

Company: CEMEX

Location: La Grande Noé ornithological reserve, Léry Poses, France

Objective Creation of an ornithological reserve with a scientific and pedagogical vocation which offers peace to water fowl, in a frequently visited sector, owing to its proximity to a base of leisure of regional importance.

Context The Seine valley offers a diversified landscape: urbanized areas, crops under cultivation, forests and water planes issued from the extraction of aggregates. Situated at the confluence of the rivers Seine, Eure and Andelle, the area is a receiving point of patrimonial value for the water fowl and the migratory birds.

- 780 ha site in operation since 1970; 40 million tons of extracted aggregates
- Operated surface: 640 ha
- Restored surface: 65 ha for ornithological reserve, 170 ha for agricultural recovery and 400 ha for leisure spaces; Water surface: 415 ha of which 50 ha are for the ornithological reserve

Solution

- Installation of meandering banks and use of the fines coming from the washing of the extracted aggregates to create areas of lower depth and favor the implementation of a reed area.
- Restructuring of islets. The variety of islets has allowed a diversification of the biotopes.
- Creation of two permanent ponds to allow the maintenance of certain species of amphibians threatened by the drying up of the temporary ponds in summer.
- The restoration plan has also allowed the preservation of the quietness of the reserve thanks to its separation from the leisure basis by an area of agricultural pieces of land.
- Facilities for the public: parking, discovery trails, ornithological observatories, and information panels.

Result In 1987, the site obtained the status of nature reserve. It has also been classified as a Natural Area of Ecological Interest as an Important Area for the Conservation of Bird. In 1996, an ecological expertise study, undertaken in the framework of a national research program on the wetlands generated by former aggregates operations, demonstrated the ecological interest of the site.

Since 1992, CEMEX has financed the employment of a full-time warden-animator to manage and maintain the site and to organise bird watching activities. Every year, the animations organised attract from 1,000 to 2,500 participants and spontaneous visitors are always more numerous.

Partners

- The Normand Ornithological Group (Groupe Ornithologique Normand) has managed the site since 1987 and has advised most of its restoration works. This partnership fits in the framework of the corporate partnership between CEMEX and BirdLife International.
- The Vaudreuil Mixed Union (SMV) coordinates the restoration of the local quarries and puts together representatives of 12 local administrations.



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