

CATEGORY 3: URBAN GARDENING – CREATIVE GARDENING IN THE CITY



M. Hundt, S. Connor, E. Adelman, G. Corby

GIDEON CORBY (UK, SINCE 2013) REGENT'S CANAL LIVING WATERWAY

The Regent's Canal, which flows through North London over a distance of 14 km, was created 200 years ago. Replaced by the railway, it has become a neglected navigable sewer. Thanks to new offices, apartments and boats, interest in the Canal is growing again. The Wildlife Gardeners of Haggerston started with guerilla garden work. The group has, without any financial resources, literally lend wings to the water channel – among others, with the target species of the brimstone butterfly. The necessary knowledge, the work with ecologists, as well as the necessary information, about the lost tributaries of the River Thames have led to this blue-green wild animal corridor reaching from the Lea Valley to downtown London. The functional river ecology was successfully replicated thanks to donated coffee sacks and woody plants from Woodland Trust. Further additives included felled, invasive buddleia, which attacked the Canal, as well as local seeds for the "Plant Kindergarten". In order for the steep river banks to be grassed or planted, irregular sacks were mounted over a distance of 500 m, which make way to many planting techniques and types with indigenous plants. The floating vegetation offers an habitat for fishes and invertebrates. Exposed roots filter the water with a biofilm. Animal-friendly lighting is as much a concern as waste collections taking place twice a week: With these actions, the ten main volunteers and their supporters have influenced the environment as much as the environment has influenced them.



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