

The allotment garden park is a green jewel, but is still under pressure

From Herman Vroklage

Allotment garden sites are green beacons of tranquillity and biodiversity in urban areas. Which more and more people are enjoying. They need to value and protect these unique places. Nevertheless, they are often under pressure due to housing development plans.

Ons Genot in Utrecht is one such allotment park whose future is uncertain. They discovered by chance that its survival is under discussion in the environmental vision of Utrecht Overvecht. Up to 8.6 hectares of garden space are at risk of disappearing due to the construction of sports fields in a new neighbourhood. The allotment gardeners of Ons Genot are fighting against this and are supported by the national interest group AVVN together with Natural Gardening.



Urgent letter

AVVN has sent an urgent letter to the Mayor and Councillors calling for the allotment garden to be recognised and valued for its green qualities, its biodiversity and its recreational and social function, and for the allotment garden to be preserved in its current location.

That would be only right. The garden park has existed since 1963, the gardens and the surrounding greenery have reached full maturity and form an oasis for native and nature-friendly plants and animals. The allotment park makes a significant contribution to urban biodiversity, to reducing the heat island effect and to water infiltration and collection.

Community gardening is a social event. If Ons Genot disappears, many people will suffer: the 200 allotment gardeners and their families, volunteers from outside the association who work in the allotment garden and, of course, the many visitors such as the lunchtime walkers from the Nieuw Overvecht industrial estate.

Ons Genot and allotment gardens belong in the neighbourhood

AVVN advocates that the beautiful nature and recreational green spaces of Ons Genot become an integral part of the new neighbourhood to be built - with all the green and recreational functions they offer.

According to the AVVN, it is a mystery why a green gem like Ons Genot, with all its benefits for the municipality and a long-term lease agreement with the municipality, is suddenly under threat. Does the municipality still have a good idea of the added value

of allotment gardens? AVVN invites the board to a new introduction to allotment gardening. A visit to Ons Genot fits in with this.



More information:

Visitors are welcome at Ons Genot! You will find them at 2e Polderweg 5 in Utrecht.

Opening hours: In summer from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm & in winter on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

You can find more information on the [Ons Genot website](#).