

# HEIMATGRÜN

The magazine of the EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL – **Essen 2017**

## GREEN UP YOUR LIFE

### A YEAR FULL OF HIGHLIGHTS

The Green Capital takes stock

### ESSEN TO BE FOLLOWED BY NIJMEGEN

European Green Capitals

### IDEAS FROM THE HEART

Committed citizens

HEIMAT  
GRÜN



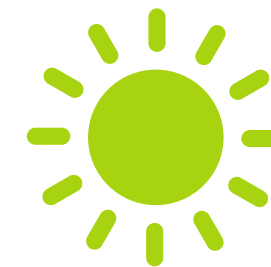
# THE GREEN CAPITAL YEAR IN NUMBERS



Visitors from  
**40** nations



**2,000**  
bee colonies

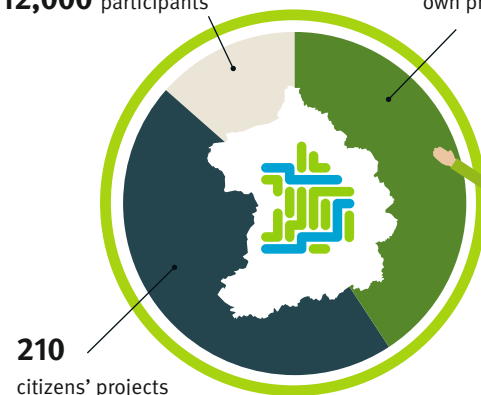


**200** sun loungers  
made from old banners

**56** conventions and conferences  
with **12,000** participants

**453** projects

**187**  
own projects



**210**  
citizens' projects

**158** volunteers  
from **21** nations were involved  
in **1,386** activities



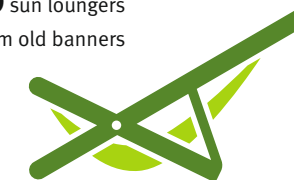
**Anni the Ant**

visited about  
**2,450** children at  
daycare facilities



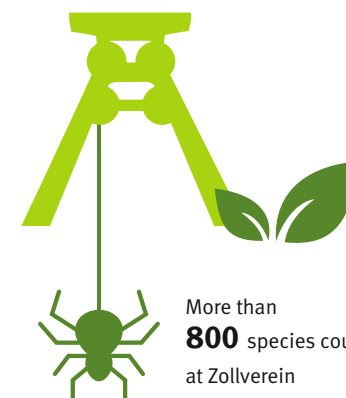
**University of Duisburg-Essen**

**300** events on the Green Capital with a total  
of **15,000** participants



**Nature School**

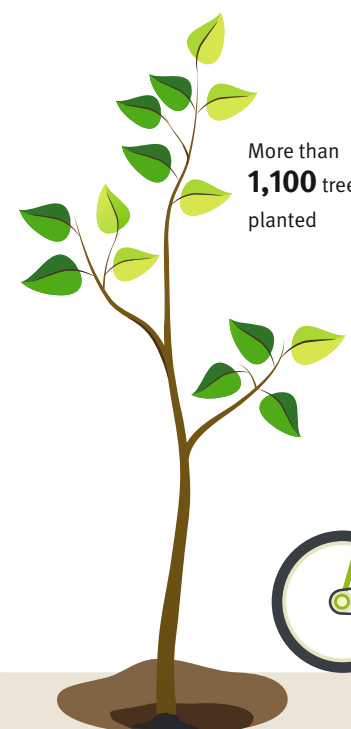
**45,400** interested  
visitors took part  
in **1,487** events



More than  
**800** species counted  
at Zollverein



**58,284** kg  
of CO<sub>2</sub> saved



More than  
**1,100** trees  
planted

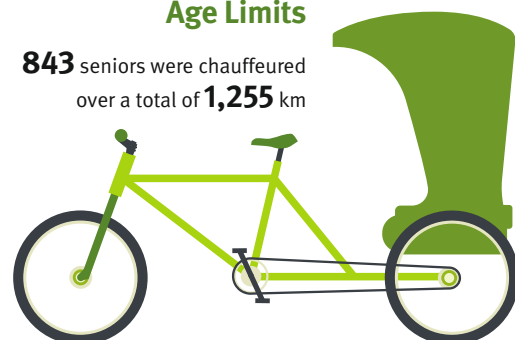


**City Cycling**

More than **1,400** cyclists  
travelled **410,000** km

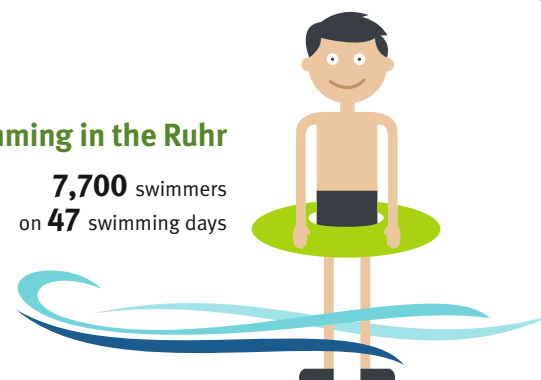
**Cycling Without  
Age Limits**

**843** seniors were chauffeured  
over a total of **1,255** km



**Swimming in the Ruhr**

**7,700** swimmers  
on **47** swimming days



**European  
Mobility Week**

**43** partners contributed to  
**35** projects and a total of  
**62** campaigns, reaching  
**5,000** people



**100,000** flower  
bulbs and **50,000**  
shrubs planted



**Tourist tours**

Growth of **8%** in  
available tours and participants



**"SauberZauber"**

Record **17,000** people (2016: 13,000)  
participating in the clean-up campaign



"The RUTE will continue to support all governmental and political discussions, incentives and activities that promote sustainability in Essen, as it has been doing in recent years."

**DR DIETER KÜPPER**  
Essen Environmental Round Table (RUTE)

"We remain committed to the rapid implementation of the RS1 plans in the Elting district, and to increasing bicycle traffic in Essen to account for 25 % of all traffic."

**JÖRG ALTHOFF**  
Chairman of German Cyclist's Association Essen

"The Green Decade is an acknowledgment, but also a challenge for us as green planners, gardeners and foresters – because what we have created needs to be permanently maintained, while also being carefully developed. A city and its green spaces are therefore ongoing tasks in the true sense of sustainability."

**HANS JOACHIM AUGUSTIN**  
Departmental Manager for Grün & Gruga

"The new environmentally friendly vessel, the MS innogy, was purchased following a recommendation of the Committee for the Environment, Consumer Protection, Grün & Gruga. I will never forget our committee meeting on board this vessel."

**HANS PETER HUCH**  
Chairman of the Committee for the  
Environment, Consumer Protection,  
Grün & Gruga

GRAPHICS SHUTTERSTOCK / ADOBESTOCK  
PHOTO KIRSTEN ALTHOFF | ECKHARD SPENGLER | MIKE HENNING





**BALDENEYSTEIG.** A stroll with Christian companions on the 26,7 kilometer long ridgeway in September 2017.

“Allotment gardens are ecologically valuable micro-climate zones and part of the public green zones. They must be protected in order to fulfil their social and integrative function.”



**KLAUS-PETER KOGLIN**  
Managing Director of the Essen City  
Community of Urban Allotment Associations

MY GREEN

# Essen

## GREENS UP ITS LIFE

In the Green Capital year, Essen was able to create new awareness for the green spaces in the city. New overlooks, path connections, planted areas, community gardens and allotment gardens are the cornerstones of a liveable city.

TEXT: Heike Reinhold

**E**ssen is today the third-greenest city in Germany, and the greenest in North Rhine-Westphalia. Under the motto “Green up your life”, the former iron and coal city successfully utilized parks and gardens as venues for staging Green Capital topics. The largest park in the city, for example, the Grugapark Essen, saw a 9 percent increase in visitors in 2017. There were surprises in terms of biodiversity: over 800 species were identified by 70 experts on “GEO Nature Day” at the Zollverein Park in June, increasing the number of known species there by more than 80. The Federal Congress “Green in the City”, which was held in Essen in May as part of the Green Capital, also delivered new impetus. German Minister for the Environment Dr. Barbara Hendricks made it clear that the development of green spaces in the city must continue beyond 2017, and promised corresponding funding.

### GREEN PATH NETWORK

Essen applied for the European title with an eye-catching target: by 2020, every citizen should live no more than 500 metres from the closest green area. “Currently we fulfil this target for 70 percent of residents. With a series of measures, we intend to reach the 100 percent mark within three years,” promises Head of the Environmental and Building Department Simone Raskob. This includes the “ESSEN.New ways to the water” programme, which is part of the Emscher conversion, and which Essen has utilised as an opportunity for developing urban and open spaces. The ob-

jective is to link green areas and parks by a network of green paths. The action plan encompasses more than 500 individual projects and is intended to link the city’s south to the north, making it possible for the people to experience the whole stretch. Within the framework of the Green Capital, the Vogelheim main artery was constructed with state funding. The bicycle path and walkways running parallel to Gladbecker Straße (B 224) creates a representative entry point to the city and an attractive connection that extends from the River Berne to the intermunicipal green spaces along the Rhine-Herne canal and the Emscher.

### THE CITY IS BLOSSOMING

The projects, which would not have existed without the title “European Green Capital”, also include numerous plantings. In 2017, 100,000 flower bulbs and 50,000 shrubs were planted. In spring, vibrant rows of narcissi and tulips delighted the citizens, as did the shrubs during the summer months. Since shrubs are plants that last many years, they will continue to make the city blossom in the coming years as well. Essen demonstrated the courage to temporarily highlight its greenery by creating 59 Green Islands, the Green Track and the Tree Parade in the city centre. The idea originated with landscape architect Andreas Kipar. Some of his ideas will be used again in 2018. The numerous tree plantings also exceedingly sustainable: more than 1,100 trees were planted in 2017 by sponsors such as the Allianz Umweltstiftung, the



**GREEN VIEWS.** Lake Niederfeld (left), the KruppPark and the university district are milestones in urban development. From the Mechtenberg viewpoint in Kray, you can see over the Zollverein Colliery (right).

Nationalbank and the Van Eupen Foundation. As part of the “One Tree per Child” campaign, the Western Ruhr Area Biological Station planted 750 seedlings in the Heisingen Watermeadows.

### GREEN APPRECIATION

The perception of greenery in the city was promoted in 2017 through a series of projects: the “Views of Essen” opened up 29 overlooks with previously unseen views of the city. The BaldeneySteig is a new 27-kilometre path leading around Lake Baldeney

“Up to now, Essen and the Ruhr area have always been underestimated as a green, species-rich and liveable region. This Green Capital year successfully helped change this perception to some extent. As the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), we will keep at these efforts and ensure that the improvements last.”



**JOSEF TUMBRINCK**  
State Chairman of NABU NRW



and over the Ruhr hills. And in the year of the Green Capital, Green Capital Day brought enhancements to at least one location in each of the city’s nine districts – thanks to the hands-on participation of district agencies, citizens, and numerous public and voluntary institutions.

### GARDEN LOVERS

2017 also saw high levels of interest in gardening. People were eager to get involved in numerous citizens’ projects. Residents of Essen set up snack gardens and herb rockeries, planted clusters of trees and got raised-bed gardens flowering. Insect hotels emerged in urban gardens, as did inner-city oases featuring benches. The Friends of Dingerkus Garden House once again opened the late-Baroque jewel in Werden to the public. Many kindergartens and schools created adventure gardens and vegetable beds for their own use. To a certain extent, green fingers seem to run in the DNA of Essen’s residents, since allotment gardening has a long tradition in the city. There are over 100 allotment associations and just under 9,000 allotment holders, which include special projects such as school gardens for child daycare facilities and the Inclusion Garden for mentally disabled residents of the

- ✓ Experience the Views of Essen now on the **Heimatgrün TV** channel on YouTube.
- ✓ The map of overlooks in Essen and the BaldeneySteig, the flyer “Attractions of the Green Capital – Essen 2017” and a brochure on community gardening can be obtained from the Essen Tourism Centre or online.  
[www.deingrueneswunder.de](http://www.deingrueneswunder.de)
- ✓ In autumn, the latest edition of “**Architecture of Essen’s Squares**” was published as part of the series of books on Essen’s architectural scene. The book analyses the history of important public spaces in the city.

Franz Sales House, at the Lunemannsieden allotments. “The commitment of all these people persuaded the city council to initiate an allotment development concept,” says Simone Raskob. Furthermore, the number of community gardens rose in 2017 from ten to 18. Another three projects are scheduled to be launched in the spring of 2018. The “Future Workshop Edible Essen” ensured better networking of the allotments and community gardens in 2017. The stakeholders now want to capitalize on the momentum of the Green Capital to ensure that joint projects continue to grow over the long term.





# REVIEW OF THE GREEN CAPITAL YEAR

For the European Green Capital – Essen 2017, the past year was a year full of highlights. Our photographic review includes memories of events, exhibitions, campaigns and projects.



**SPECTACULAR START TO THE OPENING CEREMONY.** In January 2017, the Grugapark in Essen was transformed into a sea of lights.



**GROWEEN.** The cloth installation by Jens J. Meyer with tropical plants at Essen's adult education centre in Burgplatz.



**DAY IN MOTION.** Participants arriving for the large Stern-fahrt Ruhr bicycle rally on the Day in Motion in early July in the city centre of Essen.



**NRW SUMMER CONCERT.** Thousands of visitors came to the State Government's Summer Concert with the Essen Philharmonic Orchestra in the Stadtgarten Park in July.



**SWIMMING IN THE RUHR.** On 47 swimming days, visitors to the Seaside Beach swimming spot enjoyed the cool, welcoming waters. The opening of the bathing area took place in May.



**WEBERPLATZ.** The Weberplatz Open Space was the central contact point of the Green Capital and the volunteer management headquarters. A wide range of events and workshops offered a varied programme.

"My very personal highlight was the Essen Light Weeks and the Essen Light Festival, devoted to the motto of 'European Green Capital – Essen 2017'."



**DIETER GROPPE**  
Managing Director of EMG – Essen Marketing GmbH

PHOTO: SASCHA KRKLAU (2) | ELKE BROCHHAGEN | FRANK VINKEN | JOCHEN TACK (3)



**"GREEN IN THE CITY OF ESSEN. MORE THAN PARKS AND GARDENS".** The exhibition in Hall 5 at the Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site delighted 35,000 visitors between May and August.



**GRÜN AUF! ALTENDORF.** In mid-September, a section of Altendorfer Strasse was closed for the family and garden party.



**ANNI THE ANT.** Actress Veronika Maruhn filled young spectators with enthusiasm for environmental protection.

"Our highlight was Exercise Day, which at the same time marked the kick-off for our #Green Rider Marc Bator leading up to the NRW.KlimaTage (climate days) initiative. As a result, the idea of the Green Capital spread from Essen throughout all of North Rhine-Westphalia."



**DR. HEINRICH DORNBUSCH**  
Chairman of the Board of Directors  
KlimaExpo.NRW



**KREUZESKIRCHE PANEL DISCUSSIONS.** The five realms of life of the Green Capital became the subject matter of lively panel discussions in the Kreuzeskirche church.



**CLOSING EVENT.** The Green Capital thanked its fellow campaigners at Messe Essen in mid-December. Also present were representatives of the next European Green Capital – Nijmegen 2018. As a gift, the guests received a miniature of the Emscher bull-head made from old plastic bags.

"Of all the many events in the Green Capital year, my highlight was the exhibition 'Green in the City of Essen. More than Parks and Gardens' at Zollverein, which clearly illustrated the impressive history of the green areas and their planning in the industrial city of Essen: from green to grey to green again."



**PROFESSOR HEINRICH THEODOR GRÜTTER**  
Director of the Ruhr Museum and  
Member of the Board at the Zollverein Foundation

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