

2019/20

# Kultur Gärten Steffisburg



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22gS

GymThun – Kultur Gärten Steffisburg:

<https://www.steffisburg.ch/de/leben-in-steffisburg/freizeit-kultur/kulturgarten.php>

# Description, Context, Criteria

The main idea of the project is to sensitize people about our environment and how it works, many one's that own such a garden didn't know so many things about plants and growth before, so the people want to know more. This leads some to invest more time to learn new things about our nature. They also wanted to bring the people more together to make the village more social and that those who have a garden build contact. The administration of Steffisburg, gives the people which signed up for this project free stuff to build their own little garden. That means they give you an SBB pallet on a public place in Steffisburg, filled up with soil. To sow your tiny garden, you get free seeds from a sponsor which is a gardener's store. The gardens are tiny because they can't have big gardens on public places. The 'Kultur Gärten Steffisburg' have many participants which live in an apartment house and can't have their own garden, so it's an offer to learn something new, maybe to find a new passion. The pallets are situated at places they wanted to cultivate, they wanted to bring these places to life.



We find that the social branch is very obvious in this project, because the commune Steffisburg wanted to bring out the places in Steffisburg which aren't in use or no one really cares about them. We think this project is a good attempt with potential to bring some folks together, so new friendships are built. That would mean, that when this project works well, the inhabitants have an interest to redo it and maybe they could motivate others to start gardening. But you can tell that the environment branch of the sustainability scheme is a part too, because the gardens show the people how our earth works partially and maybe this is something that could lead them, to understand our environmental problems. The products they use, are 100% local because they get the plants and seeds from a gardener store called 'Gärtnerei Gerber'. The growth of the plants only needs water, which is from the mountains, the project's wastes are 100% abiotic so there is too no pollution. As a matter of fact the project can't counter climate change but it reduces people's ecological footprint because their planted plants process greenhouse gases.

Well this project does not really help our environment to become co2 free or stop global warming, but as mentioned before it's an example of how to do it on the whole earth. Maybe people get an inspiration from that small project to help stop the global warming together. Citizens come together and can talk about sustainability problems. When there are nearby gardens they are in sight of our problem, the global warming. They become more ecofriendly by aiding this project, by thinking about what they are doing and what they would be able to do against the global warming. So, the project does not directly aid the global warming it's just a hint to become more ecofriendly.

The project was realized by the municipal in Steffisburg. They made a presentation where they briefed about the climate change and the good effect for the community. So, some citizens were motivated to help realizing this project. We contacted Elisabeth Kopp, she is responsible for the gardens. She has taken her time to answer some of our questions. Someone else made a presentation of the Kultur Gärten and it was a motivation for the citizens of Steffisburg, more and more people came to the gardens and planted their plants. This presentation was also a confirmation that she does her job well. She was happy as we asked her for an interview and told her that we wanted to do presentation about her project. She is working for the municipal of Steffisburg. They had the friendly idea of doing something against the climate change. They also had the thought of doing something for the community and the biodiversity.

# Experience and evaluation

The ones which are responsible for the project are quite proud of what they have done, and of what they could achieve. As we said, they wanted to cultivate places in Steffisburg, in which not much happens, and which are rather too calm. What the project does is, that the people which are a participant of the project, have a function in such a place for a little amount of time. Because they have to go to their garden once a day or once every two days. So, when they garden, others see that there are people in a place where normally no one is, what makes a village in its way a bit more attractive and could lead people to talk to each other. Even if the ones that have such a garden aren't there for much time it is a start. They find, that they could inspire people to think about our nature and to learn something about our nature. Another positive aspect would be that they have given interviews to the media who have written articles about their work. Maybe other communities will copy or adapt their project to their community. So, if this happens Steffisburg could help others and be a good example for them. In conclusion the municipal is very satisfied with their work, because this one has been their first year of the project. There has been a presentation in Steffisburg for the project, where they presented the project but also the environment. People have been influenced by this presentation, what means they did research about our nature and how they work, and some of them started to garden if they haven't gardened before.

As a matter of fact, the ones who are responsible expected that the people which garden among themselves would build up a relationship. This would be a quite good idea, but as the gardener's garden on another daytime and don't see themselves very often, there won't be a relationship or contact between them. The places of the different little gardens which they wanted to inspire haven't changed really much in their opinion. But they said and what I believe is that if they continue to work on the project and motivate others, the places could actually change and have a spirit.



# Future

They are not really willing to change much in the future. They are happy as it is now, but they would be happier if the people who use the gardens would have better relationships together. They are willing to care about their gardens that is clearly positive but for the future the municipal in Steffisburg would be happy if they also would care about the other gardeners. So, they are happy how the frames are used but they see a big potential in the relationship between the people. If this relationship would be better the people would maybe also talk about climate change, biodiversity and all these things which would really aid our environment. So, the municipal in Steffisburg is happy about their project but their real goal is not fulfilled yet. There is much more work to do for example at information days or maybe also by promotion by flyers or so. Their clear goal for the next years is a must they have to talk about the climate change and the outcome if we don't care. They should present the frames on other places to call more attention in the city. More people should talk about these gardens and more people should talk about climate change. Now it is more a decoration in Steffisburg but it should become a discussion topic. Now these are just these frames, but they should become more conspicuous, otherwise it will never become this discussion topic which it should become in the next couple of years.



## Own assessment

Julian: In my opinion the project is a very good example of what a municipal or city can do to promote the natural thought in a civilization. I find for those who live in apartments without any space for a garden such a frame as a garden can be a nice solution. But I could imagine that some participants think this could be their hobby where they are going to invest much time, they could be a bit disappointed because a little frame doesn't give much work. On the other hand, a little frame that doesn't give much work could also be really good if someone doesn't have much time and wants a garden such a Kultur Garten could be the solution. For me there's nothing I would do significantly different, because it is very well organized.

Nick: In my opinion the project is well organized. I think it is a good thing for maybe also older people who aren't able to have their own garden anymore. Maybe also for hobby gardeners who live in apartments. For me they could be a bit more visible in Steffisburg if you drive down the road nearby, they aren't really eye-catching. They had a good start by their promotion presentation. I really like the thought of bringing the commune together but it should be done better, maybe some meeting days or so where the hobby gardeners can talk to each other if the municipal would organize this the climate change would be a bigger subject in our talks.



## Sources:

- <https://www.steffisburg.ch/de/leben-in-steffisburg/freizeit-kultur/kulturgarten.php>
- Photos:
  - [https://www.steffisburg.ch/de/leben-in-steffisburg/freizeit-kultur/kulturgarten.php#anchor\\_786046a3\\_Accordion-Konservieren-von-Gemuese--Fruechten-und-Kraeutern--Fotos--Elisabeth-Kopp--Gemeinde-Steffisburg](https://www.steffisburg.ch/de/leben-in-steffisburg/freizeit-kultur/kulturgarten.php#anchor_786046a3_Accordion-Konservieren-von-Gemuese--Fruechten-und-Kraeutern--Fotos--Elisabeth-Kopp--Gemeinde-Steffisburg)
  - Fotos: «david.schweizer.ch/Romy Streit»
- Interview accomplished with Elisabeth Kopp