

The Netherlands: The De Tuinpark Tuinwijck (Gardenpark Tuinwijck) in Amsterdam

De Tuinpark Tuinwijck (Gardenpark Tuinwijck) from Amsterdam takes all members on board to garden in a nature-friendly way

NATURAL-FRIENDLY MANAGEMENT

Tuinpark Tuinwijck is located on the north side of Amsterdam and, located along the Ring A10, forms a transition zone between the urban buildings and the green of the landscape around the city. The green, agricultural and ecological landscape, which is characterized by ditches and meadows with the associated flora and fauna, is in a sense continued in the design of the garden park. The park has 229 gardens that are available and affordable for all residents of Amsterdam. The gardeners in the park are a reflection of the inhabitants of the city.

Tuinpark Tuinwijck was founded in 1910 as the first Amsterdam allotment complex. Due to the growth of the city, the gardens had to be moved several times, but since 1974 the gardeners in Amsterdam Noord have been given a permanent place. The design of the park was unique for that time; it is the first allotment park that has been laid out entirely in a park form with a lot of public greenery that not only gardeners but everyone can enjoy.

The public green space is managed by a special committee and is based on natural gardening. Because of the diverse nature of all public greenery, there is a lot of room for experiencing and the creation of diverse "green ecological zones". Natural-friendly management, and maintenance and design is always the aim and objective. Tuinwijck wants to create an oasis in the city for flora and fauna. But also a place for nature and environmental education for the gardeners, children and local residents. They are well on their way: they have now reached the highest category of the National Quality Mark of Natural Gardening.

A FEW EXAMPLES

To give an idea of how they shape natural gardening in the maintenance of public greenery, here below are a few examples.

1. Botanical garden

In this place only native plant species grow that thrive on the peat soil of the park. A stacking wall surrounds the whole thing. Lizards and special fern species have already been spotted here.

2. Bird Island

This island with a natural ruggedness is not accessible. Due to the minimal disturbance, this is a resting place for fauna. A beekeeper has put his hives here. The bee colonies ensure pollination of the fruit trees in the park.

3. Baskets and bird boxes, natural shelters

At the park there is a lot of attention for biodiversity and the lure of protected animal species. Everywhere in the park you will find bird boxes (also for owls), bat boxes and breeding baskets. Also a toad heap and an insect hotel can be found.

4. Borders and hedges, paths

In the public greenery along the paths there are many bee and butterfly plants, partly native. It is a colorful blooming ribbon through the park with a different expression in each season.

Under the bushes in the general parts, the herb vegetation is basically left alone. In many places, different cover crops grow together, which contributes to biodiversity.

There is an experiment to create more green paths. The first results are positive. They want to continue with this in the coming years.

5. Water and ditches

Many gardens are adjacent to a ditch. Because of the soft peat soil, the shores are shod here but still with plenty of room for different shore plants. Along the public greenery, many shores have been kept low so that there is a semi wet biotope with marsh plants, aquatic insects and amphibians. This helps to get good water quality.

6. Trees

In the almost fifty years that this park has existed, the trees have been given the opportunity to reach full maturity. The logging policy is careful and restrained. They reserve some dead trees for the woodpecker.

7. Playground

The large playing field is not only for the children but is also a place where all kinds of joint activities take place. Through extensive mowing management and natural play facilities, it forms a unity with the adjacent botanical garden.

8. Food forest

On the edge of the park Tuinwijck wants to plant a food forest with trees and shrubs that provide all kinds of edibles for everyone. They give small, yet to be grown trees a place in the 'nursery'.

BUT TUINWIJCK DOES MORE

In their greenhouse, cultivated and wild plants are grown and sold for little money. In addition, it is a central place where people can go with questions.

They have a well-stocked shop with exclusively organic seeds and a wide range of environmentally friendly products.

Pruned wood is collected at a central location and then shredded and sold in the store. Composting on your own garden is encouraged. Just like the use of ditch and rainwater.

Through the club magazine a lot of information is given and knowledge is shared, for example: the bad effects of pesticides, counts of bees and butterflies, info about permaculture and other informative lectures. In the magazine they also write about the progress of the construction of their "social house" which when finished will provide a house and garden on the park, for people from the city whom are struggling physically or mentally, to come back to themselves.

Last but not least. Their park is not only a place for flora and fauna but also for people. Tuinwijck also feels responsible for this. After all, it is a park for all people of Amsterdam who want to escape the hustle and bustle of the city.

De Tuinpark Tuinwijck received the International Federation's diploma for ecological gardening.



















