



Perspectives for Urban Forest Gardens in Germany

Dr. Jennifer Schulz

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



Participatory process

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



Legal aspects:

planning laws, regulations, zoning

Social aspects:

Citizen demand & participation

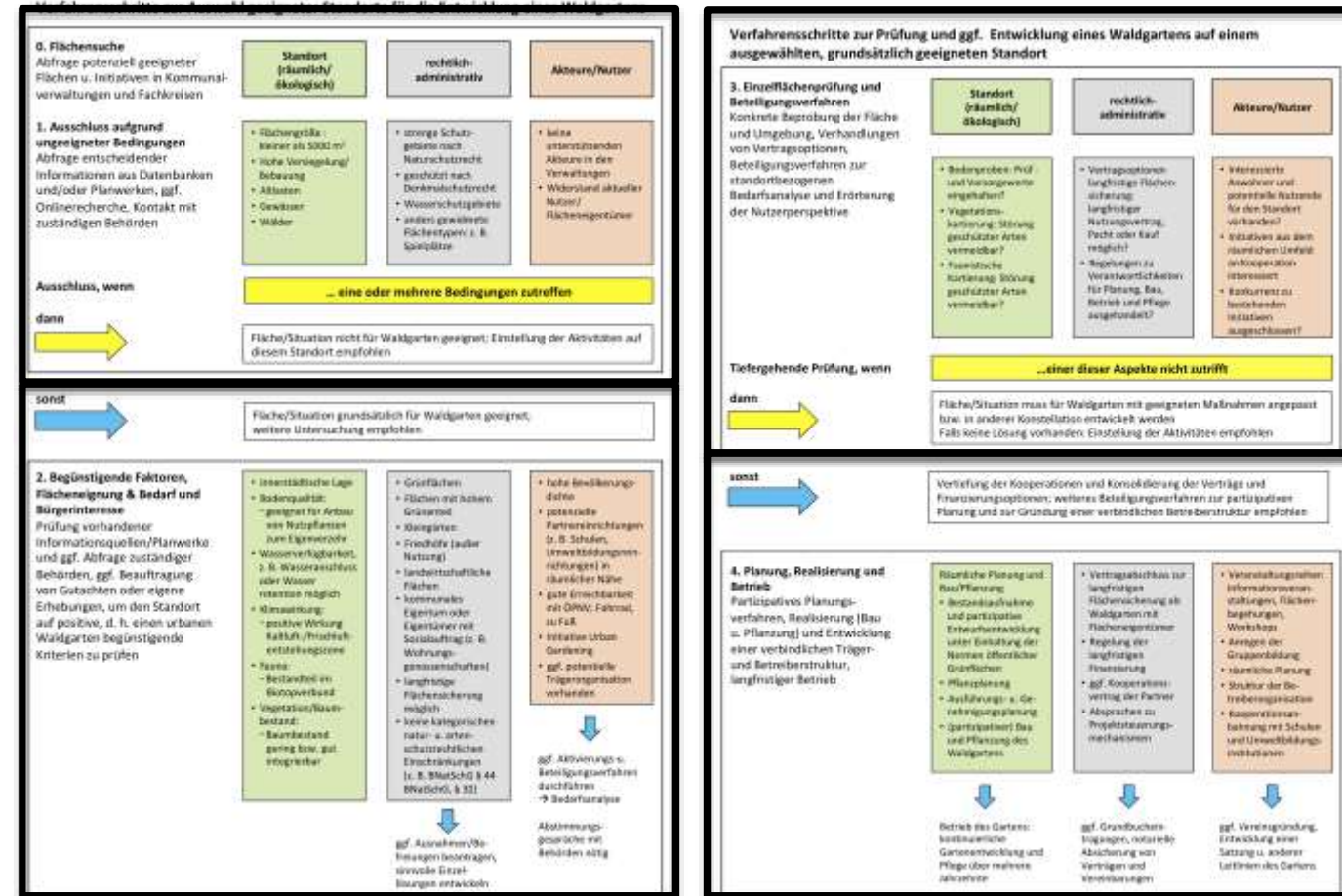
Potential garden operation



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

Potentially suitable sites



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
Größe	27.000	5000	3000 +	7000	5000	?	7000	4000	5000	5000 +
Baumbestand / Naturschutz	--	x	x / -	--	x	x	--	--	x	--
Altlasten	--	?	?	x	?	?	?	x	?	?
Versiegelung	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	x	--	--
Interesse Verwaltung	x	x	x	x	x	--	--	?	--	--
Partner / Betreiber vorhanden	x	x	x / ?	--	--	--	--	x	?	--
Bürgerinitiative Essbare Stadt	--	x	x	--	?	--	x	x	x	?
langfristige Flächensicherung	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	?	--	?
langfristiger Nutzungsvertrag	möglich	?	x / ?	?	?	--	--	?	--	?

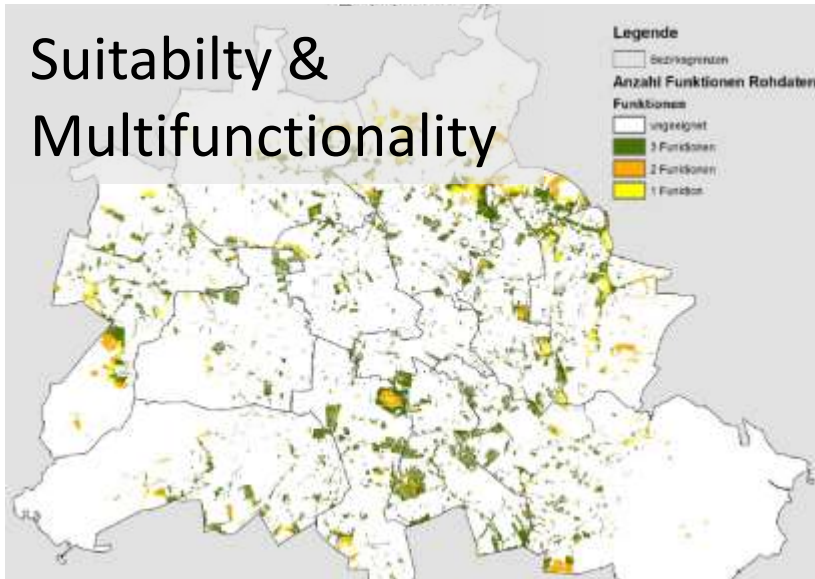


Step 2: Evaluation of favouring conditions on urban scale Results from Berlin

Potentially suitable sites



Suitability & Multifunctionality



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



Conclusions and outlook

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

Contact: jennifer.schulz@uni-potsdam.de