



Urban Garden

Free



PLAISIRS D'ÉTÉ ZOMERPRET

14.07 - 06.08 | PLACE DE BROUCKÈREPLEIN
plaisirsdete.be / zomerpret.be

DJ SETS / FOOD & DRINKS / SPORTS / XXL ART

PRESS FILE

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1 / EDITORIAL

The City of Brussels will be vibrating to the rhythm of Summer Wonders throughout July and August. This brand-new festive summer concept's aim is to make the capital even more attractive, dynamic and welcoming. Following on from the success of Winter Wonders, we're creating a sunny version of this event which will appeal to tourists and locals alike.

SUMMER WONDERS is all about communal life and sharing, with a programme of activities in the heart of the City which are inclusive, equality-based and free of charge. It offers a wide range of events designed to be accessible, open and respectful of everyone.

We want these unifying values to continue to evoke the spirit of Brussels, its events and its welcome. They play a crucial role in promoting gender equality and diversity, which are at the heart of our country and its international influence.

That's why as Alderman for Culture, Tourism and Major Events, I believe it is vital to organise activities which encourage exchanges among people through artistic, cultural and even festive activities.

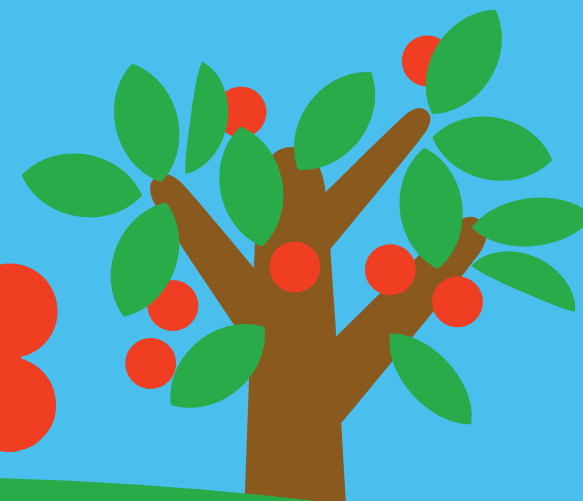
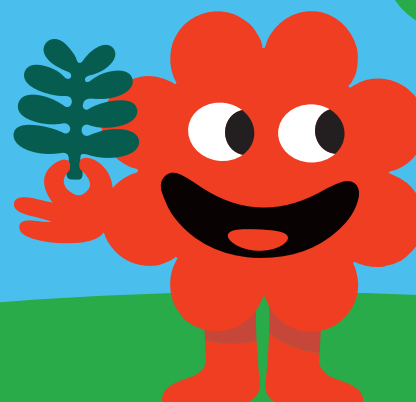
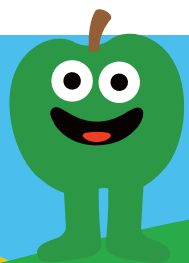
SUMMER WONDERS is also integral to our sustainable events action plan, which consists of reviewing the impact of our activities on the planet and on society through a series of 100 measures such as: fighting harassment, the installation of a "safer zone", the use of reusable cups, free access to drinking water, the provision of dry toilets, the introduction of selective sorting and facilities for people with reduced mobility, and much more.

Brussels is a world city. It has the great ambition to become a world reference for sustainable events. Our summer programme will be a shining example of this transition.

SUMMER WONDERS is your number one event from 14 July to 6 August in Brussels!

This summer, it's all about Brussels!

Delphine Houba,
*Alderman for Culture,
Tourism and Major Events.*



2 / CONTEXT

This summer, the City of Brussels is back with a brand-new event, **SUMMER WONDERS**, an innovative and resolutely festive summer concept for residents and tourists alike.

This unifying, inclusive and participatory event invites visitors to (re)discover the city centre, infusing renewal and rebirth.

The new name of **SUMMER WONDERS** is a way of weaving links between the seasons. The City's desire is also to develop a dynamic and sustainable concept over the long term. **SUMMER WONDERS** shares the same objective as **WINTER WONDERS**: to keep the city centre permanently buzzing.

2023 also marks the 125th anniversary of René Magritte's birth, and **SUMMER WONDERS** has naturally decided to pay tribute to him by creating a summery world with a hint of surrealism.

SUMMER WONDERS isn't the only thing happening in the City this summer. There's a rich programme of events to surprise you and get you strolling, dancing and enjoying sports and cultural events.

Welcome to Brussels!



3 / CONCEPT

From 14 July to 6 August, **SUMMER WONDERS** will be taking over the city with a homogeneous, cross-disciplinary stage-setting approach in the form of a large urban garden for Pentagon residents, students, workers in the area and tourists.

This event offers a summer venue flavoured with surrealism, with that zest of quirky humour so typical of Brussels running through the entire programme.

“Following on from the success of Winter Wonders, we're creating a sunny version, Summer Wonders, which will appeal to tourists and locals alike. This programme of activities in the heart of the City is designed to be inclusive, equality-based, free and accessible to all. Concerts, dance, art installations, gardens in the city... this summer, Brussels is the place to be!”
Delphine Houba, Alderman for Culture, Tourism and Major Events

Two emblematic locations are in the spotlight: Place De Brouckère and Place Fontainas.

Place De Brouckère is being transformed into a surprising city garden.

Bringing to you a stunning universe built from green scaffolding. At its heart are clusters with identified and personalised atmospheres, a central tower around which everything revolves, a greenhouse, reusable turf, and plants galore.

With fountains set off against the urban landscape and misting systems installed, this unexpected, original, surrealist and plant-based village is an oasis of relaxation right in the heart of the City. A chill-out space for a refreshing shared experience. The Place De Brouckère will be a place to relax, but also to discover culture and new sports.



“ This year’s programme will give young and old alike the chance to improve their skills in football and hockey, two popular sports in Belgium, as well as discover Pickleball and Spikeball. All of this in the heart of our capital, so that we can continue to popularise sport and make it as accessible as possible. ” says *Benoît Hellings*, Alderman of Climate and Sports.

The idea behind the concept of this urban garden in the centre of the city is to restore nature to its rightful place in Brussels in order to improve our well-being and offer green spaces to those who don’t have any...while at the same time awakening our aural, olfactory and gustatory senses. There is a permanent greenhouse with spoken audio from Brussels residents on the theme of the ideal garden and public space.

The pedestrian walkway between Place De Brouckère and Place Fontainas will be adorned with visual installations in harmony with the world of the garden. It will be adorned with 15 green colonnades, decorated with birds, plants and bamboo.

“ Just as Winter Wonders brings the city centre to life, we’re taking the first steps towards Summer Wonders, driven by the desire to create a focal point at the crossroads of the Pentagon’s different shopping quarters. Linking the Fontainas and De Brouckère places is a great opportunity to explore the surrounding areas, from the Sablon to the Place Sainte-Catherine. Summer Wonders is therefore helping to support the economic development of the Pentagon ” says *Fabian Maingain*, Alderman for Economic Affairs at the City of Brussels.

Place Fontainas is home to “Lean on Me,” an XXL bamboo installation by **Gilles Duinslaeger** which echoes the urban garden on Place de Brouckère. The sounds of birds are part of this imaginative installation in the heart of the city.

The two sites echo each other: one offers an immersive artistic and contemplative experience and the other a discovery ground

for sport, play and relaxation. The sounds of nature will be heard in both squares.

SUMMER WONDERS is quite simply dedicated to giving everyone a collective experience and transforming Brussels into a gigantic, extraordinary Urban Garden.

Most of the activities are free, and the spirit is friendly and welcoming.

SUMMER WONDERS is open every day from noon to 10 pm and until 10.30 pm on Saturdays.



4 / THE PROGRAM

Friday 14 July – Inauguration

○ Friday 14 July - Inauguration

We'll be celebrating the opening of **SUMMER WONDERS** on Friday 14 July!

We'll be celebrating the opening of **SUMMER WONDERS** on Friday 14 July!

A three-stage tour will give you a foretaste of the summer programme in our Urban Garden: discover the XXL bamboo installation on Place Fontainas (5.30 pm), enjoy a moment of relaxation in the urban garden with a drink or snack on Place De Brouckère (6.30 pm). This will be the opportunity to discover the various themed oases.

Finally, the highlight of the evening is an artistic performance in Place de la Bourse (9.30 pm).

SANTA has chosen Brussels for a unique performance suspended 45m above the ground!

On 14 July, the iconic singer of the group Hyphen Hyphen will be performing a unique, dizzying live experience in front of the Bourse as part of the inauguration of Summer Wonders, the City of Brussels' new summer event. As part of the launch of her French solo project, the artist will be singing for 25 minutes suspended from a 45m crane, accompanied by her grand piano.

This human challenge will feature a genuine crescendo of fireworks combining technical and artistic prowess.

» The idea came to me in a dreamlike way. To suspend a grand piano in the air with the help of a crane and offer a live performance of my songs. To realise this desire to embody the momentum of

life that is this project, in all its grandeur and monumentality. Belgium, and Brussels in particular, with which I've had a love affair for several years, was the perfect place to bring my imagination to life. »

Get ready to experience a unique moment.

Something you've never seen before!



URBAN GARDEN

○ **Open every day from noon to 10 pm and until 10.30 pm on Saturdays**

You'll be warmly welcomed in this surprising and unusual space, with its fully-planted structures. Place De Brouckère will set all your senses aflame with SUMMER WONDERS, from noon to 10pm. It's spread out over several zones and features something for everyone.

Firstly, the chill-out zone will offer drinks, nibbles, concerts, etc. Then, the sports and games zone will give you the chance to get active, whatever your level or age (pétanque, adventure course, mini-golf, slackline, loan of casual games, etc.). Last but not least, the food & drinks zone has something for everyone, with food trucks and terraces.

FOOD & DRINKS

The food & drinks area will feature two bars: a rooftop on one side and the Terrasse Continental on the other. Food trucks will serve food continuously.

The collaboration with Le Continental, a temporary creative cultural space which aims to be a showcase for Brussels know-how, offers the public a new encounter in one of the Belgian capital's historic jewels, ideally located for discovering and consuming ethically and sustainably.

Depending on the day, merchants will also be on hand to titillate your taste buds. On Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays an ice-cream parlour will offer a refreshing treat. Saturdays will see a barbecue and Sundays, brunch. 21 July will see the obligatory Belgian delicacy: chips, of course!



SPORTS

○ Every day from 2 pm to 7 pm

The City of Brussels actively promotes sports in Brussels and wants to help people discover new, less common sports disciplines. Most of the activities (developed and organised in collaboration with Brussels clubs) are free and open to all ages and abilities.

Each day from 12 noon to 10 pm, visitors can enjoy the petanque track, a slackline course, mini-golf (€5 for adults and €3 for children), and other variations of well-known sports.

○ **Mondays** from 2 pm to 6 pm: **dance** with Impulsion Danse and wheelchair dancing in collaboration with ASCTR.

○ **Tuesdays** will feature an introduction to Tai Chi.

Each weekend will feature a different discipline:

- **WE 1 : Football tennis**

With the Growing by Hockey association

- **WE 2 : Hockey**

With the Growing by Hockey association

- **WE 3 : Picklebal** (Pickleball Belgium)

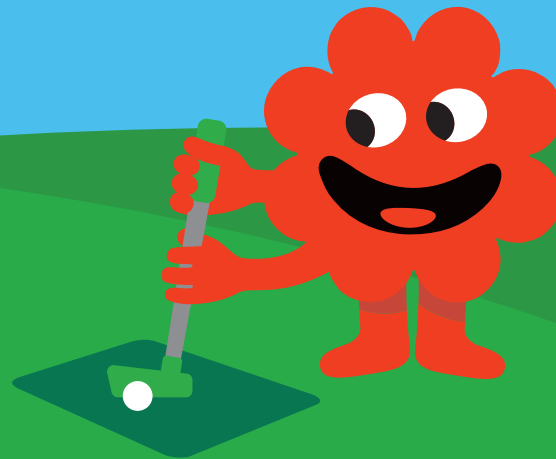
With the Belgian Pickleball Federation (Pickleball Belgium)

According to Pickleball Belgium, pickleball, a mixture of tennis, table tennis and badminton, is currently the fastest-growing sport in America. And more and more sportspeople are starting to play pickleball in Belgium too. Pickleball is played with a “paddle” and a “wiffle ball” and is generally played in doubles format (you can also play singles). We’ll be concentrating mainly on doubles games.

- **WE 4 : Spikeball**

With the Belgian Spikeball Federation (Roundnet Belgium)

According to Roundnet Belgium, Spikeball or Roundnet is a ball sport largely inspired by volleyball. Played in doubles format, the aim of the game is to hit the net within three shots and prevent the other team from doing so



■ CULTURE

○ Wednesday to Friday from 4.30 pm to 6 pm

Cultural activities based on language expression. A chance to take part in a wide range of new activities, including story readings for adults, open mic and stand-up comedy.

AFTERWORK

Tuesdays to Fridays from 6.30 pm until 10 pm: live music, concerts, DJ set

- Tuesdays : Reggae and hip-hop
- Wednesdays : Acoustic session
- Thursdays : Funk, soul, chill, roots
- Fridays : Label evenings

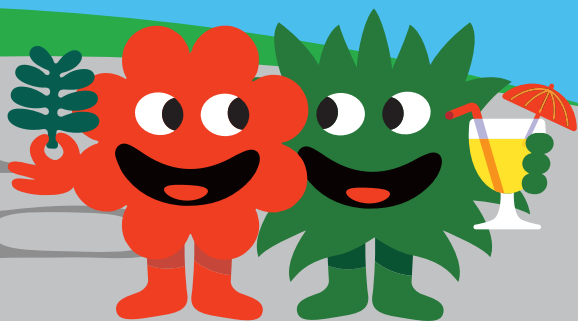


Open air

○ Saturdays from 6.30 pm until 10.30 pm

Jam session

○ Sundays from 6.30 pm until 10 pm



PLACE FONTAINAS

« Lean on Me », an xxl bamboo installation

“Lean on Me”, a monumental, ephemeral art installation by Belgian artist Giles Duinslaeger, is an ode to friendship.

This surreal installation is designed exclusively for SUMMER WONDERS. This giant Instagrammable sculpture creates a sense of surprise, with the aim of creating an immersive experience for visitors.

The soundtrack that will be played at Place Fontainas with the XXL installation is entitled “Early Voices” and was created as part of Joost Van Duppen's project for De Week van de Klank / La Semaine du Son.

The gigantic installation intrigues and challenges you, and will certainly become a landmark all summer long. It's a unique and original meeting place and an invitation to explore the neighbouring shopping districts.

5 / SUSTAINABILITY

As with all its events, the City of Brussels is making sustainability and social inclusion a priority, in many respects.

In the food & drinks zone, reusable cups and crockery will be available as well as a free drinking water point. In the same spirit of sustainability, selective sorting bins will be installed as well as dry toilets (without wood shavings) on site.

The staff will be dressed entirely in second-hand clothing supplied by Golden Grams, a vintage clothing organisation in Brussels. On Saturday and Sunday afternoons, various vintage shops and events will be selling second-hand clothes to the public. There will be silkscreen printers on hand to customise clothes bought locally,

or items brought in from home (tote bags, T-shirts, caps, etc.). Tattoo artists will also be on hand to provide flash tattoos.

Raising awareness is an integral part of the SUMMER WONDERS programme, and every activity, concert and performance is infused with this.

We pay particular attention to maintaining equality, and highlighting women in the events the one hand.

In the "Secret Greenhouse", citizens (authors, humorists, poets, etc.) have their say: testimonials from Brussels residents - collected by Bruxelles nous appartient/Brussel behoort ons toe - about life in the city center and pedestrian traffic in particular, will be broadcast in French, Dutch and English.

The inclusion of people with reduced mobility (PRM) is reflected here by a site which is accessible to people with reduced mobility, except for the rooftop terrace. Initiations to wheelchair dancing will be offered on Monday afternoons. It will also be a place to raise awareness of current issues, with an open mic featuring feminist slammers.

SAFER ZONE

Next to the Red Cross post is an area with assistance for anyone who has suffered any form of harassment on the site.

Our staff is trained to prevent and respond to different forms of street harassment.



6 / MOBILITY

The STIB reminds you that mobile or card payment is possible on board all its vehicles via contactless payment terminals www.stib-mivb.be

A large, free, secure bike park is available at Bourse metro station 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with night-time access (www.cycloparking.brussels/en). Other bike parking locations will be installed in the vicinity of **SUMMER WONDERS**. Shared bikes can also be hired via Villo!, Blue Bike, Bolt, Dott, etc. Find all the information on www.mobilite-mobiliteit.brussels

The City of Brussels recommends off-street parking for cars. Using the car parks on the inner ring road will ease traffic congestion in the city centre. In order to avoid any inconvenience, we strongly advise you to navigate with Waze or Google Maps to a Park & Ride (Ceria or Crainhem) for €3 or free if you have a STIB/De Lijn ticket.

The Interparking De Brouckère car park offers a special evening rate: it's accessible for €6 from 6 pm to midnight for customers in possession of a Pcard+, and it is possible to reserve the car park for a period of 24 hours for a maximum of €10 (instead of €22). This saves valuable time by avoiding queues at the cash desks and at the entrance and exit of car parks, 24/7. To benefit from these preferential rates: www.booking.interparking.be

7 / PARTNERS



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Interparking



City of Brussels

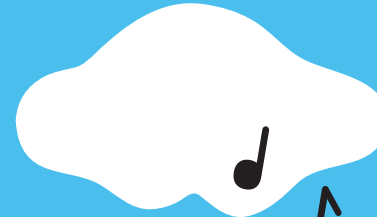
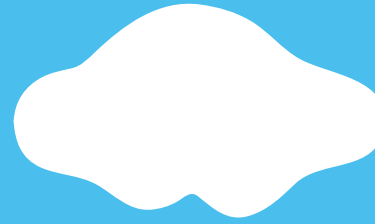
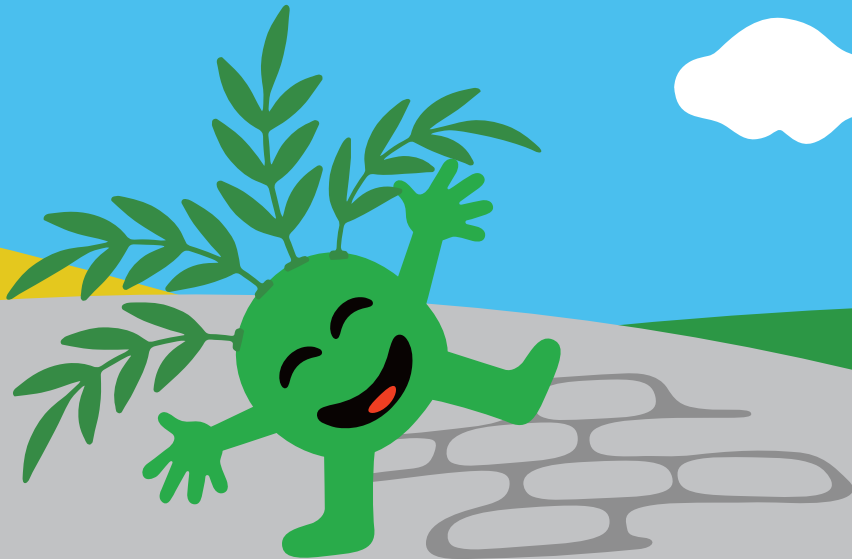


The Dominican

The City of Brussels and the organizers are happy to be able to rely on the support of dynamic partners. We thank them all very warmly!

Thanks to these multiple partnerships, creative and fun activities are organised to make visitors feel even more pampered!

We would like to thank The Dominican for welcoming us to their Courtyard for the SUMMER WONDERS press conference.



8 / Contacts

City of Brussels:

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- **Eloise Pirard**, Office of the Alderman for Culture, Tourism and Major Events, Eloise.pirard@brucity.be +32 (0) 474 47 05 55
- **François Descamps**, Office of the First Alderman, Alderman for Climate and Sports, francois.descamps@brucity.be, +32 (0) 474 90 28 39
- **Anne-Sophie Dekeyser**, Office of the Alderman for Economic Affairs, Employment, Administrative Simplification and Smart City, anne-sophie.dekeyser@brucity.be, +32 (0) 473 97 51 98

Organisation :

Brussels Major Events asbl

- **Adelaïde de Patoul**, a.depatoul@bmeo.be +32 (0) 496 87 88 86

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AND ALSO...

9 / SUMMER POP

- From Friday 28 July to Thursday 13 August, over three successive weekends, Fridays from 2 to 10 pm, Saturdays from 2 to 10 pm and Sundays from 2 to 8 pm

SUMMER POP, the summer mirror of WINTER POP

Working in partnership with a range of local players, **SUMMER POP** offers an entertaining programme for all ages, with sports and dance initiations, cultural events, children's activities, creative and participatory workshops, face-painting, concerts, shows and snacks.

Come and enjoy a moment of relaxation and sharing in your neighbourhood with family or friends to experience the **SUMMER POP** atmosphere. The City of Brussels emphasises conviviality and lively neighbourhoods, with events open to all. Inspired by village festivals, **SUMMER POP** is rolling out its colourful little caravans in three districts of the city.

- From 28 to 30 July @Quartier Nord

- *Parvis de l'église Saint Roch.*

The square between N°25C et le n°33 de la Chaussée d'Anvers, 1000 Bruxelles

- From 4 to 6 August @Versailles

- *Between n°142 et n°144 avenue de Versailles, 1120 NOH*

- From 11 to 13/08 @Marolles

- *Parc des Brigittines, 1000 BXL*

The full programme is available on www.summerpop.be

10 / PARCOURS "IN THE TRACKS OF MAGRITTE»

- From Friday 30 June to 7 January 2024

In honour of the 125th birthday of René Magritte.

A project by the artist Julien de Casabianca.

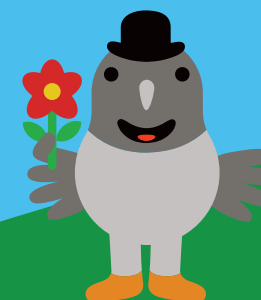
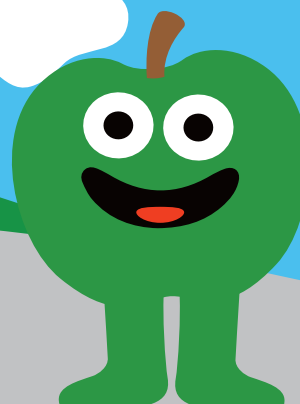
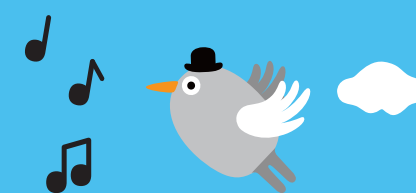
AN INITIATIVE OF THE CITY OF BRUSSELS, THE MAGRITTE FOUNDATION AND THE MAGRITTE MUSEUM.

To mark the 125th anniversary of René Magritte's birth, the Magritte Foundation, the Magritte Museum and the City of Brussels have invited street artist Julien de Casabianca, who is called upon by the world's greatest museums to extract characters from classical paintings and use them in the vocabulary of street art, to explore René Magritte's work.

Eight monumental collages will adorn as many facades of our capital, from June 20, 2023 to January 07, 2024.

To rediscover Magritte's work through Julien de Casabianca's collages, the iconic "men in bowler hats" guide you from Place De Brouckère to Place Royale.

The press conference to present In the tracks of Magritte will take place on Friday 30 June.



11 / SUMMER BALL

○ Wednesday 5 July from 3.30 pm to 10 pm at Vaux-Hall

This irresistibly festive and musical event, organised in collaboration with the Maisons de Quartier de la Ville de Bruxelles, will be a country-style, intergenerational affair - and our senior citizens are more than welcome to join in! The space is limited to 500 people, with 350 seats.

A jazz band, live karaoke, country dancing and DJ sets will get the crowd up and dancing in what'll certainly be a wild atmosphere. A photo booth will also be available to immortalise your visit to this summer ball in a countryside setting, with a flower arch, straw bales, barrels, red-checked tablecloths, garlands, etc. A free snack (coffee, tea, slice of pie) will be offered in exchange for a token distributed at the entrance by the Maisons de Quartier.

12 / ENJOY THE CITY

Throughout the year, the city centre's shopping streets come alive and are transformed to offer a colourful, diverse, and attractive visual spectacle. With hanging floral installations, pennants for National Day and a host of artistic ornaments, our streets come alive with colour, inviting you to immortalise them in a photo.

From now until 31 August, the Hanging Gardens of 'Îlot Sacré give this must-see district a green makeover with cages and other plant decorations. At the same time, the Rue des Éperonniers has once again been transformed into a floral avenue, bringing freshness and colour with its plant decorations and a fresco.

COLORS by Saint-Géry has also turned the district of the same name into a daytime visual spectacle. A variety of Plexiglas motifs combined the sun's rays create a natural kaleidoscope of reflections, which will also decorate other streets in the area until 31 August.

This summer and until the end of the year, other projects will be unveiled in various shopping quarters around Brussels.



13/ SPORTS

VOLLEY

○ From Friday 4 to Sunday 6 December

Three volleyball courts have been set up: one on Place de la Monnaie and the other two on the pedestrian walkway.

Following a fine tradition, the finals of the Belgian Beach Volleyball Championship will take place in the heart of Brussels. The qualifying matches will be played on Place de Brouckère and at the centre court on Place de la Monnaie, where the finals will be held on 6 August.

The final tournament of the Geberit Beach Tour marks the end of a championship contested by 48 teams (men and women) over 4 months.

Beach Volleyball has always respected gender equality: the winning teams receive the same prize money and trophy as the Belgian champions.

The latter is made from recycled materials.

Initiations to Beach Volleyball are offered for young and old in the neighbourhood, along with a City tournament for Brussels associations.

Admission is free for all.

BASKET : CRELAN 3VS3 MASTERS

○ Sunday 9 July, Place de la Monnaie.

The Crelan 3x3 Masters is Belgium's most prestigious 3x3 basketball tournament. Organised in collaboration with Basketball Vlaanderen and the Wallonie-Bruxelles Basketball Association, this not-to-be-missed event is open to everyone, for all ages and playing levels.

The tournament is renowned for its size and is a major fixture on the Belgian basketball scene.

Needless to say, like all sporting events worthy of the name the Crelan 3x3 Masters is also a true celebration of basketball. A wild atmosphere can be expected as spectators cheer on their favourite teams throughout the tournament.

STREET 100M

○ Saturday 2 September, 2 pm to 6 pm, Place de Brouckère.

Street 100m highlights this sport for all. A 100m track gives as many people as possible the chance to try their hand at the sport's ultimate challenge. This initiative of the City of Brussels will take place in collaboration with the Van Damme Memorial which will take place on Friday 8 September at the King Baudouin Stadium. The fastest competitors will have the chance to qualify for the Final, which will take place at the Van Damme Memorial.

Kim Gevaert, former Olympic champion and director of the Van Damme Memorial, will be present at various times.



14 / VAUX-HALL SUMMER – free

○ From 16 July 1 to 13 August 2023

Vaux-Hall Summer, the summer rendezvous in the Parc de Bruxelles. All summer long, from Thursday to Sunday, the Vaux-Hall will host a festive and cultural programme in the heart of the Parc de Bruxelles. Free and open to all, it's an unmissable summer event.

A vitamin-packed cocktail. The Vaux-Hall Summer is an event which combines sun, music, dance and a host of activities for all ages in the heart of the Parc de Bruxelles.

With salsa classes, yoga sessions, DJ sets, upcycling workshops and sparkling after work drinks events, this multi-faceted event aims to bring people together, open up dialogue between different artistic backgrounds and get the capital buzzing.

A historic and unusual location. Situated behind the Théâtre du Parc, this magnificent building dating from the end of the 18th century underwent a major renovation between 2012 and 2017 to return it the lustre it deserved.

Practical info :

www.vauxhallsummer.brussels

- *Vaux Hall: Parc de Bruxelles, entrance via 3 Rue de la Loi (behind the Théâtre Royal du Parc)*





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summerwonders.be