

# Logbook – We are what we eat

## Coulée Verte René Dumont

Leonor, Nour, Nicolas

We went to the garden early in the spring at the end of March, on a Saturday afternoon. We walked from the Bastille end of the garden all the way to the Bel-Air Station on Line 6. It was a very windy day, and quite chilly too. Still, it was a sunny day and the walk was very pleasant and relaxing. As it was the beginning of spring, we saw quite a few flowers and trees in bloom, which was very pleasant and pretty. This garden is very special – it feels very isolated from the city while being in the middle of Paris – and the contrast is especially visible at the beginning of the walk, near Bastille and the Gare de Lyon, as we can see on the first picture – we see the contrast between the blooming trees and garden and the Haussmann style buildings of this borough of Paris. A lot of people come to the Coulée Verte René Dumont to jog and run, to walk their dogs, and simply to walk and enjoy the calm and relaxing setting. The garden, built along a disused railway line, goes from the Bastille square all the way to the Paris ring road, and goes through many different neighbourhoods of Paris, meaning that by exploring and walking along the garden we saw many different sides of the Paris built environment – From the Opera Bastille that replaced the old Bastille railway station – to the Haussmannian buildings near Gare de Lyon – to the 80's style development along the garden further east in the 12<sup>th</sup> Arrondissement – One building was even built around the garden, and the path goes through the building. Near the Mongallet street, the garden crosses path with another garden – the Reuilly garden, where the Coulée Verte passes above the Reuilly garden with a pedestrian bridge. All along the path of the garden, there are many benches, meaning as many opportunities to simply sit and enjoy a quiet (-er) moment in the middle of the city – only sometimes interrupted by the sound of passing ambulances in the streets below in the section from Bastille to Reuilly. Further along, the garden goes through a tunnel and then in a trench between buildings on both sides. Here, the atmosphere is very different, there are fewer walkers, and we are less disturbed by the noises of the city. This is where we ran out of time, so we sadly didn't explore the garden all the way to the ring road, but overall it was a very pleasant and relaxing experience.

