

# Transformation of Spoordok into a Fit and Active Neighborhood

**Location:** Spoordok and the Steendam site, Leeuwarden

Spoordok is a dynamic area in Leeuwarden where a diverse community comes together, including urgent seekers, status holders, and refugees from Ukraine. Currently, the area is functionally designed, but it lacks a strong connection with the rest of the city. The goal of this project is to integrate Spoordok into the urban fabric of Leeuwarden, focusing on **placemaking** and encouraging an active lifestyle. By transforming the area, we aim to prevent Spoordok from becoming an isolated enclave and instead turn it into a vibrant, healthy, and integral part of the city.



## **Focus on the Steendam Site: temporary transformation**

In the previous semester, a group Placemaking students worked on improving the connections between residents of De Pier, resulting in a waterfront redevelopment plan. This time, the focus shifts to the former **Strune site**, also known as the **Steendam site**. This large concrete area next to De Pier is scheduled for future development, but the municipality aims to give it a temporary, meaningful function in the meantime.

The emphasis is on **sports and recreation without permanent constructions**. The goal is to temporarily transform the site into a movement-friendly public space where residents of De Pier and other visitors can move freely and participate in accessible sports activities without the need for invasive structures or fixed installations.

## **Key themes and approach**



### Future-Proof design

The plans must be flexible and repeatable, so they can be applied to different locations within the neighborhood. These temporary interventions will serve as building blocks for the final development of Spoordok.

### A clear role for the development of the waterfront

The **Development Quay** plays a central role and should create a clear connection between the temporary use of the Steendam site and future urban plans for Spoordok.

### Meeting as a core function

The temporary design should invite **social interaction and meeting opportunities** by creating spaces where people can come together, relax, and connect.

### Walking circuit and playmarking

The design includes simple but effective interventions such as **logical walking routes** and **playful markings (playmarking)** to encourage movement and exploration. Examples include colorful road markings, interactive ground elements, or inspiring texts that motivate movement.

### Approach: A vibrant, movement-friendly public space

In close collaboration with residents and users of the area, we will explore how sports and movement can play a central role in the temporary design. **Active community participation** is essential to ensure the transformation meets their needs and expectations.

This involvement strengthens the connection to Leeuwarden's urban network, ensuring that the site remains not just temporarily attractive, but also contributes to the **livability, vitality, and health** of the city in the long run.

### Connection with ongoing Initiatives

This project aligns with several ongoing initiatives, such as **Active Cities** and **Aeres MBO Groen**, focusing on promoting **health, movement, and social interaction** in public spaces.

### **Client:**

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