



IN CAMMINO VERSO UNA PROVINCIA VERDE  
ON THE ROAD TO A GREEN PROVINCE  
EN MARCHE VERS UNE PROVINCE VERTE

Community of Versailles... small ecological steps...

**November 2021** : Mr Anzieu, president of the ecological association Colibri de Versailles, contacted us to tell us his desire to create a **shared garden** in our home (he had already told us about his project a few years ago... but we had not followed up). He is already at the initiative of several shared gardens in Versailles. His request is in line with a question we had about the future of a plot of land, at the bottom of the park, which was until now entrusted to Clément who worked for us for many years. As Clément was getting older, this "garden" was becoming a bit abandoned. Several meetings with Mr. Anzieu and reflections in community allow us to reach, after 9 months, a charter. The garden started in October 2022 with 4 gardeners living in the neighborhood. They come to work in the garden every Friday afternoon. It's a project with 2 aims: the garden (to grow vegetables) AND an experience of life and collegial decisions between gardeners. And Clément continues to cultivate a piece of land...



**March 2022** : purchase of **recycled paper**, grammage 80g. Setting up computers and printers for double-sided, black and white printing.

**May 2022** : **cleaning and maintenance of the pond**. We have chosen to look for ecological and natural solutions in the respect and preservation of the ecosystem.

**Since July 2022** : **recovery of water** at the end of meals (on the retreatants' and community's side) for watering indoor and outdoor plants (in summer) and for filling flush toilets.

**4 Octobre 2022** (jour de la St François d'Assise !) : **Solidarity day** with 40 employees of the Bouygues Construction company, co-organized with the Colibris association. It is the collaboration for the shared garden with Mr. Anzieu (of the Colibris) which allowed this 2nd project. This October 4th our achievements are numerous: creation of 2 composts,





labeling of some trees and shrubs of the park, crushing of wood to make the mulching of the rosebushes, weeding, clearing of the water entrance of the pond (mud), construction of a plessis (braiding of branches ; see <https://www.rustica.fr/decoration-jardin/fabriquer-bordure-plessis,3027.html> ),...

2 sisters of the community live this day with the employees and the volunteers.



More photos : <https://www.ndcenacle.org/centre-spirituel/centre-spirituel-de-versailles/> (section « Echo sur les activités »)



Europa Togo

Community of Versailles



**2022-2024** : 4 study projects with the Colibris association and the students of the ISE (Institut Supérieur de l'Environnement), located in Versailles.

The first year is devoted to the study of the field and the problematic, the 2nd year to the realization.

There are 4 projects :

- the management of invasive exotic plants in the park,
- the perennial maintenance of the pond (after its cleaning last year),
- an inventory of the park's fauna and flora with the production of an educational booklet,
- the installation of a flowered meadow in order to diversify the ecosystem.

**Janvier 2023** : **compost** in the novitiate kitchen, in a bio-jump given by the gardeners of the shared garden.



**Retraite écologie et Parole de Dieu**

**August 2023** :

ecological retreat, at the Cenacle of Versailles, animated by sr Marie Lacoste and sr Hélène Noisette (auxiliary sister, specialist in ecology).



<https://www.ndcenacle.org/activite/retraite-ecologie-et-parole-de-dieu/?key=0>

*These small and large steps, taken since 2021, are part of a continuum:*



**2020** : **Ecological diagnosis** in connection with the Green Church (equivalent of the Eco-church label): evaluation of our ecological practices (buildings, prayer, lifestyles, local commitment...) and path of actions. To be re-evaluated every year.

**Works in the center since 2020 and until today:**

- replacement of the oil boiler by a gas boiler,
- LED light bulbs,
- installation of high energy performance windows,
- ...

Works with financial aid from the State:

- insulation of roofs,
- replacement of radiator thermostats,
- water saving devices installed on faucets,
- water-saving shower heads,
- insulation of hot water pipes,
- ...



**Already in place for several years:**

- a part of the waste sorted (cardboard and plastic),
- vegetarian evening dinners,
- Ecocup are available for the groups' lunch breaks,
- animation of "Walk and Pray" days once or twice a year.

For the next years:

Composting of organic waste at the table (in the community and at retreatants' tables) ?

Rainwater harvesting ?

...

**Marie Lacoste for the community of Versailles**