Internationale Gartenausstellung 2027 Ruhrgebiet

Zukunft. Blüht.

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Press Release

The IGA Journey Begins: Join the Movement!

2025: The Year of Construction in the Future Gardens

Essen (Germany) – **"With the launch of the MEIN GARTEN participation platform, the IGA 2027 opens another important chapter to shape the future together," announced Garrelt Duin, Regional Director of the Ruhr Regional Association and Chair of the Supervisory Board of IGA Metropole Ruhr gGmbH, during the IGA 2027 press conference on Tuesday. Meanwhile, construction in the Future Gardens is entering its final phase this year.**

"We invite all residents to get involved and showcase what makes the Ruhr region – our green home – such a vibrant place to live. This initiative shines a spotlight on local projects and initiatives, celebrating the creativity, diversity, and openness of the people in our region – the best ambassadors for the IGA and for the Ruhr," Duin added.

A Key Initiative for Regional Transformation

Friederike Fass and Benjamin Greulich, the team behind MEIN GARTEN, introduced the concept of this IGA 2027 participation platform. "MEIN GARTEN is a cornerstone for the long-term transformation of the region. By combining digital and in-person formats, we aim to create a network that will continue beyond the exhibition year. Our vision: A green, sustainable Ruhr region that serves as a model for other metropolitan areas," explained Faas.

Anyone can join MEIN GARTEN: neighborhoods, small garden associations, private initiatives, companies, organizations, and educational institutions – anyone dedicated to a sustainable future for the Ruhr region.

Bringing People Together in Their Communities

Through the "1 Square Meter of IGA" formats, the IGA reaches directly into neighborhoods. Children map plants in their surroundings – from stinging nettles to dandelions – and then work together in tea workshops to create local tea blends. These blends will be packaged as seed kits for planting at home. Mobile tea stations

will bring these mixes, along with meaningful conversations, to various cities in the Ruhr region. Pop-up tea houses will travel through cities as temporary venues for community gatherings, tea tastings, and education about plants and water.

The campaign's grand finale will take place in the IGA 2027 Future Gardens, transforming them into showcases for regional engagement. Small local actions will grow into a movement that reshapes the Ruhr region sustainably.

Networking and Collaboration

The MEIN GARTEN initiative is built on four key pillars: increasing visibility, fostering networking and exchange, providing inspiration, and encouraging participation. These objectives will also be supported by the MEIN GARTEN digital platform.

"This growing project database," said Benjamin Greulich, "offers a unique opportunity to discover initiatives in the Ruhr region, connect with others, and create sustainable projects. Good practice examples can also be showcased."

Submitting an initiative is simple: once submitted, projects are reviewed by the IGA 2027 team, published, and made available on the MEIN GARTEN platform at **meingarten.iga2027.ruhr**. The "Green Bulletin Board" enables project leaders to find support or offer assistance. The platform also allows users to filter projects by location, theme, or partners to find initiatives that interest them.

"The guiding question of the IGA 2027, 'How do we want to live tomorrow?' touches on many aspects: how we eat, live, manage resources, and communicate about sustainable living," added Greulich. The platform will officially launch in February.

Millions in New Funding

On the municipal level of the IGA – UNSERE GÄRTEN – progress continues as well. The advisory board has awarded a second star to six additional projects: Maximilianpark and the Garden Paradise in Hamm, the Bochum Park Route, the Bochum East Park, the Ruhrmoderne project in Marl, Muttental and the Zeche Nachtigall in Witten, and the staging of the Emscher Overflow Structure by the Emschergenossenschaft.

“So far, 19 projects have received a second star, with 12 of them earning the third star,” summarized Horst Fischer, CEO of IGA 2027. “Around €42 million in funding has been secured for UNSERE GÄRTEN, and combined with projects financed through municipal funds, approximately €83 million will be invested in the region.”

Intensive Construction Work Across All Future Gardens

“2025 will be the year of the most intensive construction activity in the Future Gardens”, Fischer continued. In Duisburg, preparations for the Kultushafen construction are underway. In Gelsenkirchen, work will soon begin on the Kohlenbunker, entrance and administration buildings, and the Green-Blue Ribbon. In Dortmund, construction of the “Haldensprung” bridge continues, with additional projects like the cloud sculpture and new entryways starting soon. In Lünen, construction of the reimagined hill-and-valley landscape is set to begin.

“By the end of 2025, most construction work in the Future Gardens will be completed. Temporary facilities, such as operational hubs, and initial plantings will begin. The IGA is right on schedule and gaining momentum this year,” concluded Fischer.

About the IGA Metropole Ruhr 2027

Under the motto “How do we want to live tomorrow?”, the International Garden Exhibition 2027 presents innovative solutions for green infrastructure and urban development in metropolitan regions. The Future Gardens will provide a platform for showcasing the latest in horticulture and landscape design, as well as a diverse program of events. Municipalities will highlight the region’s green treasures in UNSERE GÄRTEN, while MEIN GARTEN offers citizens the chance to contribute through private initiatives and collaborations.

More information and downloadable photos are available at www.presse.iga2027.ruhr.

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