



**PEOPLE, PEAS
AND PLACES:
GARDENS FOR
COMMUNITIES**

Benefit of the month #5:

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Each month the Interreg Central Europe Project MaGICLandscapes introduces a particular benefit of green infrastructure including examples from the project's case study areas and across Central Europe.

Community gardens are valuable elements of green infrastructure. They provide many benefits, e.g. soil maintenance, pollination, local food provision and as a teaching resource. They promote social interaction, encourage environmentally-friendly land use and of course growing produce.

Since 2017 the 'gardening movement' has been enriching the Dübener Heide Nature Park bringing what is essentially an urban movement to the rural landscape. Two community gardens in Bad Dübén and Kemberg provide the space for citizens who love to work outside in the garden. Experienced ecological gardeners supported the people with the layout of vegetable beds, setting up of greenhouses and showed them how to employ permaculture methods. People from the region participate in regular gardening tasks, environmental education activities and workshops on the sites. The two garden plots - an old plot of railway land and a run-down forest garden - were kindly provided by the railway station cooperative Bad Dübén and by the private forest management company Gniester Schweiz. In the future these gardens will be managed by local citizens and interest groups supported by the Dübener Heide local association.

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