

> ANTWERP 1920 VENUES

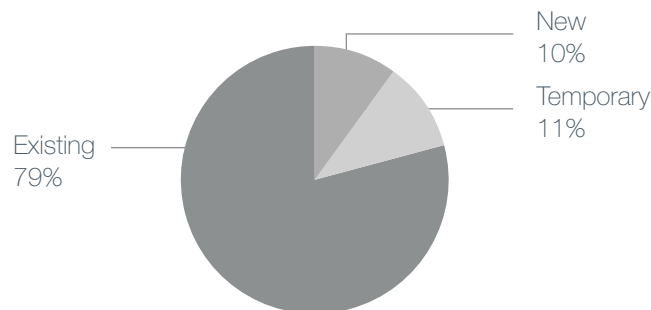


OVERVIEW

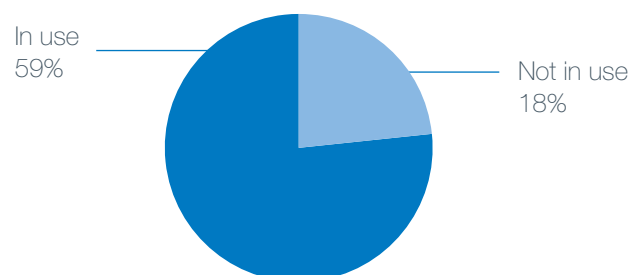
Nineteen competition venues were used for the Olympic Games Antwerp 1920, ten of which remain in use today. Fifteen of the competition venues were existing, two were new and two were temporary. Many of the existing venues were refurbished for the Games. The two temporary venues have been dismantled. Six of the existing venues and one new venue have been demolished. Though many of the remaining venues have undergone upgrades, only a few still offer high-performance sports facilities.

Built for the occasion, the Olympic Stadium hosted the Opening and Closing Ceremonies and several of the competitions. There was no official Olympic Village. Seven of the venues were outside Antwerp, including one in the Netherlands, which would also be used at the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928.

VENUE CLASSIFICATION



CURRENT USE (PERMANENT VENUES)





ANTWERP 1920 VENUES AT A GLANCE

Venue name at Games time	Venue classification at Games time	Use at Games time	Current status
Hoogboom Country Club	Existing	Eventing, shooting	Not in use (demolished)
Nightingale Park (Nachtegalepark)	Existing	Archery	In use
Celebration Hall, Royal Zoological Society (Feestzaal, Koninklijke Zoölogische Maatschappij)	Existing	Boxing, wrestling	In use
Royal Beerschot Tennis and Hockey Club	Existing	Tennis, fencing	In use
Flower Hall (Floralien), Middelheim Park	Existing	Modern pentathlon (fencing)	Not in use (demolished)

ANTWERP 1920 VENUES AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

Venue name at Games time	Venue classification at Games time	Use at Games time	Current status
Ice Palace	Existing	Ice hockey, figure skating	Not in use (demolished)
Vélodrome d'Anvers Zurenborg	Existing	Cycling (track)	Not in use (demolished)
Stadion Broodstraat	Existing	Football	Not in use (demolished)
Shooting Range, Het Kiel (Shietbaan, Het Kiel)	Existing	Modern pentathlon (shooting)	Not in use (demolished)
Antwerp Olympic Stadium (Olympisch Stadion)	New build	Athletics, hockey, equestrian, gymnastics, football, rugby, tug of war, modern pentathlon (running, equestrian), weightlifting, Opening and Closing Ceremonies	In use
Merksem-Antwerp	Temporary	Eventing, cycling (road)	Dismantled (temporary)
Antwerp Water Sports Stadium	Temporary	Swimming, diving, water polo, modern pentathlon (swimming)	Dismantled (temporary)
Venues outside Antwerp			
Duden Park Stadium	Existing	Football	In use
Wellington Racing Track (Wellingtonrenbaan)	Existing	Polo	In use
Oostende	Existing	Sailing	In use
Willebroek Canal (Willebroekse Vaart)	Existing	Rowing	In use
Buiten-IJ	Existing	Sailing	In use
Beverloo Camp (Kamp Beverloo)	Existing	Shooting	In use
Jules Otten Stadium	New build	Football	Not in use (demolished)

> THE VENUES UP CLOSE

VENUES IN USE

ANTWERP OLYMPIC STADIUM (OLYMPISCH STADION)

Prior to the 1920 Olympic Games, the site was used by Beerschot Athletic Club for training. The stadium project included the construction of a new grandstand, the enlarging of existing grandstands, the extension of the track and the building of an access road. At Games time, the stadium had a capacity of 35,000.

Following the Games, further work was carried out to convert the stadium into a football ground for the club K Beerschot VA. In 2000, the venue underwent a major refurbishment. The running track was removed, four separate stands were created, and the capacity was reduced to 13,000. The club still plays its home games at the stadium, though no other major events have taken place there since the 1920 Olympic Games.

ROYAL BEERSCHOT TENNIS AND HOCKEY CLUB

Built in 1899 and situated next to the Olympic Stadium, the club had 14 clay courts at Games time. Now home to nine outdoor and seven indoor courts, the club, which has been renamed Tennis 7 de Olympiade, is open for use by local residents and stages regional and national tennis competitions throughout the year, among them the City of Antwerp Tournament. A multi-sport venue, the club also offers field hockey, swimming and pétanque.

BUITEN-IJ

Located in Amsterdam, north-east of the city centre, this body of water staged the 12-foot dinghy competition at the 1920 Olympic Games. It was also used as a sailing venue at the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928, when it hosted the single-handed Olympic monotype class. The area is now part of the port of Amsterdam, the fourth busiest in Europe.

CELEBRATION HALL, ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY (FEESTZAAL, KONINKLIJKE ZOÖLOGISCHE MAATSCHAPPIJ)

Part of Antwerp Zoo, which opened in 1844, the hall was the venue for the boxing and wrestling competitions. Welcoming more than a million visitors a year, the zoo is home to one of the world's most advanced animal research centres.

WILLEBROEK CANAL

Though mainly used for transporting goods and flood management, the canal has hosted rowing events since the Games and is used by the Royal Sport Nautique de Bruxelles (RSNB) for recreational rowing and training, and competitions such as the Brussels Winter Rowing Regatta. It is not clear what facilities were built for the rowing competitions, but they are believed to have been temporary.

BEVERLOO CAMP

The camp played host to the shooting events in 1920. It opened in 1839 and became a permanent military base in 1845 – a status it retains to this day. Occupied by German troops in both world wars, it was used as a prisoner-of-war camp and partly damaged by an Allied bombardment in 1944. In 1976, the barracks were modernised, and hundreds of houses were built for the families of the personnel stationed there. It is Belgium's largest garrison.

VENUES NOT IN USE

ICE PALACE

This was the venue for the very first Olympic ice hockey competition and only the second figure skating competition, after London 1908. The Ice Palace opened in 1910 as a roller-skating rink before being converted into an ice rink the year before the Games. Later used as a garage and a taxi depot, it was dismantled in 2016.

VÉLODROME D'ANVERS ZURENBORG

The venue opened in June 1914 and had a 400m concrete track. It was located in a park in the Wilrijk district. As well as the four Olympic track cycling events, it also staged the 1920 World Championships and the end of a stage of the Tour de Belgique. The infield was used as a football pitch after the Games. The velodrome was demolished in 1925 to make way for housing.

JULES OTTEN STADIUM

The venue for the first-round match between Italy and Egypt at the 1920 Olympic football tournament, the stadium was the home ground of football club KAA Gent for 93 years. It was refurbished on several occasions, with new stands being built in 1986, 1992 and 2002. When the club moved to a new stadium in 2013, their old home was demolished. A housing development now stands on the site.

BROODSTRAAT STADION

The stadium opened in 1908 and staged two matches at the 1920 Olympic football tournament. It was the home ground of Royal Antwerp FC until 1923, when the club moved out because it was too small to accommodate their growing fan base. The stadium no longer exists, though the date of its demolition is not known.

TEMPORARY VENUES

MERSKEM-ANTWERP

The individual and team time trials were held on the same 175-kilometre course. Riders left at four-minute intervals from the Antwerp district of Merksem and rode on to Turnhout, Mol, Heist-op-den-Berg and Lier before returning to the city. The first cross-country stage of the three-day eventing competition (a 50km race), which took place mostly on roads, also finished near Merskem, though the exact location of the finish line is not known.

ANTWERP WATER SPORTS STADIUM

The venue comprised three parallel pools overlooked at one end by a clubhouse. A 50-metre swimming course with seven starting positions was laid out in the main pool, while the middle pool was reserved for the water polo matches. The stadium was dismantled after the Games.

> DID YOU KNOW?

Belgium's King Albert I monitored preparations for the Olympic Games very closely. On 27 March 1920, he paid a visit to the Olympic Stadium to see how work was progressing. To avoid being recognised, he wore a disguise.

One of Belgium's oldest navigable canals, Willebroek Canal runs for 28 kilometres and links Brussels with the Scheldt River.

The water at the Antwerp Water Sports Stadium was so cold – due to unseasonably cool temperatures – that competitors sprinted to warm showers after their races.