

Restoration of the Mausoleum



The Mausoleum had not aged well and although the 11 lime trees were in good health, their roots had caused considerable damage. However, their symbolic significance is closely linked to the history of the site and its design.

The restoration of the walls and staircases was done using the drystone wall technique, i.e. without the use of mortar. This traditional method respects the environment both during and after the construction phase. Drystone walls contain up to a third of hollow spaces thus providing habitats for flora and fauna.

This technique is included in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and is therefore a heritage asset in its own right.

By restoring this building, we are helping to preserve our cultural, historical, intangible and landscape heritage.

Enhancing the landscape

Situated on a slight promontory, the site offers panoramic views of the countryside and the villages surrounding Neufchâteau. On a clear day, you can see Libramont and the site of the agricultural fair. The landscaping and ecological enhancement project will establish the site on the ridge and make it part of an ecological corridor between forest and farmland.

The planting around the Mausoleum has also been designed to recall the circular layout of the military graves, which have since disappeared.

Over the years, nature will flourish on the site and become a small haven of peace and biodiversity, as well as enabling walkers to enjoy the views and the tranquillity of nature.



Ecological enhancement

Situated between farmland and woodland, the site is of ecological interest and will feature:

- A wildflower meadow in the immediate vicinity of the mausoleum. Native plants will attract pollinating insects in spring, as well as providing a source of food for birds and small mammals. This area will be maintained using the Differentiated Management (DM) system.
- Peripheral plots will be reforested by natural regeneration (the capacity of an ecosystem to spontaneously reconstitute itself after the removal of all or part of the forest trees), which will provide diversity in terms of plant species and the layering of the woodland cover. In just a few months, oak, hazel, elderberry, viburnum, etc. have already populated the site.

In the long term, this natural regeneration will create a natural forest.

