

Title

"Edible City Andernach" (die Essbare Stadt Andernach)

Short description

In Andernach, the motto is "picking allowed" rather than "no trespassing". Whether strawberries, lettuce, or onions – the municipal administration lets people plant fruit, vegetables, and herbs everywhere, and everyone can pick them. As a result, public parks and green areas become gardens for citizens. The public campaign shows residents how to eat healthily and boosts their appreciation for regional food. Whether planting or harvesting, everyone can join in.

The project, which is unique in Germany, was already launched in 2010 and has since continuously developed. It centres on an approach to the long-term and sustainable management of green spaces in order to make the city more lively, environment-friendly and differentiated. Here, sustainability and biodiversity form the basis for promoting urban agriculture and rouse the interest of the city's inhabitants in more conscious and healthier eating habits. In this context, the integration of urban agriculture aspects in the city's green spaces is a crucial element. By planting public vegetable beds that are not only accessible to everyone but can also be harvested by all citizens, Andernach has embarked on a new course. This peri-urban permaculture garden area enables the city to promote urban diversity in public spaces as well as socialising among its citizens.

Topic

Living – Green spaces

Consuming – food

Characteristics (type, level)

Neighbourhood, local/Regional initiative

Country/Countries of implementation

Germany

Aims and Objectives

To use green spaces (also parks) for urban agriculture (vegetables, herbs, cut flowers, fruits) to be used by everybody i.e. visitors and citizens

- Promotion of crop diversity
- Demonstration of agrobiodiversity
- Creation of new habitats
- Design of multifunctional open spaces
- City climate appreciation through greening measures
- Economic green area care
- Activation of the citizens for the design of your own town
- Integration of long-term unemployed

Target Group

Residents of the city Andernach (together with the "garden engineer" and the "city ecologist")

Status

Ongoing

Start and Completion dates

2010-today

Lifestyle and Behavior Change

Using green spaces, producing fresh products (own salad and fruits, even cut flowers) and also the intention to widen knowledge of the plants (for example biodiversity of food crops in yield, colour, taste and look) has an indirect potential to change behaviour and lifestyle of inhabitants as both planting and using products is allowed for everybody.

Effects on:

Health and Wellbeing	Indirectly, citizens take care of the green spaces to plant fresh products and they use/consume fresh products
Vulnerable populations	Entire population has access to both planting and consuming of fresh products
Environment	By planting of unused spaces for production of fresh fruits and vegetables that anyone can harvest

Initiated and/or implemented by

The municipality in close involvement of the “garden engineer” and the “city ecologist”

Stakeholders and sectors involved

The residents of Andernach on a voluntary basis together with responsible people from the municipality under close involvement of the “garden engineer” and the “city ecologist”

Financial support

Local authority (city of Andernach)

Evidence-base

Local authority (city of Andernach)

Main activities

Andernach motivates its citizens to help plant and maintain urban vegetation, for example by planting fruits and vegetables that anyone can harvest.

It is surprising to see how the citizens interact – The Garden Engineer reports in a paper article: they get together over the tending, the picking and contribute ideas about how to take it forward. They love living there because of the strength of community feeling and the whole look and feel of the place. The total area of vegetables grown is about 8,000 sq m (86,000 sq ft), and around the town are another 13 hectares of municipal land, where a vast range of crops are grown and pigs, sheep, cows and chickens are kept. These areas are tended with help from 20 long-term unemployed people.

Evaluation

No information available

Main results

- Promoting forgotten fruit and vegetables
- An example of sustainable cultivation methods
- New value in public spaces
- Improvement of the city’s climate through more green surfaces
- Lower cost of maintaining green
- Active and involved citizens

Key success factors and barriers

Active involvement of citizens makes the practice successful. Loss of interest by citizens and also loss of support by municipal stakeholders would be an obstacle.

INHERIT Perspective

Edible City Andernach is probably the best-known example of urban gardening in Germany. It centres on an approach to the long-term and sustainable management of green spaces in order to make the city more lively, environment-friendly and differentiated addressing healthy living and consumption of citizens. Here, sustainability and biodiversity form the basis for promoting urban agriculture and rouse the interest of the city’s inhabitants in more conscious and healthier eating habits. In this context, the integration of urban agriculture aspects in the city’s green spaces is a crucial element including health, equity and sustainability.

More information

http://www.andernach.de/de/leben_in_andernach/es_startseite.html

Contact

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