

## **SWITZERLAND**

**In Basle, amateur gardeners are fighting to keep their gardens alive**

**Sustainable urban development means “to preserve the quality of life in the interest of future generations”.**

**10 good reasons to support the allotment garden initiative.**

**... or: What price are we willing to pay?**

**1 The current counter-proposals don't aim at protecting the gardens as green open spaces!**

**2 The quality of urban life is vital!**

The current inhabitants' quality of life must be protected for future generations.

A city which doesn't have enough green open spaces loses all appeal and will be abandoned by its wealthy taxpayers in the long term.

**3 Many people benefit from them!**

These gardens meet at least 40,000 people for open space. It should be noted that individual houses in the urban environment (forecast in the Milchsuppe zone) are not at all on the same wavelength as current demands, nor environmental ones even if they do take into account strict energy rules and other associated environmental measures.

**4 Gardens create a link with nature**

Allotment gardens offer children the chance to experience nature within an urban environment, all the while accustomising them to responsible ways of managing our basic resources, something that playgrounds and parks can't bring them.

**5 Integration!**

Allotment gardens help integrate the foreign population.

**6 Health!**

In general, someone who lives in a green environment goes to see a doctor less often. Gardening benefits our physical and mental health.

**7 The pressure to use these grounds for constructions will cause social issues!**

Destroying allotment gardens will trigger the breakdown of established social structures which bring support and stability to many people.

**8 Undeveloped land is a limited resource with a high ecological price tag!**

Peak soil: (the Federal Town Planning Department stresses the need to fight against sealing surfaces in cities, rural and built-up areas.

**9 Adapting to climate change is a top priority!**

The less green open spaces, the lesser the chance of fighting global warming in cities. What's more, green spaces are essential for maintaining biodiversity, balancing water resources and protecting the air.

### **10 Long-term development centred around preservation instead of a philosophy of short-term gain and growth!**

These days we can no longer accept development plans motivated by tax returns to the detriment of open spaces.

The offer in terms of housing is, in principle, sufficient. There are currently a good number of development plans for new housing in progress. There are sites reserved for potential development of more housing (the port area, Hôpital Felix Platter, office sites, NT zones,...

Are we willing to give up the benefits above in the name of a supposed need of space and tax returns? Who profits from it? And who loses? At the end of the day, it's the man on the street alone who will pay the price.

*“The garden is the last luxury of our time, as it demands what is currently most precious in our society: time, attention and space.”*

Dieter Kienast, landscape architect, Zurich (30.10.1945 – 23.12.1998)

Find out more about the growth of amateur gardeners on the site [http://www.milchsuppe.ch/?page\\_id=119](http://www.milchsuppe.ch/?page_id=119)