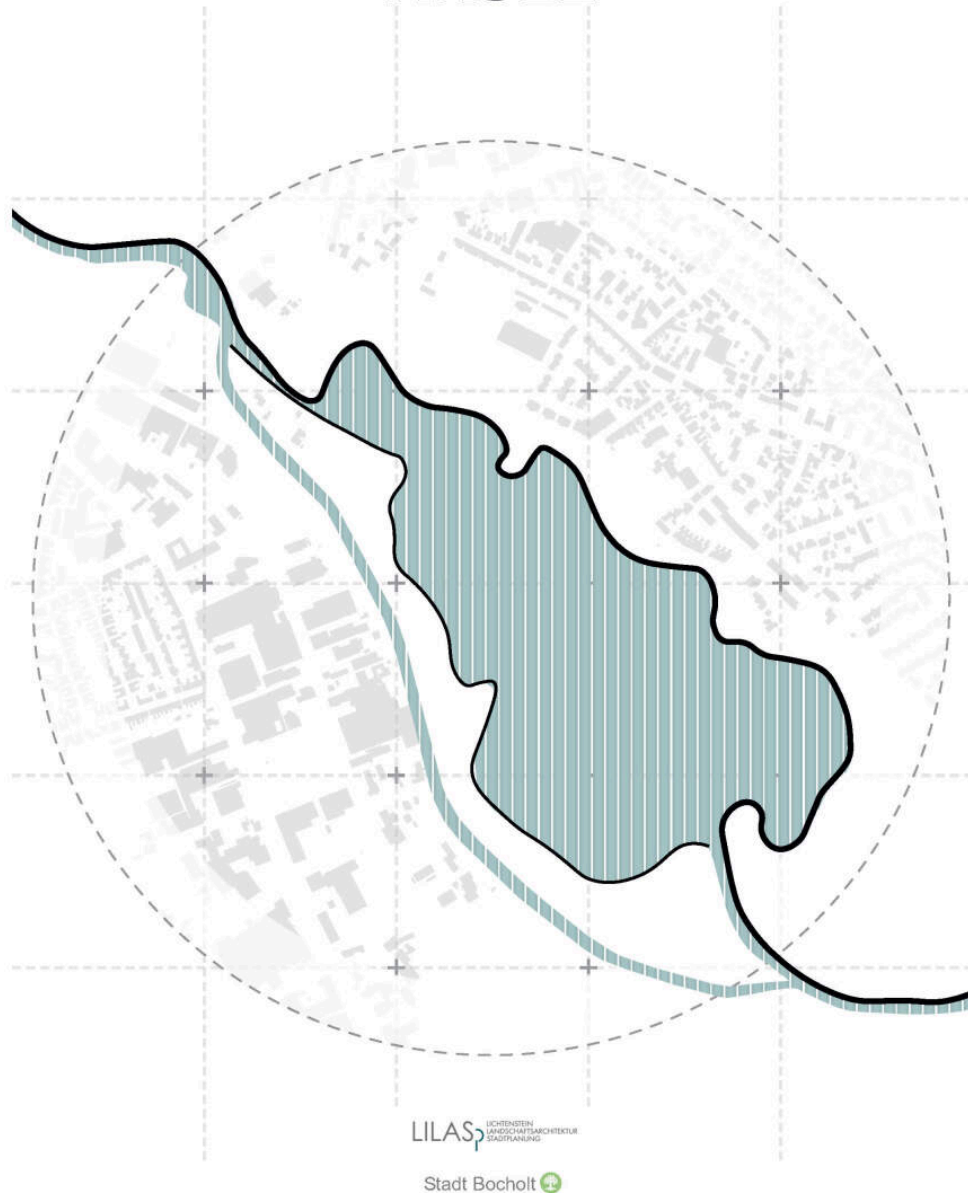


The future of Bocholter Aasee

Framework planning Aasee



ZUKUNFT BOCHOLTER AASEE



The Aasee masterplan

The town of Bocholt is constantly working to **further develop** the **Aasee and its surroundings**. The Aasee forms the link between the town centre, Kubaai and the Aasee itself - making it a key area at the heart of our town.

In recent years, there have been various developments around the Aasee:

- new plans for **the Kubaai site**,

- a local **development plan** for catering areas on the north-western shore,
- enquiries regarding **the expansion of the motorhome park** and the use of the **bathing bay**.

To ensure that everything fits together well and is developed in a sensible way, an **overarching concept** is needed.

To plan the next steps, the City of Bocholt commissioned the firm **Lichtenstein Landschaftsarchitekten & Stadtplanung (LILASP)** in the summer of 2022 to draw up a **framework plan for the Aasee**:

- in the form of [a report](#) and [plan diagram](#)
- [Cost and funding overview](#)

Further information



Drawing up the Aasee Master Plan

- LILASP has carried out a detailed analysis of the area - its strengths, weaknesses and opportunities
- Residents and many stakeholder groups were able to contribute their ideas and wishes in **autumn/winter 2022**
- Issues such as **demographic change** and **climate adaptation** also played an important role
- **Many measures for the Aasee:** developed, assessed and prioritised according to cost, benefit and impact
- **23 October 2023:** Adoption of the framework plan and the cost and financing overview (KuF) by Bocholt City Council



Implementation of the framework plan

The measures set out in the **Aasee Master Plan** will be implemented **step by step** from **2025 onwards, continuing beyond 2030**.

To this end, the city is examining, amongst other things, which **funding schemes** can be utilised. In addition, **budgetary funds** for the most important measures will be allocated on a regular basis from 2025 onwards.

Before implementation, the individual projects will be worked out in greater detail and the **cost estimates** updated.

To ensure everyone remains up to date, the city reports annually to **the Committee for Planning, Construction and Transport** on the current status of the work.

What's next for Aasee?



Ecological enhancement/expansion and improvement of the nature reserve

The natural area on the western side, north of Surfer Bay, is to be further developed in terms of both size and quality. Existing vegetation structures will be enhanced and the dense blackberry and pioneer vegetation around the bay will be gradually reduced over the long term. This will improve the approach area for birds, particularly facilitating the settlement of sand martins in the nesting aids created by NABU.

The cleared path will not only attract species from more open habitats but will also provide visitors with a "window onto nature". A viewing platform is to be built to offer views of the shoreline and parts of the island without significantly disturbing the wildlife.

The offshore island is to continue to serve as a habitat for birds and for aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna, and be allowed to develop naturally. To the north, the natural zone can be extended by planting individual trees without restricting the planned recreational uses at the sailing bay. Hardy, native species are to be used for this purpose.

Most recently, [a report](#) on the [status of the measure](#) was presented to the Committee for Climate, Environment and Energy on 28 April 2026. Implementation is scheduled for autumn 2026.

This project is being carried out with the support of the Hohe Mark Nature Park and is funded by the State of North Rhine-Westphalia under the Nature Conservation Funding Guidelines (FöNa).



Bicycle rack



© Stadt Bocholt

The aim is to improve access to and the visitor experience of Lake Aasee through measures set out in the master plan. Instead of a small number of oversized cycle parking spaces, decentralised parking spaces are to be provided.

Initially, new bicycle racks have been installed at "Surferbucht" and in the area of the large playground. Further parking spaces are still being finalised.

Playground by the bathing bay

The nature-inspired redesign of the playground at the bathing bay aims to create a varied, attractive and ecologically valuable play area. The project will promote the children's motor skills, creativity and social interaction. In addition, the playground will be made more climate-resilient by planting more shade-providing trees and creating permeable surfaces.

Nature-inspired playgrounds offer varied and interesting design elements that encourage children to play creatively and actively, whilst also allowing them to experience nature in an informal way. Materials such as wood and stones stimulate the imagination as well as physical and mental

development. They enable role-play, experimental play with different materials, quiet observation of nature and the development of problem-solving skills through free play. Furthermore, experiences of nature have been shown to have a positive impact on children's and young people's ability to concentrate and on stress reduction.

Implementation is expected to begin in autumn 2026.

Planning status as at 10 September 2024

The project is funded by the ANK with funds from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Protection, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

Activities for all ages

In addition to facilities for children, intergenerational facilities are also to be created at Aasee.

At the playground by the bathing bay, a bench will be installed with a pedal bike in front of it and a swivel seat to encourage physical activity. The project is due to be completed in 2026.

Further development of the festival grounds

In future, the festival grounds by Lake Aasee are to be used more extensively and developed into an events venue with the necessary technical connections to electricity and water. Implementation is planned for autumn 2026.

Creating extensive grassland and an orchard meadow

The meadow areas to the north and south of the exercise park are to be managed on an extensive basis and developed as a biodiverse habitat. To the south of the exercise park, an orchard meadow with 30 standard fruit trees is to be created; the fruit from these trees will be available to visitors

to Lake Aasee for personal consumption at harvest time. A mixture of wildflowers will be sown beneath the fruit trees to fully realise the ecological value of a mixed orchard.

The areas north of the exercise park offer space for further individual standard fruit trees as well as sections of meadow rich in wildflowers.

Most recently, [a progress report](#) on [the measure](#) was presented to the Committee for Climate, Environment and Energy on 28 April 2026. Implementation is planned for 2026/2027.

The measure is funded by the ANK with funds from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Protection, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

Completed projects



Aasee Terraces and Restaurants

In order to enhance the area as a destination for leisure and recreation, whilst at the same time making the link between the city centre, Kubaai and Aasee more attractive, the SO 28 development plan, 7th Amendment, the planning requirements were established for the construction of restaurants on the northern shore of the Aasee along Uhlandstraße. In addition, the green spaces are to be preserved and the open space enhanced.

The café opened in May 2026. The public space surrounding the new restaurant will be redesigned in the same year.



Crossing point on Uhlandstraße

In order to continue promoting walking and cycling, the link to the city centre is being improved. To this end, an additional crossing has been created on Uhlandstraße. This has been built opposite the new restaurant and thus also serves as the shortest route into the city centre for pedestrians coming from the western bank.



Wave loungers

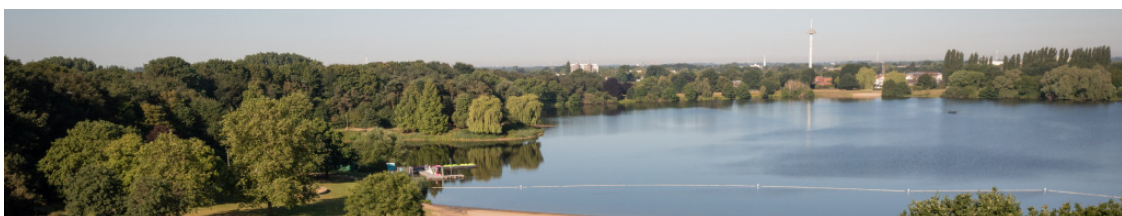


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As an association, the Hohe Mark Nature Park aims to preserve the region as a major recreational area and to promote nature-based leisure activities. As large parts of Bocholt's urban area form part of the nature park, the town council and the association work closely together to continuously improve the infrastructure for sustainable tourism.

The latest result of this collaboration is the installation of three double wave loungers and three single wave loungers, which have been enhancing the visitor experience at Lake Aasee since November 2025.

This project was implemented with the support of the Hohe Mark Nature Park and funded by the State of North Rhine-Westphalia under the Nature Conservation Funding Guidelines (FöNa).



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