

The Netherlands: ATV De Uithof in the Hague

Nature friendly Gardening: to continue developing and to be a motivation for all is a *conditio sine qua non*

QUALITY MARK WITH 4 DOTS

Only a small group of allotment associations in the Netherlands can proudly say that they may carry the 'National Quality Mark for Natural Gardening'. This quality mark comes with the maximum of 4 attainable dots. Since 2021, the amateur allotment association 'ATV De Uithof' in The Hague is proud to be one of these associations!

FREE AND CREATIVE THINKING

Since 2010, the entire association is fully committed to the principle of 'Natural gardening'. This has been implemented throughout the entire park. Their main focus is to enthuse circular gardening based on the concept of free and creative thinking. The fact that their association consists of a mix of horticulturists in terms of experience and background is a major advantage in their goal to transfer both knowledge and motivation.

NATURE LEARNING PATH

The method that they have chosen to do this, is a 'Nature-Learning path'. This path winds through the park like an inviting educational artery directly from the main entrance across the entire park. Visitors can find inspiration and gardeners can learn from each other. Directing posts, information boards, workshops and walking tours provide great support for everyone that would have this desire. From the main paths they build a proverbial bridge to the individual gardens.

The path consists of a herb garden, butterfly garden, toad pool and a food & thickets forest. They also pay a lot of attention to the housing of (wild) bees, hedgehogs, ducks and bats.

Pruning and maintenance of the waterfront and a compost heap are completely devoted to 'Natural gardening', as is their shop. They give space to a good and conscious ecological balance in various ways.

CONTINUING DEVELOPING

Already more than fifty percent of the 213 gardens are open to 'Natural gardening'! Of course ATV De Uithof will continue to develop itself and be an incentive for many. They take their role and responsibility as quality mark bearing association extremely serious as they take a lot of pride from it.

ATV De Uithof received the International Federation's diploma for ecological gardening.



Herbgarden in shape of a cake.



All nature-friendly bulbs to make gardens and garden-park beautiful in spring.



Beekeeper of the park.



Taking good care of the butterflies.



The large insect hotel garden



Plant (cuttings) exchange place



Everybody works together to make the park nature friendly.