



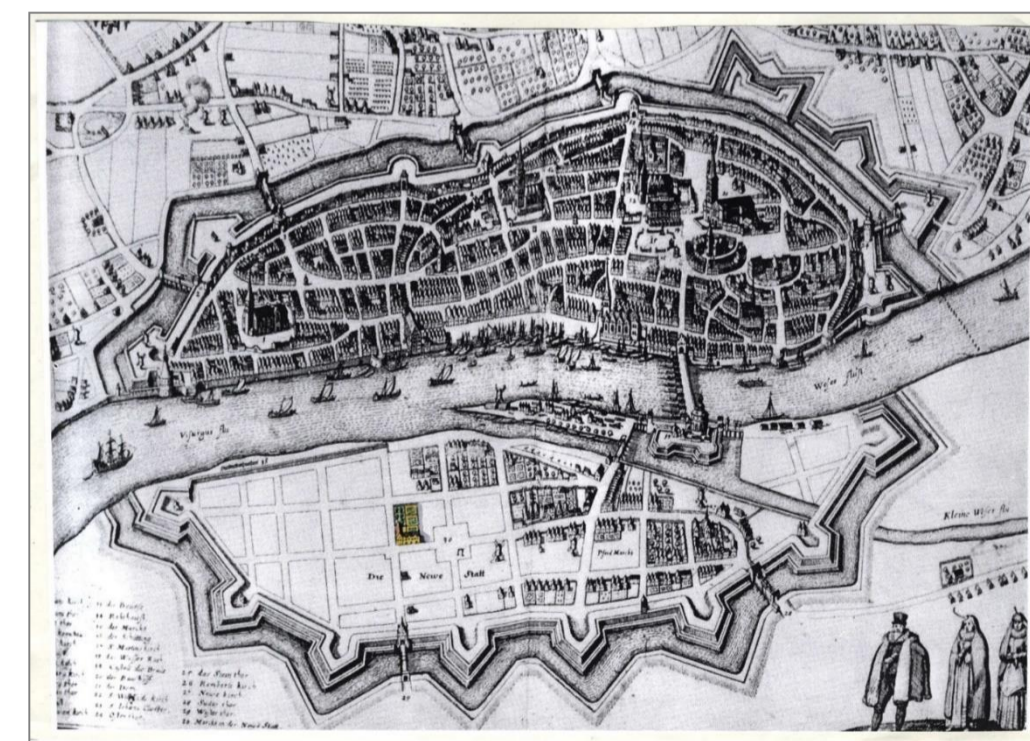
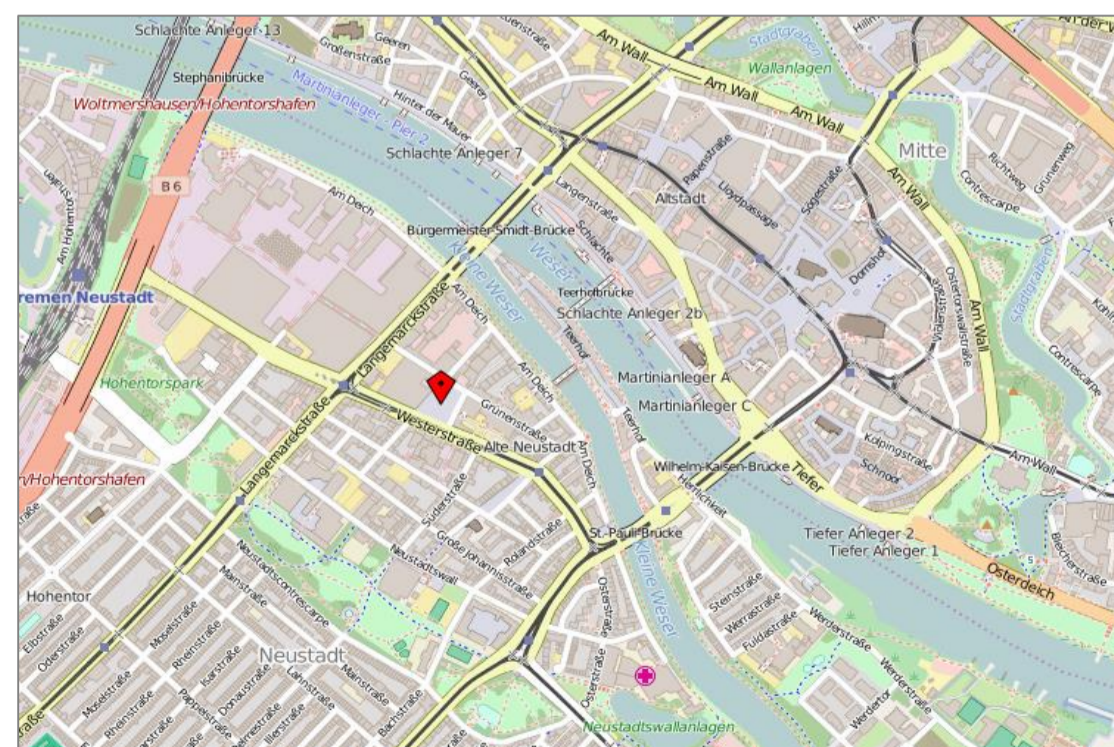
Urban Gardening in Bremen, Germany

1. Starting point:



Lucie-Flechtmann-Platz, Bremen

- 2001: Decree to create town square as compensation for another public space, sold to the brewery Beck's&CoKG
- 2003: Construction of town square
 - Area: 4.700 m²
 - Pavement: Grey concrete-stones, granite stairs to structure the place in areas
 - Amber-trees, several benches, special lightning
 - No electricity nor fresh-water access
- No acceptance by citizens, the place stood empty for 10 years
- Some attempts for new designs were not realized



2. Institutional setting:

Conflict of interests:

Construction vs. Parking vs. Green area

Legal regulation defines pedestrian zone.
Any change in usage requires change in legal regulation.

Demand by people:

2012: Survey within neighbourhood

05/2013: Assembly foundation, permission for temporary usage, application for funding

06/2013: Start of 1st urban garden in Bremen

Public space rapidly vivified → Decision to upgrade the place into an urban garden



3. Approach:

03/2015: Bremen's planning authority assigned a planning bureau to moderate communication between the city and citizens:

Three Workshops were conducted

06/2015: Collection of interests

07/2015: Specification of ideas → models

10/2015: Decision on future concept

Stakeholders involved:

- planning bureau
- Planning authority of Bremen
- District politicians
- urban gardeners
- Neighbours
- Neighbouring institutions and companys



4. Output:



Blueprint of a new Lucie-Flechtmann-Platz
accepted by all actors

Increased maintenance costs would exceed
the city's budget

To still realize the project new solutions are
required → **new questions appear:**

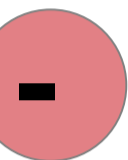
Who takes over which task?

- Legal duty to maintain safety
- Indemnity insurance
- Maintenance: Cleaning, snow-plowing
service

It's a 'public space' with 'private' gardens.
How open to the public can it be?
Who is responsible for this 'public space'?
City or Citizens (gardeners)?

5. Lessons learned:

Planning authority

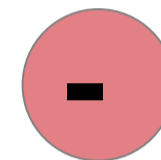


- Identified need to clear responsibilities
- Lack of money
- New blueprint still not fully accepted → conflicting interest are still pursued



- Planning bureau as neutral facilitator

Urban gardening initiative



- Slow process challenges volunteers: time consuming
- Contact with marginalized groups sometimes difficult (such as homeless people)



- To take action is fueling process
- New insights into city development and planning

6. Transfer:

Slow and intense process requires support of all involved parties:
Do neighbours and district politics support the new idea?

Step 1: Collection of all ideas, creation of a shared vision

Step 2: Reassure the new concept is accepted

Step 3: Acquire financial support

