

# Urban Garden Specialist

Lifelong Learning Program  
for Adults

## Modules for Teachers

Module 1



Nordplus Adult Project NPAD-2021/10161



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### 1. module “The Urban Garden Concepts”.

**Lesson 3** (40+40 min) – **Location and Scale of Urban Garden.**

**Lesson 4** (40+40 min) – **Safety and Environmental Design Solutions.**

This resource pack includes general information related to each slide as well as recommendations on literature studies for the teacher to get ready for this lesson.

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## Scales and Forms of Urban Gardens

- Urban farming
- Allotment garden
- Community garden
- Private garden
- Gardening on site
- Green roofs
- Terrace garden
- Vertical garden
- Balcony garden

Photos by Alisa Korolova ©



We start this lesson with an introduction of scales and forms of urban gardens. Urban farming, allotment, community, and private gardens are mentioned as examples of different scales (we will describe this in detail further, scales are related to specific circumstances, local peculiarities, etc.). While green roofs, vertical garden, gardening on site, etc. show that gardening can also take variety of forms, depending on the available space, purpose, climate, etc.

To supplement your knowledge related to these issues you can check research articles, allotment and community garden association webpages and other sources, e.g.:

- Cabral, I. et al. (2017). Ecosystem services of allotment and community gardens: A Leipzig, Germany case study, *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, Volume 23, 2017, Pages 44-53, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2017.02.008>.
- Exner, A. et al. (2018). Creative Natures. Community gardening, social class and city development in Vienna, *Geoforum*, Volume 92, Pages 181-195, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2018.04.011>.
- Van der Jagt, A. (2017). Cultivating nature-based solutions: The governance of communal urban gardens in the European Union, *Environmental Research*, Volume 159, 2017, Pages 264-275, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2017.08.013>

Depending on the focus group, you can focus more on cases from Latvia, Lithuania or Sweden, still giving students insights into foreign practices.







Allotment garden in Birmingham. Photos by Alisa Korolova ©

**Urban farming** assumes a level of commerce, the growing of product to be sold as opposed to being grown for personal consumption or sharing.

**Allotment garden** is any privately or publicly owned garden area which has been divided into plots for assignment to individuals for their use. With an average size of 170–400 square meters (depending on local peculiarities plot sizes may differ), allotment garden are often located on the outskirts of the city, or as a temporary use on the territories with a certain burden.

**Community garden** plots are smaller and can take variety of forms (gardens on site, raised beds, vertical structures, etc.) depending on the purpose and location.



Allotment garden in Riga and community garden in Vienna. Photos by Alisa Korolova ©

## Location of Urban Garden

- Urban allotment gardens are often located on temporary sites on residual or unused areas, or as buffer zones between noisy infrastructure (e.g., railways, highways) and residential areas.
- Community garden often appear as a temporary solution to regenerate unused plots in the centre of the city or to promote effective use of derelict brownfield sites.

Location, size, and number of urban gardens is often related to city's strategy.

- Urban allotment gardens are often located on temporary sites on residual or unused areas, or as buffer zones between noisy infrastructure and residential areas. Due to the temporary nature of allotment garden territorial use and with the pressure from





real estate development companies, in some European cities number of allotment sites has decreased significantly.

- Still in recent decades urban gardening renaissance took place in various cities of Europe. In addition to traditional allotment sites, which in some cities have more than 100 years long history, new forms of urban gardens appear.
- For example, community garden often appears as a temporary solution to regenerate unused plots in the centre of the city or to promote effective use of derelict brownfield sites.



Roof top garden in Dublin. Photo by Alisa Korolova ©



Roof top farming on top of Blågårdsskolen in Copenhagen. Photo credits: Scandinavian Standard available from <https://www.scandinaviastandard.com/a-shrub-grows-in-copenhagen-a-look-at-urban-farming/>

## Location of Urban Garden

- Some European cities are adopting a green roof policy, so urban gardens located on the roof top are gaining popularity. For example, Copenhagen has adopted a green roof strategy (Green Roofs Copenhagen, The City of Copenhagen) as a part of city's overall strategy to become a carbon neutral city by 2025.
- Urban gardens on roof can provide various ecosystem services like cultural (e.g., recreation), regulating (e.g., pollination, climate regulation), or provisioning (e.g., herbs).

- Some European cities are adopting a green roof policy, so urban gardens located on the roof top are gaining popularity. For example, Copenhagen has adopted a green roof strategy (Green Roofs Copenhagen, The City of Copenhagen) as a part of city's overall strategy to become a carbon neutral city by 2025.
- Urban gardens on roof can provide various ecosystem services like cultural (e.g., recreation), regulating (e.g., pollination, climate regulation), or provisioning (e.g., herbs).

To complement your knowledge on this issue please check:

- Scandinavian Standard. Available from <https://www.scandinaviastandard.com/a-shrub-grows-in-copenhagen-a-look-at-urban-farming/>
- Ecosystem services. Available from: <https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Understanding-Conservation/Ecosystem-Services>







Currently, green infrastructure development strategies, strategies to increase biodiversity in urban areas, as well as heat island mitigation, etc. are among those, which support integration of various forms of gardening in the city. Moreover, certain types of gardens (e.g., community garden) work as a tool to increase social inclusion and support place attachment.

For example, Riga Sustainable Development Strategy till 2030 includes aims and visions to reach diverse high-quality nature territories, support development of green corridors and accessible waterfront. Green-blue periphery of the city is defined as objective to create qualitative green residential areas. And urban gardening often appears as one of the tools to reach those objectives. Please check: Sustainable Development Strategy of Riga until 2030 and Development Programme of Riga 2014–2020. Summary. Available from: [https://www.rdpad.lv/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/ENG\\_STRATEGIJA.pdf](https://www.rdpad.lv/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/ENG_STRATEGIJA.pdf)



Community garden in Tallinn. Photos by Ales Karolius ©

There are multiple advantages of urban gardening, including increased confidence about the source and quality of food produce, enhanced urban health and sustainability, social inclusion, etc. (Taylor et al. 2021).

Despite of the many advantages offered by urban gardens, they can face certain challenges, related to metal contamination from building, industry, transport and waste practices, flood risk, vandalism, etc. And often those challenges depend on location of a garden.

There are multiple advantages of urban gardening, including increased confidence about the source and quality of food produce, enhanced urban health and sustainability, social inclusion, etc.

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While preparing to this lesson you can read more about advantages and threats in urban gardens in research articles, e.g.:





- Taylor, M.P. et al. (2021). A citizen science approach to identifying trace metal contamination risks in urban gardens, *Environment International*. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2021.106582>



Community garden in Birmingham. Photos by Alisa Korolova ©

### Edible Eastside (Birmingham, UK)

- "Garden situated on a derelict canal side space behind Fazeley Street, a former propane gas filling depot. The site has been transformed into a 'Pop-Up Park' for the purposes of growing food and making art. The garden is open to the public, it has a cafe, garden, studio and a picturesque waterside space" (EOP Eastside Projects).



To illustrate the risks and solutions to various problems, we would like to show several examples. "Edible Eastside is a garden situated on a derelict canal side space behind Fazeley Street, a former propane gas filling depot, in Birmingham, UK. The site has been transformed into a 'Pop-Up Park' for the purposes of growing food and making art. The garden is open to the public, it has a cafe, garden, studio and a picturesque waterside space" (EOP Eastside Projects).



ArcGIS satellite view of the Edible Eastside garden in Birmingham.

Garden located in a dense urban environment, with high share of industrial territories and within a close proximity to the railway.

To get more information while preparing for this lesson please visit:







- <https://www.whatsonlive.co.uk/birmingham/venue/edible-eastside>
- <https://eastsideprojects.org/esp/members-activity/1st-april-2012-1200-17-00-opening-of-edible-eastside-garden-party/>
- [https://www.facebook.com/edibleeastside/photos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/edibleeastside/photos/?ref=page_internal)

You can replace this example with a similar one based on your own experience.



Allotment garden in Salzburg. Photo by Alisa Korolova ©

### The ÖBB Allotment Garden (Salzburg, Austria)

- The ÖBB Allotment Garden is unique in its land use history with ÖBB Company. With association of ÖBB-Agriculture founded for active and retired employees of the Austrian Federal Railways and their family members (Voight & Breuste, 2014).



The ÖBB Allotment Garden is another example of urban garden location, which is also related to certain threats.

The ÖBB Allotment Garden is unique in its land use history with ÖBB Company. With association of ÖBB-Agriculture founded for active and retired employees of the Austrian Federal Railways and their family members (Voight & Breuste, 2014).



ArcGIS satellite view of the ÖBB allotment garden in Salzburg.

Allotment garden plots are located along the railway, creating a buffer zone between railway and residential buildings.







Despite nice green recreation area, close proximity of the railways affects the soil quality. Currently these garden plots function mainly as recreation areas, with gardeners being focused more on green lawns and landscape garden. Still, for growing vegetables, different types of raised beds are used.

More: Voight & Breuste (2014). Summer School 2014: Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities. Available from: <https://www.urbanallotments.eu/training-schools/salzburg-summer-school.html>



Allotment garden in Riga. Photo by Alisa Karišova ©

#### Lucavsala Allotment Garden (Riga, Latvia)

- Allotment gardens in Lucavsala have their origins back to 1907, when the territory was divided into allotment plots. Lucavsala is a unique location characterised with a proximity of Riga city centre, good public transport connection, accessible waterfront and rich ecosystem. Currently there are about 1529 allotment garden plots on Lucavsala (2021).



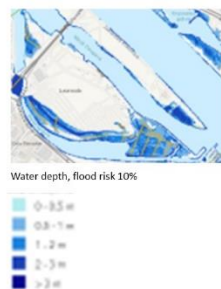
The last example are allotment gardens in Lucavsala, that have their origins back to 1907, when the territory was divided into allotment plots. Lucavsala is a unique location characterised with a proximity of Riga city centre, good public transport connection, accessible waterfront and rich ecosystem. Currently there are about 1529 allotment garden plots on Lucavsala (2021).





Allotment garden plots are located on an island in the close proximity to Riga City center (about 20 min by a public transport or less than 10 minutes by a private car).

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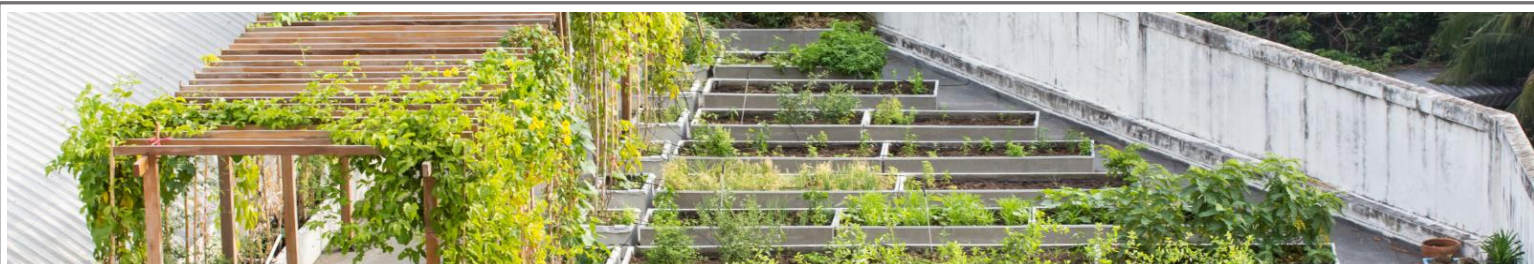
Source: <https://vidoscentrs.lgmc.lv/ebuveta/pludu-riska-un-pludu-drasibu-kartes>

From the South-East Lucavsala is under the flood risk, which affects the gardens mainly during the spring floods. This leads to certain limitations when attending the garden in spring, when choosing plants and when organising garden beds, furniture, etc.

To read more about the current situation with allotment gardens in Riga visit:

- LV portals. Rīgas dome: Mazdārziņu lietotājiem nepieciešama drošība, kārtība un skaidri spēles noteikumi, 2021. Available from: <https://lvportals.lv/dienaskartiba/330898-rigas-dome-mazdarzinu-lietotajiem-nepieciesama-drosiba-kartiba-un-skaidri-speles-noteikumi-2021>





Photos by Alise Korolova ©

## Lessons Learned

- Where else can I grow?
- Ways to control the soil quality
- Types of grown vegetables and fruits

What is important:

- Location within a city and its characteristics (type of urban environment, traffic load, distance to a railway, a highway, etc.)
- the mode of cultivation (planting style, soil type)
- types of vegetables (e.g., some leaf crops may show higher levels of metal contents compared to fruit or root vegetables. You can read more about this here: Säumel et al. (2012). How healthy is urban horticulture in high traffic areas? Trace metal concentrations in vegetable crops from plantings within inner city neighbourhoods in Berlin, Germany. *Environmental pollution*. Available: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2012.02.019>).

To respond to these threats a gardener can:

- analyse location of a garden and proximity to high traffic ways;
- avoid using on-site soil if you think it might be contaminated / or know it is contaminated;
- use the soil from a market or bring the soil from another (non-contaminated) area;
- use raised beds, vertical garden structures.





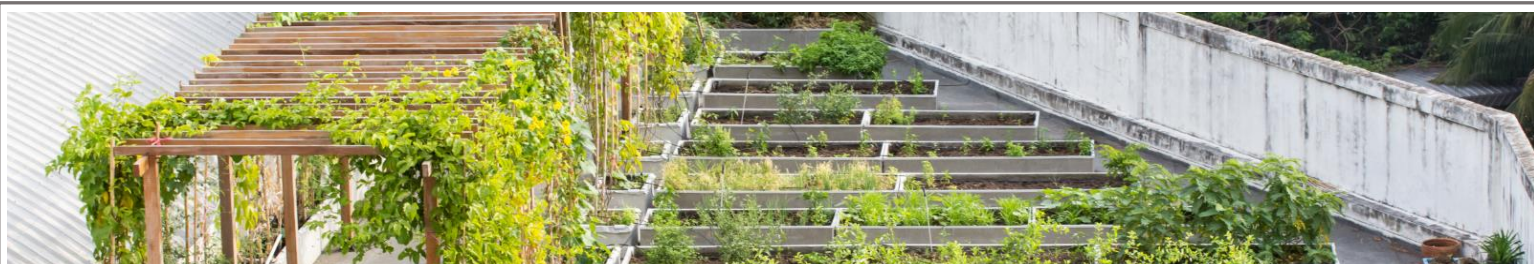


- choose the right plants.

### Work in groups

- Work in small groups (2-5 people) and choose a location from the proposed ones (teacher can prepare several “cases”, which show location of an urban garden threatened by characteristics of the urban environment). The basic information for each case should contain a map (location within a city), visual information (some photos from the site), some additional data (e.g., traffic load characteristics).
- Students analyse location of the garden (they can draw with coloured pencils, use sticker notes, etc.).
- Students identify possible threats/ challenges related to the specific location.
- Students discuss with their teammates how to address these challenges.
- Students present their findings and suggestions to other groups.





## References

- Glavan, et al. (2018). The economic performance of urban gardening in three European cities – examples from Ljubljana, Milan and London, *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, Volume 36, 2018, Pages 100-122, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2018.10.009>.
- Bidar, et al. (2020). Urban kitchen gardens: Effect of the soil contamination and parameters on the trace element accumulation in vegetables – A review. *Science of The Total Environment*. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.139569>
- World Health Organisation (1999). Contaminated Soil in Gardens. Available from: [https://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/119187/E64737.pdf](https://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/119187/E64737.pdf)
- Agboola (2014). The Relationship between Soil Nutrients Availability and Allotment Garden Practices in Scotland and Poland. Available from: [https://www.urbanallotments.eu/fileadmin/uag/media/STSM/STSM\\_Report\\_Agboola.pdf](https://www.urbanallotments.eu/fileadmin/uag/media/STSM/STSM_Report_Agboola.pdf)
- Russo & Cirella (2020). Edible Green Infrastructure for Urban Regeneration and Food Security: Case Studies from the Campania Region. *Agriculture*. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.3390/agriculture10080358>
- Allotment garden history in Riga (1920. gada 17. februārī. Stratēģiskie mazdārziņi). Available from: <https://www.la.lv/1920-gada-17-februari>
- Taylor, M.P. et al. 2021. A citizen science approach to identifying trace metal contamination risks in urban gardens, *Environment International*. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2021.106582>
- Voight & Breuste (2014). Summer School 2014: Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities. Available from: <https://www.urbanallotments.eu/training-schools/salzburg-summer-school.html>
- Flood risk territories. Available from: <https://videscentrs.lv/gmc.lv/iebuve/pludu-riska-un-pludu-draudu-kartes>
- Scandinavian Standard. Available from: <https://www.scandinaviastandard.com/a-shrub-grows-in-copenhagen-a-look-at-urban-farming/>
- Edible Eastside Facebook page. Available from: <https://www.facebook.com/edibleeastside/>





- Edible Eastside. Available from:  
<https://www.whatsonlive.co.uk/birmingham/venue/edible-eastside>
- LV portals. Rīgas dome: Mazdārziņu lietotājiem nepieciešama drošība, kārtība un skaidri spēles noteikumi, 2021. Available from:  
<https://lvportals.lv/dienaskartiba/330898-rigas-dome-mazdarzinu-lietotajiem-nepieciesama-drosiba-kartiba-un-skaidri-speles-noteikumi-2021>
- Säumel et al. (2012). How healthy is urban horticulture in high traffic areas? Trace metal concentrations in vegetable crops from plantings within inner city neighbourhoods in Berlin, Germany. *Environmental pollution*. Available:  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2012.02.019>







## **Lesson 4 (40+40 min) – Safety and Environmental Design Solutions.**

This resource pack includes general information related to each slide as well as recommendations on literature studies for the teacher to get ready for this lesson.

Developed by Riga Technical University, Faculty of Architecture project team.

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Photo credit: <https://www.thebloomingarden.com/why-its-not-cool-to-steal-from-a-community-garden/>

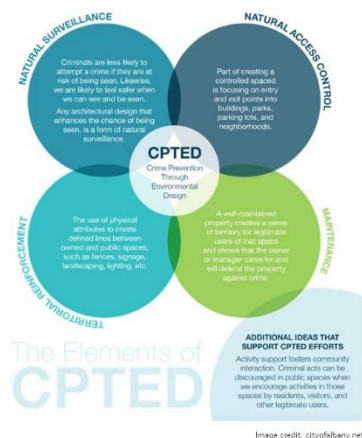
## Safety in Urban Garden

Despite of many opportunities and positive features of urban gardens, still problems of vandalism, theft of crops and garden equipment exist.

Introduction of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) allows to create a safer environment and prevent or at least minimize before mentioned problems.

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## What is CPTED?

"Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design is the proper design and effective use of the built environment that can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in the quality of life" (City of Menlo Park, 2022).

The first generation CPTED evolved from Oscar Newman's defensible space (1972) and is based on four principles (The International Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Association, 2022):

- Natural surveillance
- Access control
- Territoriality
- Image and maintenance.

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While preparing for this lesson, to learn more about CPTED please visit:

- The International Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Association, 2022. Primer in CPTED – What is CPTED. Available from: <https://www.cpted.net/Primer-in-CPTED>
- City of Menlo Park, 2022. Available from: <https://beta.menlopark.org/Government/Departments/Police/Crime-safety-and-prevention/Crime-Prevention-Through-Environmental-Design>

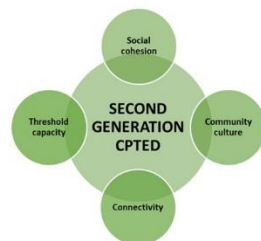


Image credit: <https://www.cpted.net/Primer-in-CPTED>

"Community culture. Community culture programs get people together to create a sense of common purpose. Social cohesion. Cohesion strategies enhance positive social relations between residents, but with a specific focus on solving local problems. Connectivity. Connectivity programs link neighbours with other surrounding neighbourhoods through alliances, formal lines of communication, and other strategies to connect and remain inclusive. Threshold Capacity. The concept of threshold capacity proposes multiple-land uses within the neighbourhood where residents can socialize (parks), shop for groceries (food outlets), and recreate (sports or entertainment) ... " (The International Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Association, 2022).

There is no single strategy to insure reduction in vandalism and theft; the combination of several principles and analysis of the local context allows to reach better results and reduce crime.

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**Connectivity.** Connectivity programs link neighbours with other surrounding neighbourhoods through alliances, formal lines of communication, and other strategies to connect and remain inclusive. **Threshold Capacity.** The concept of threshold capacity proposes multiple-land uses within the neighbourhood where residents can socialize (parks), shop for groceries (food outlets), and recreate (sports or entertainment) ... " (The International Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Association, 2022).







There is no single strategy to ensure reduction in vandalism and theft; the combination of several principles and analysis of the local context allows to reach better results and reduce crime.

**You can replace the following examples with a similar one based on your own experience.**

Depending on the focus group, you can focus more on cases from Latvia, Lithuania or Sweden, still giving students insights into foreign practices.



Photo by Alisa Koroļova ©

### Allotment Garden "Bulļu 11" Riga (Latvia)

The allotment garden "Bulļu 11" are located in *Daugavgrīva* neighbourhood in Riga. This allotment garden territory is surrounded by other allotment cooperatives on the North, East and South and Bulļu river from the West. This allotment cooperative is characterized with a safe urban environment which is reached through a complex application of CPTED principles.

- Natural surveillance
- Access control
- Territoriality
- Image and maintenance

The allotment garden "Bulļu 11" are located in *Daugavgrīva* neighbourhood in Riga. This allotment garden territory is surrounded by other allotment cooperatives on the North, East and South and Bulļu river from the West. This allotment cooperative is characterized with a safe urban environment which is reached through a complex application of CPTED principles.

Gardeners use a complex approach: transparency and maintenance (transparent fences, clear sightlines, well maintained garden plots, etc.), access control (gates, video cameras, etc.). To learn more visit:

- Treija, S., Koroļova, A., Latkowska, M. Environmental Design Solutions to Promote Safety in Urban Gardens. In: Growing in Cities. Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Urban Gardening: Conference Proceedings, Switzerland, Basel, 10-11 September, 2016. Basel: University of Applied Sciences, 2016, pp.180-197. ISBN 978-3-033-05757-9.





- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design : Guidebook (2003). Available from: [https://rems.ed.gov/docs/Mobile\\_docs/CPTED-Guidebook.pdf](https://rems.ed.gov/docs/Mobile_docs/CPTED-Guidebook.pdf)



"Bulju 11" allotment garden. Photo by Alisa Korolova ©

## Natural Surveillance

"The fundamental premise is that criminals do not wish to be observed. Surveillance or the placing of legitimate 'eyes on the street' increases the perceived risk to offenders" (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design : Guidebook, 2003).



"Bulju 11" allotment garden. Photos by Alisa Korolova ©

## Access Control

"Natural access control relies on doors, fences, shrubs, and other physical elements to keep unauthorised persons out of a particular place if they do not have a legitimate reason for being there ..."  
 "...Properly located entrances, exits, fencing, landscaping and lighting can subtly direct both foot and vehicular traffic in ways that decreases criminal opportunities..." (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design: Guidebook, 2003).







"Jumpravasala" allotment garden. Photos by Alisa Korolova ©

## Territorial Reinforcement

"People naturally protect a territory that they feel is their own and have a certain respect for the territory of others. Clear boundaries between public and private areas achieved by using physical elements such as fences, pavement treatment, art, signs, good maintenance and landscaping are ways to express ownership" (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design : Guidebook, 2003).



"Bulju 11" allotment garden. Photos by Alisa Korolova ©

## Image and Maintenance

"This is related to the neighbourhood's sense of 'pride of place' and territorial reinforcement. The more dilapidated an area, the more likely it is to attract unwanted activities. The maintenance and the 'image' of an area can have a major impact on whether it will become targeted." (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design : Guidebook, 2003).







Photo credit: <https://prinzessinnengarten.net/>  
and <https://www.bildspiegel.ch/direction/Review-g187323-41866748-Reviews-Prinzessinnengarten-Berlin.html?media=web/1866748/320560044.g/7elsumig-160&type=0&category=160>

## Prinzessinnengärten in Berlin (Germany)

"*Nomadisch Grün* (Nomadic Green) launched *Prinzessinnengärten* (Princess gardens) as a pilot project in the summer of 2009 at Moritzplatz in Berlin Kreuzberg, a site which had been a wasteland for over half a century. Along with friends, activists and neighbours, the group cleared away rubbish, built transportable organic vegetable plots and reaped the first fruits of their labour" (Architectuul, 2022).

- Natural surveillance
- Access control
- Territoriality
- Image and maintenance

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This is an example of using urban gardening for urban space revitalisation. Activation of the place, clear image, management and maintenance support revitalisation of the urban environment.

To read more please visit:

- Architectuul, 2022. Princess Gardens. Available from: <https://architectuul.com/architecture/princess-gardens>
- Offener Garten Moritzplatz (2022). Available from: <https://prinzessinnengarten.net/>





Photos by Monika Latkowska ©

## "Rakowiec" Allotment Garden in Warsaw (Poland)

The allotment garden of ROD "Rakowiec" was established in 1927, 40 years after the first garden in Poland: Grudziądz 1887. It is currently the second existing oldest garden in the capital city (ROD Rakowiec, 2022; Treija, Korolova & Latkowska, 2016).

- Natural surveillance
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- [https://rems.ed.gov/docs/Mobile\\_docs/CPTED-Guidebook.pdf](https://rems.ed.gov/docs/Mobile_docs/CPTED-Guidebook.pdf)





© Nomadisch Grün  
Source: <https://berlinmitkind.de/stadtleben/berlin-infos/prinzessinnengarten-berlin-neukoelln/>

## Placemaking Through Community Garden

Community garden support a sense of community and a sense of place ownership. Community culture and social cohesion as the basic principles of the Second Generation CPTED promote 'healthy ecosystem' in the city.



Image credit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/companions-at-urban-poplar-tickets-35117499582?aff=none&orig=1>

In addition to various environmental design solutions, which promote reduction in crime, some urban gardeners organise public events and disseminate their knowledge, and even share their produce.

Initiatives like open days, festivals, cooking classes, growing and composting workshops, etc. have a positive impact on community culture and social cohesion.

In addition to various environmental design solutions, which promote reduction in crime, some urban gardeners organise public events and disseminate their knowledge, and even share their produce.

Initiatives like open days, festivals, cooking classes, growing and composting workshops, etc. have a positive impact on community culture and social cohesion.

So, urban gardeners create a 'Share Table' or put a sign indicating that certain garden beds are for public use, and everyone can pick up a berry or a salad.

A 'Share table' or a 'sharing shed' can also work as a place to share garden equipment, fertilizers or seeds.







## Self-check Test

- On-site observation and analysis of CPTED principles or analysis of several urban gardens using publicly available information (Google maps, garden web pages, social media, etc.).
- "Module 1" self-check test.





## References

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