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## Parks as social spaces

Youth work in parks is part of Vienna's open child and youth work practice and is based on professional guidelines for social work in public space\*.

Using methods of socio-cultural animation and of play, outdoor and leisure education, the programme offers children and young people a wide variety of non-formal and informal learning opportunities in selected Viennese parks.

Moreover, park-based youth work provides children and young people with opportunities to establish relationships with others and it increases their scope of action by involving them in participation projects. It also encourages children and young people to identify with and appropriate their neighbourhoods. **In this way, park-based youth work makes a significant contribution towards preserving and further developing public space as a space of appropriation and education for children and young people.**

## The following open child and youth work associations offer youth work in parks:

**Balu & Du**  
District 11  
balu.wien

**Bassena Stuwerviertel**  
District 2  
bassena2.at

**Don Bosco Sozialwerk – JuZeS**  
**Jugendzentrum Stadlau**  
District 22  
sozialwerk.at/juzes

**IFEP**  
Districts 5 and 22  
parkbetreuung-margareten.at  
aktivspielplatz.at

**JUVIVO**  
Districts 3, 6, 9, 15 and 21  
juvivo.at

**Kiddy & Co**  
District 14  
kidsline.at

**Multikulturelles Netzwerk**  
District 7  
mk-n.org

**Verein zur Förderung der Spielkultur**  
District 17  
spiel-kultur.at

**Wiener Familienbund**  
Districts 1, 4, 8, 13, 18 and 19  
wiener-familienbund.at

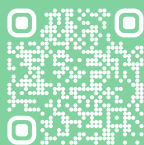
**Wiener Jugendzentren**  
Districts 2, 10, 16 and 22  
jugendzentren.at

**Wiener Kinderfreunde aktiv**  
Districts 10, 12, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 23  
wienerkinderfreunde-aktiv.at

**Wiener Kinderfreunde – Bezirksorganisation Brigittenau**  
District 20  
kinderfreunde-brigittenau.com

**Wiener Kinderfreunde – Bezirksorganisation Leopoldstadt**  
District 2  
friends2.at

**ZEIT!RAUM**  
Districts 14, 15 and 22  
zeitraum.org



All addresses, time schedules and other details are available at **parkbetreuung.wien.gv.at**.

## Youth Work in Parks



\*cf. MA 13 (ed.) (2018): Wiener Parkbetreuung – Grundkonzept, Wien;  
Krisch, Richard/Stoik, Christoph/Kellner, Johannes/Benrazougui-Hofbauer, Evelyn (2011):  
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**Stadt  
Wien**

Bildung  
und Jugend

parkbetreuung.wien.gv.at





## Let's get outside!

All children aged 6 or over are invited to make use of Vienna's park-based youth work programme and engage in fun activities, play and sports in their free time.

### Please note:

Participation in the programme is voluntary, non-binding and free of charge. When the weather is bad, activities are done indoors in different places all over Vienna. Youth workers do not assume any responsibility of supervision.

*"Together we organise football tournaments in summer."*

Selina, 8 years

*"We play together, go on outings and I have made many new friends in the programme."*

Rascha, 13 years

## What is park-based youth work?

Wiener Parkbetreuung, Vienna's park-based youth work programme, was established in 1993. It is a free leisure time programme designed primarily for children from 6 to 13 years. Several Viennese districts also offer activities for teenagers.

Trained youth workers visit parks, school grounds, youth sports grounds and housing estates at fixed hours several times a week.

The offer is designed to reflect the interests, needs and living environments of children and young people. In line with the programme's approach of promoting participation, the individual activities are developed together with the young participants.

Activities are focussed on providing opportunities for creativity, fun, play and movement. In this way, the programme promotes children's social learning and their emotional, cognitive and motor skills.

The Youth Office of the City of Vienna's Department for Education and Youth is responsible for the coordination and professional support of the programme, which goes unrivalled in Europe.

## Professional offer at district level

Park-based youth work is carried out by non-profit associations specialising in working with children and young people.

Staff members are trained educators who ensure that their work meets professional standards outlined for example in the "Grundkonzept Wiener Parkbetreuung", a basic concept for park-based youth work in Vienna. Park-based youth work builds on networking and social space orientation to promote good relationships and interactions in the neighbourhood.

The offer is funded and supported by Vienna's 23 municipal districts.

*"They listen and take me seriously."*

Mohammad, 12 years

*"We give the children the opportunity to experience things which they wouldn't experience otherwise."*

Marica, youth worker