Welkom op Tuinenpark De Koekelt

De kracht van tuinenparken voor de wijk

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Summary

In the Netherlands, an increasing amount of allotment complexes tries to involve the neighborhood in its activities. These complexes share the same purpose: Increasing their positive impact for the neighbourhood, so to become a stronger actor towards municipality. By this means allotment gardens minimalize the threat of losing their land or being replaced in favor of housing and infrastructure. An example of such a case is allotment complex De Koekelt. This is a complex in the city of Ede, The Netherlands, that has opened up to the neighbourhood in the winter of 2011-2012. Nowadays, people from the neighbourhood enjoy free access to the allotment complex and are allowed to walk over the paths inside the complex, which join the hiking trails of the adjacent recreational forest. The future community building will be used as a meeting place, for gardeners as well as for neighbours.

In this brochure it is explained how allotment complexes should best approach the process of opening up to the neighbourhood, using the allotment complex of De Koekelt as an example. The brochure is the result of a research conducted by the Science Shop of Wageningen UR for the allotment complex of De Koekelt. Researchers have investigated in what way residents and organizations within the neighbourhood should best be involved with the complex. They have also investigated in what way sense of community between the gardeners can be enhanced.

Gardeners are invited to organize activities in the allotment complex. To get to know each other and the neighbours. These kind of activities enhance a good atmosphere on the allotment complex, and they help strengthening social control. These are two important components of inviting neighbours to the allotment complex and of preventing theft and vandalism.

In this brochure the process before opening up to the neighbourhood is explained. Moreover, the levels on which allotment complex De Koekelt can strengthen the neighborhood are highlighted. These levels are the ecological, social, and cultural level. For each level, the wishes from the residents of the neighborhood are explained, to inspire community organisations to organize activities on the allotment complex De Koekelt. Residents mostly want to walk around the green areas of the neighborhood, but also have an interest for local food markets, bird watching excursions, and environmental education.

Finally, a frame is provided to people involved in allotment complex De Koekelt or involved in another allotment complex. This frame is meant to guide them in opening up their allotment complex to the neighborhood. To attract the residents, it is important to have a clear communication to the neighborhood, and to create a welcoming atmosphere. Also it is important to use the qualities and talents of the individual gardeners. To get to know these qualities, it is best to address the gardeners personally, and in an informal way. Moreover, residents as well as gardeners should feel safe on the allotment complex. Equipping and arranging the allotment complex in such a way that people can have a clear overview of what is going on in the complex adds to a feeling of safety. Another way to enhance feeling of safety is by strengthening social control. Next to that, activities maximize the possibility of meeting each other, between gardeners as well as between gardeners and residents. To organize such activities, it is important to stay up to date about the wishes and the needs of the gardeners, and of the residents.
Wageningen UR ondersteunt met de Wetenschapswinkel maatschappelijke organisaties als verenigingen, actiegroepen en belangenorganisaties. Deze kunnen bij ons terecht met onderzoeksvragen die een maatschappelijk doel dienen. Samen met studenten, onderzoekers en maatschappelijke groepen die hiervoor zelf de middelen niet hebben, maken wij inspirerende onderzoeksprojecten mogelijk.