

Lviv urban green on the example of selected objects

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Summary: Lviv is the largest city in western Ukraine. The authors of the work discuss three public parks located in the city center, presenting their historical outline, compositions and spatial arrangement as well as landscape architecture objects. These include: Ivan Franko Park, Central Park of Culture and Recreation named after Bohdan Khmelnytsky and Stryjski Park. These public urban park establishments have an interesting history of creation and transformation, perform leisure and recreation functions, are overgrown by valuable dendroflora and are a place of birds' existence. The parks have convenient walking paths and routes, and within them, there are small architecture objects personalized for the needs of the city of Lviv (litter bins, benches, lanterns), as well as playgrounds, gazebos and monuments.

Keywords: Lviv, Ukraine, urban greenery, Ivan Franko Park, Central Park of Culture and Recreation Bohdan Khmelnytsky, Stryjski Park

Introduction

Green areas are an important element in shaping the city, having natural, often historical value, can promote social contacts and serve for rest and recreation. Properly shaped urban greenery offers many benefits to residents, among others: it affects humidity and air purity, protects against sun and wind, allows to withdraw from traffic in a quiet place and admire the sounds of birds. Visiting the downtowns of European cities, a tourist not only due to magnificent architectural objects, but also due to spatial order, in which forms of greenery that play an important role along with the architecture of buildings, play a feeling of pleasure and relaxation [Sutkowska 2006, Zachariasz 2006, Sobczyńska 2014].

Lviv currently has about 740 thousand inhabitants and covers an area of 15,200 ha, which makes it the largest city in western Ukraine. The city lies on the border of eastern Roztocze (Roztocze Lwowskie) and the Podolian Upland. It is an important industrial center, an air, rail and road hub. Lviv was founded around 1250 by King Daniel I Halicki, who named the city after his son Leo. During the partitions, Lviv was one of the most important centers of Polish science, education and culture, as well as the political center and capital of Galicia. As a multiethnic city, Lviv developed dynamically until the outbreak of World War II in the coexistence of many different nationalities – in addition to the dominant Poles, Lviv was inhabited by Jews, Ukrainians, Armenians, Germans, Czechs, Russians and others. Until August 16, 1945, Lviv was the capital of the Lviv region of the Second Polish Republic and the largest city of Eastern Lesser Poland. It belonged to a group of six large cities: Warsaw, Łódź, Poznań, Kraków and Vilnius. After the war, it found itself within the borders of the USSR, and the Polish population was displaced by the Soviet authorities. Since 1991, the city has remained within Ukraine [Ostrowski 1997, Tokarski 2005, Włodek and Kulewski 2006].

In Lviv, there are many parks and green areas of various nature. The three best known are: Ivan Franko Park, Stryjski Park and Central Park of Culture and Recreation Bohdan Khmelnytsky. The purpose of the work was to discuss the above park objects, with particular emphasis on the historical outline, spatial composition, vegetation and small architecture objects.

Methodology

The objects were selected because of the most interesting task of the authors, space development compared to other similar places in the city. The research was conducted in 2016 and 2017. This work contains a brief review of the literature on the history of objects, a description of composition changes and the existing state of dendroflora and park equipment.

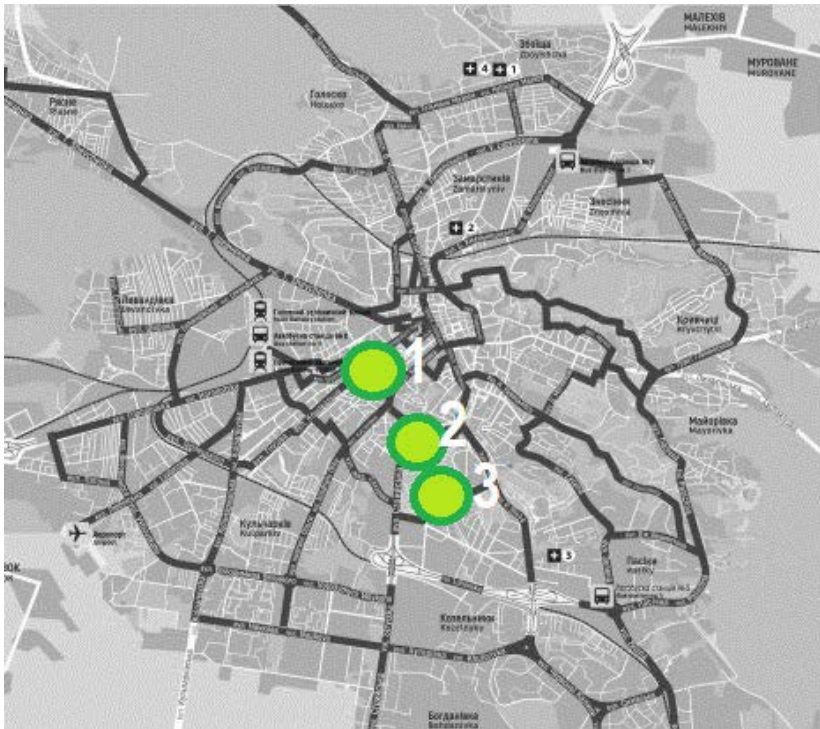


Fig. 1. Location of objects on the map of Lviv: 1 – Ivan Franko Park, 2 – Central Park of Culture and Recreation Bohdan Khmelnytsky, 3 – Stryjski Park [by authors]

Results

According to the modern administrative division, Lviv is divided into six large regions: Halicki, Railway, Łyczakowski, Sichowski, Frankowski and Shevchenko, and it also includes the city of Winniki as well as Brzuchowice and Rudno. Lviv is the most important cultural, scientific, economic and tourist center of western Ukraine. The city center of Lviv, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1998, is the most valuable set of monuments in Ukraine. The city has 11 theaters and several concert halls, over 30 museums and over 20 universities and colleges with over 100,000 students. The historic capital of Galicia has also been a very important religious center for centuries. Currently, six dioceses are located here, including Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic and Orthodox. The city is hilly and the average height is 296 m a.s.l. The highest point is the hill – High Castle, rising at 409 m above sea level. Its peak offers a panorama of the historical center of Lviv. The Pełtew River flows through the city, the bed of which was closed at the end of the 19th century to form one of the main promenades of Lviv, the Hetman’s Embankment, now called Prospekt Svobody. The greenery in Lviv forms several rings around the city center – the first consists of Hetman’s and Governor’s Walls, the second – parks and squares as well as greenery of streets, the third – suburban forests. Buildings towards the center are interwoven with green wedges, which very well affects the purity of air in the city. Lviv owes a large amount of ornamental plant species to gardens and parks in a mild, humid climate. In the mid-nineteenth century, 57 species of trees, shrubs and creepers were marked in the vegetation, and currently there are about 1,000 of them [Kurczera 2008]. The city is consistent in terms of urban architecture – black benches with lion-shaped armrests and uniform dark green litter bins have been placed on squares and prospectuses (Fig. 2, 3). The city information system is also transparent: plates with street names on the buildings, written in two entries. Lviv streets are paved with basalt paving, so characteristic of this city. Road traffic in the old town is limited and only possible for cars with a permit and trams. Entry and exit, as in Western European cities, is *via* automatic parking bollards. In summer season, the streets of the Old Town are filled with restaurant gardens, often with interesting greenery and other decorations. Polish accents can be found in many places, including old inscriptions on store signs or bronze characters, among others on the museum square next to the Dominican Church, artist Nikifor Krynicki, industrialist and pioneer of the oil industry Jan Zeh, Polish pharmacist and associate of Zeh Ignacy Łukasiewicz and others. Whereas Lviv street art, including graffiti, sometimes draws on the tradition of folk design in a very interesting way (Fig. 4, 5).



Fig. 2. Stylized Lviv city benches and garbage bins (M. Dudkiewicz, 2017)



Fig. 3. Monument to Nikifor Krynicki near the Dominican Church (M. Szmagara, 2017)



Fig. 4. Mural with folk motifs, ul. Krzywonosna (M. Dudkiewicz, 2017)



Fig. 5. Graffiti with a folk motif on the flowerbed in Franki Park (M. Dudkiewicz, 2017)

Overview of objects

Ivan Franko Park

Ukraine's oldest city park is Ivan Franko. Until 1779, it was called the Jesuit Garden, in the years 1779–1919 – the Garden of the Jesuit, and in the years 1919–1945, it was named after Tadeusz Kościuszko. His predecessor was the park founded in the 16th century within the property of the rich Szolc-Wolfowicz family. At the end of the 16th century, Jan Szolc-Wolfowicz founded a small orchard here, which later passed into the hands of his son-in-law Antonio Masari, the owner of the house No. 14 located at the Market Square. The young Venetian converted the garden to an Italian model, dividing it into terraces, and then gave it to the city so that all residents could use it. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the area belonged to the Jesuits, who had a farm here called Wólka Jezuicka. Since the Jesuits began building their church and monastery in Lviv, they set up a brickyard here to secure building materials. In addition, it housed a brewery and an inn. With the arrival of Austrian power, the Jesuit order was abolished. In 1655, artillery of the Russian army was deployed in this area, which besieged Lviv with Bohdan Khmelnytsky's army. Emperor Józef II, being in Lviv, gave this green district to the city. However, without proper care, the park became so wild that the city authorities had to sell it to entrepreneur Jan Hecht in 1799. He re-designed it in French style, building pavilions, gazebos, temples, and a restaurant, in which Franciszek I was solemnly taken in 1817. It stood on the site of today's Sejm and later was the first seat of the "Falcon" Society. Hecht also tried to introduce paid use from the park. In 1847, the park became the property of the city [Orłowicz 1925]. The well-known city gardener Karol Bauer in the years 1856–1860 tidied up the park in a landscape style: old trees were removed, several glades were created, paths were laid on gentle lines and a straight main avenue was created. His successors closed down the avenue in 1866. In 1925, the avenue was restored, renewed and expanded to form the compositional axis of the park [Kurceriawj 2008]. In the years 1877–1881, the Galician Sejm was erected on the site of the "Hecht casino", and ground floor gardens with rich floral compositions and formed shrubs were arranged in the lower part of the park. In the years 1894–1896, the "Association for the development and decoration of the city" installed busts opposite the building of the Sejm: Jan Dobrzański – a writer, Jan Nepomucen Kamiński – director of the Polish theater, Leon Sapieha – governor of Galicia, Artur Grottger – Lviv painter, bishop Samuel Głowiński – founder of the education foundation for young people, and in the alley on the right – a bust of Count Józef Dunin-Borkowski – a poet-Hellenist. On the flowerbed in front of the Sejm building, there was a cast-iron vase with a bas-relief depicting Bertel Thorvaldsen's "String of Human Life" in a free interpretation. In 1908, architect Karol Richtman-Rudniwski developed a theater project that was to appear at the place of the restaurant. The project envisaged a modern structure made of stone, metal and glass with a retractable roof. Shops and

cafes are planned on the ground floor. The project was estimated at 2 million crowns. The theater consortium asked the city hall to lease the land for 50 years, with the next ownership of the theater. However, this concept was never realized [Polish word 1908]. In 1949, after dismantling the monument to Agenor Gołuchowski, which stood at the entrance to the park at ul. Sicz Riflemen, the vase was moved to the monument site. It stands here to this day. In 1964, a statue of Ivan Franko was installed in the park in front of the university (sculptors: W. Borysenko, D. Krwawicz, E. Myśko, W. Odrechivskyj, J. Czajka, architect A. Szular). In the center of the park, there is a classicistic gazebo from 1835 in the shape of a rotunda with Doric columns, and a trifle frieze [Rąkowski 2008]. In 1999, McDonald's developed a project to deploy its chain restaurant within the park with the ability to quickly serve McDrive, but eventually the project was rejected. In 2009, the park was reconstructed. Currently, the park covers an area of 10.6 ha and is protected as a valuable natural object. It has well-preserved 100–150-year-old trees consisting of 50 species of trees, of which oaks, maples, lindens and ash are the most common. There are also three 300-year-old oaks – the oldest trees of Lviv, as well as plane and chestnut trees of considerable size [Kuczeriawj 2008]. The property has a well-developed system of winding paths and wide straight alleys. This is one of the favorite walking places of students from nearby universities and residents (Fig. 6). Every Sunday, there are concerts, competitions, fairs with tasting of national dishes and festivities. An attraction for children is the playground with the option of renting a go-kart or jumping on trampolines. There is also a "Park for dogs" – a fenced enclosure with equipment for pet training, where every Sunday there are free shows or quadrupeds competitions (Fig. 7).



Fig. 6. The wide main avenue leading through Franki Park towards the Old Town (M. Dudkiewicz, 2017)



Fig. 7. Entrance to the dog paddock (M. Dudkiewicz, 2017)

Stryjski Park

One of the most beautiful Lviv parks is the Stryjski Park with an area of 55 ha located between Iwana Franka and Stryjska streets. The park is protected as a valuable natural object of national importance. Before the Second World War, it was called the Kiliński Park. The park was established in 1876–1877, encompassing the old Stryjski Cemetery closed in 1823. The object is located on undulating terrain cut by erosive gorges. The project was carried out in 1876–1877 by an experienced gardener Arnold Röhling (then he took care of the park for 40 years), and in 1879 construction began. Creation of the park was associated with the National Industrial Exhibition, which was to take place in Lviv, and the Austro-Hungarian government wanted to hydrate the world that it cares and promotes the development of its provinces. The park was to decorate the exhibition and delight the guests [Kuczeriawj 2008]. 40,000 trees were planted here – spruces, maples, and various exotic trees, including red oak, tulip flowers and ginkgo biloba. In 1888, in a monolith specially brought here, Julian Markowski began carving the monument to the patron of the park – Jan Kiliński, which was unveiled on June 18, 1895. An artificial castle ruin, a pond and a restaurant were built in Stryjski Park. Orłowski [1925] writes: *"In the summer, this park is a favorite place for strolls of Lviv inhabitants, it is also lively in winter, when on the slopes of the hills swarms of young people practice sledding and skiing"*. The main compositional axis of the

park is the alley, beginning at the main entrance gate from ul. Park. Near the gate, there is a pond, and in its vicinity a glazed orangery from 1895, around which numerous exotic trees were planted, including ginkgo Julian Markowski from 1894. The same year artificial ruins located deep in the park come. In the remaining area, there is an old deciduous forest composed of native species, crossed by numerous avenues, including hornbeam, linden and plane tree. In 1894, the National General Exhibition took place in the park, presenting the economic and artistic achievements of Lviv and Galicia. The exhibition was a regular exhibition for establishing economic contacts between the south-eastern voivodeships of the Second Polish Republic, and Romania and the USSR. On this occasion, a new alley was marked out in the south-eastern part of the park, along which several dozen, mostly wooden exhibition pavilions, with sophisticated architectural forms designed by eminent architects were erected. They formed a kind of town and were an unusual attraction long after the exhibition closed. Of these, three have survived to our times. The most magnificent is the Palace of Art located today (designed by F. Skowron, G. Peżański and M. Łużecki) – an eclectic building with elements of neo-renaissance, neo-baroque and neoclassicism, decorated with sculptures by J. Markowski, A. Popiel and T. Błotnicki. The second building is a rotunda designed by Ludwik Ramułt that once housed famous Raławice Panorama of Wojciech Kossak and Jan Styka, which was first made available to the public just on the occasion of the exhibition.

After the war, the panorama found its way to Wrocław, where it can be watched continuously after 1985. Currently, the rotunda houses sports halls of the Lviv Polytechnic. The third surviving building is a stone water tower (designed by J. Zachariewicz and M. Łużecki), where a restaurant operates. Most of the other pavilions were demolished in 1921 in connection with the organization of the Eastern Fair in this area. A new set of pavilions was erected for the exhibition, which were also designed by leading architects of that time. Most of them were demolished after World War II, and some were rebuilt. Near the avenue constituting the main axis of the exhibition grounds, several objects of this complex have been preserved. The most interesting is the pavilion of the agro-forestry section designed by Jan Noworyta in the form of one-story manor house with a four-column portico and walls reinforced by buttresses. Currently, it houses offices. Also distinguished are the former pavilions of the Bank of Małopolska with large porte-fenêtre and the Earth Credit Bank with a six-column wall portico, a one-story pavilion with a central projection decorated with a coat of arms, a pavilion in the shape of a small rotunda with wall columns (formerly a restaurant) built in 1936. Michał Ulem's functionalist pavilion divided by prominent vertical buttresses, finally the entrance gate from ul. Samczuk. South of the Stryjski Park, at ul. Kozielnicka, there is large building complex of the municipal power plant, the oldest of which dates back to 1908 and was designed by Adolf Piller [Rąkowski 2008]. At present, the whole area is divided into three parts – the lower terrace, the forest park and the upper terrace (which is a remnant of the Eastern Fair), on which over 200 species of plants grow, as well as a greenhouse and rock garden. Most of the exhibition buildings were destroyed. Only three characteristic buildings remained: water tower in the Gothic style, art palace and Rotunda Panorama of the Raławice Panorama. Park employees try to give the park's vegetation the character of a natural forest. In 2008, the first skate park in Ukraine was opened in the upper part of Stryjski Park, and paths and avenues serve both pedestrians and cyclists. The park has been under reconstruction since 2009, including on modernization of lighting and pavement.

Central Park of Culture and Recreation Bohdan Khmelnytsky

In the vicinity of the Stryjski Park, there is the Central Park of Culture and Recreation Bohdan Khmelnytsky, and within its premises are the stadium, concert hall and amusement park. The 26-hectare park was created in the early 1950s according to the design of architects H. Szwecko-Winecki and S. Sokołów. The park served not only as a place to relax in nature, but also was a cultural center, where concerts were listened to, exhibitions were organized, and meetings with people associated with culture and art were organized. The Ministry of Culture of the USSR has often awarded the park with diplomas as one of the best parks in the Soviet Union [Kuczeriawj 2008]. At the end of the park's main avenue, near the Military Academy, there is the Monument of Fame of the Soviet Army from 1970, which is one of the last typically Soviet monuments in this part of Ukraine. The main entrance to the park is located under the arch and next to the tanks with fountains (Fig. 8). Above, the entrance leads the central park avenue, along which flower beds, benches, walking paths are arranged, and in the middle – the bust of hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky. There is also a stadium "Youth" with a capacity

of 5,000 seats, cultural and entertainment center "Romantic", central stage, as well as numerous attractions for children, among others, dry toboggan run and rope park (Fig. 9). In summer, there are many concerts, city holidays and mass celebrations. The property has a very good cycling route.



Fig. 8. The main entrance to the park from ul. Stryjska (W. Durlak 2017)



Fig. 9. Rope park in the Khmelnytsky Park (W. Durlak 2017)

Summary

Considering Lviv in terms of its tourist attractiveness, it can be concluded that it is determined by the city's over 760-year history, numerous monuments and spatial composition – with picturesque streets of the Old Town, wide prospects of modern city thoroughfares and park assumptions. By ensuring the right quality of urban greenery, Lviv improves the standard of living of its residents, as well as becoming more interesting for visitors. Presented parks have very important value for the city, fulfilling the function of nature, history, communication as well as leisure and recreation.

Bibilography

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Zieleń miejska Lwowa na przykładzie wybranych obiektów

Streszczenie: Lwów to największe miasto zachodniej Ukrainy. Autorzy pracy omawiają trzy parki publiczne położone w centrum miasta, przedstawiając ich zarys historyczny, kompozycje i układ przestrzenny oraz obiekty małej architektury. Należą do nich: Park Iwana Franki, Centralny Park Kultury i Wypoczynku im. Bohdana Chmielnickiego oraz Park Stryjski. Te publiczne miejskie założenia parkowe posiadają interesującą historię powstania i przekształceń, pełnią funkcje wypoczynkowe i rekreacyjne, porasta je cenna dendroflora oraz stanowią miejsce bytowania ptaków. W parkach wyznaczone są wygodne ścieżki i trasy do spacerowania, a w ich obrębie znajdują się spersonalizowane na potrzeby miasta Lwowa obiekty małej architektury (kosze na śmieci, ławki, latarnie), a ponadto również place zabaw, altany czy pomniki.

Słowa kluczowe: Lwów, Ukraina, zieleń miejska, Park Iwana Franki, Centralny Park Kultury i Wypoczynku im. Bohdana Chmielnickiego, Park Stryjski
