

# BEST PRACTICES

Haus des Waldes (House of the Forest)

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## Institutional information

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*Region and Country where the case study took place: Stuttgart, Germany*

*Website: <https://hausdeswaldes.forstbw.de/haus-des-waldes/>*

*Facebook ([link](#))*

*Twitter ([link](#))*

*Linked In ([link](#))*

*Google + ([link](#))*

*Media*

*Logo*



## Summary

### Explain your case in one or two sentences

*The “Haus des Waldes” (House of the Forest) is an educational and learning center on forestry, sustainable forest economics, use of forest for recreation and wild-life in forests. The House of the Forest is open to people of all ages and offers special programs for school classes and students. It is part of the sustainable and resilient forestry network and has a special focus on city forests and forests in industrialized areas.*

### Background information: How was the situation previous to your actions?

With the House of the Forest visitors experience the forest with all senses. Whether in the “StadtWaldWelt” (City Forest World) exhibition in the light-flooded building or in the forest. There is something to see, discover and experience everywhere. This is not only fun for children and adolescents, adults also get their money's worth.

The offer is diverse

- the exhibition StadtWaldWelt
- the SINNESWANDEL forest adventure trail

- Forest educational events for school classes and kindergarten
- Training opportunities
- Events for adults
- and an open annual program with something for everyone.

### **What were the needs you identified?**

*People living in cities and urban clusters need to be informed, trained and educated about the role and function of forests. Forests are places of recreation, places of economic activities (active forestry and wood industry), places of wildlife, preservation of wildlife, deer breeding and protection of fauna and flora. Forests have an important role in our geological and climate system. They do not only filter our air and provide clear air, they also protect us from heavy winds and storms, store water, offers areas with hedges for wildlife of insects and bees and have an important role in the exchange between cold and warm air. The complex systems of forests needs to be protected and the value of forests needs to be explained to visitors. There is a shared responsibility for our forests. Especially the young generation in cities needs to be educated about the role and function and value of forests. The “classrooms in the forest” or “the forest as a classroom” provides an ideal hands-on learning environment.*

### **What solution you found to cover those needs?**

*The “Haus des Waldes” is a good sample of “forest pedagogy” and “public classrooms” for environment education. It combines education and training for the general public as well as training for students of agriculture, forestry and nature-economics.*

*The “Haus des Waldes” was established 30 years ago and has developed into a main educational institution offering out-of-school education for the young, trainings and seminars in the forest for the mid-age generations, sports and leisure activities for all ages, lectures and talks and empowerment for the older generations and takes an holistic approach to training and learning.*

*The Haus des Waldes is the central forest educational institution of ForstBW. It is important to the Haus des Wald team to provide education for sustainable development that is theoretically sound but very practical. We want to live up to this high standard in our events and in the StadtWaldWelt exhibition and look beyond the forestry and local horizon.*

*It offers in this context:*

- Forest educational events for day care centers, school classes and groups of all kinds
- Seminars on forest education
- In-service qualification to become a state certified forest educators
- Annual program of the House of the Forest
- The forest box from ForstBW
- Woodruff database
- StadtWaldWelt exhibition

- Barrier-free forest adventure trail SINNESWANDEL
- Children's birthdays

### **What actions did you take to reach the solution?**

*The Haus des Waldes offers a training in forest pedagogy:*

*The House of the Forest offers part-time qualifications to become a state-certified forest educator. The required seminars are offered in the forest education program offered by ForstBW with the support and certification of the Ministry for Rural Areas and Consumer Protection, Baden-Württemberg, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Baden-Württemberg*

*Participants; Forestry specialists, educators, teachers, educators, scientists and all interested people who have recognized professional training.*

*Components of the certificate (see educational offer in forest pedagogy)*

*Participation in at least:*

- 1 basic forestry-ecological module (if no forestry training)
- 1 basic pedagogical module (if no pedagogical training)
- 1 basic module GNI
- 5 seminars from the A module
- 3 seminars from the B module
- 1 seminar from the C module
- 3 seminars from the D module
- 1 training course

*Proof of 40 hours of internship, internship report.*

*A first aid course must be taken promptly.*

*Registration for the certificate exam*

*We recommend completing the qualification in a period of 2-3 years*

*Further information on 30 years of "Haus des Waldes":*

*At the ceremony, the 30th anniversary of the Haus des Wald, Eric Gauthier, dancer, choreographer, singer, director of the dance company of the Theaterhaus Stuttgart and last but not least neighbor and fan of the Haus des Waldes created a mood of optimism, in which he opened the evening with a song reminiscent of the great Woodstock festival 50 years ago remind. This flair ran through the entire evening.*

*"Revolutionaries are important for changes in society." With this message, Prof. Ginter from the Nürtingen University underlined the motto "Visions and Utopias" under which the ceremony for the 30th anniversary of the Haus des Waldes stood. "However, the people who put these revolutionary ideas into practice are just as important," added the professor.*

*1989 it was Dr. Konrad Bauer, then forest president of the Stuttgart regional council and Ventur Schöttle then*

*state secretary and chairman of the German Forest Protection Association, Landesverband Baden-Württemberg e. V., who had the vision of a forest educational institution and implemented it with the House of the Forest as the first forest education center in Germany. Both founders celebrated this evening and told very authentically and lively about the beginnings of the House of the Forest*

*The top landlord of the Haus des Waldes, the Minister for Rural Areas and Consumer Protection, Peter Hauk MdL, emphasized: "In 1989, the founders of the Haus des Waldes thought in a modern and forward-looking way. The regional forest administration at the time, together with the German Forest Protection Association, focused on education that was tangible and tangible 30 years ago. "" With our 'Education Offensive Forest' we will lead forest education to a good future, "he emphasized. Minister of Education Dr. Susanne Eisenmann agreed: "The cultural administration recognized the great potential of the non-school learning location forest early on and supported the forest education project with a teacher right from the start. The Haus des Wald ideally complements school lessons as an extra-curricular learning location ".*

*An excellent example of this sustainable forest education and the good cooperation between the Haus des Waldes and the schools is the cooperation between the Haus des Waldes and the Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium (GSG) in Stuttgart-Sillenbuch. All 9th grades manage their own piece of forest in Degerloch for one school year. That evening the GSG was represented by its musical choir. With songs from the Neue Deutsche Welle, the singers effortlessly combined the good mood with the beginning of the environmental movement in the 80s.*

**If any, which partners or other organisations did you involve during the process?**

*The Haus des Waldes is part of the State Department for Forestry and is supported by the City of Stuttgart, State of Baden-Württemberg and receives funds from private donors.*

**What were the main problems or difficulties you had to face?**

*n.a.*

**What is the situation now, after your actions?**

*Today the Haus des Waldes counts up to several thousands of visitors per year. It has an active and open annual programme with talks, lectures, seminars and trainings.*

**Main lessons learned along the way? \***

*Always look for partners in education for education. SDGs, resilient agriculture and use of nature are key elements for a sustainable life in our days.*

**Annex:**

Other related resources

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUtkN1ykoMY>

[https://hausdeswaldes.forstbw.de/fileadmin/haus\\_des\\_waldes/PDF/Jahresprogramm2020\\_web.pdf](https://hausdeswaldes.forstbw.de/fileadmin/haus_des_waldes/PDF/Jahresprogramm2020_web.pdf)