



# Pader spring area

## the bubbling heart of the city

Spring basin of the Dielenpader



### The Pader springs phenomenon

Without water, there is no life – this also applies to Paderborn and the Pader. Germany's highest-yielding spring area bubbles up right in the centre of Paderborn: an enormous amount of water flows into the spring basins of the Pader – not a brook, but a river from the very beginning. Over 200 springs with a flow rate of up to 9000 litres per second emerge from six spring ponds. The average is 5000 litres – enough water to fill 40 bathtubs. Still in the city centre, the spring branches merge to form the Pader, which releases its water into the Lippe in Schloß Neuhaus after just over four kilometres. To the south and east of the city, the karst region of the Paderborn plateau stretches for 15 to 30 kilometres. The precipitation on the plateau seeps into the fissured chalk limestones. At the seepage points and brook windlasses, underground streams of water join up, which at the intersection with the plains push their way to the surface as karst and reservoir springs with a great abundance of water. The underground route from the brook windlasses to the spring ponds takes two to four days, which has been proven by colouring tests.

On the Börnepader



### The six Pader arms

The names of the Pader source arms have different origins and are derived from their location, their characteristics and their historical function.

#### Warme Pader

Its name is no coincidence – with a water temperature of 14-16°C, the Warme Pader is actually around 4-6°C warmer than the other Pader spring arms. Due to the higher temperature, it was also used in the past by Paderborn women to wash their laundry.

#### Dammpader

The name goes back to the artificial dam between this arm of the Pader and the Warme Pader. Until around 1900, the name „Kolkpader“ was more common.

#### Börnepader

This name means something like „Watering Pader“. In earlier times, cattle were driven to this shallow spring basin for watering. Drinking water was also drawn from here by a water-works.

#### Rothobornpader

Alongside other streams of water, the Rothoborn flows into this spring basin, a spring that is now tapped below the imperial palace and which, according to legend, has gained healing powers through the blessing by Bishop Rotho.

#### Dielenpader

The name is derived from earlier road conditions: Before the current street „Auf den Dielen“ was built, the Pader arm almost reached the houses. The necessary footpath and carriageway consisted merely of a layer of floorboards, boards and planks across the river.

#### Maspermader

The Maspermader goes back to the „Villa Aspethera“ mentioned in 1036, an open settlement in the „Espengehölz“, which was incorporated into the expanding town around 1200. This developed into „im Aspern“, „Maspern“.

Maspermader



Spring basin of the Dielenpader



Stümpelsche Mühle mill

### The Pader spring area through the ages

Until towards the end of the 12th century, the city lay above the Pader springs, but it was only after this that the city walls also encompassed the lower-lying spring area of the Pader. The extension of the urban fortifications was so generously designed that the population did not feel compelled to settle in the immediate, marshy spring area. In the immediate spring area, only the cathedral deanery, today's municipal library, and the Geisselscher Garten were located.

Over the centuries, however, increasing population numbers also led to a gradual settlement of the immediate spring area. Industry was also present: Numerous mills lined the banks of the Pader to supply grain for the famous Paderborn bread. Various breweries also utilised the water of the Pader to produce beer.

Until Paderborn was almost completely destroyed by the bombing raids in the spring of 1945, a large part of the western Pader spring area was built over. As part of the reconstruction of the destroyed city after the Second World War, the spring

area of the Pader was created as a recreational area in the heart of Paderborn and, together with the Pader floodplain, has been kept largely free of development to this day. In 2008, the western spring area was listed as a garden monument. Between 2017 and 2019, the middle Pader spring area and the Maspermader were redesigned as part of the „Flusslandschaft Pader“ (Pader river landscape) concept. This created new habitats for flora and fauna in the Haxthausengarten area. On 22 May 2022, the tornado „Emmelinde“ hit the western spring area and the Geisselscher Garten. Numerous trees, some of them centuries old, were destroyed in a matter of seconds. Reconstruction will take some time: The replanting and redesign of affected areas is currently being planned.

### Energy utilisation

Since 1992, the groundwater of the Pader river has been used for environmentally friendly and energy-saving cooling of buildings. Thanks to the favourable geological conditions in Paderborn, there are two cold water networks, at the town hall and at the Königsplatz. There, the groundwater, which is around 11°C cool and close to the surface, is pumped from various deep wells. A maximum of 400 cubic metres of groundwater per hour is transported to the connected buildings via various pipe systems. In the buildings, the water is heated to 16°C, channelled through the cooling pipes and fed back into the natural water cycle. This innovative technology now ensures cool temperatures in around 20 buildings.

Since 2011, the Pader water has also been used to heat buildings. Heat is extracted from the water which is cooled by around 5° C in the process.

The Pader water is also used to generate energy at the Stümpelsche Mühle mill. The large water wheel has been generating over 150 kilowatt hours of clean electricity per day since 2015.

Kingfisher



Grey heron

Dipper



Gray wogtail

### Flora and fauna

The Pader springs are the highest-yielding inner-city springs in Germany. In recent years, renaturation measures have ensured that the water and land habitats are once again better connected and this place has become a green oasis in Paderborn's city centre. Many plants and animals find their habitat in this alternation of water and land. Almost the entire spectrum of naturally occurring fish species such as brown trout, bullhead, grayling and the three-spined stickleback are once again living in all arms of the Pader river. The bank areas and the newly created shallow water zones have been colonised by typical species such as watercress, brooklime and shaggy willowherb. The plants provide hiding places for water dwellers and the colourful blossoms are visited by insects. Dippers and kingfishers use dead wood and shallow banks as a starting point for their dives for caddis fly larvae and other small creatures that live in and on the sediment of the Pader. You can find lots of exciting information (in German) about this at [www.paderborn.de/gewaesser](http://www.paderborn.de/gewaesser)

### Prizes and awards

In addition to the already very attractive Pader spring area below the cathedral and Abdinghof, which is protected as a garden monument, a further section along the Pader has been upgraded with the „Mittleres Paderquellgebiet“ (Middle Pader Springs) area. The city of Paderborn was already able to win two exceptional funding projects during the planning phase: firstly for the ecological upgrading of the Pader by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia and secondly in the federal program „Nationale Projekte des Städtebaus“ (National Urban Development Projects). But even after completion, the project won several very prestigious prizes of national importance: in addition to the 2020 „Bundespreis Stadtgrün“ (Federal Urban Green Award), it also won the „Auszeichnung vorbildlicher Bauten NRW“ (NRW Exemplary Buildings Award) and the „Polis Award“ in 2020. In 2023, the Middle Pader Springs area was honoured with the „Deutscher Städtebaupreis“ (German Urban Development Award) in the special category „Klimaanpassung gestalten“ (Designing Climate Adaptation). With the „urbane Wasserlandschaft Pader“ (Urban Water Landscape Pader), the city of Paderborn is aiming to be awarded the European Heritage Label under the title „Stadt.Mensch.Fluss – Die Pader für Europa“ (City.People.River – The Pader for Europe) in cooperation with the University of Paderborn. The application was submitted in mid-October 2023. Paderborn can expect a – hopefully positive – decision in spring 2025. Back in October 2012, the city was also awarded the „Nationalen Preis für integrierte Stadtentwicklung und Baukultur“ (National Prize for Integrated Urban Development and Building Culture) for the energetic utilisation of the Pader water.



Grayling

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The association „Freunde der Pader e.V.“ has set itself the goal of focussing on the unique selling point of the Pader and thus the Pader spring area in the heart of the city as a place of attraction for visitors and as a place of identification for Paderborn residents. Further information (in German): [www.freunde-der-pader.de](http://www.freunde-der-pader.de)

Middle Pader spring area





### 1 Functional model of the waterworks

In 2018, the association „Freunde der Pader e. V.“ (Friends of the Pader) had a functional model of the waterworks erected at the historic site on the Börnepader. A stainless steel water wheel with a diameter of 4.30 metres drives a piston pump that pumps Pader water through a pipe to a nearby model well.



### 2 Heart graffiti

The large graffiti „The Pader – the heart of Paderborn“ was created in May 2019 and shows the Pader, the city’s source of life, which rises in the heart of Paderborn, pours out from there and gives life to many different things. Photos of and in front of the graffiti can be uploaded to Instagram with the hashtag #pbherzgraffiti.



### 3 Washerwomen's monument

The washerwomen stand directly on the Warme Pader and are a reminder of the washing and bleaching of local river water, which also served as a lively exchange of news.

In addition to the washerwomen, there are also geese and a gosling with movable limbs. The bronze figures were created by the sculptor Bonifatius Stirnberg in 1993.



### 4 Brewery on Bachstraße

The brewery dating from 1563 on Bachstraße is the only building in the western Pader spring area to have survived the destruction of the Second World War. The house has Renaissance features with late Gothic elements. Its name is a reminder of Paderborn's brewing tradition. Today, the building houses a hotel with a café-restaurant and beer garden.



### 5 Spring cellar of the Kaiserpfalz

The Kaiserpfalz is located above the eastern Pader spring area. The Ottonian-Salic building, reconstructed in the 1970s, is now home to the Kaiserpfalz museum.

Below the building you can visit the spring cellar, where a very strong spring of the Rothobornpader originates.



### 6 Town library

The baroque master builder Ambrosius von Oelde built the cathedral deanery between 1676 and 1678. The façade of the building, which burnt out in 1945, was restored between 1974 and 1976.

A transparent, self-supporting storey for the new municipal library was placed in the baroque building. A „reading garden“ at the rear corresponds with seating steps on the opposite Michaelstraße.

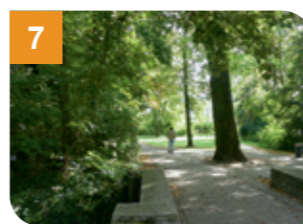


### PaderWanderung

The 11.9-kilometre PaderWanderung not only introduces you to Germany's shortest river, but also to the unique natural phenomenon of the Pader springs. All of the paths are well surfaced, with refreshment stops and benches to take a break. There are numerous playgrounds along the way for families. Various shortcut options are possible.

Further information (in German): [www.pader-wanderung.de](http://www.pader-wanderung.de)

Spring basin of the Börnepader



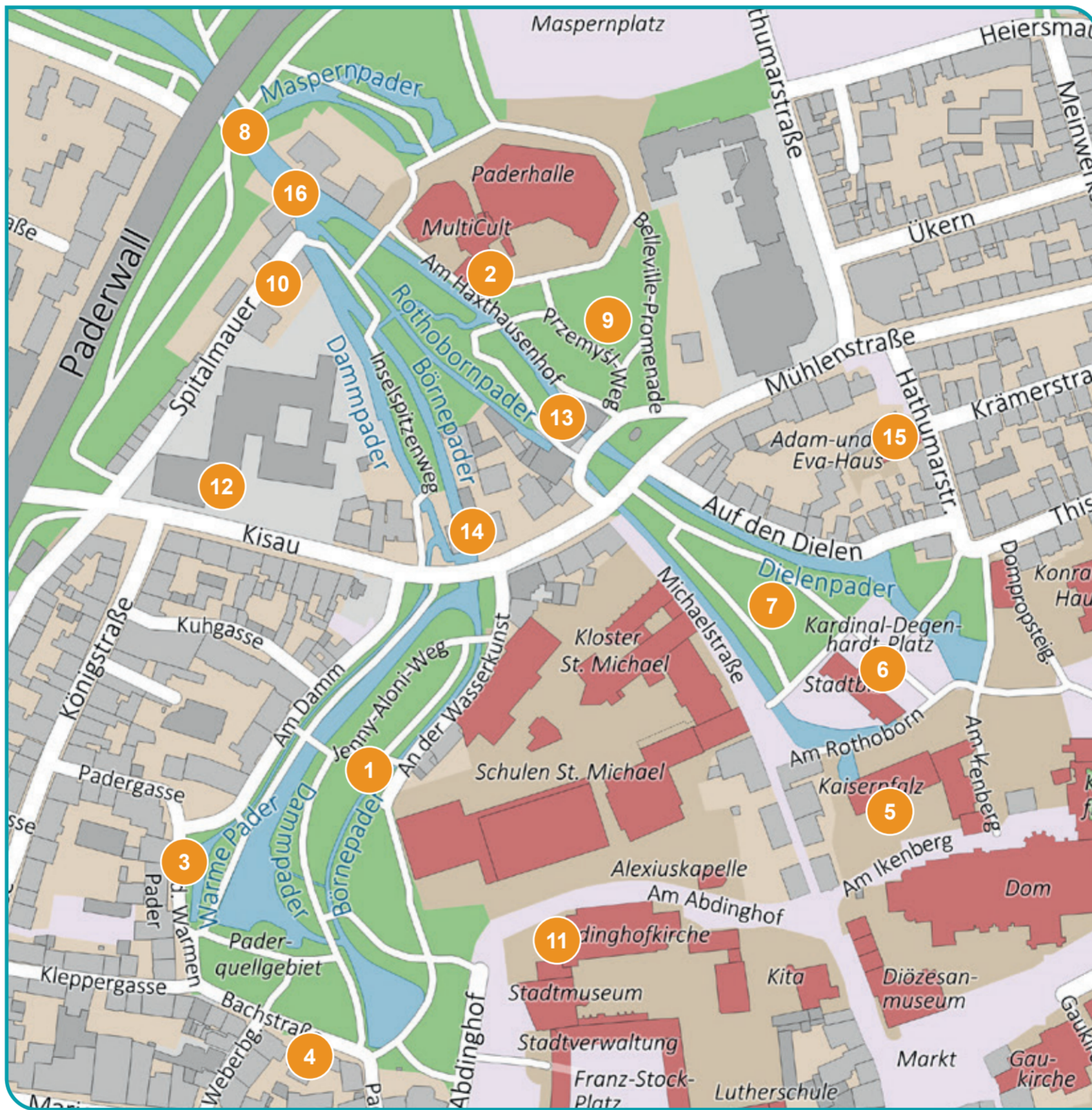
### 7 Geisselscher Garten

The Geisselscher Garten is a former private park belonging to the Geissel family from Paderborn. Numerous bird and animal species have a special habitat here. The garden with its old trees was severely damaged by a tornado in 2022. The concept for the new planting envisages a „mysterious island garden“ with various areas and naturally regrowing trees.



### 8 Pader confluence

The confluence of the six Pader arms is located on the Innerer Ring. A viewing platform was built here in 2017, from which you can get a good view of the water flows. If you follow the course of the Pader, you will reach the Paderwiesen meadows. From here, the Pader flows on to Schloß Neuhaus, where it flows into the Lippe.



### 9 Haxthausengarten and -garten

The Haxthausengarten was created behind the Paderhalle in the middle Pader spring area by 2019. Its design refers to the historic Haxthausengarten (vaulted cellar and garden wall). Numerous benches and newly planted flowerbeds invite you to linger.



### 10 Pesthaus

The Pesthaus is a quarry stone building that probably served the former Capuchin monastery as a storage and service building and isolation centre. Two brick holes in the wall facing the river are reminiscent of a mill. The romantic footbridge is one of the most photographed places on the Pader today.



Footbridge at the Pesthaus

### 11 Paderpedia

On the digital platform „Paderpedia“ you can find out everything about the Pader. Despite the river's short length, there is a wealth of interesting facts about its history, culture and ecosystem. Further information: [www.paderpedia.de](http://www.paderpedia.de)

### „Paderborn To Go“ app

This leaflet contains a number of photos with additional digital information. These photos can be called up automatically using the picture-scanner of the „Paderborn To Go“ app. The app can be downloaded from the respective app stores using the QR codes.

The photos with additional digital information can be recognised by this symbol.



### 11 Abdinghofkirche

The double-towered Abdinghofkirche rises high above the western Pader spring area. A Protestant church since 1867, the pillar basilica with a flat ceiling and three-nave crypt is a successor to the monastery church built by Bishop Meinwerk. Stairs lead down from the side aisles into the crypt, which extends below the choir.



### 12 Former state hospital

A modern administration building for the Paderborn Jacoby-Gruppe was built in the former state hospital, which is a former Capuchin monastery. The centrepiece of the building, designed by renowned architect David Chipperfield, is the former monastery church, which was completely gutted and now serves as the entrance area.



### 13 Reinekemühle

Mills have been operated at the Reinekemühle site since the Middle Ages. Rebuilt during the reconstruction in the 1950s, it was the last active mill in the city centre until autumn 2021. Flour for the famous Paderborn bread was ground here. The building complex is a listed building. Behind the building, an attractively designed square invites you to linger.



### 14 Schwarzendahls Mühle

The Schwarzendahls Mühle building was built in 1873 following the demolition of several smaller mills. The mill ceased operation in 1968. The building is a good example of the mill architecture of the time. Today it houses flats and a restaurant.



### 15 Adam-und-Eva-Haus

The Adam-und-Eva-Haus is one of the most beautiful half-timbered houses in Paderborn. Built around 1560, it is characterised by its rich carvings. Until 2015, it housed the Museum für Stadtgeschichte (Museum for City History). The house was converted into an open library together with the neighbouring Haus Erzengel. The Deelenhaus is located directly opposite in Krämerstraße.



### 16 Stümpelsche Mühle with mill museum

The old mill building of the Stümpelsche Mühle with its striking, undershot water wheel still stands today. Today, the BIOHAUS Foundation uses the building. The water wheel is used to generate green electricity. The mill houses a mill museum (visits by appointment only) and the Mühlencafé.