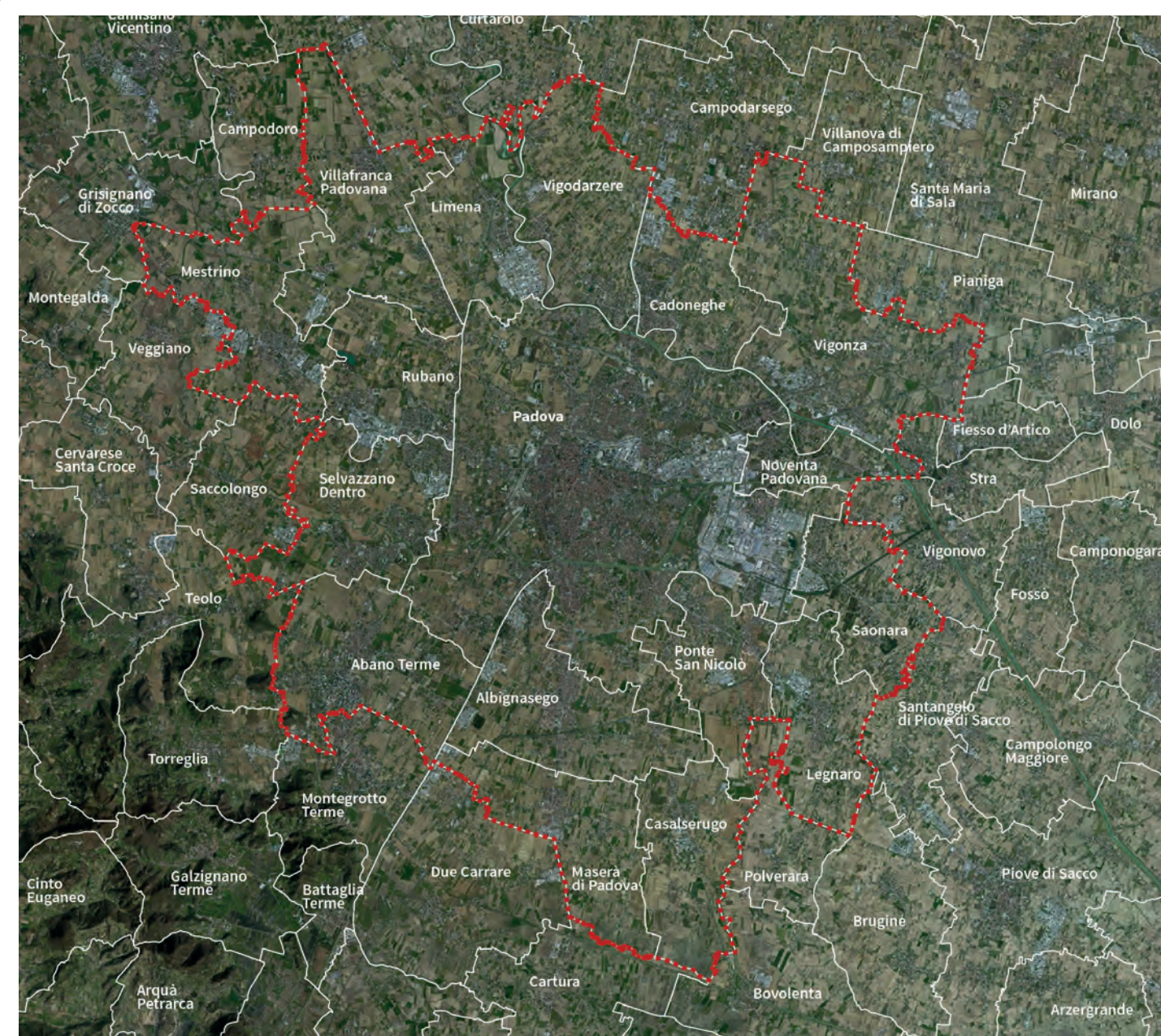


# VENETO REGION: PaAM PADOVA CASE STUDY

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## Territorial context

**Population:**  
431.240 inhabitants (Istat 2014)

**Surface:**  
376,27 km<sup>2</sup>

**Utilized agricultural area:**

SAU 219,68 km<sup>2</sup> (Istat 2010)

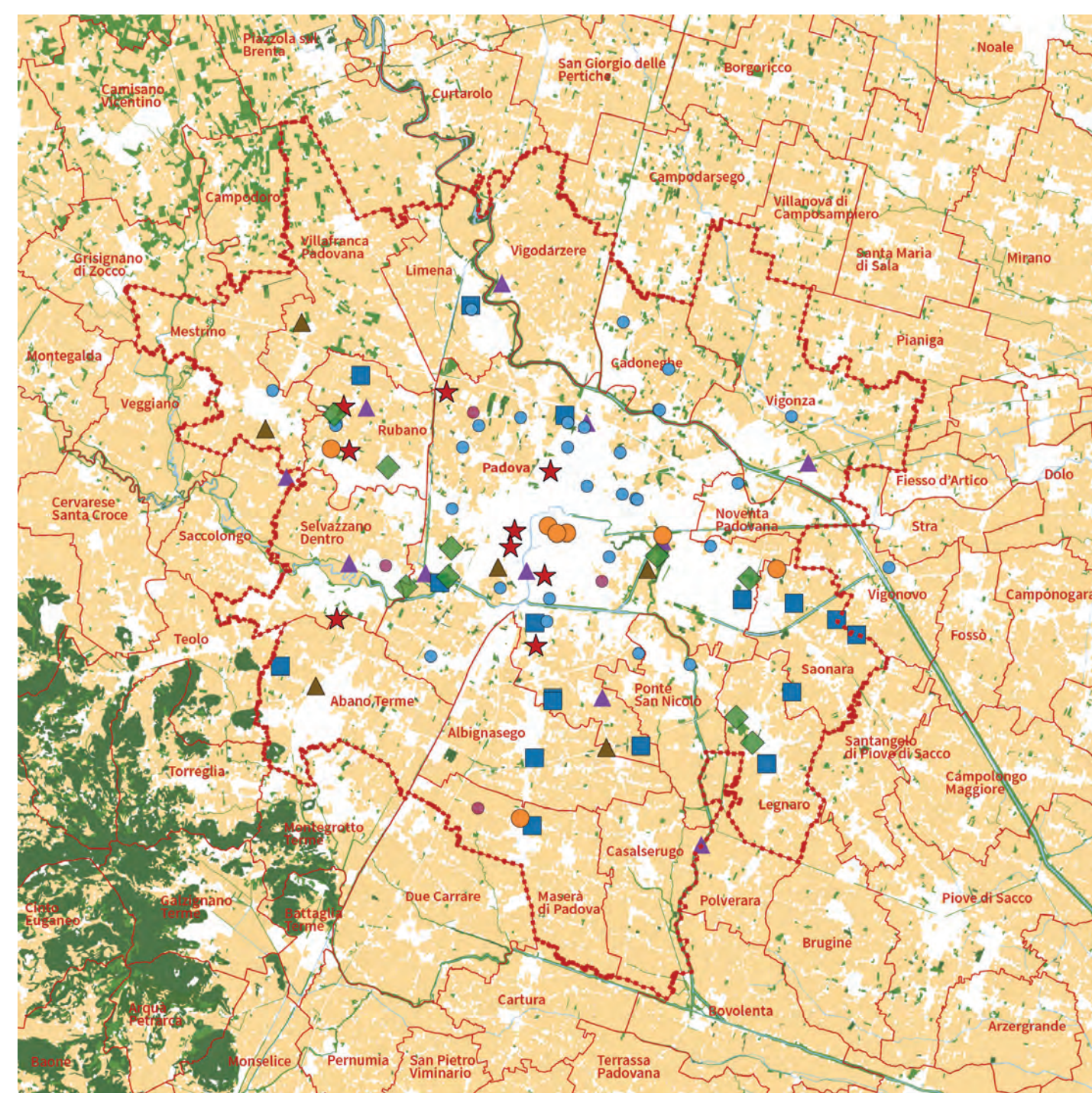
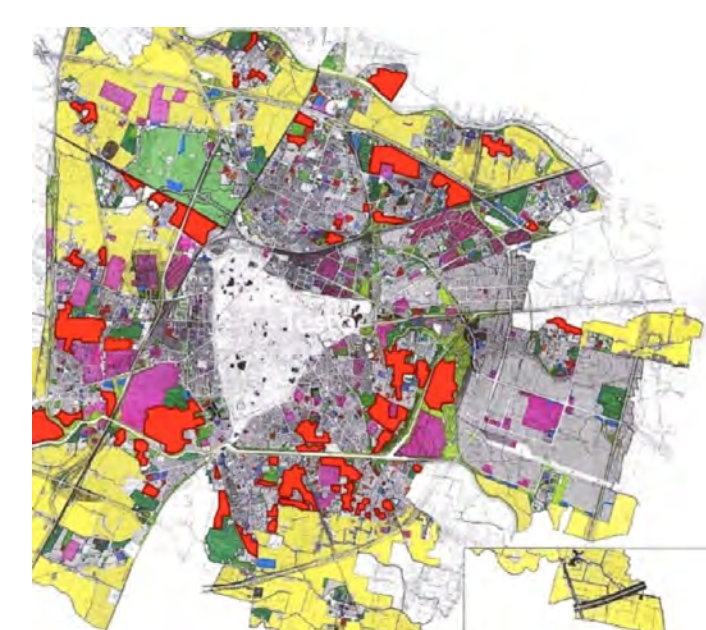
248,53 km<sup>2</sup> (CCS 2007)

## Spatial Planning/history phenomenon

The 1954 Padova Master Plan, by Luigi Piccinato (right top), included several "green wedges" that connected the city center with the surrounding countryside. The idea was to preserve a lot of "public green" inside the city. Until the 2000s several of these areas remained cultivated in the Padova municipality.

Unfortunately in 2004, with the new plan, 4.7 million square meters of public green areas were changed in areas of "perequazione", with an increase of 2 million cubic meters of building volumes (bottom right in red).

The "green wedges" were largely developed. The new intermunicipal plan in 2011, involving all the municipalites around Padova, did not consider agriculture in its topic. That's why a group of citizens, environmental associations and farmers in 2012 decided to propose the idea of the "Parco agropaesaggistico metropolitano di Padova - PaAM" (Agrolandscape metropolitan park) to the municipalities involved in the intermunicipal plan.



## Urban Agriculture Types

### Urban farming

#### Local food farms

##### Quantitative:

★ GAS 9

■ Farms 17

Qualitative: consolidated

##### Quantitative:

▲ Equestrians centers 6

● Restaurants km0 7

▲ Agrotourism and educational farms 11

Qualitative: expanding

### Agri-environmental farms

#### Quantitative:

Education 5

Parks 3

Social club 1

Qualitative: consolidated

### Urban food gardening

#### Allotment gardens

##### Quantitative:

■ Social cooperatives 4

Qualitative: expanding

##### Quantitative:

● Urban gardens 30

Qualitative: expanding

In the last forty years the Veneto region has undergone strong urban development, which transformed the fertile central plain into a wide, low-density, metropolitan area. Urbanization took place in a very dispersed manner, with the result that agriculture has been maintained all over the urbanized territory, in between urban settlements and infrastructures. This is now a metropolitan area with a still substantial amount of agriculture (Ferrario, 2007; Ferrario 2010; Ferrario, 2015), given that according to regional land use data (2006) about 60% of the central plain, which has a population of about 2 million, is cultivated. Agriculture is still profitable and has good results in terms of quantity and quality of production.

Padova metropolitan area is part of this large "agrouban" area, with an extreme proximity between urbanized and cultivated spaces. Different kind of urban agriculture can be found in this area, exploiting the proximity with urban areas since the nineties. Some of the first local food initiatives in Italy and experimental organic agriculture took place in this area (see for example the El Tamiso experience in organic farming). We observe a large demand for energy, food, biodiversity, leisure and the preservation of cultural heritage. Despite this situation in the whole region, as at the municipal level, territorial and agricultural policies remain independent of each other. Agricultural policies follow a sectoral logic, as if this were some nondescript rural territory with little or no population. Urban policies do not take into account agricultural land, and on the contrary in the last years a lot of agricultural space inside the municipality boundaries was developed. The PaAM proposal is an attempt to bridge this gap. Unfortunately in 2014 this interesting process was stopped.

### Azienda agricola Al Giglio

**Types:** local food farm

**Ha:** 9 ha

**Promoter:** private citizen

**Functions:** cultural, social, recreational, educational, agricultural



### Parco etnografico di Rubano

**Types:** Agri-environmental farm

**Year:** anni '90

**Ha:** 16 ha

**Promoter:** Comune di Rubano,

Associazione Orto a quadretti

**Functions:** cultural, social, recreational,

educational, researching, agricultural



### Parco agricolo Basso Isonzo

**Types:** Agri-environmental farm

**Year:** 2007

**Ha:** 60 ha

**Promoter:** Comune di Padova

**Functions:** cultural, social, recreational,

educational, researching, agricultural



### Azienda agraria sperimentale "Lucio Toniolo" dell'Università di Padova - Agripolis

**Types:** local food farm

**Year:** 1960

**Ha:** about 80 ha

**Promoter:** Agripolis-Università di Padova

**Actors:** 5, administration staff, 6 technicians, 3 farmers

**Functions:** cultural, social, recreational, educational, researching, agricultural



### Circolo di campagna Wigwam IL PRESIDIO sotto il portico

**Types:** Agri-environmental farm

**Year:** 2004

**Ha:** 6,5

**Promoter:** private citizens

**Functions:** social, agricultural, solidarity



### Orti urbani comunali di Padova

**Types:** Community gardens

**Year:** 2010

**Ha:** about 12,5

**Promoter:** Comune di Padova

**Functions:** social, recreational



### Azienda biologica Pozzoveggiani dell'Università di Padova

**Types:** Local food farms

**Year:** 2001

**Ha:** 15 ha

**Promoter:** Agripolis-Università di Padova

**Functions:** cultural, social, recreational, educational, researching



### Cooperativa agricola El Tamiso

**Types:** Local food farm

**Year:** 1984

**Promoter:** private citizens

**Functions:** cultural, social, recreational, educational, researching, biological agricultural



## PaAM parco agricolo paesaggistico metropolitano di Padova

The Parco Agropaesaggistico metropolitano di Padova – PaAM (Agrolandscape metropolitan park) is an initiative launched in 2012 by citizens, environmental associations and farms of the municipalities of the Padua city belt, to ask an explicit intermunicipal policy for Padova agricultural areas. An Agenda 21 process was settled up in 2014, involving more than 200 actors, and bringing some results in terms of new understanding, of new connections and links between existing experiences, and finally in terms of political objectives for new policies. Among actors and experiences connected by the PaAM you can find for example:

- The Wigwam club "Il presidio sotto il portico", that was created in 2004 by one of the family whose agricultural land was expropriated to enlarge the industrial zone of Padova. They start organizing events in the farm, so raising awareness of the citizens about the importance of agricultural land preservation. They finally succeeded in 2014, when the industrial zone stopped its expansion program.
- El Tamiso is a cooperative of farmers who practice exclusively organic farming since the early 80s, selling directly their products to citizens. They organize training courses and give technical assistance to members, and information and promotion to consumers.
- The experimental farms of the University of Padova and of the Padova agriculture high school. They are public owned and open to the public. They sell directly their products.

Unfortunately the PaAM process was stopped for political reasons in the second part of 2014. But the idea of the park is not dead. Here we present some of the general and specific objectives and programs, that emerged during the participation process.

## Social Benefits

The project PaAM aims to achieve the following social objectives:

- food security and food sovereignty;
- biodiversity and environmental quality, with the restoring ecological corridors;
- new employment and social inclusion;
- participation, training, and communication: guided tours to farms;
- economic sustainability of the park;
- establishment of a legal entity
- database of farms and products that there are in the Park and that citizens can use

## Spatial effects

The project PaAM aims to achieve the following spatial effects:

- reduction of land use and rehabilitation of buildings with architectural value;
- preservation of the agricultural: redevelopment of settlements and agricultural areas, redrawing the boundaries between urban and rural;
- an agro urban landscape;
- delimitation of areas of respect landscaping;
- specific paths for cattle and for agricultural vehicles in the Park and division between the public and private courses;
- reduction of fences;
- mitigation of the impact of new and existing road infrastructure
- incrementing of forest areas along highways;
- completion of the waterway Padova-sea

## Urban Agriculture Metabolism

- computerized system for farms to meet supply and demand;
- definition of protocols of the distribution and the valorization of products of the park;
- certification of quality products with the creation of a label of the products of the park;
- promote the free exchange of seeds;
- recovery of native plant and animal species;
- energy self-sufficiency of farms