

Who's Knocking at my Back Door? Friend or Foe?

A 90-minute indoor (classroom) habitat game with Ann Grösch.

Row houses are typical of suburbia. Where Nature once had its say, contractors equipped with a drawing board arrived. Residential areas were the result. Houses came with a driveway and garage, along with a front door and one at the back. Yards at the front, often reflect to some degree the personalities of the owners or dwellers. Those with a green thumb will, in many cases, copy Nature. Others might opt to hire a gardener with visitors usually knocking at the front door. That yard in general gets a lot of attention.

At the back of the house yards may seem cluttered. Families set up sandboxes and swings for the kids, a kennel for the dog. Often a shed for garden tools has been added. A sign that families are growing their own food.

Competition for open space is increasing. Towns want to expand. Property on the outskirts goes on the market. Data centers require power plants to generate electricity and space to store our data. In the midwest open space may seem never-ending. In New Jersey a „No-Trespassing“ sign is required.

Participants move from the city to the suburbs and a home-of-their own. We turn what once may have been open space (forest, meadow) with wild plants, insects and animals into private homes with flower beds of one's choice. Growing one's own food is an option.

The demand for land to build data centers is growing. That land may be at our back door. Do we allow city planers, the city council to sell or lease the land to a tech giant?

Overall Threats

Chip production is in Taiwan.

China threatens to invade Taiwan.

War in Ukraine

Conflicts in the Middle East

Closure of Strait of Hormuz

Expansion of A.I.

Little or no regulation of A.I. technology

Greenhouse-gas emissions

Blackout here at home

What We Can Do

Create a bird-friendly garden

Join an NGO: NABU www.nabu.de / LBV www.lbv.de / BUND www.bund.de

Write to members of your City Council and State Parliament

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Recommended Reading

Bourne-Taylor, Hannah: NATURE NEEDS YOU - The fight to save our swifts. Elliott + Thompson, London, 2022. ISBN 78396-868-8

Carr, Nicholas: THE SHALLOWS. What the Internet is doing to our brains. Norton. Updated 2020. ISBN 978-0-393-35782-0

Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity : a Report to the Club of Rome (2022), Fifty Years After The Limits of Growth (1972). - New Society Publishers, 2022. ISBN 9780865719866

Hensbergen, Hendrikus van: How you can save the Planet. Because YOU have the Power to make Change. Penguin, 2021. ISBN 978-0-241-45304-9

Reichholf, Josef: Das Rätsel der Menschwerdung. Die Entstehung des Menschen im Wechselspiel mit der Natur. - DVA - 3. Aufl. 1991. ISBN-13 978 3423330060

Vester, Frederic: Die Kunst vernetzt zu denken. Ideen und Werkzeuge für einen neuen Umgang mit Komplexität., DTV - 6. Aufl. -2002. ISBN-13:978-3-423-3307-0

Vester, Frederic: Neuland des Denkens - Vom technokratischen zum kybernetische Zeitalter. - DTV - 3. Aufl. 1985. ISBN 3-421-02703-X

Welzer, Harald: Die smarte Diktatur - der Angriff auf unsere Freiheit. Fischer, 2016. ISBN 9783100024916

Participants are welcome to contribute materials to the game.

Please discuss details with Ann Grösch: 0911-70 69 19 /info@habitatspiel.de

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