

### **Walking route De Oude Warande, December 2020 - January 2021**

This walk through De Oude Warande was conceived and developed by IVN Tilburg Natuurgidsen.

The walk starts at the Zwijsen Building on the Tilburg University campus.

While walking, we invite the walkers to make observations along the route based on a number of questions. The route and the questions (Q 1 to 14) are drawn on the map.

#### **Starting point:**

**Walk from here in the direction of the Faculty Club. This building is located on the edge of De Oude Warande.**

#### History of De Oude Warande

This wood is a star-shaped wood, built in 1712 by order of the German Prince Willem VIII of Hessen-Kassel (1682-1760), who was in the service of the Republic. The design of De Oude Warande is not really original. The design originates from Versailles (Paris), where Louis XIV (1638-1715) had a palace and park designed. The park consisted of a rigid geometric structure with compartments. This French garden style was designed by garden architect Le Nôtre. At the time, it appealed to the imagination enormously, including Prince William VIII. He had his property designed in this French garden style in imitation of Le Nôtre. In 2020—after restorations in recent years—this design can still clearly be seen.

#### **Walk straight ahead and turn right at the end.**

Q 1: There are trees along this wide avenue.

In wet weather: Can you see from which side the rain came? How can you tell?

In dry weather: the trees do not bear leaves now. Yet, you can find all kinds of leaves on the ground. Which leaf belongs to this tree? Can you also see fruits belonging to this tree? Do you also know the name of this tree?

#### **At the crossroads, sharply turn left.**

On the right side, you can see coniferous trees,

Q 2: Go through the needles with your hand. What smell do you observe?

There are 2 species of coniferous trees along this path; trees of which all needles are separate and trees of which the needles are in groups of two. This provides a handy memory aid:

Needles apart-> Solo -> Spar ( Lat. *Abies*)

Needles in pairs-> Pair -> Pine (Lat. *Pinus*)

Needles in bunches together -> Lots -> Larix (Lat. *Larix*)

Q 3: Is the fragrant tree a

- a. Spar
- b. Pine
- c. Larix

**Walk on and take the first path to the right. This path is also part of a crossroads. Follow this path.**

Q 4: Along this path, you can see several trees. Each tree has its own typical bark. How many different trees can you discover along this path? Do you know the names of these trees? Do these trees also occur in your country?

**Turn right at the next crossroads and walk straight ahead until the 5-way crossroads. Right in front of you, you will see a railroad.**

Q 5: Between which two Brabant cities do these trains run?

On this 5-way crossroads, take the 4th path. On your right, you can now see a pool of water.

Q 6: Is there a lot or little water in this pool? How can you tell?

Q 7: If you go off the path, you will see some dark shrubs near the water (about 1 m high). Rub your fingers over the dead inflorescences of the shrubs. What do you smell? Do you like that smell?

This plant used to be used for making beer. It gave a special aroma to the beer. Nowadays, this beer is—on a small scale—brewed again and sold as a *gagelbier* (bog myrtle beer)

**Then you come to a crossroads again and here you turn right. Walk until you reach another crossroads. Go right for a few meters. There are some green bushes here.**

Q 8 a: Gently touch these green bushes with your bare hand. Are these shrubs cuddly? If not, how come?

Q 8 b: Maybe you can still see some flowers. What color are these flowers?

**Walk back to the crossroads and take the third path of the crossroads. Walk a bit further. Take the first path to the left. Along this path, there are conifers on the left side. The needles are in bunches.**

Q 9: Count the needles of a bunch. How many needles do you count? Is this a Spar, a Pine or a Larix? Or is this memory aid not correct (see text between Q2 and Q 3 for information!).

**At the T-junction, turn right and, at the crossroads, also turn right. Walk to the 5-way crossroads and take the 2nd path to the right from this 5-way crossroads. Walk about 10 meters on this path and then turn round.**

Look along this path to Il Grotto - the black glass building in the center of the park.

Q 10: Can you walk in a straight line from where you are now to Il Grotto? Yes/No?

**Now take this path in the direction of Il Grotto.**

Q 11 a: What do you encounter? So what did the designer of the forest do? You can also experience this phenomenon in the park of Versailles, but there the phenomenon is many times larger than here in Tilburg.

Q 11 b: was your answer to Q 10 correct?

**Just before the object you encounter, go left up the slope. Follow the trees with the smooth trunk, walk between the Rhododendrons. These are evergreen shrubs. Immediately after passing these shrubs, you will see a tree on your right with an inscription. Look at this inscription.**

Q 12 a: Where will this inscription on the trunk of this tree be in 100 years?

- a. higher on the trunk
- b. lower on the trunk
- c. in the same place on the trunk

Q 12 b: What will the letters and lines of this inscription look like in 100 years?

- a. Letters and lines will have become thinner
- b. Letters and lines will have widened
- c. Letters and lines will have remained the same

**Now continue walking along the ditch on your right. After the ditch, you take the wide path in the direction of Il Grotto.**

If you compare the right side and the left side of the wide path with each other, you can observe that, on the right side, there is vegetation under the trees and, on the left side, there is no vegetation.

Q 13: Do you have any idea what causes this big difference in vegetation?

**Arrived at Il Grotto take a good look around.**

Q 14: Can you explain the name star-shaped wood?

IVN Tilburg hopes that you got to know this beautiful area a bit better!

**To return to the university campus, take the path between the 2 white buildings. Walk straight ahead and turn left at sign 13 of the training circuit. At the end, turn right. Walk straight ahead past the Faculty Club, and you will be back on campus.**

IVN Tilburg

Ria Jaspers and Alie Stofberg, December 15, 2020.