

URBAN GARDEN CULTURE



*Heroes
wanted*



WHAT ARE URBAN GARDENS?

URBAN GARDENS CAN BE IN BACKYARDS, IN PUBLIC PARKS, ON EMPTY CONSTRUCTIONS SITES, ON CITY SQUARES OR HIGH UP ON THE ROOF-TOPS. IT IS AN OASIS THAT MAKES THE CITY GREENER WHILE PROVIDING AN ALTERNATIVE TO TRADITIONAL MEETING PLACES WHERE COMMUNITIES CAN DEVELOP. URBAN GARDENS ARE A WAY TO CREATE SOCIAL SPACE, WHERE PEOPLE CAN SPEND TIME TOGETHER WHILE GARDENING. WHEN YOU MAKE AN URBAN GARDEN YOU CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PLANTS, FRIENDSHIPS, EXPERIENCES, KNOWLEDGE, IDEAS AND CULTURE TO GROW - AND THERE ARE LOADS OF ENGAGING CHALLENGES AND ADVENTURES INVOLVED, AND PLENTY OF FRESH AIR GUARANTEED.

ONE POSSIBLE GOAL WITH AN URBAN GARDEN COULD BE TO SEE HOW MUCH OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES YOU CAN GROW YOURSELF; ANOTHER OBJECTIVE COULD BE TO IMPROVE THE RANGE OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN A LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD. FOR THE MORE IDEALISTIC PARTICIPANTS IT MAY BE MORE IMPORTANT TO SPREAD KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GARDENING, SUSTAINABILITY, ECOLOGY, PERMACULTURE* AND MORE, WHILE OTHERS MIGHT BE MORE INTERESTED IN BUILDING, PLAYING, OR ARRANGING CULTURAL EVENTS. THIS BOOK IS THUS MUCH MORE THAN A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO KEEPING A GARDEN.



GARDENS ARE PLACES WHERE NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES AND PEOPLE WHO DO NOT KNOW EACH OTHER CAN MEET TO FORGE NEW FRIENDSHIPS WHILE MAKING THE CITY GREENER AND MORE FULL OF LIFE.

URBAN GARDENS PROVIDE THE SPACE FOR NEW MEETING PLACES, COMMUNAL GARDENING, NATURE AND GREEN INITIATIVES IN THE CITY. URBAN GARDENS ARE INSPIRED BY URBAN- AND GUERRILLA GARDENING.*

START GARDEN CULTURE NOW!

* = See glossary on page 28-29.

GARDEN HERO

EVERYONE CAN MAKE AN URBAN GARDEN



ARE YOU A GARDEN HERO?

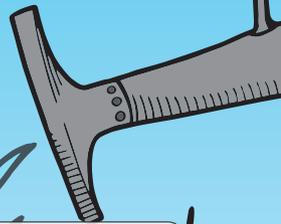
DO YOU DREAM OF CREATING AN URBAN GARDEN; LOVE TO BREAK OLD HABITS AND USE YOUR HANDS; AND HAVE A PASSION TO WORK ON PROJECTS TOGETHER WITH OTHER PEOPLE?

HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS CAN FOUND AN URBAN GARDEN. URBAN GARDENS CAN BE A MUNICIPAL PROJECT, WHERE LOCAL INHABITANTS CAN TEND TO A GARDEN TOGETHER AND BRING LIFE AND NEW ACTIVITIES TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD. GARDENS CAN BE ESTABLISHED ON CITY SQUARES TO BE USED AS AN OPEN-AIR COMMUNITY CENTER IN THE SUMMER. STUDENTS TOO CAN GET TOGETHER AND START URBAN GARDENS AT THE UNIVERSITY OR IN EMPTY CONSTRUCTION SITES. EVEN IN CITIES WITH MANY PRIVATE GARDENS THERE IS AMPLE SPACE TO CREATE SHARED URBAN GARDENS.

A garden hero can solve practical challenges, motivate others to help and take responsibility, and be passionate about creating a community garden in the city.

THE MUNICIPAL HERO

WHO IS THE MUNICIPAL HERO?



ARE YOU THE MUNICIPAL HERO?

THE MUNICIPAL HERO* IS A PERSON WORKING IN THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE THAT KNOWS THE SYSTEM AND CAN HELP A GROUP THAT IS ON ITS WAY TO ESTABLISH A GARDEN. IT IS ALSO A PERSON THAT HAS AN UNDERSTANDING WHICH MOST URBAN GARDENS ARE TEMPORARY PROJECTS RUN BY VOLUNTEERS AND NEED HELP TO PROCESS FUNDING AND PERMIT APPLICATIONS FASTER.

IN THE LONG RUN, THE MUNICIPAL HERO, TOGETHER WITH THE LANDOWNER AND THE USERS OF THE GARDEN, CAN HELP FIND A WAY FOR THE PROJECT TO SURVIVE FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME. CULTIVATING THE GARDEN FOR MANY YEARS WILL HELP TO ESTABLISH IT AS A MEETING PLACE, AND ALLOW MORE PERENNIAL PLANTS TO GROW WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF PERMACULTURE.

Municipal heroes do not always have the practical knowledge and understanding of urban gardening culture, so it is useful to inform them about the numerous opportunities that urban gardens can provide to city dwellers.

MOTIVATION

URBAN GARDENING CULTURE ON A SMALL SCALE ALLOWS SPACE FOR EXPERIMENTATION. IT PROVIDES A WAY TO JOIN A UNIQUE COMMUNITY, INFLUENCE LOCAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT, CREATE GREEN MEETING PLACES AND PRODUCE ORGANIC VEGETABLES THAT BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT. WHEN WORKING AND BEING IN THE GARDEN A SPECIAL BOND BETWEEN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND THE LOCAL INHABITANTS EVOLVES, AND ONE REALIZES THAT THERE IS MUCH MORE TO PLANTING POTATOES AND MAKING PESTO FROM THE FRESHLY GROWN HERBS.

SIDE EFFECTS OF GARDENING

A place to meet new people, a green space to unwind in, helps to relieve stress from daily routines, and results in plenty of fresh air.

MUNICIPAL HERO?

DO YOU WISH TO INITIATE CITIZEN DRIVEN CITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL ACTIVITY IN A LOCAL AREA? THIS BOOK WILL SHOW YOU A POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR UNUSED CITY SPACE, AND GIVE YOU THE BASIC TOOLS TO CREATE NEW COMMUNITIES AND BRING LIFE TO DEAD PLACES.

POSITIVE PUBLICITY FOR A PROJECT IS ESSENTIAL, BUT...

Municipalities and politicians love the positive publicity from various city projects and can therefore provide additional momentum to urban gardens to gain legal permits and additional funding.

Municipalities and politicians can use urban gardens as a strategic tool, so make sure that they do not interfere too much with the practical administration of the project and development.

One can easily start a garden even if the gardening season has already begun. Just make sure you pick the right plants to cultivate.

MENTALITY

START SLOWLY AND WITH THE MOST BASIC TOOLS IN MIND - LIKE A PLANT. DO NOT PLAN EVERYTHING FROM THE START. IT IS BETTER TO HAVE MODEST AIMS THAT ARE BASED ON THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN THE GROUP AND LOCAL AREA. REMEMBER THAT IT IS ON THE SMALLEST OF SCALES THAT EVEN THE BIGGEST PROJECTS BEGIN.

AVOID MAKING A DETAILED SCRIPT OR MASTER PLAN FOR THE GARDEN. IT CAN CONSTRAIN THE PROJECT AND LIMIT THE ELEMENT OF JOY AND SPONTANEITY. REMEMBER THAT URBAN GARDENS ARE BUILT UP GRADUALLY AND IN COOPERATION WITH A LOT OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE!

EVERYBODY WORKS ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, SO THERE SHOULD BE ROOM FOR DIFFERENT LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION. THIS IS BEST ACHIEVED BY ESTABLISHING A FEW COMMON PRINCIPLES AND A BASIC FORM OF ORGANIZATION. IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO PUT DOWN THE GARDEN'S PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES ON PAPER, SO TO AVOID UNNECESSARY DISAGREEMENTS AND CONFLICTS.

THINK OF THESE POINTS WHEN CREATING A VISION FOR THE GARDEN.

- Learn to let go. It cannot be
 - Guaranteed that you will reap what you sow, but you can reap the joy that it gives to others.
 - Urban gardening culture is based on voluntary participation and is usually non-profit.
 - Do not focus on money; with a little creativity you can do it cheaper and a lot more fun.
 - To a large extent urban gardening culture is about learning the value of cooperation, cultivation and self-sufficiency.
- Knowledge that can be applied in many other areas of life.

URBAN GARDEN CULTURE CAN BE CREATED WITHOUT MANY RESOURCES. THE MOST IMPORTANT IS THE DRIVE AND MOTIVATION BEHIND THE PROJECT!

There are a thousand ways to create gardening culture. Find inspiration in some existing cases on pages 23-27.

FIND A PLOT

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE?

GARDEN CULTURE CAN BE STARTED ALMOST ANYWHERE, FROM PRIVATE PLOTS OF LAND, TO PUBLIC PARKS. JUMP ON YOUR BIKE AND EXPLORE YOUR LOCAL AREA. YOU MIGHT ALREADY KNOW WHERE THERE IS A VACANT LOT OR A LIFELESS PARK NEARBY.

PRIVATE LAND

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND CAN OFTEN BE BORROWED FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME, UNDER CONDITIONS THAT ARE DETERMINED THROUGH A CONTRACT. IF APPROACHING A HOUSING ASSOCIATION ONE SHOULD SPEAK TO THE BOARD, IF THE PLOT OF LAND IS AN OLD INDUSTRIAL OR CONSTRUCTION SITE, CONTACT THE LANDOWNER. IF YOU ARE COMMITTED AND HAVE A STRONG IDEA, THERE IS NO REASON WHY YOUR GARDEN CANNOT HAPPEN!

THE ADVANTAGE OF PRIVATELY OWNED LAND IS THAT THE CONDITIONS FOR ITS USE ARE OFTEN MORE FLEXIBLE IN COMPARISON TO PUBLIC LAND.

PUBLIC LAND

FIND THE MUNICIPAL HERO. THE MUNICIPAL GARDEN HERO IS OFTEN FOUND IN THE DEPARTMENTS DEALING WITH TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND NATURE. TOGETHER YOU CAN FIND A SITE, A PLOT OF LAND, OR A PARK THAT LOOKS TO BE MISSING SOME GREENERY AND LIFE.

THE ADVANTAGE OF USING PUBLIC LAND IS THAT YOU CAN COME TO ENJOY THE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, AND EVENTUALLY MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING STRATEGY.

REMEMBER!



YOU ARE USUALLY REQUIRED TO OFFICIALLY BE A NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION TO USE PUBLIC LAND. YOU WILL HAVE TO KEEP THE GARDEN TIDY AND FOLLOW THE SET RULES, SUCH AS THE HOUSING-RENTAL MODEL* IN DENMARK. THE MUNICIPALITY MUST PROVIDE YOU PERMITS FOR ERECTING ANY TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION. AND YOU CAN EXPECT LONG WAITING TIMES FOR YOUR APPLICATIONS TO GO THROUGH.

How is the site in relation to the sun and the wind? Is there access to water and electricity? Is it accessible by car and larger vehicles? How many people pass by on a daily basis? What type of housing, institutions, schools and organisations are found in the surrounding area?

Some relevant sites in Denmark:
OIS.dk
Miljoeportal.dk
Kort.plansystem.dk
Your municipality's webpage



UNDERSTAND THE SYSTEM

OLD LAW

NEW LAW

URBAN GARDEN CULTURE IS TEMPORARY AND REQUIRES MORE FLEXIBLE LEGISLATION*. THE OLD LAWS THAT EXIST ARE AIMED FOR SITES IN PERMANENT USE, SUCH AS PARKS, KINDERGARTENS, PRIVATE RESIDENCES AND ALLOTMENT GARDENS. THEREFORE DO NOT TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER! THE MUNICIPALITY TENDS TO PUT THINGS IN EXISTING CATEGORIES, MAKE THEM THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

GIVE THE MUNICIPALITY AND LOCAL POLITICIANS INPUT ON HOW LAWS CAN BE MADE MORE FLEXIBLE AND ACCOMMODATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE PRACTICES THROUGH A POSITIVE DIALOGUE AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES*.

IT IS OKAY TO ASK STUPID QUESTIONS TO THE MUNICIPALITY AND PROFESSIONALS. PASSIONATE AMATEURS - NOT EXPERTS, RUN MOST URBAN GARDENS!

REMEMBER:
SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER
TO BE FORGIVEN THAN TO
GET PERMISSION!

WHAT ARE THE THINGS ONE NEEDS
TO ASK PERMISSION FOR?

- Changes in the use of the site* in relation to the local area plan* and municipal area plan*.
- Environmental and constructional matters*.
- Sale of food and drinks*.
- Organization of large events in public areas.
- Keeping livestock, such as chickens and goats.

Generally municipalities want to avoid clutter, complaints and additional work.

If the site is polluted it does not mean that it cannot be used for a garden (turn to page 25), or read more in the glossary under soil pollution legislature

A COMMUNITY BECOMES

THE ROLE OF PLANNING, COORDINATING AND ADMINISTRATION SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED. IT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF ANY LARGER COMMUNAL URBAN GARDEN. WITHOUT IT, THE PROJECT WILL HAVE A HARD TIME SURVIVING EVEN FOR ONE SEASON. MAKE SURE THAT FROM DAY ONE ALL THE NECESSARY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ARE DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS, THE BORING AND THE FUN ONES ALIKE. THE REWARD OF SEEING YOUR GARDEN GROW AND FLOURISH IS WORTH THE EFFORT!



ASSOCIATION

THE BOARD IS THE LINK BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION, MUNICIPALITY AND THE LANDOWNER, IF THERE IS ONE INVOLVED. THE ASSOCIATION CAN SIMPLY BE A PRO FORMA THAT IS WRITTEN UP TO GET AN OFFICIAL ORGANIZATIONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER SO THAT YOU CAN CONTACT OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AUTHORITIES, AND FUNDING BODIES.

PURPOSE

MAKE YOUR INTENTION FOR CREATING A GARDEN CLEAR: IF IT'S TO IMPROVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD, TO GROW VEGETABLES, TO PRACTICE PERMACULTURE, TO BUILD STRUCTURES, TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS, TO ENHANCE SOCIAL INTEGRATION, OR TO EDUCATE.

DECIDE HOW THE PRODUCE FROM THE GARDEN (VEGETABLES, FLOWERS, HONEY, EGGS AND MORE) SHALL BE USED. IS IT FOR COMMUNAL MEALS, CAN IT BE TAKEN HOME, SHALL IT BE SOLD OR DONATED?

PLANNING

IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO CREATE DIFFERENT WORK GROUPS BASED ON PEOPLE'S INTERESTS WITH AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND ACTIVITY. THIS WAY YOU CAN BE MORE EFFICIENT AND SAVE TIME THAT CAN BE USED ON MORE GENERAL GARDENING TASKS.

EXPERIENCE: ORGANIZE COMMUNAL MEALS IN CONJUNCTION WITH GARDEN MEETINGS, SO THAT THE SOCIAL ASPECT OF THE PROJECT IS IN FOCUS. THIS WAY MORE PEOPLE WILL ENJOY PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETINGS.

COMMUNICATION

SET UP A WEBSITE, INTERNET GROUP OR A BLOG WHERE YOU CAN COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER, ARRANGE MEETINGS, WRITE TEXTS AND POST PHOTOS FROM THE GARDEN. THIS IS A GREAT TOOL FOR INTERNAL USE AS WELL AS FOR ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS.



ORGANIZATION

MAKE A SCHEDULE AND TIMETABLE FOR BASIC TASKS SUCH AS WATERING, WEEDING AND THINNING. DECIDE TO MEET REGULARLY A FEW DAYS A WEEK. FINISH YOUR WORKDAYS WITH A COMMUNAL MEAL OR AFTERNOON TEA SO THAT YOU CAN ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY AND HAVE AN INFORMAL MEETING. MAKE SURE TO LABEL WHAT PLANTS ARE PLANTED WHERE, AND MAKE A NOTE OF WHEN THEY ARE TO BE WATERED AND WEEDED.

GIVE OWNERSHIP

MAKE GROUPS FOR PRACTICAL TASKS AND CONCRETE PROJECTS. LET EACH GROUP HAVE ITS OWN AREA OF RESPONSIBILITIES BASED ON THEIR INTERESTS. PERHAPS A GROUP FOCUSING ON COMPOSTING, OR BEEKEEPING*, COOKING, PERMACULTURE, DIY CONSTRUCTION, KEEPING CHICKENS, BUILDING GREENHOUSES, GROWING SPECIFIC PLANTS LIKE CHILIES, AND SO ON. SEPARATE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY CAN MAKE IT EASIER TO COORDINATE THE GARDEN AS A WHOLE AND HELP PROMOTE A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP AMONG THE VOLUNTEERS. IF EVERYONE FEELS LIKE THEY OWN A PART OF THE GARDEN THEN KNOWLEDGE IS MORE EASILY SHARED, AND WHEN KEY MEMBERS ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE, OTHERS WILL BE READY TO TAKE CHARGE.

Remember:
Do not plant the same vegetables in the same soil year after year. Rotating crops will help to avoid soil depletion.

FINANCING

WHERE DO THE RESOURCES COME FROM?

- START SMALL AND TRY TO HAVE A NATURAL DEVELOPMENT BASED ON THE ENERGIES AVAILABLE IN THE GARDEN, SO THAT YOU ARE NOT CONSTANTLY DEPENDENT ON EXTERNAL RESOURCES.
- RECYCLE. - KEEP IT SIMPLE!
- CREATE AN ACHIEVABLE PLAN OUTLINING BASIC NEEDS.
- TRY TO KEEP THE ADMINISTRATIVE WORKLOAD AT A MINIMUM.
- AVOID APPLYING FOR TOO MANY FUNDS AND GRANTS. APPLICATIONS REQUIRE A LOT OF ADMINISTRATIVE WORK AND MAY REQUIRE YOU TO ADJUST YOUR GOALS TO FUNDING CRITERIA.
- FOCUS ON KEEPING MOTIVATION HIGH AND DEAL WITH THE PRACTICAL TASKS FIRST, AFTER THAT THINK ABOUT MONEY

WHEN A LITTLE MONEY IS NEEDED

- Municipal funds.
- National grants.
- Local environmental agencies.
- Private funds that support local development projects.
- Sponsorships and donations from local business and organizations.
- Membership fees.
- Sale of vegetables, honey, eggs and so on.
- Payment for gardening workshops, lectures and guided tours



Remember:
Make a budget. It cannot be done too early, only too late.

COMMUNITY

THE GARDEN DOES NOT ONLY ATTRACT GARDENERS. YOU WILL MEET A LOT OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE FROM THE LOCAL AREA, STUDENTS INTERESTED IN URBAN PROJECTS, TOURISTS AND CURIOUS PASSERSBY - ESPECIALLY IF THE GARDEN IS IN A PUBLIC PLACE OR A PARK.

MAKE A VISIBLE SIGN THAT DESCRIBES THE PROJECT, ITS AIMS, PRACTICAL DIMENSIONS AND HOW ONE CAN BECOME A PART OF IT.



Remember:
Urban garden culture is about working together and sharing experiences with others.

HOW DO WE GET MORE TO JOIN THE GARDEN?

TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS. INVITE PEOPLE TO GARDEN MEETINGS AND GARDENING WEEKENDS, ORGANIZE EVENTS. RING DOORBELLS. HANG UP POSTERS IN THE SURROUNDING AREA. TALK TO PEOPLE ON THE STREETS AND COURTYARDS. CONTACT THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER. ARRANGE A PRESENTATION AT THE LOCAL LIBRARY. CREATE MAILING LISTS, SEND OUT NEWSLETTERS, USE SOCIAL MEDIA, AND PUT UP SIGNS THAT MOTIVATE THE GOALS OF THE GARDEN.

AS A VOLUNTEER YOU WANT TO...?

BECOME PART OF A COMMUNITY. JOIN A MOVEMENT. INFLUENCE THE WAY CITIZENS USE THEIR CITY. LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THE EARTH, PLANTS AND OTHER LIVING CREATURES. PERHAPS TRY KEEPING BEES, CHICKENS OR OTHER ANIMALS. EXPERIENCE NATURE IN THE CITY. GET A CHANCE TO WORK WITH YOUR HANDS. FIND A PLACE TO RELAX AND UNWIND.

WHAT FUNCTIONAL ROLES ARE NEEDED IN A GARDEN?

- OVERALL PLANNING OF THE GARDENING SEASON.
- COORDINATION OF WATERING, WEEDING AND THINNING.
- ORGANIZATION OF COMMUNAL MEALS AND PUBLIC EVENTS.
- CARING FOR BEES AND LIVESTOCK.
- CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING.
- ACCOUNTING AND BUDGET MAKING.
- FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATION.

Good advice:
Write a clear description that explains the key goals and basic guidelines behind the project. This will make it easier for new volunteers to join.

WHAT COULD BE FOUND IN THE GARDEN?

PLANTS

WHAT TYPE OF PLANTS? FLOWERS, VEGETABLES, FRUITS, BERRIES, MUSHROOMS, HERBS - THERE ARE MANY OPTIONS. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WHEN YOU PLANT SOMETHING IS THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF IT AND ARE INTERESTED IN USING IT WHEN IT HAS GROWN. IT SHOULD ALSO NOT CONFLICT (TOO MUCH) WITH THE AGREEMENTS MADE WITH THE LANDOWNER.

TOOLSHED

BUILD A TOOLSHED, SO THAT YOU CAN KEEP TRACK OF ALL YOUR TOOLS, AND SO THAT THERE IS SHELTER IF IT STARTS TO RAIN. BUT DO NOT KEEP ALL THE TOOLS LOCKED UP - LEAVE SOME OUTSIDE FOR THE CHILDREN AND NEW VISITORS TO THE GARDEN. HOWEVER, WHAT YOU CAN LEAVE OUTSIDE DEPENDS ON WHETHER THE GARDEN IS ON A CLOSED PRIVATE PLOT OR IN AN OPEN PUBLIC SPACE.

ACTIVITIES

PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES ARE A GOOD REASON TO BE IN THE GARDEN. THEY CAN INCLUDE SOWING, PLANTING, COMMUNAL MEALS, WATERING, WEEDING, KEEPING BEES OR CHICKENS, ALL OF WHICH CAN BE DONE BY CHILDREN AND ADULTS ALIKE. IN ADDITION YOU COULD ARRANGE WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, GUIDED TOURS, BIRTHDAY PARTIES, CONCERTS, WATER FIGHTS, HARVEST FESTIVALS, ART EXHIBITIONS, SUNDAY BRUNCHES AND MUCH MORE.

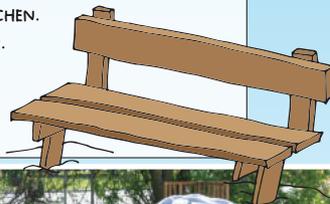
PROTOTYPE OF A RAISED BED

RAISED BED

THE HEIGHT OF A RAISED BED DEPENDS ON WHAT IS PLANTED IN IT. IF IT IS ROOT VEGETABLES - POTATOES, CELERY, BEETROOTS, CARROTS AND SUCH, THEN TWO FRAMES ON TOP OF EACH OTHER ARE REQUIRED SINCE ROOT VEGETABLES GROW DOWNWARDS AND REQUIRE MORE SOIL. FLOWERS, SALAD, CABBAGE, RADISHES, STRAWBERRIES AND THE LIKE NEED ONLY ONE FRAME.

OTHER THINGS YOU CAN BUILD IN THE GARDEN

COMPOST CONTAINERS AND WORM FARMS.
VERTICAL GARDENS FOR HERBS.
PLAYHOUSE FOR CHILDREN.
SPRING AND SANDBOX.
TABLES AND BENCHES.
OUTDOOR KITCHEN.
CHICKEN COOP.
GREENHOUSE.
BIRDHOUSES.
TOOLSHED.



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO BUILD 100 RAISED BEDS (THE DANISH WAY)?

25 single raised beds - measuring:
120 x 80 x 20cm (l:w:h)

75 double raised beds - measuring:
120 x 80 x 40cm (l:w:h)

175 used euro pallets
100 used pallet frames
60 tons planting soil
12 rolls of felt fabric
Staple gun with staples
Transport

7.000 DKK
4.000 DKK
10.000 DKK
3.800 DKK
2.000 DKK
1.000 DKK

26.000 DKK

Total

For more information contact Prags Have*



CITY GARDEN 2200

DESCRIPTION

CITY GARDEN 2200 WAS ESTABLISHED IN A PUBLIC PARK IN NØRREBRO IN COPENHAGEN. THE AREA WHERE THE GARDEN LIES WAS HARDLY USED BY THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY AND HAD AN UNWELCOMING FEEL TO IT. AFTER THE MUNICIPALITY INITIATED THE FOUNDING OF CITY GARDEN 2200 THE PREVIOUSLY DARK CORNER OF THE PARK HAS BECOME FILLED WITH ACTIVITY AND COLORS.

THIS GARDEN SHOWS HOW PUBLIC PARKS CAN BE USED IN A NEW WAY, ALLOWING LOCAL CITIZENS TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE USE AND MAINTENANCE OF A SHARED SPACE.

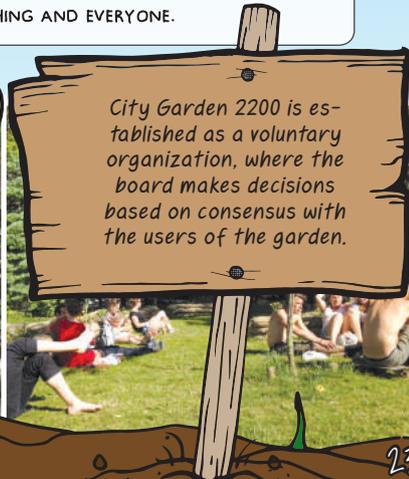
CITY GARDEN 2200 IS BUILT ON TEN PRINCIPLES THAT OUTLINE THE PROJECT'S VISION OF SUSTAINABILITY, THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL SPACE IN CITIES FORGOTTEN CORNERS, AND CREATING A FOUNDATION TO DEVELOP PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE IN HORTICULTURE, ESPECIALLY PERMACULTURE.

LOCATION

THE GARDEN'S LOCATION HAS MEANT THAT A WIDE RANGE OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ENJOY IT. THERE IS AN ACTIVE GROUP OF AROUND 20 TO 25 MEMBERS, A LARGER GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS THAT USE THE GARDEN MORE SPORADICALLY, AND A MUCH LARGER GROUP THAT USE IT AS AN EXTENSION OF THE PARK OR THOSE THAT WALK IN FROM THE STREET OUT OF CURIOSITY BUT THAT DO NOT TAKE PART IN GARDENING ACTIVITIES.

CHALLENGES

THE MAIN CHALLENGE THAT THE PROJECT FACES IS GETTING ENOUGH HANDS TO HELP WITH THE PRACTICAL TASKS, INITIATIVES FOR NEW PROJECTS AND ENSURING THAT THE KNOWLEDGE IS SHARED. THE LOCATION OF THE GARDEN ALSO MEANS THAT THERE ARE SOME LOCAL RULES THAT MUST BE FOLLOWED, WHICH ARE HARD TO ENFORCE WHEN THE VOLUNTEERS ARE SO VARIED, AND IT IS DIFFICULT KEEPING TRACK OF EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE.



PRAGS GARDEN

DESCRIPTION

PRAGS GARDEN IS AN URBAN GARDEN THAT IS OPEN TO EVERYONE THAT WANTS TO JOIN. IT IS 860 SQUARE METERS LARGE AND CONSISTS OF 120 RAISED BEDS, AND OUTDOOR KITCHEN, BEEHIVE, CHICKEN COOP, AND CONTAINER SHED. THE GARDEN OPENED ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC IN MAY 2011 AND SINCE THEN HAS BEEN GARDENED COLLECTIVELY. ALL THE VEGETABLES ARE USED FOR COMMUNAL MEALS AND PUBLIC EVENTS. PRAGS GARDEN IS PART OF THE CULTURAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL ENVIRONMENT AT PB43 IN COPENHAGEN THAT IS LOCATED ON THE SITE OF A DISUSED PAINT FACTORY.

MOTIVATION

PRAGS GARDEN WAS FOUNDED TO CREATE AN INFORMAL MEETING PLACE WHERE ONE COULD CULTIVATE BOTH VEGETABLES, AS WELL AS SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS, AND EXPERIMENT WITH ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF CITY DEVELOPMENT. UNLIKE ALLOTMENT AND SCHOOL GARDENS, PRAGS GARDEN IS NOT OWNED BY ANYONE, IT ALSO DOES NOT REQUIRE OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP AND HAS NO AGE RESTRICTION. IN FACT ANYONE IS FREE TO JOIN AND TAKE PART IN SHAPING THE PHYSICAL LAYOUT OF THE GARDEN.

HALFWAY INTO THE FIRST GARDENING SEASON PRAGS GARDEN RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF COPENHAGEN, STATING THAT IT WAS FORBIDDEN TO ESTABLISH A GARDEN ON A FORMER FACTORY SITE. THE SITE WAS RESTRICTED TO INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL USE, AND NOT FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES. IF THE PROJECT WAS TO CONTINUE IT WAS REQUIRED THAT ALL THE SOIL WAS TO BE DUG UP AND SEALED WITH CONCRETE DUE TO MINOR POLLUTION IN THE GROUND. ACCORDING TO THE MUNICIPALITY IT WAS NOT SUFFICIENT THAT ALL THE VEGETABLES WERE GROWN IN FRESH SOIL IN SEALED ELEVATED BEDS. AFTER SIX MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS PRAGS GARDEN MANAGED TO REACH A COMPROMISE WITH THE MUNICIPALITY THAT ALLOWED THE PROJECT TO CONTINUE IF THE GROUND WAS COVERED WITH INEXPENSIVE PLASTIC PLATES AND A LAYER OF GRAVEL. THIS WAS A MUCH CHEAPER AND FLEXIBLE SOLUTION (70.000KR FOR THE PLATES, AND THE GRAVEL WAS DONATED) THAT FIT THE GARDEN'S TEMPORARY SCOPE (DUE TO CLOSE IN 2016). THE GARDEN STILL ADHERES TO THE STRICT ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE MUNICIPALITY - JUST IN A DIFFERENT WAY.

Find out more:
www.pb43.dk
or find them on facebook: "Prags Have"

PRAGS GARDEN START UP - BUDGET

Start up Budget: around 135.000 kr.

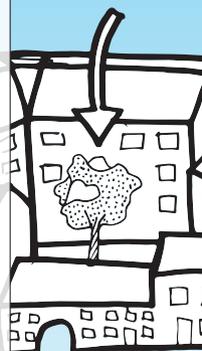
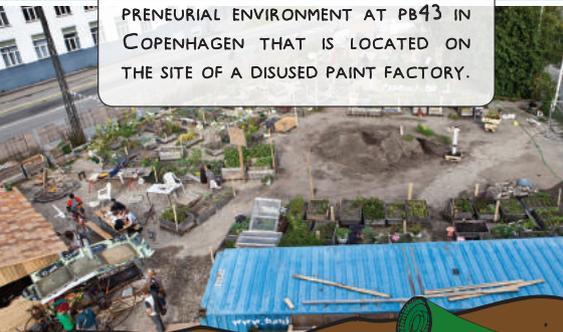
Materials: earth, seeds, cuttings, euro pallets, frames, gardening tools, benches, tables, flyers, signs, construction materials, beehives and work clothing, workshops, projects and more.

Tools: drills, saws, circular saw, hammers, screwdrivers and more.

Catering for the opening weekend.

Rent for workshops, garden meeting, storage and more.

Rent for the garden's 860m2 plot was free during the first season.



ADOPT-A-BOX

CONCEPT

ADOPT-A-BOX IS A PROJECT CARRIED OUT BY THE VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION, HIMMELHAVEN (SKY GARDEN). THEY PROVIDE BOXES FOR GROWING VEGETABLES THAT ARE ADOPTED BY SHOPS ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY ARE PLACED WHERE VISIBLY TO THE PUBLIC. ADOPT-A-BOX BUILDS THE BOXES THEMSELVES AND PLANTS CROPS IN COOPERATION WITH A LARGE NETWORK OF VOLUNTEERS.

ADOPT-A-BOX STARTED IN THE LATIN QUARTER IN AARHUS DENMARK IN 2012 AND BUILD 40 BOXES FOR THE SIDE-WALKS OF THE CITY, IN THE FIRST SEASON. THANKS TO A PUBLIC GRANT THE PROJECT HAS BEEN GIVEN THE MEANS TO EXPAND IN 2013. A GREENHOUSE HAS BEEN BUILT TO CULTIVATE PLANTS FOR THE NEW 100 BOXES THAT WILL FIND THEIR WAY TO THE STREETS OF AARHUS IN THE SECOND SEASON. THE ADOPT-A-BOX CONCEPT IS EXTREMELY SIMPLE AND CAN BE USED ON ALL KINDS OF STREETS AND IN ANY TYPE OF NEIGHBORHOOD.

PURPOSE

THE GROUP BEHIND ADOPT-A-BOX IS EXPERIMENTING WITH THE CONCEPT OF URBAN FARMING IN AN ATTEMPT TO CHALLENGE EXISTING USES OF THE CITY. BY GROWING VEGETABLES AND EDIBLE FLOWERS ON THE STREETS OF AARHUS, ONE (HOPEFULLY) BEGINS TO VIEW THE URBAN LANDSCAPE IN A DIFFERENT AND GREENER WAY.

Follow their blog: adoptabox.blogspot.dk find them on facebook: "Adopt-A-Box"



A YEAR'S CYCLE

In the spring the boxes are built, and seeds are sown in smaller pots, which will later grow in the boxes.

In May the boxes are distributed to participating stores.

During the summer the plants are cared for by their adoptive parents. When the growing season is over a communal harvest meal is arranged.

After harvesting the boxes are collected to be prepared for next season.

Adopt-A-Box uses the winter months to plan the forthcoming season, and to arrange social meetings and communal meals.

The association is built on a core group of passionate people that are responsible for the planning and organizing of the project. In addition there are a good number of people who come regularly to lend a hand, and thanks to Adopt-A-Box's wide-reaching network they are able to find even more people to pitch in on major working days.



GLOSSARY



LAND USE

WHETHER THE GARDEN IS ESTABLISHED ON AN INDUSTRIAL SITE, A ROOFTOP OR A PUBLIC SPACE, IT WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE AN APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN LAND USE. DEPENDING ON THE INDIVIDUAL CASE, THIS MAY INVOLVE A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL ISSUES. FOR INSTANCE, IF A FORMER INDUSTRIAL SITE IS POLLUTED IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO SEAL THE CONTAMINATED SOIL BEFORE YOU ARE ABLE TO GET PERMISSION TO FOUND A GARDEN.

BUILDING PERMISSION

IF YOU INTEND TO RAISE ANY LARGER STRUCTURE AS PART OF YOUR GARDEN IS SURE TO FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE RELEVANT BUILDING REGULATIONS. IN DENMARK, FOR EXAMPLE, TO CONSTRUCT A BUILDING WITH A FLOOR AREA LESS THAN 10M² DOES NOT REQUIRE A PERMIT - AS LONG AS IT IS NOT HIGHER THAN 2,5 METERS AND IS AT LEAST 2,5 METERS AWAY FROM OTHER BUILDINGS. YET BE AWARE THAT LOCAL COUNCILS CAN HAVE OTHER RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT MIGHT APPLY. BE SURE TO LOOK THEM UP, BUT REMEMBER THAT IT IS OFTEN EASIER TO GET FORGIVENESS THAN PERMISSION.

CITY-BEES

BEES TODAY HAS A DIFFICULT TIME SURVIVING WITHOUT THE HELP OF PEOPLE. IN RECENT YEARS THE NUMBER OF BEES HAS FALLEN DRASTICALLY WITHOUT ANY KNOWN REASON. A CONTINUED DECLINE OF THE BEE POPULATION WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR FOOD SUPPLY, AND WILL MAKE THE WORLD A MORE BORING PLACE. RAISING CITY BEES IS A FUN AND SUITABLE SOLUTION TO HELP REVERSE THIS NEGATIVE TREND. FOR SOME INSPIRATION FROM DENMARK VISIT: WWW.BYBI.DK - WWW.BIAVL.DK - WWW.BIAVL-DBL.DK

GUERRILLA GARDENING

GUERRILLA GARDENERS TURN ABANDONED PLOTS OF LAND AND DRAB PUBLIC SPACES GREEN, WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OR LANDOWNERS. EITHER IN COVERT OPERATIONS UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS, OR IN FULL VIEW OF THE PUBLIC, THEY USE GARDENING TO PROTEST AGAINST URBAN DEVELOPMENT, POOR MANAGEMENT OF PROPERTIES, AND COMMERCIAL BEAUTIFICATION OF THE CITY. WWW.GUERRILLAGARDENING.ORG.

SOIL POLLUTION

IS SURE THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR THE LEVEL OF SOIL POLLUTION WHEN YOU SET OUT TO ESTABLISH A GARDEN. IN DENMARK, SEE WWW.MST.DK/VIRKSOMHED OG MYNDIGHED/JORD/JORDFORURENING-SLOVEN AND SPECIFICALLY § 8 REGARDING CHANGES IN LAND USE.

MUNICIPAL HERO

THE MUNICIPAL HERO IS USUALLY AN EMPLOYEE OF THE MUNICIPALITY THAT IS ABLE TO SEE OPPORTUNITIES INSTEAD OF OBSTACLES. HE OR SHE IS A PERSON THAT CAN PROVIDE MORAL SUPPORT AND A USEFUL NETWORK, AS WELL AS TO COMMUNICATE ACROSS DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO CONVINCE THAT URBAN GARDENING CULTURE IS A GOOD IDEA.

MUNICIPAL PLAN

TRIES HAVING A LOOK AT THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL PLAN FOR THE AREA WHERE YOU INTEND TO CREATE YOUR GARDEN. INFORMATION ABOUT VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL, AND GREEN ZONES WILL GIVE YOU AN INSIGHT REGARDING THE MUNICIPALITY'S STRATEGY RELATING TO POTENTIAL SPACES WHERE AN URBAN GARDEN COULD BE LOCATED.

NON-PROFIT

ANON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION USES ANY SURPLUS REVENUE TO FURTHER ITS IDEALISTIC CAUSE INSTEAD OF DIVIDING IT AMONG THE OWNERS, SHAREHOLDERS OR INVESTORS CONNECTED TO THE PROJECT.

PERMACULTURE

IS A LIFE PHILOSOPHY THAT IS BASED ON ESTABLISHING NATURAL SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS. GARDENS THAT ARE FOUNDED ON PERMACULTURE PRINCIPLES MAY IN SOME WAYS COME TO RESEMBLE WILD FORESTS, WITH HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT SPECIES LIVING IN SYNERGY. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PRACTICAL FEATURES OF PERMACULTURE, WHICH CAN BE USED EASILY IN URBAN GARDENS. WWW.PERMACULTUREPRINCIPLES.COM.

URBAN GARDENING

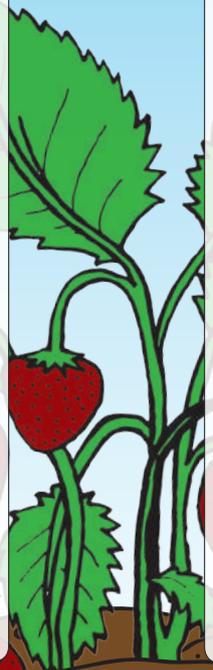
THE INSPIRATION COMES FROM PLACES SUCH AS NEW YORK AND CUBA WHERE THE PHENOMENON OF "URBAN AGRICULTURE" MEANS MORE THAN SIMPLY GROWING VEGETABLES IN CITIES. IN MANY CASES, URBAN GARDENING IS EQUALLY ABOUT CREATING A SPACE FOR A DIFFERENT TYPE OF URBAN DWELLING, WHICH REFLECTS DISTINCT SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES. TODAY, URBAN GARDENING CAN BE FOUND IN MANY LARGE CITIES ACROSS THE WORLD, AND THE PHENOMENON IS STILL EXPERIENCING A HEALTHY GROWTH.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRINKS

IF YOU WANT TO SELL FOOD AND DRINKS IN YOUR GARDEN YOU MIGHT HAVE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT HEALTH AND SAFETY, AND COMMERCIAL LEGISLATIONS. ONE SOLUTION CAN BE TO SIMPLY ASK FOR DONATIONS FOR FOOD AND DRINKS RATHER THAN TO USE PRICING IN ORDER TO RAISE MONEY.

TECHNICAL EXCHANGE

BECAUSE URBAN GARDENING IS STILL A RELATIVELY NEW PHENOMENON, THE RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE GROWING OF VEGETABLES AND OTHER PLANTS IN CITIES ARE STILL CHANGING. IT IS FAVORABLE TO INVITE THE MUNICIPALITY AND OTHER IMPORTANT ACTORS FOR TECHNICAL EXCHANGE WHERE EVERYONE CAN WORK TOGETHER IN ORDER TO DEVELOP THE MOST EFFECTIVE GUIDELINES, TO KEEP GIVE FREE SPACE FOR URBAN GARDENS GROW FREELY.



URBAN GARDEN CULTURE. HEROES WANTED.
1. EDITION, 1. ISSUE 2013

ENGLISH VERSION

ORIGINAL TITLE: BYHAVEKULTUR. HELTE SØGES.

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KOFOED MADSEN AND STEEN ANDERSEN.

WWW.FORLAGETPB43.DK

WWW.BYHAVEN2200.DK

WWW.PB43.DK

WWW.ADOPTABOX.BLOGSPOT.DK

EDITORS: PERNILLE KOFOED MADSEN AND STEEN ANDERSEN

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PHOTOGRAPHS: MAJKEN HVIID, STEEN ANDERSEN, MIA HELMER JENSEN,
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ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY: IVAN KOROLEV

ILLUSTRATIONS: WILLIAM THIEMER

PUBLISHED BY: FORLAGET PB43

PDF VERSION

TYPESETS: ALLER LIGHT, KG LIKE A SKYSCRAPER, 5YEARSOLDFONT
OG SF SLAPSTICK COMIC

CIRCULATION: DIGITAL

ISBN 978-87-995068-5-9

CREATED IN COLLABORATION WITH:



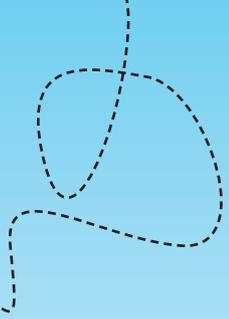
WHEN THE SEASON IS OVER



1. Remember to meet during the winter, both to evaluate the past season and to plan for the next, and just to hang out!

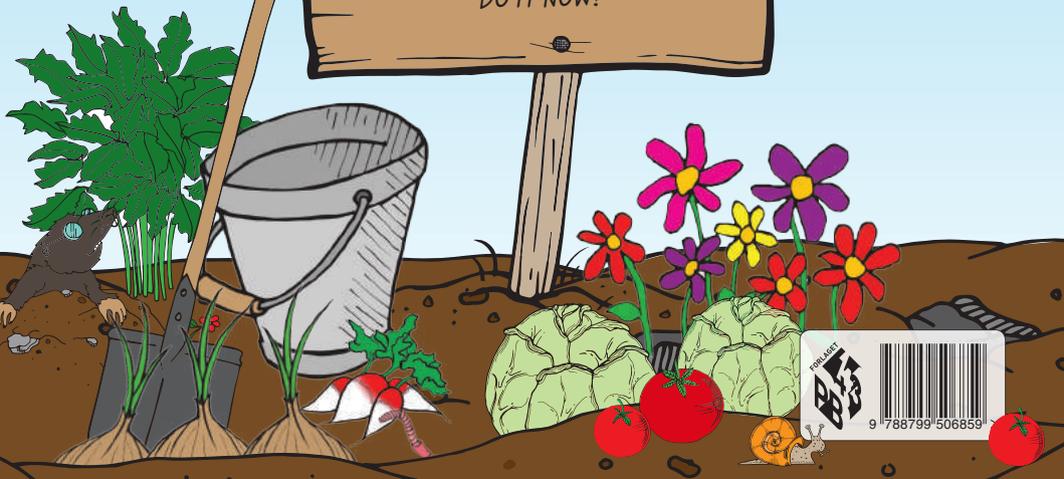
2. Organise workshops on, for example, germination and different cultivation methods.

3. Plan the coming season well in advance. Or else there will be a lot of confusion once its time to start gardening.



This is the tale of the small scale
that has great potential... And
it is based on true story.

DO MORE
DO IT NOW!



FOR ASSET

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