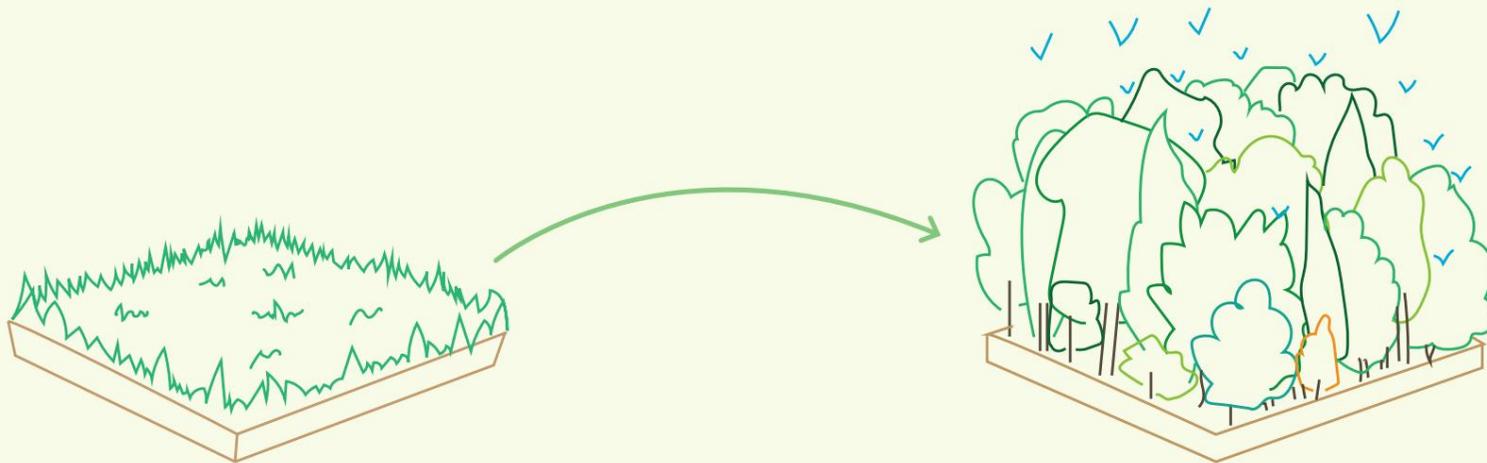


-Chapter 2-

FIND A LAND



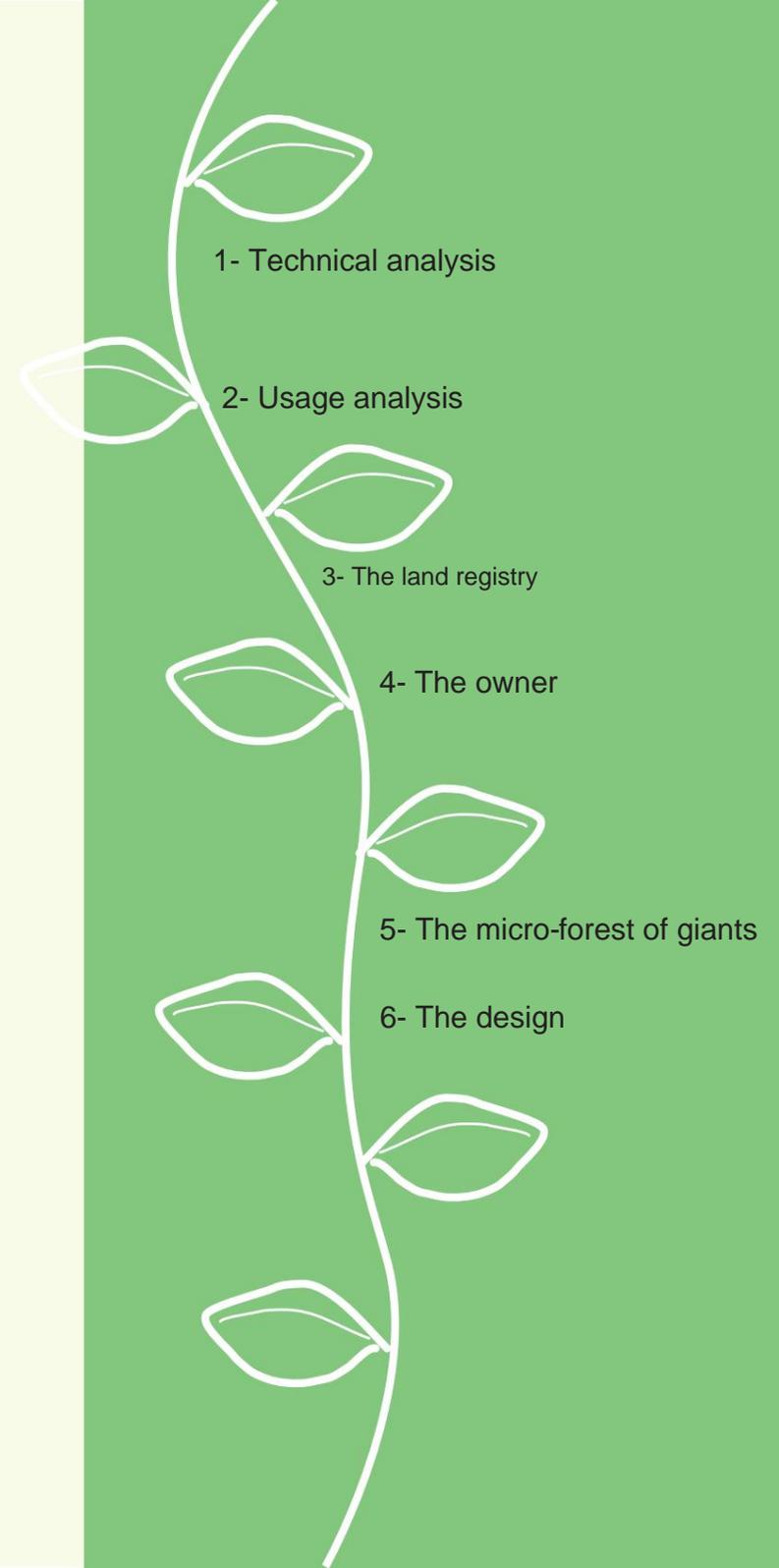
choose a plot of land

If your project is to plant an urban micro-forest, you are already convinced of the multiple benefits of trees on the quality of the environment and the living environment.

But you will also need to convince elected officials, local residents and walkers of the merits of the micro-forest.

Many criteria will be taken into account when choosing your land, including technical, economic, and social factors. But it is also important to ensure that this micro-forest is well-received by the land's users.

To be adopted by the greatest number of people and to be sustainable, a micro-forest planting project, particularly on public land, must create a connection with its immediate environment. The participatory dimension of the planting, the communication made around the project, the presentation of the project to the local town hall are all ways to best integrate the micro-forest into the existing landscape.



1- technical analysis

As you walk around your neighborhood, you'll likely spot vacant lots or lawns that need landscaping. It's a good idea to note their locations and discuss them with your community. To find out if a piece of land is interesting, look at:



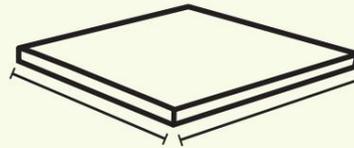
GEOGRAPHY

Any terrain is suitable, in principle. But while you're at it, why not choose a location that makes sense?

Close to the ring road, to create a visual and sound barrier, or to a school and/or residential area, to green a concrete neighborhood... your imagination is the only limit!

 **Sloping** ground ?
Too steep = hard work!

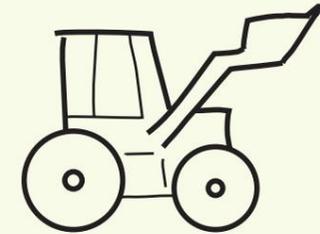
 **Access to water** ? Several waterings will be required during the first 2 years



THE SURFACE

- At least 100m² and 5m wide.
The land must also be approximately 5m from a building and 2m from a route.
- A maximum of 5000m² to limit costs, on this scale it is better to let the forest recreate itself and at its own pace.

 **Budget**
The area you can afford to plant will depend on your budget. Don't bite off more than you can chew...



ACCESSIBILITY

The vehicles that will deliver the amendments, as well as the passage of the mini-excavator to prepare the soil, require easy access to the land.

 Is there **a road** for delivering the amendments and the mini-excavator?

 Presence of **networks** (pipes/electrical)?
This is an important element to note: it makes planting a micro-forest more difficult.

ADVICE

If too many criteria make the project difficult, other solutions are possible: flower meadows, edible and/or ornamental vegetation.

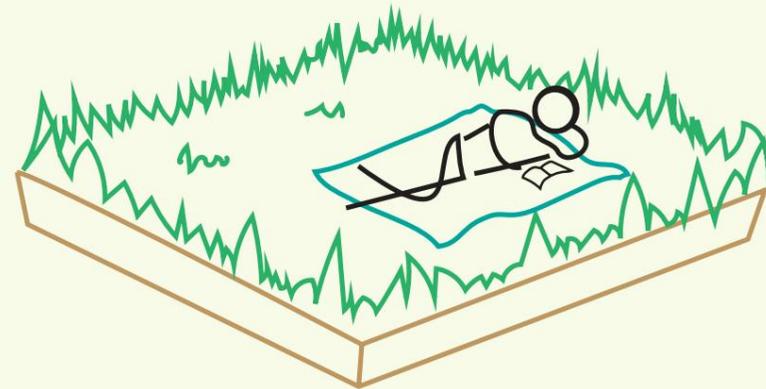
Contact the [Toulouse Greening in Transition group](#) or join the [Champs Libres](#) project ;)

2- usage analysis

Once the technical analysis of your land has been carried out, you will be able to observe what uses local residents have for it: dog walking, Sunday jogging, picnic area, etc.

How is the land used?

The goal is to create a small forest integrated into the lifestyles of city dwellers, local residents or passers-by. They will see it grow into a beloved forest, but it will be impenetrable unless a path is built into it.



relaxation area

Is there room for micro-forests?

Carefully observing land use allows you to take into account “free” areas and paths used by walkers.

protection

Will the forest be “protected” from future human work/intervention?

We recommend leaving a “security” perimeter between the forest and the surrounding areas and infrastructure.

frequented space

Strengthening the participatory dimension

Do not hesitate to ask local residents about the history of the land, observed flora or fauna, practices, as well as their assessment of the establishment of a micro-forest in their neighborhood, before the planting project.

Increase the educational scope of the project and raise awareness among the general public

playground

Is this a playground or a leisure area?

By planting a forest on land used by walkers or local residents (dog walks, ball games, etc.), there is a risk that the forest will be seen as an obstacle and therefore not welcomed. Observe the uses that local residents and walkers have of this land at different times to better understand where you are setting foot.

3- The land registry

Once you think you have found THE land of your dreams, it is now necessary to identify the cadastral parcel(s) that make up your land in order to be able to contact the owners.

Registered plot

To find out the owner of your land, you can contact the land registry.

On <https://www.geoportail.gouv.fr>

Locate your land and **note the plot number.**

You can also measure the area of the plot, or [access old maps](#) . VERY useful!

public or private land?

Public: your project will be all the more meaningful if it is accessible to as many people as possible.

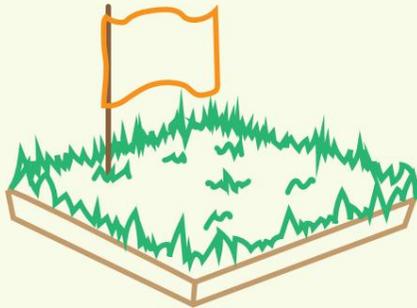
Private: land open to public space may depend on private land. e.g.: Vinci-road interchanges, businesses, supermarkets



In the case of the Giants micro-forest, we had identified part of the land registry number 0020, but part of the land was not registered. What should we do?

4- The owner

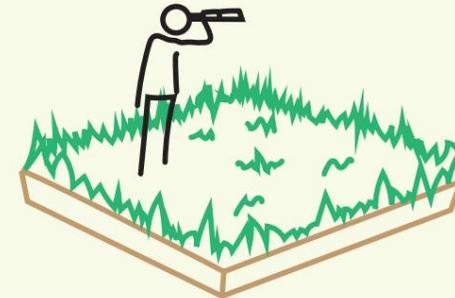
Once the plot numbers have been identified, contacting the owner is an administrative matter. But when the plot isn't registered, finding the owner can be a difficult task.



Cadastral matrices

A registered plot can be private or public. To find out, have the plot number of your land ready and fill out [form 6815 "request for extract from the cadastral register"](#), and send the request to your town hall.

For residents of Toulouse, here is the address:
cadastre@mairie-toulouse.fr



Unregistered plot

These are empty areas on the cadastral map. This can also involve land subject to public or private law. This can concern natural spaces, public squares, but also land bordering roads.

Who to contact?

- **Town hall / District town hall** : the mayor can provide information on the division of unregistered plots.
- **DIRSO** = Interdepartmental Directorate of Roads of the South West
- **DREAL** = The Regional Directorates for the Environment, Planning and Housing are decentralized services of the French State, under the joint supervision of the Ministry of Ecological and Inclusive Transition (MTES) and the Ministry of Territorial Cohesion (MCT)

ADVICE

In all cases, usage agreements will need to be established with the landowner. Remember to check who is responsible for managing the land (sometimes different from the owner, especially for public spaces).

5- The micro-forest of giants

We will explain to you the reasons which motivated our choices for the selection of the land of [the giant micro-forest](#), [Chemin des Herbettes](#), in Rangueil, Toulouse. Planted on March 2, 2020, some of its 1,200 trees are already over 1.50m tall, in just 2 months!

choose a plot of land

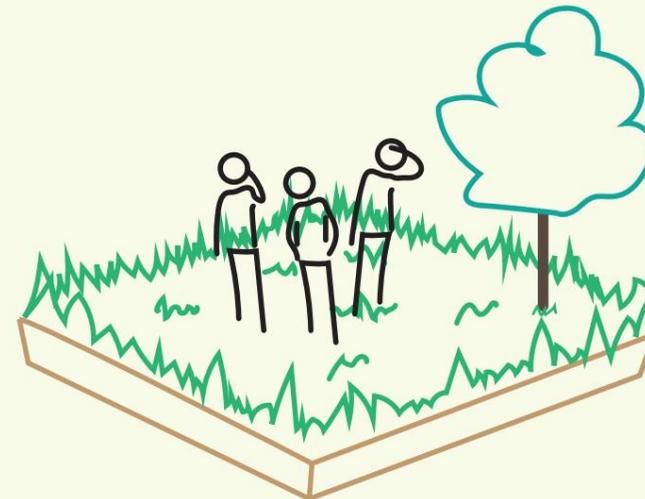
For our first planting, we sought out **devalued spaces** to create a sense of well-being within the city. We made sure to coexist with local residents' leisure spaces.

We chose to plant in the Rangueil district because we had a **partnership with the La Prairie school** and for logistical and monitoring reasons it was important that students could come there on foot from their school.

To be consistent with the public space, the collective wanted to find **public land on the edge of the ring road**.

The idea of recreating a green lung in Toulouse around the ring road is based on several concrete reasons:

- These plots are often not buildable
- The multiple benefits of a micro-forest:
improvement of air quality
well-being that can be brought by the sight of a forest and the song of birds rather than all the nuisances of road traffic...



ADVICE

For the Giants' Forest, **3 land options had to be discarded before obtaining the one for the current plantation!**

Several external reasons: landscaping projects, works, were announced to us over time, and this shortly before the planting date.

It may be beneficial to **work directly with land managers** on a forest planting project to avoid these kinds of setbacks.

Ex: planting in a school, university, company, etc.

6- the design

The land you choose will likely already have vegetation or infrastructure. It's important to consider how the microforest will fit into this landscape.

We are going to present to you the design we worked on for the giants' micro-forest.

constraints and opportunities

- Respect for the **natural path** used by cyclists and pedestrians
- Respect a few **meters of distance** in relation to public facilities: tarmac road, existing fence which may require intervention by the town hall
- Creation of a free “**relaxation area**” for walkers, on the “right side” of the forest
- Taking into account existing **urban equipment** (public benches) for a beautiful view of the forest
- Taking into account **existing vegetation** : the few trees present on the site were integrated into the project



terrain public

Participatory, educational, civic and political dimension.

place of passage

Close to the Canal du Midi, schools, nursery and university

proximity to the ring road

Allows you to benefit from the ecosystem services of the micro-forest: visual barrier and natural noise barrier, air filtration, cool island

and now ?

You have identified a plot of land that interests you and contacted the owners...

Now it's time to think about the species you're going to plant! To help you with this step, you can consult the following chapter: **“Choosing Species”**.

We remain at your disposal to discuss your project.



Mail : collectifmicroforetstet@gmail.com

facebook : [@microforetstoulouse](https://www.facebook.com/microforetstoulouse)

<http://toulouse.entransition.fr/>

