



Planning the Garden - a group work

Objectives: bringing different ideas of the garden together and develop one common plan that unites the different ideas; finding a garden design that everyone can agree on

Procedure:

Divide the garden group into small groups of 3-5 people.

Each group discusses what they want to have in the garden.

They cut out or draw the elements they want to see in the garden and arrange them on the layout plan of the future garden. The materials help to communicate also without language.

Each group presents their plan.

Elements that are in common in all groups are transferred to a bigger collective plan.

Elements that are suggested by only one or few groups are discussed and decided upon.

In the end there should be one plan of the garden the whole group can agree on.

Materials:

- coloured and white paper
- pencils and crayons
- scissors
- glue
- layout plans of the garden

Other methods

The Dillinger model

The Dillinger model has a focus on the experiences we want to make instead of the elements we want to have in an area. So the key question is “ What do I want to experience in our community garden?” The second question is “ What can we construct ourselves to make these experiences possible?”





Following these questions the community members build small garden models out of natural materials like leaves, small branches, soil, stones, bark,...

In a next step they explain their ideas and wishes which are then taken into consideration during the next planning steps - drawing a sketch and more detailed planning of the garden.

Critical and collective mapping

“Based on a long tradition of counter-cartographies from the fields of art, science and political activism, we use the power of maps to make marginalized perspectives visible. Collective mapping is a playful tool to take a joint look at spatial structures and processes, to question power and power relations and to develop perspectives for emancipatory approaches.” Oranotango - collective for critical mapping

Critical collective mapping is often used to critically reflect a space in a group. This can be a neighbourhood, a village, a school or a community garden. The mapping process is based on a rough map of the area in question and the experiences participants have made in this area. The process includes questions like “Where do I feel well?, What are the places I don’t go to and why?, What did I experience in certain areas of the garden?” Participants can add their perceptions to the map, with post its or self developed icons. At least as important as the map itself is the dialogue during the mapping process.

more information on critical mapping: <https://orantango.info/>

