



Living Lab Dortmund, Germany

NBS description

The food forest of St. Urbanus community center is built on a 3,000 m² area as a self-sustaining woodland permaculture ecosystem designed for food production in the Dortmund Living Lab district. The garden has climbing aids, herbs, berry bushes, wild fruit bushes and fruit trees. In addition to food production, it serves also as a place of education for the local citizens to learn about sustainable cultivation methods for their private gardens. A group of 20 members of the local community supervise the garden, meeting on a weekly basis for maintenance activities. In 2021, it was opened to all citizens of Huckarde.

Aim & goals

This NBS in the Living Lab Dortmund-Huckarde aims at:

- creating a community-managed permaculture food forest fostering local urban food production.
- promoting community building through food production and consumption by applying social innovations
- fostering a sense of belonging and ownership of the church community center's green spaces
- environmental education for the scouts and Huckarde residents to care for the environment through social interactions, agricultural activities, and seasonal festivals.

Target groups (beneficiaries)

The food forest is beneficial for boy and girl scouts, St. Urbanus church community, and citizens of Huckarde.

Main responsible partner

South Westphalia University of Applied Science (SWUAS) in collaboration with the NGO Die Urbanisten e.V.

Contact

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Area of implementation

Converting 3,000 m² at the rear of an unused garden area at St. Urbanus church community center into a food forest.

GPS coordinates: 51.530686, 7.418268

ProGREG partners involved

NGO die Urbanisten supports the implementing partner The South Westphalia University of Applied Science in organizing planting activities and citizen participation workshops. The City of Dortmund, Department of Urban Renewal is responsible for the environmental and social monitoring activities including monitoring air quality and temperature, SOPARC and visitor questionnaire.

Other stakeholders involved

- Church community St. Urbanus (land owner)
- Boy and girl scouts
- Local citizens of Huckarde
- Experts in urban gardening and permaculture/food forest
- Regional Emscher River Association (Emschergenossenschaft)

Implementation budget

Total implementation budget: 10.000 € (100% proGREG funded)

Timeframe

Start November 2019 → Completion November 2022

