



Oslo

# What's growing in Old Oslo?

Natalie Keene, Oslo Municipality



# Oslo Municipality and the District of Old Oslo

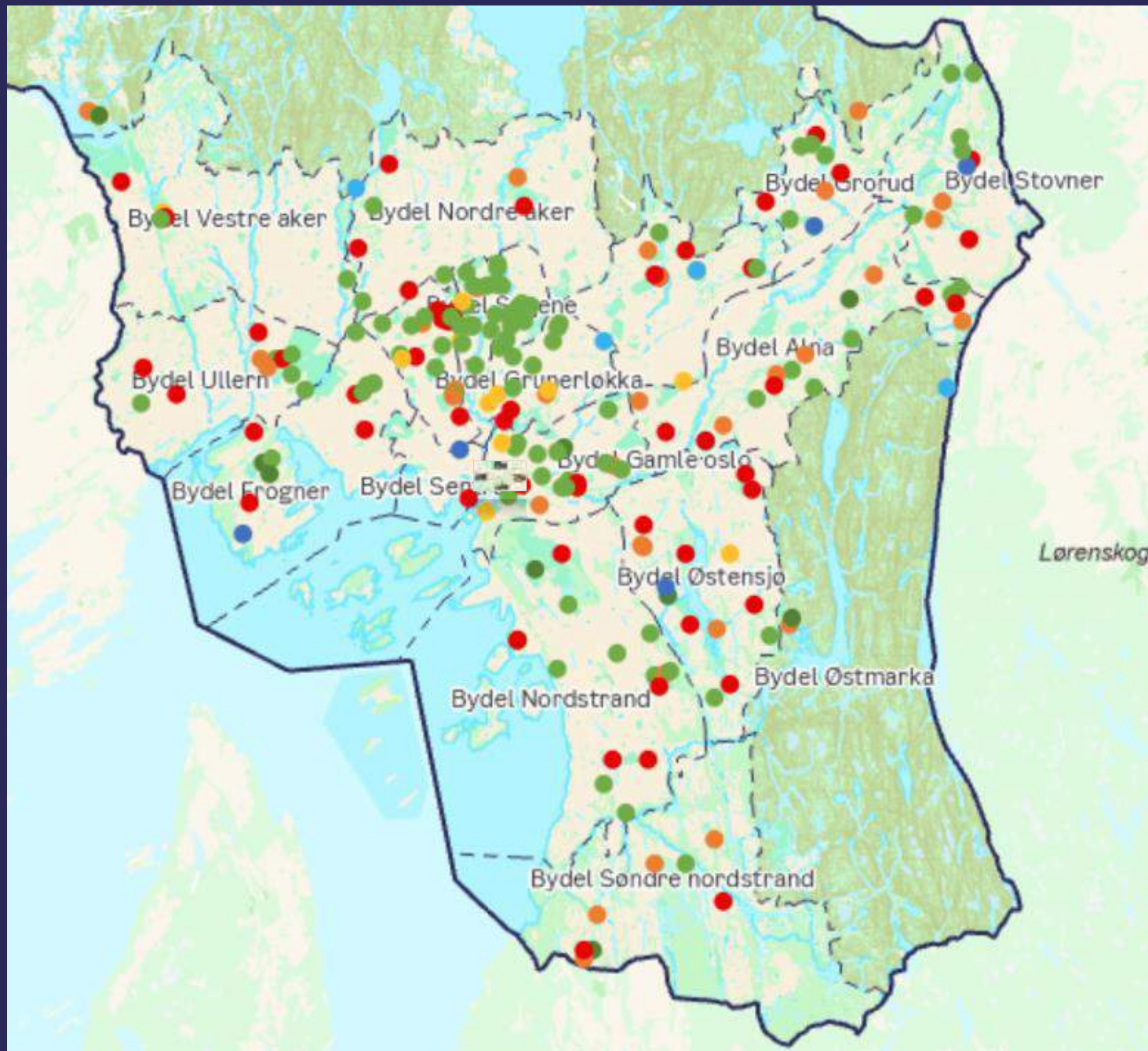
- *Sprouting Oslo: a strategy for urban agriculture 2019-2030*
- District of Old Oslo
  - *Strategic plan*
  - *Climate and environment strategy*

**Position: Bydelsbonde  
(district farmer)**



Oyster mushrooms growing in  
a street now closed to cars

# Surveyed urban agriculture projects in Oslo





### Green grants

200,000 Euro per year to green projects, installing organic and climate adapted growing in flat balconies, amongst community groups in our parks, and in privately owned areas.



### District of Old Oslo

- Built-up, inner city
- Polluted soil
- Unemployment, overcrowding in family apartments
- Politicians, staff and local residents committed to youth empowerment.
- Nice parks, meeting places



### Kindergartens

- 36 of 60 receive funding for improving their outdoor areas
- Fruit trees, berry bushes, kitchen gardens, pollinator friendly areas, green houses, worm farms, compost and more.



### 'Young City Farmers' (Unge bybønder)

- Started in 2019 as a pilot project
- 4th season in 2023
- 30 jobs each year to young adults
- Funding through different municipal programs: car free & area lift.



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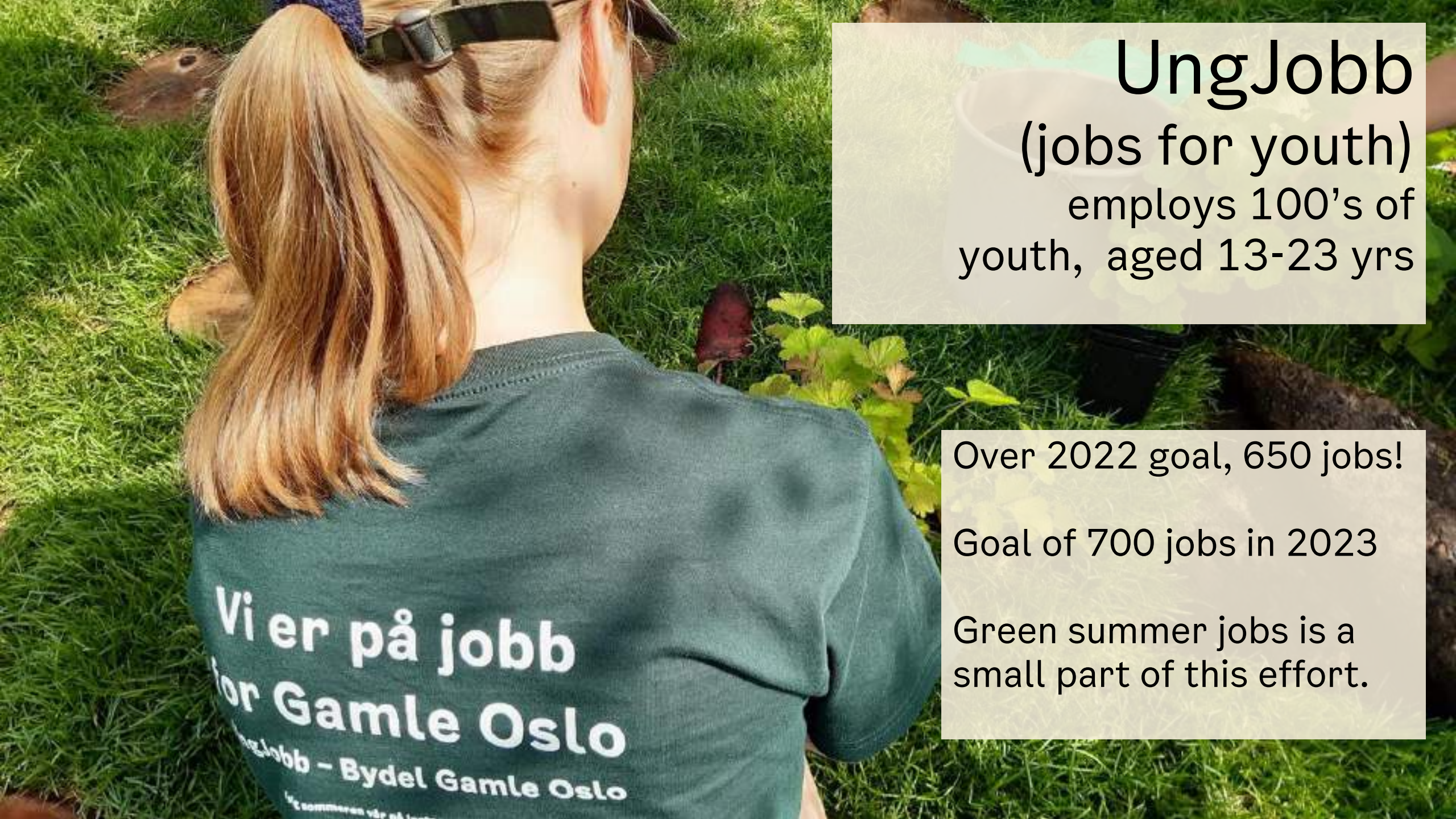


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# UngJobb

(jobs for youth)  
employs 100's of  
youth, aged 13-23 yrs

Over 2022 goal, 650 jobs!

Goal of 700 jobs in 2023

Green summer jobs is a  
small part of this effort.

Vi er på jobb  
for Gamle Oslo  
UngJobb - Bydel Gamle Oslo  
I sommeren vår er jobbene



# Toolkit for engaging youth

Handbook for  
working with  
youth in  
urban  
agriculture,  
2022



# How do we rig the project?

Young City Farmers work in summer:  
80 hrs – 4 wks – 4 days / wk – 5 hrs / day  
(Spring, autumn and winter are after school jobs)

2 team leaders

Project leader and a project officer –  
***both with horticultural skills!***



# Approach to Young City Farmers

## ▶ Observation

## ▶ Inspiration

## ▶ Ownership

**Observation**

- Spark their curiosity
  - Fascinating facts
  - Shapes and smells
- Biodiversity
- Safety
- Reporting on their day's tasks
  - Reactions of passers by
  - Based on the day, what could be done next



**Inspiration**

- Excursions, expanding the field
  - Competing centre
  - CSA farms
  - Botanical gardens
- Pop up guests, with activities
  - Project managers
  - Landscape architects
  - City planners
  - Scientists



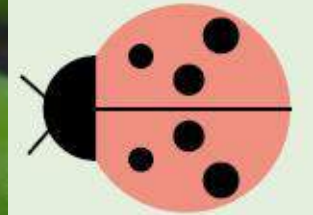
**Ownership**

- Rights at work, understanding of expectations as well
- Self confidence
- Skills
  - Gardening
  - Design
- The means to act on their ideas
- Run an event



# Observation

- ▶ Spark their curiosity
  - fascinating facts
  - Shapes and smells
- ▶ Biodiversity
- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Reporting on their day's tasks
  - Reactions of passers by
  - Based on the day, what must be done next



# Inspiration

## Excursions, expanding the field

- Composting centre
- CSA farms
- Botanical gardens

## Pop up guests, with activities

- Project managers
- Landscape architects
- City planners
- Botanists



# Ownership

- ▶ Rights at work, understanding of expectations as well
- ▶ Self confidence
- ▶ Skills
  - Gardening
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- ▶ The means to act on their ideas
- ▶ Run an event



# Spring

Rent a shipping container >  
green house  
Cultivated seeds  
Held plant swap events  
Looked after plants before  
being planted out after frost





# Summer – 2 x 4 weeks with ca.12 youth in total

- ▶ Sowing and planting
- ▶ Weeding, watering, simple pruning
- ▶ Composting and soil improvement
- ▶ Designing and making new beds
- ▶ Using electric hand tools
- ▶ Making and setting up signs to help people understand the plants
- ▶ Making meadows
- ▶ Building insect hotels and building hedghoghouses



- ▶ Pop up cafes
- ▶ Surveying park use
- ▶ Media training: doing an interview and writing a press release
- ▶ Hosting journalists and politicians
- ▶ Regular excursions and meet ups with experts in a variety of fields.

# Autumn and winter

Winter preparation, removing of annual plants, flower bulbs

- ▶ Oyster mushrooms on coffee grounds
- ▶ Christmas markets: seed balls



# Hedgehogs - 2022

Surveyed how many city hedgehogs in parks and made more homes for them.



Una, a young city farmer, describes the correct way to build a hedgehog house.



- 13cm x 13 entry tunnel
- A box with a hinged lid
- Waterproof roof
- Little legs to stand on
- Covered with leaves and twigs
- A plan for someone to look after it