

EUROPEAN GARDEN HERITAGE NETWORK

Action 4 : Baseline Review of Transport and Access Conditions

PARC ORIENTAL

Pays de la Loire

France



Review realised by Comité Régional du Tourisme des Pays de la Loire

February 2005



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INTRODUCTION

▪ *Background to project*

The Comité Régional du Tourisme des Pays de la Loire is partner in a European-funded transnational project entitled the European Garden Heritage Network. Launched on 1st September 2003, the European Garden Heritage Network is an European funded INTERREG IIIB three year project, that is implemented by nine partners in five regions in France, the UK and Germany. Co-financed by the regions and the European Union, the aim of this project is to define and promote the potential and value of the garden for sustainable development.

The partners have defined six key actions and have shared the responsibilities between them. The accessibility (i.e. access to and within the parks) of the parks and gardens is one of the key actions.

A status report is required based on the conditions of accessibility within the pilot sites of the programme. The Parc Oriental at Maulévrier is the anchor garden for France in Western Loire, near Nantes.

▪ *Location of Anchor Garden and Study Area*

The Parc Oriental, the French anchor garden within the EGHN project, is located in the hamlet Maulévrier, which sits within Maine-et-Loire, department of Pays de la Loire. The Parc Oriental is the largest Japanese garden in Europe, along the river La Moine.

The region Pays de la Loire is situated along the river Loire and between the old provinces Brittany and Normandy, Touraine and Poitou. A network of rivers, 450 km (approx 279 miles) of coasts, small fields surrounding by hedges, old castles and traditionally built houses form this lovely, rural and varied countryside. The whole region represents a cultural asset. The regional economy is dominated by agriculture, its industry consist mainly of fishery and shipbuilding.

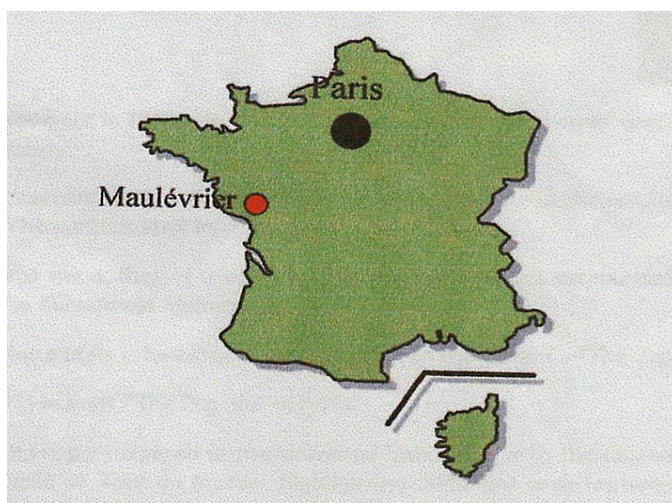


Figure 1 : Location of Parc Oriental in France

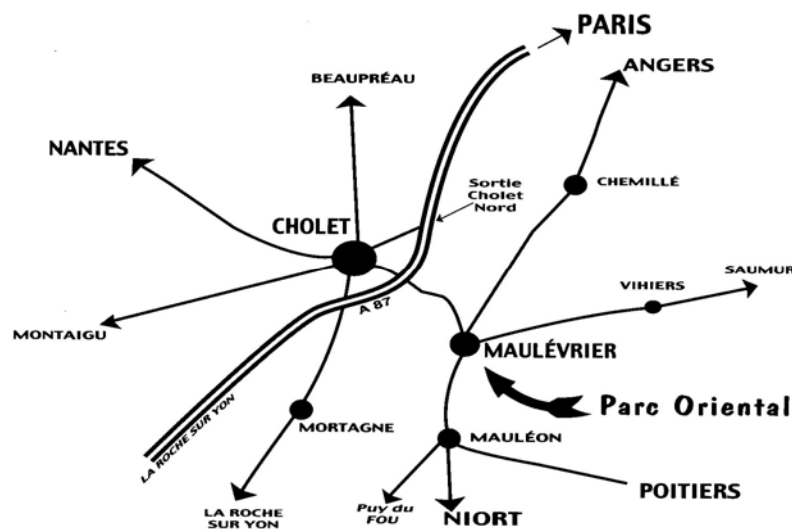
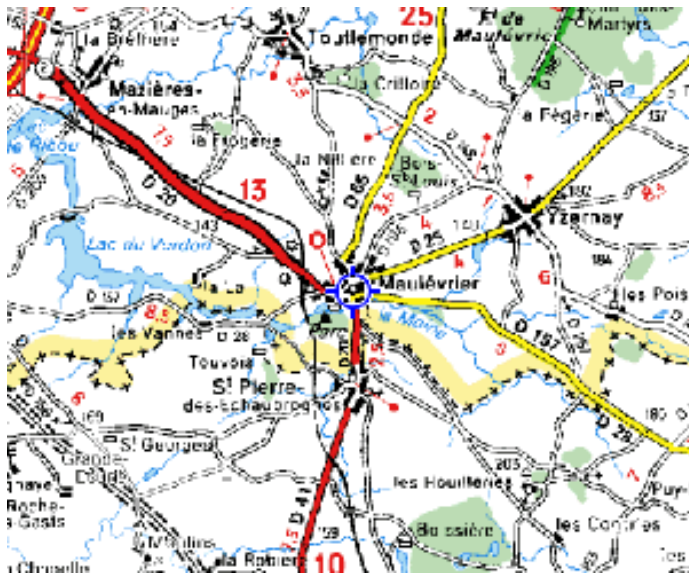


Figure 2 : Parc Oriental and neighbouring area and cities.

Parc Oriental de Maulévrier :

The Parc Oriental was originally owned by Château Colbert. In the end of the 19th century M. Bergere, a manufacturer from Cholet, bought the land (29 ha = approx. 71.5 acres) and asked Alexandre Marcel to restore the park and to create a Japanese garden. Between 1899 and 1913 Marcel converted the land -step by step with patience and care - into what is now "Parc Oriental". After Bergere's death the garden repeatedly changed hands and became totally neglected.

In 1980 the community bought it and has been trying to restore the former condition since 1987. Alexandre Marcel's long forgotten Asian dream has been put into action again. Although the garden is owned by the community, a charity is caring for its maintenance.

The Japanese garden, being a symbol itself and making clear philosophical ideas, is full of messages, each detail signifying a certain meaning and role; i.e. nature is interpreted, not only being copied. The meaning of nature is to teach man lessons about life, the universe

and man's role in it. The garden is influenced by Buddhism, understanding man as a part of nature, and by Shintoism, looking at nature as the place of gods. The garden also symbolizes yin and yang by harmonizing the negative and passive yin and the positive and active yang. And it represents the 5 elements of Taoism (fire, earth, water, wood and metal). Man and his surroundings form a harmonic and inseparable entity.

Current Access Points and Transport Provision to the Park

▪ *Current and Historic access points*

The public access to the Parc Oriental is on the local road D20 in the centre of Maulévrier. This is approximately 10 km (6 mi) south of the motorway A87.

▪ *Walking and cycling*

Maulévrier is accessible by a footpath. So the park is accessible on foot for the local and surroundings inhabitants.

Maulévrier has 3 footpaths called :

- Sentier de la Croix Cassée
- Sentier des Soupirs
- Sentier de Bellevue

There is no dedicated cycle lane even though the park is accessible by bicycle. And the reception area of the park hosts the bicycles as parking.

▪ *Car*

The Parc Oriental is situated within the hamlet of Maulévrier. The park is accessible by car at 10 km (6 mi) from the motorway A87 exit n°26 Cholet Nord, and with the local road D20 through Maulévrier.

There is ample car parking at Parc Oriental a both for cars and coaches.

Figure 3 : Car parking signs



In terms of road signs, there are 12 direction signs 0.80m (2.64ft) high with logo within the radius of 10 km (6mi) ; there is one sign post (3m*2.5m=9.9ft*8.25ft) on the national road within the radius of 15km (9mi) ; and there are sign posts (4m*3m=13.2ft*9.9ft) on the motorway within the radius of 15-20km -9-12mi).

At the entrance and at the exit of the park, there are 2 sign posts for pedestrians.

Figure 4 : Road signs



Figure 5 : Entrance signs



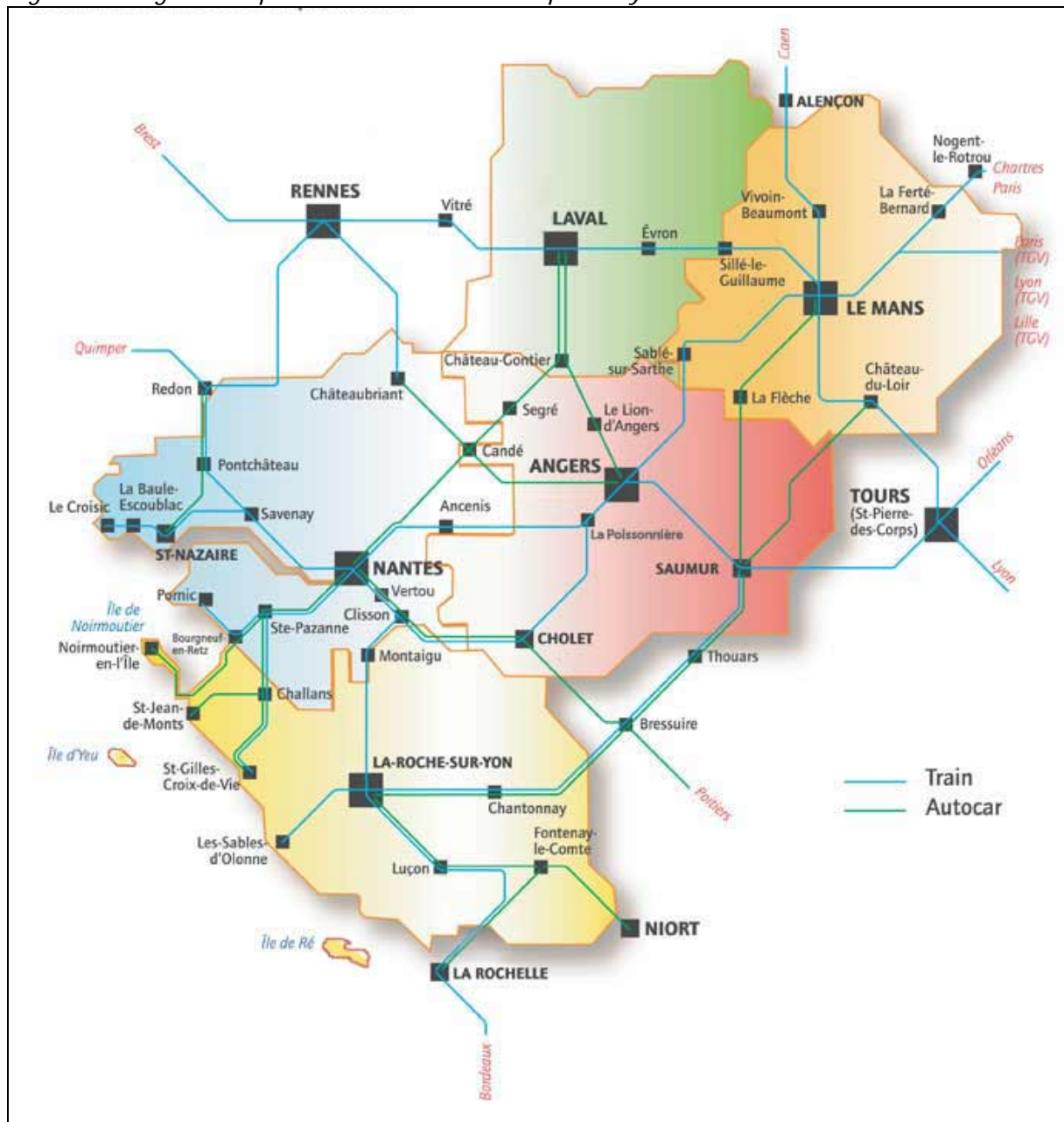
▪ **Bus and Coach**

The bus service is ensured by a coach service, because there is no bus in Maulévrier. Coaches serves Maulévrier from the Cholet station (at 15 km=9mi) twice a day.

Figure 6 : Bus timetable

Ligne 32 : MAULEVRIER - CHOLET Sens aller				
périodes solaires	X			
Jours	LMmeJV			
MAULEVRIER - Cimetière	07:15			
MAULEVRIER - Monuments aux Morts	07:16			
MAULEVRIER, Carrefour des 4 Moulins	07:18			
MAULEVRIER -Rond point Route de Cholet	07:19			
CHOLET, gare Routière	07:35			
CHOLET, Lycée La Providence	07:45			
CHOLET, Les Halles, Place du 8 Mai	07:40			
CHOLET, République	07:40			
CHOLET, Lycée Renaudeau	07:40			
CHOLET, Rambourg	07:50			
CHOLET, Lycée de la Mode	07:45			
CHOLET, Lycée Europe	07:40			
CHOLET, Collège Joachim du Bellay	07:45			
Transporteurs : VOYAGES RICHOU				
Ligne 32 : MAULEVRIER - CHOLET Sens retour				
périodes solaires	X	X	X	X
Jours	me	LMJV	LMJV	LMmeJV
CHOLET, Rambourg			16:50	
CHOLET, Lycée Renaudeau	12:15		17:07	18:05
CHOLET, Collège Joachim du Bellay	12:10	16:50		
CHOLET, Lycée Europe	12:12	17:05	17:05	18:07
CHOLET, Collège Clémenceau	12:15	17:00		
CHOLET, Collège République	12:30	16:52		
La Grande Jahannièr		17:05		
CHOLET, Gare routière	12:35	16:55		18:15
CHOLET, Lycée La Providence	12:25	16:52		17:50
CHOLET, Place du 8 Mai	12:25	16:58	17:15	18:10
MAULEVRIER -Rond point Route de Cholet	12:45	17:10	17:25	18:25
MAULEVRIER, Carrefour des 4 Moulins	12:47	17:12	17:27	18:27
MAULEVRIER, Collège Privé	12:50	17:15	17:30	18:28
MAULEVRIER - Monuments aux Morts				
MAULEVRIER - Cimetière	12:52	17:17	17:32	18:30
YZERNAY, Gare Routière	13:00		17:40	18:40
Transporteurs : VOYAGES RICHOU				

Figure 7 : Regional express train and coach map of Pays de la Loire





▪ **Rail**

The nearest railway is a SNCF station at Cholet (15km=9mi).

Figure 8 : Train and coach timetable



	Lun à Sam	Lun à Ven	Sam et Lun 1	Lun à Sam 2	Lun à Ven 3	Ven 4	Lun à Sam	Lun à Sam	Lun à Sam	Lun à Ven	Lun à Sam	Lun à Ven	Sam	Ven
NANTES	06.34	08.05	09.15	12.36	12.36	14.00	14.24		16.40	17.09	17.35	18.45	18.45	19.20
St Sébastien Pas Enchantés				12.41						17.15		18.51	18.50	
St Sébastien Frêne Rond				12.45						17.19		18.55	18.54	
Vertou				12.49	12.51					17.22		18.58	18.58	
La Haie-Fouassière				12.56	13.00									
Le Pallet				13.01	13.08								19.07	
Gorges														
CLISSON	06.54			13.09	13.19		14.43	14.48		17.36		19.12	19.15	
Cugand				13.14	13.25			14.54		17.41		19.17	19.19	
Cugand (Centre)								14.56						
Gétigné (Centre)								14.57						
Boussay-la-Bruffière	07.03			13.20	13.36			15.04		17.47		19.23	19.26	
Boussay (Centre)								15.06						
Tarfou	07.11			13.26	13.47					17.54		19.30	19.32	
Tarfou (Centre)								15.15						
Cholet (Les Halles)		08.55	10.05			14.50		15.35	17.30		18.25			20.15
CHOLET	07.32	09.00	10.10	13.45	14.12	14.55		15.40	17.35	18.13	18.30	19.51	19.51	20.20

														5
NANTES	12.36	17.35	18.45	20.10										
St Sébastien Pas Enchantés	12.41		18.50											
St Sébastien Frêne Rond	12.45		18.54											
Vertou	12.49		18.58											
La Haie-Fouassière	12.56													
Le Pallet	13.01		19.07											
Gorges														
CLISSON	13.09		19.15											
Cugand	13.14		19.19											
Cugand (Centre)														
Gétigné (Centre)														
Boussay-la-Bruffière	13.20		19.26											
Boussay (Centre)														
Tarfou	13.26		19.32											
Tarfou (Centre)														
Cholet (Les Halles)		18.25		21.00										
CHOLET	13.45	18.30	19.51	21.05										

 Desserte assurée par autocar TER Pays de la Loire. Tarification SNCF.
 Ces horaires sont donnés sous réserve de toute modification. 552 049 447 RCS Paris
 1 Circule aussi le 29 mars 2005.
 2 Ne circule pas les 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28 et 29 avril 2005.
 3 Circule du 18 au 29 avril 2005 sauf le 22 avril.
 4 Circule aussi le 4 mai 2005.
 5 Ne circule pas les 25 décembre 2004, 1er janvier, 27 mars et 5 mai 2005.

	Lun à Sam	Lun à Ven	Lun 1	Lun à Ven	Sam	Lun à Sam 6	Sam	Sam	Lun à Ven	Lun à Ven	Lun à Sam	Ven 4	Lun à Ven	Ven 4	Lun à Ven
CHOLET	06.05	06.32	07.05	07.39	08.05	10.03	12.02		12.22		12.40	15.05	16.55	17.45	18.25
Cholet (Les Halles)		06.37	07.10		08.10	10.08	12.07		12.27		12.45	15.10		17.50	
Torfou (Centre)							12.28		12.46						
Torfou	06.24														18.44
Boussay (Centre)							12.37		12.55						
Boussay-la-Bruffière	06.30			08.02			12.39		12.57						18.50
Gégné (Centre)							12.46		13.04						
Cugand (Centre)							12.48		13.06						
Cugand	06.36						12.50		13.08						
CLISSON	06.42			08.11			12.56	13.09	13.16	13.26			17.25		19.00
Gorges	06.46														
Le Pallet	06.52			08.18				13.16		13.33			17.32		19.08
La Haie-Fouassière	06.57			08.23									17.37		19.13
Vertou	07.05			08.31									17.45		19.21
St Sébastien Frêne Rond	07.08			08.34									17.48		19.24
St Sébastien Pas Enchantés	07.12			08.37									17.52		19.28
NANTES	07.17	07.37	08.10	08.42	09.00	11.00		13.30		13.45	13.35	16.00	17.57	18.45	19.33

			5	7
CHOLET	10.03	12.16	19.00	20.42
Cholet (Les Halles)	10.08		19.05	
Torfou (Centre)				
Torfou		12.35		21.01
Boussay (Centre)				
Boussay-la-Bruffière		12.41		
Gégné (Centre)				
Cugand (Centre)				
Cugand		12.48		
CLISSON		12.53		21.16
Gorges				
Le Pallet		13.01		
La Haie-Fouassière		13.06		
Vertou		13.15		
St Sébastien Frêne Rond		13.18		
St Sébastien Pas Enchantés		13.21		
NANTES	11.00	13.26	19.55	21.35

-  Desserte assurée par autocar TER Pays de la Loire. Tarification SNCF.
 Ces horaires sont donnés sous réserve de toute modification. 552 049 447 RCS Paris
1 Circule aussi le 29 mars 2005.
4 Circule aussi le 4 mai 2005.
5 Ne circule pas les 25 décembre 2004, 1er janvier, 27 mars et 5 mai 2005.
6 ne circule pas les 1er et 2 juil.
7 Ne circule pas les 25 décembre 2004, 1er janvier et 27 mars 2005.

▪ *Air*

There is the Cholet airport at 20km (12mi).

Current internal access arrangements within the park

▪ *Parking*

Parking is located to the south of the park. The local road D20 goes between the parking and the park. The parking area is at 50m from the entrance of the park. 150 parking places are available for cars, and places for coaches.

▪ *Public transport infrastructure/awareness*

There is a lack of public transport infrastructure.

▪ *Access for people with disabilities*

A parking area is reserved for disabled people. The path from the parking to the park is hard even surface, so it is good for wheelchairs. There is a wheelchairs available at the reception but all the paths of the park are not accessible for disabled people because of the slopes, except if with accompanying adult.

Figure 9 : Paths of the park



Figure 10 : Signage within the park

▪ *Signage*

The signage of the park is well-maintained and well-adapted to the environment, showing the way and the names of the plants, trees, flowers, etc.

Existing travel patterns/demands

▪ *Staff/volunteers*

11 permanent employees, 3 seasonal staff, 1 occasional employee and 3 part-time for the night shows constitute the team staff. 50 volunteers run the park association and come to relieve the permanent staff on Sunday.

▪ *Visitors*

The Parc Oriental attracts around 55 000 visitors a year. In 2004, 75 000 visitors came because of a new attraction : the Night Garden, a stroll through pools of shadow and light.

▪ *Equipment to host pupils and tea room*

The park is equipped to host pupils for green classroom. 30 children could sleep in the dormitories (with a class and shower).

During the visit the visitors could get a halt at the tea room, with terraces.

Figure 11 : Tea room



Current transport related problems, issues and limitations

▪ *Pedestrian/cycle access*

Being situated close to the urban area of Maulévrier access is easy via pavements. Three footpaths go through Maulévrier. Make the park as a step of the footpaths could be more attractive.

A cycle lane goes nearby Maulévrier. Within the regional plan for the cycle lanes, a new cycle lane is planned to go through Maulévrier from Cholet. The regional plan is subsidized by the Conseil Régional des Pays de la Loire.



- *The highway network*

There is no exit available nearby to the park. The sign posts on the local roads and at the entrance of Maulévrier could be improved but it is not the responsibility of the park.

- *Public transport*

There is no train station at Maulévrier. A coach serves the town only twice a day. Improving the presence and the frequency of public transport would be a possibility, but it is not the responsibility of the park.

Current internal accessibility problems, issues and limitations

- *Access for people with disabilities*

The park is hilly, but some specific itineraries are available for them. These itineraries include and indicate the main elements of the park. Globally for the improvement of the reception of this specific public, it has been observed that there is a lack of staff, budget and external. Some work on the slopes could improve the accessibility but removing the slopes is not planned because it is an integral element of the park. But some work has already been done to reduce the gradients of the paths.

- *Language*

The translations could be developed. Today the visit could be in French and in English. The signing is translated only in English. The visit paper is available in French, English, German and Spanish.

- *Parking*

Occasional problems arise because the parking area is also used by the nearby village hall. The events take place on average 15 days per year.

CONCLUSION

The park and the association of the park don't plan any other work on access for the moment. The city is thinking about the subject, but no specific project is announced as yet.

The main need is to increase the capacity of the parking area. A plot of land is available nearby, a development of which would increase the parking places from 100 to 200 places. The construction time would obviously depend on the funds. But as yet, the project is not planned.

In the another key action of the project EGHN "interpretation", the signing and the welcome of the people with disabilities would be improved : more translation, signing and guide book adapted to the disabilities...