



Nature bridge Zanderij Crailo, The Netherlands

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Summary

Ecoducts (also known as nature bridges) ensure that the environment in the form of flora and fauna can proceed on its journey undisturbed. These nature bridges usually help nature to cross man made obstacles like highways, national roads, railroads or canals.

The year 2006 was a very special year. That year the inauguration of the longest nature bridge took place, called Zanderij Crailo in The Netherlands. The total length of this passage for nature is 800 m. Two concrete bridge constructions with a width of 50 m each form part of this connection enabling undisturbed passage for nature between two natural habitats.

Keywords: ecoduct, habitat fragmentation, mitigation, nature bridge, The Netherlands.

1. Introduction

The idea for nature bridge Crailo originated in 1995. In this year of nature conservation, an ambitious plan was launched to create a nature bridge in the Crailo sand quarry with the 'ultimate motive' of putting a stop to the increasing fragmentation of natural areas in the natural habitats of the Heuvelrug and the Gooi area in The Netherlands in particular. The nature bridge means that the nature reservations of the Vechtstreek, the 's-Gravelandse estates and the Spanderswoud are no longer separated from the heaths and forests of the Gooi and the nature reserves of the Utrechtse Heuvelrug, but are joined together in a natural way.