



Environmental Education in the urban forests of the Ruhr area



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The urban forests in the Ruhr metropolitan area as extracurricular learning environment are an ideal setting for action-oriented nature experience. Schoolchildren get to know and appreciate the surrounding of their urban quarter. Children are sensitized to their environment and teachers are encouraged to do more teaching outside the classrooms. Through environmental education in urban forests the children learn how diverse their environment and the urban biotopes are. So leisure activities beyond hanging around indoors or to be on the internet are made possible and they see urban nature as a varied enrichment. This allows to act in accordance with the requirements of Education for Sustainable Development (BNE).

Extracurricular environmental education favours natural science skills, motor skills, language development, creativity and social skills in the group. So it is possible to adapt to future challenges. Exploratory learning in cooperative learning units in an extracurricular learning environment (industrial brownfields, industrial forests and urban forests) educates on social, communicative, inclusive and integrative levels. Own ideas and experiences are brought in by the children and the BSWR staff only act as moderators and supporters. Seven inclusive and integrative projects in urban forests with the aforementioned environmental pedagogical approaches are presented. They cover widely known sites as Landscape Park Duisburg Nord as well as small industrial brownfields, semi-forested areas within settlements or forest parks and larger forest areas in the Ruhr metropolitan area. Schoolchildren of all ages and all types of school are addressed.



Fig. 1: Soil science classroom



Fig. 2: Env. education for disabled children



Fig. 3: Nature meets art

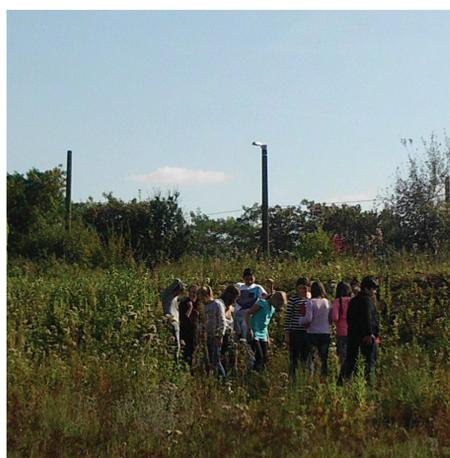


Fig. 4: Environmental education



Fig. 5: Day of biodiversity

Projects:

1. Environmental education during school days in class every week (s. header)
2. Soil science und Green classroom in the Witthausbusch forest park, Mülheim an der Ruhr (s. fig. 1)
3. Environmental education for disabled children in Zeche Sterkrade (colliery), Oberhausen (s. fig. 2)
4. Nature meets art, Mülheim an der Ruhr (s. fig. 3)
5. Environmental education in industrial nature in the Landscape Park Duisburg Nord (s. fig. 4)
6. Day of biodiversity in the Landscape Park Duisburg and Zeche Zollverein (colliery), Essen (s. fig. 5)
7. Environmental education in industrial brownfield (Peisberg), Mülheim an der Ruhr (s. footer)



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Literature:

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