



Concept of a local forest-school partnership with annual program

Initial situation:

The city administration of Angermünde is an implementation partner in the [project “Life Prognoses – old-growth forest conservation in Europe”](#) and is particularly active in the area of `Local awareness raising`.

Angermünde as local municipality administration is hosting on its administrative territory one component part of the [UNESCO World Heritage Site “ Ancient Beech Forests and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Regions of Europe”](#) - the component part `Grumsin` - just 8 km from the city center. The city of Angermünde also owns around 450 hectares of forest between the World Heritage component part and the city center south of Lake Wolletz .

The forest ecosystems and their services are therefore relevant for the city of Angermünde, as are the other forests that characterize the region. The city administration therefore seeks to support the communication of the importance of forests for the well-being and health of the population. Of particular interest here are the old (beech) forests and their ecosystem services.

The following projects have been implemented in cooperation with European partners since 2019 :

- Interreg project [BEECH POWER](#)
- Anniversary funding 10 years of World Heritage
- Interreg project [Healthy Forest Regions](#)
- [Life Prognoses](#)
- [Erasmus Youth Exchange](#)
- Information point Altkünkendorf as visitor information center for the World Natural Heritage

Parts of the administrative territory of Angermünde are located in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Schorfheide-Chorin, which also aims to promote education for sustainable development (ESD) in the region.

Schools can currently access programs of environmental education actors (e.g. NABU of Blumberger Mühle or Naturwacht), but it is up to the individual teacher. The concept was intended to create a framework for a school that would anchor the topic of forests in a recurring annual program, thus ensuring that all students and teachers get to know and appreciate the local forest with the support of various regional environmental education actors.

Concept development:

As part of the Life Prognoses project, a concept for a local forest-school partnership with an annual program was developed with the Puschkin elementary school in Angermünde and regional environmental education stakeholders.

As part of the concept development, the following common denominator was established with the implementing actors and the school:

- the school class visits cover all seasons as part of the annual program
- the programs take into account the respective season
- in which the importance of the forest for us humans is discussed
- all programs include sensory perception
- all programs include playful elements
- the programs for grades 1-4 take place in the city forest and lead to the same place in the long term (e.g. forest classroom) so that the children can build a connection and, for example, recognize trees and perceive changes - individual events can still deviate from this if it is thematically or organizationally necessary
- the programs for grades 5 & 6 take place in the UNESCO World Heritage Beech Forest and address this special feature
- the programs are documented so that subsequent actors know what the classes have already done in previous years

The annual forest program was implemented for the first time in the 2023/2024 school year with 12 forest days as the school disposes in every grade of two classes.

The implementation was evaluated and rated positively by the school. The second round of implementation is currently taking place.

The aim of the concept is to create implementation and communication structures with environmental education partners from the region and the school who are active on the topic of forests, which will enable long-term implementation (even after the Life Prognoses project period).





The goals of the local forest-school partnership are:

- to work on various topics related to the local forest in an age-appropriate manner
- to get to know the local forest in depth and to build a connection
- to enable practical learning outdoors and connection to nature
- To support the knowledge and experience of ecosystem services of (old) forests
- to promote ESD competencies
- curricula to cover
- to enable students and teachers to get to know various forest actors and different perspectives
- to expand the approaches of the UNESCO project schools with education for sustainable development, as the school profile may develop further in this direction.

Organizational goals are:

- long-term partner structure for implementation
- Short term: Starting point: each class once a year in the forest at different times of the year (at the request of the school), but open for further activities e.g. school trips etc.
- Alternative: intensive forest program e.g. 4x a year in all seasons with one year group (e.g. 3rd grade) and 1x to the World Heritage Site with the 5th or 6th grade
- Infrastructure/transport to ensure public transport to the extracurricular learning locations (during the project period, at the request of the Angermünde city administration, an additional bus was set up at 8:30 to the city forest and to the World Heritage Site by the Uckermark district in order to ensure public services through education)

Adapted to the age groups, the concept of the local forest-school partnership is intended to promote the following ESD competencies:

- Students show appreciation for people and nature
- Students can recognize connections
- Students can work together and take responsibility for common results
- Students can make assumptions about the impact of their own actions and the actions of others

Places where the annual program will be implemented are:

- Angermünde city forest (a forest classroom is also being developed here)
- UNESCO World Heritage Grumsin Beech Forest

Annual Forest Program 2023/2024:

	location	topic	partner	season
1 st grade	City forest	Forest in spring (birds, trees, early bloomer)	Federal forest administration & city administration	spring
2 nd grade	City forest	Forest in summer (ecosystem services, climate, water, trees, herbal layer)	Naturwatch Ranger Service	summer
3 rd grade	City forest	Forest in autumn (trees and their fruits/ seeds, regeneration, forest transformation)	Forester of the City forest & Federal forest administration	autumn
4 th grade	City forest	Forest in winter (winter strategies of trees & animals, animal tracking)	Naturwatch Ranger Service	winter
5 th grade	World Heritage Forest	Formation of our landscape and the forest	Association of the village church Altkünkendorf	autumn
6 th grade	World Heritage Forest			

Coordination of the forest-school partnership:

- Angermünde City Council on Project Life Forecasts in 2023 and 2024

Implementation partner:

- Brandenburg Nature Watch
- Brandenburg State Forestry Administration
- Blumberger Mühle NABU
- Förderverein Dorfkirche Altkünkendorf eV
- city forester
- Angermünde city administration

Suggestions / Further developments:

- To design a school forest in the city forest in a project.

Challenges for long-term implementation:

- Coordination – is there a need for a place where everything converges? Where would the capacity be available?
- Documentation of the programme – what was done with which class by which actor?

