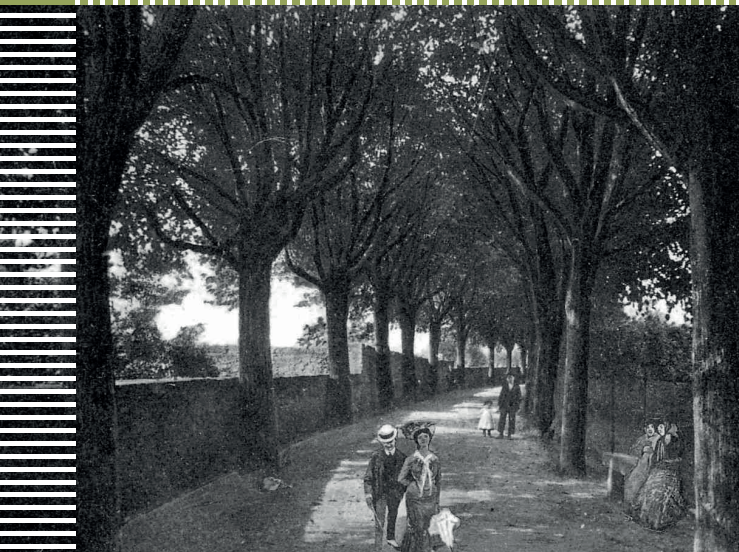
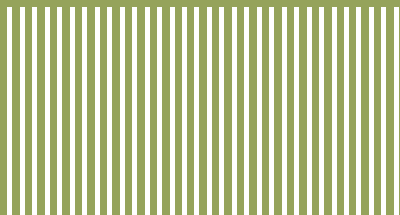


# TOUR PARKS AND GARDENS



VILLES  
& PAYS  
D'ART &  
D'HISTOIRE  
DIRE

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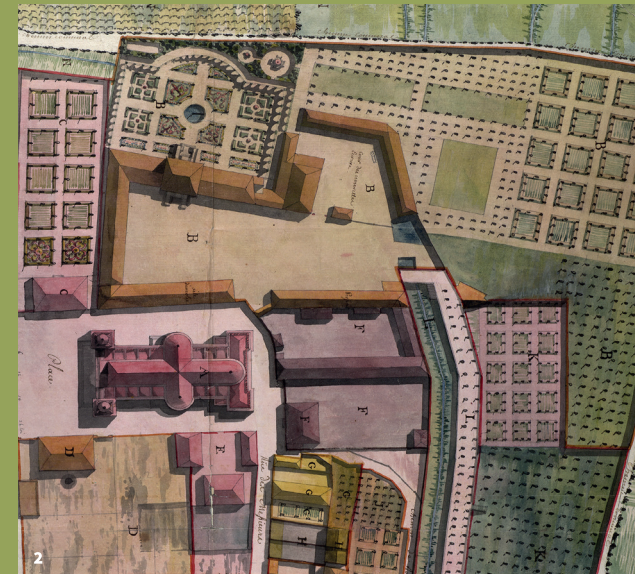
### Cover:

**Bench located in the Marseillaise park, Guebwiller.**  
Photography, tribute to Sarah Bernhardt

**The Citadel walk, Soultz.**  
Postcard, Private collection

**Photography credits:**  
CCRG-Pays d'art et d'histoire,  
unless indicated otherwise

**Cartographic credits:**  
CCRG-BDU



**1. Cloister of the Dominican convent, Guebwiller.**  
Photography, Benoit Facchi, Dominicains de Haute-Alsace

**2. The Neuenbourg Castle and its regular gardens around 1793, Guebwiller.**  
2Fi565, Archives Alsace, Site of Colmar

**3. Details of the decoration of the veranda of the Villa des Glycines.** Preserved at the Théodore Deck Museum, Guebwiller

**4. The working-class city of Florival and its gardens, Guebwiller.**  
Postcard, Michel Ruh



# THE GARDENS OVER THE CENTURIES

« GOD PLANTED A GARDEN IN EDEN IN THE EAST, AND THERE HE PUT THE MAN HE HAD FORMED. »

*Génèsis 2*

Alsace has kept many parks and gardens, created between the seventeenth century and the present day. They reflect the society that created them, maintains them and develops them against the backdrop of constantly changing trends.

The gardens often recall images of the time they were created. At various stages in history, they've embodied refuges of medieval courtly love, the scenes of château life in the Enlightenment, and then the setting for romantic reveries in the nineteenth century. They are also symbols of social progress during urban development or the creation of allotments. They have been increasingly recognised as part of our heritage since the 2000s, as part of a national policy led by the Ministry of Culture.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF MONASTERIES

After the fall of the Roman Empire (fifth century), gardening was retained by the monasteries. The cloisters are inspired by the image of the *Hortus conclusus*: a secret, enclosed garden, which the Church uses as a symbol. Later, the garden became a symbol of courtly love, as in the Romance of the Rose, a thirteenth-century guide to the art of love.

In the Middle Ages, gardens in monasteries mainly contained medicinal plants and were called Gardens of the Simples. Indeed, monastic

orders were often used to treat disease. The Antonines, for example, were responsible for "Saint Anthony's Fire". In his famous altarpiece, Matthias Grünewald painted the plants that were used to make remedies for this infection. Sometimes the residents of the Antonines recovered use to the disease going into remission or a better diet.

## THE CLASSIC GARDENS

Each period in the history of gardens bears the imprint of the society that created them. During the Renaissance, the Italian humanists wanted to rediscover the aesthetic perfection of Antiquity. Italy heavily influenced the architecture, gardens and parks of the time with terraces and statue work. Regular gardens, also known as «French gardens», show geometric patterns, symmetry and important perspectives in their layout. One of the main features is the use of boxwood-lined flowerbeds. The design is based on the building from which the garden is to be viewed and admired.

Some French landscape artists, such as Claude Mollet (1660-1742), were internationally renowned. The most famous of them is André Le Nôtre (1613-1700), gardener to King Louis XIV from 1645 to 1700.



Subsequently, the princes of Europe wanted to have «their» Versailles. These gardens and their success were the consecration of the "French" garden style.

Alsace, Saverne or Wesserling, owned by important ecclesiastical princes at the time, were all home to such gardens. Noble families in the Guebwiller region also continued the eighteenth century fashion for gardens. They used landscape architects from the French school. In Soultzmatt, the Breiten-Landenburgs or De Spons properties got adorned with sumptuous gardens. Dagobert Waldner commissioned the French architect Antoine Matthieu le Carpentier (1709-1773), a member of the Royal Academy of Architecture for his castle in Ollwiller.

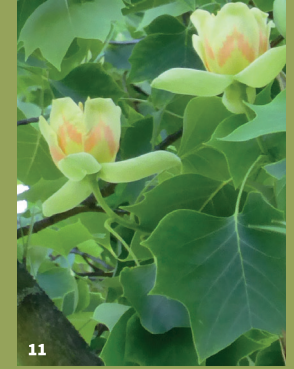
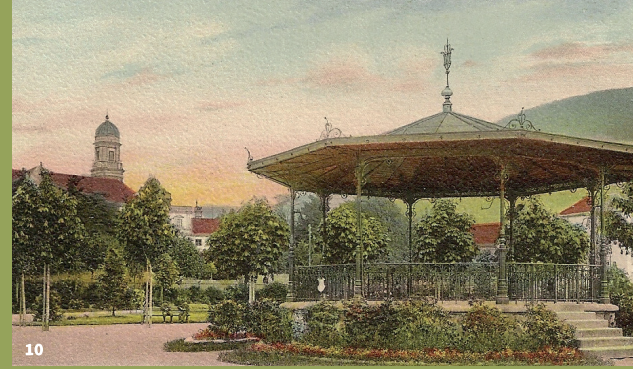
These places are then decorated with many orangery plants (orange trees, lemon trees, myrtle, pomegranate trees, laurel trees...) and statues inspired by the gods of Antiquity or allegories of the seasons. Collections of fruit trees, also organised in regular lines, were common on aristocratic or ecclesiastical estates.



5. Extract of the *Guta Sintram codex* with the calligraphy of the canoness Guta from the Schwarzenhann convent. Preserved at the Library of the major seminary, Strasbourg

6. Plant details, here the rose, represented on the altarpiece of Issenheim, today preserved at the Unterlinden Museum in Colmar.

7. Statuaries still visible in the Ollwiller castle's garden.



### LANDSCAPE GARDENS

The eighteenth century saw a movement away from regular gardens. Designers looked to nature for inspiration and created picturesque landscapes. First developed in England, this new aesthetic model became known as the “English garden”. Famous English landscape designer William Kent (1685-1748) studied painting and architecture before turning to a multidisciplinary approach to garden design. Vegetation appeared free and unrestricted and land was taken as is and its deformities were valued. Elements were added such as benches, statues, rocks, as well as many species of plant. Winding paths encouraged the walker to stroll. Walkers should be surprised by a small bucolic building, called a «garden factory», or by surprising species of plant. The landscape garden was understood as a succession of natural scenes.

This new art of gardening did not really reach France until the 1760s and Alsace until the eve of the French Revolution. Complementary patterns and spaces were introduced into the designs.

The landscape style became popular in the Guebwiller region mainly from the 1830s onwards. After a boom in the textile industry at the beginning of the nineteenth century, employers built beautiful and vast villas, enclosed in a green setting in the style of the

times. A growing fashion caused a rush for rare exotic plant species. The Baumann nursery in Bollwiller supplied most of the large parks and gardens in the Guebwiller region. Plants were omnipresent there. They were used as materials to create a landscape garden with a palette of colours and shapes. Sometimes, the villas’ leisure gardens became real showcases for these rarities. The wealthiest owners had greenhouses built to house plant collections from all over the world.

### PUBLIC PARKS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Shady tree-lined promenades began to appear in Alsace in the eighteenth century. They enabled city dwellers to get some fresh air close to home. From the beginning of the nineteenth century, Guebwiller and Sultz had such a place to wander around, but also to socialise.

The nineteenth century saw progress in medicine and increased awareness of the poor sanitary conditions in which the population lived which had been responsible for the numerous epidemics. Napoleon III, assisted by Baron Haussmann, prefect of the Seine, reorganised Parisian urban planning. A public hygiene policy was developed with public baths, tree-lined boulevards and sewerage systems.

In this context, the nineteenth century was the era where parks were democratised and made available to all and not just to a privileged few. These were developed as early as 1820 in England. Public gardens were springing up all over Europe, in cities and towns alike. The aim was to beautify the city but also to create places of relaxation from the stresses of urban life.

Remarkable trees, such as the giant sequoia, the tulip tree, the copper beeches and the ginkgo bilobas which were highly fashionable in the nineteenth century, boosted by the nurseries set up in the parks of the Guebwiller region.

Bandstands, benches and fountains also enhanced public parks. The Parc de la Marseillaise in Guebwiller included all these. How we manage urbanism became a central issue at the end of the twentieth and beginning of the twenty-first century. In the heart of cities, urban parks are designed as monuments to be visited.

Centuries-old plants, planted by public authorities or on the initiative of private owners, mark out the urban landscape and that of the Vosges mountains.

**8. The Bourcart family cottage, fashionable garden decoration in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.**

Photography, Théodore Deck Museum, Guebwiller

**9. Déroulède promenade, Guebwiller.**

**10. Kiosk of the Marseillaise Park, Guebwiller.**

Postcard, Michel Ruh

**11. The tulip tree of Virginia in Neuenbourg park, flowered in early summer.**

12. Recreated medieval garden of the Dominican convent, Guebwiller.



13. The Neuenbourg castle and its greenhouse replaced in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by a terrace.

Photography, Théodore Deck Museum, Guebwiller

14. The plane tree promenade, Guebwiller.

Postcard, Michel Ruh

15. Remains of the hydraulic installation of the park of the Domaine de Beaupré, Guebwiller.



# FROM ONE GARDEN TO ANOTHER



## GUEBWILLER THE DOMINICAN CONVENT GARDEN

A reconstitution of a «cure garden», also known as a «Garden of the Simples», was set up at the Dominicans of Haute-Alsace in 2005. These essentially utilitarian places had medicinal plants and vegetable gardens. Today, this garden has been transformed into a contemporary garden supporting the creations of today's landscape designers. An orchard of old varieties was planted in 2022, reminding us of the importance that was given to fruit crops in religious institutions.

## GUEBWILLER THE NEUENBOURG GARDEN

In the course of the eighteenth century, the Neuenbourg parks borrowed from the art of regular gardens. The geometry and regularity can be seen both in the shape of the plots and in the organisation of the plantations. They were made up from trees, shrubs and grass. A large fruit orchard was grown in the eighteenth century and organised on regular lines. The industrialist families of Bary, and later the Schlumbergers in particular, were responsible for transforming the classical gardens of the Neuenbourg into a landscaped garden worthy of an *arboretum*. Henry Schlumberger, the former owner of the castle, played a major role in this. This scholar and botanical enthusiast transformed the property into a real villa in its green setting. He planted many plant species, built a greenhouse with

compartments to house his collection and maintained an exceptional orchard. Dr Faudel described the gardens as 'renowned for their richness and perfect layout' in 1877.

## GUEBWILLER THE PLANE TREE PROMENADE

Throughout the eighteenth century, Alsatian towns started to plant tree lines along the river banks. This created shaded areas for walking, which quickly became pleasant places to be. There is an avenue of plane trees along the Lauch river in Guebwiller, planted in 1805. This development was part of public health policies implemented throughout the Haut-Rhin department by the Prefect of the Empire, Félix Desportes.

## GUEBWILLER THE PARK OF THE DOMAINE DE BEAUPRÉ

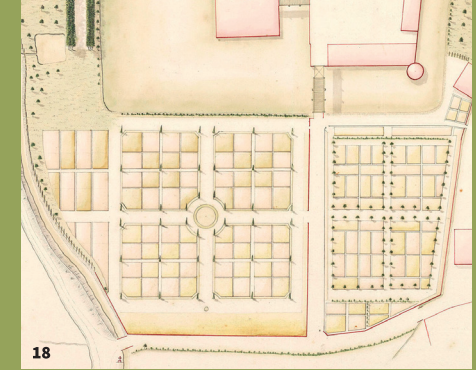
Following the example of many industrial families, the Ziegler family of Guebwiller built a country home that was bought in the 1860s by Albert de Bary. It has been extended twice and its appearance been changed with the help of a number of master craftsmen. At that time, access to the property was from the side of the Lauch. That way, the villa marked the entrance to the town of Guebwiller with its imposing façade and garden. A landscape garden included a river and remarkable plant species. A view looking towards the vineyard slope was created from the large



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18

terrace. It was undoubtedly provided with Mediterranean and exotic plants, which were sheltered in the still existing orangery during the winter months. The arrival of the railway in Guebwiller in 1870 meant a complete transformation of the park and the creation of a new entrance worthy of the prestige of the place. An avenue of chestnut trees was then planted leading up to the house from the Soultz road. A few years later, the landscape architect Édouard André designed the ironwork elements, such as the gate or the railings for the property of the mayor of Guebwiller, Émile de Bary.

**GUEBWILLER  
THE VILLA LE BOIS FLEURI**

Charles Bourcart, a descendant of a family of textile manufacturers, decided to build this villa on the outskirts of Guebwiller in 1864. He added a sumptuous, landscaped park with a pond, greenhouses and many species of plant. Building an old people's home in 2021-22 led to the destruction of most of these. In 1891, the park was decorated with floral arrangements that matched the tastes of the time. Inspired by the medieval period, and echoing the historicist style of architecture, Charles Bourcart had a fake ruin built called the Little Hugstein which became a walking target for the family. This remains accessible today. Many other industrial parks remain in the Guebwiller region, often privately owned.

**GUEBWILLER  
THE VILLA DES GLYCINES**

In 1886, Édouard de Bary had a villa built just outside Guebwiller. From the time of its construction, the villa has had a very open landscape park with a fountain, a pond and some remarkable trees.

A large ceramic decoration with wisteria motifs was commissioned from the workshop of Théodore Deck to decorate the veranda. The link between decorative art and exteriors is obvious. In keeping with the romantic spirit, the garden incorporates fake medieval ruins, in this case cloister arches, possibly from the former Schwarzenhann monastery in Soultzmatt-Wintzfelden. They have now disappeared. A now demolished rustic chalet with wooden sculptures finished off the park's historic aesthetic.

**GUEBWILLER  
THE DÉROULÈDE PROMENADE**

In 1894, the Guebwiller town council decided to build a promenade with an irregular layout on a slope leading to the forest above Guebwiller. At the beginning of the twentieth century, new plots were acquired and a footbridge was added over the stream.

In 1951, Mrs Ernest Schlumberger gave a plot of land to the town on condition the existing trees, including a remarkable sequoia, were left in place and for consideration if changes were to be made. After the Second World

**16. The ruins of the park of the Villa des Glycines, Guebwiller.**

Photography, Private collection

**17. The Villa Le Bois Fleuri surrounded by its landscaped park, Guebwiller.**

Watercolour, Charles Bourcart, *Schimmelrain* n°1, 1868, Théodore Deck Museum, Guebwiller

**18. Plan of the castle of Hartmannswiller with regular garden and orchards, in 1756.**

L387, Archives Alsace, Site of Colmar

War, a military cemetery was established in the vicinity. At the end of the twentieth century, a car park was attached and the layout simplified.

**GUEBWILLER  
THE MARSEILLAISE PARK**

Émile de Bary, mayor of Guebwiller (1886-1902), decided to build a public park on the outskirts of the town to meet hygiene and democratic ideals. He used on the internationally renowned landscape architect Édouard André who had already worked on his property at the entrance to the town. This park, which converges on the bandstand, was inaugurated on 17 October 1899. It is planted with local species but also with specimens from far away countries, such as a giant sequoia or an Atlas cedar, in order to introduce the population to botany. It includes flower beds with exotic plants. It was modified in the 1920s by a regular-style extension to the west, inspired by French gardens. This aesthetic bias is undoubtedly an affirmation of a newly found French nationality. The name «Parc de la Marseillaise», adopted in the 1920s, speaks volumes.

**GUEBWILLER  
ALLOTMENTS**

These had a social purpose, allowing workers to grow on a piece of land to provide for their food needs while working elsewhere. Generally made available to residents by municipalities, allotments alleviated the misery caused by economic crises. The «petits jardins de Guebwiller» association was founded in 1930. Transformed into allotments at the end of the twentieth century, they are still in use today. Other allotment gardens are being created too in Buhl, Jungholtz and Soultz.

**HARTMANNSWILLER  
HARTMANNSWILLER CASTLE**

The castle was first mentioned in 1308. Partially destroyed during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), it was repaired in the mid-seventeenth century and rebuilt in 1718. Owned by the Waldner family of Freundstein, a regular garden in keeping with the fashion of the time is shown on a plan of 1756. The Baumann brothers, nurserymen in Bollwiller, bought the castle in 1808 to turn it into a production site and then a home. The exterior was then redesigned along the building, including a landscaped garden with a pond. Older plant species such as bald cypresses and the double-flowered Baumann chestnut tree are now found there.



19



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## ISSENHEIM THE VILLA SPETZ

Nephew of the Zimmermann brothers, pioneers of industry in Issenheim, Jean-Baptiste Spetz had a villa built for himself in 1865, opposite his factory, located on the other side of the Lauch. The entire industrial site has now almost completely disappeared, but the presence of a few trees makes it possible to trace the perimeter of the villa's park. After the death of renowned artist and art collector Georges Spetz in 1914, the villa was abandoned. There are still a few photos of the interior and garden, which were laid out in the romantic style of the nineteenth century. The property faced the Carpentier family's property, separated by a river, the Lauch.

## MURBACH RECONSTRUCTION OF MEDIEVAL GARDENS

The garden in Murbach is divided into squares and consists mainly of ancient medicinal plants, recreating the «Gardens of the Simples».

## SOULTZ ANTHÈS CASTLE

During the French Revolution, the Baron d'Anthès moved to Germany and was declared an emigrant. The building, requisitioned by

the commune, was saved from being sold as national property.

This house, a witness to eighteenth century art de vivre, was home to the Heckeren d'Anthès family from 1720. Jean-Henri d'Anthès, a master blacksmith in Oberbruck, acquired the property in the early eighteenth century. The estate comprised a house, courtyard, barn, stable, gardens, fields, orchards, vineyards and outbuildings, which he remodelled. Located on the outskirts of the town, the property is larger than others in Sultz, allowing for a landscaped garden to be developed in the nineteenth century. Planted with many exotic trees in the fashion of the nineteenth century, the park retains one black pine and one Indian walnut.

## SOULTZ THE CITADEL WALK

The Citadel Walk was laid out at the beginning of the nineteenth century following the line of the city walls of Sultz. The two surrounding eighteenth and nineteenth century walls and the famous Witches' Tower fortification can be seen. This walk connects the old Bollwiller gate to the upper gate. It is planted with lime trees which provide welcome shade in the summer. A tree-lined promenade called Félix, in honour of the prefect Desportes, was created in 1810 at the entrance to Sultz from Bollwiller. This is probably the beginning of

the Citadel Walk.

During the nineteenth century, Baumann nurserymen grew flower bulbs in the ditches, thus benefiting from natural irrigation.

## SOULTZMATT WAGENBOURG CASTLE

The old Wagenbourg castle, today a wine estate, had a regular garden adorned with Mediterranean plants and a rich allegoric statuary. The patterns use antiquity figures, reflecting the owners' wealth.

## WUENHEIM THE OLLWILLER ESTATE

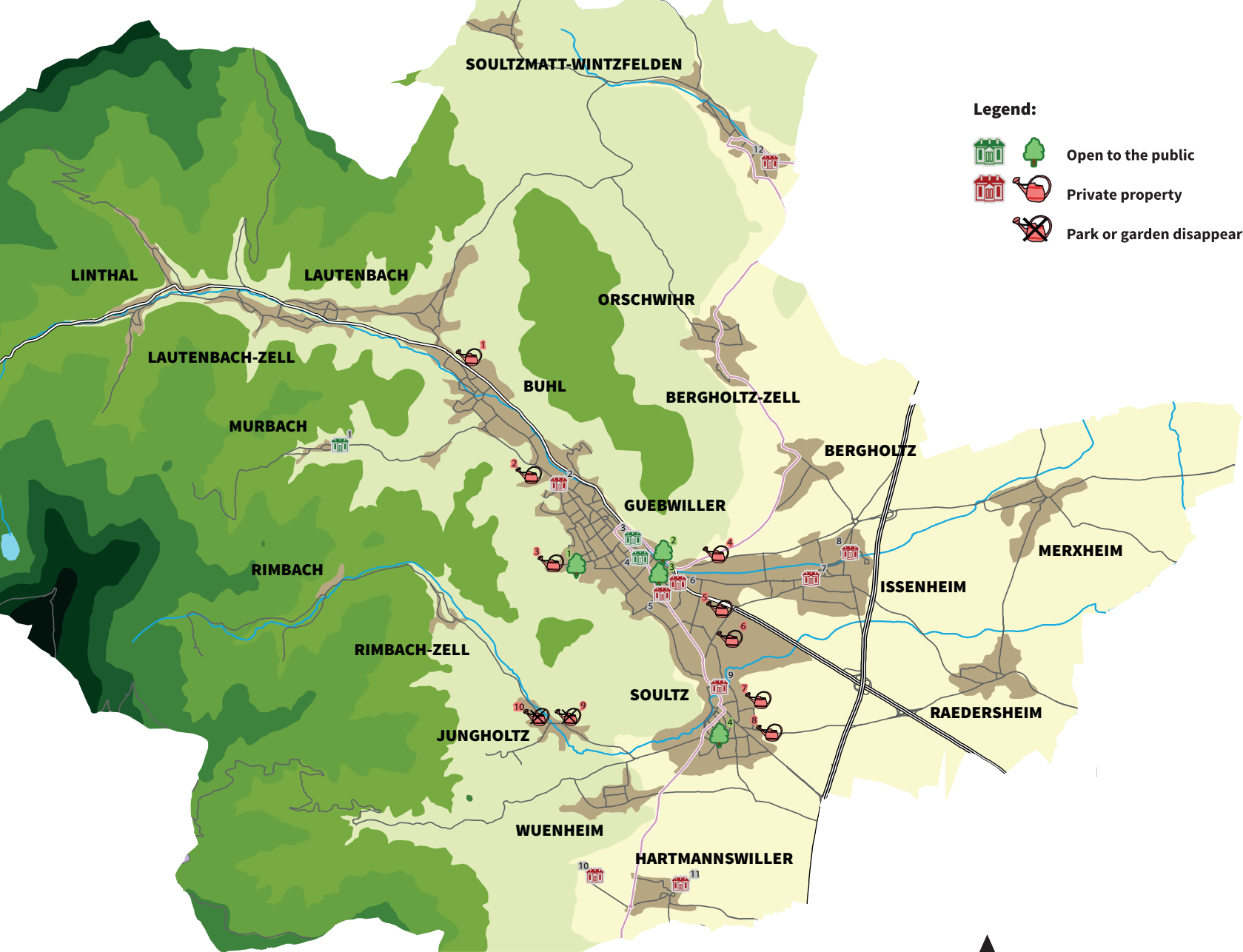
The Ollwiller estate as we know it today has undergone many changes. In the eighteenth century a beautiful regular garden was located between the house and the pond. At the back, the view opened up towards the Vosges, inspired by the great perspectives of French gardens. During the nineteenth century, a leisure garden with greenhouses, an orangery and orchards was added. The estate is used for agricultural purposes and allows for experiments in growing vines or mulberry trees. The castle was destroyed during the First World War, and only a few architectural fragments remain, but some beautiful plant life and the pond are still there.

**19. The Villa Spetz in Issenheim. The landscaped gardens often host ponds.**  
Photography, 1930, Bibliothèque Nationale Universitaire de Strasbourg






**20. Recreated medieval garden of Murbach.**

**21. The park of the Anthes castle in 2010, Sultz.**

**22. Statuaries in the Wagenbourg castle's garden.**



**Legend:**

-   Open to the public
-   Private property
-  Park or garden disappeared

 **PARKS OF CASTLES, VILLAS AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS**

- Medieval gardens**
- 1- Murbach – Garden of Murbach Abbey-Church
  - 3- Guebwiller – Dominican convent
  - 7- Issenheim – Antonin convent

- The classic gardens**
- 4- Guebwiller – Neuenbourg garden, old disposition of the 18<sup>th</sup> century
  - 10- Wuenheim – Ollwiller castle, remains of the park
  - 12- Soultzmatt – Wagenbourg Castle, remains of the park

- Landscape gardens**
- 2- Guebwiller – Villa du Bois Fleuri, 251 rue de la République
  - 4- Guebwiller – Neuenbourg Park
  - 5- Guebwiller – Villa des Glycines, 12 rue de Soultz
  - 6- Guebwiller – Domaine de Beaupré, 2 rue des Larrons
  - 8- Issenheim – Villa Spetz, remains of the park
  - 9- Soultz – Anthès castle
  - 11- Hartmannswiller castle

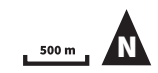
 **URBAN DEVELOPMENT**


- 1- Guebwiller – Paul Déroulède promenade
- 2- Guebwiller – The plane tree promenade
- 3- Guebwiller – Marseillaise Park
- 4- Soultz – The citadel walk

 **ALLOTMENT GARDENS**

- 1- Buhl – Montag gardens
- 2- Guebwiller – Brüderhaus gardens
- 3- Guebwiller – Waldmatt gardens
- 4- Guebwiller – Kappelmatt gardens
- 5- Guebwiller – Quaterfeld gardens
- 6- Soultz – Winkelmatt gardens
- 7- Soultz – Buhlfeld gardens
- 8- Soultz – Cemetery gardens
- 9- Jungholtz – Binsbourg gardens
- 10- Jungholtz – Kassahus gardens

**EXPLORING  
PARKS AND GARDENS**



 Audio commentary available on the mobile app *Les voies du Patrimoine* downloadable for free on Apple store or Google Play Store.



« IT IS FROM THE INTIMATE UNION OF ART AND NATURE, OF ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE, THAT THE BEST GARDEN COMPOSITIONS WILL EMERGE ».

Édouard André, *L'art des jardins*, 1879

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**The Heritage Events Department**, managed by the Architecture and Heritage Events Planner, organises a wide range of initiatives to present the architectural and heritage treasures of the region to its residents, young and old alike, and to its visitors, with the help of professional tour guides.

**Nearby**  
Val d'Argent and Mulhouse have the designation “Cities and Regions of Art and History”.

**For more information:**  
Cultural and Tourism Centre of Neuenbourg  
3 rue du 4 Février,  
68500 Guebwiller  
Tel.: +33 (0)3 89 62 56 22  
patrimoine@cc-guebwiller.fr  
[www.chateauneuenbourg.fr](http://www.chateauneuenbourg.fr)



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