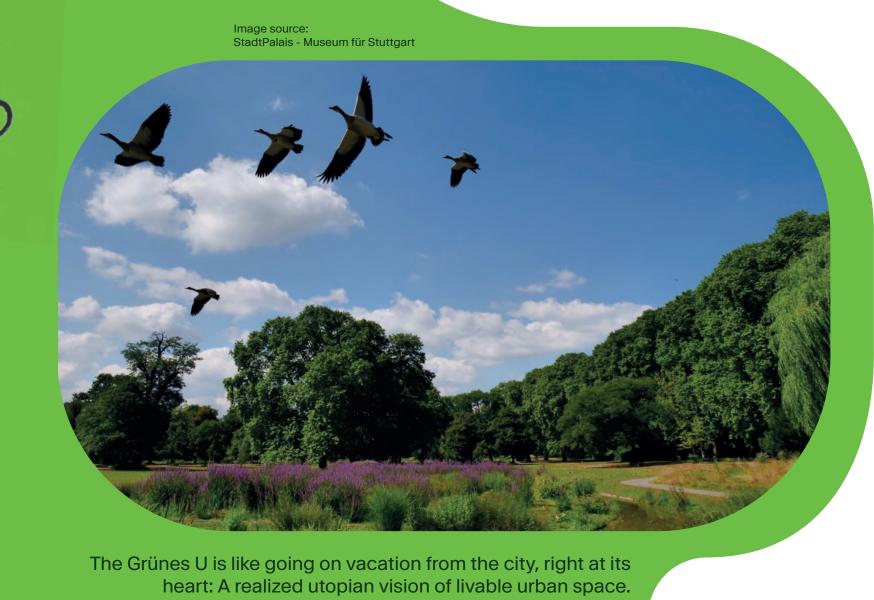
## **Barefoot into** the Green Utopia

In the heart of the "Stuttgarter Kessel" (Stuttgarter basin) lies a carefully planned green landscape. A vision brought to life through decades of urban development: the "Grünes U" (Green U). But what exactly is the Grünes U?

After feeling the different surfaces of the barefoot path beneath your feet, you can learn more about the history and background of the Grüne U right here. And if that's not enough for you, check out our map, which you can find at the StadtPalais and head straight into the city's diverse park landscape.











There's hardly any other place in Stuttgart's urban landscape that brings together history, nature and spaces to play and relax as impressively as the

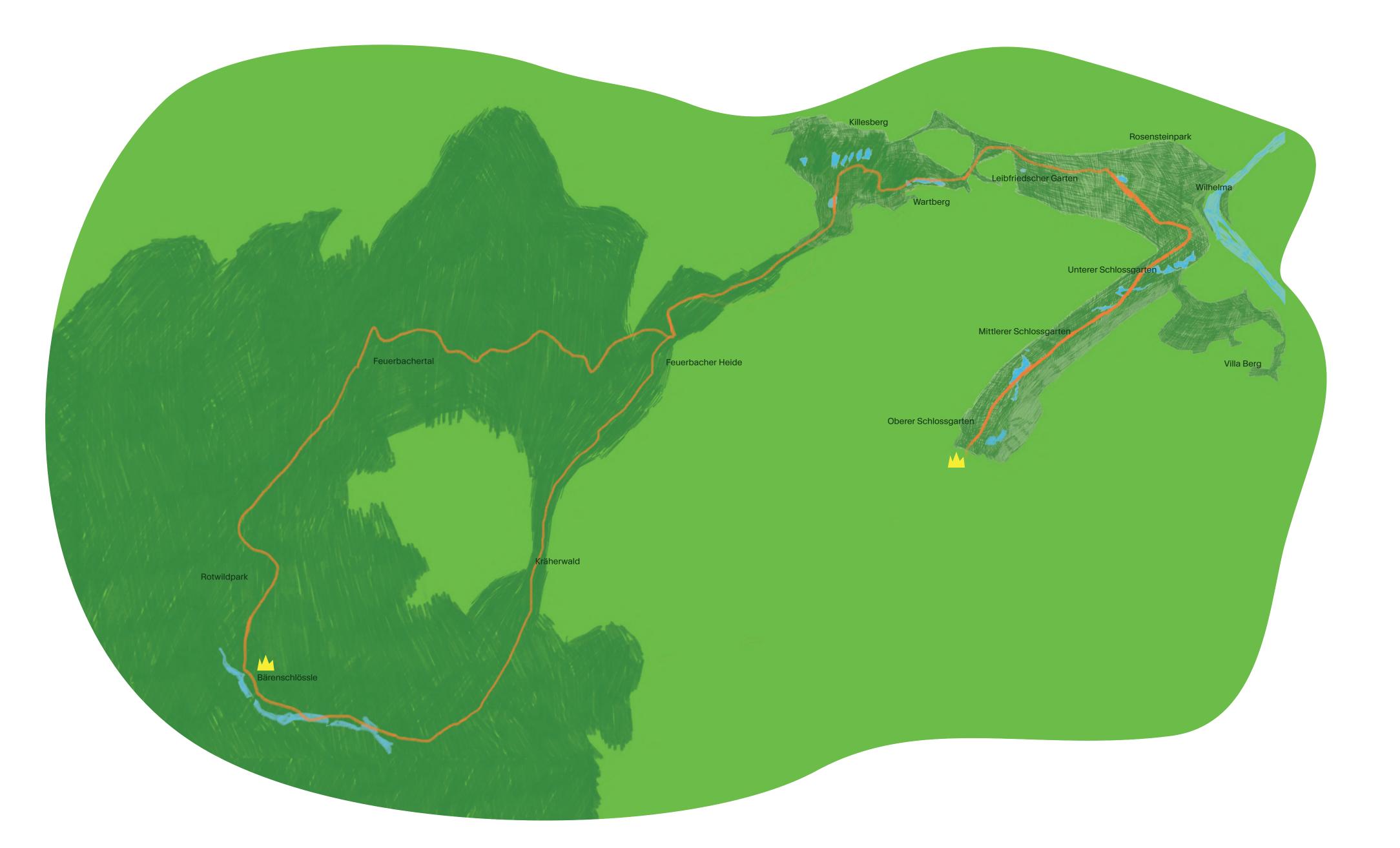
The green space evolved over the past 90 years, but its roots trace back to the 13th century.

Starting from the Oberer Schlossgarten by the Neue Schloss, the park landscape gradually expanded northward through Stuttgart.

After four garden exhibitions, a milestone was reached in 1993: All inner-city green spaces were linked into one continuous green belt. In 2012, the forest areas toward the Bärensee were then connected to the Höhenpark Killesberg. Altogether, the Grünes U now spans an impressive 16 kilometers (10 miles) in length.



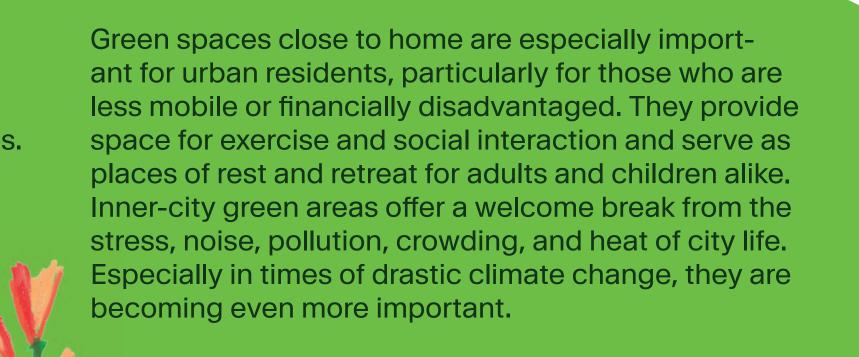


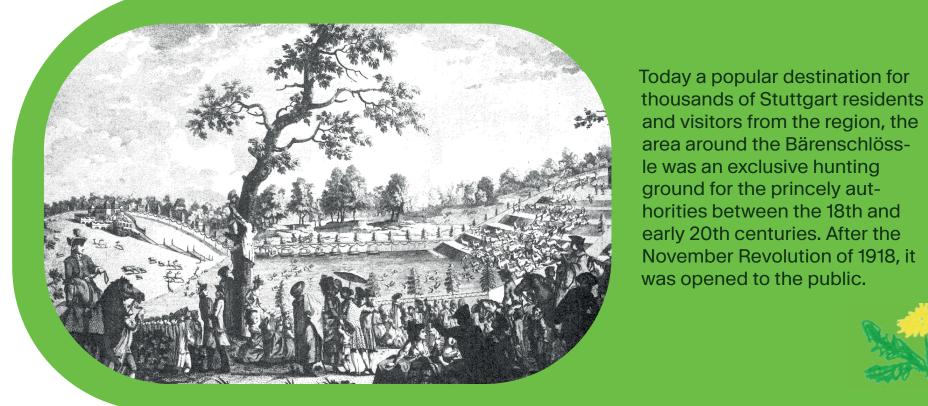


## From the City to the Forest – Nothing Works Without Green!

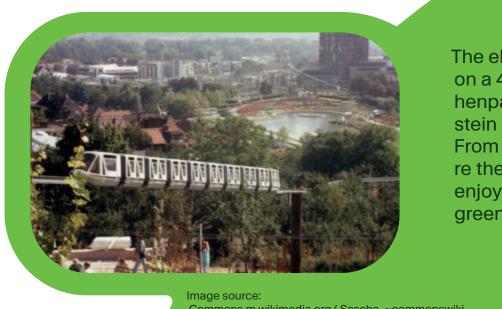
The Grünes U is often reduced to its inner-city parks, but from the start, the idea was to create a continuous connection all the way to the surrounding forest landscapes. This makes Stuttgart special among Germany's major cities.

The Red Deer Park with the Bärenschlössle now forms the end of the Grünes U. As the city's largest nature reserve, it connects the neighbourhoods West, Botnang, Büsnau, and Vaihingen over around 830 hectares (about 1,164 soccer fields).









re the 22 national gardens and enjoy breathtaking views of the green spaces.

In 1993, during the International Horticultural Exhibition (IGA), a further connection was created between Rosenstein Park and Höhenpark Killesberg via the Leibfriedscher Garten and the Wartberg area. This achieved the long-standing goal of a continuous green walkway from the city center up to the heights of Killesberg—the (official) birth of the Grünes U.

Under the motto "City and Nature - Responsible Approach" the focus shifted more strongly toward environmental issues. However, conflicts between nature conservation and park planning were unavoidable when developing the new park areas. The redesign of the partly overgrown Wartberg site, previously used for private allotment gardens, was particularly controversial.

Besides the environment, art played an important role for the IGA team. Ten art installations were created as permanent spots scattered throughout the parks, including the mirrored pyramid "Gate of Hope" in the Leibfriedscher Garten and the "Stangenwald" in Höhenpark Killesberg.

> Stuttgart's Chinese Garden is also a product of the IGA. Originally planned as a temporary national garden in Rosenstein Park, it outlasted the exhibition due to its popularity and

today is located permanently just outside the

Grünes U above an inner-city vineyard slope.





## The Evergreen

farte a

In the 13th and 14th centuries, under Count Eberhard I, Stuttgart had hunting grounds that began right next to the Altes Schloss and stretched towards the Neckar River by Cannstatt. This area has thus been a non-commercial green space in the heart of the bowl-shaped valley for over 700 years.

A count's garden behind the Altes Schloss is first mentioned in the mid-14th century. The heyday of the ducal gardens – with pleasure houses, artificial grottos, fountains, ball game areas, and lively parties – was, however, in the 16th and 17th centuries. The general public was usually not allowed access. This only changed with the Königliche Anlagen established by King Friedrich I of Nürttemberg in the early 19th century.

Wilhelma Zoo. The Park wasn't always open to the public. After World War I, the Löwentor closed. In the 1920s, visitors still

The large meadows of the Ro- The plane tree avenue laid out back then leads up to senstein Park aren't just great for picnics; some of the greenery is also used as animal feed at some of the greenery is also used as an increase of the greenery is also used as an increase of the greenery is also used as an increase of the greenery is also used as an increase of the greenery is also used as an increase of the greenery is also used as an increase of the greenery is also used as an increase of the greenery is also used as an increase of the greenery is also used as an increase of the greenery is also used as an increase of the greenery is also used as an increase of the greenery is also used as an increase of the greenery is also used as an increase of the greenery is also used as an increase of the greenery is also used as an increase of the greenery is also used as an increase of the greenery is also used as an increase the 1820s. Designed as an English landscape garden, Rosenstein Park was intended to resemble a "natural," irregular landscape. Like something out of a painting. had to pay an entrance fee of 50 Despite some loss of area over time, it has largely retained its original character to this day.

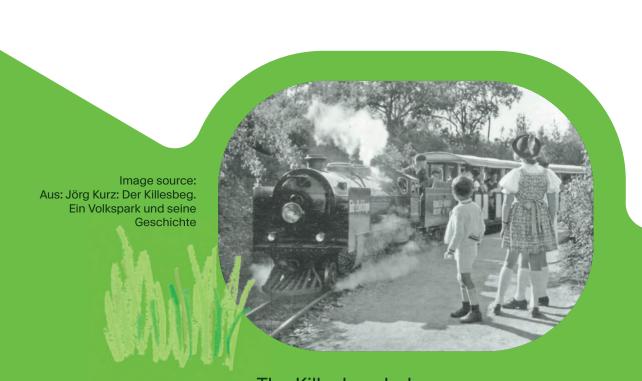
Image source: Stadtarchiv Stuttgart

With the construction of the Königliche Anlagen, the area stretching from the pa-

lace toward the Neckar was transformed into a public park. When it opened in 1808,

it was immediately accessible to everyo-ne. Over time, this marked a growing shift

toward the idea of public green spaces.



The Killesbergbahn (Killesberg train), a popular attraction among visitors both then and now, traces its origins back to the 1939 Reichsgartenschau.

> Between the 16th and 20th centuries, reed sandstone was Jewish citizens from today's Badenquarried on the Killesberg, far from Stuttgart at that time. Today, the red rock ledges in the gathered and crowded into these halls. Tal der Rosen (Rose valley) still
> They awaited deportation to the concenremind us of the former quarry.

ted today, the Killesberghallen were located until their destruction in World War II. Starting in 1941, around 2,000 Württemberg region were deceitfully tration camps in Riga and Theresienstadt.

Killesberg Park -

Remembrance

Until the 1939 Reichsgartenschau, today's

Höhenpark Killesberg was not yet a park

was extracted for private and noble buil-

For the Reichsgartenschau, the Nazi re-

Where the district Killesberghöhe is loca-

gime saw the creation of the park as a

A Space for Rest and

for relaxation. For several centuries, this Only a few survived. Today, memorials Süngün remember them. structure, was added but torn down

area was a quarry where reed sandstone by Albrecht von Hauff and artist Ülkü After the war, the park was rebuilt for the 1950 Deutsche Gartenschau. War damage was repaired and much of the prestige project hoping to make Stuttgart park restored to its 1939 condition. The an important spa and garden city of the first Killesberg Tower, a steel-and-glass again in 1974. Since 2001, its successor has been a popular destination for

## Next Stop: Park City - Stuttgart's catching that garden fever

interrupting the park landscape. For the garden show in 1961, planners around. An artificial watercourse, the chose a modern solution, breaking with "Nesenbächle," recalls the historic Nesenthe historic design of the Oberer Schloss- bach stream now running underground. garten: The oval lake created in the early 19th century was reshaped into the Eckensee, and the remains of the central tree avenue were cut down. A footbridge

over Schillerstraße connected the Oberer and Mittlerer Schlossgarten. That same year, the new state parliament building also became part of the park.

For the garden show 1977, the B14 federal road running through the Unterer Schlossgarten was put underground. This allowed the park to expand and connect

