

Allotment gardens and “Wochenendhaus” zones: Green infrastructure versus affordable housing

**Green infrastructure in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe: A
universal solution to current environmental and spatial challenges?”
Ljubljana**

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Overview

- **Specifics of allotment gardening**
 - **Germany and Austria**
 - **Methods**
- **Allotment gardens and dwellings: a contradiction?**
- **Allotments: assessment of ecosystem services**
- **Introducing: „resilience capacity“**

Specifics of allotment gardening

- **Traditional:**
 - Kitchen gardening, small animal husbandry, subsistence economy
 - Private open/green space
 - Socialising, self-help, associations
 - "hands-on urbanism" (Elke Krasny), after the fact legislation
 - housing and food shortages – resilience capacity
 - German and Austrian allotments: allotment dwelling practice



Allotment gardening in Austria and Germany



Specifics of allotment gardening

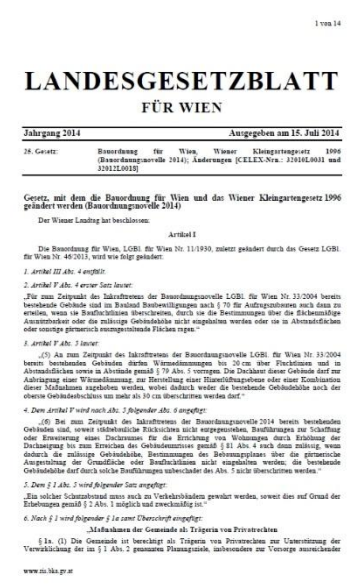
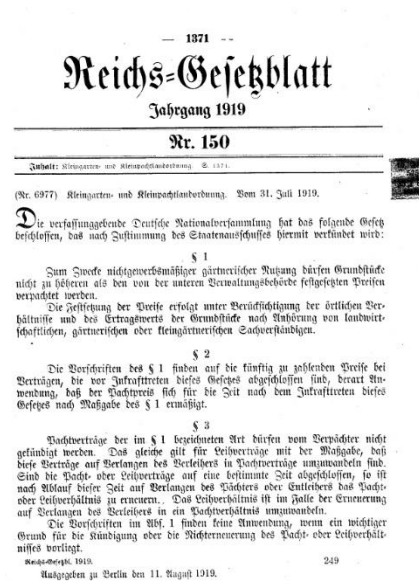
- **Germany, Austria:**
 - Summer dwellings, informal practice, use in times of crisis
 - Municipally owned land, summer huts in private ownership
 - Continuity, large areas in central city locations
 - Germany, Austrian provinces: informal use of dwellings
 - Vienna: legalisation, allotment estates with year-round dwellings



Methods

- **Specific regional characteristics:**
 - Learning from history and discourse
 - Analysis of relation practice vs. legislation
 - Evolution of building type

“Laube” / “Kleingartenhaus” / “Kleingartenwohnhaus”



Methods

- **Evaluation ecosystem services:**
 - **Compilation of indicators - (Gómez-Baggethum and Barton, 2013)**
 - **Additional indicator – “resilience capacity”**
 - **Work in progress!**

Ecosystem service (Gómez-Baggethum and Barton, 2013)	Generic German garden allotment	Viennese Year-round dwelling allotment	Viennese traditional allotment	Generic detached housing area of low density
Food supply	✓	◇	✓	#
Water flow reg. and runoff mitigation	→ + 0	#	→ + 0	→ + 0
Urban temperature regulation	→	→	→	→
Noise reduction	→	→	→	→
Air purification	→	→	→	→
Moderation of environmental extremes	→	→	→	→
Waste treatment	✓	→	✓	◇
Pollination and seed dispersal	✓	✓	✓	→
Recreation and cognitive development	✓	✓	✓	→
Animal sighting	✓	✓	✓	→
Capacity for resilience	✓	/	✓	#

proven, confirmed: ✓
 probable, yet further research is needed: →
 improbable, confirmed: #
 improbable, further research needed: ◇
 does not apply to all allotments: 0

Resilience capacity

- **Preliminary definition:**
 - Backup capacity / resource in dense urban agglomerations
 - Surplus volume that lies dormant, is underused and then activated during state of emergency... (earthquake, war, economic crisis, refugee emergency accommodation)
 - Several types of resilience capacity resources in cities
 - **BIG:** Large military areas, large sports facilities
 - **MEDIUM:** parks, allotment garden areas, schools, vacant buildings
 - **SMALL:** Notkamin "Emergency chimney"
- **Advantages of allotment gardens as resilient capacities:**
 - central location, already equipped with technical infrastructures, proximity to public transport, often communal facilities...

Outlook

- **Possible fields of action (allotments):**
 - Legalisation for very moderate minimalistic dwellings, as a continuing adaptive planning process between administration, planners and allotment associations
 - establish clear rules concerning technical infrastructures, communal infrastructures
 - Strategies for allocation of garden lots to newcomers
 - Clear (yet changing) rules for vegetation, water management regime etc.
- **Further research needed:**
 - Empirical investigation on ecosystem services provided by allotments
 - Analysis of allotment building (sub)types
 - Resilience capacities in urban agglomerations