



# Entente Florale Europe 2016

Portfolio Gemeente Dalfsen

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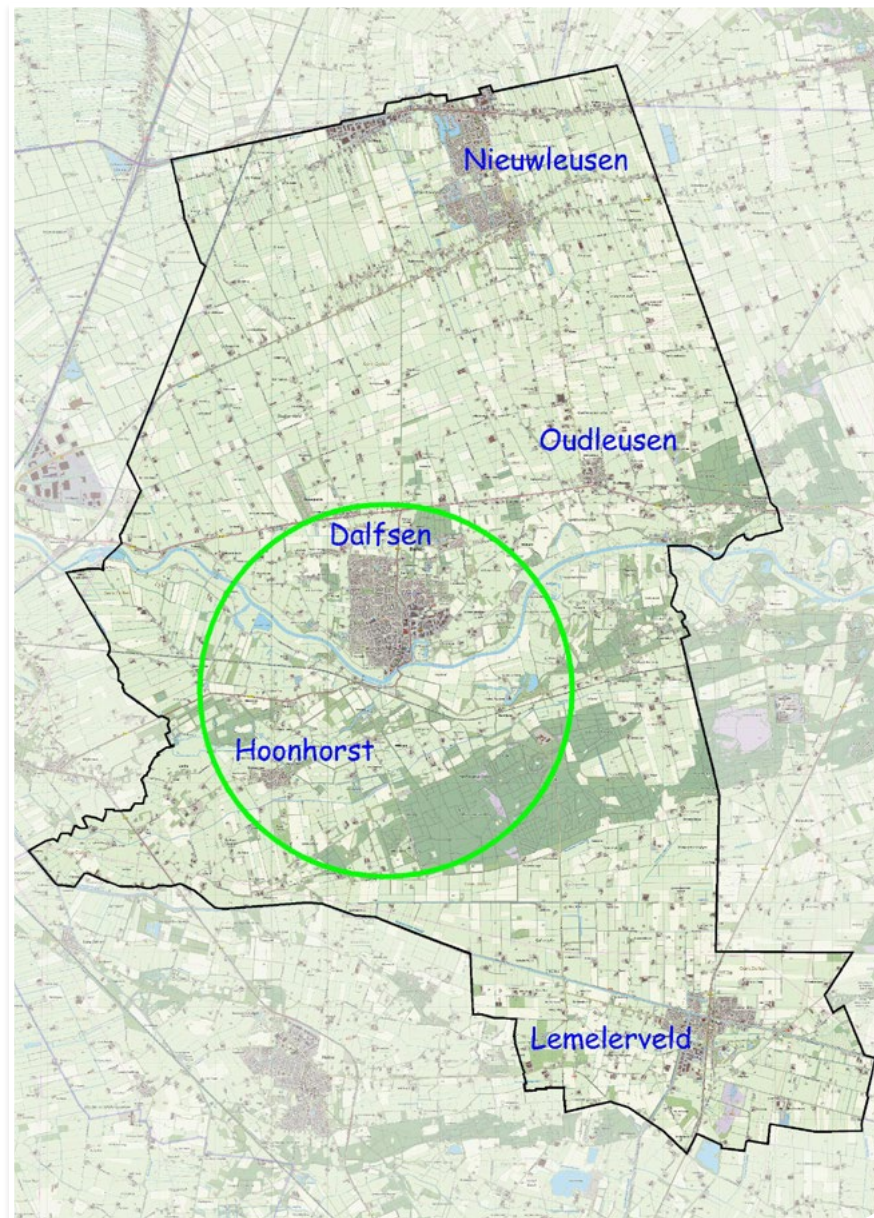


# 0. Introduction to Dalfsen

Dalfsen is a small town and a municipality in the Salland region of the province of Overijssel in the eastern part of The Netherlands. Dalfsen is situated on the banks of the river "Overijsselse Vecht" and is the only larger community along this river never to be granted a town charter. This is related to the immediate vicinity of the medieval castle "Rechteren". Dalfsen and the outlying areas have over 10,000 residents.

The municipality of Dalfsen formed from a merger of the municipalities of Nieuwleusen and Dalfsen on January 1, 2001. Dalfsen consists of the urban cores Dalfsen, Nieuwleusen, Lemelerveld, Oudleusen and Hoonhorst as well as a vast countryside containing many hamlets.

The municipality of Dalfsen offers a broad range of facilities in the area of primary education, childcare, healthcare, sport and well-being. In addition the residents have full use of big city amenities because of the proximity to the province's capital, Zwolle. Agriculture is an important pillar for the rural economy in the municipality of Dalfsen, and the recreation and tourism sectors are also important providers of employment within the municipality.



# 1. Planning and development

## Green dimensions of development plans

Dalfsen developed on a river dune bordered by the Vecht and the outlying meadowlands. The landscape south of Dalfsen (beyond the Vecht) is made up of forests and estates. The features of all landscape types have been (and still are) the starting point in the development of residential areas and providing them with their characteristic structures. They return in various places in the urban core and on the edges, for example in the shape of dry river channels, forest groves and wooded banks. Together with the still existing country estates and their tree-lined sightlines they form the foundation for the spatial quality of Dalfsen.

The rural countryside of Dalfsen derives its own strength and identity from the many forests, farmlands, rivers and streams. Agriculture has always been and still is an important part of the community. Especially in the southern part of Dalfsen extensive land consolidation has had a great impact on the appearance of the landscape. By now the countryside is no longer just agricultural domain but also residential and abundantly recreational. Landscape and land-use together make the countryside what it is today and what it will be in the future. Therefore, in the municipal vision and ambitions, "Structuurvisie en

Plattelandsvisie" (Structural Concept and Rural Vision) the different landscape types form the starting point for future spatial development in which the scenic quality is a guiding factor.

## Action plans by voluntary bodies

In 2008/2009 the municipal council, together with residents, schools, businesses and social organisations, worked towards a new vision for the future "Bij Uitstek Dalfsen 2020" (Dalfsen Par Excellence). The vision contains the strategic direction of the municipality for the spatial development of the urban areas up to 2025. Dalfsen is dedicated to social cohesion, spatial quality and sustainability. In addition Dalfsen is confident about actively involving its residents, businesses and social organisations in policy and implementation and thus practises "reverse participation", or government participation. Government participation is characterised by cooperation of the municipality with initiatives started by the population. Two examples reflecting that participation are "Historische Kring Dalfsen" (Dalfsen Historical Circle), which catalogued all cultural-historical elements of the municipality, and the active involvement of "Plaatselijk Belang" (Local Interest) in seven communities of the municipality, including Dalfsen and Hoonhorst.





## 2. Environment

### 2.1 Natural environment

Dalfsen wants to take good care of both the natural and the urban environment. In addition to the existing legal framework in The Netherlands, Dalfsen developed its own policy. We strive for sustainability including efforts to make our own organisation more sustainable and we look - where possible - for collaboration with other parties.



#### Actions taken for water quality in rivers, streams, lakes, beaches

The Vecht and its floodplains south of Dalfsen are part of the “Rijks Ecologische Hoofdstructuur” (State Ecological Network). On the outer floodplains of the Vecht, between the summer and winter dikes, water safety and the “Kaderrichtlijn Water” (Water Framework Directive) are the leading policy frameworks. This directive sets goals for the ecological design of the river and the entire floodplain. To ensure a sustainable and safe Vecht, spatial development measures are necessary, both now and in the future. In realising the landscape park “Vechtvlief”, Dalfsen has created additional water storage. Environmentally friendly spatial development measures were also put in place to promote water quality. The landscape park is a water experience park with an educational as well as a recreational character.

#### Responsible use of chemical products

Out of a total of 390 Dutch municipalities, Dalfsen is one of only three in The Netherlands awarded the “golden certificate” for sustainable area management by the “Stichting Milieukeur” (Foundation for Eco-labelling). As such, Dalfsen is a forerunner in sustainable management of green spaces and paved areas. As early as 1990 the former municipality of Dalfsen (before the merger) chose an environmentally friendly method of maintenance. Since that time as little use as possible is being made of chemical pesticides. In 2012 the switch was made from using brushes to a hot water and -air method for pavement weed control.

#### Rain water collection

In collaboration with the water board Dalfsen is working on a sustainably organised water system. For (new) spatial plans a sustainable water system is the basis for urban design. Given the water-retaining, infiltrating and temperature regulating qualities of vegetation, it is important that the volume of green space is protected and does not decrease. Private citizens use or infiltrate clean rainwater on their own plots. Excess rainwater runs off on ground level to public green spaces designed for that purpose. This creates a robust, sustainable and climate-proof water system. Separating and processing water flows is a requirement for new development, for existing construction the separation is encouraged through subsidies.



#### Policies and actions taken for air quality (emissions, use of fossil fuels, sustainable energy)

Dalfsen's objective is to be CO2 neutral by 2025. The municipality has registered its sustainability ambitions in policy and operates on two-year “Uitvoeringsprogramma's” (Implementation Programmes) to give substance to this policy. Four priorities are defined in this:

#### • Duurzaam Thuis (Sustainable Home)

Together with the province Overijssel, Dalfsen aims high when it comes to sustaining the existing housing stock. Dalfsen stimulates this through an energy information counter and various financial arrangements. In addition Dalfsen supports local initiatives from the “Duurzame Dorpen” (Sustainable Villages).

Within the collaborative “Nieuwe Energie Noordwest Overijssel” (New Energy Northwest Overijssel, a collaboration between the municipalities of Dalfsen, Steenwijkerland, Staphorst and Zwartewaterland) attention is paid to energy-neutral construction, energy savings for the rental sector (in cooperation with the housing associations) and energy reductions in monumental buildings. For asbestos removal in private homes we are looking to collaborate with the province.

#### • Duurzaam Bedrijf (Sustainable Business)

Dalfsen is a pioneer municipality in the removal of asbestos from the roofs of commercial properties. Together with Steenwijkerland, Dalfsen functions as a pilot municipality for an approach to asbestos removal that will be put in place throughout Overijssel from 2016.

In 2016 the project “Bewust Verlichten” (Conscious Illumination) will be extended. This is a project of “Regio Zwolle” (Zwolle Region) which aims to limit industrial light pollution.

In addition, within “Nieuwe Energie Noordwest Overijssel” and in association with representatives from the corporate world, a bottom-up approach to encourage businesses to go for energy saving measures is being developed.

#### • Duurzame Energie (Sustainable Energy)

The key players for Dalfsen when it comes to sustainable energy projects are the “Duurzame Dorpen”, local initiatives spearheaded by “Duurzaam Hoonhorst”. The municipality supports them with the implementation of projects varying from solar projects to wind energy projects as well as a



sustainable village heating system. For example, the organisation “Groen Gebogen” in Dalfsen is working on developing large scale solar power projects on the ground as well as on rooftops and thereby putting Dalfsen on the map as a solar powered municipality. Within “Nieuwe Energie Noordwest Overijssel” special attention is also paid to solar parks. Together with the province, Dalfsen enables the establishment of solar parks in alternative locations, provided these can be integrated into the landscape.

- **Duurzame Gemeente (Sustainable Municipality)**

Dalfsen now uses green electricity and green gas, solar panels have been installed and measures have been taken to make the municipal buildings more sustainable. For the next few years at the start of the heating season the swimming pools will be heated through wood-fired boilers. Managing the public space is done with sustainable and environmentally friendly methods. In addition sustainable purchasing practises are put in place and promoting the sustainability of business travel has been included in “Duurzame Mobiliteit” (Sustainable Mobility).

### Actions taken for waste minimisation

Dalfsen is at the top in The Netherlands when it comes to waste separation. In 2015 85% of all household waste was separated. The amount of residual waste per resident was 75 kilograms per year. The goal for 2020 is 95% reusable waste and 30 kilograms residual waste. Dalfsen uses the reverse collection method. Reusable materials, such as organic waste, plastic, cans and beverage cartons, are collected door-to-door free of charge. In addition glass, paper and textiles can be taken to separate collection points. The residents take all residual waste to underground containers in their neighbourhood (operated through a payment card system). Bulky refuse can be taken to a modern collection facility for a fee.



### Composting and green waste recovery

The vegetable, fruit and garden waste is collected free of charge and fermented at ROVA's regional bio-installation in Zwolle. Subsequently it is turned into compost. The generated biogas is supplied back to the natural gas network. This generates enough green power for all municipal buildings and sport complexes to be awarded a yearly green certificate.

The green waste resulting from maintenance is being reused locally as much as possible: branches are being mulched and grass cuttings turned into compost. In the autumn fallen leaves are collected and used by local tree farms as a natural source of nutrients. Larger pieces of wood are cut and split and offered as biofuel. During the nationwide compost day residents can collect compost for free at ROVA. Dalfsen does not offer private citizens an exemption for burning branches and other wood waste.

## 2.2 Built environment

In the urban core of Dalfsen the city planning ideas from successive periods can be distinguished in various neighbourhoods. A recognisable, strongly independent design applies to each neighbourhood: each has a spacious layout with its own infrastructure and green spaces network which are safeguarded and enhanced through the “Groenstructuurplan” (Green Masterplan).

### Quality and maintenance of buildings - public and private

At the end of 2015 the municipality's housing stock consisted of 11,391 homes. There are a lot of detached and semi-detached houses. About 5% of the housing stock consists of apartments (“high-rise buildings”). Dalfsen has a high percentage of owner-occupied properties: 83%. The remaining 17% consists of both social and private rental properties.

In the policy plan “Onderhoud Gemeentelijke Gebouwen” (Maintenance Municipal Buildings) the quality level of maintenance for the municipal buildings has been determined: for the town halls it is high, for other buildings (such as municipal yard, fire station, swimming pool and sports hall) it is above average.



### Streetscape and street furnishings

The design and management of public space depends on its function and use. Dalfsen's historic town centre therefor has a different design and is maintained at a higher level of quality than the outlying

neighbourhoods. For example, the centre's public green has a higher ornamental value and grander design: planters, guided and shaped trees, austere clipped hedges and mature trees.

Together with entrepreneurs, residents and the study group “Typisch Dalfsen” (Typically Dalfsen) we are working on an integral vision for the future for the town centre: “Centrumvisie Dalfsen” (Centre Vision Dalfsen). This plan ties in with the visual quality plan made for the expansion of the Waterfront, creating a unity in street furniture, lighting and paving materials.

The municipality also has a policy on well-being. This is a spatial continuation of the municipal mission and vision as worded in “Bij Uitstek Dalfsen”. The municipality aims for spatial quality with the motto: Dalfsen should be one in a million, not one of many. That we are one in a million is also apparent in the presence of visual art. Many different pieces of art can be found, varying from a fountain to a bronze seal. With both the “Zwevende Kei” and the audio artwork at “Pleisterplaats De Stokte”, Dalfsen is part of an art trail that begins in Zwolle and ends in Nordhorn, Germany.





## Heritage buildings and structures

The cultural heritage plays an important part in the perception and quality of the landscape and the public space in Dalfsen. That is why the “Historische Kring Dalfsen” catalogued cultural-historical elements such as bakery houses, haystacks, sheepfolds, church paths, grave mounds and sand drifts.

Examples of important historical objects are:

- The gothic “Grote Kerk” in the centre of Dalfsen. This was built on an elevation in the landscape so in case of flooding the building would stay dry. The chapel attached to the church contains the Van Rechteren family tomb.
- “De Grutte Moole” with its guided linden trees. This is a state monument with two gabled roofs and facades with a “wedge bond”, a typical Dutch form of masonry.
- Kerkplein 5, the smallest house in Dalfsen and classified a municipal monument.

The quality of the greenery surrounding the historical objects is secured for the future through the “Groenstructuurplan”.



## 2.3 Cleanliness and tidiness

### Clutter, litter, litterbins, cigarettes

The residents, visitors and municipality take great care of their green surroundings. There is not a lot of litter. A special “Clean Team” makes sure any litter is removed quickly and neatly. Special attention is given to shopping areas, hangout spots and school traffic routes. Sufficient waste bins are positioned in these locations and special action days are organised for neighbourhoods and schools to clean up litter in their surroundings. Dalfsen also has a special litter-program developed to prevent litter during events and facilitate waste separation.



## Derelict buildings - tasteful infill

Dalfsen has two policy regulations regarding unused rural buildings, namely “Rood voor Rood-beleid” (Red for Red Policy) and “Beleid voor Vrijkomende Agrarische Bebouwing (VAB)” (Policy for Released Agricultural Buildings). The “Rood voor Rood” arrangement is aimed at maintaining or improving the spatial quality by allowing the demolition of uncharacteristic, unused farm buildings. The “VAB” policy focusses on improving the spatial quality by re-allocating characteristic, unused agricultural buildings.

Through the “Instandhouding monumenten” (Maintaining monuments) regulation the municipality stimulates the re-allocation and renovation of old (monumental), non-agricultural buildings. Examples of re-allocation are the apartments at the former “Nijverheidsschool” (vocational school) and church at “Pleyendal”, the hospice in the old “Pastorie” (vicarage) and the B&B, group- and meeting facilities at the former nunnery “Klooster van Dalfsen”.

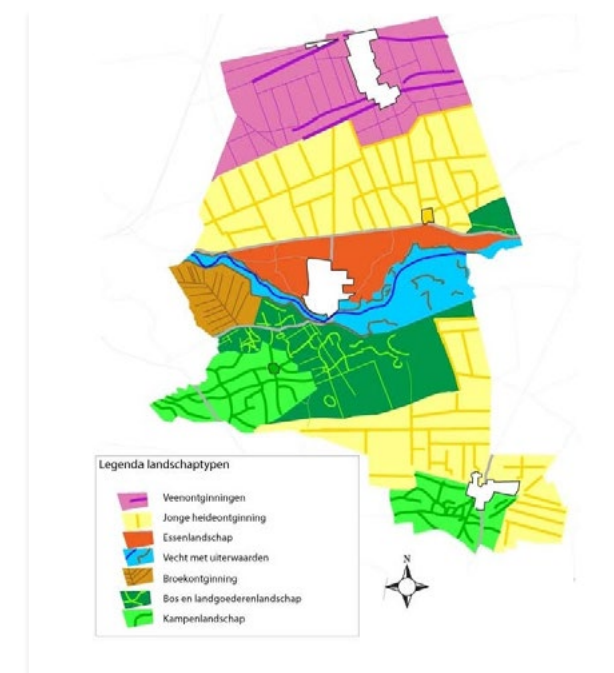
## Tagging, graffiti, wild billposting

Dalfsen has policy guidelines for billposting. (Free) posting is only allowed on advertising pillars in several

locations within the municipality. As far as graffiti is concerned there is no separate policy as it rarely occurs. As soon as graffiti is spotted we immediately remove it.

# 3. Landscape

The landscape around the municipality of Dalfsen has a lot of variety. Overall seven landscape types can be distinguished: peat mining, (recent) heath clearing, arable fields, Vecht and floodplains, block parcelling, woodlands and estates and farmlands.



## Policy/guidelines

Dalfsen’s landscape is constantly changing. Developments like residential housing and industrial expansion, the “Reconstructieplan Overijssel” (provincial reconstruction plan), the building of the Ecological Main Structure and Robust Ecological Corridors, farmland that becomes available, construction of road structures and water storage areas characterise the landscape. To make sure that the quality of the landscape does not suffer, Dalfsen is committed to preserving nature and region-specific cultivation. The “Landschapsontwikkelingsplan” (Landscape Development Plan) is an important part of the preservation and improvement of the quality of the (changing) landscape.

## Management of surrounding, “contextual landscape”

Two major landscape development plans currently being carried out as part of the Landschapsontwikkelingsplan are the regulations “Groene en Blauwe Diensten” (Green and Blue Services) and “Streekeigen Huis en Erf” (Region-Specific Home and Yard). Dalfsen developed these regulations in conjunction with Landschap Overijssel and the Ommer Marke with financial contributions from the province of Overijssel, European electricity network operator TenneT, and the municipality of Dalfsen.

- The “Groene en Blauwe Diensten” ensure that farmers and private landowners receive a fair reward for the work they perform to create, restore or maintain landscape elements.
- The “Streekeigen Huis en Erf” is an incentive arrangement to promote the conservation and improvement of cultural-historic heritage.







### Stone Age and Merovingian finds.

A good example of an unexpected result of a changing landscape are the Stone Age and Merovingian finds resulting from the archaeological survey in connection with the construction of the suburb Oosterdalfsen. A road and a graveyard with 120 graves of the Stone Age were found, which later turned out to be the largest West European find. Dalfsen received both national and international media attention because of this find and we are now firmly committed to education about prehistory and the touristic 'marketability' of this significant find. *The Merovingians were a dynasty of Frankish kings who ruled an ever changing territory in parts of what is now The Netherlands, Belgium, France and Germany from the fifth to well into the eight century (481-752).*

### Interface with town or village

Dalfsen is flanked on three sides by green, robust lanes with trees on either side. These, sometimes ancient, tree structures provide a beautiful transition from the urban core to the outlying areas. To the south the town borders on the blue edge of the Vecht and her floodplains



### Respect for natural habitats

The protection of flora and fauna species is regulated under the national Flora and Fauna Act. Together with the municipalities of Zwartewaterland and Staphorst, Dalfsen established a code of conduct for spatial development, sustainable management and maintenance and sustainable use. This code of conduct has been approved by the Ministry and thus provides, if implemented properly, exemption from the Act. For all field employees the code of conduct has been translated into product sheets with detailed instructions for each maintenance measure.



### Biodiversity of flora and fauna

The code of conduct contains a list of all protected species within the municipality of Dalfsen. To compile this list a comprehensive inventory was conducted in 2012. The presence and development of protected species is monitored every three to five years.

## 4. Open green spaces

### Location, function for climate, health

Dalfsen acknowledges the importance and significance of public green spaces for its residents. For that reason there is a lot of green available per capita, 67 m2 on average. In the "Groenstructuurplan" the vision on green spaces has been recorded. Hereby the historical origins of the urban cores is seen as the most important principle in the realisation of green spaces. The emphasis here is on strengthening the identity of each core.

### Estates

The manner in which collective landownership was typically organised in Overijssel enabled the development of large properties. In this way the following emerged in the municipality of Dalfsen:

- Castle "Rechteren" (12th century)
- The fortresses "Gerner" (13th century), "Ruitenborgh" (13th century) and "De Leemcule" (15th century)
- The manors "Den Berg", "Den Aalshorst" and "Hessum"
- The country estates "De Horte" and "Mataram".

Beginning at the end of the eighteenth century parts of the woods around some of the estates were converted to parks in the English Landscaping Style. This is still visible in the gardens of the estates Den Aalshorst, Den Berg, De Leemcule and Mataram.



### Castle "Rechteren"

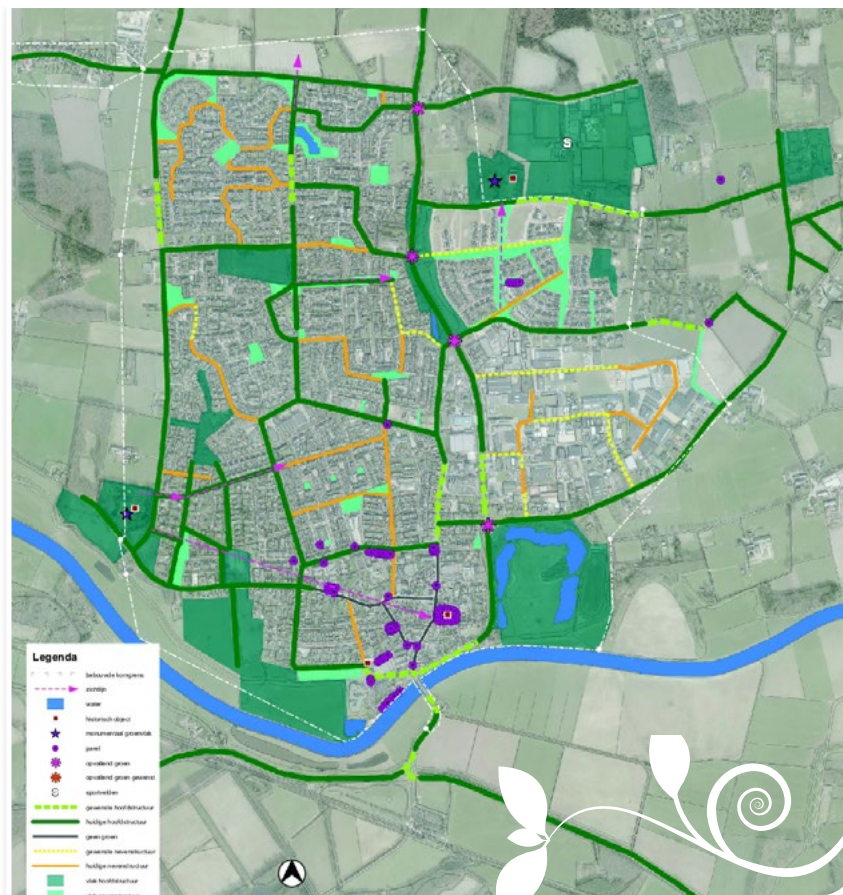
Dalfsen is the only one of the larger communities along The Vecht never to be granted a town charter. One of the reasons for this is that with the castle Rechteren (built in 1320) the bishop of Utrecht already had a stronghold to garrison his troops. The castle is the only medieval castle in Overijssel with its original tower and residential wing preserved. A large part of the castle's grounds are open to the public.



### Parks and botanic public/private gardens

Dalfsen has many green areas and parks. To the southeast there is "Bellingeweer", a recreational and natural landscape park with dug-out river branches. To the west there are several estates: "Huize Hofwijck", "Huize Eshof" and "De Leemcule", all of which are open to the public most of the time. To the south there is the landscape park "Vechtvliet". Throughout the urban core of Dalfsen a lot of valuable green elements have been preserved that extent into

the suburbs as green threads. Good examples of the landscape coming into the core are the deepened, dried up river channels incorporated in the suburb of Polhaar, wooded banks and the old “Lindelaantje” (Linden Tree Lane) in the Leemcule suburb and urban forest groves in the suburbs of Polhaar, Ankummer Es and Gerner Marke. In addition, new green-blue zones with great value for the suburbs of Dalfsen have been landscaped with ponds, a natural garden, water infiltration areas, big and small playing fields and sight lines reminiscent of the sight lines of the old estates.



## Sport and play grounds

Over 23% of the population of Dalfsen consists of children under the age of 18 years old. The municipality feels it is important that these children can play outside. Not just in the designated playgrounds, but also on sidewalks and lawns and in the wooded areas. In the "Speelruimteplan" (Room to Play Plan) the municipality, together with its residents, local interest groups and the children, established the play policy. Currently there are almost a hundred equipped playgrounds in Dalfsen where kids can play. In addition nearly all schoolyards are open to the Dalfsen youth after school hours. In the event a playground is being (re)developed, the residents and their children are included in the planning stage and equipment choice.



Sport park “Gerner” is located just to the northeast of Dalfsen. Here, nestled in the woods, the scouting, football, hockey, tennis, handball, sport shooting and skate facilities are situated. On the outskirts of Hoonhorst we find sport park “Hoonhorst”, where people can play football, tennis and skateboard. Next to this sport park a cultural facility, “Kulturhus De Potstal”, was recently established. This was built, in part, thanks to the efforts of many volunteers. In association with “Duurzaam Hoonhorst” the “Potstal” was equipped with numerous durable measures.

## Cemeteries

Dalfsen maintains three public cemeteries including the public cemetery "Welsum" in Dalfsen. In addition there are several special cemeteries within the municipality. In Dalfsen and Hoonhorst these are the Roman Catholic Cemeteries and the Jewish Cemetery. Dalfsen does not operate or maintain the catholic cemeteries. However, maintenance of the Jewish Cemetery is done by the municipality.



## Streams, ponds, lakes and banks

The river Vecht and the ponds of landscape park “Bellingeweer” form the main blue structures in the urban core of Dalfsen. These waterways provide cohesion and continuity, and support other structures such as traffic structure, historical structure and ecological structure. The waterways are owned and maintained by the “Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta” (the regional water authority).

## The Vecht

The river Vecht is iconic to Dalfsen. The rain-fed river is unpredictable by nature and has a large river basin. Much attention has been paid in recent years to nature development and river expansion in the flood plains of the Vecht. The urban core of Dalfsen faces a real threat of flooding due to its riverside location.

The Vecht and its floodplain on the south side of Dalfsen are part of the “Ecologische Hoofdstructuur” (Ecological Main Structure). The “Kaderrichtlijn Water” (Framework Directive Water) sets goals, among other things, for the ecological design of both the Vecht and all its floodplains.



## Design, maintenance and cleanliness

All public green spaces in the historic (shopping) centre have a high ornamental value, a representative value and at times an architectural design. This is also reflected in the materials used for paving and street furnishings. The level of maintenance in this area is high.

The green spaces in Dalfsen's suburbs have a mostly supportive function (decorative, guiding traffic flows) or recreational function (playing, walking) and consists of cultivated greenery: non-native groundcovers, shrubs and trees as well as frequently mowed (play)lawns. The level of maintenance is basic.

Besides the centre and suburbs Dalfsen has natural zones. These form the transitions from urban to rural areas, the waterways and the green threads that enter the urban cores at various locations. The greenery consists mainly of wooded banks, flower-filled roadsides and ditches, with nature friendly banks. Maintenance is

determined based on natural processes. The level of maintenance (litter etc.) is basic.

The maintenance of the public space is mainly performed by the municipality's own, well-trained field employees. As of 2015 the social employment system has been integrated within the municipal organisation through a special district team "Dalfsen Werkt" (Dalfsen Works). In addition to the important task of maintaining the public space at a qualitatively high level the field employees are now also responsible for guiding their social employment colleagues and training them in green maintenance.



## 5. Permanent planting

The "Groenstructuurplan" sets out the green main structure, the green secondary structure and the "gems" for all cores of Dalfsen. The green main structure forms the green base for the entire core. The green secondary structure fulfils a decorative and functional purpose for an entire suburb. The gems are special green spots with beautiful groups of trees, monumental greenery or other eye catchers like the roundabouts at Dalfsen's entry points. Part of the "Groenstructuurplan" is the "Kwaliteitshandboek" (Quality Manual). This contains the guidelines and requirements for design and establishment of trees (above and below ground), woodlands, shrubs, groundcovers, hedges, perennials, lawns and flowery grasslands.

### Trees, shrubs, bushes

The trees and tree-lined avenues are the main carriers of Dalfsen's public green. Monumental and valuable privately owned trees within the urban areas have been inventoried and included on a list of valuable trees. These trees have a protected status. The healthy, valuable tree (lanes) in the rural areas have also been inventoried and included in the "Landschapsonwikkelingsplan". These trees also have a protected status.



In several of the suburbs important wooded banks and forest groves have been preserved. These banks and groves consist of old trees with an undergrowth of shrubs and (floral) herb vegetation. The cultured greenery in the suburbs consists mostly of lawns with hedges or low-growing evergreen groundcovers. Dalfsen prefers large connected flowerbeds instead of scattered smaller beds.

For new development projects clear agreements have been made with the "Waterschap" to retain water in the plan area and to delay water draining to the surface water. To this end large areas are designed as "wadi" (a green buffering and infiltration system). This creates a very open image for new suburbs.



### Perennials

At special places like the roundabouts at entry points to the suburbs and in the centre evergreen hedges with perennials have been applied. Especially in the spring and summer time this creates a wonderful, flowering scene.

At the cemeteries bulbs and annuals are planted to bloom in the colours of the Dutch flag around Remembrance Day (May 4th).



### Quality, quantity, maintenance, policy

The municipality of Dalfsen is responsible for the safety of over 45,000 trees throughout the municipality. The municipal field staff takes care of the support and maintenance pruning of each tree as well as the VTA (Visual Tree Assessment) inspection. The maintenance level of all other greenery is recorded in the "Kwaliteitsplan" and the field staff and contractors are instructed through (visual) maintenance specifications.





## 6. Seasonal planting

### Quality, quantity, colours, etc

In springtime residents and visitors are welcomed at the entry points of the urban cores by flowering daffodils. After their bloom, the colourful purpose of these daffodils is taken over by roadside flower fields. These are in full bloom from July through September. The mowing maintenance for the flower fields and herb-rich roadsides is tailored to special varieties we want to give a chance to develop.



At various locations in the parks a mix of wild-growing bulbs has been planted. In lawns along residential street bulbs are also applied. The wild growing and regular bulbs provide plenty of colour even early on in spring. At the cemeteries bulbous plants along with annuals provide abundant bloom from early spring until summer.

From May until October large flowerpots with geranium pyramids in red, pink and lilac are placed throughout the centre. The town hall is brightened up by Thunbergia pyramids. Along the Vecht flowerpots

### "Blauw bloed" (blue blooded) bulb mix

At "Rechteren" castle a combination of a "blauwbloed" bulb mix is planted with a nod to the nobility. This mixture blooms from March through June and has been especially selected to attract butterflies and bees.

with bulbs and annuals provide the quayside with colour. Local businesses help place and maintain these flowerpots.

Around Christmas time the shopping streets are decorated by the local entrepreneurs association with Christmas trees and lights. The municipality places one large Christmas tree on the church square.



## 7. Environmental education

### Quality

Being a durable municipality can only be achieved with the commitment of residents, businesses and social organisations. Together with "Duurzame Dorpen" and front-runner companies Dalfsen develops policy regarding durability. We also focus on providing information and education to residents and businesses to stimulate them to contribute to making the municipality more sustainable. For example, Dalfsen takes part in a training program in the "Adviseurs van de Toekomst" (Advisors of the Future) project. With this project students are challenged to consider special issues that are both realistic and current, for example relating to water safety, landscape and economy.

In addition a lot of effort is put into education in schools and for volunteer organisations by "Landschap Overijssel" (Landscape Overijssel), from which the "Junior Rangers" developed.

### Range

The municipality tries to reach as many people as possible with her information activities. Every two years a door-to-door sustainability newspaper is distributed. In addition Dalfsen has an active "EnergieLoket" (Energy Counter) that can be consulted in person as well as by telephone and through a website. To reach the young people Dalfsen has a Facebook page about "Duurzaam Dalfsen". The "Duurzame Dorpen" are also actively providing information. Each community has its own website. A good example is Dalfsen's "Groen Gebogen" website ([www.groengebogen.nl](http://www.groengebogen.nl)). By combining general communication and information with local and core-focused communication residents and businesses are being reached at as large a scale as possible.



### Policy

Dalfsen likes to lead by example. We therefore strive for sustainable management and try to encourage residents and businesses to do the same. Awareness is an important part of the "Duurzaamheidsbeleid" (Durability Policy). For that reason Dalfsen promotes various campaigns such as Earth Hour, "Nacht van de Nacht" (The Night of the Night) and "Nationale Boomfeestdag" (National Arbor Day). These campaigns are aimed at raising awareness among residents and youths. Dalfsen also supports the activities of "Stichting Natuur en Milieu Overijssel" (The Foundation for Nature and Environment Overijssel).

Dalfsen sees a definite role for "Duurzame Dorpen" in the education of its members. The "Duurzame Dorpen" achieve this through activities as "Buurtkracht" (Neighbourhood Strength) and Energybattle as well as organising informative meetings. Dalfsen supports "Duurzame Dorpen" by providing facilities and other assistance.



## 8. Effort and involvement

### Existence of active voluntary bodies

Dalfsen often works together with various organisations to enhance the liveability of the urban cores and the rural areas. In matters relating to durability several initiatives have been realised, among which “Duurzaam Hoonhorst” and “Groen Gebogen” in Dalfsen. These organisations and their dedicated volunteers are committed to making Dalfsen more durable and the residents more aware of durability.



Dalfsen has a citizens' panel. This panel is given several questions on different subjects a few times a year. Based on the answers the municipality proceeds with making policies. The citizens' panel consists of over 2,000 residents, varying from 12 to 90 years old.

### Cooperation among various bodies with local statutory authority

Partnerships between Dalfsen and other organisations are:

- “Regio Zwolle” (Region of Zwolle) - a governmental cooperation between 20 municipalities.
- “Ruimte voor de Vecht” (Space for the Vecht) - a regional collaboration with the province, municipalities in the Vecht valley, water boards, “Staatsbosbeheer”, “LTO Noord”, “Natuur en Milieu Overijssel”, “Particulier Overijssels Grondbezit” (Private Landownership of Overijssel), “VNO-NCW”, “Vechtdal Marketing”.
- “Duurzame Dorpen”, including “Groen Gebogen” in Dalfsen and “Duurzaam Hoonhorst”.
- Local interest groups, including “Plaatselijk Belang Dalfsen” and “Plaatselijk Belang Hoonhorst”.

- Entrepreneurs associations, including “Ondernemend Dalfsen” and “Industriële Club Dalfsen”.
- “Veiligheidsregio IJsselland” - a regional collaboration between fire departments, GHOR (medical assistance), police and municipalities concerning fire and rescue, crisis management, emergency medical assistance, disaster relief.
- Separate consultation partners including: the province of Overijssel, (neighbouring) municipalities, “Waterschap Drents Overijsselse Delata”, “Landschap Overijssel”, estates, housing associations, “Stimuland”, “Leader Noord Overijssel”.

### Evidence of residents taking ownership of their environment

Dalfsen supports the many initiatives coming from “Duurzame Dorpen”. In addition we have introduced the “Kansen-pot” (Chance Jar) to be able to financially support good ideas raised by the public. Dalfsen’s “beweegtuin” (movement garden) is an example of such an idea.



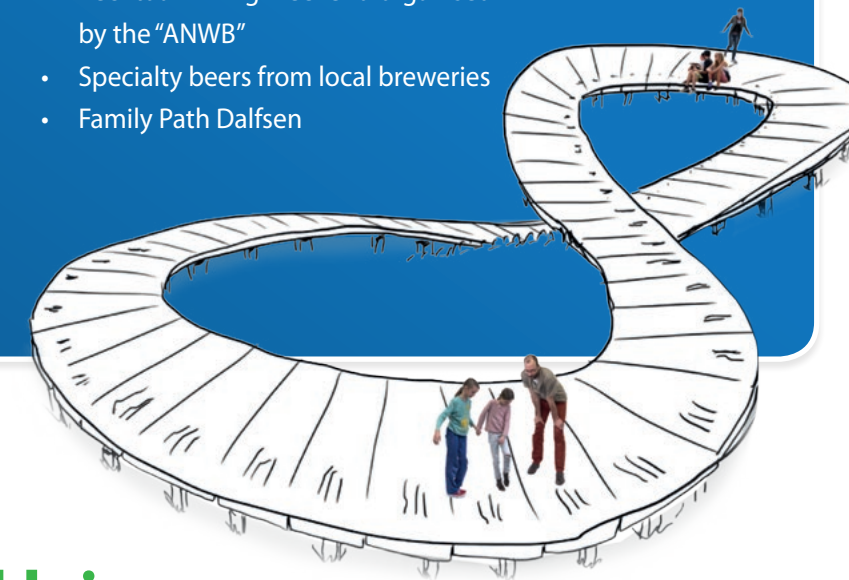
At this time more than 70 contracts have been entered into with private citizens within the framework of the “Groene en Blauwe Diensten”. Through these contracts more than 42 hectares of vital landscape elements are being maintained, 15 hectares of landscape elements have been restored and 1 hectare has been newly established.

Under the “Streekeigen Huis en Erf” regulation over 100 contracts have been entered into since 2010.

### Merovingian find spin-offs

The Merovingian find has resulted in a variety of spin-off activities that have been or are being initiated:

- Art project Lord and Lady of Dalfsen
- Story Pole
- Poetry route
- Lectures historical society
- Week of Amateur Art with the “Schat van Dalfsen” (Dalfsen’s Treasure) as its theme
- Vechtdal Hiking Weekend organised by the “ANWB”
- Specialty beers from local breweries
- Family Path Dalfsen



## 9. Tourism and leisure

### Attractiveness

The leisure time economy (tourism, culture, recreation and sports) forms an important economical pillar throughout the Vecht valley. In Dalfsen the recreation and tourist industry accounts for roughly 9% of all employment. “Visie Rust en Drukke in het Vechtdal” (Vision Rest and Bustle in the Vecht Valley) forms the basis for the municipal policy on recreation and tourism in which Dalfsen has indicated its qualities and included specific measures to stimulate the growth of day-trip and overnight tourism, with a focus on:

- Stimulating route-based forms of recreation, where enjoyment of nature, landscape and cultural history takes centre stage.
- Stimulating water-related recreation in which the Vecht plays an important central role.
- Expansion and quality-improvement of overnight recreation.

### Infrastructure

Since 2008 the Vecht valley has a network of cycle paths available to bicyclists that connects forests, moors, and old river branches. There are also signposted trails for horse riders and drivers. And the hikers have not been left out. Over 2,000 hectares of estate property is open to the public for hiking and in 2012 the Dalfsen Hiking Network was officially launched. This currently brings the available hiking trail network for the entire Vecht valley to over 1,300 kilometres. Within the municipality of Dalfsen there are 34 different circuits totalling 280 kilometres. The hiking network was financed by the province Overijssel, water board “Groot Salland” and Dalfsen. Many landowners selflessly opened their properties to the hiking public.





There is a “Toeristisch Overstap Punt” (Tourist Transfer Point) at the Dalfsen train station. There is parking available and various route descriptions which makes it an excellent starting point to explore the Vecht valley. In addition Dalfsen has several high-end recreation parks, campgrounds, small farm-based campsites and hotels. The watch tower along the Vecht offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape as does the nearby “Pleisterplaats De Stokte” (formerly the landfill). This resting place is also accessible from the river where a solar powered ferry for hikers and cyclists takes tourists and recreational visitors across.

### Marketing and development policy

Together with business owners and people with an interest in the leisure sector and the Region of Zwolle, we focus on stimulating recreation and tourism within Dalfsen in as broad a sense as possible. We promote local cooperation, support for quality improvements and strengthening tourism as a product.

### Sustainability

The Overijsselse Vecht encounters very high water levels. With the “Ruimte voor de Vecht” program thirteen partners ensure the water is safely discharged. They combine this safe and clean water outlet with initiatives to make the Vecht even more attractive. The water fronts in the communities along the Vecht are part of this program. In addition the partners see to strengthening nature, strengthening the economic possibilities and involvement of the farmers in the area. By constructing floodgates, cycle and hiking paths and other connections on, over and along the Vecht, these partners make the treasures of the Vecht valley available. In the meantime the Vecht is taking centre stage again in the valley. Towns and villages along the Vecht have turned towards the river (water fronts). By constructing bypass flows and meanders the river takes on the character of a semi-natural river. Measures like fish ladders and new meanders in the Vecht and the clean water resulted in plenty of (fish) species feeling at home here.

## Policy documents

### Local:

Beleidsplan recreatie en toerisme 2011-2020 (2011)  
 Bellingeweer Multifunctioneel en Natuurlijk (2006)  
 Erven in de gemeente Dalfsen (2011)  
 Groenstructuurplan gemeente Dalfsen 2013-2017 (2013)  
 Handboek burgerparticipatie (2012)  
 Kwaliteitshandboek  
 Landschapsontwikkelingsplan (2010)  
 Meerjarenprogramma Duurzaamheid 2012-2013 (2011)  
 Nota algemene begraafplaatsen gemeente Dalfsen (2009)  
 Onderzoek ‘Op papier summier, in de praktijk rijk’ (november 2010)  
 Plattelandsvisie (2007)  
 Schetsontwerp Waterbelevingspark en Vechtvliet Dalfsen (2011)  
 Speelruimteplan ‘Spelen goed voor elkaar’ 2014-2023 (2014)  
 Structuurvisie Buitengebied (2012)  
 Structuurvisie kernen Dalfsen (2010)  
 Toekomstvisie ‘Bij Uitstek Dalfsen, Missie & Visie gemeente Dalfsen 2020 (2009)

### Regional/nationwide:

Reconstructieplan Overijssel  
 Kaderrichtlijn Water  
 Visie Rust en Drukke in het Vechtdal  
 Cultuurhistorische Atlas van de Vecht (2011)

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