



OFFICE INTERNATIONAL

du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux

Regroupement des fédérations européennes des jardins familiaux
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**Statement made by the International Congress in Copenhagen,
August 2011**

**Preserve and develop the allotment garden operations in Stockholm! Take
advantage of Årstafältet's allotment gardens and let them enrich the
outdoor environment in the upcoming settlement!**

The International Allotment Garden Federation is an association made up of the national allotment garden federations of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Japan, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Switzerland, Slovakia, Sweden, Germany, and Austria. Together, they have close to three million active members. Every three years the International Federation hosts a congress. This year's congress took place in Copenhagen from August 18-20. Congress has agreed on the following statement:

Preserve and develop the allotment garden sites in Stockholm! Take advantage of Årstafältet's allotment gardens and let them enrich the outdoor environment in the upcoming settlement!


In 1999 the City of Stockholm proudly presented their plans for a landscape park with a new allotment area on the field of Årstafältet. The plans were executed and ten years ago the allotments opened. The allotment gardens have become a great asset, not only for the colonists themselves, but for everyone living nearby! It was designed with a promenade through the entire area and is always open to visitors. The gardens have great satisfaction value and the activities of the allotment garden society truly enrich people's lives in the district.


It is therefore both surprising and noteworthy that the City of Stockholm has apparently not even considered preserving the allotments as an asset in the future settlement, but has decided to build on Årstafältet instead of completing the original plans for a large landscape park. We have seen preliminary sketches of an initial detailed plan for a portion of the field. In challenging vicinity of the existing allotments, parkland is planned in as a wedge in the proposed settlement. Parkland, which will require costly maintenance, and probably not even come close to generating the floral splendor, biodiversity, and social community generated by the allotment area.


It seems entirely possible to preserve the existing allotment area as an integral part of the proposed housing construction, even if it means that it cannot be designed exactly as intended. Since there are no legally binding new plans yet, it is not too late to reconsider and do the right thing.






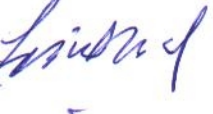

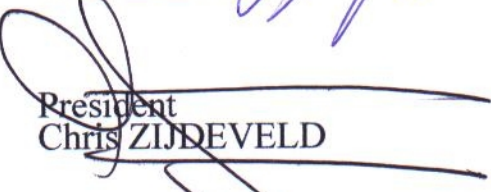
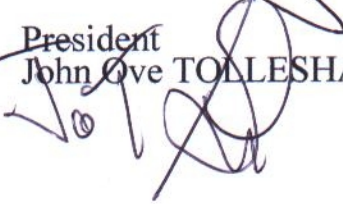
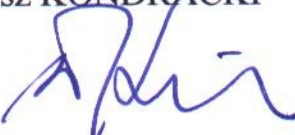
The International Allotment Garden Federation Congress therefore calls on the City of Stockholm to carefully examine how the new intentions with comprehensive housing construction on Årstafältet can be completed without having to erase the city's newest allotment area. If the City still chooses to tear down the allotments, the City must, in consultation with Årstafältet colonists, create the best possible conditions, both financially and in other respects, for continued allotment activities at a new location of Årstafältet. That is a prerequisite for the colonists to be able to start over and for the allotment garden society to live on.

Congress also urges the City of Stockholm not to, in other current matters, view allotment garden areas as land reserves for housing construction. As more homes are built, we need more allotments, not fewer!


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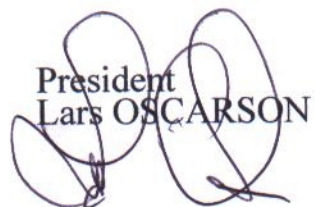

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