



# Perspectives for Urban Forest Gardens in Germany

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# About the project „Urbane Waldgärten“ (Urban Forest Gardens UFG)



→ Forest gardens can provide multifunctional solutions to urban challenges & synergies

**Trial & Development project** – Funding **Federal Agency f. Nature Protection, Germany**  
carried out by **J. Schulz, T. Lipp & A. Zurell** at **University of Potsdam**, 07/2018 to 04/2020

**Goal:** Investigating feasibility & transferable conditions for UFG:

→ Site suitability, legal aspects, partnership development, participatory design

# Research questions & Methods

What are the **conditions for establishing** forest gardens in German cities?

Who are the main **players & stakeholders** and how to involve them?

What are the **key transferable aspects** for establishment in German cities?

## Methods

### Spatial aspects:

site search & suitability criteria



### Presentations & consultations:

city administration, experts, NGOs, public

→ Round table discussions, workshops

literature reviews, surveys, field visits



### Legal aspects:

planning laws, regulations, zoning



### Participatory process

- mobilization & consultation
- co-design workshops & working groups

### Social aspects:

Citizen demand & participation

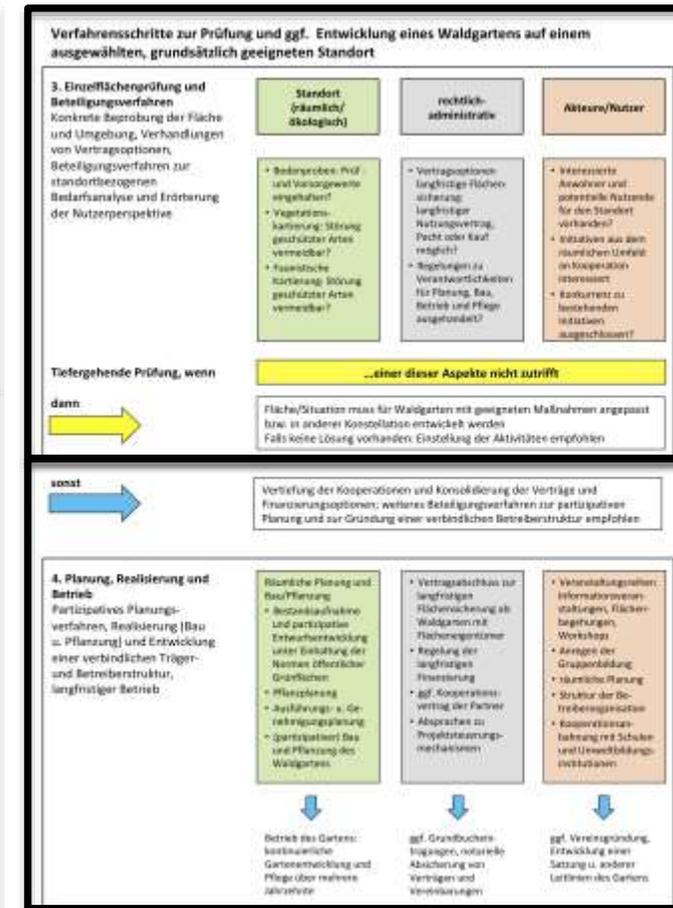
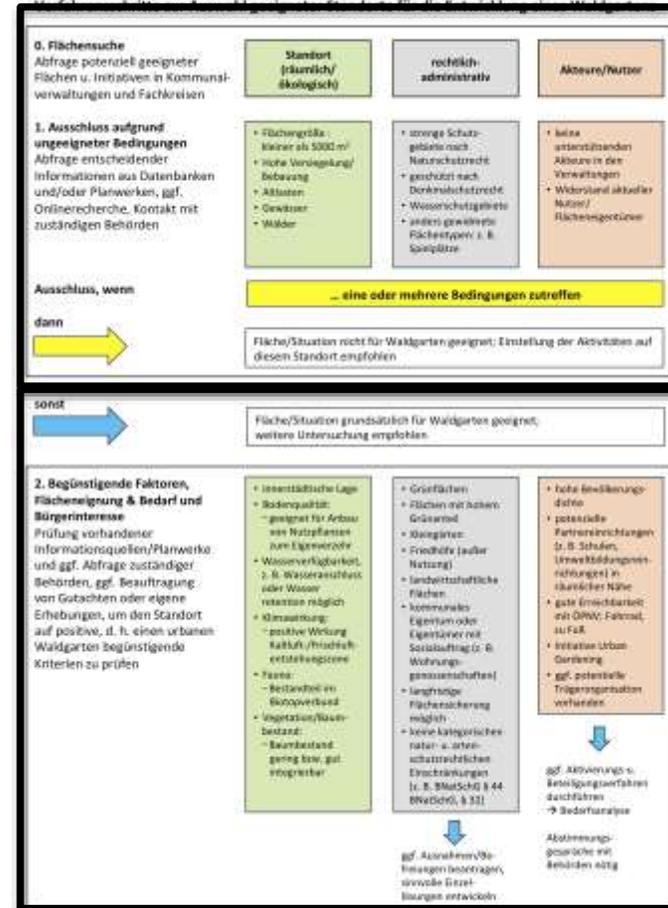
Potential garden operation



# Results: Transferable guidelines for site selection & project development

## Site search & suitability evaluation

1. search for potential UFG sites & partners: criteria for evaluation → exclude unsuitable options
2. Evaluation of favouring conditions → systematic comparison of sites for selection
3. In-depth site assessments & local participatory process → initiation of partnerships
4. Selected sites: contracts, co-design of the UFG & operator organisation



“Urbane Waldgärten”. Abschlussbericht zur Voruntersuchung für das Erprobungs- u. Entwicklungsvorhaben „Waldgärten als langfristige, multifunktionale Flächennutzung im urbanen Raum“, Schulz, J. et. al.; to be published in spring 2021 by BfN.



# Step 1: Potential sites and their evaluation by criteria Results from Berlin



Kriterien / Standorte	Britz KGA- Ersatzfläche	Prinzes-sinneng Jacobi Friedhof	Bonhoeffer Ufer	Horst Dohm Eisstadion	Volkspark Lichtenrade	Jungfern-heide	Krumme Strasse Park	Prinzess. Moritzplatz	Westkreuz	Hans Baluschek Park
<b>Größe</b>	27.000	5000	3000 +	7000	5000	?	7000	4000	5000	5000 +
<b>Baumbestand / Naturschutz</b>	--	x	x / -	--	x	x	--	--	x	--
<b>Altlasten</b>	--	?	?	x	?	?	?	x	?	?
<b>Versiegelung</b>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	x	--	--
<b>Interesse Verwaltung</b>	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	?	--	--
<b>Partner / Betreiber vorhanden</b>	x	x	x / ?	--	--	--	--	x	?	--
<b>Bürgerinitiative Essbare Stadt</b>	--	x	x	--	?	--	x	x	x	?
<b>langfristige Flächensicherung</b>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	?	--	?
<b>langfristiger Nutzungsvertrag</b>	möglich	?	x / ?	?	?	--	--	?	--	?

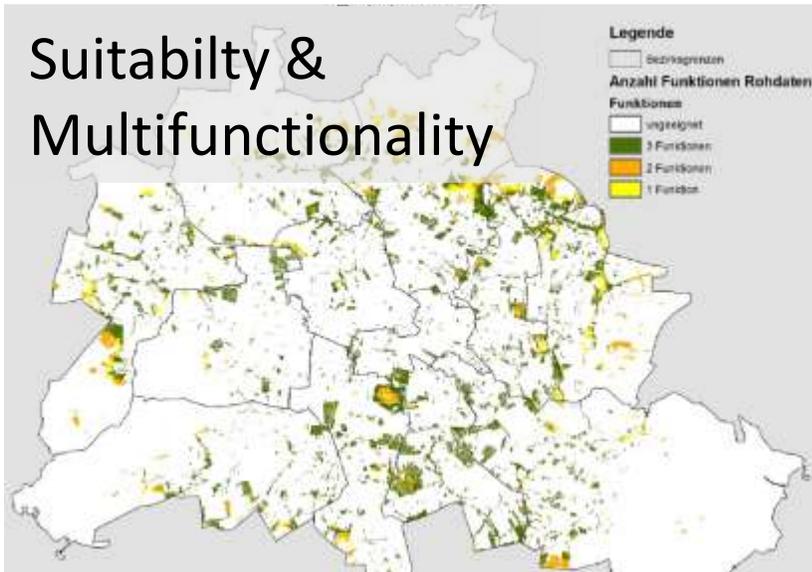


# Step 2: Evaluation of favouring conditions on urban scale Results from Berlin

## Potentially suitable sites



## Suitability & Multifunctionality



Kriterien / Standorte	Britz KGA-Ersatzfläche	Prinzes-sinneng Jacobi Friedhof	Bonhoeffer Ufer	Horst Dohm Eisstadion	Volkspark Lichtenrade	Jungfern-heide	Krumme Strasse Park	Prinzess. Moritzplatz	Westkreuz	Hans Baluschek Park
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<b>Altlasten</b>	--	?	?	x	?	?	?	x	?	?
<b>Versiegelung</b>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	x	--	--
<b>Interesse Verwaltung</b>	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	?	--	--
<b>Partner / Betreiber vorhanden</b>	x	x	x / ?	--	--	--	--	x	?	--
<b>Bürgerinitiative Essbare Stadt</b>	--	x	x	--	?	--	x	x	x	?
<b>langfristige Flächensicherung</b>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	?	--	?
<b>langfristiger Nutzungsvertrag</b>	möglich	?	x / ?	?	?	--	--	?	--	?

← GIS based suitability & multifunctionality assessment on urban scale, GIS model developed and tested for Berlin & Kassel



# Step 3: In-depth assessment of selected sites & participatory process

**Berlin-Britz:** 2,8 ha, designated allotment garden → UFG



- soil + vegetation surveys
- long-term land use contract options
- cooperation with public administr.
- residents' interest

**Kassel:** 2 sites selected with public ideas & participation



# Step 4: Co-design of the forest garden & organisation: Impressions from Berlin



## Workshops & “Marketplaces”

- user demands for the UFG
- zones & spatial structure of the UFG
- **Organisation of the UFG:** operation, management, responsibilities, communication and decision-making

→ Collection of ideas & negotiation

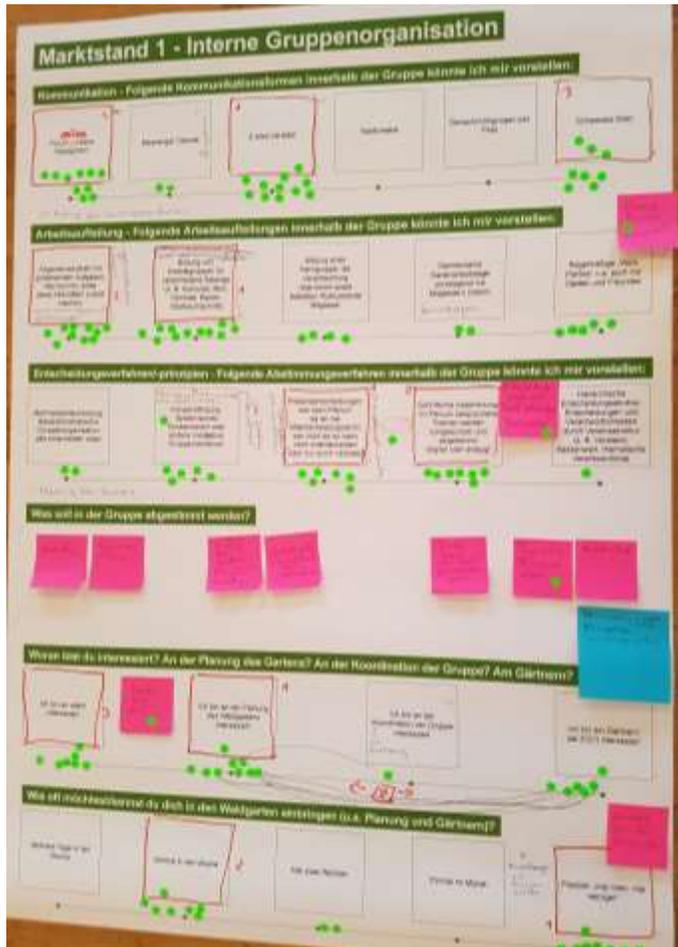
→ group formation & joint learning



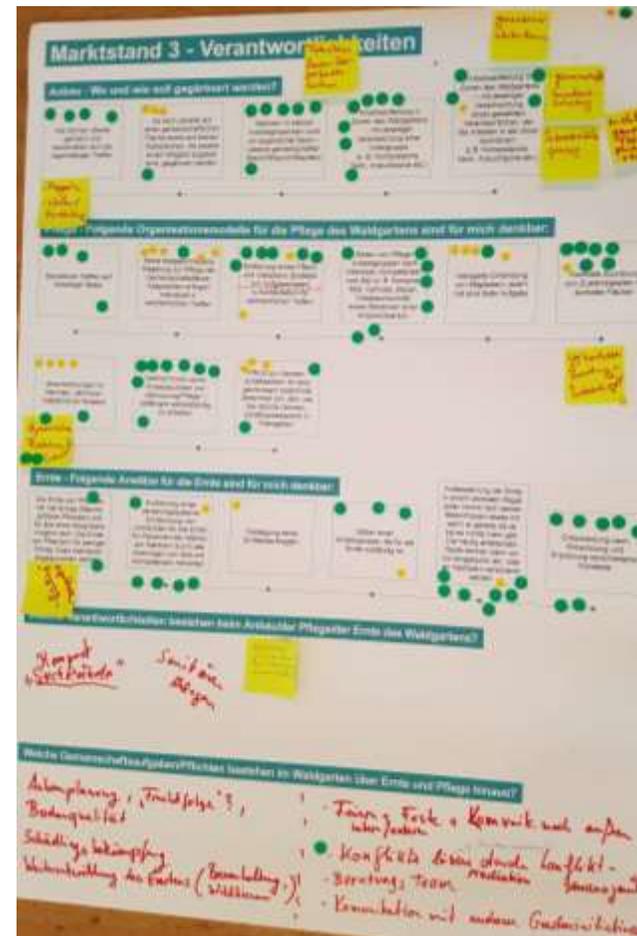
# Step 4: Co-design of the forest garden & organisation: Impressions from Berlin

Examples of results from some of the Marketplaces concerning the UFG Berlin Britz

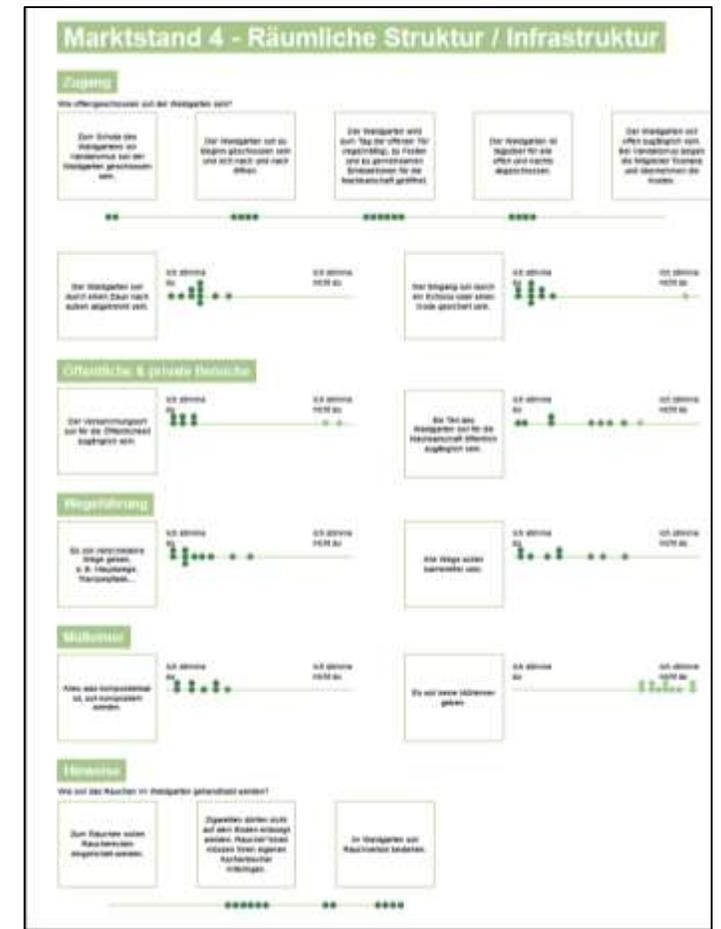
Group organization, decisions, communication



Garden responsibilities: Maintenance & harvest



Spatial structure, access & infrastructure



# Conclusions and outlook

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## Main results and perspective

- UFG are feasible in public green spaces in German cities
- generally transferable conditions investigated and reported, guidelines available
- Interest & support (public & authorities) for practical demonstration & research projects

## Challenges

- interdisciplinary cooperation of different sectors in public administration
- community operation & management structure: experimental process needed

## Outlook

Development of 3 UFG as demonstration and research projects (1 in Berlin, 2 in Kassel), 04/2021 to 03/2027. Funding: Bundesprogramm Biologische Vielfalt

→ Co-Design & Realization, Research on ecological, social & productivity development



Thanks to my colleagues at the University of Potsdam, the many collaborators in German cities and the support of the German Federal Agency for Nature Protection!



Thank you for your attention! We will be happy to collaborate & share our results!

Further information: [www.urbane-waldgaerten.de](http://www.urbane-waldgaerten.de)

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