



PLAN OF THE GARDEN

- 1) Wood cabin
- 2) Area for the sense of smell
- 3) Route for the blind
- 4) Area for the sense of touch
- 5) Area for the sense of taste
- 6) Area for the sense of sight
- 7) Area for the sense of hearing
- 8) The cactus greenhouse
- 9) The route of life
- 10) Play area
- 11) Gazebo
- 12) Lake



Grid reference GPS N 43.51108 E 11.09998



Donazioni:
Banca di Credito Cooperativo di Cambiano
Ag. Barberino val d'elsa
C/C 4026600/9
Iban: IT63M0842537740000040266009



*"We learn to accept differences
and live in harmony thanks
to our observation and
knowledge of the laws of nature."*

Associazione Culturale il Giardino SottoVico" orto botanico e giardino terapeutico

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The "Garden Beneath Vico" came into being when a group of local people decided to create, just outside the town centre of Vico d'Elsa, a small botanical garden. With the passage of time, the interest and enthusiasm for this initiative grew: the small nucleus of supporters increased, growing into the Cultural Association of 'The Garden Beneath Vico'. The initial project has expanded, both in extent and content. That which was initially intended only as a chance to reclaim and add value to an unknown and disused plot of land, transforming it into an area managed and equipped for the use of local families, has ended up as a complex and ambitious organic work of art.



What is being created here is a place where everyone can go to learn, to relax, to meet or just to wander through. In these surroundings the plants and the foliage play a fundamental role, offering the opportunity to improve both the physical and psychological health of the individual. The therapeutic effects of contact with nature and contemplation of green spaces are by now well known to all.

It is important to emphasise the social aspect that brings the entire project alive. The paths and approaches to the various structures and facilities have been carefully thought out, to the point where every type of man-made barrier has been removed for the benefit of the less able-bodied. The play area for children has also been planned to take into account those with special needs.

For the future we are planning global language laboratories (Stefania Guerra Lisi method) and therapeutic activities which, in creating an active bond with nature, can improve personal wellbeing (garden therapy).

The final objectives are to improve the so-called '**social lap**', in other words, to allow the disadvantaged the opportunity to play a dignified role in the running of the place and to contribute to the development and maintenance of healthy personal growth from children upwards.



The garden will be divided into five areas corresponding to the five human senses. A 200 sq m greenhouse is already in place housing an extensive collection of cacti, many of them rare. This space provides a welcoming and comfortable place where people can meet and where the appreciation of the personal creative spirit overcomes individual differences, through freedom of expression. This is a place of learning, therapy, meeting and exploration for children, adults old and young and schools, both special and mainstream. Because, ultimately, our quality of life and relationship with nature is central to all and every one of us.



**The garden is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday,
from 9.00 - 12.00 in the morning and 15.00 - 20.00 in the evening.
The garden may be visited any other time by appointment, on calling this number:
331 4048373**