

## WP-T2

# TOOL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSENSUS BUILDING

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D.T2.2.1 Socio-historical overview report on  
historical parks

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Version 1.0





## Table of Contents

Table of Contents .....	2
History of the document .....	2
1. Introduction - Overview of selected parks .....	3
2. Why a project on Gardens? .....	9
3. Croatia .....	11
3.1. Bedekovčina: Park surrounding the Castle of Upper Bedekovčina .....	11
3.2. Varaždin: Walk Lane of Josip Juraj Strossmayer .....	12
4. Italy.....	13
4.1. Ferrara: the Linear Park of Este Walls.....	13
4.2. Bologna: the Villa Ghigi Park.....	14
5. Poland.....	15
5.1. Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship: Park of Lubostroń .....	15
5.2. Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship: park of Kłobka.....	15
5.3. Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship: Park of Szafarnia.....	16
5.4. Podkarpackie Voivodeship: the Łańcut Castle park.....	17
6. Slovenia .....	18
6.1. Ptuj: the Turnišče Park .....	18
6.2. Velenje: the Historical Castle Park .....	19
Annex A: Template for data collection .....	20

## History of the document

Version	Status	Date	Changes	Comment
0.1	First draft	15 January 2018		
1.0	Final	31 January 2018		



# 1. Introduction - Overview of selected parks

This document has the objective to present a socio-historical overview of the role of the HICAPS historical castle parks in the past and their current role in the modern society.

Following the suggestion of the Fondazione Villa Ghigi, coordinator of the related workpackage, the project partners have agreed a common framework to collect information, presented in Annex A. The form has been completed by all the partners that are going to run a pilot action in their historical parks, i.e. all the project partners but Petit Philosophy and the University of Ljubljana. The collected forms prepared by the involved partner organisations are also presented in Annex A.

Together with a general introduction to the park, its location and general purpose, each local report details:

- the history of the park, and the main events occurred during its life;
- how the park got to the present situation;
- a short description of its biodiversity features, together with a presentation of existing flora and fauna, and an overview of naturalist elements and protected species;
- the services currently offered by the park, plans for new ones;
- a description of key target groups;
- a presentation of educational activities, materials and tools developed and used for attracting different categories of users;
- a list of publications presenting the park;
- the expected exploitation plans over the next 3 to 5 years, as well as a description of other parks and gardens in the surrounding area that can take benefits from the outputs of the HICAPS project.

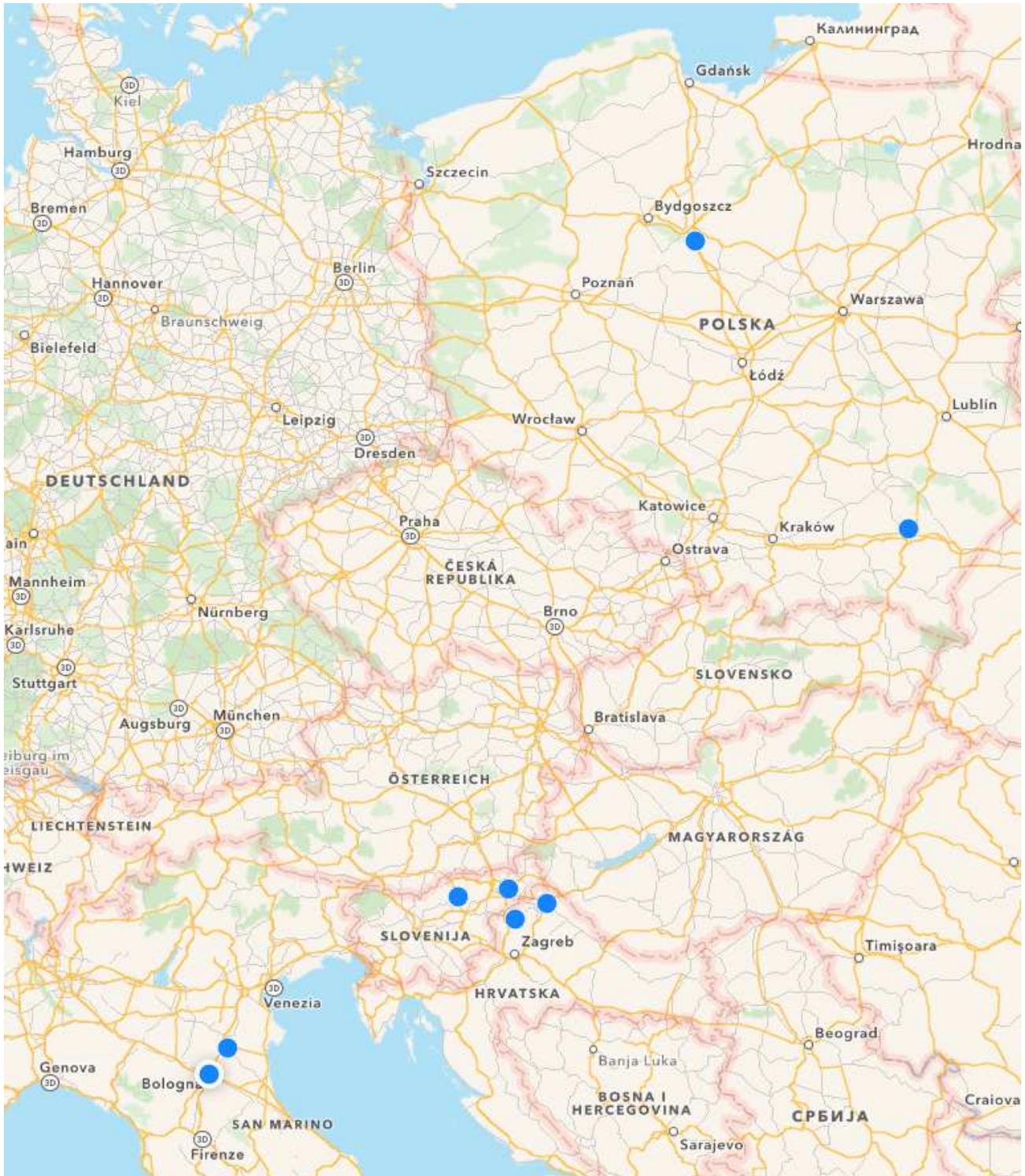
In the following chapters, a brief overview of the key characteristics is presented, with the objective to show the variety and richness of the cultural and natural heritage of the HICAPS partnerships, as well as highlight the key directions that the project will follow to improve the fruition and the accessibility of the selected parks. In particular the analysis has been run on the following locations:

- Park of the Castle of Gornja, Bedekovčina (Croatia)
- Walk Lane of Josip Juraj Strossmayer, Varaždin (Croatia)
- Linear Park of the Este Walls , Ferrara, Emilia-Romagna Region (Italy)
- Villa Ghigi Park, Bologna, Emilia-Romagna Region (Italy)
- Parks in Lubostroń, Kłobka and Szafarnia, Kujawsko-Pomorskie (Poland)
- Łańcut Park, Rzeszow (Poland)
- Historical Castle Park, Ptuj (Slovenia)
- Historical Castle Park, Velenje (Slovenia)

It must be underlined that, while all the other partners have already identified one single historical park where the activities planned by the HICAPS will be mainly piloted, the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship, due to its regional responsibility, has identified three potential areas suitable for the activities run by the project. The final pilot area will be indicated based on further analysis planned for Kujawsko-Pomorskie historical parks.



The following map presents the geographical location of the parks.





It can be useful to start this report with a comparative table, summarising the general characteristics of each partner area, with the objective to present a synoptic image of the similarities and differences of the HICAPS parks, according to four main characteristics:

- cultural and historical heritage
- typology and biodiversity features
- status
- services and educational activities

Country Region / City	Name of the park Location	Historical buildings Period	Characteristics of the park (creation, biodiversity, conditions)	Status (protected)	Services, educational activities
Croatia Bedekovčina	Historical castle park of Upper Bedekovčina  On the hill of the town	Castle of Gornja Bedekovčina  Baroque manor Donja Bedekovčina.	6,5 ha  Surrounding the castle	Protected as monument of park architecture since 1965	No services offered by the park; no educational activities
Croatia Varaždin	Walk Lane of Josip Juraj Strossmayer  Varaždin city centre	Renaissance fort  Hosting the city museum	Park surrounding the fort.  Decorative garden developed since 1750  Biodiversity: coniferous, perennials tree solitaires deciduous	Not protected	No services offered (activities organised time to time by the city museum or tourist office); no educational activities nor materials.  The park is used by tourists as a walk path from the bus parking and the Castle; by citizens for sport and free time.



Italy Emilia-Romagna Ferrara	Linear Park of the Este Walls  Inner city centre	Castle (12th century)	9,2 Km surrounding the Castle  About 240 species (39% of the urban flora)  Main restoration in 1998-1999	UNESCO World Heritage site  World Heritage Site (whole city)	Educational activities on science and environmental education are offered in cooperation with the City Museum of Natural History and the Didò Association, targeted to: schools, families, scholars, passionate citizens and curious about natural sciences.
Italy Emilia-Romagna Bologna	Villa Ghigi Park  Urban area close to the centre of the city	Villa (ca. 1600 - currently not accessible)  Rural buildings: “il Palazzino” (now hosting the Villa Ghigi Foundation) and “il Becco”.	30 ha  Open to public since 1974  Great variety of spontaneous, ornamental and agricultural species, with traditional varieties and vineyards, orchards and fields	Protected	Educational activities for schools and citizens; summer camps for children; training for trainers; week-end programmes for citizens and families, etc.



<p>Poland Kujawsko-Pomorskie</p>	<p>Lubostroń: 5 km from city of Łabiszyn Kłóbka: 6 km from the "Kowal" junction on the A1 motorway Szafarnia is a village located in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship, in the Golub-Dobrzyń powiat, in the municipality Radomin</p>	<p>Lubostroń: classicist palace (1795-1800) Kłóbka: includes a manor from 1850 together with a landscape park with an area of 7.5 hectares and an adjacent open-air ethnographic museum Szafarnia: Palace hosting the Chopin centre</p>	<p>Kłóbka: park 7,5 ha, it hosts the open air museum covering an area of 13 ha Szafarnia: 3 ha ca. located in the area of the Sokółowska Forest rich in pines and oaks. This forest area evolved over time into a park in a residential area where there was a garden, orchards and two small ponds.</p>	<p>Protected</p>	<p>Lubostroń: the palace runs a hotel and catering services. It organises sport and recreational activities Kłóbka: ethnographic park - open-air museum, traditional workshops, regional dances, thematic shows Szafarnia: musical workshops for children and youth, piano concerts, rental rooms, business meetings, company banquets</p>
<p>Poland Rzeszow</p>	<p>The Łańcut Park 16 Km east of Rzeszow</p>	<p>Castle (1629) Orangery Glorietta</p>	<p>36 ha including orchard and precious, old, monumental species of exotic plants</p>	<p>Historical monument</p>	<p>Guided tours in different languages; Ride with sleds; Participate in the programme Museum for a zloty Since 1961 the music festival is organised at the Castle Park.</p>
<p>Slovenia Bistra Ptuj</p>	<p>Historical castle park Within the city - 3 km from the centre of Ptuj</p>	<p>The castle was built around 12th century</p>	<p>The park design is simple and informal: it is formed by plantations of trees and bushes, grassy clearings and walking paths that do not form any known plan</p>	<p>Not protected</p>	<p>The park is open to all visitors free of charge (no guided tours). Currently, there are only some short-term educational workshops and theatre performances in the park.</p>



Slovenia Velenje	Historical castle park Within the city	Castle (around 1200)	The park went through several phases but nowadays is neglected and ruined by a parking space	Not protected	The dragon's castle trail around Velenje. The Medieval Day. The Manor parks of the Šalek Valley at the University for elderly people.
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## 2. Why a project on Gardens?

It is well known that the word "paradise" originates from the Persian *pairidaez*, which means *garden*.

The history of the garden has intertwined with that of humanity from the very beginning, as it is evident in the Genesis story and in the countless reminiscence of precious gardens of ancient times: from the gardens of the Urk of Gilgamesh to the famous hanging gardens of Babylon, from the Ptolemaic gardens of Alexandria in Egypt to those of Villa Adriana in Tivoli, without forgetting the many gardens present in many mythological tales or sung by famous poets, starting with Homer.

In Europe, after the fall of the Roman Empire, the garden survives - as a religious symbol but also for food and medicinal reasons - almost only in the monasteries. It is only from the XV-XVI century that it returns to be a protagonist in royal courts and aristocratic residences. This reaffirmation of the garden in Europe is well evidenced in this famous passage, written by Francis Bacon in his essay *Of Gardens* in 1625: *"God Almighty first planted a garden. And indeed it is the purest of human pleasures. It is the greatest refreshment to the spirits of man; without which buildings and palaces are but gross handiworks; and a man shall ever see that when ages grow to civility and elegancy, men come to build stately sooner than to garden finely; as if gardening were the greater perfection."*

After the Middle Ages, the gardens gradually began to enrich the castles - which were gradually starting to lose their defensive and military functions to transform themselves into sumptuous residences - as well as the city palaces and suburban villas. Initially they were located at the centre of agricultural estates, but soon they became also places of pleasure, rich of ornamental and artistic elements, such as flowering hedges, pergolas, groves, stairs and terraces, fountains and other water games, statues, etc.

The gardens reached the peak of their splendour during the Italian Renaissance, and later in the seventeenth-century France. The French model, developed by integrating and elaborating elements of the Italian garden, dominated in the following two centuries. It was later replaced during the Romanticism time by the new model of landscaped park, that favoured a design aimed at surprising with unexpected and picturesque views of nature, in continuity with the surrounding environment, with a strong contrast with the previous formal imprint of the green spaces.

In more recent times, with the extensive and intense process of urbanization and industrialization started in the 19th century, gardens and parks have become essential elements of urban planning and, especially since the second half of the nineteenth century, European cities have had large urban parks, sometimes realized *ex novo*, but often taken from previous parks of the aristocracy, and created for leisure and recreation of the modern citizens. During the first decades of the twentieth century, public green spaces have become an increasingly essential component of urban development of cities, an important parameter of the quality of settlements and a fundamental factor for the improvement of the climate and the urban environment, of the well-being and the health of citizens and of the aesthetic appeal of cities. Also in the twentieth century, on the basis of the North American experiences of protection initiated in the second half of the nineteenth century, the first large natural parks were established in Europe too. Most of them are today part of the Natura 2000 network, the great ecological network of the European Union, together with many other natural areas identified throughout Europe.

The parks involved in the HICAPS project are fragments of this complex and very rich history. The Linear Park of the Walls of Ferrara - built in the Middle Ages and reworked by the Este family between the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries - is an example of an impressive historical artefact born for quite different purposes, that today has assumed unexpected ecological values, while keeping its original function for the well-being, leisure, physical activity of citizens, proposing pedestrian and cycle routes. The parks linked to the medieval castles of Velenje and Ptuj in Slovenia are an evidence of how the historical troubles of single buildings can sometimes profoundly modify the attitude of the connected green areas, in some cases reinventing the whole complex. On the other side, the Walk Lane of Josip Juraj



Strossmayer, around the Varaždin Renaissance fort, and the Bedekovčina castle-residence, both in Croatia, have preserved significant monumental aspects. A still different case is the Bologna's Villa Ghigi, in Italy, a villa built on the first hills close to the city in the seventeenth century, which is characterized by a predominantly rural park with scattered ornamental elements, which then fades into the natural plant landscape of the hills. Lastly, the Polish parks of the castle of Łańcut and Kłobka, Lubostroń and Szafarnia, which were all built between the 17th and 19th centuries, are notable examples of large landscape parks, of nineteenth-century taste, associated with castles and mainly baroque and neoclassical residences.

## 3. Croatia

### 3.1. Bedekovčina: Park surrounding the Castle of Upper Bedekovčina

The Baroque castle Bedeković-Vranyczany is located on top of the hill in Bedekovčina. It belongs to the first category of cultural monuments, well preserved and maintained. Bedekovic-Vranyczany castle is one of the most beautiful Zagorje castles. It is one of the earliest and most complete baroque-style creation, the top point in the development of a one-lane castle. According to the inscription above the entrance to the castle, it was built from 1740 to 1750. The castle was in the middle of a large and beautiful landscape park. The classical orangery in the park has been preserved until now. There were three lakes and only the smallest still exists, although without water. The park is relatively small, and currently it has not specific purpose. The park is currently not well maintained and a relatively small investment is needed for its revitalisation.



In its glory days, the castle was in the middle of beautiful landscape gardens. The development of the park can be seen in three phases. The oldest stage from the time (mid-18th century) gives little or no data, although it can be determined that the park baroque expression probably existed. The second phase in the development of the park that can be seen on the cadastral map from 1897. Then the park took up an area of 4.7 hectares and features a landscape garden. There were three lakes: the smallest one was of the area of approximately 83 m<sup>2</sup>, the middle 157 m<sup>2</sup> and the greatest 480 m<sup>2</sup>. Next to the orangery there were two gardens that are growing vegetables and flowers, and served as nurseries. The third phase of the park show the arrival of the family Vranyczany late 19th century. Viktor Vranvczany-Dobrinović performed a significant change in the park. Neglected the old entrance road for carriages from the southwest, which is seen on the cadastral map from 1897, and paved a new avenue of wild chestnut from the southeast, which goes through a park to the castle (today's access road), built a pavilion, a bowling alley and tennis court, which are no longer present to this day.

Today, the park is fairly neglected and only the necessary pre-caution measures or post force majeure kind of interventions are done (falling branches after storm that need to be cleared form the existing pathway in the park). Currently there are no services offered to the visitors.



### 3.2. Varaždin: Walk Lane of Josip Juraj Strossmayer

The park is located in the centre of the city of Varaždin, that is the tourist, cultural, economical, educational and sporting centre of North-western Croatia and the capital of Varaždin County.

The park, known as the Walk Lane of Josip Juraj Strossmayer, is part of the Varaždin Fort area where the city museum is located. It is part of one of the most important sites of the cultural-historical heritage and cultural tourism of the city of Varaždin. The Fort area comprises the gothic-renaissance fort, the area of the Armory, renaissance fortification parts like the hills that connect bastions, indoor and outdoor assembly and a courtyard by the Old Town where business areas were located until the 1930s. There is also a decorative garden that is located between the fort itself and the Armory building, which can be track back to 1750.



The decoration of the walk lane started at the end of the 19th century and went on till the '50, with various architects and plans involved. In 1951 the Slovenia outdoor architect Ciril Jeglič re-designed the area around the Old Town and the Drava park, mainly decorating hills and overall planting 15000 plants. From 1948 this area is managed by Parkovi (Department of public parks and green areas) that has renovated the paths several times and provide maintenance to the park.

In the literature on the history of European parks, castles and dungeons, no other renaissance ramparts have been discovered in the surroundings of a castle or an old town, such as in Varaždin, giving it a unique value.

The current arrangement of green areas in the historical complex of the Old Town includes earlier spontaneously planted tree solitaires, the Jeglič's concept of park design, and subsequent free placement on the ramparts and elsewhere with the spontaneous spread of vegetation in the last 60 years.

In the area closer to the fortress is predominantly the coniferous, while in the peripheral parts of the monumental complex there are some deciduous plants. There are also numerous perennials that complement the atmosphere of a naturally shaped garden in the outer yard of the Old Town.

There are no services currently offered by the park. Visitors are mainly tourist groups, as well as walkers, hikers and pet owners, that use the walkway as the shortest path from a parking lot for buses to the Old Town Museum or the Varaždin historical city centre or citizens.



## 4. Italy

### 4.1. Ferrara: the Linear Park of Este Walls

The Linear Park of the Este Walls has an extension of 9.2 km and is located in the city centre.

It is close to the ancient walls surrounding the historic centre of Ferrara and can be accessed by foot and bicycle, at the top or bottom of the embankment. Since 1995 the city of Ferrara is included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list. Main restoration of the wall was made by the Mura Project (mura means “walls”) from 1988 to 1999. The entire Walls circle was given back to citizens and tourists, who can now enjoy panoramic views using pedestrian and cycling paths developed in the valley and in the embankments. The Walls now represent an important green lung and a large outdoor museum, consisting of massive towers, long hedges, imposing bastions and many other architectural structures, creating a landscape balancing city and countryside elements. It is a vast and articulated urban area that only a few other European cities can boast.



There is a remarkable wealth of habitats: heavily-sunken skies, areas with southern exposure with high drainage and sunshine, drained areas with northern exposure, other areas exposed to the north with damp and shady soils. Besides these physical characters, we have also to consider the production of biomass and humus of the trees planted along the enclosure, the mineral component generated by the biodegradation of materials, the proximity of a ground water table. This variability is negligible in comparison with the altitude and geochemical gradients of hilly or mountainous environments, but it is sufficient to host a flora of about 240 species, that exceed 300 including those introduced for ornamental purposes. The total number of species reported over the years for the urban area of Ferrara is 771, and the walls thus account for 39% of the urban flora species.

The City Museum of Natural History, in cooperation with the Didò Association, offers educational and information activities, targeted to: schools, families, scholars, passionate citizens and curious about natural sciences

Examples: intensive study of a semi-natural urban area, for High Schools; activity on ecosystems for primary school teachers; afternoon events for families; information brochure; targeting primary and secondary schools, includes a two-days course called "Biodiversity for All".



## 4.2. Bologna: the Villa Ghigi Park

The Villa Ghigi Park is located on the first Apennine reliefs of the city that, 30 ha, 3 km from the city centre. It includes the villa - known since the early 1600s, owned by the Ghigi family from 1874-to 1972 and also two buildings (il Becco e il Palazzino)- in the 1960-70s donated and sold to the municipality

The park is open to public since 1974, the Villa Ghigi centre is active since 1982. For the past fifteen years, the park has been the subject of accurate maintenance activities and a series of other interventions, such as: restoration of the drainage network; renovation of furnishings - while maintaining the sober typologies adopted in the 1970s;



enriching the arboreal and shrubby heritage with new plantations of indigenous species; to a lesser ornamental extent, a substantial increase of the fruit trees of traditional varieties that were already in the park for quantity and origin and represent one of the elements of excellence; a particular attention has been paid to its vineyards, gardens and fields, also for an educational function; redefine the physiognomy of certain angles and environments of the park; adopt a series of arrangements to promote the presence of fauna and its observation (artificial nests for birds and bats, a pond, etc.).

Due to its variety of species, the park is a rather representative sample of the hilly landscape around Bologna. It captures in a limited space also very different aspects and a wide variety of species, increasing biodiversity of the green area, such as: plots no more cultivated and turned into meadows, sometimes coming back wild, often flanked by old fruit trees; wooded edges of various nature including a beech grove; a natural forest of ancient origin on the eastern border and some reforestation of autochthonous tannins made in the first years after the opening to the public; a beautiful ornamental garden framing the villa where you can find the essences characteristic of the parks of the historic Bolognese dwellings; and, distributed in various areas of the park, monumental specimens of downy oak, the typical oak of the most dry and sunny areas on the Bolognese hills As far as the ancient rural areas, previously used for agricultural and productive purposes, the arable crops have largely been transformed into meadows, but there are still rows of fruit trees in the spots along the rocks. In many

The Villa Ghigi Park is a public green area belonging to the Municipality of Bologna, whose management has been entrusted to the Villa Ghigi Foundation for a period of fifteen years by a specific agreement, renewed every three years. Access to the park is free. It is a very popular place for schoolchildren, who have an articulated educational programme that the Foundation enriches and renews every year. The park is also home to training courses for educators, teachers, environmental professionals and ordinary citizens. Educational activities are partly free and partly paid or carried out under projects funded by the municipal administration or other bodies

The Foundation also offers workshops and other extracurricular activities, especially on weekends. During summer holidays, it manages a small summer centre for children of 6-12 years old and offers other proposals for younger children and adolescents.



## 5. Poland

### 5.1. Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship: Park of Lubostroń

The palace and park complex in Lubostroń is located in the North-Eastern border of Pałuki, 5 km from the city of Łabiszyn on the upper part of Noteć (Noteć Górna) and is considered one of the most beautiful classicism complexes in Poland. The neoclassical palace from 1795-1800 now runs a hotel and catering services.



Depending on the season, the Lubostroń Palace organizes park trips in a horse-drawn carriage, horse-drawn tram or sleighs. It is also possible to organize kayaking trips. The palace also has a very rich program of cultural events like: concerts, culinary workshops and festivals

In the palace, after renovation completed in 1996, there is an exhibition of historic interiors, hotel suites, conference rooms, and concerts are held in the rotunda. There is a hotel in the outhouse and a restaurant in the coach house.

Horse Racing Competition (in 2017 the 23rd competition took place, under the Honorary Patronage of the Marshal of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship Piotr Całbecki);

### 5.2. Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship: park of Kłóbka

Kłóbka village is located in the very centre of Poland, 6 km from the "Kowal" junction on the A1 motorway, in the vicinity of the national road number 91 (80 km north of Łódź and 25 km south of Włocławek).



The complex includes a manor dated 1850, together with a landscape park with an area of 7.5 hectares and an adjacent open-air ethnographic museum (the Kuyavian-Dobrzyń Ethnographic Park - area: 13 ha, branch of the Museum of the Kuyavian-Dobrzyń Land in Włocławek), to which objects from historic architecture from the Kuyavian-Dobrzyń area are moved.

The park was founded at the end of the 19th century, when the owner of the estate was Stanisław Orpiszewski (died in 1908). The area of the park was 9 ha, including 0.8 ha of water.

After the land reform, the manor and the park came under the control of the Municipality. In the northern part of the park (where an orchard was established during the occupation in 1939-45), building lands were separated.



The Kuyavian-Dobrzyn Ethnographic Park is a place where visitors can appreciate how the old buildings of the village looked like, as well as traditional objects and tools and work of the residents of the region from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries (until the 1930s).

Some attractions are organized three times during the summer season folklore festivals, under the title "From the life of the old village". Their aim is to show the customs, rituals and everyday life of the former Kuyavian village. During these meetings folklore groups and folk bands are performing, the craftsmen present ancient jobs in workshops, etc. Folk artists are also invited, as well as producers of traditional food, selling art products, folk handicrafts and regional food. Interactive classes are also held for children throughout the year. They are a great opportunity to get acquainted with the old traditions, customs and craft of the Kuyavian region.

### 5.3. Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship: Park of Szafarnia

Szafarnia is a village located in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship, in the Golub-Dobrzyń powiat, in the municipality of Radomin.

The name of the village probably dates already from the end of the 13th century, but in written sources it was mentioned for the first time in the Prussian tax register in 1772-1773, prepared after the first partition of Poland.

The most significant event, thanks to which Szafarnia appeared on the cultural map of Europe, was the moment when in the years 1824-1825 the local estate of family Dziewanowski became the holiday destination of Fryderyk Chopin (1810 -1849) - the outstanding Polish composer and pianist.

The park itself was built before 1839, perhaps after 1792. After 1864 (or 1871) it was re-composed with the creation of a new mansion (among others, a new pond was dug). The area of the park is approx. 6 ha, including 0.3 ha of water.

The estate in Szafarnia was located in the Sokółowska Primeval Forest, very rich in pines and oaks. This forest area evolved around the residential part of the park, in which there was a garden, orchards and two small ponds.

The Chopin Centre working in Szafarnia since 1949, mainly runs concert activities. There are concerts of classical, jazz and entertainment music, which can be reached from Toruń by a special Chopin Bus. The Centre also conducts educational activities, under which various music programmes devoted to the composer are organized with live music addressed to groups of young people, children and adults.

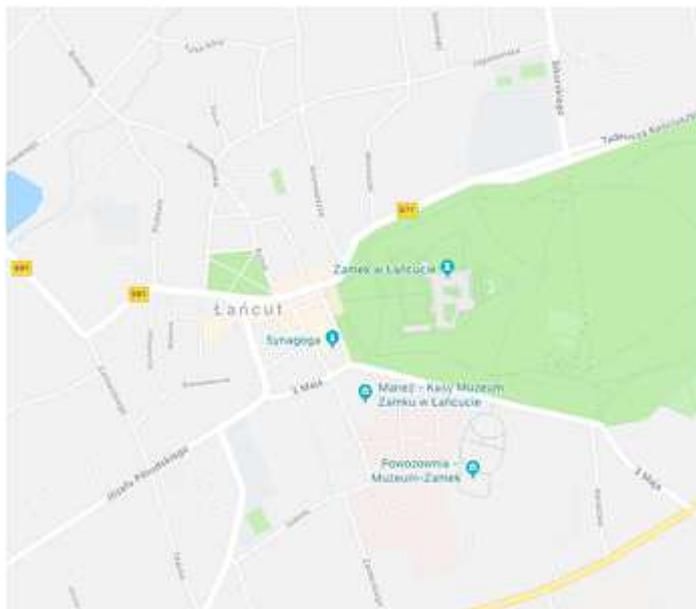
The Centre also hosts other artistic events such as exhibitions, meetings with authors, theatre performances, master classes, music workshops, a contest about Fryderyk Chopin, a recitation competition, as well as a prestigious 25-year-long International Chopin Piano Competition for Children and Adolescents. Visitors interested in the composer's character can increase their knowledge by using a rich library, audio guide and exhibitions.





## 5.4. Podkarpackie Voivodeship: the Łańcut Castle park.

Łańcut is a city located in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship (Poland), 16 kilometres east of Rzeszów, on the outskirts of the Dynów Piedmont. The Łańcut Castle was built for Stanisław Lubomirski in 1629-1642 and renovated and reconstructed in the second half and in the end of the 19th century. Today the castle is recognised as history monument. The park, established at the turn of the 18th and 19th, centuries covers 36 hectares and it is divided into two parts: the inner and the outside parks. A number of garden buildings, such as orangery and gloriotta, have been built in the years.



Around the castle there is a small but beautiful and filled with many species of plants, flowers garden. In the park you can find precious, old, monumental species of exotic plant. It is famous for its orchard (reactivated in 2008)

that contains both modern crossbreeds bred by man and botanical orchids, suitable for the environment.

The park access is free, while the visit to the Museum - Castle and the Orchard are with fees. Services offered are mainly guided tours of the Museum - Castle in different languages. The castle also organizes, only before the darkness, a ride with a stylish sled through the streets of Łańcut and part of the park.

The Museum-Castle participates in the program announced by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage "Museum for a zloty". Currently tickets for 1 PLN are available for children and teenagers between 7-16 years old.

Every year a music festival is organised at the Castle Park. since 1961. The Łańcut music festival is considered one of the most now the most famous Festival in Poland, covering a broad spectrum of concerts and event, and attracting the public at large.

## 6. Slovenia

### 6.1. Ptuj: the Turnišče Park

The complex consists of a manor with a park and a pond. The park and the castle are located on the right bank of the Drava river, about three kilometres southeast of the centre of Ptuj on the Zagreb Road 84. The Ptuj-Videm road near Ptuj-Leskovec runs in proximity, surrounded by a park with trees and pond.



In the eastern part of the castle complex, it is surrounded by the settlement of Turnišče, on the east small houses with fields and the river Drava, in the north the park is touching the industrial zone, while the agricultural land is south of the castle.

The castle complex belongs to the municipality of Ptuj, in particular to one of the eight communities of the Municipality of Ptuj, i.e. the community of Breg - Turnišče. Today the complex is divided into two parts. To the left of the Zagrebška road, which leads past the granary is an area owned by the Municipality of Ptuj, and the right part is owned by the Ministry of education, science and sport. In the past, they have heavily encroached in the right area where the buildings are now dedicated to the Biotechnical School Ptuj

The park design is simple and informal: it is formed by plantations of trees and bushes, grassy clearings and walking paths that do not form any known plan and have no symmetry. The paths are sinusoidal, the trees and shrubs are relaxed sorted.

The castle was built around 12th century (perhaps in 1091?) and belonged to several noble Slovenian families, with relevant changes in park size, design and style and use. In 1884 the estate was taken over by Baron Warren-Lippit. In 1885, Lippit built a stud farm, which worked lively and successfully until his death in 1938. From 1948 to 1965, the Turnišče area was one of the largest stud farms in post-war Yugoslavia. From 1953 to 1980 it was nationalised and transformed into an agricultural and livestock school with a boarding house. It was damaged by a fire in 1987 and progressively deteriorated.

After World War II, maintenance funds were greatly reduced, resulting in a lack of proper maintenance. Changes in use and management have strongly negatively affected the vegetative and built elements in the park.

Access to the park is open and unprotected. The fence is damaged. By the watercourse Turniška Studenčnica, the park is almost impassable. The bushes are growing uncontrollably. The trails are now abandoned and blurred, the fence is damaged and partially removed. Trees are not properly maintained.

The cultural, architectural, landscape, artistic and historical values of the complex have been severely curtailed due to years of inadequate use and neglect. Problems are mainly the interventions in the area by the inhabitants, protection guidelines are not respected, accessibility and public function are restricted by fence; The choice of facade colours on residential buildings, which are part of the monument and self-sown monumental characteristic; Some of the conservation works proved to be bad, when in the summer of 2013 50 years old walls collapsed due to poor quality construction. Large parking spaces; proximity of



the motorway. The park has a typical humid lowland area, and no services and activities are offered, apart from some educational workshop or performances organised by individual associations

## 6.2. Velenje: the Historical Castle Park

At the time being we do not have any special data about design and functional formation of the park. We can only conclude when the park was created and how. There are some postcards from the 18th Century, on which beginnings of the park area are visible, but not as a whole area. We have postcards from early 19th Century, where more detailed park scenery is visible. At the time being we have picture from Franciscejski cadastre, dated from 1825. Orchard and vineyard can be seen in the area of the park and a smaller object in front of the entrance tower.



The whole park is partly still present but the area is devastated mostly at the end of the 90s of the 19th century. Now we have there a grass “patch”, surrounded by a parking space. This is due to the lack of financial resources and lack of knowledge about importance of historical and quality cultural landscape. Today everything is arranged according to the “needs” of present days

Park around Velenje castle belongs to the Municipality of Velenje, but management of the area has been assigned to the Museum of Velenje. They are taking care for the castle and the area around it in close cooperation with our Municipality. Since the green area is not behind some fences, local residents use the area around the castle and avenue of trees as a walking space, spending some time in a nature. The area is often visited by tourists, since the view on the town from castle is really nice.

Most of the time flat surface is used as a parking zone for cars of employee and visitors, but occasionally the place is used for some cultural events, such as *Dnevi mladih in kulture* (Youth and culture days), medieval days, etc. The Castle Velenje with surroundings is included in The Dragons castle trail around Velenje and because of that reason and the educational programs provided by the Museum, school and preschool children often visit this area. Everything is free of charge, except entrance fee in castle museum.

Currently there are no educational activities, or materials and tools developed for tourism promotion.



## Annex A: Template for data collection

# HISTORICAL CASTLE PARKS

WP-T2 Tool development and consensus building

D2.1: Socio-historical report on historical parks

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Template to collect information

Deadline for submitting the document duly filled in: 31/10/2017

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We ask you please to input the following information, respecting the suggested dimension of each section and adding pictures and links to existing URLs for enriching your presentation. We suggest that ratio between text and images should be about 67% and 33%

1. Introduction to the Park, its location and the general purpose, few lines about the town/city where it is located (0,5-1 page, with 2-3 pictures)

2. History of the park, when it has been created, for what purposes, what are the main events occurred during its life (about 3-4 pages)



3. How the park got to the present situation (about 1-2 pages)

4. Description of the biodiversity features, a short presentation of existing flora and fauna, a short overview of naturalist elements and protected species (about 2-3 pages)

Please summarise in the following table from 5 to 10 elements per line, presenting the key flora and fauna present in your park (please use the English and the Latin name, to guarantee the comparison of information):

Plants		Notes (e.g. are there protected species?):
Trees and Shrubs <sup>1</sup> (Bushes)		Notes (e.g. are there protected species?):
Animals		Notes (e.g. are there protected species?):

5. What services are currently offered by the park? to whom? Are there some plans for creating new ones? How visits to the park are organized (payment/free, guided tours), what organizational structure stays behind these services (clerks, gardeners, teachers, scientists) (about 2-3 pages)

<sup>1</sup> See Annex 1 for an example.



6. A short presentation of the target groups mainly addressed, some figures or general data about the visitors (about 1-2 pages)

7. Presentation of the educational activities, materials and tools already developed (format, paper or IT based), educational strategy and interaction with schools, general public, academia and research centres) (about 2-3 pages)

8. A list of publications presenting the park, in how many languages are they printed (both paper based, IT based, online) (1 page)

9. Exploitation plans for the next 3 to 5 years (even if HICAPS would not exist), and dreams if a lot of money should arrive (1-2 pages).



10. Identification and description of at least 3 other parks and gardens in the surrounding area (town, city, region), and presentation of their key historical, artistic and naturalistic features, differences and correlations with the Park selected for the pilot action (2 pages per park)

11. Please also provide us with some files (PDF, images and videos) about the park, its activities, etc.

**Many thanks for your time and effort**

If you have doubts or questions, please refer to:

Mino Petazzini, [mino.petazzini@fondazionevillaghigi.it](mailto:mino.petazzini@fondazionevillaghigi.it)



## Annex 1: A non-exhaustive list of shrubs, i.e. small to medium-sized woody plants

Abelia (Abelia), Acer (Maple), Actinidia (Actinidia), Aloe (Aloe), Aralia (Angelica Tree, Hercules' Club), Arctostaphylos (Bearberry, Manzanita), Aronia (Chokeberry), Artemisia (Sagebrush), Aucuba (Aucuba), Berberis (Barberry), Bougainvillea (Bougainvillea), Brugmansia (Angel's trumpet), Buddleja (Butterfly bush), Buxus (Box), Calia (Mescalbean), Callicarpa (Beautyberry), Callistemon (Bottlebrush), Calluna (Heather), Calycanthus (Sweetshrub), Camellia (Camellia, Tea), Caragana (Pea-tree), Carpenteria (Carpenteria), Caryopteris (Blue Spiraea), Cassiope (Moss-heather), Ceanothus (Ceanothus), Celastrus (Staff vine), Ceratostigma (Hardy Plumbago), Cercocarpus (Mountain-mahogany), Chaenomeles (Japanese Quince), Chamaebatiaria (Fernbush), Chamaedaphne (Leatherleaf), Chimonanthus (Wintersweet), Chionanthus (Fringe-tree), Choisya (Mexican-orange Blossom), Cistus (Rockrose), Clerodendrum (Clerodendrum), Clethra (Summersweet, Pepperbush), Clianthus (Glory Pea), Colletia (Colletia), Colutea (Bladder Senna), Comptonia (Sweetfern), Cornus (Dogwood), Corylopsis (Winter-hazel), Cotinus (Smoketree), Cotoneaster (Cotoneaster), Cowania (Cliffrose), Crataegus (Hawthorn), Crinodendron (Crinodendron), Cytisus and allied genera (Broom), Daboecia (Heath), Danae (Alexandrian laurel), Daphne (Daphne), Decaisnea (Decaisnea), Dasiphora (Shrubby Cinquefoil), Dendromecon (Tree poppy), Desfontainea (Desfontainea), Deutzia (Deutzia), Diervilla (Bush honeysuckle), Dipelta (Dipelta), Dirca (Leatherwood), Dracaena (Dragon tree), Drimys (Winter's Bark), Dryas (Mountain Avens), Edgeworthia (Paper Bush), Elaeagnus (Elaeagnus), Embothrium (Chilean Firebush), Empetrum (Crowberry), Enkianthus (Pagoda Bush), Ephedra (Ephedra), Epigaea (Trailing Arbutus), Erica (Heath), Eriobotrya (Loquat), Escallonia (Escallonia), Eucryphia (Eucryphia), Euonymus (Spindle), Exochorda (Pearl Bush), Fabiana (Fabiana), Fallugia (Apache Plume), Fatsia (Fatsia), Forsythia (Forsythia), Fothergilla (Fothergilla), Franklinia (Franklinia), Fremontodendron (Flannelbush), Fuchsia (Fuchsia), Garrya (Silk-tassel), Gaultheria (Salal), Gaylussacia (Huckleberry), Genista (Broom), Gordonia (Loblolly-bay), Grevillea (Grevillea), Griselinia (Griselinia), Hakea (Hakea), Halesia (Silverbell), Halimium (Rockrose), Hamamelis (Witch-hazel), Hebe (Hebe), Hedera (Ivy), Helianthemum (Rockrose), Hibiscus (Hibiscus), Hippophae (Sea-buckthorn), Hoheria (Lacebark), Holodiscus (Creambush), Hudsonia (Hudsonia), Hydrangea (Hydrangea), Hypericum (Rose of Sharon), Hyssopus (Hyssop), Ilex (Holly), Illicium (Star Anise), Indigofera (Indigo), Itea (Sweetspire), Jamesia (Cliffbush), Jasminum (Jasmine), Juniperus (Juniper), Kalmia (Mountain-laurel), Kerria (Kerria), Kolkwitzia (Beauty-bush), Lagerstroemia (Crape-myrtle), Lapageria (Copihue), Lantana (Lantana), Lavandula (Lavender), Lavatera (Tree Mallow), Ledum (Ledum), Leitneria (Corkwood), Lespedeza (Bush Clover), Leptospermum (Manuka), Leucothoe (Doghobble), Leycesteria (Leycesteria), Ligustrum (Privet), Lindera (Spicebush), Linnaea (Twinflower), Lonicera (Honeysuckle), Lupinus (Tree Lupin), Lycium (Boxthorn), Magnolia (Magnolia), Mahonia (Mahonia), Malpighia (Acerola), Menispermum (Moonseed), Menziesia (Menziesia), Mespilus (Medlar), Microcachrys (Microcachrys), Myrica (Bayberry), Myricaria (Myricaria), Myrtus and allied genera (Myrtle), Neillia (Neillia), Nerium (Oleander), Olearia (Daisy bush), Osmanthus (Osmanthus), Pachysandra (Pachysandra), Paeonia (Tree-peony), Perovskia (Russian Sage), Persoonia (Geebung), Philadelphus (Mock orange), Phlomis (Jerusalem Sage), Photinia (Photinia), Physocarpus (Ninebark), Pieris (Pieris), Pistacia (Pistachio, Mastic), Pittosporum (Pittosporum), Plumbago (Leadwort), Polygala (Milkwort), Poncirus, Prunus (Cherry), Purshia (Antelope Bush), Pyracantha (Firethorn), Quassia (Quassia), Quercus (Oak), Quillaja (Quillay), Quintinia (Tawheowheo), Rhamnus (Buckthorn), Rhododendron (Rhododendron, Azalea), Rhus (Sumac), Ribes (Currant), Romneya (Tree poppy), Rosa (Rose), Rosmarinus (Rosemary), Rubus (Bramble), Ruta (Rue), S, Sabia, Salix (Willow), Salvia (Sage), Sambucus (Elder), Santolina (Lavender Cotton), Sapindus (Soapberry), Senecio (Senecio), Simmondsia (Jojoba), Skimmia (Skimmia), Smilax (Smilax), Sophora (Kowhai), Sorbaria (Sorbaria), Spartium (Spanish Broom), Spiraea (Spiraea), Staphylea (Bladdernut), Stephanandra (Stephanandra), Styrax, Symphoricarpos (Snowberry), Syringa (Lilac), Tamarix (Tamarix), Taxus (Yew), Telopea (Waratah), Thuja cvs. (Arborvitae), Thymelaea, Thymus (Thyme), Trochodendron, Ulex (Gorse), Ulmus pumila celer (Turkestan elm - Wonder Hedge), Ungnadia (Mexican Buckeye), Vaccinium (Bilberry, Blueberry, Cranberry), Verbena (Vervain), Viburnum (Viburnum), Vinca (Periwinkle), Viscum (Mistletoe), Weigela (Weigela), Xanthoceras, Xanthorhiza (Yellowroot), Xylosma, Yucca (Yucca, Joshua tree), Zanthoxylum, Zauschneria, Zenobia, Ziziphus.

# HISTORICAL CASTLE PARKS

## WP-T2 Tool development and consensus building

### D2.1: Socio-historical report on historical parks

#### Park around the historical castle of Bedekovčina

##### 1. Introduction

During the 16th and 17th centuries, under the influence of enlightenment, parks around castles in European cities ceased to be the area of economic self-sufficiency and became the space for realizing aesthetic and urban planning efforts. It led to the improvement of public spaces in the city and provided for creation of baroque parks. The baroque park architecture of European castles arises from the renaissance traditions of Italian villas and gardens of French castles. Although already in the first half of the 18th century there were some public promenades in Europe, the systematic establishment of public parks and promenades was launched in the second half of the century. This practice spread to all parts of Europe in the 19th century, including Croatia.



Baroque architecture and urbanism in Croatia has been well developed and preserved. However, this is not the case with parks - there is limited number of baroque parks in Croatia, despite the fact that their development started early. The main promoter of establishment of parks was Zagreb Bishop Maksimilijan Vrhovac in late 18th century.



There are a few reliable data and historical sources documenting the design of baroque castle parks. Drawings and descriptions of parks are extremely rare, and the existing remains are few, due to later transformations and extensions. In the early baroque decades parks of castles were useful, and decorative parks were rare, usually in front of the main façade. Cadastral maps and artistic drawings provide the most information about the baroque gardens and parks. Area around the castle was usually surrounded by a wall or a wooden fence, and the entrance to the yard

was highlighted by the entrance door (portal). Within relatively large yard, a castle, a variety of farm buildings and trees were situated. In the courtyard (and often outside it) included fenced garden divided



into squares with garden beams, bushes or ornamental plants, and the edges were mostly fruit. Around the castle there were meadows, fields and forests.

The municipality of Bedekovčina is located in the north-western part of the Republic of Croatia, in the Krapina-Zagorje County. The municipality includes 15 settlements and 8041 inhabitants.

The settlement Bedekovčina is located in the Krapina River valley, along the railway line Zaprešić - Zabok - Varaždin - Čakovec. The settlement Poznanovec is five kilometres from Bedekovčina, near the Zabok - Zlatar Bistrica road and the Zaprešić - Zabok - Varaždin - Čakovec railway line.



Three suitable castles / parks with parks are identified in the area: Bedeković-Vranyczany Castle in Gornja Bedekovčina, Kurija Bedeković in Donja Bedekovčina and Sermage Castle in Poznanovec.

Baroque castle Bedeković-Vranyczany is located on top of the hill in Bedekovčina. The castle belongs to the first category of cultural monuments, it is well preserved and maintained. Bedekovic-Vranyczany castle is one of the most beautiful Zagorje castles. It is one of the earliest and most complete baroque-style creation, the top point in the development of a one-lane castle. According to the inscription above the entrance to the castle, it was built from 1740 to 1750. The castle was in the middle of a large and beautiful landscape park. The classical orangery in the park has been preserved until now. There were three lakes and only the smallest still exists, although without water. The park is relatively small, and currently it has not specific purpose. The park is currently not well maintained and a relatively small investment is needed for its revitalisation.



The castle Kurija Bedeković is situated on the slope above the valley of the Krapina river. There is a park around the castle. It was built about 1780 for a part of the family Bedeković. A landscaped park spreads in front of the main façade. The orchard is preserved in fragments. The courtyard is now privately owned, restored and maintained.

Poznanovec Castle is located in the valley of the Krapina River, along the stream Velika. In front of the castle there is a park, and north of the castle are outbuildings. The exact time of creation of the park is unknown, but it can be concluded that it was in the first decades of the 19th century. The park included lake, a pond, an orchard, a garden and an orangery. There was a 200-meter long tree avenue and a park in front of the castle. The castle is currently in a very bad condition. Remains include a pond,

a tennis court and an access, but all this is ruined by a underbrush. There is also a football field in the park. The castle is owned by the Republic of Croatia but, despite the renovation of the roof, it is not being used.

## 2. History of the park

The castle in Gornja Bedekovčina is predominantly located on a hilltop in Bedekovčina, offering a view of the valley Krapine and northern slopes of Medvednica. Nearby is a late Baroque manor Donja Bedekovčina. The castle and manor belonged to the family Bedeković: according to the inscription above the entrance to the castle, Nikola Bedeković built it from 1740 to 1750.

The castle was then bought by Dr. Viktor Baron Vranyczany-Dobrinović in 1887, who married Baroness Zdenka Hellenbach from Marija Bistrica. The castle was



inherited by their son Ambrose, and his son Janko, who lived in Belgium. Family Vranyczany owned a few castles in the Croatian Zagorje region in the 19th century. and in the first half of the 20th century.

The castle belongs to the first category monument, is well preserved and maintained, and it is now in an institution for the education of female problematic youth. This is one of the most beautiful castles in Zagorje and at the same time indicates the earliest and most complete stylistic achievement, thus starting and also the culminating point in the development of a one-wing of the castle in the area of the Croatian Zagorje.

In its glory days, the castle was in the middle of beautiful landscape gardens. The development of the park can be seen in three phases. The oldest stage from the time (mid-18th century) gives little or no data, although it can be determined that the park baroque expression probably existed. The second phase

in the development of the park that can be seen on the cadastral map from 1897. Then the park took up an area of 4.7 hectares and features a landscape garden. There were three lakes: the smallest one was of the area of approximately 83 m<sup>2</sup>, the middle 157 m<sup>2</sup> and the greatest 480 m<sup>2</sup>. Next to the orangery there were two gardens that are growing vegetables and flowers, and served as nurseries. The third phase of the park show the arrival of the family Vranyczany late 19th century. Viktor Vranvczany-Dobrinović performed a significant change in the park. Neglected the old entrance road for carriages from the southwest, which is seen on the cadastral map from 1897, and paved a new avenue of wild chestnut from the southeast, which goes through a park to the castle (today's access road), built a pavilion, a bowling alley and tennis court, which are no longer present to this day.



Today, the park is fairly neglected and only the necessary precaution measures or post force majeure kind of interventions are done (falling branches after storm that need to be cleared form the existing pathway in the park).



### 3. The park nowadays

The park around the castle Bedekovic Vranyczany is one of the recognized architectural monuments and it has a preserved status and is protected by law. The park is actually surrounding the Castle of Upper Bedekovčina. Currently the Castle serves as an administration for juvenile problematic female youth. The municipality of Bedekovčina is one of the largest municipalities in Krapina-Zagorje county (Regional level). It has around 8.000 inhabitants. It is famous for clay industry. The liveliness of the municipality comes from a large number of high school children. Up to 1000 students everyday go to class. Some of the classes



have even been held premises of the castle and surrounding buildings which are actually in the vicinity of the park. The park has been neglected for many decades and therefore the current state of the Park needs revitalization and custom-made investments. Investments in the park which will be done through this project will have to be in line with the level of the legal possibilities and at the same time harmonized and discussed with the relevant bodies. What is of utmost importance is that the materials used will have to be natural whenever that is possible. The majority of Investments of the river elevation of the park will be connected to plants and flora management. Today the park does not have a specific purpose and is rarely visited by local population school kids etc. Touristic purpose is also not used and valorised. With this project this is about to change.

### 4. Biodiversity features

The existing flora in the park is the following: common juniper, sycamore, elm, maple, maple milt, ash, larch, red beech, yew, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Cydonia oblonga*, *Quercus petrea*, *Picea abies*, *Juglans regia*, *Betula pendula*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Carpinus betulus* and others.

### 5. Services offered by the park

Unfortunately, currently there are no services offered by the park. It is also important to mention that the park never offered any services in its history. There are no payments/fees to visit the park and no guided tours are available. It takes around 10 -15 min of short walk to go through the park, so no guided tours are necessary. There are also no clerks, gardeners, teachers or scientists employed. Through the HICAPS project park will be revitalized, and it will need to be kept sustainable in terms of regular gardening, but due to its relatively small size and surface (the part that will be revitalized), there are no plans to additional employment, or introduction of fees and tickets for visiting the park. The park is planned to be opened for public and visited by local population, school kids, young families with kids, senior citizens etc. Potentially in the near future it can be used in touristic purposes.

### 6. Typology of visitors

Unfortunately, there are no statistical data of the number or type of visitors of the park. As currently the park is not that attractive, the number of people visiting it is very small. The main target groups of the project and after revitalization of the park will be young families with children, senior citizens and school kids from different parts of Croatia.



## 7. Educational activities, materials and tools

Currently there are no educational activities, materials and tools developed, as well as no educational strategy, interaction with schools, general public, academia and research centres. However, during the implementation of the project, tools will be developed, and elementary school kids will be the main focus group and tables and brochures of the park will be custom made for school children. Academia and researchers will be involved in making the studies and plans for valorisation of the park.

## 8. Publications presenting the park

There are only few publications where the park is mentioned and they are all in Croatian Language:

- Mladen Obad Šćitaroci : Dvorci i perivoji Hrvatskoga zagorja
- Bedekovčina stara i plemenita

Some more publications concerning the history of parks around Bedekovčina:

- Bajza, Ž. (ur.) (1997.) Bedekovčina: stara i plemenita. Bedekovčina: Općinsko poglavarstvo.
- Filko, M., Špiranec, K. (ur.) (2017.) Plemenito srce Bedekovčine. Bedekovčina: Općina Bedekovčina.
- Marković, V. (1987.) O baroknim dvorcima u Hrvatskoj. Radovi IPU, 11, 143-157.
- Obad-Šćitaroci, M. (1990.) Perivoji i dvorci Hrvatskoga zagorja. Zagreb: Školska knjiga.
- Obad-Šćitaroci, M., Bojanić Obad-Šćitaroci, B. (2006.) Kriteriji vrjednovanja dvoraca - prilog za odabir najvrjednijih hrvatskih dvoraca. U: Obad-Šćitaroci (ur.) Dvorci i ljetnikovci - kulturno naslijeđe kao pokretač gospodarskog razvoja (zbornik radova). Zagreb: Arhitektonski fakultet.
- Obad-Šćitaroci, M., Bojanić Obad-Šćitaroci, B. (2009.) Barokna perivojna arhitektura u Hrvatskoj. U: Cvetnić, S., Pelc, M., Premerl, D. (ur.) Barokna perivojna arhitektura u Hrvatskoj. Zagreb: Institut za povijest umjetnosti.

More information available at:

- <http://www.zagorje-priroda.hr/vrijednosti.aspx?catId=40>

## 9. Exploitation plans over the next 3 to 5 years

Without HICAPS project, the park in Gornja Bedekovčina would most probably not be revitalized, hence the importance of this project for the Municipality of Bedekovčina is even bigger. Currently the only existing plan is to revitalize the park through HICAPS project and develop Local action plan. Once the park will be finished, investments like building a multipurpose children playground with anti-stress surface purpose are possible. Also, opening of small cafeteria/snack bar for kids would also be possible. A very important investment would be the renewal of the castle and this will also be applied to EU funds- The castle should be renovated in an energy -efficient way.

## 10. Other parks and gardens in the surrounding area

### Park around the Castle of Stubički Golubovec

Protection category: Monument of park architecture. Area: 21.53 ha. Year of Protection: 1952.

In the history of Croatian Zagorje and Donja Stubica-Subotica, Donja Stubica left a particular trace, mainly because of Matija Gupca and peasant revolt in 1573, but also because of its castles and curios, which were quite a number in the Stubica region. In Donja Stubica, a fortress was mentioned already in 1209 in the charter of King Andrew II. From the 13th to the 15th century Stubica belonged to the Aka tribe, Arlanda I. In 1564, half of the Kaštela Stubice and Susedgrada, from the then owner of Andrija Bator, was bought by the Hungarian nobleman Franjo Tahy. The Donjostubica fortress had been destroyed in the peasant revolt,



and since then it has become more and more decadent. At the end of 1790 Domjanic built the Baroque Stubički Golubovec Castle.

Golubovec was a half-way estate between Donja i Gornja Stubica. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the owners of the barons Mallakocz Deszomszedvar (Susedgrad) family were mentioned as owners. The noble family Domjanić from Zelena, whose last descendant was poet Dragutin Domjanić, managed the estate until 1805 when selling it to Zagreb bishop Maksimilijan pl. Vrhovac, the founder of Zagreb's garden named Maksimir under his name. He had left him reluctantly to his nephew Ani Sermage of Susedgrada and Medvedgrad, after whose death the estate belonged to her daughter Antonia, the wife of Croatian Baron Levin Rauch de Nyek, a well-known signatory to the Croatian-Hungarian Settlement. In 1877, the owner of Stubički Golubovec became the Steeb family, who lived there until 1945 when they moved to Austria.



Along with the castle in Stubička Golubovac, at the beginning of the 19th century, there was a park space that nowadays consists of two parts: the park around the castle and the park-forest. The Park-Forest is part of the oak-tree oak forest and the common grayling shrub, and in part is the forests of American pines. Looking at it as a composition, it represents the immediate natural framework and foundation of the Peruvian and connects the garden with the surrounding landscape. The forest made the scenic eastern curtain of the Vilinci polje from where they provided magnificent views of Medvednica and its hillocks on Stubica. The former Vilin fields (Geistervviese), are largely preserved and are one of the essential values of Stubički Golubovec.

The park around the castle has features of landscape parks. In the compositional aspect, the northernmost part of the perimeter is the most valuable, which stands out with the high value of the aesthetic composition of individual trees and their groups, on lawns and nearby forests. Since the former strong coloured composition of the landscape, due to numerous exotic species, very little remains today. Thick, which gave their accent in its dark colour, almost disappeared, and the former polychromatic composition turned into a monochrome because of the domination of indigenous trees. Of the remaining exotic species in the area, the sassafras shrub (*Sassafras officinale*) is particularly valuable because it is the last of its kind in the Croatian Zagorje and perhaps in Croatia.

There are two phases of the development of the parks in Stubički Golubovwc: the first from the first half and the middle of the 19th century, and the second from the end of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century. These two phases differ significantly. The composition of the first phase of the first phase (in Vrhovac's time) was preserved only partially in the northern part between the road and the castle. The second phase brought significant changes in the composition of the architectural elements of the landscape, preserved only in traces.

The castle and the parish survived the war without any damage. Even in 1944, all facades of the castle were restored. Since 1945, To this day, the castle has changed many of the users who were mostly from the castle and the outskirts, and they did very little or nothing. Today, in the castle, the permanent exhibition of the Kajkavian Croatian exhibition - the Croatian Kajkavian written word. Since February 1989, in the premises of the castle, "Kajkavian" society for the collection, preservation and promotion of the Croatian cultural heritage is having its headquarters.

### Park around the Castle of Gornje Oroslavje

Protection category: Monument of park architecture.  
 Area: 5.78 ha. Year of Protection: 1965.

In the settlement of Bela there are two castles, one from the 17th and the other from the 18th century, belonging to the same family. There were also two castles in Oroslavje, three hundred meters apart. Their baroque portals, marking their entrance into the courtyard garden, are the ultimate points of today's centre of settlement. The castles did not belong to the same owners, and they were created at different times. The older castle, located south, was named Oroslavje Gornje. The Vojkovic Castle, Oroslavje Donje, was situated to the north.



The castle was built at the end of the 18th century between 1770 and 1790. Although today's park garden has the character of a landscaped parkland, historical sources point to the baroque-classical elements of garden architecture around the castle in Oroslavje Donje. Gardens near the castle were probably built at the end of the 18th century, and as they appeared in the second half of the 19th century, they can be seen on the old cadastral map. The castle then approached the awning 230 m long, and in front of the south facade was a decorative garden. Towards the southwest the perivoj is tied to the existing forest. To the left of the entrance hall, and south of the ornamental garden, there was a spacious meadow where today is a football field. By the transformation of 1885, the perivoj expanded and gained features of landscape-romantic garden architecture. The floor-plan composition is also altered, so the baroque ale is a mechanical one and thus adapts to the modern park concept. This shaped park, with few modifications, has been preserved to date, but impoverished for numerous facilities, abandoned and degraded by the football field and individual residential facilities with access to the main aisle.

The park enters through the lavish and very beautiful baroque portal that, overlooking the south, completes the tour of the main road in Oroslavje. In front of the eastern facade of the castle there are two baroque stone statues from the 18th century. There are rare baroque statues with mythological beings. Flora, the goddess of flowers, and Satir were in the garden in front of the Oroslavje Gornje castle, and in Oroslavje Donje they were probably transferred between the two wars, when industrialist Milan Prpić owned both castles. In addition to numerous conifers and leaf worms, domestic and insects, there are also a large number of specially cultivated garden shapes of trees mostly sorrowful, sorrowful beech, mournful ash and sour cherry. In addition to interesting flora, the garden has an interesting fauna. From 1980 to 1983, it recorded 37 species of birds nestled in the branches of park trees in Oroslavje Donje.

### Park around the Castle of Marija Bistrica

Protection category: Monument of park architecture.  
 Area: 1,92 ha. Year of Protection: 1950.

Not far from Marija Bistrica, on the road to Zlatar Bistrica, hidden from the view, is this beautiful castle where the baroness Gizela Hellenbach lives with his family. It is one of the few castles in the Croatian Zagorje and Croatia, which managed to maintain the continuity of living and completely preserve the interior as it was in the last century.





The garden surrounding the castle was created after the construction of the castle, around the middle of the 19th century. The classical concept is recognized by the symmetrical composition of the park space. Three paths led from the main road to the castle. The entrance to the castle was on the opposite, east side. The approach to the castle led to the castle from the southern side of the park and so divided it from the economic complex. The garden was about 1.4 ha. There are three access roads to the castle, as well as the access road from the south. Creating a new walk-in pedestrian access to the castle from the north, a trail that makes a small serpentine to overcome the ground slope. The garden then extended to the east, covering part of the former economic space and part of the garden. The exact time of change is not known, but it was certainly between 1860 and 1924. There are several trees, lime, red beech, chestnut, plane bean and spruce tree in the park today. In 1851, with the marriage of Baron Lazar Hellenbach and Klotilde Jelačić, Marija Bistrica became the property of baron Hellenbach whose family still lives in the castle.

#### 11. An additional video and photographic collection of the park





# HISTORICAL CASTLE PARKS

WP-T2 Tool development and consensus building

D2.1: Socio-historical report on historical parks

## The walk lane of Josip Juraj Strossmayer

### 1. Introduction

The City of Varaždin is located in the North of Croatia on the southern bank of the River Drava. With 46.946 inhabitants and the average annual temperature of 10°C, the city of Varaždin is one of the most attractive destinations to live in or to visit in continental Croatia. It is the tourist, cultural, economical, educational and sporting centre of North-western Croatia and the Capital of Varaždin County. The city of angels, colourful and magical events; the most famous ones 'Špancirfest - the Street Festival of good emotions - in summer and the classical music festival -Varaždin Baroque Evenings- which celebrates music, baroque architectural inheritance and authentic instruments, in autumn.



The park known as the Walk lane of Josip Juraj Strossmayer is part of the Varaždin Fort area where the City Museum is located today. It is part of a whole that represents one of the most important sites of the cultural-historical heritage and cultural tourism of the city of Varaždin. It is a place that citizens of Varaždin themselves choose for walking, teachers and professors for different field studies with students and young people for going out. The space is used for different events like Špancirfest, flower exhibits, performances of horse riders, arrow shooters or productions of different NGOs that are active in the city.

## 2. History of the park

Varaždin Old Town is a typical example of a low fort that is surrounded by a park today. The area is called Arx varasdiensis / Fort area that is comprised of the gothic - renaissance fort where Varaždin bishops lived, the area of the Armory that changed its purpose over centuries from crop house of lords of Celje through the armoury of the Slavonian border, renaissance fortification parts like the hills that connect bastions, indoor and outdoor assembly and a courtyard by the Old Town where up until the 1930s business areas were situated. Although this fort represented one of the key points for the defence of Croatia, and also Europe, from the Osman Empire, when the war danger stopped after 1699, we find a decorative garden that is located between the fort itself and the Armory building. By analysing plans we find that from 1750 we can track the development of this garden that belonged to the fort. It is visible in the plans of Joseph Podhardsky in 1823 and in the zoning plans from 1860.



At the end of the 19th century the Varaždin City Council in the time of Head Council Stjepan pl. Belošević Gornjostubički had the basis for the park maintenance made around the Old Town projected by engineer Ritzl. With this project it was foreseen to completely preserve the hills and bastions, and to partly fill the assemblies. Although the city budget had the means for this project foreseen it was never completed since the owner of the goods, count Rudolf Erdody disagreed, to be precise agreed with the park decoration, but asked for the owners of the Old Town to keep the right to chop down planted trees and bushes and to forbid access to citizens in the walk lane.



When the City Museum was established in the premises of the Old Town, the Museum Society started to create plans to decorate the walk lane. Since Varaždin at this time had no outdoor architects, the Society turned to the German gardening architect Wilhelm Rhonick from Dresden. During 1928 Rhonick made the planned documents that, in opinion of members of the Society, wasn't completely adapted to cultural-historical

significance of the object since it hid it more than it revealed it. Although the Society continued to search for best solutions by counselling with Đuro Szabo and by using the opportunity that in 1934 the city was visited by Austrian migrants including gardener A. Pirker who formed partial solutions that were only usable in a small part. This year, in the fall of 1934, after the tragic death of Aleksandar Karađorđević, an action started to lift a monument for him in the city. The Museum Society managed to convince the City Council to ensure the budget for the park maintenance for the next few years. Works started on 19th October 1938, under the supervision of Krešimir Filić and Alfred Leitner. Parts of different plans for decoration were used, solving problems as they went along to satisfy the conservational, esthetical and hygienic demands of the time. The space between the armoury and the fort was levelled, a path was built leading from the east side to the Nabor street and some trees and bushes were planted that were delivered from Prekmurje (Tišina). Works were continued in the spring of 1939 when the space in front of the fort, two terraces supported by a dry stone wall were constructed and the leftovers of previous walls that enclosed the first courtyard were fixed. The works were continued in 1940 when mostly the outer assemblies were worked on where there were trees and bushes planted and grass was sowed. During the



war years little was done and the entrance gate (watch tower) was damaged during the bombing when a roof collapsed and first floor was greatly damaged. Works were continued after the war when the entrance gate were repaired and path along Lypoldt house to Vrazova street was decorated. Also, a path to hills and bastions was set up and step paths to them were decorated, and the entire area was surrounded by finished gardens in Nazorova street and a lot of plants were planted in 1947.

### 3. The park nowadays

From 1948 this area is managed by Parkovi (Department of public parks and green areas). They invited a famous Slovenian outdoor architect Ciril Jeglič to Varaždin in 1951 with the purpose to project the design of land around the Old Town and the Drava park. In its basis, the park in front of the Old Town was kept with few corrections while the stress was put on decorating hills and assemblies on both sides. In his opinion, assemblies must remain clear for the most part with accent put on green grass. Also, the outlines of hills must be stressed out so on the steep hills low pine trees were planted, while the basis had rose bushes, and flowers along the paths. In close proximity of the Old Town, pines were planted along with cherry trees. Only domestic plants were used, with only a few imported plants added. Behind the houses in Nazorova street a rich vegetation was planted. In total, it was foreseen to plant 15,000 plants. Professor Pavle Vojković made the solution for making benches in the park that serve for rest of walkers.



By initiative of the Varaždin Tourist Board in mid 1990s of the 20th century, in this space the first info tables were set up.

Parkovi fixed the paths several times, along with steps, benches, removed plants and planted new ones. Biggest changes happened in 1995 when a part of paths was closed and when green plants were planted in front of the entrance gate. They also maintained care of seasonal flowers, mowing the grass and cutting plants.

With the project “Bastion”, the City Museum Varaždin in cooperation with Pokrajinski Museum Maribor participated in INTERREG IIIA cooperation programme and enabled research of preserved fortifications through archaeological and historical researches that resulted in a presentation of the discoveries from 2006 to 2008.

### 4. Biodiversity features



The plant variety introduced by Jenglič and the supplementary spontaneous planting occurred later on are not in line with the stylistic multilayer structure of the Old Town, that includes medieval features and the Renaissance, with unique soil ramparts and bastion.

The current arrangement of green areas in the historical complex of the Old Town, in fact, includes earlier spontaneously planted tree solitaires, the Jeglič's concept of park design, and subsequent free placement on the ramparts and elsewhere with the spontaneous spread of vegetation in the last 60 years.

In the area closer to the fortress is predominantly the coniferous, while in the peripheral parts of the monumental complex there are a deciduous plants. From the existing coniferous trees and shrubs it is important to emphasize: *Cephalotaxus drupacea*, *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*, Low pines (*Juniperus horizontalis*, *Juniperus media* etc.), *Juniperus virginiana*, European larch (*Larix europea*), coniferous spruce (*Picea conica*), Spruce (*Picea excelsa*), Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens glauca*), Himalayan pine (*Pinus excelsa*), Black pine (*Pinus nigra*), Pine (*Pinus silvestris*), American pine (*Pinus strobus*) (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*). In particular, we point out a lots of *Taxus baccata* formed in larger groups, and individual specimens of yew (*Taxus baccata fastigiata*) and thorax (*Thuja gigantea* and *Thuja occidentalis*), and a wonderful group of wet taxodens (*Taxodium distichum*), planted directly by the fortress as a reminder of the former water the surface in the loopholes. In the outer yard, there is also an exceptional specimen of the white spruce (*Picea conica*), followed by a group of yew's (*Taxus baccata*), a specimen of the plum yew (*Cephalotaxus drupacea*), Thuja (*Thuja* spp.). From the existing deciduous trees and shrubs it is worth mentioning: *Acer ginnala*, *Acer negundo*, *Acer platanoides*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Acer rubrum*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Populus nigra* (*Populus nigra Italica*), ornamented cherry (*Prunus* sp.), birch (*Betula pendula*), European hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), *Gleditsia triacanthos*, tulipan tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), oak (*Quercus robur*, *Quercus robur fastigiata*), weeping willow (*Salix babilonica pendula*) and lime (*Tilia parviflora*).



Shrubs: *Berberis thunbergii atropurpurea*, *Berberis verruculosa*, *Ceanotus dentatus*, Japanese quince (*Chaenomeles japonica*), *Cornus alba spaethii*, *Cornus mas*, *Corylus avellana*, *Corylus maxima atropurpurea*, Duck (*Deutzia scabra*), Forsythia (*Forsythia intermedia*), Evergreen calina (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*), Cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), *Sambucus nigra*, vanhoutee spirea (*Spirea vanhouttei*), *Syringa vulgaris*, tamarisk (*Tamarix gallica*), weigelia (*Weigela florida variegata*).

There are also numerous perennials that complement the atmosphere of a naturally shaped garden in the outer yard of the Old Town. In the literature on the history of European parks, castles and dungeons, no copies of soil renaissance ramparts have been discovered in the surroundings of a castle or an old town, such as in Varaždin, giving it a unique value.

## 5. Services offered by the park

There are no services offered by the park. The park is currently being experienced only as a scene where free supplemental activities are organized by the City Museum in cooperation with the Tourist Board of the City of Varaždin and individual associations.

## 6. Typology of visitors

Visitors in the existing walkway J.J. Strossmayer are not therefore are tourist groups that use the walkway as the shortest path from a parking lot for buses to the Old Town Museum or the Varaždin historical city centre.

Besides visitors, the park is important for the domestic citizens, but their number depends on activities it offers. For example, during the Špancirfest the number of users is in the thousands while in the days of no activity individual walkers, hikers and pet owners are counted in dozens.



### 7. Educational activities, materials and tools

There is no educational work with school groups or any other groups or individuals that would thematically cover the surrounding of the Old Town.

### 8. Publications presenting the park

There are none official publications that would present the park but the park is mentioned in other publications regarding the castle and Varaždin.

### 9. Exploitation plans over the next 3 to 5 years

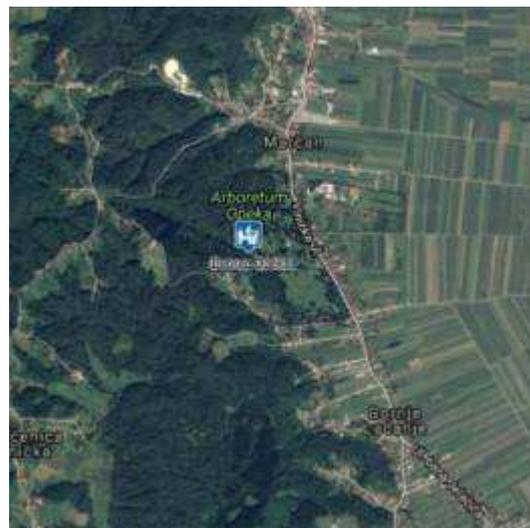
There are no exploitation plans without the opportunities offered by the HICAPS project.

### 10. Other parks and gardens in the surrounding area

#### Municipality of Vinica, Marčan: Arboretum Opeka

Complex Opeka is in settlement Marčan, 20 km western from Varaždin and consists of castle and Arboretum. Very few Zagorje manors had no garden, usually there was at least a small one round the house. Opeka (brick), whose name comes from the nearby brickworks, is at the other extreme. No other Zagorje manor had a garden like that of Opeka. It is outstanding for the number of exotic plants from all parts of the world.

The castle was built in 1674, as evidenced by the label that is located at the main entrance to the castle. The Castle in the original form is Baroque style, but during the 19th century was completely renovated in the historicist style with an open ground plan with three wings. After the Second World War the castle had different use - in the '50 it was a gardening school, afterwards dormitory for the school, but after the '70 it was completely abandoned.



The first seeds of the park was already set in the 17th Century but its original shape as today Arboretum became in the late 19th Century, more precisely in 1884, by the owner Count Marko Bombelles. He travelled around the Europe and the World and like other aristocrats wanted to surround his castle with beautiful park. So he and his family planned and tended with exceptional care many exotic plants from all parts of the world. They managed to grow one of the most beautiful and rich parks and turned it into arboretum. Because of its artistic and dendrological importance, its educational, cultural and historical value, it has since 1947

been under protection as a natural rarity and today is classed in the 0 category monument as No. 1 in the Register of Protected areas.

Arboretum spreads on 64 ha and is divided, related to landscape, in two parts - lowland shaped as English gardens and hillside shaped like park-forest. Regarding the good climate there are more than 800 different species of trees, shrubs, climbing plants and flowers.

Today, the Arboretum is maintained by the Agricultural and veterinary high school "Arboretum Opeka" in Vinica and Varaždin County under supervision of Public Institution for the Management of Protected Areas of Nature in Varaždin County.

It is open for public and serves as educational area with its educational trail and for leisure of different types of visitors.



<http://dev.typed.pro/juzup/podrucja/arboretum-opeka/>

<http://www.dvorci.hr/Page.aspx?pageID=757>

<http://www.hrt.hr/284139/magazin/napunite-baterije-posjetom-arboretumu-opeka>

[http://landmarkings.com/opeka\\_hr.php](http://landmarkings.com/opeka_hr.php)

### City of Varaždin: Park Leitner in Jalkovec

The castle in Jalkovec, built in 1911, is the youngest castle in this part of Croatia. The castle is located near Varaždin, on its southern part, around 15 minutes from the city centre. It is private owned.

The estate was established in the middle of 19th Century by Josipović Family but the next owner, the Leitner Family, invited the famous German castle architect Paul Schulze-Naumburg to built today's castle. It's a two storey building in eclectic style with no significant historical value. After the Second World War it was, like lots of other castles,



used as industrial facility. Today it serves as summer residence of famous Varaždin entrepreneur who redesigned the castle two decades ago and is closed for the public.



The park was developed in three phases: neoclassical phase in first part of 19th Century on 1 ha, landscape phase at the end of 19th Century when the park was extended and included part of nearby forest, and the third phase was when flower compositions were planted after the castle was built.

Today, the Park is spread on 2,7 ha and is classified as protected Monument of Park Architecture in the Register of Protected area under No. 297 from 1972. It's only partly preserved from its original three phase shape and has a lot of contemporary interventions.

The most present trees in the Park are autochthonous: *Carpinus betulus*, *Fraxinus angustifolia*, *Acer campestre* but there are also a lot of exotic plants like *Catalpa bignonioides*, *Gymnocladus dioicus*,





*Juglans nigra, Liriodendron tulipifera, Liquidambar styraciflua* etc.:  
<http://dev.typed.pro/juzup/podrucja/jalkovec-perivoj-uz-dvorac/>

### City of Čakovec: Park Zrinski

Čakovec Castle or Zrinski Castle (Croatian: Čakovečka utvrda or Stari grad Zrinskih) is a medieval fortification in the middle of the town of Čakovec, the administrative seat of Međimurje County, northern Croatia.

The castle is located in the Zrinski Park, not far from the city's central square, and is the biggest fortification in Međimurje County. It was constructed of hewn stone and red brick and, during its more than 7-centuries-long history, subjected to several reconstructions. Today it is partly restored. First fortification, a wooden tower, was built in the 13th century by Count Dimitrius Csáky, after whom the city of Čakovec is named. It was later owned by many other notable families; now is owned by the Municipality.



Nikola Šubić Zrinski, Ban (viceroy) of Croatia and hero of Siget, was granted the castle together with the whole area of Međimurje on 12 March 1546 from King Ferdinand as a compensation for his battles against the Ottomans. He converted the fortress into a Renaissance castle (castellum) which was protected by bastions and walls, and which was surrounded by lakes.

On 30 April 1738 the castle was heavily damaged in an earthquake. It was immediately rebuilt and redesigned in baroque style, and it was given its present-day look. Water-filled moats, that entirely surrounded the castle, were later drained and filled with earth.

Today, the Old Town is a symbol of Međimurje's tradition and identity. It is a heritage monument and cultural property of national value. On 19 November 2007 Čakovec Castle was classified as protected cultural good in the Register of Cultural Goods of Croatia under No. N-23.

The castle's main palace houses the Međimurje County Museum since 1954, and it has 19 thousand items in 51 collections and an open permanent exhibition. Its atrium is also used as an outdoor theatre during the summer months. The place was the scene of the Zrinski-Frankopan conspiracy, a significant event in the history of Croatia.

The castle is surrounded by Park Zrinski which was classified as protected Monument of Park architecture from 17 September 1975.



The Park is artificial formed area (Park, Botanical garden, Arboretum, City Park) which has esthetical, stylistic, artistic, historical and educational value. The aim of its protection is to preserve its most important design phases: the renaissance phase and historicist phase.



The renaissance phase is marked with bastions, moats and meadows with groups of wild grown trees and shrubs. In historicist phase from the beginning of the 20th Century geometrical decorative vegetation is formed and it started the planting of exotic tree species and shrubs around the castle and inside the moats. The size of the Park is 13,5 ha. In 2012 Croatian Forestry Institute made Trees health study and the results are more than 1400 trees. The most present trees in the Park are: *Carpinus betulus*, *Fraxinus angustifolia*, *Acer campestre*, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Picea abies*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *Pinus nigra* and *Picea omorica*.



<http://www.medjimurska-priroda.info/zastita/spomenik-parkovne-arhitekture-perivoj-zrinski-u-cakovcu/>

[https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perivoj\\_Zrinskih](https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perivoj_Zrinskih)

<http://www.visitcakovec.com/grad-zrinskih/>

<https://hotelpark.hr/en/destinations/destination/old-town-zrinski-3/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eg9KBkrC94c>

#### 11. An additional video and photographic collection of the park



<http://varazdin.hr/en/>

<http://www.tourism-varazdin.hr/en/>

<http://www.gmv.hr/en/>

<http://www.parkovi.com/index.php?content=pocetna>

# HISTORICAL CASTLE PARKS

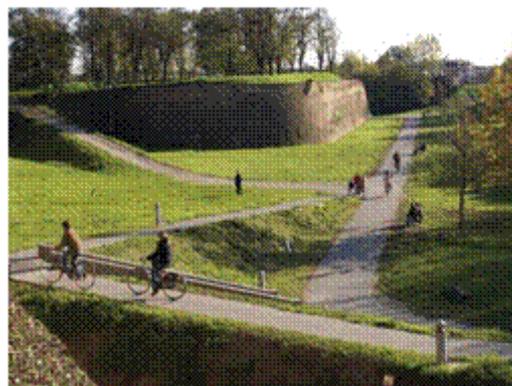
## WP-T2 Tool development and consensus building

### D2.1: Socio-historical report on historical parks

#### The Linear Park of the Este Walls

##### 1. Introduction

The Linear Park of the Este Walls has an extension of 9.2 km. It is close to the ancient walls surrounding the historic centre of Ferrara and can be accessed by foot and bicycle, at the top or bottom of the embankments. The Walls have lost their original role as a defensive barrier, and have been transformed into an element of the historic centre, interconnecting the inside and the outside parts of the city. They are one of the key attractions boosting tourism development and promoting the city as a centre of art and culture.



As an exceptional example of Renaissance cities, Ferrara has been included since 1995 in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list. Thus, the universal value of its historic centre has been acknowledged, in order to guarantee its protection for the benefit of the humanity. Its history, made up of myths, legends and rich of famous characters, is indissolubly tied to the Este Family.



The original nucleus of the city was a Byzantine military settlement, the "castrum" (fortress), on the left bank of the Po river, where - at the beginning of the 17th century - a garrison of soldiers was organized to defend the territories of the Exarchate from the invasion of Longobards, who later occupied the new "civitas" (city).

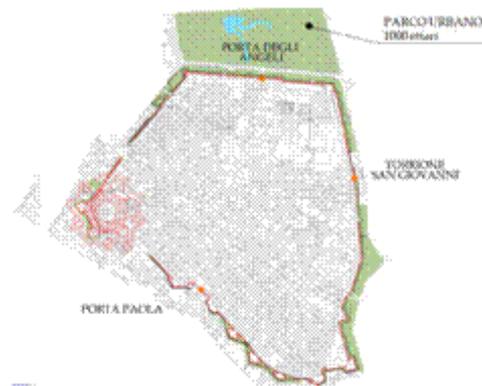
In 1135 the construction of the present Romanesque-Gothic Cathedral began. Over the centuries, it has been enriched with new entrances, becoming an authentic masterpiece of architecture and sculpture, a casket of works of art belonging to various ages. When the fights between the Italian municipalities and the German Emperor Barbarossa took place in the second half of the 12th century, the city supported the Lombard League. In the same years, the Este family established in Ferrara, and in 1264 Obizzo II became Lord of the city.

This was the beginning of an extraordinary period for Ferrara, as demonstrated by the creation of the University (1391), where Nicolaus Copernicus graduated in canon law, by the construction of the Este Castle (1385) and by many other relevant architectural monuments realized both in the medieval and in



renaissance part of the centre. The city became one of the most important Renaissance capitals, especially thanks to the cultural enhancement supported by the court. In fact, the Este Marquis (then Dukes) hosted in Ferrara artists such as Piero della Francesca, Leon Battista Alberti and even Michelangelo. Here were written the great epic poems of Boiardo, Tasso and Ariosto, while the painting school of Ferrara reached one of its highest figurative expressions in the 15th century frescoes of the Salone dei Mesi (Hall of the Months) in Palazzo Schifanoia.

Additionally, from 1492 Ferrara also had an effective urban plan, the Erculea Addition: the medieval city, originally developed in the area south of the Este Castle, was doubled with the construction of large and straight roads, churches and convents, amazing palaces and fortifications.



Today, thanks to the preservation and recovery of its historic centre, Ferrara has increasingly taken the peculiar characteristics of a city with a human dimension, with a strong identity as a centre of art, enhancing its wide cultural heritage and museums for tourists.

## 2. History of the park

The walls, with their extension of 9,2 Km, almost entirely circle the city of Ferrara, and are one of the most complete example of ancient walls still existing in Italy: the most relevant historical periods of Italian military architecture are represented in this fortification.

Located in the green area of embankments and the valley creating a wide park that crowns the city centre, the 15th century towers at north, the 16th century bastions at east and south, the two bastions of the 17th century pontifical fortress, constitute a splendid ecological belt enveloping the old town.

Studied by Michelangelo in 1529, since they were the highest example of military art in those days, the red courtyards witnesses one of the most important pasts for Ferrara, while the embankments of the walls are still today, such as they were in times of peace, a large park perfectly integrating the other gardens within the city.

After the restorations made by the Mura Project (mura means “walls”) from 1988 to 1999, after 2001 other restoration works in the historic fortifications promoted by the City Administration have been completed. The aims of the Mura Project were: to protect and restore the Walls to stop degradation of the monument; to reorganize the whole complex and create an equipped "urban system", able to serve the city and the surrounding areas; to strengthen and develop the city museum system, in order to integrate it with the wall system.

The entire Walls circle has been given back to citizens and tourists, who can now enjoy panoramic views using pedestrian and cycling paths developed in the valley and in the embankments. The Walls now represent an important green lung and a large outdoor museum, consisting of massive towers, long hedges, imposing bastions and many other architectural structures, creating a landscape balancing city and countryside elements. It is a vast and articulated urban area that only a few other European cities can boast.

In the last years, many theatre performances, cultural walks, historical events have been organized along the walls and the park, also involving the city districts participating in the Palio di Ferrara. Similarly, hiking and biking tours let visitors know the tree species and in general the flora of the areas around the embankments of the park.



### 3. The park nowadays

The Walls originally were a fortification for the city, constituting a military machine. Restoration was done with the goal to provide the visitors with an educational description of the monument through exemplary models.

The whole restored Walls have been therefore transformed into an open air Museum. Furthermore some parts of the Wall have been organised as a true museum.

The works therefore aimed at reconfiguring the visual continuity of the Walls, where some parts were missing, and making the Walls a strategic element of the whole city's museum system. The planned interventions aimed at bringing together, in a coordinated way, the single elements of the museum structure and more precisely through:

- a system of itineraries that has become the element able to link all the tourist services provided by the museums;
- specific activities for the environmental re-qualification of the same routes.

The current situation started in 1999, following the end of the renovation of the Mura Project, through the realization of foot and cycling paths in the park, both in the valley and in the tree-lined embankments.

### 4. Biodiversity features

With their external line, which once was flooded for defence purposes and is currently subject to temporary water stagnations favouring wetland and flora species, the Ferrara walls are an important aspect of urban biodiversity. According to recent studies, the Este Walls are the urban green area of Ferrara with the most important and diversified flora (Pellizzari et al., 2015), and the area has been studied for many years (Piccoli, 1986; Piccoli & Pellizzari, 2003). Even after the restoration works, the complex formed by the slopes of the Walls and the surrounding area, i.e. the vast depression once flooded, hosts a large number of species. The high biodiversity is due to the extension of the park, and its multiple orientations, which determine different conditions of sunshine. There is a remarkable wealth of habitats: heavily-sunken skies, areas with southern exposure with high drainage and sunshine, drained areas with northern exposure, other areas exposed to the north with damp and shady soils. Besides these physical characters, we have also to consider the production of biomass and humus of the trees planted along the enclosure, the mineral component generated by the biodegradation of materials, the proximity of a ground water table. This variability is negligible in comparison with the altitude and geochemical gradients of hilly or mountainous environments, but it is sufficient to host a flora of about 240 species, that exceed 300 including those introduced for ornamental purposes. The total number of species reported over the years for the urban area of Ferrara is 771, and the walls thus account for 39% of the urban flora species. In addition, the calculation of the rarity index of species has here the highest value (92,5 against a minimum value of 0,5): i.e. the walls are the urban area with the largest number of species that are poorly represented in other areas of the city. However, many species (159) are no longer reported in the city and 23 are probably extinct elsewhere: a check on the flora of the city walls would be also necessary. In the last years, the emergence of invasive exotic species has been noted, favoured by the globalization phenomena that affect the whole planet.



*Anacamptis pyramidalis*

As far as fauna is concerned, the ground beetles (Grillenzoni, 1990) and the *Etheroptera* (Dioli, 1995) have been studied in detail, with researches dating back to the time prior to the restoration of the walls. Even for these animals, the high diversity of habitats allowed the establishment of numerous species: 83 were the species of *Etheroptera* found on a total of 149 collections in different locations in the province of Ferrara, including some protected areas such as the Mesola Wood. The species of ground beetles were about 70, another relevant number. Since then, however, there have been no systematic surveys of the fauna component of the walls and adjacent areas, except for studies on hoverflies conducted by the Museum of Natural History of Ferrara in the nearby Bassani urban park, also studied by the University of Ferrara. An entomological sampling, which began in May 2017, is currently underway through Malaise trap in the area called "Terraviva Biopastoreria". This is an agricultural area of approximately 5 hectares that has survived urbanization and is located within the city walls, to which is connected by eco-friendly corridors with hedges and grassy margins of foot and bicycle paths. The land is owned by the Municipality of Ferrara and is managed by farmers who, in this area, adopt techniques of organic cultivation. There is also an artificial pond used for irrigation. The installed traps are approximately 500 meters from the Walls. Sampling aims at obtaining indications on the presence of hoverflies, so that a biodynamic conservation status protocol called *Syrph the Net* can be applied. The data of this area will be compared with those of about 20 other locations in the Ferrara area, studied by the Museum in recent years. In parallel, the component of *Apoidea* (honey bees, bumblebees and other wild bees) will be studied to assess the biodiversity of *Apoidea* in other areas, also using Malaise trap samples, a passive collection technique suitable for capturing *Diptera* and *Hymenoptera* as active flyers.



*Carabus granulatus italicus* (photo: Medici, [www.naturamediterraneo.com](http://www.naturamediterraneo.com)),  
*Episyrphus balteatus*

With regard to vertebrates, a short list can be drawn up based on the personal experience of the researchers of the Museum of Natural History of Ferrara. Vertebrate species for the area are briefly listed in the following table. Some more accurate and documented data on fauna, as well as on flora, are progressively provided by citizen science projects created and coordinated by the Museum in the territory of the Po River Delta. They include both direct monitoring by the staff of the Museum and observations by private citizens. The projects have become operational in autumn 2016.

Please read: Corazza C., ed., 2012. *The Dither Syrphids in bioindication of biodiversity. The Syrphids, the Syrph the Net database and a dichotomous key to the generals of the Italian Syrphids*. Quotations from the Ecology Station of the Civic Museum of Natural History of Ferrara, 20, 165 pp. Italian English: <http://storianaturale.comune.fe.it/modules/core/lib/d.php?c=cDJP2>

## 5. Services offered by the park

The City Museum of Natural History, in cooperation with the Didò Association, offers educational and information activities. In particular, the following initiatives took place in the city of Ferrara during the academic year 2016-2017:

- An intensive study of a semi-natural urban area, targeting the High Schools in the city, took place between late October and early November. The activity was aimed at gathering, in a few hours, as many information as possible on the biodiversity of the area located at the "Biopastoreria Terraviva". During the first meeting, the students under the guidance of the Didò Association, the Civil Service Boys



and the experts of the City Museum of Natural History, presented a research protocol for monitoring of smaller fauna in order to detect the state of the health of the environment. The data collected in real time were recorded on the online "iNaturalist" platform for monitoring fauna and flora at international level. The activity aimed to raise awareness and enthusiasm of young people to participate in the research activities of Citizen Science. The second meeting took place at the City Museum of Natural History. Students were engaged in the analysis of materials collected from the traps placed during the first meeting and from soil samples. Through the use of microscopes, stereoscopes and appropriate identification manuals, students have identified and separated the small invertebrates. The activity was free of charge.

- In May, teachers of a primary school carried out an activity on ecosystems. The first meeting was run on the field and the second in the classroom. During the first event, the children followed by the operator identified and analysed the flora and fauna of the Linear Park, then in the classroom they observed and compared the samples; the data collected were used to help children reflect about the health of the environment and whether the man influences it. A ticket fee was requested.

- Two afternoon events for families were organised at the end of April on "Small inhabitants of the Walls". The aim of the activity was to involve parents and children in the search for arthropods of the park, by using small nets and containers for collecting and observing the first layer of soil, also using magnifying glasses and trays. The operators, using the online platform "iNaturalist", entered the real-time sightings and made parents and children part of the Citizen Science projects launched by the City Museum of Natural History of Ferrara and how to become a scientist in autonomy. A ticket fee was requested.

New Activities: the new information brochure for 2017-2018, targeting primary and secondary schools, includes a two-days course called "Biodiversity for All". The first meeting consists of a walk in an environmental area chosen by the teacher (lawn, forest, river, retting-ground, etc.) for observation, sampling and entry into the "iNaturalist" platform of collected data. The second meeting is run at the Museum to analyze samples and findings collected, and discuss the state of health of the environment visited. A ticket fee is requested.

Another initiatives (BioBlitz) can be also carried out with the support of volunteers from the national or civil service, without any costs for the citizens who participate.



Citizen science activities at Terraviva

## 6. Typology of visitors

The key target groups include: schools, families, scholars, passionate citizens and curious about natural sciences.



## 7. Educational activities, materials and tools

The activities include the use of paper forms, the simulation of scientific monitoring activities of the selected area without killing animals, the use of microscopes for the detailed observation of exhibits, the use of an online platforms such as iNaturalist and CS-MON for recording and sharing data.

iNaturalist ([www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org)) is an open source website managed by the California Academy of Science. It is a system where you can record what you have observed in nature, meet other nature lovers, and learn about the natural world. From hikers to hunters, birders to beach-combers, the world is filled with naturalists, and many of them record what they find and share the information online. The terms of service are published here: <https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/terms>.

CSMON-LIFE (Citizen Science MONitoring, <http://www.csmon-life.eu>) is an Italian citizen science project on biodiversity, funded by the European Union within the LIFE+ programme. The initiative targets the general public and aims to involve citizens in the study, management and conservation of biodiversity, creating an active collaboration among citizens, the scientific community and the institutions. The Museum of Natural History of Ferrara uses this platform to collect reports on molluscs.

At the base of these two projects there are four fundamental concepts, which are the pillars of citizen science: citizen involvement, understanding (nature conservation issues), collaboration (in the development of effective and shared solutions), change (of our behaviour towards the environment).

Both sites allow the entry of messages via PCs and smartphones and the validation of photo-based observations: iNaturalist follows the philosophy of social networks used for scientific knowledge and dissemination. It entrusts the validation of the researches done to the scientific community which created CS-MON. From this point of view CS-MON is not social and relies on a panel of experts. Communication is carried out through: press releases, institutional websites, online newsletters, meetings with citizens and associations, conferences, open days and nights at the Museum, in partnership with private sponsors.

It is worthwhile mentioning also the educational activities and workshops organised at the Sottomura and the Bassani Parks, managed by the IDEA Centre:

- Metrominuto Ferrara is a project to promote soft mobility. It is a map similar to that of the Metro lines in the big cities, but it provides information on distances and walking times between major points of interest. The map presents the pedestrian path of the city walls and the Urban Park: <http://servizi.comune.fe.it/7679/metrominuto-ferrara>

- “You read Biodiversity” consists of a marathon of public readings, songs, poems and stories dealing with the topic of Biodiversity, taking place at the same time in several places: Bassano Urban Park, Museum of Natural History and at Terraviva: <http://servizi.comune.fe.it/index.php?id=7821>

- ActivECOLab is a path promoted to raise awareness among the citizens, through free laboratories developing small sustainable practices that can be used in the everyday life, such as, e.g., how to recognize spontaneous herbs: <http://servizi.comune.fe.it/6885/impriamo-a-riconoscere-le-erbe-spontanee>

- A tree to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> is a publication presenting the main trees and shrubs of the Ferrara territory, with specific leaflets that are distributed during the National Tree Day: [http://servizi.comune.fe.it/7103/attach/idea/docs/versione%20\\_web\\_def.pdf](http://servizi.comune.fe.it/7103/attach/idea/docs/versione%20_web_def.pdf)

- Green 2.0 intends to broaden the knowledge about the green areas present on the municipal territory, as well as promote the active participation of citizens and share information on the natural, historical and social values of the landscape. The Bassani Urban Park has been identified as one of the pilot areas of the project, and information panels have been installed. Each panel contains a QR code containing information about the different tree species: <http://servizi.comune.fe.it/6005/index.php?id=5113>



- EcoMappa of the province of Ferrara developed a map of sustainable tourism in the territory of Ferrara, covering the whole area of the Suburban and the Urban Park:  
<http://servizi.comune.fe.it/4431/ecomappa-partecipata-della-provincia-di-ferrara>

## 8. Publications presenting the park

Italian language:

- Dioli P, 1995. *Eterotteri del Ferrarese. 1. La fauna terrestre (Heteroptera Cimicomorpha et Pentatomorpha)*. Quaderni della Stazione di Ecologia del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Ferrara, 8, 7-49. [https://www.ndsu.edu/faculty/rider/Pentatomoidea/PDFs/D/Dioli\\_1995a.pdf](https://www.ndsu.edu/faculty/rider/Pentatomoidea/PDFs/D/Dioli_1995a.pdf).

- Pellizzari M, Piccoli F., Alessandrini A., 2015. *La flora vascolare urbana di Ferrara*. Quaderni del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Ferrara, 3: 55-90, abstract in English. <http://storianaturale.comune.fe.it/modules/core/lib/d.php?c=cwJ37>

- Sciaky R. & Grillenzoni G., 1990. *Coleotteri carabidi di Ferrara (Coleoptera Carabidae)*. Quaderni della Stazione di Ecologia del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Ferrara, 3, 7-63.

- Scienze naturali e ambiente: proposte per anno scolastico 2017-18. <http://storianaturale.comune.fe.it/modules/core/lib/d.php?c=cmAZ7>

<http://storianaturale.comune.fe.it/824/citizen-science-raccolta-di-segnalazioni>

- News observations from “Mura di Ferrara” are progressively posted here:  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/places/mura-di-ferrara>

## 9. Exploitation plans over the next 3 to 5 years

A key direction consists of a major support to scientific research and enhancement of educational and dissemination activities with sampling carried out by experts for updating fauna lists and assessing the state of conservation of populations. Targeted control of invasive exotic trees and shrubbery components, in particular *Ailanthus altissima* and *Broussonetia papyrifera*, through drastic actions (use of selective herbicides applied on the cut surfaces of plants), applied individually to each element. Control should take place gradually, while at the same time strengthening the native component: a modification of the vegetation should be pursued without substantially compromising the scenic appearance of greenery.

The enhancement of ecological connections through the implementation of the ecological programmes is also foreseen in the Municipal Structural Plan.

## 10. Other parks and gardens in the surrounding area

### Po River and Bianca island: A Natura 2000 site

To the north of the city of Ferrara flows the main branch of the river Po, the largest Italian river, 652 kilometres long, connecting the Alps to the Adriatic Sea. In the past, when its course was further south, the river had a great importance in the birth of Ferrara: the first area was in fact at the division of two delta branches, the Po of Volano and the Po of Primaro, before 1000 AD. The two branches still exist but have lost almost entirely their old relevance for trade. The river's main course moved into the existing situation as a result of disastrous river routes around 1200, and for man-made corrections after the great earthquake of 1570.

The Po River is a very important ecological corridor: the stretch of land close to Ferrara is rich of interesting habitats and species. For this reason the area has been included in the European ecological network of Natura 2000, aiming to protect biodiversity. On the right riverside of the Po river runs a bike path, a track that runs almost uninterrupted for about 120 km between Stellata and Gorino.

Near Ferrara, the Natura 2000 site touches several places of high naturalistic interest: the Bianca Island and a large white monumental pier accommodated in its spruce, the Po Park, the Vallengunga area, the Bosco Nuovo of Ravalle and the Woods of Porporana.

The White Island is a 360 hectares island located in the Po river between the villages of Francolino and Pontelagoscuro. It is the closest place to the city of Ferrara. Some sources witness that it was already present in late medieval times, but the 1590 map of Este Countries by Marco Antonio Pasi, now kept at the University Library of Modena, does not draw it. An island, however, appears in the maps of Andrea Chiesa of 1762, but it is associated with the Venetian side (northern) of the Po. Finally, in the so-called "Napoleonic" map of 1814, a large sandy island appears at the centre of the river, with an area full of trees near to the Emilia side. It's probably this tree-lined core, where plant roots have consolidated the river sediment, which progressively has extended and maintained over time.



The Bianca island in the Napoleonic map, 1814

The Bianca Island is a rich place for flora and fauna: in 1986 the Province and the Municipality of Ferrara identified the area as an oasis for fauna protection. In 1991 its management was given to LIPU, the Italian Bird Protection League. Step by step, the oasis was extended to the areas adjacent to the island reaching the current 360 hectares. For several years, the LIPU organised guided tours on the island, however, after numerous high water events, it became increasingly difficult to run the tours and currently the visit service is suspended. When the Po river has poor water, the island connects different lands: in these periods, any access must be carried out in the highest respect of the flora and fauna that live in the oasis.

Hygrophilous species are present, such as white poplar, white willows and *Fraxinus oxycarpa*. There are also black poplars, elms, morus, some black alders, shrubbery. Amazing ephemeral plumes in periodically flooded areas and hedges complete a changing mosaic that is strongly influenced by human activities and the behaviour of the river. Sometimes screeches or sands are emerging, important for certain ephemeral vegetation and the nesting of some birds. Among the rare and threatened plant species, the presence of the *Leucojum aestivum*, which appears in the flooded edges together with *Carex elata*, must be mentioned. *Gratiola officinalis*, *Veronica anagallis-aquatica*, *Euphorbia palustris*, *Trapa natans*, *Wolffia arrhiza* and other species are in general rarefaction. Among the traceable species, a potential list of species to be protected include *Galium palustre*, *Tulipa sylvestris*, *Nymphaea alba* and at least three orchids: *Ophrys sphegodes*, *Neotinea tridentata*, and *Anacamptis morio*, reported in the regional Atlas of the protected flora. Among the very invasive exotic ones are the American *Sicyos angulatus* and the *Amorpha fruticosa*. The island houses a large white poplar (*Populus alba*) known locally as "La Pioppa" and listed among the monumental trees of Emilia-Romagna Region.

The forest of the island is made up of *Quercus robur*, *Morus alba*, *Morus nigra*, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Populus alba*, *Populus nigra*, *Ulmus minor*, *Salix alba*, i.e. the vegetation typical of the so-called "river forests". There are more than 70 species of birds on the island, including several *Ardeidae* (little egrets, green herons, etc.) nesting on trees. Among the amphibians, there are the green frog (*Pelophylax spp.*), the *Rana dalmatina*, the *Hyla intermedia*, the common toad (*Bufo bufo*) and the emerald toad (*Bufo balearicus*). Among the reptiles: the *Natrix natrix*, the *Lacerta bilineata*, the lizard (*Podarcis sicula*). There are also several turtles (*Emys orbicularis*).



Among the fourteen bird species of community interest, *Alcedo atthis*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Egretta garzetta* and *Ixobrychis minutus* are nesting there. Other species use the area as a feeding site or stop during migrations following the breeding period. At least 20 migratory species are reported, most of them nesting within the site (*Cannabis Acrocephalins*, *Jinx torquilla*, *Streptopelia turtur*, *Upupa epops*) or close to it (e.g. *Hirundo rustica*, *Delichon urbicum* and *Apus apus* feed near and along the banks of the river. Many species of community interest could nest at the naked soils that emerge during the summertime, but they are negatively affected by excessive human pressure.

Compared to the Park of the Walls, this area is an extra-urban environment, less disturbed, definitely hygrophilous, with more natural features and the ability to accommodate a large number of protected species. The right bank of the river is visible from the walls of Ferrara, and the Natura 2000 site is connected to the walls itself by the large urban park and agricultural land located just between the city wall and the Po river. Cycling trails connect the Ferrara Walls to the Po River, through the village of Francolino.



The natural moat that separates the Bianca Island from the river bank

#### Po di Primaro and Traghetto basins: A Natura 2000 site

The Primaro river existed before the year 1000 BC, and the city of Ferrara was born where the river Po was divided into the two branches of the Po of Volano and of the Po of Primaro. It was probably the most important branch of the delta and hence its name (“primaro”, i.e. “the main one”). Today Primaro Po does not reach the sea anymore: it ends with some large pipes against the river Reno at Traghetto, and its waters do not communicate with those of the Reno. In fact, it is a basin about 28 km long and 20 metres wide, driven by the Po of Volano, with almost standing waters, moved only by water drains for irrigation of fields in the summer and the water that drains from the surrounding terrains in autumn and winter. Its maximum depth is 4,5 m. Despite crossing a heavily anthropic region, it houses a rich fauna, with 24 species of nesting birds and other 32 migratory species, and also insects, amphibians and protected reptiles. Since 2006, its importance has been recognized, and it is listed within the ecological network of European Natura 2000 sites. With some minor differences, flora and fauna are similar to those already presented for the Po River and Bianca Island site. Primaro's Po is the western border of the UNESCO site “Città di Ferrara and its Delta”. Its course begins near the southern part of the city wall. Its natural conditions are to be considered as intermediaries between those of the Park and those of the previous River Po Natura 2000 site. Its final sections are characterized by several Natura 2000 habitats including a xeric lawn with splendid orchid blooms.



A stretch of the Po of Primaro



### Eco-Balancing Area "Nutcracker"

Close to Ferrara there are two Areas of Ecological Balance (ARE), a kind of protected area typical of the Emilia-Romagna Region, established under the Regional Law 6/2005. As the name suggests, these are places that seek to compensate the effects of anthropization, i.e. they are places with natural elements embedded in heavily anthropic contexts.

ARE Nutcracker is located in the residential suburbs east of the city, not far from the city walls. The area covers about 23 hectares, in an arboreal and shrubby zone spontaneously grown on abandoned land. There are trees as *Quercus robur*, *Populus alba*, *Salix alba*, *Cornus sanguinea*, *Rosa canina* and the exotic *Acer negundo* and *Robina pseudoacacia*. The historical story of the ARE Nutcracker is quite singular. The name was chosen in 2009 by citizens who, worried that the natural area spontaneously formed could be destroyed by urban expansion, created a committee that obtained the responsibility of protecting this site.

In the past, the area was intended to feed a local furnace. The clay needed for the production of the artefacts was taken from the surrounding land by digging large holes, which were then filled with the wastes. The use of furnace digging as a dump was usual in Ferrara since the Middle Ages. After World War II, landfills received not only inert materials, but also hazardous pollutants from the petrochemical plant located northwest of the city. This continued until the 1980s, when national laws started regulating disposal of waste.

When the furnace was closed, the abandoned areas were gradually colonized by vegetation. They have been transformed into a residential area around 1990, by building new neighbourhoods composed mainly of terraced houses. The creation of ARE blocked further expansion, and a collection and removal system is now in place to prevent the polluting substances present in the waste from falling into the subsoil.

Within the ARE, there is a retting-ground, an artificial basin of stagnant water, used for hemp processing. In the second half of the twentieth century, with the decline and abandonment of this cultivation, many of these ponds were closed to recover agricultural and building land. In 2004, the Ecology Station of the Museum of Natural History of Ferrara made a census of naturalistic sites, including debris.

The aquatic habitat of a retting-ground is not very deep and its waters are very rich in nutrients coming from adjacent cultivated fields. On the surface of the water it is easy to observe floating plants with small leaves, this is *Lemna spp.* and *Spirodela polyrrhiza*. When the light filters, it is possible to identify the plants rooted on the bottom, from which only flowers (*Miriophyllum spicatum*, *Potamogeton crispus*) emerge. The shores are rather steep, originally almost vertical. The predominant plant species in this area are: *Phragmites australis*, *Typha latifolia* and *Typha angustifolia*. Around the water mirror can coexist different tree species, spontaneous or planted. Among the most common we find: *Salix alba*, *Ulmus minor*, *Quercus robur* and *Populus nigra*. There are also numerous shrubs, including *Cornus sanguinea*, *Robus ulmifolius* and *Robus coesius*, *Sambucus nigra* and *Prunus spinosa*.

Many animal species find hospitality inside the retting-grounds. Alongside various unicellular organisms, there are sheltering gastropod molluscs of the *Viviparus*, *Stagnicola*, *Planorbis* and *Anodontus bivalve* species, aquatic insects such as *dithicides* and dragonflies, crustaceans such as *Palaemonetes antennarius* shrimp, isopods and aquatic amphipods. Many fishes are also present; frequent is the tench (*Tinca tinca*), the bream (*Abramis brama*), the bullhead catfish (*Ictalurus melas*) and the carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). There are also many amphibians and reptiles that use these areas for rest, feeding and reproduction: green frogs (*Pelophylax group*), common toad (*bufo bufo*) and emerald toad (*Bufotes balearicus*), grass snake (*Natrix natrix*). The most rare, but not impossible, is the sight of newts (*Triturus carnifex* and *Lissotriton vulgaris*) and European turtle (*Emys orbicularis*). There are numerous birds nesting there: *Gallinula chloropus*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Nycticorax nycticorax* and *Anas platyrhynchos*. The *Myocastor coypus*, introduced by South America, is surely the most present mammal, while more rare is the *Arvicola*



*terrestris*. A special case is represented by the red shrimp of Louisiana (*Procambarus clarkii*), originating in the sweet waters of the regions north of the Gulf of Mexico. This is a very easy to breed shrimp, resistant to disease and with a good taste, characteristics that facilitated its import and diffusion even in Europe. It has spread to all wetlands in the North-Centre Italy, thus severely threatening the indigenous communities of freshwater animals and plants. Sometimes the Exotic *Trachemy scripta* and *Lithobates catesbeianus* are also found, which are also very impacting on native ecosystems.

The Nutcracker area is surrounded by urban settlements, but it is only 800 meters from the City Walls. Compared to the walls area, it differs mainly due to the presence of permanent humid environments. The part that can be used by the public is the one where the retting-ground is located. The area is easily accessible thanks to the cycling paths that depart from the valley along the city walls. It is used for dissemination and teaching activities by groups such as Volunteer Ecological Guards and the Didò Association.



*Gallinula chloropus* nesting on the banks of the retting-ground in the Nutcracker ARE

# HISTORICAL CASTLE PARKS

## WP-T2 Tool development and consensus building

### D2.1: Socio-historical report on historical parks

#### The Villa Ghigi Park

##### 1. Introduction

The Villa Ghigi Park is one of Bologna's best-known, large and charming green areas. It is located on the first Apennine reliefs of the city that, as written in the past by famous travellers, is literally lying in the hills. On the southern side of Bologna, the distance between the ring of circular avenues, following the track of the ancient Medieval walls (largely demolished in the early 1900s), and the slopes of Apennine is almost non-existent.

The park, which has an area of about 30 hectares, is the most important part of the wide estate that belonged to the Ghigi family for about a century. The most important character was Alessandro Ghigi (1895-1970), naturalist, Rector of the University of Bologna in the 1930s, and key figure of nature protection in Italy. The present park, partially received as a present and partly purchased by the City of Bologna after the death of Ghigi, was opened to the public in 1974. In those years, the Bologna administration, following a series of town planning decisions protecting the entire hilly area from new buildings, provided the city with a massive public green estate in the hilly area, acquiring historical holdings and farms close to the city (Villa Spada and San Pellegrino parks), or within the urban area (Paleotto, Fort Bandiera, Mount Paderno, Cavaioni, Calanchi di Sabbiuo).





The Villa Ghigi is home to the Villa Ghigi Foundation, which has been managing the park for many years, thanks to an agreement with the Municipality of Bologna. The restoration and enrichment programme is aimed at exalting the exemplary botanical and landscaped features of the first hills of Bologna. Within thirty-five years, the Foundation has also promoted the park for many activities of environmental education and promotion, which began in the early 1980s and still continues today for schools, as well as for families and citizens.

## 2. History of the park

Although the very first construction is more ancient, the villa in the today's park has been known since the early 1600s, when the building and the surrounding areas moved from the Volta family to the Earls of Selva, a branch of the noble and powerful Malvezzi family.

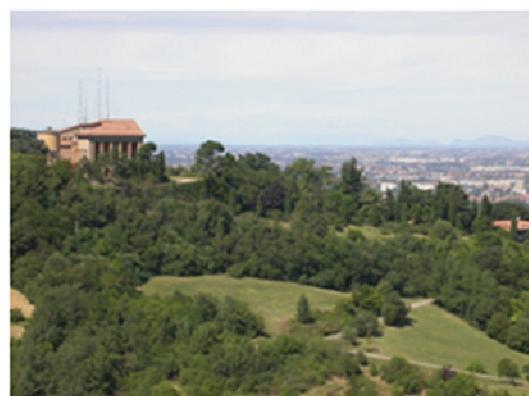
In 1691, Abbot Roberto Malvezzi sold to the merchant Giacomo Zagnoni the property, that later was given to the Earls of Cavalca. During the Napoleon period, the estate, which in the late 18th century included seven farms, passed from the Cavalca to the Caldesi and then to the Chelotti family, and in 1840 to Giuseppe Dozza (the Gregorian Cadastral documents mention the names of Palazzo Dozza and Palazzino Dozza).



The estate is located in the lower and middle part of the northern slope of the Ronzano hill, which houses the ancient monastery of the "Fрати Gaudenti", quoted by Dante Alighieri in the XVIII canto of the "Inferno". Then the monastery passed to the Dominicans and nowadays belongs to the order of the Servants of Mary. It is located of the first hills of Bologna, in an area rich of historical buildings and memories, as well as literary references. The closest hill hosts the monastery of Osservanza and the neoclassical Villa Aldini, built in the Napoleon era and replacing the previous sanctuary of Madonna del Monte. Just in front it also lying the seventeenth-century

Osservanza street, dotted with villas and other historic-architectural buildings.

In 1874 the property was purchased by the lawyer Callisto Ghigi, and was owned by his family until 1972. At these times the estate, consisting of Il Becco, the Palazzino, Tre Portoni, Stradelli and San Michele III (today's park includes only the first two), was extended for over 50 hectares. The Ghigi family also had a home in town and, as a tradition, moved to the hill in the summer season, going to "holiday" and to supervise the activities of the farms, entrusted to sharecropper families. Callisto Ghigi, enthusiast of botany and ornithology, is probably responsible of some decorative works with exotic trees and a group of beech trees in a particularly freshly spot of the area (the park is located at 200 m of altitude, while the beech in the Apennines Bolognese usually grows over 800 m).





One of the children of Callisto, Alessandro (1875-1970), while maintaining a residence in the city, lived in the villa for the rest of his life, cultivating from his infancy his naturalist vocation, certainly inspired and also supported by his father's passions. In 1922 Alessandro Ghigi obtained the Zoological Chair of the University of Bologna, of which he was subsequently Rector from 1930 to 1943. In the villa, he started breeding of exotic pigeons and pheasants, for which he prepared a series of aviaries (of which no more traces remain today).



Founder and animator of protectionist associations and institutes for the study and conservation of fauna, flora and natural heritage, as well as the promotion of the teaching of natural sciences in schools, Alessandro Ghigi is one of the most active forerunner of nature protection in Italy: his activity in favour of the creation of new national parks and, more generally, for the protection of Italian natural beauty was particularly intense.



As evidence of his constant commitment to the preservation of Italian bird species, in 1936 Ghigi had promoted the creation, in his hilly property and adjacent areas, of an oasis for the protection of fauna within the hunting reserve "Tenuta di Monte Scalvato". Initially about ten acres wide, the wildlife protection oasis of Monte Scalvato, under the Ghigi's impulse, replaced the hunting reserve in 1947 with an area of 262 hectares, and in 1952 it expanded for more 21 hectares. It ceased to exist shortly after the Ghigi's death.

In 1962, Ghigi, who had already begun to donate to the City of Bologna part of his estate, told to mayor Giuseppe Dozza: "The oasis has a remarkable naturalistic importance, as it includes the magnificent ravine of Montescalvato and Vincareta, the chestnut trees (unique in the municipality) of Ronzano, the Gaibola plaster natural beauty area, and it is susceptible, due to the decline of agriculture in the hill, of further developments and enlargements".

The following year, Ghigi donated a part of the estate to the Municipality of Bologna, while continuing to live there, obtaining in return a building authorisation in the area at the beginning of the property, closer to via San Mamolo.

At his death in 1970, his heirs sold the villa and part of the remaining land to the municipal administration and two other farms (St. Michael III had been previously donated by Ghigi to the CNR - National Research Council, within his project on the oasis of fauna protection). The park, after some adjustments to the new function, was opened to the public in 1974. Since the death of Ghigi, the villa is no longer inhabited and is in a state of abandonment.



In 1980, the City of Bologna, in accordance with the request of some naturalistic associations, such as the Union of Bolognese Naturalists, particularly linked to the figure of Alessandro Ghigi, decided to establish a centre that had to have its seat in the villa, manage the park and to deal mainly with the protection of nature and didactics of natural sciences. The decisive imprint of the nascent Centro Villa Ghigi, which began operating in early 1982, was however given by its first president, Delfino



Insolera (1920-1987). He had been director of the Zanichelli publishing house in the 1960s and possessed an original vision of natural and scientific education and experimentation, tested and refined throughout his life (before his experience at Zanichelli, of which he remained a lifelong consultant, he had worked for years at Olivetti, collaborating to important cultural initiatives promoted by Adriano Olivetti).

The centre immediately launched a series of guided tours in the park for schools, that had an immediate success, and gathered a first group of young naturalists and graduates in similar disciplines with a strong attitude to educational aspects, They have formed the first nucleus of an operational staff that has been operational over the years, progressively expanding the activities of the centre.

From more than thirty years, the Centre and then the Villa Ghigi Foundation are a reference point for environmental education and sustainability at regional level (the foundation is now a CEAS - Centre of Education for Sustainability of the Emilia-Romagna Region). They are also well-known for their educational publications about public green areas, natural parks, as well as surveys and projects developed for the City of Bologna and other public entities. More and more they have been increasing their managerial skills and capacity in the organization of environmental events and initiatives for citizens, involving not only the Villa Ghigi Park, but also other green areas in the territory of Bologna.



### 3. The park nowadays



The Villa Ghigi Centre, although initiating and managing the educational activity in the same park since the early 1980s, always had its main premises in another important city park.

Only after the creation of the Villa Ghigi Foundation in 2001, the headquarters could finally be transferred to Villa Ghigi Park, not in the mansion building, abandoned for almost fifty years and still waiting for recovery, but in a nearby farmhouse, the Palazzino, which has since then hosted the didactic structure (ground

floor) and offices (first floor) of the foundation. Shortly after the transfer of the headquarters, the foundation also signed an agreement with the City of Bologna for the direct management of the green area and launched a careful and attentive programme of restoration and enrichment of the park, with the aim of enhancing its key characteristics of being an exemplary situation of the Bolognese hilly environment, and becoming a large open educational and educational laboratory for schools and citizens.

For the past fifteen years, the park has been the subject of accurate maintenance activities and a series of extraordinary interventions, such as: restoration of the drainage network; renovation of furnishings - while maintaining the sober typologies adopted in the 1970s; enriching the arboreal and shrubby heritage





with new plantations of indigenous species; to a lesser ornamental extent, a substantial increase of the fruit trees of traditional varieties that were already in the park for quantity and origin and represent one of the elements of excellence; a particular attention has been paid to its vineyards, gardens and fields, also for an educational function; redefine the physiognomy of certain angles and environments of the park; adopt a series of arrangements to promote the presence of fauna and its observation (artificial nests for birds and bats, a pond, etc.).

Among the various interventions in the last few years, the creation of the Frutteto del Palazzino, realized in collaboration with ARPAE, the regional environmental agency, near the headquarters of the foundation. It now houses some thirty fruit plants derived from secular specimens of the region and represents an interesting showcase for the rural biodiversity of the Emilia-Romagna region. It also hosts an experimental station dedicated to the herbaceous species *Dictamnus albus*, realized in collaboration with the University of Bologna under a European project, and the numerous plantations of trees made by donations received from citizens and ordinary people through the project “A tree for you”, which made it possible to make the renewal and increase of the park’s natural heritage even faster.



For the schools and citizens of Bologna, the Villa Ghigi Park is now a popular and loved place. Visitors vary from those who attend it daily, to the classes that follow some educational experience, to the families who take advantage for their children of the summer centre run by the Foundation, as well as of laboratories, readings on nature and other extra-school activities, to citizens participating in guided walks and hikes in the park and in the surroundings, courses and other initiatives organized by the foundation throughout the year.

In Summer 2017, the park was enriched with a new element. In the small custodian’s house next to Villa Ghigi, a temporary refreshment point was set up, It was operational for about two months offering a series of small concerts, shows and meetings. From Spring 2018, once the renovation works are completed, the refreshment point will be permanently opened and will offer, in coordination with the activities of the Foundation, a calendar of cultural events throughout the year.

#### 4. Biodiversity features

The Villa Ghigi park is located on the left slope of a small valley known as Valverde, surrounded by a natural stream, the Rio Fontane, the tributary of the Aposa stream. Due to its variety of species, the park is a rather representative sample of the hilly landscape around Bologna. It captures in a limited space also very different aspects and a wide variety of species, increasing biodiversity of the green area, such as: plots no more cultivated and turned into meadows, sometimes coming back wild, often flanked by old fruit trees; wooded edges of various nature including a beech grove; a natural forest of ancient origin on the eastern border and some reforestation of autochthonous tannins made in the first years after the opening to the public; a beautiful ornamental garden framing the villa where you can find the essences characteristic of the parks of the historic Bolognese dwellings; and, distributed in various areas of the



park, monumental specimens of downy oak, the typical oak of the most dry and sunny areas on the Bolognese hills.



As far as the ancient rural areas, previously used for agricultural and productive purposes, the arable crops have largely been transformed into meadows, but there are still rows of fruit trees in the spots along the rocks. In many cases they are ancient cultivars typical of the Bolognese hills nowadays rare and at risk of extinction that constitute an important historic-testimonial and genetic heritage. Among them are plums, khaki, cherry, apples, quinces, pears, figs, pomegranates, apricots, almond and cherry plums also with specimens of considerable size, if not even secular. There are also numerous fruit trees scattered in the meadows, which in many cases are old planted remains,

presenting a characteristic feature of the Bolognese countryside of a time, when the vines that were bred in a row of arable fields were supported by live guards (maples, elms, various kinds of fruit trees). In the park, there are also some old vineyards still cultivated, entrusted with the management of vineyards expert, precious elements for the protection of the characters of the traditional rural landscape.

These vineyards also have some form of farming used in the past, with rows mounted on horseback, i.e. transversely to the slope, and hosting ancient varieties typical of the Bolognese hills, including Angela, Paradisa and Sasl . Only one of the vineyards of the old estate near the Becco, abandoned for decades, has gradually been re-colonized by shrubs and young trees, and today has become a dense and intricate shrub where many wild animals find shelter and nurture in the park. After some years of valuable work for safeguarding and enhancing the heritage of the rural biodiversity of the park and the realization of the Palazzino Orchard, the relevant role of Villa Ghigi Foundation in the programmes launched by the Emilia-Romagna Region to counteract progressive genetic impoverishment in the agricultural field has been acknowledged. In this sense, the park can be considered an open-air museum dedicated to fruit cultivation in the Bolognese hills.



From the point of view of the most strictly natural plant cover, given the location and the environmental characteristics of the area, and thanks to the Foundation's choice to implement maintenance based on the principles of organic green management and sustainability criteria, the green areas offer several spots of interest. A relevant naturalistic value is given to the wood that marks the eastern border of the park, characterized by large specimens of black hornbeam, oak, ash and cherry, together with other shrubby species typical of hillside mesophilous forests. Remarkable is the rich grassy undergrowth of the forested areas that in early spring are coloured by anemone

blooms (*Anemone nemorosa*, *Anemone ranunculoides*), primrose, violet, elbows and lungs. Even lawns and slopes, which are sown in accordance with the biological cycle of the plants, give a rich blossoming of a variety of species, including those of rare and protected plants, such as orchids (*Orchis purpurea*, *Orchis*

morio, *Orchis simia*, *Cephalanthera damasonium*), narcissus (*Narcissus poeticus*, *Narcissus tazetta*), tulips (*Tulipa oculis-solis*, *Tulipa sylvestris*) and Carthusian pinks (*Dianthus carthusianorum*, *Dianthus balbisii*).



A significant plant component of the park is given by its ornamental character that focuses particularly on the garden of the villa and emphasizes the fun and delight that this place has coated in the past - common to most of the historic manor houses of the first hills of Bologna - as well as the passion for the introduction of exotic plants and botanical curiosities typical of the past centuries. In the garden surrounding the villa, the trees and shrubs are distributed so as to form a dense cover, predominantly from evergreen trees, shadowing an articulated net of trails and some old stone sitting. They recognize a long line of old lime trees, some beautiful pines and some sizzling

cypresses, while in the undergrowth there are many laurels, viburnum tinus and prunus laurocerasus. Noteworthy is an impressive cedar of the Himalayas (*Cedrus deodora*) that dominates the lawn in front of the building, implanted by Callisto Ghigi for the acquisition of the property. The specimen, unfortunately, had its top burned by a lightning some decades ago, while a second specimen was cut down a few years ago for plant protection purposes and today its trunk lays in the adjacent lawn. Another very remarkable tree kept in the lush garden is a female yew tree (*Taxus baccata*), an evergreen rather rare in the spontaneous state and often used in the past for ornamental purposes. The species is characterized by slow growth and, judging by the exceptional size of the specimen of the park, it could be one of the oldest plants in the green area, and surely the progenitor of the many spontaneous trees that grow spontaneously in the park. The foliage of a big photinia (*Photinia serratifolia*) shades the beautiful masonry staircase that connects the main street inside the park with the villa's plateau, while a large magnolia tree (*Magnolia grandiflora*) has been recently planted in the side of the building where once a mature exemplar of the same species grew in the centre of a formal lawn with chalk curbs (traditional building material of the Bolognese area which in the parks and historic gardens was commonly used for artefacts and decorations). In the garden of the villa, there are also truly majestic and secular downy oak specimens, which also meet along the internal roadway of the green area (the widespread presence of oaks is already reported in the eighteenth century descriptions of the area).



From the plateau in front of the villa, you can enjoy a beautiful panoramic view of the centre of Bologna extending north to the plain and, in some particularly clear days, lets you see the profile of the Prealps. It is always surprising the extreme proximity to the city centre, compared to the quiet character of the park, isolated and away from traffic noise.

The rich mosaic of environments of different nature that distinguish the park and its particular location projected towards the hilly area, favour the presence of a rich fauna, which is well suited to the typical hilly area. Along with species spread in city gardens and in cultivated fields, they are more characteristic of woods, shrubs,



uncultivated and ravine areas. In the last few decades, it has been noted the remarkable increase of ungulates, such as roe deers and wild boars, that habitually attend the park and the surrounding areas, and the sporadic appearance of wolves, for years present in the first hills of Bologna and of which it is easier to see traces.

### 5. Services offered by the park

The Villa Ghigi Park is a public green area belonging to the Municipality of Bologna, whose management has been entrusted to the Villa Ghigi Foundation for a period of fifteen years by a specific agreement, renewed every three years. Access to the park is free. Since the green area does not have a fence around the perimeter, there is no real opening and closing time. The park is usually frequented by the citizens, especially those living in the adjacent areas, and nature lovers who appreciate that the park is very close to the city. From thirty-five years the park is a very popular place for schoolchildren, who have an



articulated educational programme that the Foundation enriches and renews every year. The park is also home to training courses for educators, teachers, environmental professionals and ordinary citizens. Educational activities are partly free and partly paid or carried out under projects funded by the municipal administration or other bodies. The Foundation also offers workshops and other extracurricular activities, especially on weekends. During summer holidays, it manages a small summer centre for children of 6-12 years old and offers other proposals for younger children and adolescents.

The park also proposes theme walks for citizens, in the context of initiatives funded by the Foundation, such as the programme “The hills outside the door”, which now reached the eleventh edition and each year proposes 15- 20 excursions to the hilly part of the Bolognese territory. Sky observation evenings have been organised in the last few years, in collaboration with the Astronomical Observatory of Bologna, together with night and evening excursions, children's books readings, literary events inspired by nature, theatre performances, open air concerts and other initiatives. With the opening of the refreshment point of the Custodian House next to Villa Ghigi, from Spring 2018, a set of events will regularly take place throughout the year. All these events are usually free.



Educational and dissemination activities are usually organized and run by the staff of the Villa Ghigi Foundation, amounting to about ten people. Half of them are almost exclusively devoted to environmental education activities, supported by several part-time workers and a network of experts and specialists on various topics. The maintenance operations of the park are carried out by the Foundation, such as cleaning of the green area, new plantations, restorations and other management



issues, with the help of a social cooperative. For the park's supervision, however, the Foundation has signed a convention with voluntary ecological guards in Bologna, who carry out inspections in the park, especially during the weekends and to a lesser extent in other days.

## 6. Typology of visitors

It is not easy to quantify the daily attendance of the park, which varies greatly depending on the seasons, the days of the week, the weather. Usually, the park is certainly not a crowded green area, as in Bologna the Giardini Margherita, which are flat, have very different characteristics and attractions, and are immediately adjacent to the historic centre, well served by buses and rich in parking in the surrounding streets.

The Villa Ghigi Park, however, since its opening to the public, has always been able to count on a group of visitors who appreciate it for a variety of reasons. Since the 1980s it has become particularly known to schools and has, over the last fifteen years, progressively increase the number of people who usually access.



Early in the morning the park is visited by the owners of dogs, walking with their animals, by jogging athletes and people using the equipment for various exercises of a Healthy Path that was installed in the park about forty years ago, by mountain bikers and trekking enthusiasts (a portion of the park is crossed by the CAI 904 trail, which from the city ring road leads to the convent of Osservanza, Ronzano, to San Michele di Gaibola and ends in the Park of Monte Paderno). From March to October-November, on weekdays, at least 100-150 people a day access the park. When the weather in spring, summer and fall is fine, visitors can exceed 250-300 people, and

at weekends can reach 400-500 units a day. In the winter season, the attendance obviously diminishes, but dogs and sports owners continue to attend the park. When the weather is fine, visitors tend to increase, as well as at the winter's end, when the park is used by those who love to capture the first sunbeams (the south facing wall of the Foundation's headquarters and other neighbouring areas are among the favourite places for late winter / early spring tanning lovers).

Guided walks are also popular and, in recent years, probably thanks to a stronger promotion through the social networks - which has been added to the traditional forms of communication (folders, newsletters, announcements on the Foundation's website, radio interviews and local TV) - participation has reached very high numbers. In the past, depending on the weather, walks collected on average 50-100 people, while more recently there were peaks of 200-250 people, that will probably force the Foundation to review the organization of the events (now free of charge and without reservation) and to increase and diversify the





offer. Currently about dozen walks per year in the park and in the surrounding areas are proposed, mainly in spring and fall, but other guided walks in other parts of the city have been also added.



The evenings when star observation have been organised, have reached even higher peaks, with 400, 500 and even 600 people, who have reached and left the place of the event in a very easy way, supported by torches and mats. Also some concerts, readings, parties, local product markets have had similar numbers. These activities, with some good exceptions in different periods of the year (e.g. The Night of Researchers), are proposed especially during the summertime (June to September). The recent experiment of temporary opening of the refreshment area at the Custodian House, which ran from mid-June to mid-August during the event “The

Echo of the First Hill”, led to a further increase of visitors to the park in a time usually less frequented (between 6:30 and 11:00 pm). During the two months of opening, about 50-100 people attended the events (projections, sound concerts, meetings, etc.).

With regard to the educational activities carried out in the park, at least one hundred classes are welcomed over the course of the year, mainly from primary and secondary schools, with a strong increase in the last years also of pre-primary and kindergartens, linked to the projects targeting the 0-6 years old groups. More occasional attendance of secondary school, both first and second degree, are also counted. These are numbers that do not represent, however, the complex of educational activities of the Foundation, which are also run in other green areas of the city, directly at school and in the classroom, as well as carrying out intense training activities (sometimes even in the park) and some adult courses (in the last years focused on garden therapy, for example).



Finally, extracurricular activities of the Foundation involve children and, often, parents. The labs are attended two Saturdays per month by a dozen children every time, and much higher are the numbers of people involved in the summer centre organized every year at the park, which accommodates 30 children per week for a total of 9-10 weeks between June and September.

## 7. Educational activities, materials and tools

The educational activities carried out in the park are presented annually in a special section of the website of the Villa Ghigi Foundation:

(<http://www.fondazionevillaghigi.it/scuola/proposte-per-le-scuole-nel-parco-villa-ghigi/>) within the broader section dedicated to school and extracurricular activities.

Traditionally, the first activity proposed to classes is a guided tour of the park (free of charge for Bologna schools, from pre-primary to secondary schools). This first visit is an opportunity to discover the park, during a morning or even a full day, providing the children with the opportunity to face





many different themes and performances and a number of activities based on the student age, and on the interests, knowledge and expectations of the classes.



After the free visit, organised in fall or winter, classes are proposed to return to the park for continuing the initial work or being engaged in different topics. These courses are organized on multiple meetings (typically 2 or 3), including a targeted programme, the use of special equipment, and the availability of a foundation operator all over the course of their experience, which can be developed for the whole school year or for several years. In more than thirty years of activity in the park, the Foundation sparked dozens and dozens of educational activities related to exploration, knowledge and care of the

park. The opportunities offered are really innumerable: they depend on the age of children and teenagers, their past experience, the curiosity and expectations of the classes and are the result of the common work of teachers and practitioners.

Unfortunately this format, which for more than twenty years has been the most used, is now more difficult to follow due to the greater difficulty of classes to go to the park. The schools tend to make it less easy to go outdoors, at places other than the school building. For this reason, the Foundation has intensified in recent years, in collaboration with the City of Bologna and the University of Bologna, educational programmes targeting school educators



and teachers, both in Bologna and in other school districts. The focus is now in bringing schools' attention closer to nature, rediscovering, updating and reviving environmental education and outdoor school experiences, as well as promoting outdoor education from the earliest age.

At the same time, the foundation has enriched its educational offer with new opportunities for schools to visit the park and, more generally, to improve the study of nature on the ground and increase attention to environmental issues.

A very important initiative, expressly dedicated to the pre-primary school and recently experienced with the 0-3 age group, is the project "The school in the woods", which aims to spend a few days with the children in a sort of total immersion in nature. In the programme, there are some routine activities that are repeated every day and help to increase the spirit of the group and the sense of confidence and security in the surrounding environment: the morning circle; the song of greeting to the forest; the silence in waiting for its answer; the sharing of thoughts, emotions, desires; the construction of a table set with natural elements collected in the morning; the circle of the "pappa" (dining); the sleep in the shade of the trees and so on.



Another proposal is to make an enchanting trip in an unfamiliar environment near the house, arriving at the park in the late afternoon and staying until the following morning to experience the arrival of the evening, discover unusual nature and some mysterious characteristics of the night, take a stroll to the early dawn, standing in the park in unusual, but full of charm, hours. Accommodation for the night is on mattresses, in a large room that used to be a barn.



Other proposals offer an opportunity to go hiking with the class in the Villa Ghigi Park and in the surrounding areas, combining an approach to the hilly Bologna landscape with a series of information on historical, landscaping, urban development and evolution of the city. More initiatives also invite people to visit the park in the winter season, rich of curiosities such as bird-watching, rediscovering silence and listening to all the sounds of nature, using the park to understand more clearly what biodiversity,

evolution and landscape mean, and, for newly formed classes at the beginning of the school year, to know each other better.

## 8. Publications presenting the park

Italian language:

- *Il Parco Villa Ghigi*, Centro Villa Ghigi, leaflet, 1982
- *Il Parco Villa Ghigi*, in *Parchi e giardini bolognesi* (First issue and second issue), Comune di Bologna, edited by Centro Villa Ghigi, 18 leaflets annexed to la Repubblica newspaper, 1990 and 1992.
- *Parco Villa Ghigi*, in AA.VV., *Parchi e giardini di Bologna: una guida al verde della città*, Compositori, 1996
- *Il Parco Villa Ghigi. Un grande laboratorio naturale in città*, Fondazione Villa Ghigi, 2013
- *Parchi e giardini della collina di Bologna*, edited by Fondazione Villa Ghigi, Comune di Bologna, 2014, revised in 2017)

English language:

- *Parks and Gardens in the Bologna hills*, edited by Fondazione Villa Ghigi, Comune di Bologna, 2017

More information available at:

- [www.fondazionevillaghigi.it/parco-villa-ghigi-bologna/](http://www.fondazionevillaghigi.it/parco-villa-ghigi-bologna/)

## 9. Exploitation plans over the next 3 to 5 years

Over the next few years, the Foundation intends to continue and intensify the programme of restoration and enrichment of the Villa Ghigi Park, planting new trees and shrubs belonging to the native species of the Bolognese hills, as well as more fruit trees of the Bolognese tradition. The objective is to supplement and complete the fruit collection already present and, to a lesser extent, enrich the ornamental species and renew the park's diversity. The Foundation also intends to improve the management of a number of wooded areas, such as the beech grove - planted at the end of the nineteenth century - affected by aging and also changing climate conditions, with the goal to enrich them and gradually transform the park from a botanical point of view.



At the same time, the Foundation intends to include some elements that can make the experience of visiting the park more enjoyable, original and educative, for both schools and citizens: a house positioned on a great tree will make the visitor spend some time at the top, 10-15 meters from the ground; a small



"living room", in a shady and quiet area of the park will allow to listen to birds singing; some equipped places will facilitate animal watching; a new traditional signpost system and an IT app about the park -accessible through smartphones - will enrich information provided to the user. thanks to some sensors located at sensitive points in the park characterized by important botanical presences, as well as at relevant buildings, artefacts, views and other landscapes.

The Foundation is also committed to finding new opportunities for an educational use of the park. This will be achieved through new activities for schools, training courses for teachers, information and awareness events for citizens, new ways to visit the park, even through a partial reorganization of the premises of the Foundation. Finally, thanks to the refreshment area at the custodian house near Villa Ghigi, the Foundation is planning a calendar of outdoor events, mainly in the evening but also during the day, devoted to: naturalistic and environmental themes; concerts; outdoor theatre performances; reading books and poems; videos, documentaries and films; gastronomic events dedicated to local products; thematic events.

## 10. Other parks and gardens in the surrounding area

### Giardino della Montagnola (Montagnola Garden, montagnola=poor mountain)

The garden, with an extension of 6 hectares at the intersection between Independence street and Irnerio street, was the first public garden in Bologna and it is today the only quite large green area located within the historic centre. According to tradition, this artificial hill, rising about ten meters over the surrounding area, was formed by the accumulation of the ruins of the Galliera fortress, built in 1330 and later destroyed and rebuilt five times over two centuries. However it is most likely due to the sixteenth-century habit of crowding in this place, close to the city wall circle, waste and remains of the excavations for building the city's senators' palaces. From 1662 the area was addressed to public use, with a "Passeggiata dei carrelli", i.e. a walk on the hillside and in the adjacent large square of the former Campo di Marte (today's VIII August square). Partly covered by gardens and mulberry plants, the green space was equipped with avenues and a central square completed with large stone seats in the 1700s, to be used for amusements and competitions of various types.

Today's garden design, however, dates back to the early nineteenth century, when - according to the Napoleon's wish after visiting Bologna in June 1805 - it was revised according to the shape of the French gardens. The project of Giovanni Battista Martinetti, supported by Giosuè Scannagatta, director of the Botanical Garden, mapped the top of the hill with a circular avenue, from which four ways drive to the inner park, all of them surrounded by a double line of trees. Two wide avenues along the light slope descend to the square.





Since then, the garden has been home of great exhibitions, celebrations, sports and entertainment. In 1896 the panoramic entrance on Indipendenza street was realized, with the monumental staircase (the so-called Pincio) looking out to the old gate and the ruins of the ancient fortress of Galliera. The large staircase, designed by Tito Azzolini and Attilio Muggia, is decorated with reliefs and sculptures inspired by the city's history. Later, a circular bathtub was placed in the centre of the garden, enriched by the sculptures of Diego Sarti, who had created them for the Emilian Exhibition (1888) in the Giardini Margherita. In 1903, the Pasquale Rizzoli's monument dedicated to the battle of VIII August 1848 was placed at the foot of the garden. In 1912 the opening of Via Irnerio stated the separation between the square and the garden. After a period of relative abandonment, the garden was reopened in 1934, after a general resettlement involving also the construction of the balustrade towards VIII August square, the custodian's residence and the pavilion of the Direttissima (dedicated to the Bologna-Florence railway and now used by a school). After World War II, when all the watercourses in the surrounding area were closed together with the related activities, the city's appearance around the Montagnola completely changed. From 1951 to 1964, before the construction of the new fair ground in the northern area of Bologna, the garden hosted 14 editions of the Bologna's Campionaria Fair.

In the early 1970s the Montagnola was once more restored, but the nineteenth-century organisation of the garden was still preserved. Among the trees planted in the Napoleonic era, still survive some monumental trees, whose circumference exceeds four meters, and also the limes, leeks and horse chestnuts along the main road belong to the original green design, even if they are any more the same original trees.

Despite having lost the city's main garden palm since the end of the nineteenth century, in favour of Giardini Margherita - wider and more in tune with the tastes of that time, Montagnola still today is one of Bologna's main landmarks. Monumental entrances to the park are among the most traditional city views and, for those coming from the station, the large scale is one of the first spectacular images offered by Bologna. The garden, however, especially since the 1970s, perhaps due to its position close to the railway and bus stations,



has experienced the usual problems of many urban gardens with evident signs of degradation, aging of structures, improper attendance, vandalism, abandonment of some hidden and isolated areas, etc.

To overcome these problems and give back life to a green spot among the most significant in the city, the City of Bologna has, in the XXI century, tested new ways of managing activities and initiatives, supported by some well-known associations present in the city. After a first trial lasting a few years, in 2010 the Montagnola Project was launched, born for the common will of two important Bolognese associations such as Arci Bologna and Antoniano (one civic and one catholic organisation). They were given the goal of returning to the city a park that was also a cultural and aggregation centre, a meeting place for common activities. The project, which is still ongoing, has involved several other associations: the two equipped facilities of the House of Colours and the Green Space offer to children and families, without neglecting other age groups, a rich calendar of cultural, educational and creative initiatives focused on multiculturalism and integration (courses, thematic events, celebrations, concerts, summer and winter camps, workshops and shows).

### Giardini Margherita (Queen Margaret gardens)

The park, housed in an area of about 25 hectares, is the most popular and beloved of Bologna. Designed by Ernesto Balbo Bertone Count of Sambuy (who in the previous years had worked in the Park of Valentino of Turin), it had the goal to equip Bologna with a large public green area, following the example of the major Italian and European cities at the end of nineteenth century. It was inaugurated in 1879 with the name of Passeggio Regina Margherita (in honour of the wife of King Umberto I). The development of the botanic plan was entrusted to Giuseppe Roda, professor of tree cultivation in Turin. Even today, the park still keeps much of its original design, inspired by the English romantic parks, with its tree-lined avenues, a pond encircled by fake plaster cliffs, vast lawn surfaces, oak groves and other corners with remarkable trees with an exotic taste.



The green area is characterized by a wide array of decorative elements, largely introduced within the framework of the new settlement carried out in the mid-1980s. It also hosts several buildings, including a nineteenth-century house, built at the time of the park's construction, other artefacts formerly part of the Municipal buildings and, at the far end of the park, an Art Nouveau style house designed by Edoardo Collamarini to replace a previous wooden chalet. On the pond, where another typical chalet was once present, there is a heavily restored 1930s building, now housing a coffee bar with open-air spaces and a ballroom. Two schools are located in the

garden areas unavailable to the public: the Fortuzzi's primary outdoor school, inaugurated in 1917, and the Molino Tamburi kindergarten, located in the building of the ancient Molino di Frino. The Giardini Margherita tennis club is also located in the southern area, which, after World War II, have been hosting some sport grounds.

Among the curious features of the park, on the southern side of the pond, a small open-air part of the ancient channel of Savena (excavated in 1176) still survives, as a memory of the waterways that once characterized the city. In this area, during the works for the construction of the park, an Etruscan burial ground was also discovered: the precious travertine tomb on the edge of the large central lawn comes from it. Near the entrance of Castiglione square, where the garden is bordered by the church of Santa Maria della Misericordia, on a small foothill, a section of pavement coming from the greatest decuman of the Roman time Bologna (found under Rizzoli street in the city centre) has been placed. Near the entrance of Porta Santo Stefano, during World War II was transferred the equestrian monument to Vittorio Emanuele II, made by Giulio Monteverde, until then located in Piazza Maggiore.



The Giardini Margherita have hosted and still host many events. Nine years after the inauguration, in particular, the park was closed for about a year and was reopened to the public on May 6, 1888, on the inaugural day of the most celebrated event that has ever taken place there: the Emilian Exhibition. For Bologna it was an important event, which also coincided with the celebrations for the eighth centennial of the University. The exhibition, whose purpose was to document the traditions and progress of the city and



of the whole region in the agricultural, industrial and artistic fields, was almost entirely housed in the Passeggiata Regina Margherita, except the section dedicated to the fine arts, hosted in San Michele in Bosco, in the rooms of the former convent. During the closing year, many new pavilions with non traditional architecture, designed by Filippo Buriani, were created, as well as a steam-powered tramway connecting the garden with the San Michele in Bosco hill. The exhibition, which ended in November 1888, had a great success, was visited by about half a million people and represented an important moment for the development of Bologna, although the immediate economic result was rather negative and the municipal administration had to cover a significant part of the costs. The exhibition also had a strong impact on the park: considerable damage was caused by building and subsequent disassembling of the pavilions (among the various buildings only a chalet on the lake and a large circular fountain, subsequently demolished, were left. The sculptural groups of the fountain are now visible at the Montagnola).



Today, the Margherita gardens look like a large public park that retains a portion of landscape rebuilt in imitation of nature, as in the nineteenth century tradition. However they are strongly threatened by the constant presence of a large number of visitors and many activities that take place there. The large asphalted avenues separate large lawn areas, often crossed by paths linking the main road with areas where you can engage in sport activities. Bushes are few and hedges are located almost

exclusively along the outer perimeter. Both inside and along the edges of the large meadows, trees are arranged according to groves of plants belonging to the same species, alternating with evergreen and deciduous leaves. Besides an oak and a holm-oak groves, still belonging to the original plants, one of the key park's feature, which has a scarce presence of indigenous species, is the existence of a beautiful collection of exotic plants, often with extravagant names, as well as strange flowers and fruits. Today, the most characteristic species within the gardens, due to its wide spread all along the garden area, is certainly the horse chestnut, together with platanus trees, black nuts, Japanese pagoda trees, thorn trees, lime trees, pines and cedars. Among the most high-altitude species, reaching 30-40 m, a specimen of California sequoia, bald cypresses along the banks of the pond, several oak and cedar specimens are also to be mentioned.

Giardini Margherita are surely the most well-known park in Bologna, both from citizens and tourists visiting the city (in spring the park is often used as a stopover during the school trip). In summertime the number of visitors is often impressive and overwhelming even for such a large green area, due to the many events and initiatives of any kind organised here. Since many years, the City of Bologna has set rigid rules for carrying out activities and events, but in many occasions they still invade the park, where also sport equipment and games for children are located. The area of the Municipal Greenhouse, partly still to be recovered, has for some years hosted *Kilowatt Summer*, a summer event of great success, where it is possible to drink a cocktail, have a dinner, attend concerts, shows, films, cultural events.





### Parco dei Prati di Mugnano (Park of Mugnano grasses)

The park, included in the territory of Sasso Marconi but largely owned by the Municipality of Bologna, has an extension of about 110 hectares. It has a long and narrow shape, from north to south, bordered by the Reno river and some smaller watercourses. On the southern border, it overlooks the arenaceous areas of the Pliocene Contrafforte, between the peaks of Monte Mario and Rocca di Badolo. The entire park is included within the Site of Community Importance - Special Protection Zone "Pliocenico Contrafforte" and for half of its extension it is included in the Pliocene Contrafforte Natural Reserve (the largest in the Emilia-Romagna region).



Since the end of the 1700s, most of the greater area, including the one where the park is today located, belonged to the Cadestellano farm, which still after World War II was one of the major farms in the Sasso Marconi municipality. Just outside the boundaries of the park, there are some buildings whose names still relate to the company's history, such as the Ca 'di Stellano farmhouse and the prestigious Villa Francia, formerly known as Villa Ca' di Stellano or Palazzo di Mugnano. The latter was built in the second half of the eighteenth century in the place the ancient castle of Mugnano probably was located where in the Middle Age.



Towards the end of the 1960s, the Cadestellano company entered a serious crisis, that caused the selling of many areas in a fragmented way, for speculative purposes. In 1972, under the initiative of the workers who had remained in the company before its dissolution, the agricultural cooperative Vittorio Marzolini was born. In agreement with the municipal administrations of Bologna and Sasso Marconi, they bought the areas of the farm most suitable for agriculture. The Municipality of Bologna became owner of a large area, mainly including woods and meadows, to be used for public parks, in this way inaugurating a happy season of public hilly parks (in the

same years the City of Bologna also launched the parks of Villa Ghigi, Paleotto, Mount Paderno, Cavaioni, Sabbiano, etc.). The cooperative started many works to recover areas for agriculture purposes, creating new vineyards, transforming some abandoned areas in pasture and arable land, restructuring old rural buildings. Today, however, the agricultural area of the cooperative has been abandoned since a long time: the new property, namely Manutencoop, has sold part of the property to private customers, while it is committed to selling the remaining areas, which are intended for public green use, to the Municipality of Sasso Marconi as part of a more complex urban settlement which also covers other areas owned by the cooperative.



The traditional oppice woods of the park are mainly oak groves, with different appearances depending on the exposure of the slopes and the degree of soil moisture. In the southern exposition, we observe xerophilus oak trees,



mainly downy oaks together with manna ashes. These areas, not too dense, are characterised by heavily illuminated undergrowth, covered by grasses and with many shrubs of cedar, *Coronilla emerus*, *Ligustrum*, erica. The northern slopes are home to mesophilic forests, such as *Ostrya carpinifolia*, together with manna ashes, downy oaks, *Acer opalus*, *Laburnum anagyroides*, hazel tree, checker trees. Often present is also the chestnut tree, whose diffusion is closely related to old cultivation techniques that are now in disuse. Near the watercourses, in the coolest and most damp areas of the valleys, we can observe a hygrophilus vegetation consisting of white and black poplars, black alder trees, willows, with a great variety of musk, liverworts and ferns, including the *Adiantum capillus-veneris*, which often covers the most humid and shaded areas.

The park has still environmental, floristic and vegetational characteristics of great interest, with rare herbaceous and protected species, such as *Erythronium dens-canis*, scilla, snowdrops, red lily, martagon lily, spurge-laurel, various orchids (*Orchis purpurea*, *Orchis simia*, *Cephalanthera longifolia*, *Dactylorhiza maculata*, etc.). Specific microclimatic conditions also allow the presence of beeches, here below their usual altitude boundary, at the bottom of the wetlands valleys, or species with a predominant Mediterranean distribution, such as *Asparagus acutifolius*, guilder rose and *Acer monspessulanum* in the sunniest wooded areas. Also introduced during the historical periods is the pine, now present in the slopes of Monte Mario, above Battedizzo, in the south-western area of the park, near the Commenda. Very rich is fauna, including rare species, such as *Bombina pachypus*.

The park of Prati del Mugnano is visited for daily trips and picnics all over the year, mainly in spring and summer weekends, for hiking or mountain biking. It has still a great fascination, even if it is in a situation of progressive abandonment. In the last twenty years, all the agricultural activities in the surrounding areas have gradually disappeared and the buildings in the municipal property have been gradually abandoned: first the rural area of Piazza, with a large barn and then Mugnano di Sopra, where one building had been used since the 1970's as a restaurant with a sound success.

Since 2014, the City of Bologna entrusted the Villa Ghigi Foundation with the management of the green area. The Foundation started an accurate management programme and carried out some information and educational initiatives. It is clear, however, that any consideration about the future of the park must include also the recovery of buildings, currently not managed by the Foundation, using them for purposes coherent with the strategy for a revival of a green area with a great potential. In recent years, the so-called "Via degli Dei" (Gods route), a way connecting Bologna to Florence which can be done in 5-6 stages, is increasingly popular. The route goes right to the Mugnano Park and the core of Mugnano di Sopra could be one of the landmarks for hospitality in the Bolognese section, creating a restaurant and a hostel or bed and breakfast facility for the hikers.

#### 11. An additional video and photographic collection of the park

La scuola nel Bosco (The School in the Wood): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryqpCgg4vSw>







# HISTORICAL CASTLE PARKS

WP-T2 Tool development and consensus building

D2.1: Socio-historical report on historical parks

Historical parks in Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship:  
Lubostroń, Kłóbka, Szafarnia

*NOTE: Due its regional dimension, Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship chose three parks for presentation, managed by cultural institutions subordinate to the Voivodeship self-government.*

## 1. Introduction

### Lubostroń

The palace and park complex in Lubostroń is located on the north-eastern border of Pałuki, 5 km from the city of Łabiszyn on the upper part of Noteć (Noteć Górna) and is considered one of the most beautiful classicism complexes in Poland. It consists of a classicism palace built in 1795-1800, outbuilding, stables, palace coach-house and other service buildings.

The Lubostroń Palace pursues its institutional goals through:

- 1) maintenance of the historical, architectural and natural values of the palace and park complex;
- 2) protection, maintenance and care of movable and immovable cultural property in the possession of the Palace;
- 3) development and implementation of cultural and artistic projects from various areas of art, in particular concerts, exhibitions and literary and theatre meetings;
- 4) organization of scientific, educational and popularizing projects, in particular conferences, symposiums and lessons;
- 5) organization of promotional and recreational events, including those popularizing equestrian and hunting traditions;
- 6) organization of workshops and master classes in various fields of art;
- 7) creation of a touristic offer that promotes the historical and architectural value of the palace and park complex as well as the artistic activity performed there;
- 8) gathering of cultural goods and making collections available for tourists.



## Kłóbka

The Kłóbka village is located in the very centre of Poland, 6 km from the "Kowal" junction on the A1 motorway, in the vicinity of the national road number 91 (80 km north of Łódź and 25 km south of Włocławek).

The first written source about the village comes from 1325-1327. Before 1448, there was a fortalice in Kłóbka in the form of a "mansion on a mound behind a dike". It was functioning until the mid-17th century. To the present day a rampart of a sconce known as the old hill fort (dawne grodzisko) has survived. Probably at the end of the 17th century a new manor was built on a neighbouring hill, east of the mound. Since the Middle



Ages a watermill has been operating on the dam on the Lubieńka River. The historically shaped spatial layout with the church, hill fort and manorial foundations (also farm and park) located on the neighbouring hills and located below the watermill has survived to the present day. In 1993, the Kuyavian-Dobrzyn Ethnographic Park was opened to the public. Since then, the open-air museum has been systematically expanded and will eventually include 40 buildings typical for the rural architecture of Kuyavian-Dobrzyn region.

## Szafarnia

Szafarnia is a village located in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship, in the Golub-Dobrzyń powiat, in the municipality Radomin. The name of the village probably exists already from the end of the 13th century, but in written sources it was mentioned for the first time in the Prussian tax register from 1772-1773, prepared after the first partition of Poland.



The most significant event, thanks to which Szafarnia appeared on the cultural map of Europe, was the moment when in the years 1824-1825 the local estate of family Dziewanowski became the holiday destination of Fryderyk Chopin (1810 -1849) - an outstanding Polish composer and pianist. The park itself was built before 1839, perhaps after 1792. After 1864 (or 1871) it was re-composed after the creation of a new mansion (among others, a new pond was dug). The area of the park is approx. 6 ha, including 0.3 ha of water. In the park in which the Palace in Szafarnia is located was built at the end of the 19th century. d. The estate in Szafarnia was located in the Sokotowska Primeval Forest, very rich in pines and oaks. This forest area evolved around the residential part of the park, in which there was a garden, orchards and two small ponds.



## 2. History of the park

### Lubostroń

The classicist palace from 1795-1800, was built for Fryderyk Skórzewski by Stanisław Zawadzki, modelled on the renaissance Villa Rotonda by Andrea Palladio (XVI c.) from Vicenza, but also on Villa Trissino in Meledo and on the Merlini's Rabbit House (Królikarnia) in Warsaw. Next to the palace, there is a classicist outbuilding from the end of the 18th century called the "old manor", a classicist stable and a coach-house from the beginning of the 18th century and a complex of neo-gothic farm buildings from the second half of the 19th century.



### Kłóbka



The complex includes a manor from 1850 together with a landscape park with an area of 7.5 hectares and an adjacent open-air ethnographic museum (the Kuyavian-Dobrzyń Ethnographic Park - area: 13 ha, branch of the Museum of the Kuyavian-Dobrzyń Land in Włocławek), to which objects from historic architecture from the Kuyavian-Dobrzyń area are moved.

The park was founded at the end of the 19th century, when the owner of the estate was Stanisław Orpiszewski (died in 1908). The area of the park was 9 ha, including 0.8 ha of water.

After the land reform, the manor and the park came under the control of the Municipality. In the northern part of the park (where an orchard was established during the occupation in 1939-45), building lands were separated.

The Kuyavian-Dobrzyń Ethnographic Park is a place where you can see what the old buildings of the village looked like, traditional objects and tools and work of the residents of the region from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries (until the 1930s).

In the Kuyavian-Dobrzyń Ethnographic Park with an area of approximately 13 ha, there are almost 20 objects from the end of the 18th century, 19th and beginning of 20th century, which were mostly

transferred from various villages of Kujawy and Ziemia Dobrzyńska. Representatives of rural architecture, both wooden and brick, made of clay or bricks typical of the region are represented. Ultimately, about 40 objects will be built in the museum.

Most of all, homesteads with cottages, barns, pigsties, stables and granaries were moved and reconstructed. There were also old craft workshops: a forge, a potter's shop and a windmill „koźlak“, also a fire station, a tavern, a school with a classroom, a chancellery and a teacher's flat. Fences, wells, straw hives and cellars-dugouts as well as roadside shrines were also reconstructed. Care was also taken for home gardens with old varieties of flowers and traditional herbs, farmlands and orchards, as well as domestic and farm animals.



A special attraction is the raised and restored mansion of the family Orpiszewski from the mid-19th century, in which the painter Maria Orpiszewska of the family Wodziński (1819-1986) lived - the only fiancée of Fryderyk Chopin and the muse of Juliusz Słowacki. Inside there are her works: watercolours, drawings, gouaches, oil paintings.

This year, a historic church moved from Brzeźno from the 18th century was opened in the Ethnographic Park, which originally had the form of an octagonal chapel, next to the Rościszewskis' court, the then owners of the village. Around 1789, the nave's body was added to it. As a result of the extension, an indoor church was built from the presbytery, the walls of which are the former chapel. In this shape, the church functioned until 1914. In the following years, the building's shape changed. The church was in use until 1996, when its functions gradually began to be taken over by the stone temple erected next to it. This contributed to the progressive destruction of the monument. Finally, on June 21, 2016, at the initiative of the local parish priest, the church was handed over to the museum in Włocławek with the friendly permission of the church authorities.

The building moved to Kłóbka was reconstructed in its original baroque shape. According to archival sources, the roofs were covered with aspen shingles, and the baroque turret with a bulbous helmet was covered with aspen bark. In the tower,



the bell was probably hung from the original chapel, cast in the Fryderyk Beck's Toruń dome in 1729. The interior of the church was reconstructed in accordance with its state before the demolition. There is a gallery (a music choir) supported by two pillars and a wide facet with a painter's frieze with cartouches of Marian and Christ motifs under the ceiling. A representation of Mary Immaculate is placed on the ceiling surrounded by whirling clouds. The furnishings and interior decorations come from before the Second Vatican Council (1965), when the Mass was celebrated in the Tridentine rite, in Latin, and the priest, like the faithful, stood facing the altar.



## **Szafarnia**

The park was built before 1839, perhaps after 1792. After 1864 (or 1871) it was re-composed after the creation of a new mansion (among others, a new pond was dug). The area of the park is approx. 6 ha, including 0.3 ha of water.

The Chopin Centre is working in Szafarnia since 1949. Its activity was inaugurated on September 25 with the "Chopin Festival". At that time, the Fryderyk Chopin Memorial Chamber was established and located in the Palace, under the patronage of workers from the nearby Sugar Factory in Ostrowit. In 1979, a fire broke out and the centre was suspended. Many exhibits have been destroyed. In the years 1980-1988, a comprehensive renovation of the building was carried out. After the liquidation of the school in 2004, the Centre, now operated by the authorities of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship, took over the entire palace.

Fryderyk Chopin stayed at the estate of the family Dziewanoski in the summer of 1824 and 1825. Today, it houses a centre of Chopin's culture and tradition, leading a lively museum, artistic and tourist activity.

The Centre has a concert hall, a museum hall with exhibitions about Fryderyk Chopin's life and work, stylish exercise rooms and small lounges with pianos. Most likely, during Chopin's stay in Szafarnia, there was already a modest outbuilding on the right side of the palace preserved to this day.

### **3. The park nowadays**

#### **Lubostroń**

In 1933 the palace in Lubostroń by the Ordinance of the President of Rzeczypospolitej was declared a monument. In 1939 the palace in Lubostroń furnished with valuable furniture, painting collection, porcelain, remarkable library collection shared the fate of thousands of other Polish palaces and manors. After the war it was the seat of Employees Holiday Fund which, although it wasn't the best solution, protected the palace from serious destruction. From 30 April 1994, the historic palace and park complex is the seat of a self-governing cultural institution. From 1 September 2009 to 31 December 2012, the Lubostroń Palace was a cultural institution co-hosted by the Self-government of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship and the self-government of the Powiat of Żnin. From 1 January 2013, the organizer of the cultural institution Pałac Lubostroń is the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship.

#### **Kłóbka**

The manor in Kłóbka, purchased in 2010 by the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship, was the seat of the Orpiszewski family, who was a distinguished family in Polish history. Members of this family were participants in all Polish national uprisings. The ground floor part of the building was built after 1845. In the years 1882-1884, a two-storey palace wing was added to the manor, in which Maria Wodzińska Orpiszewska lived, the youthful love of Fryderyk Chopin.

The open-air museum is located on both sides of the Lubieńka river valley and consists of a former village and a park and manor complex formerly belonging to the Orpiszewski family. It covers the area of 13 ha, on which 18 objects of folk architecture are gathered in two sections: Kuyavian Land (two farms) and Dobrzyn Land (one farm). Wooden buildings with interior furnishings, traditional objects and tools show the everyday life of peasant families from the end of the 18th century to the 1930s. In the manor there is an exhibition of old interiors and a biographical and artistic exhibition of Maria Orpiszewska of the family Wodziński, fiancée of Fryderyk Chopin. A historical and natural education path is held in the historic park. On the site of the open-air museum there are: cottages, barns, livestock buildings (granaries, pigsties,



stables, cellars, walls, wells and beehives) and craft workshops (forge, pottery, windmill, school, tavern, house, church, manor house).

### Szafarnia

The park covers an area of approx. 3 ha. It comes from the first half of the 19th century and is entered in the register of monuments. There are several musical accents in the form of metal sculptures. e.g. piano and double bass, clef. Weeping willow at the pond and wooden bridges, add a unique character to the park.

The Szafarnia estate was located in the area of the Sokółowska Forest rich in pines and oaks. This forest area evolved over time into a park in a residential area where there was a garden, orchards and two small ponds.

The park was probably built after 1792. After the construction of the new manor around 1864, the park underwent a rebuild and a new pond was buried, which has survived to this day. The area of the park is currently 3 ha, including 0.3 ha of water.

Today, the park is a place where you can relax, break away from everyday life and relax in the silence of trees. The park around the manor is one of the most valuable objects of this type in the province because of the composition, preserved tree stand and diverse water system.

#### 4. Biodiversity features

In Szafarnia, the oldest trees in the park are oaks, small-leaved limes, common maples and tall ashes. Some of these trees remember Chopin's stay in Szafarnia. Nine specimens of trees in 1988 reached the dimensions required for natural monuments: three small-leaved limes (with cross-sections of 115, 105 and 105 cm) and five oaks (with a diameter in the diameter from 105 to 150 cm). Between them are "Lipa Chopina" and "Dzianie Dziewanowskie". The pond in the park has the shape of a piano.

Due to the need of further investigations the biodiversity features will be described in details within the chosen pilot area.

#### 5. Services offered by the park

##### Lubostroń

Currently, the Palace runs a hotel and catering services. The hotel complex offers its guests 48 beds in the outbuilding (6 double rooms with bathrooms and 2 triple rooms), in the Main Palace (3 double apartments) and in the Hunting's Lodge (2 double rooms). Weddings here also organized here.

The natural conditions of the historical palace and park complex allow hosts to enjoy complete relax and free time. Beautiful avenues in the historic English park provide the possibility of carriage rides, bicycles, jogging or Nordic walking. The unique flora in the park along with secluded corners are suited perfectly for a peaceful and quiet rest.

Depending on the season, the Lubostroń Palace organizes park trips in a horse-drawn carriage, horse-drawn tram or sleighs. It is also possible to organize kayaking trips. The palace also has a very rich program of cultural events like concerts, culinary workshops and festivals.





In the palace, after renovation completed in 1996, there is an exhibition of historic interiors, hotel suites, conference rooms, and concerts are held in the rotunda. There is a hotel in the outhouse and a restaurant in the coach house.

The main services offered include:

- Horse Racing Competition (in 2017 the 23rd competition took place, under the Honorary Patronage of the Marshal of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship Piotr Całbecki);
- organization of weddings, conferences
- hotels and catering services
- hemed walks
- kayaking trips, carriage rides, bonfires, festivals.

### **Kłóbka**

Manor in Kłóbka - permanent exhibition on the subject of the former residence and presentation of the paintings of Maria from family Wodziński. Ethnographic Park - visiting the open-air museum

One of the attractions are organized three times during the summer season folklore festivals under the title "From the life of the old village". Their aim is to show the customs, rituals and everyday life of the former Kuyavian village. During these meetings folklore groups and folk bands are performing, the craftsmen work in the workshops, etc. Folk artists are also invited, as well as producers of traditional food, from whom you can buy art products, folk handicrafts and regional food.

Interactive classes are also held for children throughout the year. They are a great opportunity to get acquainted with the old traditions, customs and craft of the Kuyavian region.

An additional attraction to the open-air museum is organized every year: on the last Sunday of June, the first Sunday of August and the second Sunday of September folklore festivals "From the life of the old village". Traditional workshops are then organized, forgotten activities and customs. The regional dances are played to the rhythm of folk music. The main attraction of festivals is the thematic shows depicting old customs and rituals.

### **Szafarnia**

The centre mainly conducts concert activities. There are concerts of classical, jazz and entertainment music, which can be reached from Toruń by a special Chopin Bus. The Centre also conducts educational activities, under which various music programs devoted to the composer are organized with live music addressed to groups of young people, children and adults.

The Centre also hosts other artistic events such as exhibitions, meetings with authors, theatre performances, master classes, music workshops, a contest about Fryderyk Chopin, a recitation competition, as well as a prestigious 25-year-long International Chopin Piano Competition for Children and Adolescents. Visitors interested in the composer's character can increase their knowledge by using a rich library, audio guide and exhibitions.

Music broadcasts are amazing encounters with music, which in an interesting way can bring closer known and less known facts from the biography of the most outstanding Polish composer to the participants. Each of them is the next stage of exploring the knowledge about the composer and music in general, combined with the music of Fryderyk Chopin live performed by a pianist. Meetings are addressed to children, adolescents and adults.



Manor of the family Dzięwanowski in Szafarnia has the option of renting some rooms. In the Chopin Centre, there are rooms that have been purposely adapted to the needs of companies, in particular in the field of business meetings, company banquets, etc. It is also possible to visit the Chopin Centre using an audio guide.

## 6. Typology of visitors

**Lubostroń:** Target groups are individual recipients who want to organize a professional or a private event (e.g. wedding), individual and group tourists (accommodation and catering services). The Palace in Lubostroń is the place where many cultural meetings addressed to classical music enthusiasts, are organized. The offer can also be used by companies, organizing conferences or trainings in professionally adapted rooms.

**Kłóbka:** The offer of the Ethnographic Museum in Kłóbka is addressed primarily to schools and pre-school groups, offering participation in museum workshops and lessons.

The aim of the visits is to broaden the knowledge of children and adolescents in the field of archaeology, ethnography, history, art and cultural heritage. The proposed topics of museum activities are related to the current school program, not only supplementing it, but also significantly expanding it. Meetings are conducted by the professional staff of the museum in an attractive scenery of permanent and temporary exhibitions. During the meetings students are allowed to contact with the exhibits, in some cases the lecturers use multimedia presentations.

Manor of the family Orpiszewski in Kłóbka - an offer addressed to schools as well as individual and group tourists.

**Szafarnia:** The Chopin Centre in Szafarnia provides an extremely wide offer addressed to many target groups. Above all, however, the target groups are students of schools for whom international piano competitions or master classes are organized. Literary and artistic workshops as well as photographic and painting exhibitions, theatrical performances and many other activities such as lessons connected to visiting the Centre are also organized. The offer can also be used by companies, that want to organize conferences or trainings in professionally adapted rooms. Due to the specificity of the place, the target groups of the Chopin Centre can include national, as well as, foreign tourists (cultural tourism).

## 7. Educational activities, materials and tools

### Lubostroń

- music events: regular "Palace Concerts" (last CCXXVI, October 22, 2017), concerts from the series "Palace to the children", extraordinary concerts, festivals, vocal courses;
- art exhibitions;
- events on the occasion of the European Heritage Days.

### Kłóbka:

- Museum lessons for school youth in the palace and ethnographic park
- Folklore meetings from the series "From the life of the old village", "Every Sunday, a Kuyavian is happy",
- "Evenings under the lime tree"

### Szafarnia:

- permanent concert activity (1-2 events per week)
- music broadcasts "Chopin for inquisitive" (7 themes of the program)
- International Chopin Piano Competition for Children and Adolescents in Szafarnia (the competition has a 25-year tradition of continuous activity, it is the most important cultural event



organized by the Chopin Centre in Szafarnia since 1992. Nearly a thousand participants from over forty countries have participated in it).

## 8. Publications presenting the park

### Lubostroń:

- Maciej Świątkowski, Katarzyna Balik, „Lubostroń. The history of the garden and park in the estate of the counts Skórczewski“ (Lubostroń. Historia ogrodu i parku w majątności hrabiów Skórczewskich). The National Heritage Institute 2017. Ed.: Palace in Lubostroń.
- <http://www.palac-lubostron.pl/>

### Kłóbka:

- <http://kujawsko-pomorskie.regiopedia.pl/wiki/zespole-palacowo-parkowy-w-lubostroniu>

### Szafarnia:

- <http://www.szafarnia.art.pl/>

## 9. Exploitation plans over the next 3 to 5 years

**Lubostroń:** As a result of the catastrophic storm from the 11-12 August 2017, which affected the park in Lubostroń, about 80% of the forest has been destroyed or damaged (total destruction of 1,288 trees, including 11 natural monuments) and the existence of birds and animals, including protected species is at risk: 14 species of plants, 17 species of birds and 8 species of animals.

The loss of old trees has degraded the historical composition of the park, which currently requires reconstruction. In total, the destruction affected 46 historic parks in the North-Western part of the province.



**Kłóbka:** The park, after a recently completed revitalization project, will require ongoing care work

**Szafarnia:** The construction of an amphitheatre is planned.

## 10. Other parks and gardens in the surrounding area

### Biskupin

Biskupin (about 30 km from Lubostroń) is a small village located in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship, in the Gniezno Lakeland, in the district of Żnin. The whole Pałuki is a picturesque land rich in forests, lakes and numerous monuments, extending between Greater Land (Wielkopolska), Pomeranian (Pomorze) and Kuyavian (Kujawy) Voivodeships. The Piastowski Trail crosses this route connecting Żnin, Venice, Biskupin and Gasawa. The section of this trail can be visited by a narrow-gauge train, popularly known as the Żnin Choo-Choo (Ciuchcia Żnińska), which passes over the Biskupin Lake, near the reconstructed Slavic settlement.





Sightseeing facilities: Biskupin is the biggest historical and tourist attraction of Pałuki. The famous settlement was discovered in 1933 by a local teacher, Walenty Szwajcer. Before the war, excavation on a large scale was carried out in Biskupin, of a fortified settlement of Lusatian culture from 2700 years ago. They were called “the Polish Pompeii”. The archaeological research, begun in 1934 and with a war-break, it lasted until 1974. Within 35 seasons, 70% of the area was exposed and the rest was examined by means of a probe. At the moment, in the archaeological reserve in Biskupin, you can see relics of excavations, reconstructions and an exhibition of finds from the Neolithic to the middle Ages. The modern furnished exhibition pavilion in an accessible way enables visitors to get acquainted with the history of Biskupin and the Pałuki Region with a history of 10,000 years. Here are arranged demonstrations of ancient techniques of making everyday objects, weapons, boats, etc. The largest such presentation is the annual Archaeological Festival organized in September. As part of experimental archaeology, breeding of Polish horses, goats, heather sheep and some plants grown in the Lusatian town. Biskupin visits about 300,000 people annually. For the transient merits of archaeology and history in Poland, the Biskupin Museum received the Monument of History from President Wałęsa. In 2007, the museum awarded the European Union medal “Europa Nostra” for achievements in the field of cultivating cultural heritage. The settlements willow barking courses, workshops for storing dates from tree trunks and forging arrowheads take place in the settlement. Visitors have the opportunity to watch demonstrations of underwater archaeologists and conservators of old weapons, see presentations of ancient and early medieval crafts and fights, listen to concerts of music from distant ages. Every year, there is also an archaeological festival, which is one of the largest events of this type in Europe. Its organizers are the Archaeological Museum in Biskupin and the Institute of Archaeology of the University of Warsaw.

Biskupin is located within the protected area of Jeziorna Żnińskie, which covers an area of 9017 ha and includes two systems of lake gutters located within the borders of the Gniezno Lakeland. The western gutter serves as an area for protection for cultural and historical reasons (Biskupin, Gaśawa, Wenecja, Żnin). In the area of protected landscape there is a fragment of the city of Żnin, which is an integral part of the lake gutter.

### Wieniec

Wieniec is a village in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship, in the powiat of Włocławek and in the Kuyavian Brześć municipality. (About 100 km from Lubostroń, 40 km from Kłóbka and 80 km from Szafarnia).

The first mention of the village is dated at 1252. Wieniec was mentioned in the privilege of Kazimierz I Kujawski, son of Konrad I of Mazovia, father of Władysław Łokietek. The mill, from which taxes were paid to the bishops of Włocławek, the formal owners of this and many other places, was located on the Zgłowiączka River that was flowing through the village.



In 1380, the parish in Wieniec was founded. In the end of 18th century, when the church property was confiscated by the Prussian authorities, the town came into the hands of general von Hohenlohe-Ingelfingen (in his family were great masters of the Teutonic Order, bishops and politicians). Later, the estate was bought by Józef Dąbmski. The next owner was the Miączyński family, who built the so called Old Palace in the English neo-Gothic style, which was later designated as the outbuilding. You can see it in the park behind the New Palace. Its turret is still decorated with a medallion with a depiction of Władysław Łokietek.



In 1868, the property was purchased by Leopold Kronenberg - banker, industrialist, politician and publisher from Warsaw with Jewish roots. He made his fortune on tobacco (a factory in Warsaw) and banking (in 1870 he founded Bank Handlowy). The present palace was built from the Kronenberg funds in 1875, as well as the road from Wieniec to Brzezcie and the bridge on Zgłowiączka. After his death in 1878, his sons Stanisław and Leopold Julian took over the estate in Wieniec.



After the Second World War, the palace was transformed into an anti-TB hospital. Then, for 20 years, until 2006 there was a pulmonologist and lung diseases department, belonging to the provincial hospital in Włocławek. Today, only information boards remain and the building is empty. The property is fenced and guarded by a porter.

Eclectic palace. The building was designed by architect Artur Goebel. The palace and park complex consists of the new and the old palace, a guard's house with an entry gate, a stable, a barn and a granary. The palace is made of bricks, it's a two-story building, founded on the plan of an elongated rectangle. The main entrance is a pseudorisalit located in the axis of the object, preceded by a one-speed staircase and an honorary courtyard. On both sides of the main body there are two three-storey, alcove wings. To the left wing was added a four-storey tower, covered with a pointed roof with a flag. The wings were covered with tent roofs and the body with a flat gable roof. The ground floor of the residence is rusticated and the elevations have rich sculptural decorations. On the west side of the palace was a swimming pool with a fountain.

Park: Landscape park established in the first half of the 19th century with an area of 8ha. The park is unmaintained and is growing wild- paths and alleys are covered in weeds and only old trees indicate that they were planted with the intention to create, together with the buildings, a harmonious landscape. There are over 1,400 trees and bushes among which the most impressive ones are: plane trees, chestnut trees and larches. It was redesigned in 1904. It is the work of Walerian Kronenberg- leading creator of parks and gardens in Poland at the turn of the 19th and 20th century, who founded more than 300 parks and gardens in Poland.

**11. An additional video and photographic collection of the park**









# HISTORICAL CASTLE PARKS

WP-T2 Tool development and consensus building

D2.1: Socio-historical report on historical parks

## Łańcut Castle Park

### 1. Introduction

The castle complex in Łańcut is one of the most visited places in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship. The park with a wealth of old, monumental exotic trees is really worth to see. The founders of the castle park in Łańcut were Stanislaw and Izabela Lubomirski, the owners of the castle. The park was established at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries. The total area of the park is 36.3 ha, out of which about 24 hectares are green areas, formed over the centuries. The park is divided into two parts: the inner and the outside parks. The inner park is located between the castle and the moat and the outside park is located outside the moat on the west side of the castle. In the internal park you can see the Rose Garden and the Italian Garden, both full of beautiful plants. In the outside park there is placed an orangery, coach house, barns, riding hall and the Small Romantic Castle.



In the park there are also numerous statues, pergolas and a marble fountain. There are also many species of trees, as well as very old and rare species of tulip trees, Chinese juniper, some kind of the Platanus gender trees and Ginkgo trees.

Łańcut is located in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, 16 kilometres east of Rzeszów, on the outskirts of the Dynów Piedmont. Łańcut is a city in Podkarpackie Voivodeship, on the border of Rzeszów Piedmont and Podkarpacie Pradolina. It is the seat of the city and municipality authorities. The area of the city runs through the A4 motorway, what connects the west of Europe with

Ukraine. The number of inhabitants is about 18.000.



## 2. History of the park

The history of Łańcut stretches back to the early Middle Ages, as it was founded as a town in 1349 under King Casimir the Great. The major landowning families in Łańcut were, successively, the Pilecki's, Stadnicki's, Lubomirski's and the Potocki's (more history of the town on website: [www.lancut.pl](http://www.lancut.pl)).

The first residence of the "Łańcut dukes" was located on a hill in the northern part of the town. The present castle was built for Stanisław Lubomirski in 1629-1642. At that time it was a modern, "palazzo in fortezza" type of residence, consisting of living quarter with donjons at the corners, surrounded by bastion fortifications. The builders included Maciej Trapola, Krzysztof Mieroszewski, Tylman from Gameren and Giovanni Battista Falconi.



In the second half of the 18th century, the then current owner of Łańcut, Izabela Lubomirska of the Czartoryski family, converted the fortress into palace-park complex. She employed outstanding artists such as Szymon Bogumił Zug, Jan Christian Kamsetzer, Christian Piotr Aigner, Fryderyk Bauman and Vincenzo Brenna.

The most important changes were made to the layout and equipment of the castle, adapting them to the needs of the fashion of the times. The palace was filled with excellent works of art. In the 1870s, work started to create the park surrounding the castle. After levelling the embankments and re-aligning the road surrounding the moat, lime-trees were planted out creating an avenue.

At the end of 18th century, Łańcut was one of the greatest residences in Poland. It featured an active musical and theatrical life, with many famous guests staying. In 1816, after Princess Izabela Lubomirska's death, the whole estate became a property of her grandson Alfred Potocki the First, who in 1830 created electoral law in Łańcut. His son, Alfred Józef the Second, was tightly connected with the ruling house of Habsburgs. He rarely visited Łańcut, and so the castle together with the park fell into disuse.

After Alfred the Second's death, Łańcut moved into Roman Potocki's hands, who together with his wife, Elżbieta from the Radziwiłł family, returned it to its former splendour. From 1889 to 1911, the castle was renovated and reconstructed, the works led by French architect Armand Beaugue and Italian draughtsman Albert Pio.



The reconstruction included all floors, and water supply, sewerage and electrical systems were installed throughout the castle. Most of the present interiors were created at that time. The elevations were converted into French neo-baroque style. Works in the park started in 1890 and continued for 14 years. It was twice enlarged and surrounded fenced in. An Italian garden was created near eastern side of the castle, while a rose garden was arranged on the southern side of the Orangery.

After this thorough reconstruction and modernisation, the Łańcut palace-park complex became one of the most luxurious residences in the continental Europe, and archdukes such Rudolf and Frank Ferdinand were frequent guests. The residence was visited by many representatives of famous aristocratic dynasties and famous diplomats. At the beginning of 20th century Łańcut electoral law was in fifth place, in respect of its area, in Poland.



The next Lord of the Manor in Łańcut, from 1915, was Alfred Potocki the Third. In 1920s the central heating was modernized, and a bathing suite installed in underground rooms. Łańcut Castle became a place for social meetings. The castle was visited by representatives of royal dynasties, Polish and foreign aristocracy and politicians. These included Rumanian King Ferdinand together with his wife, and George the Duke of Kent. In 1944 Potocki had to leave Łańcut. He settled in Switzerland, where he died in 1958.



The beginning of the story of the historic park in Łańcut dates back to the beginning of the 18th and 19th centuries, when Stanisław Lubomirski and his wife Izabela from Czartoryski lived. Then the garden was the centre of the court life. A number of garden buildings, such as orangery and glorieta, have been built in the park. Around the castle there is a small but beautiful and filled with many species of plants, flowers garden.

Some changes were made when Roman and Elżbieta Potocki became the owners of the Łańcut city. They rebuilt the castle and the park surrounding it. Intensive activities of many gardeners that lasted for few years, changed the compositional shape a lot. Then the park has been divided into two parts - inner park with the Rose Garden, Italian Garden and Perennial garden in it, and the outsider park - outside the moat east of the castle.

This arrangement with minor changes remained until 1944, when the castle, together with part of the park was taken over by the Ministry of Culture and Art. It is still held in good form and condition.

### 3. The park nowadays

Łańcut Castle is one of the most beautiful and best-preserved magnate residences in Poland. It is included in the group of international monuments. In 2005 the castle was recognized by the President of the Republic of Poland as a history monument. The castle is famous for its excellent residential interiors and horse-drawn carriages. The palace complex is surrounded by an old, picturesque park, where numerous pavilions and farm buildings rise, once connected with the daily life of the Łańcut mansion.



Any gardening work is about to faithfully reproduce the arrangement composition and composition of plant species from the early 20th century. The park is famous for its richness of tree species, among which there are precious specimens from the times of Princess Izabela Lubomirska. In the park you can find precious, old, monumental species of exotic plants.

In the landscape part of the park there are many old trees. They look beautiful in the autumn when their leaves change colour to golden and red colour. In this part of the garden most often grow: white chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and ashlar maple (*Acer negundo*), fot. [www.zamek-lancut.pl](http://www.zamek-lancut.pl).



#### 4. Biodiversity features

In the park you can find precious, old, monumental species of exotic plants.



In addition to the old trees in the garden, seasonal blooming plants are planted. In the photo, there is the Pelargonium x hederifolium, hung in a stone bowl.



Rhinoceros (Rhododendron luteum) in Poland is the subject to strict species protection. Blooms very well in early May.



Japanese beetle (Styphonolobium japonicum) blooms at the end of July and in August. All parts of this plant are poisonous. The tree is very rarely planted in Poland, because it is sensitive to frost.



Old Beeches Avenue with red leaves in the outer part of the castle park.



Ginkgo biloba (Ginkgo biloba) comes from China. The first specimen was brought to the palace garden in Łańcut, Poland in 1723-28.



The rose garden is located in the inner part of the castle park.



On the brick south bridge a colourful flower bed was created. There are for example tagetes and canna (canna).



On the northern side of the castle, a circle flowerbed was created. Yellow and orange garden pansies (*Viola wittrockiana*) form a wide circle, inside of it there are high flowers and canna leaf (*Canna*).



In the depths of glorietta, next to it, there is a multi-coloured ash-tree maple variety (*Acer negundo*). The first ashley maples were brought to Europe in the seventeenth century. This specimen probably spawned naturally.



Flower discount in front of the glorietta.



Flower discount in front of the library pavilion.

### Orchids in Łańcut

The park has always been famous for growing orchids. After a long break caused by the destruction of crops and greenhouses, the orchard was reactivated in the summer of 2008. It contains both modern crossbreeds bred by man and botanical orchids, suitable for the environment - shaped without human intervention- as well as historical species and varieties from the pre-war Potocki collection.



The orchard consists of an exhibition area, a backdrop divided into three climatic zones and a summer cafe. In the picture there is a view of the summer cafe.



In the exhibition part we can see terrestrial orchids (growing on the ground), lithophytes (growing on rocks) and arboreal (growing on the branches of trees) called epiphytes.



The most effective and blooming plants that are in the blooming phase, are put to the exhibition greenhouse. For the rest of the year they are grown in one of the three greenhouses, under the conditions of the climate zone of origin.

### 5. Services offered by the park

The park offers the following services:

The outdoor park is open to the public every day, from 5.00 to 23.00. Park visiting is free.

The inner park (within the moat) is available to visitors according to following calendar:

- December, January, February 8.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
- March, November 8.00 am - 5.00 pm
- April, September, October 8.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
- May, August - 8.00 a.m. - 8.00 p.m.
- June, July - 8.00 a.m. - 9.00 p.m.

Orchard visiting - admission with fee. Approximate time of sighting - 30 minute.

The orangery visiting - admission with fee. Approximate time of sighting - 20 minutes.





Walking by carriage and sleigh - the castle organizes, only before the darkness, a ride with a stylish sled, suitable for weather conditions. The walking route leads through the streets of Łańcut and part of the park. Tickets for the ride can be purchased at the Carriage.

## 6. Typology of visitors

In 2016, 429,181 tickets were issued for all the exhibitions. Admission to the park is free and not ticketed therefore it is difficult to determine exactly the number of visitors to the park.

The number of tickets selling has increased in the last three years, from the 316.125 in 2014 to the 429.181 in 2016.

The offer for:

- individual visitors - individual visitors do not need to book the time
- trips - there cannot be less than 11 and more than 25 people. The reservation of the entering of the museum exhibitions is obligatory
- school groups.

The museum provides sightseeing of the museum without a tour guide:

- the castle from 12.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. (last entrance at 3.00 pm)
- stables and coaches from 1.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. (last entrance at 4.00 pm)
- history of the City (including: 10th Rifle Regiment) from 12:00 pm to 4.00 pm (last entry at 3.15 pm).

Trips with a tour guide are made in Polish. It is also possible to visit major museum exhibitions with a sign language guide. Museum exhibitions can also be guided in the following languages: English, German, French, Russian.

Guiding in the above languages depends on the availability of the guide. The wish for a trip guided in different language than Polish should be announced at least 7 days before the arrival. Only guided tour guides are allowed to tour the museum's exhibits.



## 7. Educational activities, materials and tools

Currently there are no formal educational activities. However the Castle participates in the programme announced by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage "Museum for a zloty". Currently tickets for 1PLN are available for children and teenagers between 7-16 years old.

Every year a music festival is organised at the Castle Park. Łańcut Castle resounded with music in the first decades of the eighteenth century, thanks to the owners of the Castle of the Lubomirskis family, and later the Potockis family. The centuries-old musical tradition at the Łańcut Castle were revived in 1961. In June the same year, the State Philharmonic in Rzeszow and its director, Janusz Ambros, inaugurated the first "Days of Chamber Music", transformed in 1981 by the then artistic director Boguslaw Kaczynski into the "Łańcut Music Festival" and later "Music





Festival in Łańcut,” which became an event of a deserved world-renown and “now the most famous Festival in Poland” - in the words of Krzysztof Penderecki.

The Festival formula includes the recitals of prominent singers and instrumentalists, celebrities, and concerts of renowned orchestras and chamber bands, as well as scientific sessions and music workshops. The concerts within the Festival are held in various places, which harmonize with the nature of the presented works: ballroom of the Łańcut Castle Museum, Castle Park, where outdoor concerts are held, Basilica of the Bernardine Fathers in Lezajsk, Łańcut Synagogue and the Podkarpacka Philharmonic Hall. During the decades of the Festival history, many masterpieces of the world music literature, starting from early music ending up on contemporary music; instrumental works, vocal, vocal and instrumental works, such as oratorios and opera, with special emphasis on Polish music were performed. The broad spectrum of festival concerts also included jazz and projects standing on the borderline of different species of art. Each concert is seasoned with the word of eminent musicologists who supplement program with valuable commentaries.

The reputation of the Music Festival in Łańcut can be proven by excellent names of the artists who have honoured it with their presence. They include, e.g.: Adam Harasiewicz, Rafał Blechacz, Joseph Malovany, Mischa Maisky, Shlomo Minz, Andreas Scholl, legendary tenor - Jose Carreras, Kate Liu or Julian Rachlin. The festival is very popular and each time attracts crowds of several thousand listeners. Despite the many changes that have passed through the 56 years of its existence, it still retains the character of the music festival reaching an even wider audience. A constant and invaluable asset of the Festival remains a unique atmosphere of Łańcut castle and its surroundings, allowing listeners move to the world of beauty and musical culture based on the centuries-old tradition. In maintaining the continuity and high artistic level of the Music Festival in Łańcut help our Donors and music lovers - offering it financial support, kindness and friendship. Every edition of the Music Festival in Łańcut, is also an important new written card in the cultural history of Podkarpacie Region.

#### 8. Publications presenting the park

- Website - <https://www.zamek-lancut.pl/pl/> - Published in 4 languages
- Aldona Cholewianka-Kruszyńska, Wit Karol Wojtowicz, Maciej Loba, Tadeusz Stefan Jaroszewski „Między Łańcutem a Antoninami”
- Aldona Cholewianka-Kruszyńska „Polowania u Potockich. Łańcut i Antoniny.”
- „Wozownia Łańcut” - folder
- „Muzeum - Zamek w Łańcucie” - W i W System Warszawa
- Małgorzata Sady we współpracy z The Quay Brothers - „Inwentorium śladów. Jan Potocki na Zamku w Łańcucie”
- „Zamek Łańcut - Przewodnik ilustrowany” - Foto Liner s.c. Warszawa - Publisher in 4 languages
- Opracowanie zbiorowe - „Łańcut - Dzieje rezydencji Potockich” - Publisher in Polish and English
- Adam Bujak „ŁańcutZamek, Powozownia, Park/Castle, Coach-House, Park” - Publisher in 3 languages, Polish and English, German
- Maria Nitkiewicz; Helena Maria Grad „Łańcut w starej pocztówce i fotografii’ - Publisher only in Polish language

#### 9. Exploitation plans over the next 3 to 5 years

The complex has received EU funding for several renovations including the creation of a basement bath. The multimillion-dollar project also includes renovation of the facade of the castle and park alleys. The roof of the castle courtyard and monitoring in the park are also something new there.



The project includes extensive conservation and restoration work for the castle itself as well as the surrounding historic park. The works will include renovation and maintenance of the façade including window and door joinery. The window joinery was recently revitalized in the 1950s of XX century. Those activities will also include fortifications, park alleys, small park architecture: the Kordegarda, the Concierge, the Elizin Pavilion, the pedestal under the statue of the Virgin Mary from 1852, the South Bridge, the Wood Pergola and the external fence along with the gates.

The park is about 32 hectares, and about 3 hectares of it are alleys. Where possible, restoration of the historic features of the alleyways will be possible through the elaboration of an old layout, from the year.

Additional news, within the framework of this project will be a monitoring system in the park, protecting from damage, vandalism and theft. There is also going to be installed the Wi-Fi.

The project also involves the construction of a canopy in the inner courtyard of the castle, which will allow for the opening of cafes and a small catering centre serving small meals and refreshments surrounded by beautiful architecture.

The project of the Castle-Museum in Łańcut will run until the end of 2019.

## 10. Other parks and gardens in the surrounding area

### Castle and Park in Krasiczyn

The pride of Krasiczyn castle is its historic park. In its oldest parts, the park dates back to the 17th century, but its current style (English Landscape Garden) was introduced by Sapieha family.

Among its most picturesque elements are two beautiful ponds. The bigger Upper Pond with a small island is located in the southern part of the park. Lower Pond is almost next to the castle. Alleys running through the whole park and intersecting each other are full of rare species of trees, shrubs and flowers. Both old trees and younger plantations are perfectly integrated into the natural landscape of the park, impressive at any time of the year.

In winter, the trees and shrubs covered with hoar-frost create a magical atmosphere. In the spring, when nature comes to life, the park delights visitors with its greenery. During the summer, the trees provide a natural and full of fragrance shelter from the sun. In autumn, the trees create a unique palette of colours shimmering in the sun, bringing to mind an impressionist painting.



Among other species, the park is adorned with a colourful group of Eurasian smoke trees, as well as an American tulip tree and Kobushi Magnolia - breath-taking during the flowering period. Nearby the renaissance castle grows a London plane and a beautiful specimen of ginkgo biloba. According to a local tradition, the aged ginkgo is blessed with magical properties - if one walks around it three times, their wish will come true.

Particularly noteworthy are the family trees - oaks and lindens planted by princes Sapieha to celebrate births of their children. The park is also a home for various species of birds. Their singing makes long walks through the park even more enjoyable.



The extensive landscape garden surrounding the castle was laid out by the Sapieha family from the mid-nineteenth century to the 30s of the 20th century. In its compositions there are lime plants - former staves - relics of the earlier geometrical foundations, created as castle gardens, were reconstructed simultaneously with the rebuilding of the fortress into a Renaissance residence. The oldest oaks - remnants of the former natural oak become from the period preceding the location of the fortress. These ancient trees are the dominant group of trees. Another significant element in the composition of the garden is the western pond originating from the premise. During the reconstruction of the garden it gained a slightly more varied, irregular shape with a tip and an island in the middle. Undoubtedly, the beauty of it is added to it growing white water lily, commonly called water lilies.



In the North side of the castle, in front of the clock tower and crossing the bridge, which replaced the drawbridge, the second pond with very regular shape and carved edges was preserved. Former extensive backwaters and moats and ramparts around the castle were razed in the 19th century during the reconstruction of the garden. In addition to the extensive water bodies, the characteristic feature of the assumption is the large number of trees of foreign origin accumulated in a relatively small area. Foreign species imported to Krasiczyn include: amber berries, black walnut, bitter bitter, clonal plane, American tulip, green fir, pine cone, trilobar, cypress, Lawson and pea, giant, ginkgo biloba, silver maple. The national species, in addition to numerous limes and oaks, another significant group is the pinwheel. It distinguishes the garden from other assumptions in the region. Pointed trees are mainly concentrated on the periphery, constituting its compact and closed boundary. This density makes the view axes open only to the centre of the garden, exposing the castle in different perspectives.

### Palace and Park of the Museum in Przeworsk

Even though the garden was transformed in the Romantic era, the layout of the earlier Italian quarters is still clear. The terraces, the presence of the waterfront and beautiful specimens of trees considered as natural monuments, make them extremely picturesque and deserving of a thorough knowledge of all its charms.



Common species of dominant trees species are: lime and broadleaf, Canadian beetle and amber cork. Many of these trees have been designated as natural monuments, but there is also a number of specimens of former hornbeam, now create a charming alley. From the earliest establishment comes the linden near the palace, that is a part of the legend that it was pot by King John III Sobieski, and the Lubomirski took care about it and set up a pedestal with a royal bust.

### Palace and Park in Zarzecze

The garden in Zarzecze is a unique composition that has entered into the history of gardening and spatial planning in our country. The buildings belonging to the court complex are composed in a homogeneous garden environment consisting of a landscaped park and commercial gardens. The best features of the recreational park are great views but also the wide variety of plants and trees in it.



Establishment of the palace and garden in Zarzecze, the romantic seat of Magdalena from Dzieduszycki, is considered to be the most valuable residential complex in Poland. What distinguishes it and makes it unique is the Magdalene idea of creating a *une ferme modèle*, a model residence and farm of a rural and modern centre of administration of goods, bringing the whole neighbourhood "the light of new science." Founded from the ground up, the residence and its farm included representative, administrative and economic buildings in a unified garden environment consisting of a landscaped park and commercial gardens, economic mansions, avenue and access roads. The project included church buildings - parish church and bell tower. Magdalena's wide plans did not omit rural development either.



The idea of building of the palace and creating of the residence in Zarzecze arose in the latest years of the XVIII century. Before that time there were no similar mansions. Magdalena and Ignacy Morski chose Zarzecze because of its landscape values - varied terrain and the Mleczka River. Most of all, however, they were inspired by a cluster of old oaks counting no more than 300 years, which Mrs. Morska intended to incorporate in the romantic garden surrounding the palace. The location of their residence was a place with an excellent exposure - the top of the hill from the south quite steeply descending. It stretched from it a picturesque view of the river valley, surrounding meadows and fields, and further to the undulating hills of the Przemysko-Dynowski Piedmont are seen on the horizon.



The landscape garden founded by Magdalena Morska is not only worth seeing, but there is also a wide variety and diversity of the plants gathered there. The garden founded in the area of court and sacred buildings was divided into two parts: the north - representative, lying on the upper terrace, and the south - the recreational area, lying below the escarpment where the palace rises. Exactly the palace as the dominant assumption catches the observer's attention and sets this boundary. The representative part contains a large oval driveway with clusters of trees, including already mentioned oak tree. It is designed such a way that, with the gentle curve of the access road, the palace appears in a changing perspective and exposure. The decorative elements of the composition are clones and loose clusters of plants arranged freely on the periphery of the lawns. In the vicinity of the

palace and the orangery, flower beds are planted and in the distant parts of the garden woody and mixed logs. Behind the southern façade of the palace begins the lower terrace purposed for walks, with a free composition of paths, with the area falling to the extensive ground floor. The latter is an indispensable part of the landscape garden and consists of a pond with an island and a canal and the river bed of Mleczka, which is the boundary of the foundation.

The garden's architectural style was enriched by the romantic look of the mound and the water mill on the island. For her garden, Magdalena Morska gathered a rich and varied collection of domestic and foreign trees and shrubs, that were a part of only a few large collections of the era when she lived. The selection of plants indicates the distinct preference of flowers and flowering shrubs: azaleas, roses and woody peony. Despite the losses suffered by the garden in the post-war period, many of the monumental trees have survived and among them very old oak trees, and in front of the palace one of the most magnificent platoon planes, the conservatory of the American tulip. In recent years, during the revitalization of the garden, new collections of flowering shrubs and perennials and flower beds were erected around the palace.

# HISTORICAL CASTLE PARKS

## WP-T2 Tool development and consensus building

### D2.1: Socio-historical report on historical parks

#### Turnišče Park

##### 1. Introduction



The complex consists of a manor with a park, a pond, which is supplied by Studenčnica and meadows in the northern part.

The areas of the Turnišče park are mainly flat, which in the 17th century influenced the establishment of a homogeneous symmetrical park design, with a long central park axis on both sides of the castle, which ended in an open landscape. In the first half of the 19th century, the formally designed park was abandoned, and transformed it into an English style landscape.

Outlines of the English design concept can still be recognized in the park today. So today the park design is simpler and informal : it is formed by plantations of trees and bushes, grassy clearings and walking paths that do not form any known plan and have no symmetry. The paths are sinusoidal.

The sharp border between the park and the forest, which in the 17th and 18th centuries was indicated by a walled ditch in the north and protected the Baroque design from the deer and the cattle, were removed in the 19th century. The park is still strongly connected with the pond or small lake and the forest from the north side.



The Turnišče castle is located on the right bank of the Drava river, about three kilometres southeast of the centre of Ptuj on the Zagreb Road 84. The Ptuj-Videm road near Ptuj-Leskovec runs in proximity, surrounded by a park with trees and pond.

In the eastern part of the castle complex, it is surrounded by the settlement Turnišče, on the east small houses with fields and the river Drava, in the north the park is touching the industrial zone, while the agricultural land is south of the castle. The castle complex belongs to the municipality of Ptuj and belongs to one of the eight communities of the Municipality of Ptuj, to community of Breg - Turnišče.



## 2. History of the park

The manor was originally created as a manor house by Hungarians in 1091. In 1255 It was inherited by the Ptuj's family. After the death of Friderik Ptujski, in 1441, the estate passed into the hands of his sister Anna, countess Schauenberg. In the 16th century, the court was owned by Szekely's and their inheritors, which sold the Turnišče manor to Davido pl. Indungspeurg, in 1592. In the archival materials, which describe the areas, the pond near the castle is mentioned. There was no description of the garden or the landscape. It is likely that during this time, the area around the castle Turnišče was used for more economic purposes - vegetable garden, orchard and wildlife area.



Before 1626, the estate came into the hands of Herbestein's relatives, and in 1650 it was bought by Johann Vajkart Vetter, count von der Lilie, who donated the estate to his daughter, Katarina Suzani, countess Breuer. In 1676, the countess Suzana E. Thurn acquired the Turnišče, who, together with her husband Johann Maximilian, count Thurn-Valsassim, built the present building and found the land with the acquisition of new properties. The castle got its representative function, and within this, the baroque park was also built. The

property was sold it in the year 1729 to the baron Anselm pl. Fleischmann, and then the ownership changed suddenly over the years.

In 1884 the estate was taken over by Baron Warren-Lippit. In 1885, Lippit built a stud farm, which worked lively and successfully until his death in 1938.. The nobility remained until 1940 when the last owners withdrew after the outbreak of the second world war in Austria. In 1941, German military aviation dropped some bombs on a pond and a stud farm, but they didn't do major material damages. Only the part of the wall in the stud farm was destroyed. From 1948 to 1965, the Turnišče area was one of the largest stud farms in post-war Yugoslavia. The success of the stud farm was known in the homeland and in other European countries.

Between 1953 and 1980 it was a nationalized and transformed into an agricultural and livestock school. When the school was moved into the city, the building has lost its function and began to decay. In the spring of 1987, it was captured by a fire that cremated the roof, roofing and top part of the ceilings. In the same year, the Institute for Monument Protection Maribor started the reconstruction. The castle and the surrounding area with all the decaying objects are in a poor condition. Residents live in the part of the castle and belonging buildings, but the buildings are rarely renovated. Most are abandoned and decayed.

## 3. The park nowadays

After World War II, maintenance funds were greatly reduced, resulting in a lack of proper maintenance. Changes in use and management have strongly negatively affected the vegetative and built elements in the park. Some changes are irreversible, others can be mitigated or properly reinstalled back. In the park, many trees have disappeared in recent years. A children's playground was added, the pond has expanded. In 1951, the park was protected due to beautiful and strong trees and beautiful bushes, which are distributed in groups and individually in lawns.

Access to the park is open and unprotected. The fence is damaged. By the watercourse turniška Studenčnica, the park is almost impassable. The bushes are growing uncontrollably. The trails are now



abandoned and blurred, the fence is damaged and partially removed. Trees are not properly maintained. Today the complex is divided into two parts. To the left of the Zagrebška road, which leads past the granary is an area owned by the Municipality of Ptuj, and the right part is owned by the Ministry of education, science and sport. In the past, they have heavily encroached in the right area where the buildings are now dedicated to the Biotechnical School Ptuj. Although the old cadastre showed a rather different picture on this site, all trees are removed.

The cultural, architectural, landscape, artistic and historical values of the complex have been severely curtailed due to years of inadequate use and neglect. Problems are mainly the interventions in the area by the inhabitants who, in addition to their homes, built up extensions, covered terraces, auxiliary economic facilities, etc. In front of residential buildings, the inhabitants arranged gardens, which give the impression of disorder and negligence of the complex. The use of the municipality and the school centre also indicates that the protection guidelines are not respected. The sports playground is unsuitably placed in the area of former parts and, with its appearance, does not respect the artistic elements of the design. The layout of the greenhouses makes it impossible to experience the sense of axial design in the south-eastern part of the park, whose are relatively preserved. Around the economic buildings, a wire fence is installed, which prevents access to the south-western part of the park. The fence restricts movement along the area of the monument, the essence of which is its accessibility and public function. Accessibility is also restricted in the manor area, which is closed to the public for security reasons. In order to prevent vandalism, a part of the tract was arranged for a non-profit flat for the guardians of the castle, which did not prove to be positive for the preservation of the artistic values of the castle. The choice of facade colours on residential buildings, which are part of the monument and self-sown monumental characteristic, also does not contribute to this. The construction of the window openings spoils the legibility of the architectural elements of the castle. Some of the conservation works proved to be bad, when in the summer of 2013 50 years old walls collapsed due to poor quality construction. Large parking spaces in front of the school building and elsewhere show that the driving ban with motor vehicles is unconsidered. The proximity of the motorway does not comply with the guidelines for the protection of the influential area, which determines the protection of areas and views in the wider surroundings, on which objects would be placed which with its size, shape and function could have a negative impact on the protected elements of the monument. The road overpass and the motorway junction in the vicinity are disturbing spatial dominants in a distinctly flat plane, which should be removed with a visual barrier from the complex. Because of the dense undergrowth terrain the area of the pond and Turnišče meadows is barely passable; because of the lack of flow, the pond is eutrophic.

#### 4. Biodiversity features

Fauna and flora are very diverse in Turnišče Park and in the surrounding forest. However, due to lack of resources, an accurate inventory of which flora and fauna are present has never been done. Only a list of trees in the park was made. However, since they are aware of its great value, this part is protected as a typical humid lowland area.

Protected species in the area:

Trees and Shrubs:

- English yew (*Taxus baccata*)
- Common holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

Animals:

- Tawny owl (*Strix aluco*)



## 5. Services offered by the park

The park is open to all visitors free of charge (no guided tours). Currently, there are only some short-term educational workshops and theatre performances in the park. In the future, when the park will be set up, it should also be open to all visitors free of charge, without guided tours.

The Turnišče complex shows a great potential for the education of youth and adults in the fields of agriculture, horticulture, environment, catering and tourism. It could be used for the needs of tourism, recreation, public cultural and other events, horticultural diversity and any other activities.

Turnišče complex is a high-quality natural and cultural monument, which, despite the existing condition with certain interventions and appropriate content renovation, can be included in the tourist renovation of the Ptuj or wider Slovene territory. The park is open to all visitors free of charge (no guided tours). Currently, there are only some short-term educational workshops and theatre performances in the park. In the future, when the park will be set up, it should also be open to all visitors free of charge, without guided tours.

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## 6. Typology of visitors

There is no information about the typology and numbers of visitors.

## 7. Educational activities, materials and tools

Currently there are no formal education activities.

## 8. Publications presenting the park

- Ptujski zbornik. Ptuj, Skupščina občina Ptuj, 1985
- GRAD TURNIŠČE SKOZI STOLETJA, Ptujski tednik 10.4.1986
- Jež, Metal. Naravovarstvena in spomeniška izhodišča za prenovo. Varstvo narave in Varstvo kulturnis spomenikov, 1983
- Pintar, C. Ptujčan. Zakladi, skriti na turniščah, 30.1.2008
- Delno:
- Grajske stavbe v vzhodni Sloveniji; Območje Maribora in Ptuja. Ljubljana: Znanstveni inštitut Filozofije fakultete v Ljubljani, 1990
- Keiser, J.F. Lithographirte Ansichten der Stayermaekischen Stadte, Markte und Schlosser, Gratz, gesammelt und herausgegeben von J.F. Kaiser, (1842-1833).

## 9. Exploitation plans over the next 3 to 5 years

No exploitation plans were expected before the HICAPS project.

## 10. Other parks and gardens in the surrounding area

### Park manor Dornava

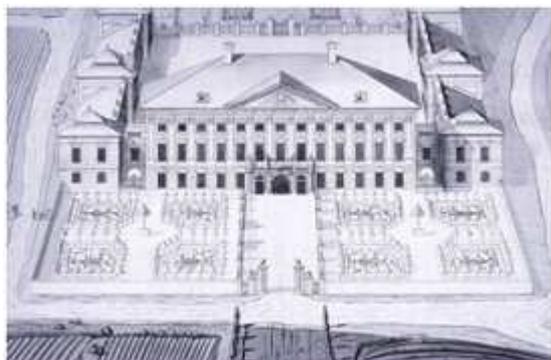
Before the ownership of the Attems family, there was a hunting court, as seen in Vischer's copper carvings around the year 1681, surrounded by a wall, with a large orchard ("tree garden") in it, whose details are not known. After the property of the Countess Herberstein was purchased by the counts of Sauerries in 1666, large building renovations followed before 1708, and changes in the concept of gardening were also made. Garden has been completely walled and mainly economic nature with typical ways of cultivating crops, flowers, fruit and ornamental trees, with quite large trees in the vicinity of the manor and the arrangement of elements in the renaissance tradition. That the garden existed before Attems, speaks also the legacy inventory of the counts Sauers, who mention the garden shed and tools. Already around 1715, twelve dwarfs were present as garden ornaments.

The second and most important period lasts from 1739, when Attems family becomes the owner, until the second half of the 19th century when they sold the property. During this time, the Baroque part was designed and settled according to the French model in its full size and perfection of forms.

Later, a few changes were made in the park, although the basic composition scheme of the Baroque period remained intact. A lot of flowering fashion seasonal flowers and flowers in pots were added to the flower bed restoration of Neptune's garden. They planted individual fruit trees, magnolias, stem roses and a series of horse-chestnut trees (*Aesculus hippocastanum*). Among the major changes was the planting of the chestnut tree avenue along the main path to the "orange garden".



After the manor and the park changed the owner, the last changes in the garden and in the planting of the English park was made. The last major work in the park was most likely carried out during the ownership of the Pongratz family, which owned the property until second World war. Line fields in the front of the garden were deepened and the symmetrical depths of the lawn surfaces in the area of the former sandy courtyard were completely arranged. Gardner Varga took into account garden tradition when he was arranging the garden during wars. As an educated expert and great fan of plants, he certainly added fashionable ornamental plants but did not encroach on the original garden composition. What was happening at that time with the collection of citrus fruit is unknown, some were preserved until the second World war.



Most of the property in the Dornava region came after the war in the management of the Dornava agricultural land, and to a large extent, ownership has not yet been determined. In the castle building, they first settled a home for disabled people in the 1950s, which in 1963, withdrew to the institution of dr. Marjan Borštnar for raising children with mental disorders.

The Dornava castle has been empty since September 2002, when after fifty years, the last group of boarders from the Institute dr. Marijana Borštnarja has moved out.

In Styria, the land of manors and castles, the manor in Dornava represents an important piece of the mosaic that presents the image of the country. At the manor from the middle of the 18th century, an extensive park design was designed in the manner of the gardens in Baroque Europe. According to the



design of the building as well as by the dimensions and design of the park, the Dornava is the peak of this kind of formation of this time in our country. The former park design is by its dimensions and design expression the only one and unique in our country because it means peak of the garden and architectural specialties in our country. In some elements, it can be compared with similar parks across Europe.

In Slovenia, there is not such an extensive garden design. The garden in Dornava represents the peak of garden design in the baroque in our area and is a typical representative of the mature baroque in the wider area.

### Sunny park Dominican monastery

There is very little archive data on the park. Some data can be found only in the truncated documentation of the Dominican monastery and through archaeological finds. Part of this wall is still preserved today. It is visible on the south side, where there is an escarp (a fortified wall intended for the defence of the building) towards the Drava River, while the remains of a defence tower remain at the west end. At the western end, there was once a defensive trench, and from there, there were smaller doors from the city. The romantic sun park in Ptuj, as we call it in Ptuj, is located in front of the monastery on its terrace above the river Drava, with a beautiful view of the southern part of the town, Dravsko field, all the way to Haloz, Donačka Gora, Boča and Pohorja.



It is a valuable green and undeveloped addition to the monastery on its eastern side, which is quite unexplored. In some sources, it is also evident that there are still in the ground tombs of the gentlemen's of Ptuj, but there is no money to dig out all and study everything. In general, the expert public devoted more attention to the monastery and the monastery church, which is understandable.

Nevertheless, from this literature, we can obtain an approximate picture of what it was like and what kind of development it had neglected but wonderful part of the old town of Ptuj.

### Castle park Ravno polje

While there is a lot written about the town of Ravno field itself, we can only guess about the appearance and the changing of the garden itself or the park, on the basis of photographs. On older photographs, the design of the park is visible, but here also question arises about reality of the condition in the photographs. In many cases, it is known that the situation from older photographs was not real to the one on the ground because in some cases things were drawn as they wanted to be, but not as they were in reality. We can certainly say that the current state of both the castle and its surroundings, where the park should be, is completely decayed and neglected.





### Castle park of Borl

According to historical sources, the beginnings of its creation should have been in the 12th and 13th centuries. Through the years the owners of the castle exchanged and took care of the castle until 1981 when the gate to the castle has closed.

There is little known about the Castle park of Borl. Due to the lack of space, the garden was designed at the foot of the hill. Alongside the centrally located pavilion, square sections were geometrically arranged. Inside they were ornamented, the outside is probably intended for growing vegetables and herbs. The garden was walled, and four decorated portals were opened there. The castle connected the two-sided avenue with the garden. Only individual trees are preserved. The baroque composition disappeared. Under the castle, there are only the remains of a former garden or park. The park, like the castle, is not maintained and is decaying.



# HISTORICAL CASTLE PARKS

## WP-T2 Tool development and consensus building

### D2.1: Socio-historical report on historical parks

#### Historical castle park of Velenje

##### 1. Introduction

The area surrounding the Velenje castle includes forests, orchards and park arrangements in the immediate vicinity of the city. City of Velenje is the 6th biggest Slovenian city and is centre of the Municipality of Velenje (MOV) with approx. 34.000 habitants. Velenje lies between Ljubljana and Maribor, the two largest Slovenian cities. After the Second World War, it quickly developed from a small settlement under the Velenje castle hill to the "socialist miracle" of modern urbanism and architecture - into a modern settlement for miners. It became a city in the 1950s. The new centre of the town was formally opened on 20 September 1959. Because of its rapid development and expansion after World War II, Velenje today includes several formerly independent settlements.



*Position of the Velenje castle in space: a) Velenje Castle, b) the bottom of the Šalek valley, c) geological break*

Velenje was first mentioned as a market in the 13th century, when the castle was created also. It is first mentioned in 1270. Today it is completely renovated being one of the most beautiful castles in Slovenia. The Velenje castle lies on the southern edge of the Šaleška valley, at the top of the hill, which rises just above the valley floor. Below the Velenje Castle there is the main intersection of the traffic routes in Šaleška valley, from there the roads lead towards Celje, Slovenj Gradec and Šoštanj. The Šalek valley was regarded to as a "valley of castles", as there are more castles to be found on a small spot than anywhere else in Lower Styria. Only the Velenje castle (a building) is a proclaimed monument, but park

isn't. The park is protected because it lays within the influential area of the castle as a cultural monument.



The Lidar Scene of the Surface reveals that the castle hill is actually a hill with three peaks - the castle is located on the northern tip, just above the valley floor, on the south-western summit there is a promenade of wild chestnuts trees, and on the south-east peak there are slopes of ski jumps and fields - this space is not perceived any more as a part of the castle complex. Footpaths to the castle run from the west and east sides, and the access path for vehicles from the south, also adjoined with the chestnuts-alleys. The former park of Velenje

castle was situated in the immediate vicinity of a castle, on a flat plane in between the hills, which will be our pilot site of renovation and for testing the developed tools. From the end of the 1980s, there is a parking space on that flat surface.

## 2. History of the park

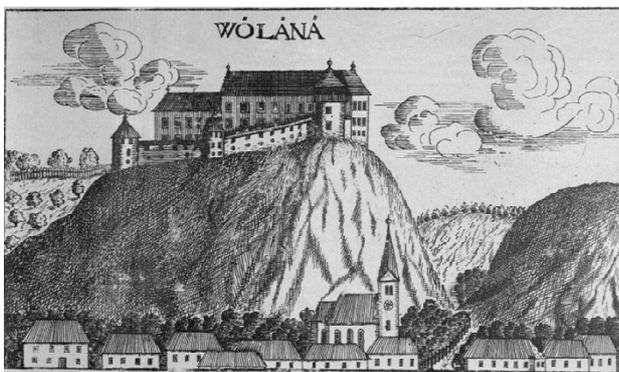
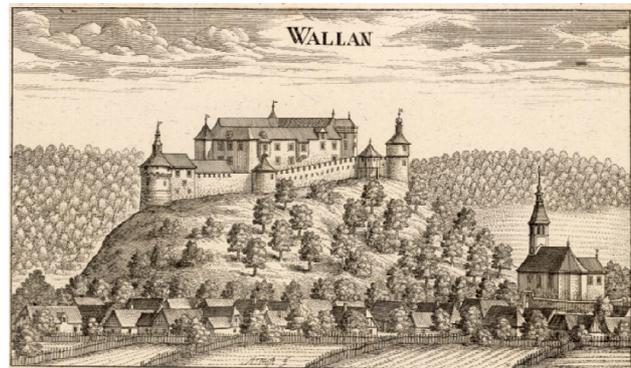
The landscape around the Velenje castle developed in several stages: it was originally completely submitted to defence purposes, so the castle hill was deforested. To the south of the castle, orchards, fields and vineyards were planted, while agricultural buildings were erected at the Majerhof under the castle hill. In the middle of the 19th century parts of the castle's surroundings were arranged as a park, characterized by the use of poplars. Before 1892, the parterial part of the park was arranged according to the model of the city park in Graz and the wider area according to the principles of the English park. At the end of the 20th century part of the park was turned into the parking lot. The genesis of this landscape can be traced through old cartographic displays and depictions.



The castle was founded by the lords of Kunšperk in the 13th century. The castle-nucleus is placed on the top of a rocky hill and even today the walls leaning directly on the rock can be seen. In addition to the excellent location, there was also water in the rock beneath the castle. With additions & extensions over time, the castle expanded, the inner arcade courtyard and walls with defence towers were formed. Today the castle has predominantly Renaissance appearance.

The oldest representation of the landscape is Vischer's depiction of the Velenje castle on the map of Styria from 1678. The Velenje castle is shown among other castles in the Šaleška valley. On the map, the castle is depicted from the south side, on a steep bare hill (on some other hills there is a forest), accompanied with a vine sign. These information tell us something about the landscape during that time.

The image of Velenje in Vischer's Topography of Styria in 1681 is important because it shows that on the castle hill there were only a few trees on the west side, a few shrubs on the northeast side, while the eastern hill-edge was completely deforested. At the time of its creation and in the first centuries of the castle, there were no trees on the hill due to defence reasons, enabling complete control of the surrounding area. When there was a danger a conflict could have occurred, the castle lords additionally cleaned the hill of the trees. There is a report from the year 1600, during the dispute between the Catholic bishop Hren and the Protestant owner of the Velenje castle, Herič, regarding the use of the church in Velenje: Herič, in preparation for an armed conflict, cut all the trees around the castle. He wrote to bishop he had done this "ad prospectum" (due to the view) and not to make it easier to shoot ...



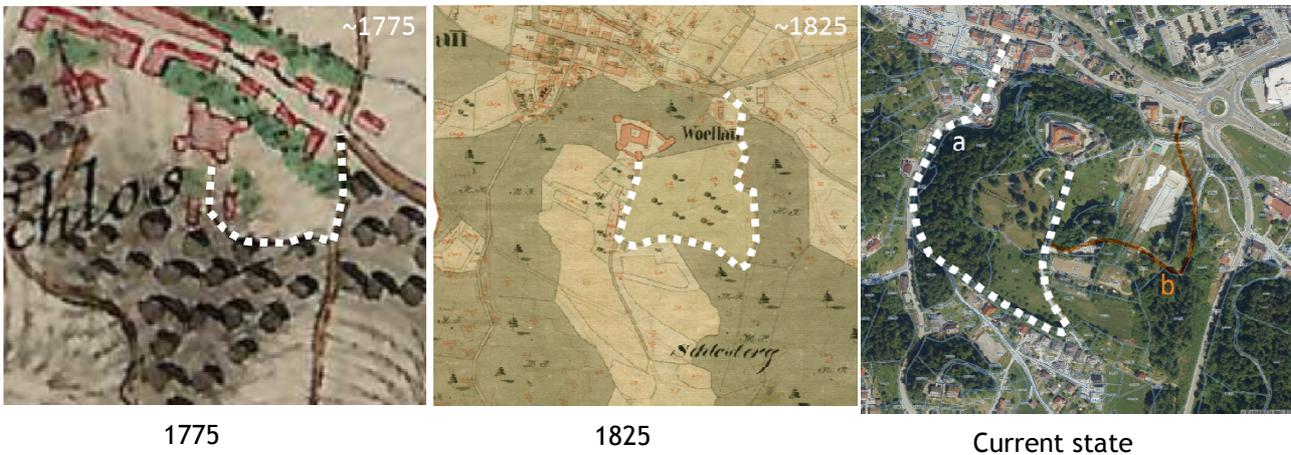
Vischer published another representation of the Velenje castle - upper right. In this depiction, the castle hill is without a single tree, and the steep, cracked rocky base is visible. On the depiction, the western part of the hill is drawn much more steeply than the eastern part. In the extreme left part of the image there is a grassy slope with lower trees that seems to be planted in rare rows - an orchard - while on the top of the slopes there is a wooden fence and there are some bigger trees behind it - perhaps a tree-alee? On the other side of the fence

there must be the access-path to the castle. The arrangement, as it is (except for the fence), is practically still preserved.

From the 18th century there is a very unusual depiction of the Velenje castle (previous page, upper right). Although the topographical references (marked are: the Paka River, the Velenje village and the Topolšica hill) create the impression of a real landscape, this is a fictional representation from the collection of the German diplomat Moll. Nevertheless, the depiction proves that in the 18th century there was a notion that the hill under the castle building "must" be naked - like an island in the forest. It can be concluded the first level of the landscape arrangement of the castle surroundings was primarily subordinate to the defence, and the castle hill was more or less bare until the 1930s.



Access to the castle was originally from the area of the economic centre of the property (Majerhof) north-east of the castle hill. This was the shortest connection between the administrative / defence and economic part of the estate, achieving the most gentle path to the castle. It was in use until the construction of a ski-jumping centre near the castle, which was built over this route. The current access to the castle is therefore non-authentic in the lower part.



On the first Austrian military map from the second half of the 18th century there are two buildings on the south side of the castle to the left and to the right on the accessible path, but we do not know their purpose. On the south side there was a forest

On the cadastral map in 1825 these mysterious buildings disappeared. In the central part orchards and vineyards, meadows and fields are shown. The vineyards were on the eastern slope of the hill above the road. On the topographic map two water objects are marked: one on the top of the hill (a water reservoir?) and the other on the slope (a spring/well). A part of the wider "utilitarian landscape" connected to the castle was also a castle pond in which fish were grown, and in the winter ice was cut there to be stored.

So: at least until the first quarter of the 19th century there were no park arrangements in the Velenje castle area, but only utilitarian rural landscape (vineyards, fields, meadows, forests).



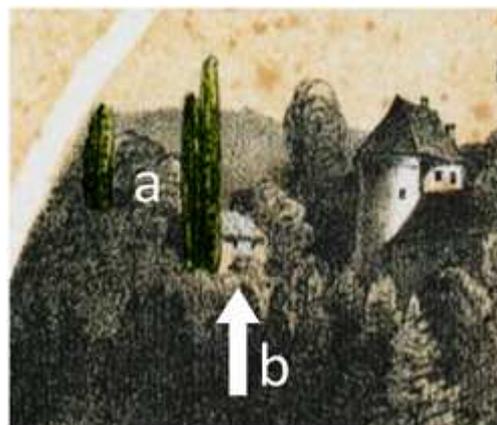
Only in the middle of the 19th century, "non use-oriented" plants and landscape arrangements began to appear around the castle. To the right of the main entrance of the castle, as early as 1857, there was a glass-house, most probably intended for wintering exotic plants from the southern areas, being the must of the elite gardens in those times. The glass-house was a small building leaning against the castle walls on the south side, receiving a lot of sunshine through a glazed front wall. It can be concluded on Velenje castle there was at least a small collection of exotic plants being placed in the garden in the summer. On postcards from a little later time palms and agaves can be recognized.

Knight Gadolla reports that in 1829 the castle buildings, especially their roofs, were close to collapse. The owner Edvard Trigler (1832-1851) began with a thorough restoration of walls and roofs, which was continued by the next castle-owner Hubert Count d'Harnoncourt-Unverzagt (1851-1858). The family tradition tells he has spend so much money on the restoration of the castle he had to sell it.



In front of the entrance to the castle there was a large sink (a), probably intended for livestock. Next to it was a border or a support wall made of interwoven branches (b). At the edge of the path there was a wall at the top of the slope, the pillar had a roof and a sphere at the top (c). To the left of the entrance there was a walled portal (d) in the wall of an enclosure (garden?), with wooden fence (s).

On the detail of the depiction of the Velenje castle from Reichert's suite (upper left) there is a small building (b) in front of the entrance tower: perhaps built above the outer well? There is also a very high and narrow tree (a) - it can almost be nothing but a poplar. Topographer Janisch wrote in 1885 there was a beautiful view from the castle hill, the castle walls were overgrown with ivy, to the west of the castle there should be an underground corridor, on the south side, outside the castle, there is a 55 meter deep well, there are beautiful parks behind the garden on the south side of the castle... So the first stage of the park arrangement can be set at least in the middle of the 19th century.



Towards the end of the 19th century (before 1892) a park was arranged as an extremely consciously aesthetical form of the landscape. A few years later (1898) a park in the Topolšica spa was also arranged, showing a lot of common motifs with the Velenje castle park:

- relatively narrow paths in the non-orthogonal, apparently random geometry
- central circle motif
- various ornamental trees, planted predominantly in informal distribution
- orchard in the immediate vicinity of the park.

Given the distinct similarity of the two park arrangements, we can conclude they had the same model, the town park in Graz.

Family von Adamovich, who introduced many innovations in the field of agriculture into local environment, helped in the education of children, etc. has - in the spirit of the modern trend of living in the fresh air - arranged its own park and opened it for everyone. This general accessibility was very progressive and by no means self-evident: the large estate of the nearby villa Ritter / Novi Šalek / Herberstein was fenced all around.

Bianca countess Mensdorff, widow von Adamovich, born Countess Wickenburg arranged the park. She lived in the castle until 1900, when she moved to Vila Bianca under the castle, formally handing over the estate to the son Karl (II.) and his wife Gisela on 1. 1. 1896. Countess Bianca came from the Wickenburg family: her father grounded Bad Gleichenberg and her mother arranged the park there.



In 1892 a description of the park at the castle Velenje was published in the Celje newspaper, stressing a beautiful, English-style maintained park, which has many quiet, cold corners for rest and is due to the goodness and kindness of the countess accessible to everyone. As the hills are covered with conifers all



around, the air is fragrant, making the castle park one of the most pleasant areas for living, which can be easily achieved through a shadow path.

Obviously maintenance of all parts of the park was not easy: after a few years the fountain was abandoned and the exotic plants were no longer brought to the park. In general, park arrangement with strong peripheral planting (which creates the solid green frame around the park) somewhat resembles the "hortus conclusus" - a closed idealized medieval



garden. About the events in this park, the stories have been preserved in the folk memory, especially from the time of the last owner of the castle, the Count Coronini, who is supposed to be hosting nude party's in the park.



Above the outside well, the wind pump was installed for some time. Until the last renovation of the castle, within the castle building vegetation was more present than today: the outer main entrance, the entrance to the courtyard and the yard walls were overgrown, the trees grew in front of the chapel.

### 3. The park nowadays

After the second world war, there were apartments arranged in the castle, and later the Museum of the Slovenian mines (1957). The former garden beds near the main entrance were replaced by a covered roof for the presentation of the mining supports and machines.



Other alterations in the post-world-war-II in the area around the Velenje castle were:

- the area of the park was used for the driveway and the parking lot with a grass "patch" in the middle
- polygon for ski-jumping was erected in the orchard area and across the primary access to the castle, changing the skyline of the castle hill radically
- a parking place was arranged near the ski-jumping polygon
- old trees were replaced locally
- transformer station, public lighting, electric cabinets etc. were installed.
- the wood around the castle wasn't cut down any more, so the majority of the building was covered.

The overgrowth of the castle is a consequence of political - socialist spatial management: in the times immediately after the Second World War, castles were perceived as extremely negative witnesses of past "unfair" social



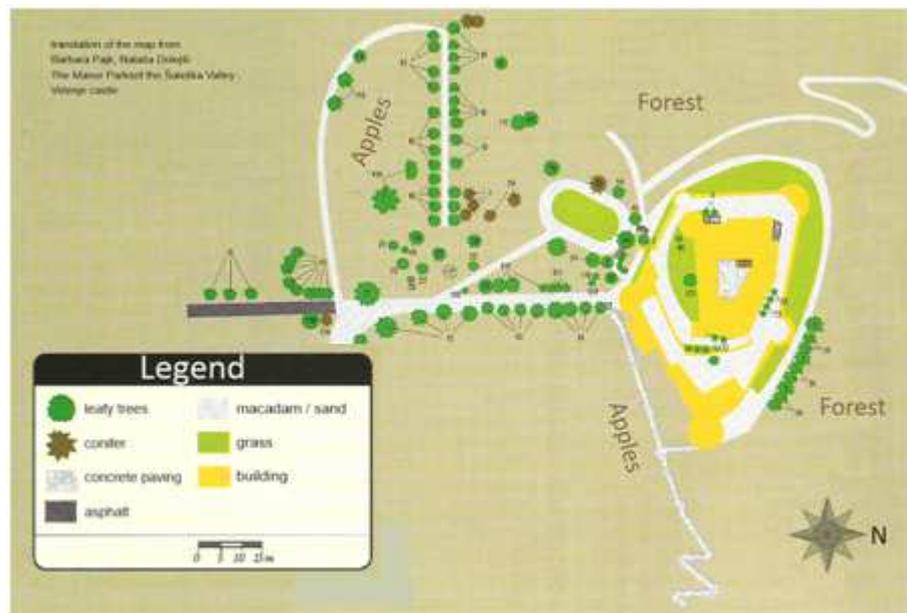


regimes, doomed to be erased out of space - and overgrowing with the forest equals erasing the building from a visible presence in the environment. The castle was a disturbing element in the background of the new city, which, with its modern architecture and urbanism, was considered "a socialist miracle". This perception of the castle (as something negative) is completely contrary to the perception of the castle since its construction until the Second World War: the castle was a key point in the landscape, it was literally its starting point, having the plot number 1.

#### 4. Biodiversity features

The area around the castle is divided into forest areas, orchards and the free park with chestnuts avenues. The park is famous as a nesting place of owls, as there are some old hollow trees to be found.

The plant species of the castle park were professionally documented in the publication *The Manor Parks of the Šalek Valley* - translated plan below.



#### 5. Services offered by the park



Park around Velenje castle belongs to the Municipality of Velenje, but management of the area has been assigned to the Velenje Museum. They are taking care for the castle and the area around it in close cooperation with Velenje Municipality. Since the green area is not fenced, local residents use the area around the castle and trees avenue as a walking and running space, spending some time in nature. The area is often visited by tourists, since the view over the town from the castle is really nice.

Most of the time the flat surface is used as a parking area for cars of employees and visitors, but occasionally the place is used for some cultural events, such as *Dnevi mladih in kulture* (Youth and culture days), medieval days. The Velenje castle with surroundings is included in The Dragons castle trail around Velenje and because of that reason and the educational programs provided by the Museum, school and preschool children often visit this area. Everything is free of charge, except of the entrance fee of the castle museum.

The ownership of the area:

- a) Velenje Municipality
- b) Fund for Agricultural Land and Forests of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenian State Forests

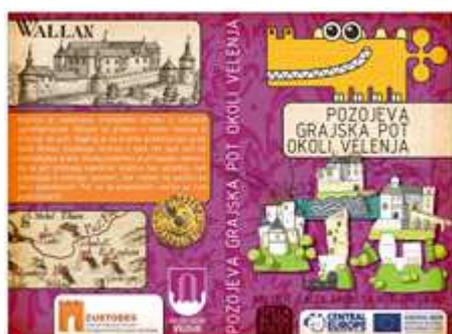
## 6. Typology of visitors

Main target groups are local residents, general public and young people (kindergarten, primary school students, students).

The indicative number of visitors in year 2017 (without visitors of guest shows) is 32,500. in year 2016 number of visitors was 27,633.

## 7. Educational activities, materials and tools

The park is generally perceived as an integral part of the Velenje Castle, which is often simply equated with the Velenje Museum. Guided tours in the open area of the castle are connected with pedagogical programs for elementary schools presenting the life in the castle: the participants walk around the castle and get familiar with the external arrangement: castle ditch, defence walls...



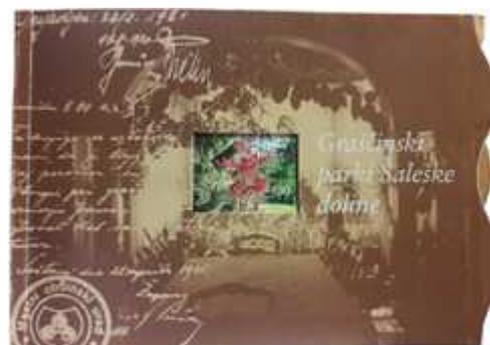
The dragon's castle trail around Velenje

The Velenje castle is one of the stations on The Dragon's Castle Trail Around Velenje and an educational board is placed in front of the entrance to the castle. There is a stamp on the board, to be printed into the booklet of the participants. Children in kindergartens and lower grades of elementary schools are included in The Dragon's Castle Trail.

The Medieval Day: In the castle and in the park a traditional Medieval Day takes place, with performers, creating a piece of the former castle atmosphere.

Study circle The Manor parks of the Šalek Valley at the University of III. life span Velenje

Within the circle, the members under the mentorship of Nataša Doleji and the professional guidance of Barbara Pajk were acquainted with the parks and a publication was created.



## 8. Publications presenting the park

Specifically about the park:

- Barbara Pajk, Nataša Dolejši et al., Graščinski parki Šaleške doline (The Manor Parks of the Šalek Valley), 2002.

Different data about the castle and adjacent areas:

- Gadolla, Franz: Prispевki k topografiji in zgodovini nekaterih gradov in dvorcev v celjskem okrožju. Kritično presojeno in preiskano, 1847. V: Šaleški gradovi viteza Gadolle, Knjižnica Velenje, Velenje 2015.

- Hudales, Jože, Marjan Marinšek: Velenjski grad in njegove zbirke. Kulturni center Ivan Napotnik, Velenje, 1984.

- Janisch, Josef Andreas: Topographisch-statistisches Lexikon von Steiermark, mit historischen Notizen und Anmerkungen, Graz, Leykam, 1885.
- Mihelak, Vinko: Velenje - stoletje na razglednicah. Mestna občina Velenje, Velenje 2009.
- Orožen, Ignaz: Das Bisthum und die Dioezese lavant., V. Das Dekanat Schallthal. Graz 1884.
- Piano, Saša: Ureditveni načrt Grajski hrib, II. Faza, Zavod za urbanizem Velenje, Skupščina občine Velenje, 1990.
- Poles, Rok, Marjana Gajner Korošec, Nika Lalek: Sakralna dediščina Šaleške doline. Založništvo Pozoj, Velenje 1998.
- Poles, Rok, Špela: Villa Bianca, Zgodba o ponovnem rojstvu vile. Berivka, Velenje, 2011.
- Ravnikar, Tone: Grad Velenje, Skica usode stavbe in njenih prebivalcev. Zbirka muzejski kolaž, Kulturni center Ivana Napotnika, Velenje 2002.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0n45Ci7oBZo>

## 9. Exploitation plans over the next 3 to 5 years

LEVEL of the DETAIL / GRAPHICS - info board and routers:

- additional guidance boards for pedestrians and drivers
- advertising boards for the Velenje Museum / Velenje castle with a park as a whole along the roads into the city
- denotation table for the castle as a cultural monument, as required by the Rules on the Marking of Stationary Cultural Monuments (UL RS 57/2011)
- explanatory boards of individual landscape areas / architectural parts: well, moat, entrance tower and portal, interiors, arcaded yard, bridge, ...

LEVEL OF A BUILDING DETAIL AND MINOR CONSTRUCTION DEVICES - Physical interventions in the landscape / building tissue must be carefully considered, as it is necessary to provide constant urgent access and delivery to the castle.

- reconstruction of the park including the reconstruction of the staircase fence to the right of the entrance to the castle (plaster, balls at the top of the pillars) - if the current parking lot is abolished, it is necessary to reconstruct the urgent route around the park
- reconstruction of an informal park on the hill (re-arrangement of paths)
- removal of part of the forest in the northern and eastern part of the castle hill to achieve greater visibility of the castle in a wider area
- reconstruction of the castle glass-house to the east of the entrance
- reconstruction of permanent planting in front of the castle chapel
- reconstruction / arrangement of the above-ground part of the outer castle well: a stone/concrete ring above the well or a building with a metal heel
- the denotation of the castle ice-house - a modern minimalist architectural intervention
- restoration of the spatial dominant/eye-catcher at the end of the chestnut tree promenade on the top of the hill (former water reservoir / pool)
- regulation of the parking lot (technically and in design)
- replacement of inappropriate fences in the castle for a technically appropriate fence; additional fences, where needed - in dangerous areas
- reconstruction of the upper part of the ice-house near the Villa Bianca (at the beginning of the footpath to the castle)





- renovation of the western pedestrian access to the castle, including the link to the Ljubljanska Road
- designation of tree species in the vicinity of the castle - ornamental and fruit trees
- re-establishment of permanent greenery in the castle yard and on selected outer walls of the castle
- removal of the parts of the preserved portal of Hotel Rak (presentation in the garden of the Villa Bianca?)
- replacement of a variety of heterogeneous urban equipment (benches, waste-bins) for minimalistic modern urban equipment (removing plastic from the environment, raising the visual ambition of equipment)
- arranging parking lots for bicycles
- construction of a sculpture in the memory of Countess Bianca.
- additional elements to increase the attractiveness of the area for children - thematic playground - "castle activities".

**EXTENSIVE CONSTRUCTION WORKS** - in case of conceptual changes in the castle building/Velenje Museum:

- parts of the service-areas (toilets) or exhibition functions of the Museum could be transferred to the newly acquired areas underground - either in the castle or under the park. Previous archaeological & geological research needed. It would be possible to arrange new sanitary facilities, a modern museum reception and museum shop underground...
- improving the accessibility of people with disabilities and people who have walking difficulties - changes of pavements, rails, handles...



**RESEARCH MISSIONS:**

- excavations to determine the state of preservation of the pool and other elements of the park
- geophysics of the park to find out possible remains of older arrangements
- geological survey of the same area
- monitoring and inventory of animal species in the area

**EVENTS / ACTIVITIES:**

- concerts
- fairs
- medieval day
- movement activities (walks - Velenje castle is a point on The Dragon's castle trail around Velenje, riding, sport climbing along the castle walls, mountaineering - the Velenje castle is the last point on The Šalek Mountain Route around the valley)
- relaxation activities (sitting, relaxing in nature, a carriage-ride)
- wedding in the castle park



## 10. Other parks and gardens in the surrounding area

### Park around the Gorica manor

The Gorica manor is situated on a hill on the eastern edge of the Šaleška Valley and the Velenje town.

#### HISTORICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

It is first mentioned in 1542 as an ancillary building of the Ekenstein castle, situated on the rocky hill-top above it. In 1634, the castle was already ruined and the seat of the estate was transferred to Gorica. As its name (Gorica = vineyard) states, it was a part of a distinctive wine-growing area, which was particularly evident in the area from Gorica to Vinska Gora (gorica = small vineyard / small mountain, gora = a large vineyard / mountain) - the vineyards are evident on depictions of the building from the 17th century.



The original landscape arrangement of the area surrounding the manor was rural-utilitarian: the fence separated the forest from an empty courtyard, with a fountain in the middle and service buildings along the edge. Vischer depicted Gorica twice, the second graphics is more posh: he replaced the wooden plot with a roofed masonry fence and a wooden fountain, from which the water was to be dragged, with a decorated column with a constant water-flow - undoubtedly a luxury acquisition.

On the depiction of 1830, the hill under the mansion is bare, with only a few trees on it. The building lacks the renaissance decoration from previous depictions. The service buildings are on a plain below the manor, in the valley and along the hill slopes are extensive fields. In the newspapers we follow the advertisements of the tree nursery, operating on the estate (Gut Eggenstein) of Josef Anton Sackl: they offered hundreds of fruit seedlings, for high-and low-growth and for pots, offered over 200 varieties of apple trees, Calville, Rosen, Rombour, monochrome, red, gray and golden Rheinettes, Peppings, Spitz and Platt-apples, table pears, different varieties of the plums as well as wild chestnut trees and poplars for alleys.



In 1863 Count Cavriani bought Gorica manor and transformed it into a historical villa. There was a park on the hill: the access road is surrounded by a fruit tree alley, along the service buildings there is a row of poplars, along the slopes the stairs rise to the villa. In 1891, 1895 summer apartments for tourists were offered in the manor.

Before the Second World War, the mansion was owned by Irma Ježovnik from Arja vas. People still remember that at that time parts of the estate were: a hayrack, a stable, a space for carriages, a fence for horses, a fountain, a cross, an ice-cellar, cellar and a glass-house. The park, which today is only



limited to the top of the hill, descended further down the slope with avenues and hedgerows, in the valley there was a pond.



After the II. world war the manor was used for the apartments for workers, now it is closed due to decay. The northern and eastern slopes below the castle were occupied by gardeners. The service buildings are removed, the park is not maintained. In the 1970s the valley below the castle was urbanized with one-family houses and apartment blocks: in the Gorica local community there are over 5000 people.

**ARTISTIC FEATURES:**

The park arrangement is based on tall trees, above all the chestnut avenue along the driveway to the manor and the large elm (*Ulmus glabra*) in the middle of the yard, around

which the path turns. The location of the manor on the hill and the tree-alleys create a typical contour/skyline, dominating the lower residential areas.

**DIFFERENCES AND CORRELATIONS WITH THE PARK OF THE VELENJE CASTLE:**

The similarities between the two parks are mostly chestnut-trees avenues. In general, both parks were created in the middle of the 19th century and were characterized by poplars while at the beginning of the 20th century they planted chestnuts. Gorica did not have such a well-developed park with geometric pathways as the Velenje castle, the routes were laid out organically, only where needed. Both parks were neglected after the Second World War, when both - the castle and the manor - were used for apartments of the working class. There is no forest in the area of Gorica today, but it is to be found around the Velenje castle.

**Garden at the Šalek castle**

The Šalek castle stands on a high rocky ridge above the eastern edge of the Šalek Valley, above the settlement Šalek, now integral part of Velenje-town.

**HISTORICAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

The Šalek castle was built by the knights of Šalek in the first half of the 12th century. The Šalek castle was one of only four castles in the Šalek Valley, which succeeded in transforming themselves into more comfortable Renaissance settlements from the strictly military fortresses of the Middle Ages. Other castles were abandoned, and the seats of the estates were moved to more comfortable new mansions. The castle was burnt in the years 1676 and 1770, then it was abandoned.



Vischer's map (1678) shows the design of a castle with two towers (residential and defence) and an intermediate courtyard. Castle hill is bare due to defence reasons. The depiction in the Vicher's Topography (1681) shows the linear sequencing of the space: the access to the castle is along the slope from the right, flanked with a tree-avenue. Then comes the garden, fenced with a wooden fence. The path goes through the yard between the ancillary buildings, followed by the bridge over the castle ditch, leading through the defensive walls and the main portal to the castle yard - in the core of the castle. This dense sequence



of spatial units, escalating from an open landscape through outer gardens and yards to the castle itself, was largely conditioned by natural features: on a narrow ridge it was virtually impossible to organise the access otherwise. However, the tree-avenue and garden were an addition not necessary for the survival of the castle: at least the avenue is a not-just-utilitarian form, creating an aesthetic experience of space/arrival.

The trees in the avenue were most probably cultivated = fruit trees, what can be deduced from the spherical shape of the crown; Uncultivated trees on the slope left are drawn differently, less unified. These are completely consciously chosen trees, deliberately planted in equal distances, with unified shape. There are no other trees on the wide slopes below the castle Šalek and the ruins of Ekenstein. The slopes were completely deforested for the defence reasons even in the 17th century, enhancing the contrast with the tree-avenue along the access path.



Later depictions, when the castle is already ruined, prove the castle hill to be deforested until the 1930s; on the southern slopes an orchard was arranged and there was a field on the terrace on the northern slope. The rest of the landscape and landscape elements are no longer evident. The original access sequence was changed to a private yard, restraining the public access (for cars) to the vicinity of the castle. A new footpath/staircase to the castle, paved with wood, with galvanized tube fences / handles is arranged. Within the presented ruins, the open areas are covered with grass, the paths are sandy, the fence has an aggressive appeal. Apart from the waste bins in the area there is no other urban equipment.



#### ARTISTIC FEATURES:

The artistic and functional quality of the former landscape arrangement was the original access to the castle: it was a cosy path, completely different from today's utilitarian access. It was conceived in such a way that it began in a completely bare landscape, and then many more and more complex scenery appeared, consisting of trees, buildings, yards, dark narrow passages, entry through the gates, views and vistas, various slopes and the direction of the path, arranged to increase the experience of space and culminated with arrival into the walled castle yard and then into the castle's rooms.

This was also the psychological preparation of the visitor (= intimidation) before meeting with the castle lord - the expression of his special status. All of this today, on the steep stairs just below the castle, we are no longer experiencing.

#### DIFFERENCES AND CORRELATIONS WITH THE PARK OF THE VELENJE CASTLE:

The basic difference is already in size: the Velenje castle park is extensive, the tree-avenue and the garden at Šalek are small. The Velenje castle park was built in the 19th century while the landscape-arrangement in Šalek is still based on medieval defence principles, although artistic elements (avenue) are added. There is little left from the spatial arrangement in Šalek: the route and some ruins of the buildings, and new buildings are built in the area of the former.



11. An additional video and photographic collection of the park



