

In 2010 the LEI started an extensive study on valuating the benefits of landscape investments in the economic terms. The landscape investments include pools, trees, footpaths, hedges, et cetera in three pilot areas. Recreational and residential benefits have been assessed prior to the landscape investments, using the valuation techniques Travel Cost Method for recreation benefits and Hedonic Pricing Method for residential benefits. When the implementation is completed and the green landscape elements will be full grown, the ex-post measurement of the benefits will take place. The implementation of landscape elements and the measurement of benefits will take place in the Dutch sub-urban areas of Amstelland (near Amsterdam), Ooijpolder (near Nijmegen) and Groene Woud (near Tilburg). In addition, the benefits (ex-ante as well as ex post) are also being assessed for comparable areas where no landscape investments will take place, as a reference to relate the observed benefits to.

Measurements for recreation take place in all four seasons, at various days in the week. For measuring residential benefits, living areas from a large radius from the investment areas have been included. Thereby enabling to study the relation between distance from investment area to the living area, and the property values.