

# CATEGORY 1: MUNICIPAL GREEN AREAS – ECOLOGICALLY DESIGNED AND CULTIVATED



## **MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF LINZ - STADTGRÜN (CITY GREEN) (AT, SINCE 2000) FLOWER MEADOWS**

Great emphasis is placed on environmental protection and the promotion of urban nature in the city parks of Linz: spread all over the city, there are 218.000 m<sup>2</sup> of flower meadows, which are free to develop in a near-natural way. Thanks to changed mowing cycles and the return to traditional cultivation methods, daisy and sage, meadow bellflower and catchfly, as well as many other plant species are returning to the city, accompanied by a colourful fauna. As a result, the flowered areas create colourful, lively sights in the middle of Linz. The number of extensively cultivated meadows has continuously increased since 2000. These flower and butterfly meadows are mown only twice or three times a year and not fertilised, thanks to which an enormous diversity of flowers and herbs can develop. The intention is not to use short-lived seed mixtures but to allow a natural succession. This leads to location-appropriate meadow communities developing over the years, depending on the water balance and exposure, with an optimal optical added value being achieved. With signpostings, the purpose of this form of cultivation is explained. The changed machine equipment is used much less frequently. On a steep area at the Schlossberg of Linz, even a scythe is used for mowing the grass, resulting in less fuel consumption and thereby contributing to climate protection and decreasing environmental pollution, which also adds to economic savings.

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FOR  
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