

# Uncompleted project of the Central Municipal Park in Lublin

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**Summary:** The areas of the former Royal Pond (Staw Królewski) in Lublin were the subject of many projects and architectural competitions. Over the years the concepts of development of this area have been changing, but both in the pre-war period and later, it was supposed to be green urban space accessible to the residents. The aim of the article is to outline the development plans of the city of Lublin (second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century / beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century) concerning the implementation of the Central Municipal Park, which was planned in the area of the former pond. The works on this project, which was finally never implemented, have been carried out since the end of the 1950s. This name, used interchangeably with Culture Park (Park Kultury), appeared for the first time in the General Spatial Development Plan for the city of Lublin in 1957. The author, on the basis of conducted research, archival queries and comparative studies, analyses the ideas and solutions concerning the development of this part of the Bystrzyca river valley.

**Keywords:** Lublin, central park, culture park, Bystrzyca river valley

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## Introduction

The city of Lublin is the capital of Lublin Voivodeship with a population of over 300,000 people and an area of 147 square kilometres. Lublin is located in the Lublin Upland. The main river passing through the city is Bystrzyca, which is the left tributary of the Wieprz river. Its length is 70.3 km, from which 21 km passes through the urban areas. The river divides the city into two parts – a larger (in terms of area) western part with the left tributary Czechówka and a smaller – eastern part with the right tributary Czerniejówka [Autorskie Biuro Architektury Inwestprojekt, 2016].

It was the natural conditions on the communication route that led to the development of the settlement at the turn of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries, and later to the location of the town. They were giving both military and economic advantage to the residents, which resulted in the development of crafts in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is assumed that already in the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century the river valleys of Lublin have been developed according to the plan. One of the aims of the development was to narrow the river valleys, which allowed to build dykes piling up flowing ponds, where mills were built. Since the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, in the narrowing of the Bystrzyca valley bottom in the Kalinowszczyzna district, the Great Royal Pond was piled up, which in its heyday had an area of 130 ha and a length of 2.5 km (from Plażowa street to the dyke in Tatarska street). [Kociuba, 2019]

The Great Royal Pond used to exist in that site until the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century [Przesmycka, 2005]. The area was a natural floodplain. (Fig. 1)



**Fig. 1.** View of the city of Lublin by Hogenberg and Braun, Jerzy Braun; Hogenberg, Abraham, 1618, (NN Theatre archive)

During the interwar period, attempts were made to arrange this area. Ignacy Kędzierski wrote in the *Extracts from the Competition for a Development Sketch of the City of Lublin* that it is necessary to improve the conditions of the Bystrzyca and Czerniejówka rivers, which “caused a lot of damage and trouble to the city during floods”. The architect and urban planner, the author of *the development plan of the city of Lublin* emphasised the necessity of regulation of the rivers and construction of protective embankments together with boulevards. What is more, he called for liquidation of mills, which were responsible for damming up water and creation of an open-air pool. Already then it was noticed that these areas were not suitable for development due to the nature of the ground: “the ground having 4 metres of depth, peat, water-bearing silt will not be a good construction ground or will require expensive foundations”. According to Kędzierski’s plans, these areas should in the future be designated as “sports grounds, playgrounds, both for adults and children in the first place, there should be parks (zoos) and pomological gardens, as well as avenues and walking boulevards and other hygiene, entertainment and recreation places”. [Kędzierski, 1925]

For this purpose, an urban design competition was announced, in which the first prize was awarded to Z. Ilnatowicz and K. Pigułowski. The outbreak of the Second World War made it impossible to carry out [Przesmycka, 2005].



**Fig. 2.** Ignacy Kędzierski, Perspective of development of a square on Tatary meadows in Lublin, 1925, (Archive of the City Hall)

After the war, there were again attempts to arrange this area. In the years 1959–1979, the Office for Spatial Planning in Lublin carried out a number of general and detailed studies on the spatial development plan of the Bystrzyca River in Lublin. The most important studies include the Spatial Development Plans of the city of Lublin from 1959 and 1961, Zemborzycze (1971) (1978), Spatial Development Study of the city of Lublin (1974),

the Basic Assumptions of the Spatial Development of the Lublin Urban Complex until 2000, and the conceptual and implementation plans of individual parks, which were supposed to be landscaped in the very centre of Lublin as green areas: in the Great Pond Valley – Central Park (1972–1973), Majdan Park (1973, 1977), Kalina (1973, 1977), Rusałka (1971), Wyścigi (1973, 1976), Zemborzyce-Bór (1976) and Dąbrowa (1978) [The Office for Spatial Planning in Lublin, 1979].

## The state of research and methodology

Until now, the subject of green areas of the city of Lublin have not been fully investigated. Individual articles were focused only on greenery created before 1939. The aim of the article is to outline the city's development plans concerning the project of the Central Municipal Park located in the area of the former Royal Pond. The works on this never completed project have been carried out since the end of the 1950s. For the first time this name, used interchangeably with Culture Park (*"Park Kultury"*), with the rank of a park of general city importance, appeared in the General Spatial Development Plan of the City of Lublin in 1957. It provided for the creation of a green area of 80 ha *"on the wetlands adjacent to the Old Town and the castle hill"*. [*Ogólny Plan Zagospodarowania Przestrzennego Miasta Lublin, 1957*]. Later, the idea had been developed in more detail until 1979, when the *Spatial Development Plan for the Bystrzyca River Valley in Lublin* was created, with the Central Park of almost four times the original surface – 317 hectares. In comparison with the plans from 1957, it was to be *"the central point of the city with a complex of installations and facilities for hosting mass events of general city importance"*. The strategic object (determining the park's functional and spatial plan) was to be a stadium for 70,000 people<sup>1</sup>, along with a rich accompanying infrastructure in the form of exhibition and trade areas, children's gardens, and passive recreation areas [The Office for Spatial Planning in Lublin, 1979].

The article was based on archival queries, analyses of the records of the *General Urban Plans of the city of Lublin* from the years 1959, 1961, field studies (1974) and detailed plans for the realisation of the Central Park in Lublin (1979). The author carried out a number of comparative analyses concerning this type of "cultural objects" carried out in Poland and worldwide, which provided a basis for a reliable analysis of the uncompleted Lublin project against the general trends in the design of cultural and scientific parks.

## "Green network" of the city of Lublin

The General Spatial Development Plan of the city of Lublin from 1957 emphasised that *"thanks to the city's three river valleys and upland areas which are not suitable for development due to large slopes, Lublin has very favourable conditions for the development of various green and sports areas"*.

At that time, there were 1.1 m<sup>2</sup> of parks and 0.9 m<sup>2</sup> of sports grounds per one resident of the city, which was considered insufficient. The concept of shaping the greenery layout was to provide the Lublin inhabitants with *"maximum fulfilment of their needs in terms of the role of greenery"*, i.e.: passive and active everyday recreation (allotment gardens), health function (through shaping the microclimate), and isolation from troublesome areas. For this purpose, it was proposed to create a composition of greenery based on the layout of river valleys, thus forming a network of green areas linked with building strips, which *"were to create green accesses to parks"*. It was planned to create floodplains with recreation and sports centres and forest parks in the immediate vicinity of the city (Abramowice, Zemborzyce, Stary Las in Wrotków), which would create a network of green areas enabling the inhabitants of the city to *"have a place of recreation"*.

Urban green areas are divided into 7 groups according to their structure. The first were parks of city-wide importance – People's Park (Park Ludowy), Downtown Park – Rusałka (allotment gardens), Culture Park (Park Kultury) and forest park located in the military training grounds. The total area of the arranged green areas was planned for 201 hectares, which was to increase the ratio of greenery area surface per capita to 8 m<sup>2</sup>.

1 Currently, the Lublin Arena City Stadium, built from 2012 and opened in 2014, has a capacity of 15,500 seats, while the National Stadium in Warsaw, built between 2007 and 2011, has a capacity of 58,500 seats. Its predecessor, already non-existent 10<sup>th</sup>-Anniversary Stadium (Stadion Dziesięciolecia, arch. J. Hryniewiecki, M. Leykam, Cz. Rajewski), built between 1954 and 1955, had a capacity of 100,000 seats.

Apart from these assumptions, the system of green areas was to be supplemented by lawns and green squares (50 ha), dedicated gardens (the Museum at Majdanek, 54 ha – the area to be afforested), a designed botanical garden with the area of 20 to 40 ha connected with the ZOO, allotment gardens, cemeteries and protective greenery in the form of afforestation in the north-west part of the city as large groups of trees (the military training grounds in the north of Lublin) and the Old Forest (Stary Las) in the south of Lublin. The area between forest complexes was to be developed with fruit orchards and the strips of high trees along the exit roads. The green infrastructure was to be complemented by sports facilities (4.1 m<sup>2</sup> per capita was planned) including a sports hall designed as a concert hall, an archery track located in the planned Culture Park and a horse racing track in the Bystrzyca river valley [Pracownia Urbanistyczna M.Z.A.B. in Lublin, 1957].

The key document, which organised the state of knowledge in this field, was *the Spatial Development Plan of the Bystrzyca River valley from 1979*, which defined the basic assumptions for creating the landscape plan of the city of Lublin. At that time, the area of the study covered 3,664 hectares, of which 2,392 hectares were classified as the areas with the primary recreational function. The plan assumed the elimination of conflicting functions from this area. The main idea was to adopt the following postulates:

- The Bystrzyca river valley passing through the city has become the main element of the system of areas of ecological and functional importance connecting all existing and designed riverside parks (six of them) by means of a boulevard together with a bicycle path. It was assumed that these areas would be reachable within approximately 20 minutes (from Krężnica to Jakubowice). Sightseeing aspects were also very important – the height of the buildings was strictly defined (maximum of the height of trees) and protection of the Old Town panoramas with the accompanying historical complexes was adopted.
- It was assumed that all elements that might cause a conflict with the above-mentioned function would be eliminated from the area.
- It was proposed that *“the natural features of the environment should be maintained to the maximum possible extent”* and that biological areas should be enriched by *“improving water purity”*, creation of dams and construction of artificial reservoirs for viewing purposes.
- The main function of this area was to be the function of grassland taking various forms depending on the topography of the land and the city ventilation system [The Office for Spatial Planning in Lublin, 1979]. [Tab. 1].

**Table 1.** The greenery complexes designed along the Bystrzyca river, compiled by the author on the basis of *Spatial Development Plan for the Bystrzyca River Valley in Lublin*, Lublin, July 1979,

The name of the new designed park	The date of the elaboration / implementation of the project	The area	The designed function	Implementation
Zemborzyce complex	1971/1978, arch. B. Szymczak	2,404 ha	Sport and recreation function connected with the Zemborzycki lake and forest	Completed The reservoir of the surface area of 278 ha was designed in 1950s, constructed in 1960s and opened in 1974. Completed East part of Dąbrowa complex (the design of B. Szymczak) including allotment gardens of residents
Majdan Park	1973/1977, 1974 – arch. J. Lipiński	272 ha	The function of exhibition area, rifle range, allotment gardens	Not completed design of J. Lipiński. Only the bicycle path in the direction of Zemborzycki Lake was made.

Wyciągi Park	1973/1976 1975 – arch. B. Szymczak	243 ha	The function of equestrian sports with horse racing venue, equestrian club and additionally the function of amusement park in the areas of the former sugar factory	In the areas of the former sugar factory the stadium for 15.5 thousand people was built in 2008 – 2012.
Rusałka Park – People’s Park (Park Ludowy)	1971 1975 – arch. B. Szymczak	160 ha	The function of park for teenagers with game tracks	Not completed, Reattempts to implement this project were made in 2016.
Central Park	1970–1972 1970 – arch. H. Matwiejuk	317 ha	The function of mass events of city-wide importance	Not completed, the works were started in 1970s: preparation of the grounds. Return to the concept of Central Park and recreation of the part of the Royal Pond in 2016.
Kalina Park – Hajdów	1973/1977 1974 – arch. Z. Woško	268 ha	The function of recreation – open allotment gardens.	Not completed

## Culture and science parks, their history and implementations

One of the new designed parks was supposed to be the Central Park – Podzamcze. This park was to be a landmark of the city of Lublin and was to fulfil the new roles attributed to cultural parks, also known as “social gardens”.

This kind of municipal gardens of Soviet origin were particularly popular in Poland in the 1950s and 1960s, although the first people’s park was created in Łódź during the interwar period (1924–1939) based on a design of Stanisław Rogowicz. The park with an area of 237 hectares was only partially completed. The architectural and didactic program of the garden [Ciołek, 1978] was not fully implemented.

In the USSR, culture and recreation parks were important places of upbringing the children in the spirit of communism. The first park of this type was built in Moscow as early as in 1928 (M. Gorky Central Park of Culture and Recreation). The author of the project was planner Konstantin Mielnikov, who designed part of the garden’s architectural equipment. The park had an area of over 100 hectares. For the first time in the design of a park, areas for agricultural exhibitions, passive recreation space in the form of a pond and active – tennis courts, an amusement park or green space dedicated to children were foreseen. Its composition and fulfilled mass-political, cultural-educational and recreational roles were a model for other Soviet republics and large cities. In Soviet Russia, such parks were the equivalent of the 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century, available to general public municipal parks that were very popular in Europe in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, unlike European municipal parks, Soviet culture parks were supposed to be a place where the “*new man*” was formed. The park’s programme strictly defined and approved by the agitation and propaganda departments of the Central Committee and minor structures of the CPSU were “*a huge factory of human consciousness*”, where through the idyllic image of the park – a paradise, a place of recreation, relaxation in the form of folk games and festivals – systemic ideological education supervised by the communist party was conducted [Matyukhina, 2018]. Multi-hectare municipal gardens, most often located in the very centre of the city, usually well-connected with other districts, were to be a very strongly invested area, providing opportunities for entertainment and relaxation

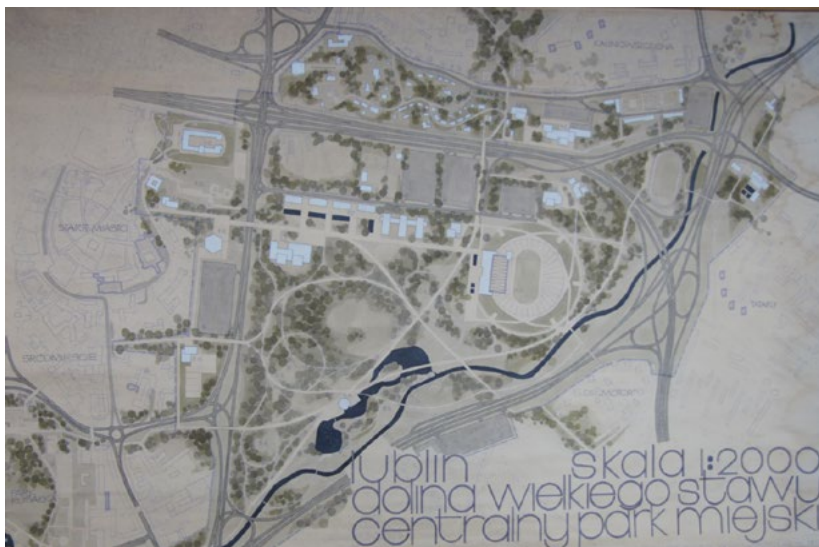
in the form of libraries, open-air theatres, exhibition pavilions, etc., but also a place of mass education of the inhabitants not only in the field of culture, but above all of “political thought”.

The most representative section of a park was usually the central avenue, which was used for marches, festivities and games. The special feature of this type of complexes was “mass character and collectivisation”. The huge areas of forest parks were enriched with a very extensive sport infrastructure in the form of stadiums for many thousands of people, sport fields or swimming pool complexes being places of collective recreation, symbolising the progress and development of a communist state. In Poland, one of the best-known designs of culture parks is the Central Park of Culture in Warsaw – currently Rydz-Śmigły Park (1951), designed by the Landscape Development Studio of the city of Warsaw with an area of 243 hectares, and the Voivodeship Park of Culture and Recreation in Silesia, currently called General Jerzy Ziętek Voivodeship Park of Culture and Recreation, which construction lasted continuously from 1951 to 1975. The park was located in the centre of the Katowice agglomeration between Katowice and Chorzów. The area of one of the largest parks in Europe (600 ha), was covered in 75% by mining heaps and post-mining waste. The main designer of the park was eng. Niemirowski, and its great advocate and leading member of the Construction Committee – Jerzy Ziętek.

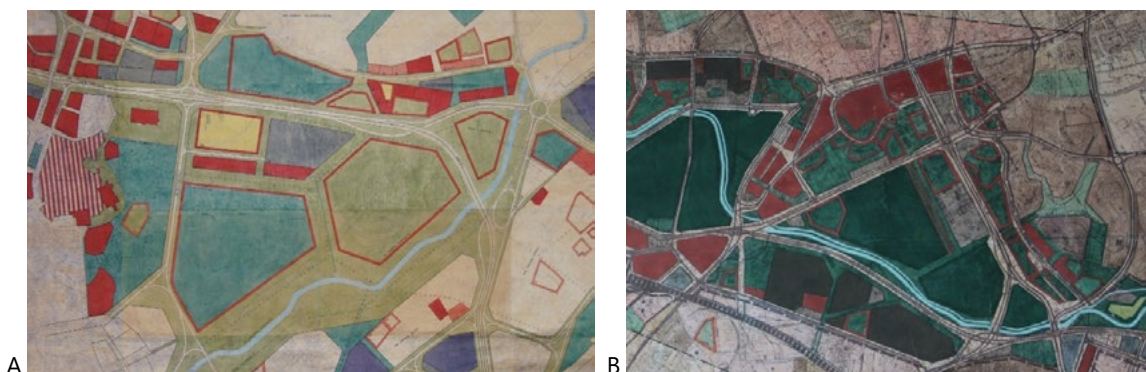
The park was designed on the basis of the existing topography of the area. It was divided into two functional zones: a forest park for passive recreation (222 ha), a walking and recreation part (130 ha), a sports part (42 ha) and a cultural and entertainment part with six functional sectors. The Park had a very rich architectural program in the form of, among others, the museum of the “Upper Silesian Ethnographic Park” (32 ha), planetarium and astronomical observatory (0.8 ha), ZOO (46 ha), botanical garden (43 ha), amusement park (26 ha), Silesian Stadium with over 83 thousand seats, tennis courts complex (2.1 ha), dance circle, swimming pool and canoeing marina (7 ha). During construction of the park according to the plan from the 1950s, 1,800,000 trees were planted, and in the 1960s, 2600 benches were available for guests [online, 2019].

## Central Municipal Park in Lublin

The areas designated for the Central Municipal Park encompassed meadows, riparian areas, allotment gardens (Podzamcze), and buildings defined in the plan as so-called “*substandard homestead buildings*”. Until 1965, the works were supposed to start in this site. The first element of the new design was to be enclosing of the area around the Royal Castle and the newly designed N – S route on its west part with an insulating green belt, along with a project of a green descent to the park from the former Buczka Street, now Zamojska Street. The plan involved arranging slopes on Ruska Street and revitalising the hill of the former Jewish cemetery. The works was supposed to cover an area of 14 ha and to prepare for the construction of the planned municipal park of the city of Lublin [General Spatial Development Plan, 1957], [Pracownia urbanistyczna M.Z. A. B.N. in Lublin, 1957].



**Fig. 3.** The Great Pond valley, central city park, design from 1970, chief planner H. Matwiejuk (Lublin City Office Archive), 1 – culture and education sector (26.5 ha), 2 – sport sector (20.43 ha), 3 – park sector, 4 – tourist and catering services (3.11 ha), 5 – greenery maintenance base (0.99 ha), 6 – car parks (12.82 ha), 7 – service space, 8 – swimming pool complex.



**Fig. 4. A** – Great Pond valley – development study, perspective, 1985, scale 1: 2000, The Office for Spatial Planning in Lublin, chief planner H. Matwiejuk, 1970 (Lublin City Office Archive), **B** – Lublin, Bystrzyca valley, spatial development plan, basic plan, **B** – The Office for Spatial Planning in Lublin, S. Torc with a team, chief planner H. Matwiejuk, 1979, (Lublin City Office Archive)

The planned area of the Central Park was to be 317 hectares, while the net area of the recreation areas was to be 108 hectares. The planners assumed that the newly designed park would become the “*focal point of the city*”. The park space was separated from the north by the planned E-W route, which was (apart from the N – S and W – R routes) one of the arteries of the main structure of the city communication system outlined by *General Spatial Development Plan of Lublin from 1959* [Lubelska Pracownia Urbanistyczna 1959 – 2005, 2005]. From the south and east, the natural border was the Bystrzyca river bed and the never completed “*green route*” separating the Central Park from the Motor housing estate. This space was intended to be communicated through five new bridges and one footbridge crossing the road. The space of the Old Town was separated from the park by a north-south route. What is interesting, the project assumed that Czechówka River would flow under the plate, which was to supply the newly designed water garden by the Bystrzyca River (Fig. 3, Fig. 4A, Fig. 4B).

The Central Park was supposed to offer a very rich functional programme, among other things by providing equipment that was new for Lublin in the form of set of devices and facilities designed for mass events of city-wide significance. The main object of the park was to be a stadium for 70,000 people, an exhibition and commercial area, a children’s garden and passive recreation areas. The whole area was divided into sections. The most important and representative part was to be the “*culture and education*” section (26.5 ha) connected with the Old Town through a footbridge, further expanded by a wide avenue. A number of cultural facilities such as an open-air theatre, green exhibition areas and a youth club were planned there. Along the pedestrian route, exhibition areas were designed with the necessary infrastructure in the form of pavilions and cafés, as well as a palm house with an aquarium and open space dedicated to outdoor exhibitions. In terms of composition, the main east-west axis of the Central Park, which was the main pedestrian route going directly to the sport sector (20.43 ha) was supposed to connect it with Lublin’s Old Town. The central point of the whole complex was the stadium with a hall and facilities for 70,000 spectators (11.7 ha). The northern part of the park was designated for the facilities providing services to the entire complex in the form of parking lots as well as the greenery maintenance site. Krausse’s historical mill located in the north-eastern part of the area was supposed to be adapted for the function of a museum of industry and the former Jewish cemetery – a ‘*kirkut*’ – on the northern side of the E-W route for an open-air museum, which would complete the programme of the newly designed culture park. The greenery was organised in the form of an English landscape park of forest character. In the garden area there were foreseen numerous recreational clearings which would be used, among others, as children’s gardens or amusement parks. From the south and east, the area of the Central Park was bordered by the Bystrzyca and along the river 18-hectare boulevard was designed. Next to the boulevard, the planners have envisaged a lake park, which included an artificially created water reservoir of an irregular shape and an adjacent cocktail bar with the gastronomic function (Fig. 5, 6).



**Fig. 5. A** – View of the Great Pond Valley from the side of Unii Lubelskiej Avenue; in the background panorama of Lublin, author's own photography, 2019, **B** – View of the Great Pond Valley from the side of Bystrzyca river, in the background panorama of Lublin, author's own photography, 2019



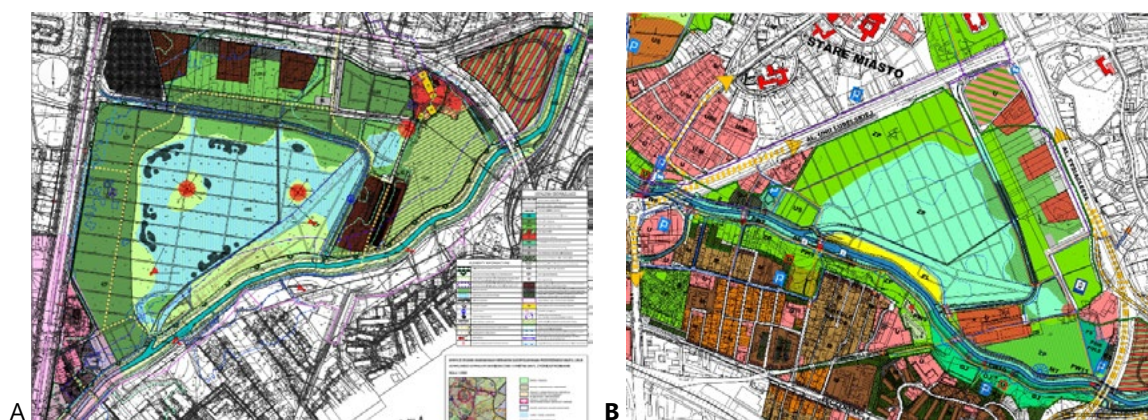
**Fig. 6.** The Great Pond Valley, the area originally intended for the Central Municipal Park, now used for allotment gardens, source: Lublin geoportal, accessed in December 2019

The Central Park project has never been implemented in this form. This was due to economic factors and changes in the spatial development policy of the city. However, there were concepts for the restoration of the Great Royal Pond (2016) together with the park. The original name (Central Park) was also reinstated.

In 2016, the Special Development Department of the city of Lublin prepared the *Local Land Development Plan of the Ecological System of Protected Areas of the city of Lublin for selected areas located in the river valleys – Podzamcze district III*. The plan assumed the recreation of the Great Royal Pond in the area between Unii Lubelskiej and Tysiąclecia Avenues. This site, which is part of the Ecological System of Protected Areas (ESOCH) of the city of Lublin, was inscribed on the List of Modern Cultural Property as a natural phenomenon with cultural potential just like the Bystrzyca river valley and the space of the newly designed Rusałka Park. The plan revived the idea from the 1970s to create these two parks – the Rusałka Park and the Central Park, with the Royal Pond as its central point. The new designed pond was to receive a picturesque coastline in the form of meanders, bays, two islands with viewpoints in the form of mounds described in the plan as hills and numerous places emphasising the city panorama.



Regarding the communication routes, the area of the Central Park was connected with the city by foot-paths designed from the side of Unii Lubelskiej Avenue, Tysiaclecia Avenue, Kąpielowa Street and boulevards on the Bystrzyca River. In the eastern part of the area covered by the study, a green service area with a river marina was planned, while in the northern part, the former idea of creating commercial and parking spaces in the form of green car parks accessible from Tysiaclecia Avenue was revived. The buildings of the former Krausse's mill have been designed for commercial functions, and an access road to the entire complex from Tysiaclecia Avenue was also designed. The green belt from the side of Unii Lubelskiej Avenue was supposed to provide insulation as an area of arranged greenery. The naturalistic character of the park was to be emphasized by planting vegetation "constituting the biological structure of the river valley, which was supposed to be an intermediate role for the designers to strengthen the river banks and enable free movement of air masses". The plan was to "carefully shape and maintain the greenery typical for the native ecosystems of the river valleys in such a way as to preserve the panoramas and views of the historical urban and architectural complex which is a Monument of History and the historical buildings of the Krausse mill complex". [Local Land Development Plan of the Ecological System of Protected Areas of the city of Lublin for selected areas located in the river valleys – Podzamcze district III., 2016]. (7A)



**Fig. 7. A** – Fragment of the Local Land Development Plan of the Ecological System of Protected Areas of the city of Lublin for selected areas located in the river valleys – Podzamcze district III, Lublin 2016, source: Lublin City Office, **B** – Fragment of the Concept – illustrative map – the map shows the different coloured markings of the development of individual areas in the Bystrzyca river valley, source: <https://lublin.eu/mieszkanicy/srodowisko/rewitalizacja-doliny-bystrzycy/koncepcja-zagospodarowania-doliny-bystrzycy/> source: Lublin City Office

The plans of the city were not appreciated by the users of Family Allotment Gardens located in the area designated for the construction of the Central Park. This would have been related to the liquidation of three gardens: "Robotnik" (2.71 ha) founded in 1963 and used by 68 families, "Młynarz" (7 ha) founded in 1971 and used by 124 families and ROD Podzamcze (34 ha) considered to be the oldest allotment garden in this area created in 1948 and intended for 571 families [M. Domagała, 2016]. As a result of the protests, the town decided to abandon this idea. The project was changed and as a result of the redesigned concept, it was decided to leave the existing green area and its use. It was proposed to build a municipal beach in the Bronowice housing estate, including a part of the allotment gardens in the area covered by the plan. This area would serve as the "Bystrzyca Salon" equipped with the necessary sanitary and catering infrastructure and would be a place of passive and active recreation for the residents of Lublin. Krausse's mill would enter the "Historical-natural trail of water mills on the Bystrzyca river", which according to the assumptions of the authors of the concept would "resemble no longer existing milling industry, using the energy of flowing water". Autorskie Biuro Architektury Inwestprojekt- Partner 6, 2016] (7B).

## Summary

The area of the former Royal Pond in Lublin was the subject of many projects and architectural competitions. Over the years, the development plans for this area have been changing, but both in the pre-war period and later, the area was to be a green urban space that was available to its residents.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, projects inspired by the idea of culture parks with a very rich functional programme started to appear in the development plan of the area. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the city of Lublin had again made an attempt to return to the concept of the Central Park, but with a strong emphasis on the history of the place and the reconstruction of a part of the Great Royal Pond. Currently, the process of creating a Local Spatial Development Plan for the area is still ongoing. The area of the former Royal Pond, located in the very centre of the city (near the old town and castle hill), is an area of enormous potential and natural and ecological values, which are noticed both by the inhabitants and the city of Lublin. This is because it is one of the most important elements of the ESOCH system being the foreground area of old-town skylines which are under protection.

At present, the area is almost entirely occupied by family allotment gardens – a fenced enclave and an effective barrier separating the Bystrzyca river valley (with boulevards and a bicycle path) from the Old Town. The impeded communication and availability are quite significant problems in making the area accessible while lacking the necessary infrastructure. The projects and tasks as well as the participatory approach of the city of Lublin in the preparation of the development plan are a good forecast for the future and proof that the area is important in the whole system of greenery of Lublin. It shows that in the future it will become more accessible and open to the inhabitants of Lublin while respecting its former and current developments.

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