

(Austria) Urban Gardening-Gottesacker

Main Goals

- + using own grown food
- + sustainable and healthy living
- + giving kids the opportunity to learn where plants come from
- + creating awareness for food

Objectives

- Getting a piece of green in the city
- Showing that there are spaces in the city everyone can use
- Being responsible for a garden and changing the city
- Get into contact with the neighbours

Resources needed

- Seeds, plants, wood for building up raised beds, water for the plants
- Time for cleaning the garden
- People to take a look at the garden in summertime

Challenges

- Showing people that this is a half open garden and not for use for everyone
- Cleaning the garden because it's a space in a park and you can find a lot of rubbish inside the beds
- Who takes care of watering during summer

Many people are living in the city without having an opportunity for some green places in the backyard or even a balcony. This made up the idea to start a community garden in the character of urban and guerrilla gardening. These kind of Projects are growing more and more in many other cities all over the world. Like that people can take the possibility and responsibility for taking back spaces from the city which should be open for everybody.

Beside the part of giving the city back to the people an important part is also the possibility to grow your own food. Many people and even the kids don't have an idea how e.g. garlic is growing, or what it takes to have a bowl of strawberries. Within this Project the neighbours can experiment and learn themselves to handle with growing vegetables and fruits. The Kids from the neighbours can also start to learn where our food comes from, to create awareness for our food and the process of food.

The garden started in 2014 with a small group of neighbours and the project coordinator from Büro der Nachbarschaften. Since then the garden got more raised beds and beds for kids. The group from the garden is changing from year to year because some people are moving or maybe don't have time anymore for the garden meetings. The group is meeting during the summer months minimum once a month. But most of the times some people are more often around to take care of the plants. The group is communicating via telegram messenger so if anybody is in the garden spontaneous other people can get contacted, too. And if the group is meeting there are always a lot of kids around so the whole area gets active and vital. So the group contains of minimum 8 people from the neighbourhood around Büro der Nachbarschaften and their kids who are also helping a lot.

The group is self responsible and volunteering and the Coordinator of BdN only needs to take care of the contracts of the use agreement with the city of graz. If somebody is interested to be part of gardening group the person can just come to the meetings which get announced directly at a board in the garden. The reason the group doesn't advertise the garden is because of the limited space and so the limited beds. From time to time there are some ideas to enlarge the garden so that there could be beds also directly related to BdN to make the city even greener.



I'm so proud that I can see my seeds growing in the city. It just changes the place.

Lisa, Neighbour.

Facts and points:

- ✓ Urban Garden from 8 Neighbours
- ✓ Taking back spaces from the City
- ✓ Having a green place in the city
- ✓ Trying to grow own food
- ✓ Showing kids where fruits and vegetables come from
- ✓ Taking responsibility for sustainable