

HYBRID PARKS

March 2013

Dear Sirs,

The [partnership](#) has published six best practice case studies, which we present in this newsletter. Studies are available as downloads from the project's website www.hybridparks.eu.

Finally you will find some information about forthcoming events that will be hosted by the project.



Urban renewal with resident involvement (Linköping)

Skäggetorp in Linköping is a typical housing district of the 1970s in risk of a further physical decline and social problems. The majority its 59 hectares of parkland is made up of open, grassy areas that have no particular function. A strategic district plan for Skäggetorp was adopted by Linköping's City Council in 2009.

The objectives included providing a newly designed district park with park "rooms" where residents, property owners, societies, schools and others can share involvement in making the local environment accessible, attractive and safe. Here the knowledge from the work with the popular city park and new ideas such as urban farming and gardening as a tool for social inclusion and ecological and economical sustainability.

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Silesian Botanical Garden (Silesia)

The mission of the Silesian Botanical Garden is active biodiversity conservation through the cultivation of rare and endangered species of plants and their transfer from cultivated areas to their proper habitats, the preservation of valuable yet diminishing field and meadow cultures and old varieties of fruit trees.

But the objectives were broader than that: It should become a meeting place and an environment suitable for exchanging ideas on all subjects, in particular culture, philosophy, social issues. Finally, the idea was to create a friendly and open space for everyone who simply needs rest and a break from the fast-paced city life. Core activities of SiBG are ecological and environmental educational initiatives for children, youth and adults.

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Cheshire's Gardens of Distinction (Cheshire West & Chester)

Cheshire's Gardens of Distinction (CGoD) project celebrates the richness and diversity of Cheshire's horticultural heritage and green spaces. Supported by ERDF, the regional-level intervention aimed at increasing visitor spend in North West England by promoting 'Cheshire's Gardens of Distinction' by Marketing Cheshire, 'AdCap' by Cumbria Tourism and 'Modern History' by Marketing Manchester.

Locally this project has been delivered by Marketing Cheshire which has built on the success of Cheshire's Year of Gardens' 08. The CGoD project continued to achieve significant impact for the regional tourism industry from local, national and international markets. But also economic, social and environmental impacts of the 3 year programme can be demonstrated.

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Parks and Gardens in Spatial Policies (North Rhine-Westphalia)

In North Rhine–Westphalia a series and combination of innovative policy tools on the local and regional level support the use of the unique resources of parks, landscapes, culture and heritage for sustainable environmental, social and economic development policies.

Public investments in the enhancement or creation of green sites, made possible by State Garden Shows and the REGIONALE for instance, have been vital in many municipalities to enhance urban structures, to redevelop derelict sites, to attract new business, to enhance housing areas, to revitalise urban centres etc. Equally important, policies are based on competitions for innovative and convincing strategies and on new forms of dialogue and cooperation crossing administrative and professional borders.

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Nature in the Garden City (Lower Austria)

When the “Nature in the Garden” campaign was considered before it was established in 1999, public space was included in many deliberations even though the campaign was initially geared primarily to owners of home gardens. The new idea was for communities’ green spaces to act as a model for citizens, encouraging them to design and maintain their own gardens in a more natural way.

A cornerstone was the 2008 Provincial Garden Show with its sites at Tulln and Grafeneck. Here traditional garden expertise was presented to the public combining high quality design and ecological values. Today many municipalities use “Nature in the Garden” material to inform residents about seasonally relevant topics in public green spaces and apply for the award "Nature in the Garden".

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Valley of Butterflies (Rhodes)

The Valley of Butterflies is one of Rhodes' major tourist attractions. This popularity is due to the population density of one insect species, *Panaxia*. In the early 1980s, the population had dramatically decreased. Tourism was one of the causes (as climate, fires, agriculture), but at the same time the motivating agent for the population to demand remedial measures.

In the first phase (1985), measures included information to visitors, environmental education, guarding the area and upgrading the valley. In 1991, there were extensive landscaping works, new fencing, establishing of footpaths, as well as water control infrastructure works. These interventions resulted in less damage, increased vegetation, preserving moisture, and the steady rebound of butterfly populations.

[Please contact us](#) if you want to receive this case study.



Next Hybrid Parks Events (April, May, June)

Currently the agendas for these workshops and conferences have been agreed:

- Workshop "Environment 1": *Paola (Malta), April 17th - 18th* - [AGENDA](#)
- Second Open Conference and Study Tour: *Cheshire (UK), May 13th - 15th* - [AGENDA](#)
- Workshop "Economy 2": *Pori (Finland), June 14th - 15th* - [AGENDA](#)

Events will be open for a limited number of external participants. Please [send a request](#) to the Lead Partner for registration and confirmation.

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Responsible for this newsletter on behalf of the entire partnership



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