

Press Release

From parking lot to landscape: Wendersplatz as a lively entrance to the Neuss Federal Garden Show 2026

Neuss, 16. April 2026 – With the opening of the Federal Garden Show 2026 in Neuss on 16 April, Wendersplatz becomes the new entrance gate to the exhibition, and a temporary landscape space in the middle of the city. The place, which was previously used as a parking lot for cars, was transformed into a colourful, lively entrance that combines nature, design and urban life. The concept "Chromatic Grounds", developed by LAND Germany together with JSWD, interprets the guiding theme "Traces of the Future" as a spatial experience and shows how landscape can act as a strategic tool for transformation and quality of stay.

On April 16, 2026, the German Federal Garden Show (*Landesgartenschau*, or LAGA) opened its doors in Neuss. As an established format, it combines garden art, urban development and community topics and creates places that provide impetus for the future of cities beyond the duration of the exhibition.

Wendersplatz provides a special entrance to the event: an area that has so far been used mainly as a parking lot has been **temporarily transformed into a multi-layered landscape space**. The square acts as both a prelude and a transition between the city and the exhibition grounds.

The interim design of the formerly dismissed site is based on the "**Chromatic Grounds**" concept, developed by **LAND Germany** in cooperation with **JSWD Architekten**. The project translates the guiding theme of the Federal Garden Show "Traces of the Future" into a spatial and visual experience. Coloured surfaces and graphic markings, which were realised by **Stadtgrün Ruhr GmbH**, structure the space and create orientation, while at the same time creating identity and atmosphere. The square thus becomes a painted "red carpet", leading visitors into the garden show.

The focus lies on the landscape approach: **raised flowerbeds** with a variety of plantings, custom-made by BRUNS Manufaktur (August Bruns GmbH & Co. KG), bring vegetation and seasonal dynamism into the urban space. **Wide, unsealed recreation areas and plantings** create a pleasant microclimate for rest and relaxation. Wendersplatz thus becomes a temporary urban ecosystem: a place where nature is not mere decoration but rather acts as a formative infrastructure.

Artistic contributions, including a sculpture by renowned Düsseldorf artist **Thomas Schönauer** and works by local graffiti artist Alessandro Althaus (Oldhaus), add cultural levels to the space and reinforce its identity as a public place of experience.

The square is complemented by a variety of activities: gastronomic offerings, seating areas and cultural impulses as well as the **Ferris wheel "Sky Lounge Wheel"** by the fairground company Bruch, which reveals new perspectives on the city and the garden exhibition from a height of 58 meters. With the **Future Campus of the Middle Lower Rhine Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK)**, Wendersplatz also acts a place of dialogue about innovation, technology and career prospects.

„The interim use of Wendersplatz at the entrance to LAGA Neuss 2026 highlights the fundamental role of open space in our cities. 'Open space creates urban space', especially when it moves beyond decoration and becomes a driver of transformation. Art and nature play a key role in this process. The *Cultivator* sculpture by Düsseldorf artist Thomas Schönauer stands as a powerful expression of this idea," says **Andreas Kipar, founder and CEO of LAND**.

For the city of Neuss, the project marks an important step: „Wendersplatz is an example of the momentum that the Federal Garden Show provides for the development of our city. As a new entrance to the event area, an attractive urban space was created here that connects the city centre and the exhibition grounds in a special way“, says **Reiner Breuer, mayor of Neuss**.

Until the permanent redesign after the Federal Garden Show, Wendersplatz will remain **a temporary experimental field**: a place that shows how landscape can initiate urban transformation, making it visible and tangible.

Media contacts:

Luca Andreas Eckert
Communications Manager
luca.eckert@landsrl.com
+39 351 3003871

Margherita Bertolero
CSR Coordinator
margherita.bertolero@landsrl.com

LAND

LAND – an acronym for Landscape, Architecture, Nature, and Development – is an international landscape consultancy with offices in Austria, Canada, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, and Switzerland. Andreas Kipar and a Team of 200 landscape architects, architects, urban planners, agronomists, engineers, and researchers are dedicated to the regeneration of regions, cities, and places since 1990.

LAND's consulting, planning, and design activities aim to improve people's well-being and environment through the implementation of climate-positive solutions and participatory processes that lead to sustainable development.

We provide consultancy to public and private clients on how to innovate with nature, applying international policies and promoting collaborative planning procedures. Together with our clients and our extensive network of partners, we leverage the opportunities of the green transition for our communities.

Among our main projects: Green Rays strategy, Porta Nuova, Piazzale Loreto, and the re-development of the former EXPO site MIND in Milan; Essen's Urban Open Space Strategy and Krupp Park, comprising ThyssenKrupp HQ, and the Freiheit Emscher in Essen; Ruhr Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy; the renaturation of the Airolo valley and Cassarate River Park in Switzerland; Saint-Laurent biodiversity Corridor in Montreal; Al Urubah Park in Riyadh and EXPO 2020 Dubai in the UAE; strategic consulting in landscaping, infrastructure, and renewable energy through, among other things, Landscape Information Modeling LIM©, as well as the research and innovation projects UrbAlytics and T-Factor funded by the European Commission. LAND's work has been recognized through numerous prestigious international awards, amongst them Premio Mercurio, MIPIM, Wan Awards, Biennale Pisa, Passive and Low Energy Architecture Award (PLEA), European Garden Award 2023.



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