



Ryc. 1. The book „Dzieło – działka”; allotment gardens in Poland.

## URBAN GARDENS IN: POLAND

Urban gardening is a very complex subject, which has rather strong social aspect. It provides a sense of community, fills the time, and encourages physical activity. It is also a search for comfort - in a natural way, people need friendly environments. They have had enough of choking in sweltering apartments and smog. This is why they have begun to act, because they want to have a real effect on shaping the city landscape. The most popular form of urban gardening in Poland has been allotment gardens – below is an example of an action exploring the phenomenon of garden plots, of which Poland has about a million.



Ryc. 2. Allotment gardens and their owners in Poland.

## DZIEŁO – DZIAŁKA

For the „Dzieło–działka” project the team investigated the world of garden plots and their owners in Krakow, Wrocław, and Katowice. The initiator of the undertaking (‘09–12) was the Ethnographic Museum in Krakow. The project team focused on researching the aesthetics and the effects of garden plots on their users. Over 70 garden plot owners with their families and friends, participated in the meetings, sharing their urban gardening experiences. The fruit of these meetings with the gardeners was an exhibition, a book of about 400 pages, a collection of objects created in and for garden plots and the debate about their future in Poland.



Ryc. 1. Start of the action „Grass – here or to go”? In Łódź.

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As other parts of city life urban gardening changes all the time – there is more and more actions and events showing different aspects of urban gardening and introducing new ways, shapes and forms greenery can be brought back to our lives, even if we happen to occupy only a tiny flat in a concrete city center.

Poor state of one of the streets in Łódź was the cause for a project „Lipowa od nowa” [„New Lipowa Street”] as part of which a group called Grupa Pewnych Ludzi [A Certain Group Of People] started a new cycle of events called „Green Lipowa” with an aim to fix the greenery along Lipowa street.



Ryc. 2. People taking part in the „Grass – here or to go” action.

## ŁÓDŹ: GRASS – HERE OR TO GO?

One of the most remembered actions was called „GRASS – HERE OR TO GO?”. The event planners prepared bagged grass [around 100 bags] for the participants to take home or to plant on what a long time ago was a street loan and make the neighborhood a bit more pleasant and green. The turnout was great despite poor weather conditions .

Grupa Pewnych Ludzi [A Certain Group Of People] from Lodz is an informal group of people who care for their city - they fight the negligence and carelessness of local authorities and some residents through numerous actions and happenings.



Ryc. 1. A flower patch in Białystok.

## URBAN GARDENS IN: POLAND

„Nieużytki sztuki” is an idea of Elżbieta Jabłońska, who’s been trying to merge together urban gardening and art. 9 cities are taking active part in this action - Warsaw, Lodz, Tarnów, Wrocław, Białystok, Zielona Góra, Olsztyn, Lublin. Land adjacent to museums and galleries is offered for people to rent for free and start gardening. In every location there are specially prepared patches [raised from the ground so that elderly and unable could garden too] where people can grow flowers and vegetables. Every participant can also use the help of an expert advice and get a gardener’s starter kit if needed.



Ryc. 2. Participants of „Nieużytki sztuki” in Królikarnia, Warsaw.

## NIEUŻYTKI SZTUKI

The aim of this action it to get people interested and involved not only in urban gardening, but also in art. By situating the gardening patches around museums, galleries ect. the organizers hope to reduce the distance between the audience and the cultural institution. "Nieużytki sztuki" seems to be a great success – only in Warsaw over 60 people grow their plants in Królikarnia, where the project is located. On the project’s website people can get acquainted with all the rules of renting their own patch, they can also get information and advice about gardening and share their experience, knowledge and pictures of their produce.

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