

## 10. Sources of Imagination

Stadswandelpark, Looiakkers, Eindhoven / Sterrenwacht (observatory), Alberdingk Thijm laan 3 / Parktheater, Theaterpad 1 (Stratum)

### THE HAPPY SPOT

This city park was specially designed in 1921 to allow people to stroll along the lawns while overlooking the water. Leisurely walks, playing on the meadow, picnics at the pond ... these are all things that can make us truly happy. Straight and winding paths take you along inspiring works of art, the banks of the Dommel and by rare trees such as the black birch and the white maple. This park led to the inspiration for the Efteling amusement park. When Philips created a temporary fairy garden here for its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1951, the idea for the Efteling was born. The happiness tips take you to three magical places in the park.

### WHAT MAKES US HAPPY HERE?

Every season brings new and different colors. Come here to look at the stars. Beech, oak and willow trees. Playing. Picnicking. The water. Sitting on a bench. Jogging. The aviary. Room to breathe.

### THE HAPPINESS TIPS

#### LEAVE THE BEATEN TRACK

- The historic **Sterrenwacht** (observatory, 1938). It's enjoyable enough just to gaze at the sky, the sun and the stars sitting on the benches near the observatory. But on certain days, you can also look up into the sky through a telescope ([www.sterrenwachteindhoven.nl](http://www.sterrenwachteindhoven.nl)). With the park's free app, you can go on your own adventurous, virtual journey through space while walking through the grounds. Stationed at 40 lampposts throughout the park, you will find all you need to create a personal journey through the universe (find out more at [www.ruimtwandeleninhetpark.nl](http://www.ruimtwandeleninhetpark.nl)).
- The great **Radio Monument** (1936) symbolizes the first radio communication with the, then Dutch Indies, ten years earlier. The statue represents a female figure who is calling out something important. What message, in just a few words, would you send out to the world? Would you whisper them, shout them, sing them...?
- The **Parktheater** is one of the largest theaters in the Netherlands with around 300,000 visitors per year. The organization, program and staff all stand by their mission to 'positively impact visitors and make them a bit happier'. The public is always welcome to take pleasure in this inspiring place and even go there during the day to find spots to work.

### GOLDEN HAPPINESS TIP

At the reception desk, ask about entrance to the short performance appearing in **the smallest theater in the Netherlands** – the Picco theater. There are only two seats available for this theater experience.

### EVEN MORE HAPPINESS

In the southern part of the city park, you will find the Dommelplantsoen (Boutenslaan). Sit for awhile on one of the **two benches** located near the graceful bend in the Kleine Dommel.