

# Courteranges //



WETLAND  
CITY



Associated Ramsar site :  
**Étangs de la  
Champagne humide**

Accreditation date :  
**October 25, 2018**

City coordinates :  
**48° 16'N 4° 14'E**

## City's presentation

Courteranges is a commune located in the Regional Natural Park of the Forêt d'Orient. Once crossed by the Barse River, huge changes have occurred since 1966, when the Seine reservoir lake was created, upstream from the town. The Barse became a water restitution channel from the lake.

The municipality of Courteranges has been engaged in the preservation of wetlands for more than 30 years, in partnership with the Regional Natural Park of the Forêt d'Orient and the Conservatory of natural areas of Champagne-Ardenne, an association dedicated to purchase and management of natural sites. It is in this town that was created the first Regional Natural Reserve of Aube department, in 2010.

The municipality is determined to respect its social and environmental commitments, also by supporting associations, such as the local horse riders club and the orchard conservation association, thereby developing intergenerational links and raising awareness among children from an early age.



## Informations about the city

Mayor : Fabien GÉRARD  
Region : Grand Est  
Department : Aube (10)  
Population : 587 inhabitants (2019)  
City area : 647 ha  
Wetlands area : 213 ha  
Ramsar site area : 647 ha



## Types of wetlands

The most characteristic wetlands in Courteranges are wet meadows. Some natural habitats are a priority at the European level and / or threatened in the former Champagne-Ardenne region. The Courteranges meadows are places to many heritage floristic species (meadow violet, mouse garlic ...).

We can also find in the town:

- Farming lands
- Marshes / Pools
- Streams
- Riparian woodlands
- Ditches



# Ramsar city actions for wetlands



## AVOIDING WETLANDS DEGRADATION AND DESTRUCTION

Since 1987, the municipality of Courteranges has acquired wet meadows. New acquisitions took place regularly since 1993, with a total of 29 hectares of "wetlands areas" now owned by the municipality.

In 2010, more than 27 hectares of wetlands were classified as Regional Natural Reserve, at the request of the municipality of Courteranges, with the support of the Regional Natural Park of the Forêt d'Orient and a regional association for acquisition of natural areas.

The Grand Est region and the Seine-Normandie Water Agency are important financial partners.



## ENCOURAGING WETLANDS RESTORATION OR CREATION

In 2005, the municipality committed to restore and maintain the Courteranges marsh through grazing by rustic animals (Konik Polski horses). So, since 2005, 5.5 hectares marshes of wetlands have been managed by grazing.

In addition, several operations were carried out on the parcels owned by the town, in order to restore and maintain the hydrological and biological qualities of the wetlands:

- Late annual mowing by a local farmer,
- Exploitation of a poplar plantation and renaturation in meadow,
- Ditch rehabilitation.



## INTEGRATING WETLANDS IN THE CITY'S SPATIAL/LAND-USE PLANNING

In 2012, the municipality of Courteranges committed to the "charter of maintenance of public spaces" with the FREDON (Regional Federation of Defense against Harmful Organisms) Champagne-Ardenne. It chose the highest level of commitment, in order to stop pesticides use. In 2019, it received the distinction "Commune nature" (nature city) by the Grand Est Region.

In 2016, when it approved its Local Urban Plan (PLU), the municipality classified almost all the "wet-dominated zones" as natural areas to be protected (Np zones). It has also classified 9 pools and 1 wet meadow as "landscape and heritage features".



## ENGAGING THE POPULATION IN WETLAND MANAGEMENT

The City of Courteranges has created a local "Wetlands city" committee to monitor the label. It is mainly composed by members of the Advisory Committee of the Regional Natural Reserve. It met for the first time in late 2018. It will follow the actions of the municipality on wetlands and may propose new projects.

In addition, a video on the Regional Natural Reserve helps to sensitize elected officials on wetlands related issues.



## RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT WETLANDS

A public resting area was installed at the Regional Natural Reserve in 2012-2013. It contains a picnic table, explanatory panels, a mini-arboretum, an insect hotel, a swallow tower ...

The town is regularly associated with the Regional Natural Park of the Forêt d'Orient, for children and residents entertainments, especially as part of the World Wetlands Day.

The creation of an educational trail is in project, in order to discover the wetlands of the city.



## RECOGNIZING WETLANDS ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES

The Courteranges wetlands are useful for forage production (mowing), equine grazing and hunting. The commune helps these rational uses by the acquisition of plots of wet meadows, which makes it possible to sustainably develop these extensive practices.

In addition, Courteranges relies every year on an integration project that hire people with job difficulties, allowing works such as ditches maintenance.



### The Wetlands City accreditation of the Ramsar Convention

It aims to promote cities close to or dependent on wetlands of international importance, and which integrate the consideration of these areas in the development of their territory, thereby implementing a positive relationship with these invaluable ecosystems, particularly through preservation measures and greater public awareness.