

## 1. Rhineland Regional Council

The Rhineland Regional Council (in German: Landschaftsverband Rheinland – LVR) as an association of municipalities and counties with 15.000 staff members provides a number of specialised services for the 9.6 million inhabitants of the Rhineland.

With 41 special schools, ten hospitals, a wide range of curative aids, six museums and as the most important service provider and supporter for disabled people in Germany, the LVR services cover social welfare, in particular for disabled and young people, psychiatry and culture across the Rhineland.



“Quality for the people” is the overall guiding principle. As an association, the LVR is supported and financed by 14 municipalities and 13 counties. The “LVR-Parliament” (Landschaftsversammlung Rheinland) is steering the work of the LVR and brings together 113 representatives of those public authorities from the Rhineland.

## 2. LVR- Department of Culture and Environment

To shoulder responsibility for the environment includes, in addition to all aspects of environmental protection, raising the awareness for the unique values of our cultural landscapes. Cultural landscapes are the result of human activities and use of landscapes over centuries.

Such landscapes are unique combinations of natural resources and characteristics mixed with the traces of human or cultural activities that formed them. As such, they provide identity and a home.





Within the LVR, politicians and administrative staff agree that a many actions are needed to promote the recognition of regions and landscapes and to fight the loss of natural areas and biodiversity.

The activities and measures are not limited to the Rhineland only. Crossing the borders for cooperative projects with partners in the Netherlands, the Province of Limburg, and in Eupen/Belgium, the German-speaking Community of Belgium (German: Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft Belgien) is another success story.

The LVR is an active and dedicated team player when it comes to protection and best possible, sustainable development of cultural landscapes. Such teams include individuals from chambers and associations, from the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, from public bodies, NGOs and local initiatives, for instance:

- the network of biological stations (ecological research and education centres) in the Rhineland
- gardens and parks in the Rhineland
- the project „Protection of old cultivated plants“, including the trained fruit tree garden (or espalier garden) at Schloss Dyck
- the nature parks in the Rhineland
- the project “EGHN GartenKulturReisen NRW”

- seed exchange activities to maintain and to restore ancient landscape elements and ensembles
- KuLaDig, the GIS-based, digital information system for cultural landscapes
- AGENDA 21
- mills and hammer mills
- the “Way of St. James”

### 3. Gardens and parks in the Rhineland

Raising public awareness for garden art and enhancing the cultural and touristic resources of parks, gardens and their environments is close to the heart of the LVR



Therefore, garden art, both historic and contemporary, is considered as an important option for dealing with actual challenges of urban development, public realm and urban society. Gardens and parks, in combination with the landscapes that surrounds them, are essential parts of our cultural heritage and key ingredients of liveable cities. As monuments, they add to regional identity.

In combination with cultural landscapes they also are the cornerstones needed to foster economic and regional

characteristics and to balance deficits in all policies dealing with economic, ecologic, social and cultural aspects.



Within the INTERREG IIB NWE project „European Garden Heritage Network (EGHN), the EGHN route in the Rhineland follows the theme „inward and outward views: gardens, architecture, landscape“. This thematic approach exemplifies the intense interaction between these elements: Gardens are stages and mediators; they combine architecture and landscape and by doing so they open new perspectives.



To show the variety of garden heritage and contemporary assets in a European context is vital for the EGHN website: tempting texts and picture galleries, facts and background information, news, a calendar of events and much more invite

discovering the parks and gardens along regional routes and across European themes ([www.eghn.eu](http://www.eghn.eu)).

#### 4. Hybrid Parks

The sustainable valorisation of heritage sites, buildings and cultural landscapes as well as their public reception as indispensable elements within a maturing society, require an institution caring for their needs, their protection and regional inclusion. This is what the LVR is aiming at.



A comprehensive care for cultural landscapes, respecting the “European Landscape Convention”, requires cooperative work of many organisations and the inclusion of broad range of expertise and resources. For the LVR this includes the State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia, the University of Bonn, other universities and universities of applied sciences in the Rhineland, municipalities and external consultancies.

The expertise on „protective cultural landscape development in NRW“, jointly worked out by the two regional councils LVR and LWL, fully respects this approach. The study will achieve sustainable results as major ideas and conclusions will feed into the next development plan for the state NRW.

Backing is given by intense cooperation between the LVR and local actors in the Rhineland, such as the Biological Stations and the “green” departments of local administration, in particular in the networks “Culture” and “Environment”.

Newer projects, based on this cooperative work and led by the LVR department „Environment“, show some of the key concerns related to cultural landscapes in the Rhineland: Cooperation within each project and networking between these projects for the sake of improved outcomes, public reception and an inclusive approach is also deemed to be essential for a sustainable use, including touristic needs and full accessibility.

## 5. Useful links

Website of the LVR:

[www.lvr.de](http://www.lvr.de) (most pages in German only)

Webpage of the LVR, related to “environment and landscapes”:

[http://www.lvr.de/de/nav\\_main/kultur/kulturlandschaft/kulturlandschaft\\_1.html](http://www.lvr.de/de/nav_main/kultur/kulturlandschaft/kulturlandschaft_1.html)

European Garden Heritage Network – EGHN:

[www.eghn.eu](http://www.eghn.eu) (in English, French, German, many in Dutch too)

The Cultural Landscape Information System KuLaDig:

[www.kuladig.de](http://www.kuladig.de) (in German only)

Information on the network „Nature parks in the Rhineland“:

[www.naturparke-rheinland.lvr.de](http://www.naturparke-rheinland.lvr.de) (in German only)

The „LVR- Network – Biological Stations in the Rhineland“

[www.biostationen-rheinland.lvr.de](http://www.biostationen-rheinland.lvr.de) (in German only)

More information about Hybrid Parks and INTERREG IVC

[www.hybridparks.eu](http://www.hybridparks.eu)