



Call for Proposals Urban Waters 2026

What is Urban Waters 2026?

Urban Waters is an initiative within the framework of the “[#hallowasser](#) – Experience Zurich’s Waters” funding program by [AWEL](#). It enables artists and designers from ZHdK to realise existing or new artworks, performances, interactions, workshops, etc. on the theme of “experiencing water,” with a particular focus on local water and bodies of water. We understand water in all its forms: as bodies of water, snow, ice, steam, urban waters, natural waters, plants and living organisms in water, etc. An impression of this is provided in the [documentation of Urban Waters 2025](#). The exhibition and events are intended to offer guests and visitors meaningful and lasting experiences and insights. Participation or attendance is free of charge. Urban Waters runs from March 13 to April 12. Urban Waters includes two formats:

- **Artworks and Installations**, freely accessible, under the open sky
- **Thematic events and performances** (workshops, concerts, readings, film screenings, dance, theatre, etc.) on the topic of water, which bring together art, culture, and science. They take place primarily indoors.

Where is Urban Waters 2026 taking place?

Urban Waters 2026 will take place at the [GZ Wipkingen](#) and its surrounding area. The GZ is located near ZHdK and close to the flowing Limmat River, offering a striking and direct perspective on the theme of water. It is easily accessible by public transport and well-frequented throughout the year. The riverside path along the Limmat is especially popular with walkers. The GZ provides suitable indoor and outdoor spaces for events and art installations (see site plan below). Since some parts of the GZ are public space owned by the City of Zurich, specific regulations apply for outdoor installations. To clarify these, on-site visits will be held on Friday, July 11 at 9:00 a.m. and Friday, August 22 at 9:00 a.m. Meeting point is the pavilion at GZ Wipkingen.

When does Urban Waters take place?

From March 13 to April 12, 2026, over a four-week period. The international [World Water Day](#) on March 22 will be integrated into Urban Waters.

Who can submit a proposal?

Projects for the formats "artwork/installation" or "event/performance" can be submitted using [the form](#) by students, staff, or alumni of ZHdK. A jury will select the final contributions. These will receive financial support from ZHdK.

Who is the audience?

Urban Waters is aimed at the general public of the city and canton, including both laypeople and experts, art and culture enthusiasts, and especially families.

What are the options for my artwork or installation?

The artworks exhibited outdoors and freely accessible to the public should engage with local water (e.g., in the canton of Zurich). They may include paintings, photographs, textile works, interactive installations, sculptures, objects, etc. Each artwork will be labeled with the title and the artist's name. They must not emit any disturbing emissions (noise, light, etc.), must be weatherproof, theft-proof, safe to the public, and stable in the event of attempted vandalism. They should be removable after Urban Waters without leaving traces. Artworks may not be placed directly in the water of the Limmat, and trees in the park must not be affected. Power supply for objects installed outdoors is not possible. Possible locations for artworks are shown on the site plan below.

How can I participate with an event or a workshop?

Urban Waters supports thematic workshops, readings, concerts, film screenings, dance, performances, theater, etc.—that is, time-based activities with an audience, mainly on weekends. Ideally, visitors can actively participate (e.g., in a creative studio). Here too, the focus is on experiencing local water for a broad public. Alongside artistic formats, we particularly support exchanges between art – science – society – sustainability. The GZ Wipkingen provides a room for 40 people and a creative studio for 8 people. If an activity takes place outdoors, the applicable conditions must be met (no disturbing noise emissions, no amplifiers, safety at the Limmat, etc.). Events must not disrupt nighttime quiet hours.

How does the selection process work?

Until 28 September 2025, you can submit your ideas for artworks or events using [this form](#). The form must be completed in full. A jury from ZHdK and AWEL will select the final artworks and events by the end of October 2025. A dialogue will then begin with the selected artists for the concrete implementation. They will receive an agreement from ZHdK regarding funding and deliverables. After this, the installations, artworks, and events can be implemented with support and guidance from ZHdK.

What are the selection criteria?

Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Artistic Quality** – How innovative and compelling is the project?
- **Experience of Water** – To what extent does the project convey a unique experience or perspective on the theme of water/bodies of water?
- **Reference to Local Water** – How is a connection to local water (natural waters, urban waters, water in various forms and states) established?
- **Fit with the Wipkingen/Limmat Location** – How well does the project integrate into the site?
- **Interaction with Visitors** – How does the project engage with visitors? (Optional – not mandatory)
- **Effort vs. Experience vs. Quality** – How does the (budgetary) effort relate to the visitor experience or insight? What is the quality of execution?

What support will I receive if selected?

Artworks can be supported with up to **CHF 4,000**, and events or workshops with up to **CHF 3,000**. A corresponding budget for labor and materials must be included with the application.

Locations

Urban Waters will take place around the GZ Wipkingen (see plan and photos below).

Indoor spaces for events and workshops in buildings No. 1 and 2:

- **Red Hall** (Rote Saal, No. 1): Usable for workshops, events, readings, concerts, etc., with 40 seats. It includes a sound system and projector. Seating is possible.
- **Creative Studio** (Kreativatelier, No. 2): Located in the Baupavillon, with approx. 20 workspaces for creative workshops with materials, paint, etc.

Outdoor spaces for art installations:

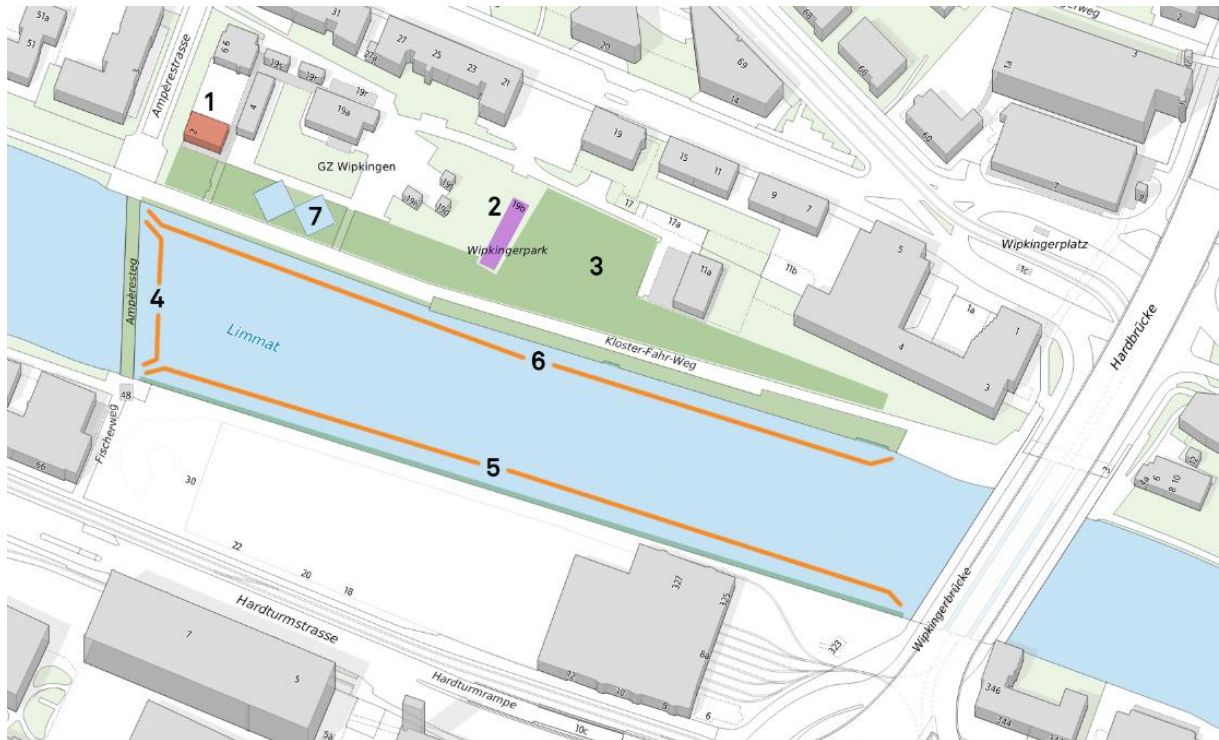
- The Wipkingerpark lawn (Wipkingerwiese, No. 3)
- The Ampéresteg bridge (No. 4 – only the side balustrades, interior side)
- The vertical wall on the left bank of the Limmat (No. 5)
- The right riverbank (No. 6) with stairs to the Limmat

The GZ has restrooms and a cafeteria. There is also a “Züri WC” in the Wipkingerpark. As the GZ will undergo renovation in March/April 2026, there will be minor construction-related limitations, but these will not affect the areas mentioned above.

Artists can state a preference for where their installation should be located. The exact placement will be decided in consultation with the permitting authorities and the GZ.

The following restrictions apply:

- Wipkingerpark (No. 3) must continue to allow usual recreational activities (walking, views of the Limmat, seating, family playground, etc.) with no significant restrictions.
- The two heritage-protected children's pools (No. 7) must not be affected.
- Special regulations apply for tree protection (see below, document available in German only).
- All paths accessible by vehicles must remain clear for emergency and cleaning services.



Communication of Urban Waters

[Urban Waters 2026](#) has its own website. ZHdK, in cooperation with the City of Zurich (GZ Wipkingen), will publicly promote Urban Waters through posters, social media, etc. Urban Waters will be included in the GZ Wipkingen's official program.

Review of Urban Waters 2025

For anyone interested in getting an impression of Urban Waters 2025.

[Urban Waters 2025](#) took place throughout February at the Tiefenbrunnen lakeside swimming area. Artworks were displayed in the park of the swimming area, and on weekends, the pavilion hosted activities, performances, concerts, workshops, film screenings, and readings. Access to the art installations and all events was free and open to the public. Approximately 600 people attended the events. All contributions – from the installations to the events – were created by members of the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK).

The performances were accompanied by ZHdK artists as well as Urban Waters assistants. Overall, Urban Waters proved to be an unexpected success. A SRF feature on “Urban Waters” is [available here](#) (German). The article “Urban Waters – Art and Water in Dialogue” from ZETT Magazine [can be read here](#). In addition, a documentation was produced, which can be downloaded [here](#).

Information and Site Visit

Juliana Schneider is the contact person for Urban Waters 2026 at ZHdK. You can reach her at juliana.schneider@zhdk.ch. A site visit will take place on Friday, July 11 at 9:00 and Friday, August 22 with the opportunity to ask questions. Meeting point is at 9:00 at the pavilion (No. 2) at GZ Wipkingen.

Photos of GZ Wipkingen



Nr. 1 Red Hall (Roter Saal)



Nr 2 Creative Atelier (Kreativatelier) in the Baupavillon



Nr 3 Wipkingerwiese



Nr. 4 Ampéresteg (interior side only)



No. 5 left riverbank wall of the Limmat (black wall)



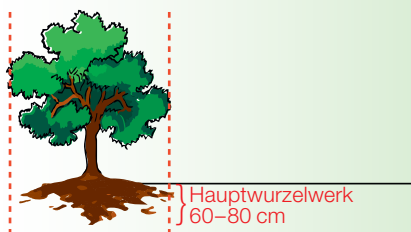
No. 6 Limmat riverbank stairs (only up to the lowest step)

Attachment: Tree Protection Measures by Grün Stadt Zürich (only available in German)



Merkblatt Baumschutz Veranstaltungen

Vor der Veranstaltung sowie bei Fragen die zuständige Fachperson bei Grün Stadt Zürich kontaktieren.

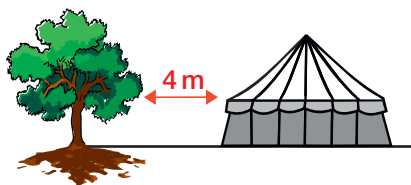


Allgemeine Hinweise

Hauptwurzelsystem liegt oberflächennah.

Wurzelsystem ist gleich gross wie Baumkrone.

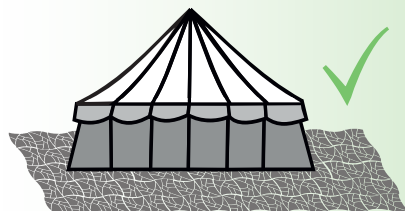
Baumschutz = Kronen- **und** Wurzelschutz!



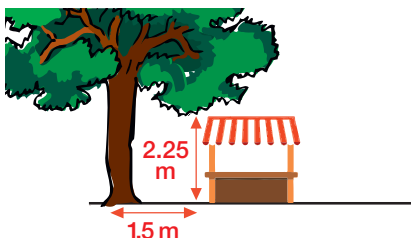
Wurzel- und Kronenbereich von Bäumen sind freizuhalten

Es muss ein Abstand von 4 m ab Traufbereich der Baumkrone gewährleistet sein.

Für den General-Guisan-Quai gelten besondere Vorschriften. Bitte die aktuell gültigen Auflagen beachten.



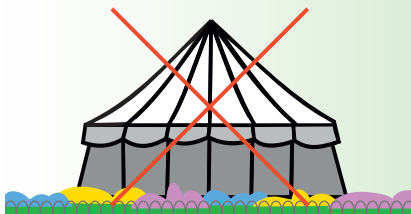
Installationen nur auf asphaltierten oder mit Natur- und Verbundsteinen ausgestatteten Flächen aufstellen.



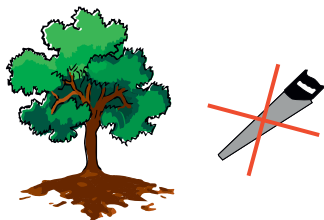
Marktstände

Ausserhalb der Baumscheiben (min. 1.5 m Abstand zum Baumstamm) und innerhalb des Baumkronen-Bereichs dürfen kleinere Bauten wie z.B.

Marktstände die max. Höhe von 2.25 m nicht überschreiten.



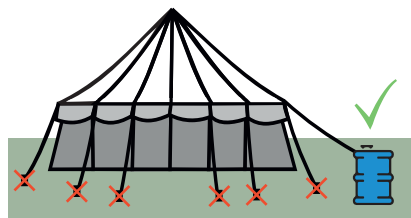
**Grünflächen und Rabatten
dürfen von den Installa-
tionen und deren Kundschaft
nicht tangiert werden.**



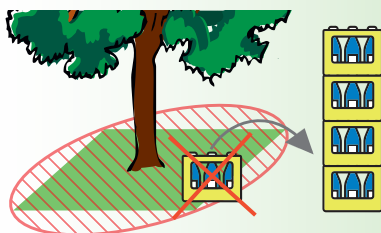
**Keine Äste zurückbinden oder
abschneiden!**



**Keine Gegenstände wie
Kabel, Lautsprecher
oder Scheinwerfer an
Bäumen befestigen.**



**Das Pfählen oder Bohren im
Boden und das Anbringen
von Verankerungen jeglicher
Art ist untersagt.**



**Keine Installationen
und Lagerungen
auf Baumscheiben!
Auch nicht temporär!**

Bei Fragen kontaktieren Sie die zu-
ständige Fachperson bei Grün Stadt
Zürich oder die Bewilligungsstelle,
Telefon +41 44 412 27 69