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COVERING THE A7 MORE OPEN SPACE FOR HAMBURG



New allotments

New plots for lease

Thanks to the roof over the A7 it will again be feasible to build housing on the adjoining land. Some of this land is currently occupied by allotment gardens. These will be relocated to the motorway roof-tops. Garden plots on one of the busiest motorways in Germany. Can that be done? Yes, it can. It is important to ensure that the new soil on the roof is ideally suited for gardening. Apart from making sure the soil is unpolluted, the layering of the earth is the most important issue. A high quality soil will be laid to a depth of 1.20 m, so that allotment holders' gardening plans are not restricted in any way. Because there will not be room for all the allotments on the roofs, the City plans to create substitute gardens on other sites. The permanent use of all substitute lots as allotment gardens will be guaranteed in planning documents or by contract.

Advantages of roof allotments

- ››› Unlike the situation in some of the current allotment gardens, the new soil will have no inherited pollution
- ››› Legal planning instruments will protect the allotments on top of the autobahn. Ongoing garden use is assured because no larger buildings can be sited on the roofs.
- ››› The allotment gardens are attractively located in the immediate neighbourhood of a new park

Covering the A7 in Hamburg

Urban development opportunities

The A7 motorway must be widened and therefore steps to provide better noise protection are needed: in parts of the sections running through Altona and Stellingen the noise barriers are no longer adequate. To offer the best possible noise reduction to road-side residents, therefore, some parts of the autobahn are to be enclosed. Noise reduction is a legal requirement and necessary measures are funded by the Federal Government. In addition, the City of Hamburg plans to use its own funds to give Schnelsen and Altona a level of noise protection over and above that demanded by law. Here too, instead of installing acoustic walls up to 9 m high, the motorway will be covered.

The city reunites

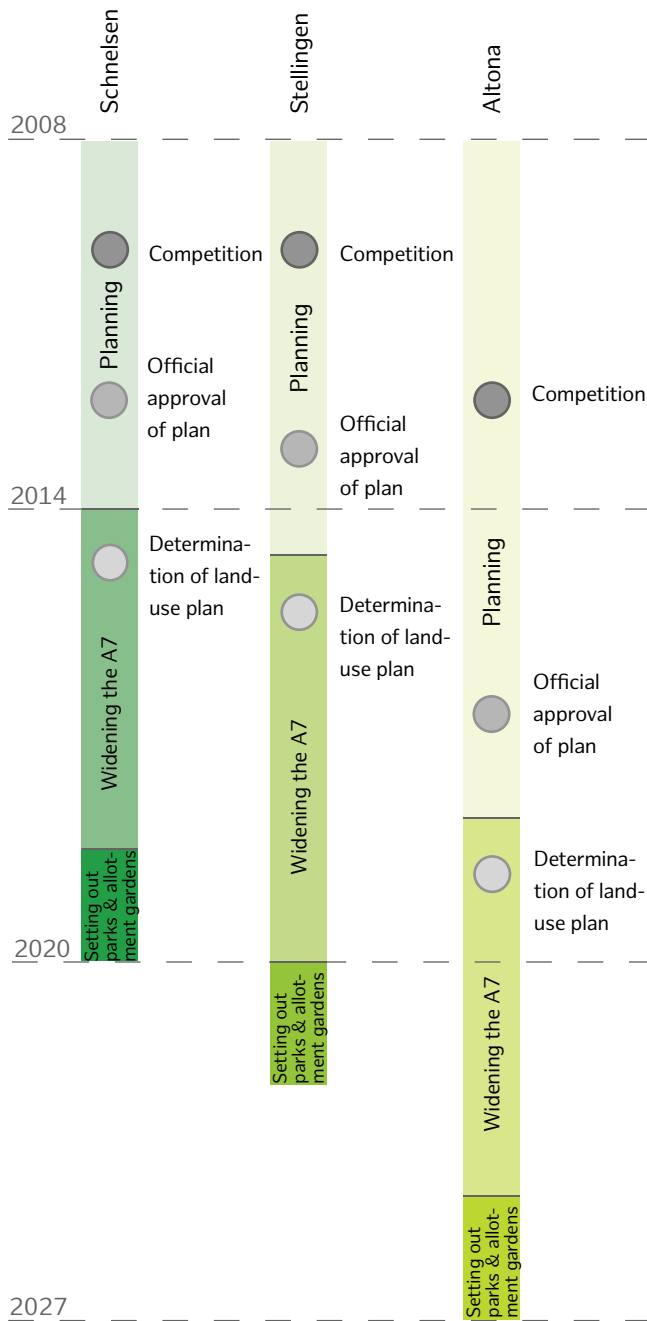
When the A7 motorway was built in the 1970s it slashed through the western part of Hamburg, severing old connections; now there is an opportunity to restore them or create completely new links. The new open spaces on the covering

The A7 slashes through the western part of Hamburg



Motorway widening and covering

From plan to completion



roofs will enhance the quality of life for the residents of these densely populated districts.

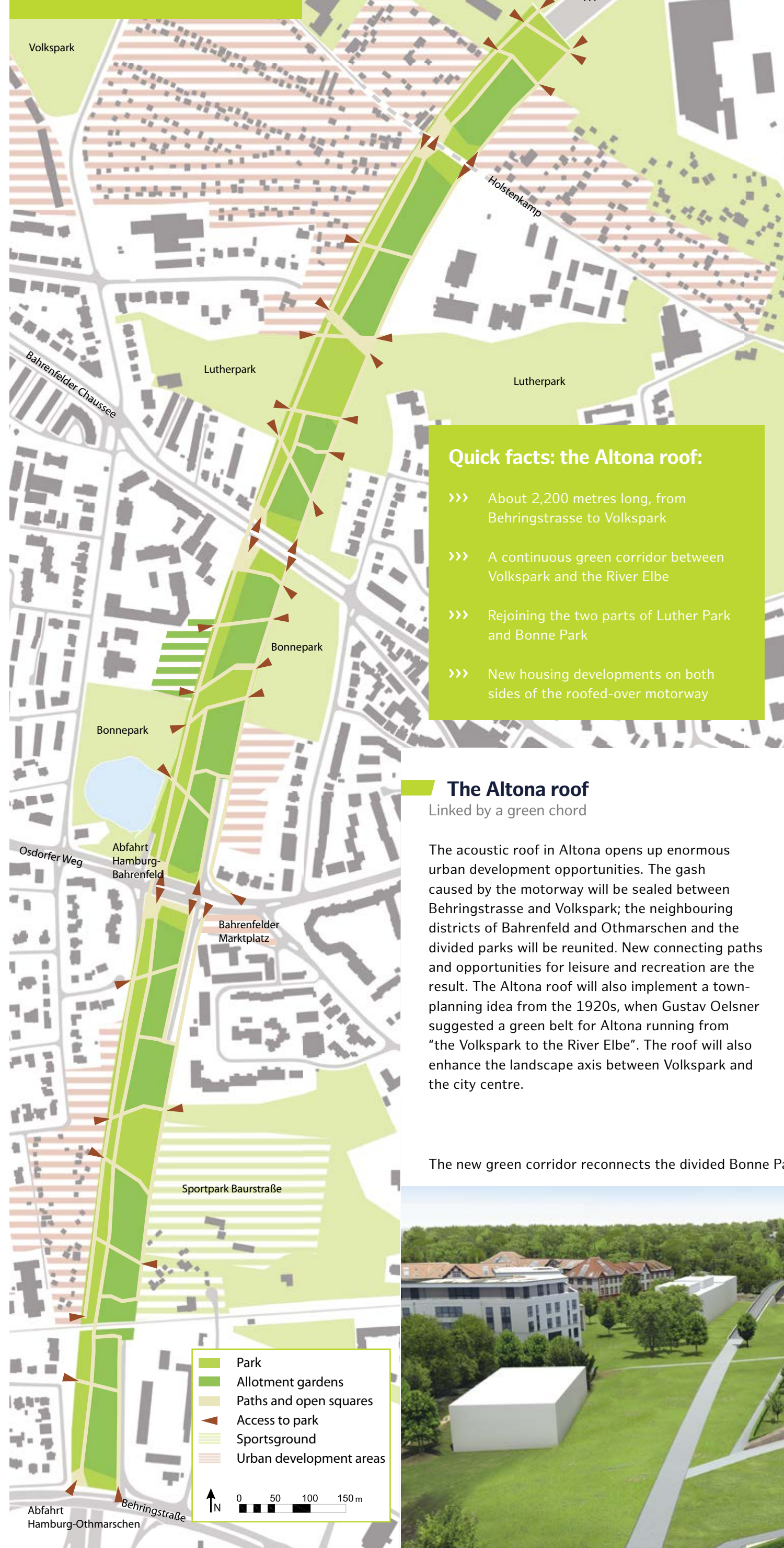
In these newly quiet parts of Altona residential developments are to be built to the right and left of the roofed-over motorway, above all in Bahrenfeld between the old settlement areas of Bahrenfeld village in the north-west and the formerly independent town of Altona. These houses will stand on the edge of a continuous green corridor between Altona Volkspark and the River Elbe. The Stellingen and Schnelsen sections that will be roofed over are already surrounded by residential districts. Here, covering the motorway will benefit the immediate neighbours most of all by reducing noise pollution and creating new green spaces. The roof over the motorway will also free up land in the Borough of Eimsbüttel for new housing because allotment gardens and planned parks can be relocated to the new roof. Covering the A7 means that houses can be built on sites that were previously out of the question because the levels of traffic noise were too high. Revenues from the sale of municipal land will help to offset Hamburg's share of the costs of the motorway roof.

Urban development objectives

- ››› To link the city districts on each side of the motorway
- ››› To create new green, open spaces and new connecting paths
- ››› To give neighbouring city districts greater protection from noise than required by law
- ››› More house/apartment building

Plans for the roof in Altona

As at: competition results 2012



Quick facts: the Altona roof:

- ››› About 2,200 metres long, from Behringstrasse to Volkspark
- ››› A continuous green corridor between Volkspark and the River Elbe
- ››› Rejoining the two parts of Luther Park and Bonne Park
- ››› New housing developments on both sides of the roofed-over motorway

The Altona roof

Linked by a green chord

The acoustic roof in Altona opens up enormous urban development opportunities. The gash caused by the motorway will be sealed between Behringstrasse and Volkspark; the neighbouring districts of Bahrenfeld and Othmarschen and the divided parks will be reunited. New connecting paths and opportunities for leisure and recreation are the result. The Altona roof will also implement a town-planning idea from the 1920s, when Gustav Oelsner suggested a green belt for Altona running from "the Volkspark to the River Elbe". The roof will also enhance the landscape axis between Volkspark and the city centre.

The new green corridor reconnects the divided Bonne Park



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The Schnelsen Roof

Local recreation facilities

The cover over the Schnelsen section will run from Heidlohstrasse, cross Frohmestrasse and end just before the Hamburg-Schnelsen motorway junction. It will lie on the same level as the surrounding land. Several residential districts, schools and the centre of Schnelsen are in the immediate vicinity of the roof. Less noise from the motorway will appreciably boost the quality of life in these areas. Landscape architects from Berlin, POLA, have designed a new green area on the top of the roof, with new connecting pathways that open up many opportunities for the residents of Schnelsen. Local people will be able to choose various routes to approach the park: parallel to the street called Jungborn, a wide esplanade linking Frohmestrasse with Heidlohstrasse will accommodate cyclists and pedestrians. Trees, planted beds, seating and a space to play boules make the park an inviting destination. There will also be a footpath crossing from Jungborn to Vogt-Kock-Weg, providing a new link between the neighbouring residential areas.



Esplanade between Jungborn and Vogt-Kock-Weg

Plans for the Schnelsen roof

As at: Revised competition entry 2014



Quick facts: the Schnelsen roof

- >>> About 560 metres long, from Heidlohstrasse to north of Frohmestrasse
- >>> New park and allotment gardens, new outdoor community place at Frohmestrasse
- >>> Connecting separated residential areas and reducing noise in the centre of Schnelsen



Neighbourhood community space on Frohmestrasse

Paths through the new park will greatly cut the time needed to get from the residential areas to child care facilities, the Schnelsen leisure centre on Wählingsallee and to travel between the two elementary schools at Röthmoorweg and Frohmestrasse. The park offers the patients and

nursing staff at the geriatric clinic and people living in the old people's home on Heidlohstrasse a new, close-by place to sit outdoors, new paths to walk, and better access to shops in the centre of Schnelsen at Frohmestrasse.

Next to the esplanade is the spacious grassy area; an inviting place in which people can linger, recharge their batteries, or play games. North of Heidlohstrasse trees will be planted on the meadow, offering shade on hot summer days. The park meadow stretches for about 350 m. The allotment gardens will not be a closed area, but part of the new park, and set in rows on the east and west sides of the meadow. Hedges will mark the borders of the allotment gardens which can be accessed from the neighbouring roads. North of Frohmestrasse it is planned to establish a compact allotment area with a public path running through it. To the south there will be a club house for the allotment holders and an inviting community place which leads straight into the shopping street. This new meeting point can be used for a variety of activities and thus help to develop a more vibrant centre.



View from the north towards the Schnelsen roof and the allotment gardens

Stellingen roof

Green pathways through the district

The Stellingen roof stretches from Kieler Strasse in the south to the rail freight by-pass line in the north. Because of the high ground-water table, the autobahn is somewhat elevated in Stellingen, so that in some parts the tunnel structure must remain visible and it is not possible to create a roof and park that lie on the same level as the surrounding terrain.



View from Kieler Strasse before and after the roof is built shows how much the cityscape will change

In the neighbourhood of the motorway roof the schools, homes and commercial areas are, in some cases, very isolated. This part of Stellingen is dominated by a large number of major roads and rail tracks. Covering the A7 reduces noise and makes space for a new park, benefiting residents on both sides of the motorway. Residential areas draw closer together again, it is easier to get to schools and commercial areas. A gap in the existing network of paths can be closed.

Open square and park north of Wördemanns Weg



Plans for the Stellingen roof

As at: revised competition entry 2014



Quick facts: the Stellingen roof

- >>> About 890 metres long, between Kieler Straße and rail freight by-pass line
- >>> New allotment gardens in the south, public park in the north with attractive connecting paths for cyclists and pedestrians
- >>> Gaps in the existing network of paths are closed.
- >>> The new park will link up with the Kollau hiking trail

The design by Berlin-based landscape architects WEIDINGER envisages a wide promenade between the Kollau hiking trail and the rail freight by-pass down to Kieler Strasse, with a varied and interesting green route for cyclists and pedestrians. The park also creates a considerably more attractive alternative to the existing underpass under Kieler Strasse. There are two different parts to the park. North of Wördemanns Weg a spacious grass meadow is planned, planted with trees and hedges. This grassed area offers plenty of space for relaxing or for children to run around and play.



Small square opposite the Wegenkamp school

Here the promenade is on the east side of the cover. This creates connections with the school grounds to the east and the neighbouring green space at Wegenkamp. The park is separated from the neighbouring residential areas by hedges and bushes. Along Wördemanns Weg two community places, north and south, are intended as meeting places and areas to relax outdoors. South of Wördemanns Weg a compact arrangement of allotment gardens is to be integrated into the park. Access to the allotments is via Theodor-Schäfer-Damm. Here the promenade changes to the west side of the roof park and runs along the allotments. Two footpaths through the allotment area link the promenade with Theodor-Schäfer-Damm. Another grass meadow is planned between the allotments and Kieler Strasse. An open space with benches and playground equipment creates an additional place to spend time outdoors.