

## Study session in Copenhagen

From 24th August until 27th August 2017 the delegates of the allotment gardeners met in Copenhagen in order to discuss the future of the international allotment movement and to well position it while taking into consideration the current situation and surroundings.

The Office grants every year diplomas for an ecological gardening, for social activities or innovative projects.

In 2017 already two diplomas for an ecological gardening and one diploma for social activities were granted to allotment associations.

In Copenhagen three additional associations were rewarded with diplomas for an ecological gardening.

You'll find the motivation and the description of the projects in the joined appendices.

## **The association “Mariahoeve” from den Haag (NL) received the diploma for ecological gardening**

Mariahoeve has a working group “Natural Gardening” that has 14 members of which 3 are not even member of the association. The garden park has 80 gardens.

You can find on this site for example:

- Approximately 25 bird nest boxes for sparrows, tits, starlings and a falcon
- Bat boxes, duck baskets and hedgehog shelters
- Wooded bank, dead hedges, dry stone walls, tiles as shelter
- Butterfly garden

Special activities are:

- Flower day and picnic morning for the elderly
- Natural gardening excursion for the young people from the neighbouring gardens

After 4 years of negotiations with Water Board authorities and the city council a tilting weir was placed in the ecological corridor. Now the water quality has improved and fish have returned to the waters in and around the garden park.





## **The allotment association “Eigen Hof” in Amsterdam (NL) received the diploma for ecological gardening**

On 10 September 2016 Eigen Hof received the full score of 4 DOTS of the National Quality Mark Natural Gardening. They achieved the magnificent result in only 2 years of hard work thanks to many enthusiastic and inspired volunteers. Eigen Hof has 156 gardens partly with and partly without a garden house and that have an average size of 280 m<sup>2</sup>. The park was founded in 1937. Approximately 10% of the park is open to the public (no gardens) and is maintained in an ecological way. The park is part of the “Groene As” (Green Axis) of the city of Amsterdam.

Since 1994 and over 20 years the maintenance takes place according to an Integral Maintenance Plan, written by biologist Henk Smit, who had a garden at Eigen Hof.

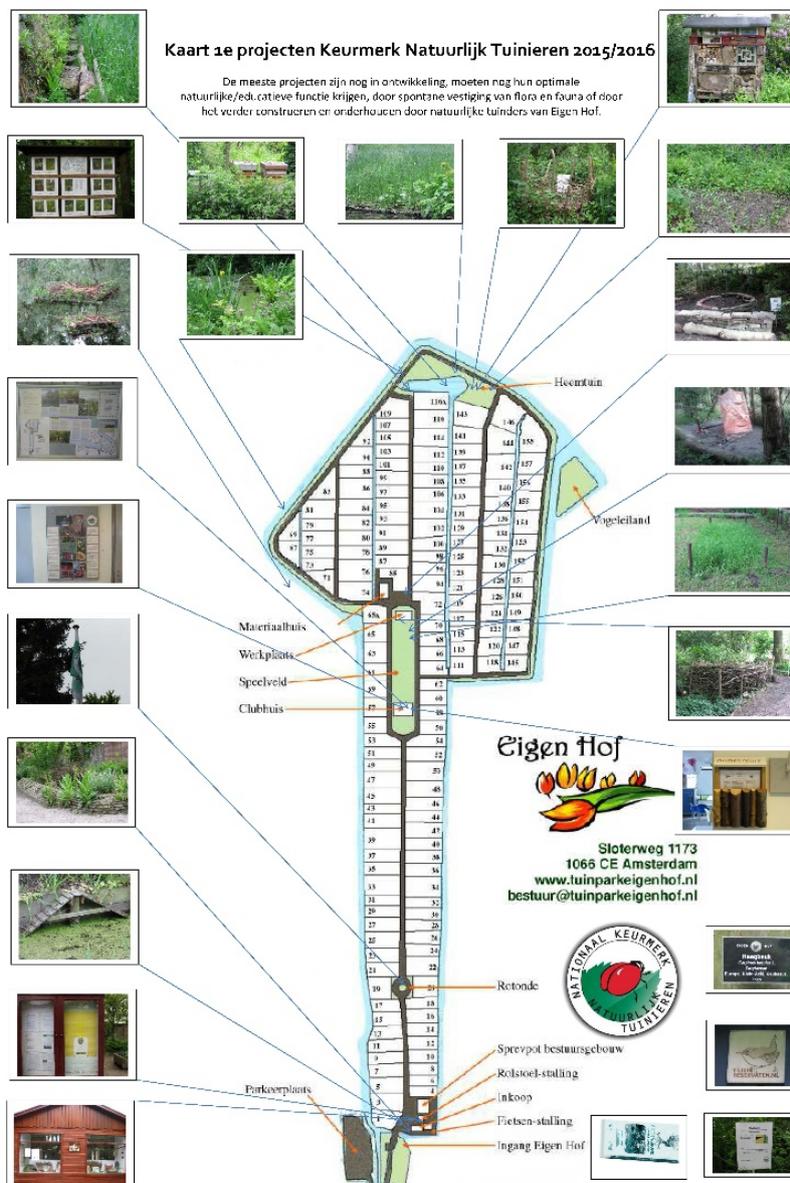
From 2014 until 2016 many natural elements were added to the park, for example:

- an indigenous botanical garden, the pride of the park, with a large ecological value
- bee hives
- an insect hotel was placed in this garden

A working group, with the support of the board, intends to take Eigen Hog even further over the next 4 years. The working group members all have their own responsibility.

The estimation is that about 70% of the gardeners participate in natural gardening in one way or the other.





## **The allotment association “Zonder Werken Niets” in Haarlem received the diploma for ecological gardening**

The public parts of the garden park are kept as natural as possible. Near the entrance there is a nature garden and an indigenous botanical garden, both open to the public. Special plants and elements for animals are present as well as information signs. Many indigenous plants grow in these gardens and under the trees. A beautiful biotope for insects, amphibians and birds developed in the several dead hedges. The park has a wide diversity of birds.

Since 2014 the park has a natural playground.

You can find special elements on the site for example:

- Walls for kingfishers – birds were seen
- Floating islands with marsh plant
- Dry stone walling



