

## Spinoza park (some impressions)

The Spinoza park is situated in Rotterdam-south. The park is a rather small park ( 70 hectare) enclosed by busy roads (Guide Gezelleweg, Pascalweg, Catullusweg and the Spinozaweg). The park has been laid out in the sixties. The park is very open and easily accessible. It can be entered 24 hours a day and 7 days per week. The design of the park is quite modern and sleek. The Spinoza park encloses some schools, a small gymnasium some playgrounds and water courts. The gymnasium will be removed coming years. There are a few trees and the borders did not contain any flower during the observation. In the recent past it was concluded that the park did not attract many visitors. This was, together with the retarded maintenance the reason to start a re-construction. This re-construction will be finalised in November 2013. During the observations, the measurements and the survey with the questionnaire, the park was almost ready (except the flowers) and the removal of the gymnasium. That is why the municipality of Rotterdam, together with the districts' administration decided to regenerate this park. At this moment (November 2013) this park is still under (re-)construction.



Figure 1: Spinoza park Rotterdam

**Spinoza Park (10:45-11:50 hr), date 29 August 2013)**

<b>General description</b>	
<b>Cleanness</b>	The Spinoza park is quite clean. The pond in the western part of the park is a bit polluted with duck weed and waste. There are sufficient bins to store the litter. As mentioned afore, the park is under re-construction which means that borders and some lots are not filled with plants or flowers. The lanes and the bridges in the park are clean as well.
<b>Accessibility</b>	The Spinoza park is excellent accessible from all sides. There are sufficient entries to the park and there is no fence around the park.
<b>Activities</b>	The park is used for walking, relaxing, skating, dog walking, sport, passing by,
<b>Natural sounds</b>	In the Spinoza Park natural noise is hardly observed. The sound of the wind that rustle the leafs of trees and the sound of waterfowls (mainly scoots) could be observed. During the observations it was observed that virtually no natural sounds could be heard.
<b>Human induced sounds</b>	Cars, buses, trams and lorries on the surrounding roads are audible in the whole park. During the observations some construction noise was audible from works nearby the park. During the school season the noise from pupils will be heard as well. This was noticed during an observation in June 2013. When using the so-called half-pipe by skaters, the noise of this will be perceived as well.
<b>Safety</b>	Due to the openness of the park the area can be considered as relatively safe.
<b>Historic elements</b>	No historic elements are found in the park.
<b>Diversity</b>	Currently the diversity is rather poor . However, in the future more trees and shrubs will be planted and will strengthen the diversity.
<b>Openness</b>	The Spinoza park is extremely open and does not offer opportunities to hide or shelter from the wind or rain.
<b>Facilities</b>	Some seats, play grounds, sports equipment, library, skating, dog-walking (limited),

**Some more pictures of the park:**



figure 2: The park is surrounded by roads



figure 3: some elements in the park (benches covered by a canopy)





figure 4: new water areas are constructed in the park.