

## **Allotments Documentary**

More than 100 years ago the first allotment garden colony was founded in Vienna. Today there are around 36,000 allotment garden plots, which are larger than the 7 smallest districts of Vienna combined. With the allotment garden association 'Zukunft auf der Schmelz', Vienna even has the largest allotment garden complex in Europe in a densely built-up area. While these gardens were once important for food production, today they are primarily small leisure oases with great significance for the climate, biodiversity and well-being of all Viennese people.

As said, allotments have been part of Vienna for over 100 years. So, it is time to present these refuges in the middle of the big city as they really are. KleingartenTV has created a documentary film for the ORF (Austrian Broadcasting Corporation) showing what makes Vienna's allotments so special. From the beginning to the present day.

The historian and author Peter Autengruber knows the stories of Vienna's allotments like no other and so he knows the interesting stories from the history of allotments in Vienna. Never-before-seen film footage from the archives of the central federation bring history to life and offer worth seeing insights into a time long past.

A time that Elisabeth Meindl experienced herself. She lived in an allotment garden in Vienna for almost 94 years and was kind enough to share her childhood and youth memories with the viewers of the documentary. Stories about the story of a contemporary witness.

Wilhelm Wohatschek, the president of the Central Federation, has dedicated his life to allotment gardening in Austria and we will present the achievements of the Central Federation for the existence and continuation of **these** small gardens to a large audience in this 25-minute documentary.

But it is not only the allotment gardens that make Vienna something special. It is above all the allotment gardeners. Using Helga Lang and the Floridsdorf women's group as examples, we show how important these people are for society and what great things can be made of small things.

The biodiversity study conducted by university lecturer Gerhard Bedlan of AGES (agency for health and food security) on behalf of the Central Federation shows how important allotment gardens are for life in the big city. The results are fascinating.

Of course, KleingartenTV also makes a foray through the shelters, the harvest fields and orchards and through the allotment gardens themselves in the documentary for the ORF.

**The broadcasting of this documentary took place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019**









