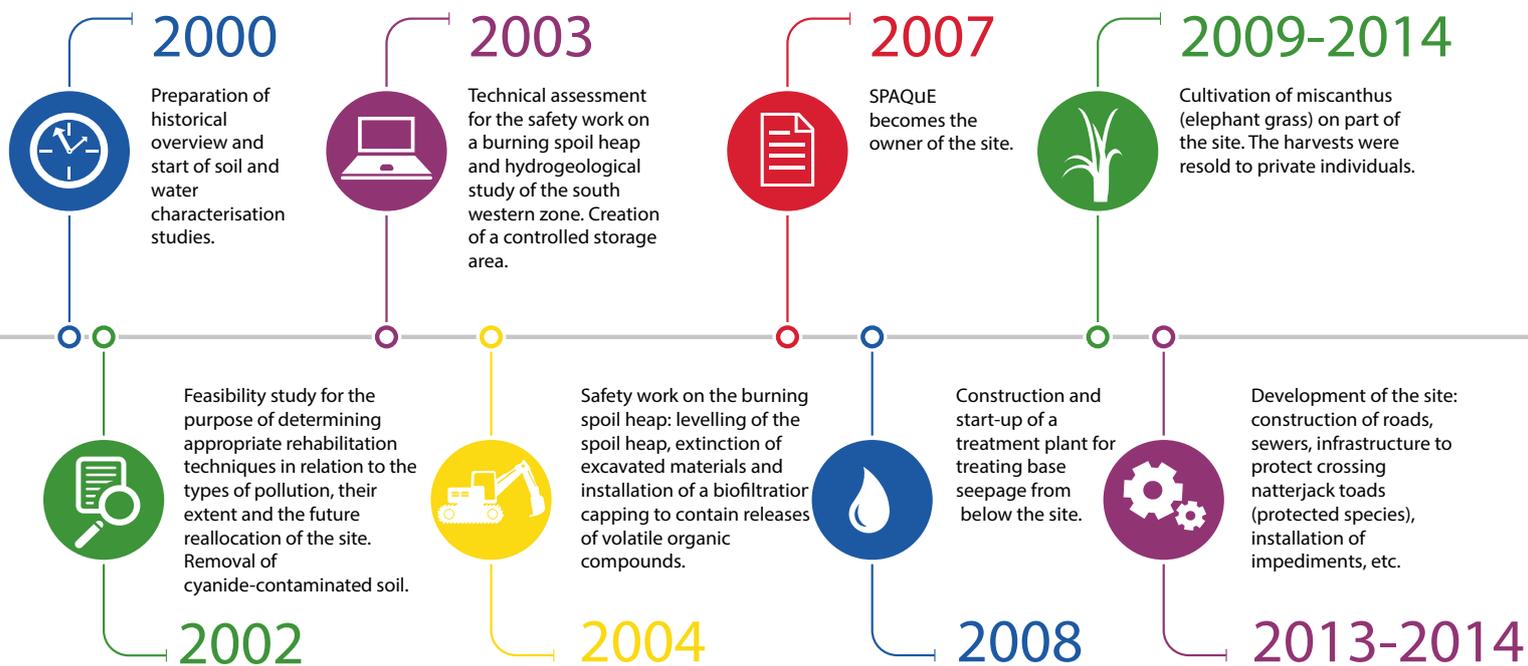
## The spoil heap

The 2 ha large and 40 m high spoil heap west of the site was found to exhibit internal combustion.

At 1 m depth, the temperature exceeded 100°C.

In the western part, between 18 m and 24 m, a temperature of 600°C was reached. This combustion was responsible for toxic and foul-smelling gas emissions.

## Some milestone dates...



## SPAQuE's mission

The purpose of the rehabilitation carried out by SPAQuE was to allow a 40 ha expansion of the Liege Science Park managed by SPI, to accommodate new companies spun out of the research conducted at the Université de Liège.



### Soil pollution

The characterisation studies revealed the presence of a large number of pollutants in the various zones : heavy metals, arsenic, cyanides, PAHs, mineral oils.



### Water pollution

The soil analysis revealed the presence in the groundwater of benzene, naphthalene, mineral oils, phenols, heavy metals, surfactants and cyanides.





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### Economic development

The rehabilitation of this old slag and domestic refuse heap was a prerequisite for the expansion of the Liege Science Park, managed by SPI, the agency for economic development of the Province of Liège.

Upon completion of the rehabilitation, development work for the expansion (roads, storm water basins, sewers, soft mobility, impediments, wildlife conservation infrastructure, etc.) was started in 2013 and completed in early 2014. This work was financed jointly by the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) European funds, the Wallonia, and SPAQuE (owner of the site).

In parallel with the expansion of the Liege Science Park, SPAQuE operated a miscanthus plantation on the site. Miscanthus is a grass native to Asia and Africa, also known as elephant grass. From 2009 to 2013, the miscanthus was harvested each year for use as a fuel, as a material in eco-construction, as biomass for methanation, etc.



### Key figures

- Total surface area : 146.27 ha
- Owner : SPAQuE
- Financing: ERDF and Wallonia
- Cost: €10,051,941
- Duration of the rehabilitation project: 5 years
- Category: brownfield site
- City: Seraing
- Province : Liège



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