



NBS 3

# Brejos Community Garden

Project indicative: C3.0

Project type: complex intervention/measures and local regulation proposal

Linkages: C6.1+8.1, C6.3, C6.4

FC Cascais

## Short description of the garden intervention

**Implemented NBS3:** The purpose of this intervention was to exploit the potential of the abandoned land integrated into the urban ecological structure, and to support a low-income population that already explored existing spontaneous gardens.

## Description of the planned interventions

The vegetable garden was developed across three existing levels, carefully designed to harmonize with the original terrain. This layout provides convenient access to cultivation areas on platforms and ensures stabilization of the slopes in-between. The garden's structure comprises 37 plots, each measuring 30 m<sup>2</sup>. A system for internal slope drainage was implemented, directing the runoff into the stream. At the central platform, tool shelters were set up for collective use among horticulturists, accompanied by wooden benches for relaxation. Wood was chosen as the primary material for path kerbs and plot dividers. A wooden structure covered with mesh netting forms the garden's fence.

Within the garden, the slopes were adorned with a meadow created through hydroseeding with a blend of pollinator-friendly herbs, ensuring both stabilization and biodiversity enhancement. Aromatic plants were thoughtfully incorporated into the area's landscaping.

Spontaneous gardens were transformed into a community orchard comprising four rows of fruit trees: apricot, pear, lemon, and apple trees, all enclosed by a fence akin to that of the vegetable garden. The trees were planted on the slope, in slight terraces to facilitate their maintenance.

Before – spontaneous garden. Source Cascais Ambiente



Before – abandoned land. Source Cascais Ambiente



After – Urban orchard. Source Cascais Ambiente



Satellite images 2017 vs 2022. Source Cascais Ambiente



## Project data

### Location

Brejos neighbourhood, Tires  
São Domingos de Rana parish  
Latitude: 38,710301  
Longitude: -9,347444

### Surface area

Total project area: 11 300 m<sup>2</sup>  
Vegetable garden area (37 plots): 2 800 m<sup>2</sup>  
Orchard area: 970 m<sup>2</sup> (72 fruit trees)  
Green area: 680 m<sup>2</sup>

### Users

Total of 46: 37 for community garden, 9 for community orchard

### Type of crops

Organic seasonal vegetables and fruit trees.

### Management

Garden maintenance is collectively ensured by the horticulturists in common areas and cultivation plots. The slopes and areas outside the garden fall under the responsibility of Cascais Ambiente's green spaces maintenance teams. The Terras de Cascais team manages and supervises the horticulturists to ensure compliance with the rules and proper use of the plots.

### Responsibilities of users

- Attend to all mandatory training actions;
- Keep shared equipment in good condition;
- Use only organic farming techniques and products;
- Rationalize the use of water and compost;
- Keep the plot always cultivated.

## The Story

Before – July 2021



After – February 2022



### Challenges encountered during the implementation process.

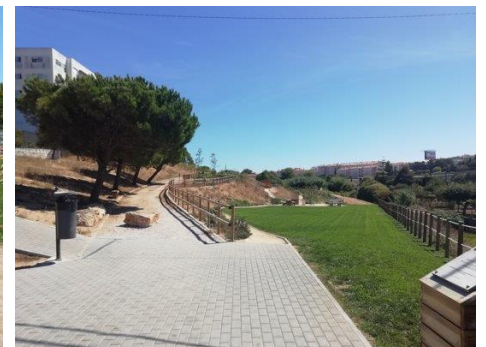
In the building process, the project had to be changed to ensure access to the rainwater pipes identified during excavations. During this process, several residents approached us expressing concerns about the lack of green space for recreation and leisure in the neighbourhood, which was initially requested during co-participation activities. As a result of this request, the project was altered, leading to a reduction of 3 cultivation plots and the creation of a new leisure green space adjacent to the garden



Ensuring access to rainwater pipes. Source: Coscais Ambiente



As a result of citizen requests, the community garden development included green spaces for leisure and recreation. Source Coscais Ambiente



### Challenges encountered since the operation started.

- The design process was challenging due to the level differences and slopes.
- Landscaping is still required in the surrounding area.
- Public land was not available for the project.
- Acquiring additional land to execute the full project with a bridge connecting the riverbanks posed difficulties.
- Illegal occupation of public land occurred in two areas. One of them resulted in the project being divided into two phases. The initial design envisioned a walkway alongside the garden, reaching the bridge, but the illegal building was in the way. Currently, authorities are in the process of removing the building.



Sloped terrain. Source: Cascais Ambiente



Illegal land occupation. Source: Cascais Ambiente



## Is it a success?

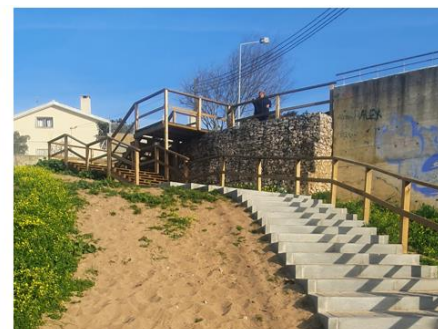
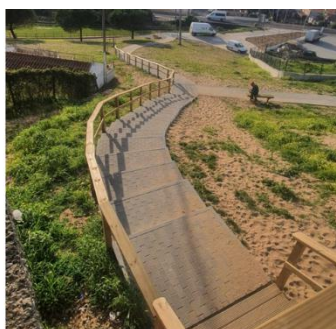
Absolutely!!!

With access to nutritious and high-quality food, the community benefits immensely. Moreover, the initiative has led to a notable enhancement in residents' proficiency in organic farming techniques, empowering them with valuable skills. The positive input and feedback from the community serve as evidence of the project success.

Cultivated community garden – after intervention. Source: Cascais Ambiente



Training in organic farming. Source: Cascais Ambiente



Neighborhood accessibility improvement (before and after). Source: Cascais Ambiente