



The Former Nuernberg Military Community

Zennwald-Depot

At the start of the international disarmament negotiations in the early 90s the Fürth population is concerned about the military site in the Zennwald in direct recreational area of Fürth. At times it was even feared that faulty nuclear weapons were stored there.

The depot was used by the German army as an ammunition depot before 1945. The area was federal property. This means that even if the US forces refrain, it would still be possible that the Bundeswehr will continue using the installations for military purposes.

Very surprisingly, however, the US Army is clearing the depot in August 1991. However, no decision is taken, what to do with the fenced property. In the discussion are the complete disclosure as well as a re-storage of weapons. Still soldiers are guarding the area. The city hoped to be able to integrate the area into a recreation area in the Zennwald soon and negotiated in 1992 and 1993 intensively with the Federal Property Office regarding an acquisition. It is also thought about establishing a second compost works on the site.

However, protests from residents of the surrounding neighborhoods cancel the plan.

The city and the Federal Property Office in August 1994 finally signed a contract to acquire the Zennwald depots. The city receives the site for free, because the land value is offset against the cost of demolition of the 14 massive munitions bunkers. Each building will cost up to 40,000 Euro.

The Agency for Technical Relief ("THW") assists at the blast of the individual bunkers. A laboratory studied the terrain in advance to old ammunition - with negative results. The aim of the city is a reforestation of the area. In collaboration with the State Forestry Department the urban environmental planning therefore developed a concept for afforestation and reintegration of the area in the forest. The cost of the Nature project are nearly 80,000 Euro. The city pays half the costs, donations of civil society and the Savings Bank are added. In autumn 1997 the first planting is launched, beekeepers start to use the site. The former ammunition depot begins to transform back into a forest landscape.

(Source: "10 Jahre Konversion - Der Fürther Weg", Stadt Fürth, December 2005.

Revision and translation by Bernd Jesussek)