

## CATEGORY 3: URBAN GARDENING – CREATIVE GARDENING IN THE CITY



### **MARIE-THERESE FALLAST / ARGE GRIES IS GREENING (AT, 2017/2018) GRIES GRÜNT**


Prominently located, Griesplatz 2 in Graz was no more than just a traffic and “remaining green area” and a dog run until 2018. On this busy traffic intersection, the location as a garden seems almost absurd but still possible. Given a degree of soil sealing of almost 60 %, it is shown what is possible under unfavourable conditions - heat, traffic noise and fine dust pollution. The ARGE (Working Community) Gries is greening the place on an area of 225 m<sup>2</sup> of city oasis, transforming it into a place of encounter with nature, with others and with oneself. Unexpectedly, visitors will find both typical garden characteristics, such as location-appropriate and diversified plantings – flowering shrubs, vegetables, nibbling fruits, herbs and woody plants, which are allowed to develop freely, a “wild corner”, mulch from grass cutting and gravel, as well as self-carpented sitting furniture and insect hotels. The project shows possibilities of how an attractive, low-threshold green area can be offered to city dwellers and how public awareness can be raised for ecological gardening with simple signposting and little material expenditure. Whether you are a patient of the nearby Albert Schweitzer Klinik garden group, a person passing by, a tourist or resident, whether young or old – everyone can relax and communicate here. The volunteer work of various district inhabitants and the support by resident business people with material goods bear witness of a growing connectedness to the garden. Consequently, a green space as a mere adornment measure by the city, gives way to more urgent tasks.

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