



Premio Internazionale Carlo Scarpa per il Giardino

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***Natur Park Schöneberger Südgelände  
and Berlin's Urban Nature***

**In-depth information  
sheet about  
Grün Berlin**

**Grün Berlin: sustainable routes for developing public space**

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A liveable city that is always on the move and develops sustainably: that has been our goal for over twenty-five years. Grün Berlin GmbH was the result of a merger in 1996 of two state-owned companies: Grün Berlin Gesellschaft für Freiraumgestaltung mbH and Berliner Park und Garten GmbH. The companies, since 1985 and 1990 respectively, had managed the sites of the two (federal) garden shows organised from the 1980s in the respective halves of the then divided city. In the western part, this was the *Bundesgartenschau* BUGA 1985, today's *Britzer Garten*, in the eastern part, the *Erholungspark* (Recreational Park) *Marzahn*.

Grün Berlin Gesellschaft für Freiraumgestaltung mbH, on the other hand, also had a mission relevant to urban development policy from the very beginning: BUGA-Gesellschaft-Berlin-1985 established that it would take on the planning of another garden show, BUGA 1995, on the site of today's government quarter.

After this idea was scrapped in the wake of reunification and the capital city decision, Grün Berlin Gesellschaft für Freiraumgestaltung mbH pushed the issue of urban development through the creation of green space in projects such as the *Invalidenpark*, the *Moabiter Werder* and the *Lustgarten*.

After the merger of the two companies to form Grün Berlin Park und Garten GmbH in 1996, this path was continued. A milestone in the history of this state-owned company was the opening of the Natur Park Südgelände in 1998-1999. This park was not only one of the 'Worldwide Projects' of the international show EXPO 2000 in Hanover, but was also the core element of Berlin's North-South Open Space System. This green infrastructure axis was to provide new access to and shape the city in the years to come. But more about that later on.

Shortly afterwards – in 2000 – the first 'Garden of the World,' the Chinese Garden, was opened in the east of the city in the *Erholungspark Marzahn*. It is one of the largest Chinese gardens outside of China and goes back to the city twinning between Berlin and Beijing that was concluded in 1994. The Chinese Garden laid the foundations for the construction of other international gardens in Marzahn and the emergence of today's *Gärten der Welt* (Gardens of the World).

Since 2010, Grün Berlin Park und Garten GmbH has been operating under the name Grün Berlin GmbH.

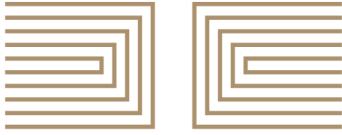
Its tasks are project development, construction management, facilities and property management, public relations and marketing, and knowledge transfer. The work of the GmbH is achieved through a nine-member supervisory board. In the course of the company's development, several subsidiaries were founded in order to be able to meet the growing portfolio of tasks.

Grün Berlin Service GmbH, founded at the same time in 2010, is mainly responsible for commercial, administrative and technical services as well as other service tasks.

In 2012, the Grün Berlin Foundation was established. It is responsible for project implementation tasks and construction and project management in the realisation of new recreational areas as well as public and culturally significant open spaces and parks. A nine-member foundation board accompanies this work.

With the realisation of the International Garden Exhibition 2017 (*Internationale Gartenausstellung*, IGA), IGA 2017 GmbH was established.

IGA Berlin 2017 covered a total of 100 hectares of the existing *Gärten der Welt* as well as new sections of the adjacent *Wuhletal* with the Kienberg.



Since 2017 another subsidiary, GB infraVelo GmbH, has also been implementing cycling infrastructure projects and coordinating cross-district measures – from cycle expressways to bicycle parking – for improved cycling infrastructure in Berlin.

The Senate Department for the Environment, Mobility, Consumer and Climate Protection (SenUMVK) is politically responsible for the various companies.

We are working for and with the citizens on a future-oriented urban development that includes ecological, economic and social aspects: open spaces for recreation, pleasure, sports and health, inspiration, social encounters and civic engagement.

A city in which people can move around safely and in a climate-friendly way.

A city that also provides sufficient habitats for a diverse fauna and flora.

To achieve this objective, we have embraced a culture of good building design, attentive to the common good and public services to which we are committed as a public company. We are, however, also attentive to networking all the existing interdisciplinary expertise and working in partnership with the people of Berlin and our service providers.

Lastly, attentive to the resource-saving, transparent and timely implementation of construction measures.

We are delighted that the 2022 International Carlo Scarpa Prize for Gardens awarded to the Natur Park Südgelände as a ground-breaking project for Berlin's urban development also appreciates the work of our company.

edited by Christoph Schmidt,  
managing director of Grün Berlin