

HYBRID PARKS

January 2013

The [partnership](#) sends best wishes for a hybrid new year: peaceful, prosperous and green.

This edition of the newsletter provides short summaries of major events organised by Hybrid Parks during the first year of its existence as a project supported by [INTERREG IVC](#). Links will direct you to those sections of our websites www.hybridparks.eu or www.eghn.eu that provide additional information.

Partners have finalised their work on six best practice case studies. The next newsletter will focus on those studies, which will then be available for the public as well.

Currently the preparation of the next workshops and conferences is ongoing and most dates have been set:

- Workshop "Environment 1": *Paola (Malta), April (details t.b.c.)*
- Second Open Conference and Study Tour: *Cheshire (UK), May 13th – 15th*
- Workshop "Economy 2": *Pori (Finland), June 14th – 15th*

While the conference will be open for external participants (by registration and confirmation), a limited number of professionals may also join the workshops. Please [send a request](#) to the Lead Partner.



Workshop "Economy 1" in North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany)

The benefits of high quality public green areas and the vital contribution of municipalities, NGOs and other groups in this context are undisputed. How a federal state like North Rhine-Westphalia and a regional authority like the Regional Association Ruhr (RVR) can support such provisions and how they use parks and gardens for policies of sustainable development was shown in the presentations by [Evamaria Küppers-Ullrich](#) (with a focus on liveable cities in times of economic, demographic and climatic change) and [Michael Schwarze-Rodrian](#) (with a focus on the Emscher Landscape Park and the Ruhr as European Capital of Culture 2010).

However, the precise contribution of investments in green infrastructures to economic effects such as the creation of new locations or a new regional image is difficult to be measured. This is where the next presentation started. [Prof. Dietwald Gruehn](#) showed models and examples of his research work on land value increasing effects by open spaces in European cities.

How a park itself can be an economic factor, generating income and creating new activities and jobs was shown by [Jens Spanjer](#) in his presentation on Schloss Dyck. After the guided tour through the premises of Schloss Dyck, presentations by partners from Poland, Malta, the UK and Germany revealed that the economic effects of investments in parks and gardens can often be combined with social and environmental benefits.

The study trip on the second day brought the group to the Ruhr region. First they visited [Phoenix See](#) in Dortmund, where a former steel factory site is transformed into a landscape with a lake, hills, and leisure facilities flanked by high quality housing and business areas. After a stop at one of the many inner city allotment gardens, the day ended with a visit to the famous [Landscape Park Duisburg-Nord](#) where remains of the former high furnaces and other industrial remains form a kind of modern follies giving space for many leisure activities and adventures.



Open Conference in Umbria (Italy)

The first open conference of Hybrid Parks was held in Assisi on 23rd of November 2012. Hosted by Umbria Region it focussed on the exchange of knowledge and experience and transfer of best practices.

The presentations and discussions (see [agenda as PDF](#)) showed the great variety of strategies implemented by institutions, economic entities, the public sector and private owners to find models of sustainable management both at the economic and the environmental level. The variety of these solutions depends on many different factors: type of asset (natural reserve, park or garden), ownership (public or private), predominant function (recreational, productive, educational, etc.) and availability of regulatory instruments.

During the conference, a poster exhibition (collected through an open call for papers) showed examples of realised best practices concerning the enhancement and the management of parks and gardens based on the three main themes of the project: Raising awareness of environmental issues; User enlargement and social relapses; Economic development and tourism.

Documentation will be available on the [website](#) soon.



Workshop "Social1" in Lund (Sweden)

The [City Park in Lund](#) was the main venue and also one of the subjects discussed within this workshop in June 2012 focussing on the social dimension of parks and gardens.

Founded in 1911, the City Park park was always well used, but present-day visitors and urban development required a major redesign and redevelopment. The partners discussed how conflicting user demands, but also different objectives set by heritage conservation (the park includes remains of the ancient city wall), nature protection (the park is a NATURA 2000 site) and modern park design have influenced the new Masterplan ([download PDF, 40 MB](#)) and visited the new structures implemented during the first phase of the modernization.

The next day started with a presentation by Prof. Grahn ([article available here](#), 0,6 MB), one of the leading experts for healing (or therapeutic) gardens. The healing garden at Alnarp University was explored then and the advantages and limitations of therapies making use of the unique healing qualities of gardens were discussed in much detail on site.

Central to the visit of Malmö was the guided tour by John Taylor through the [Castle Garden](#). This garden was set up by citizens on a public ground close to the city's centre. Even today vegetables and flowers are grown here to be used in the garden's restaurant or to be sold in the plant shop. Modern, designed gardens add to the quality of the place which is a major visitor attraction today but still offers working and training opportunities to many people who have difficulties to find jobs elsewhere.

Imprint / Impressum:

Lead Partner:

Schloss Dyck Foundation
Centre for Garden Art and Landscape Design
D - 41363 Jüchen
www.stiftung-schloss-dyck.de
mail@hybridparks.eu
Responsible for this newsletter

