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## ***Protection of historical greenery in Wrocław. Investment and renovation works in Szczytnicki Park in the years 2000–2018***

### ***Introduction***

Szczytnicki Park is the oldest and the largest public park in Wrocław. The assumption with an area of over 100 ha is characterized by a multi-part, diverse composition resulting from a multi-phase transformation process, which lasted over 200 years [1, p. 275]. The beginnings of the park date back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when the garden of Prince Frederick Louis von Hohenlohe was made available to the citizens of Wrocław, becoming a popular place for recreation. The garden, devastated during the Napoleonic wars, was tidied up in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and transformed into a city park. At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, its area was successively enlarged by including adjacent areas. In its present southern part, there was a horse racing track surrounded by walking areas. The present-day appearance is due to the events of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. After 1906, the area was transformed into an exhibition area based on Hans Poelzig's concept. On the occasion of the Centennial Exhibition held in 1913, an exhibition hall designed by Max Berg (now the Centennial Hall), the Four Domes Pavilion and a modern park composition with a semicircular pond surrounded by a pergola were built. Around it an exposition of thematic gardens was arranged, of which the Japanese Garden is a remnant. After the end of exhibition the composition of the southern part of park was subject to further modifications – on the occasion of the Housing and Workplace Exhibition (WUWA) in 1929 and the Exhibition of Regained Territories in 1948. In 2009 a new congress center was built next to the Centennial Hall and a multimedia fountain was inaugurated [2, p. 43] (Fig. 1). The park's development

over many years made it a complex with a rich design, complemented by numerous objects of garden art, water and drainage system, and a diverse vegetation with valuable collections of dendrofloric [1], [3]. Nearly 470 taxa of trees and shrubs were found in the park, among which, apart from species characteristic for the Silesian flora, plants from Asia and North America can be found, and about 70 of them can be regarded as dendrological curiosities [1, p. 285].

The park is located in the eastern part of the city in the area of the so-called Great Island, bounded by the waters of the Urban Oder River to the south, the Old Oder River to the west, and the flood and navigable channels to the north [4, p. 105]. Its main parts are limited by the following streets: Wróblewski, Dembowski, 8 Maja, Różycki, Banach and Mickiewicz, which divides the complex into two parts – northern and southern [3, p. 80]. There are many tourist related to the park complex. Among the most important are: Centennial Hall, the Four Domes Pavilion with the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Spire commemorating the Exhibition of the Recovered Territories, the Zoological Garden with the Afrykarium, the Japanese Garden, the multimedia fountain, the WUWA housing estate, the CeTa Audiovisual Technology Centre or the Olympic Stadium. The Great Island with all its facilities and plenty of greenery is a unique place in Poland and Europe [5]. The Japanese Garden located within the park is the only facility of its kind and size in Poland [2, p. 43]. Accessibility from the city center is provided by bridges: Szczytnicki and Zwierzyniecki. In 2021, in the vicinity of the park, the construction of the Great Island Avenue began. The aim of this task is to unblock the communication system from the city center and to improve the access to the eastern part of the city located on the Great Island, which is a place of numerous events, as well as a popular tourist destination.

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Fig. 1. Multimedia fountain by the Centennial Hall:

a) view towards Pergola and Szczytnicki Park, b) view towards the Wrocław Congress Centre, the Spire, the Four Domes Pavilion (photo by S. Rozalski, 2009)

Il. 1. Fontanna multimedialna przy Hali Stulecia:

a) widok w stronę Pergoli i parku Szczytnickiego, b) widok na Wrocławskie Centrum Kongresowe, Iglicę, Pawilon Czterech Kopuł (fot. S. Rozalski, 2009)

The road section at the level of the park has been planned in the vicinity of 8 Maja Street [6, p. 570].

### *State of research*

There are many analytical studies on the historic greenery of Wrocław. These include various types of historical searches, historical-urban studies, conservation programs for sculptures and garden art, studies and analyses of flora. Many prominent specialists have dealt with these issues, e.g., K. Eysymontt, Z. Bandurska, G. Grajewski, J. Ilkosz, I. Bińkowska, J. Urbanik, M. Jagiełło, W. Brzezowski, M. Mularczyk, E. Szopińska, and others [7]. In the 1990s, the number of historical searches for green areas increased significantly, which indicated broad source preparation for later studies and conservation works<sup>1</sup>. Historical studies were also developed for Szczytnicki Park [9], [10]. The history and development of the park have been described in detail in numerous publications. Among monographs it is possible to mention papers: *Natura i miasto – publiczna zieleń miejska we Wrocławiu od schyłku XVIII do początku XX wieku* [Nature and the city – public urban greenery in Wrocław from the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century] by I. Bińkowska and *Parki i ogrody Wrocławia* [Parks and Gardens of Wrocław] by L. Chudzyński and R. Wieczorek [11], [3]. A breakthrough publication was *Leksykon zieleni Wrocławia* [Lexicon of Wrocław greenery] by I. Bińkowska and E. Szopińska [1]. Studies on water management and soil retention in Szczytnicki Park were carried out by the Wrocław University of Life Sciences [4], [12]. The influence of flood in July 1997 on park vegetation was documented by the employees of

Wrocław universities and companies responsible for the current maintenance of the park [13, pp. 53–60], [14, pp. 297, 298]. Planning studies, including suggestions for the park restoration strategy, greenery management, research and studies for the Szczytnicki Natural Landscape Complex and undertakings in the area of the Centennial Hall were carried out by the Department of Environmental Management at the Faculty of Architecture, Wrocław University of Technology under the supervision of A. Drappella-Hermansdorfer [15]–[17]. Research on high greenery, valuable natural objects, as well as on the absorption capacity of the area was conducted by scientists from Wrocław University of Life Sciences, among others by P. Reda and E. Szopińska [18]. Particular park assumptions were described in monographs (e.g., Japanese Garden [3, pp. 84, 104], [14, pp. 297, 298], [19]) or in professional magazines (e.g., works realized in a part of former exhibition gardens by Pergola and Four Domes Pavilion [2, pp. 42–45]). Brochures documenting the history and completed works were also written for individual park objects (e.g., the church of St. John of Nepomuk [20]) and monuments (e.g., Diana monument [21]). In recent years there were also published papers related to the socially polarizing topic of the construction of the Wrocław inner city ring road, the planned route of which is adjacent to the park (e.g., [22]).

### *Objectives of the study*

The subject of this paper are activities related to the protection of historical greenery area discussed on the example of investment and renovation works implemented in Szczytnicki Park in 2000–2018<sup>2</sup>. The author assumed

<sup>1</sup> The period of intensive development of searches for green space areas occurred in the 1990s (between 1990 and 1999, 24 searches were commissioned and developed; between 2000 and 2018, 11 searches; 2 searches were developed before 1990) [7], [8, p. 21].

<sup>2</sup> The description excludes routine tasks carried out in green areas (i.e., annual maintenance of greenery, maintenance of infrastructure: lighting, fountains, small architecture, inspections of playgrounds, etc.) – tasks that did not have a strategic impact on the overall nature of investment works in Szczytnicki Park from the period 2000–2018.

a hypothesis that the activities of this period were mainly of conservation and intervention nature. For the verification of this hypothesis, the author made an inventory of 45 representative works, basing his studies on field, bibliographical and iconographic analyses, but above all, referring to source materials collected by the Management of the Municipal Greenspace Authority<sup>3</sup>. Therefore, the study is both documentary and knowledge-organizing. The experiences are described from the perspective of both the researcher and the practitioner, who has been a project manager at the Management of the Municipal Greenspace Authority for many years. More extensive research on the discussed issues was presented by the author of this paper in his PhD thesis defended at the Faculty of Architecture, Wrocław University of Technology [8].

### ***Legal conditioning and the city policy on green space before and after 1989***

Since the 1990s, an increase in the intensity of works in historical green areas has been observed in Wrocław [8, p. 166]. This was due to many reasons. Catching up with the backlog of the previous decades had a great impact. Among the most important factors causing the previous delays were: lack of funds and materials after the World War II, primacy of basic needs (housing, transportation, and services) over greenery investments, lack of proper preparation and professional experience of new managers, as well as permanent underinvestment in greenery works [1, p. 84 ], [25, p. 42], [26, pp. 67, 68]. The intensification of works was also significantly affected by events on the national and international arena, such as the political transformation after 1989, the appointment of local authorities, updates of legal acts in the field of construction, nature protection, monuments, and urban planning [8, p. 133]. Not without significance was the adoption by Wrocław in 1998 of the *Zasady polityki ekologicznej* [Principles of Ecological Policy] [27]. At the end of the 1990s, preparations for the introduction of the Natura 2000 network began in Poland. In Europe, the *European Landscape Convention* was signed in 2000 [28]<sup>4</sup>.

According to the postulates of the *European Landscape Convention*, the priority of public authorities' activities in the field of landscape should be given to tasks related to its protection [28]. With regard to the greenery, the protection may consist in conservation of historical sites. On the other hand, it may involve securing natural landscapes that strengthen the urban green system. This paper concerns

mainly the conservation issues. This is because such an approach dominated the steps taken by the Management of the Municipal Greenspace Authority. Activities such as restoration or reconstruction [8, p. 56] prevailed here.

Spatial activities undertaken by the Wrocław City Hall are regulated by a number of local documents. After 2000, there is a certain logic and consistency in the initiatives of local authorities focused on creating the so-called “classy places”, which are of high functional and compositional quality<sup>5</sup> [29], [30] (Fig. 1). This was reflected in the concentration of activities in specific parts of the city. In the spatial layout of Wrocław the works in greenery assumptions were carried out in such areas as Market Square, Ostrów Tumski, the Centennial Hall complex and Szczytnicki Park, which were connected by the developed passage of Grunwaldzka Axis<sup>6</sup> (Fig. 2). An independent part was the South Park aspiring to the name of the Wrocław Baths. High importance was also attached to the restoration of housing estates. As a part of these processes, local authorities strived to restore the historical form of many parks. Definitely most works were carried out in areas of historical and cultural value. The focus was on historic buildings due to the deteriorating state of preservation, damage, and exploitation of many of them, which were most in need of intervention and protection. The works in these areas contributed to their reinforcement as a result of introduction of subsequent forms of legal protection (e.g., recognition of the Centennial Hall complex and its park surroundings as a historical monument in 2005) and appreciation of the exceptional universal value of this area through its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List (2006) [8]. These processes – as mentioned – were facilitated by the political and economic transformations, as well as the growing awareness of the city's hosts [8, pp. 56, 127, 164].

Szczytnicki Park is currently under multidimensional legal protection. By successive resolutions of the Wrocław City Council (1997–1999), the Szczytnicki Natural Landscape Complex (SZPK) was created. The basis for this was a planning *Studium granic Szczytnickiego Zespołu Przyrodniczo-Krajobrazowego* [study on the borders of Szczytnicki Natural Landscape Complex] (1995)<sup>7</sup> [34,

<sup>3</sup> The Management of the Municipal Greenspace Authority was established in 2000 in order to improve the quality and standard of green areas for residents and the environment. It was separated from the structure of the Municipal Office of Wrocław in relation to changes in the political system, transformation after local government reform, as well as growing demand in this area. In 2010, the Management of the Municipal Greenspace Authority managed approximately 7.000 ha of land in Wrocław, which constituted approximately 24% of the city area [23], [24].

<sup>4</sup> The *European Landscape Convention* (Florence, 20.10.2000), signed by the Member States of the Council of Europe in 2004, in Poland came into force in 2005. The document is a declaration of landscape management for the benefit of the people and the world [28].

<sup>5</sup> It refers to programs, policies and strategies implemented by the Wrocław City Hall, such as *Strategia Wrocław 2000 Plus*, [Wrocław 2000 Plus Strategy], *Założenia polityki społeczno-gospodarczej na lata 2000–2005* [Assumptions of Socio-Economic Policy for 2000–2005], *Studium uwarunkowań i kierunków zagospodarowania przestrzennego* [Conditions and Directions of Spatial Development], *Lokalny program rewitalizacji* [Local Revitalization Program], *Gminny program opieki nad zabytkami* [Municipal Historic Preservation Program] and other local documents [29]–[31].

<sup>6</sup> “Classy places” were to exert a strong influence on the surroundings and the entire city, serving as a model and inspiration. In addition to the poles of high attractiveness mentioned in the text, the others were to include Świdnicka Street and the square in front of the Central Railway Station. It was assumed that the poles would be connected by a series of high-quality areas, including streets, promenades and boulevards [29], [30].

<sup>7</sup> The area to be protected was defined by *Uchwała Nr XV/483/99 Rady Miejskiej Wrocławia z dnia 9 grudnia 1999 r.* [Resolution No. XV/483/99 of the Wrocław City Council of December 9, 1999] [33].

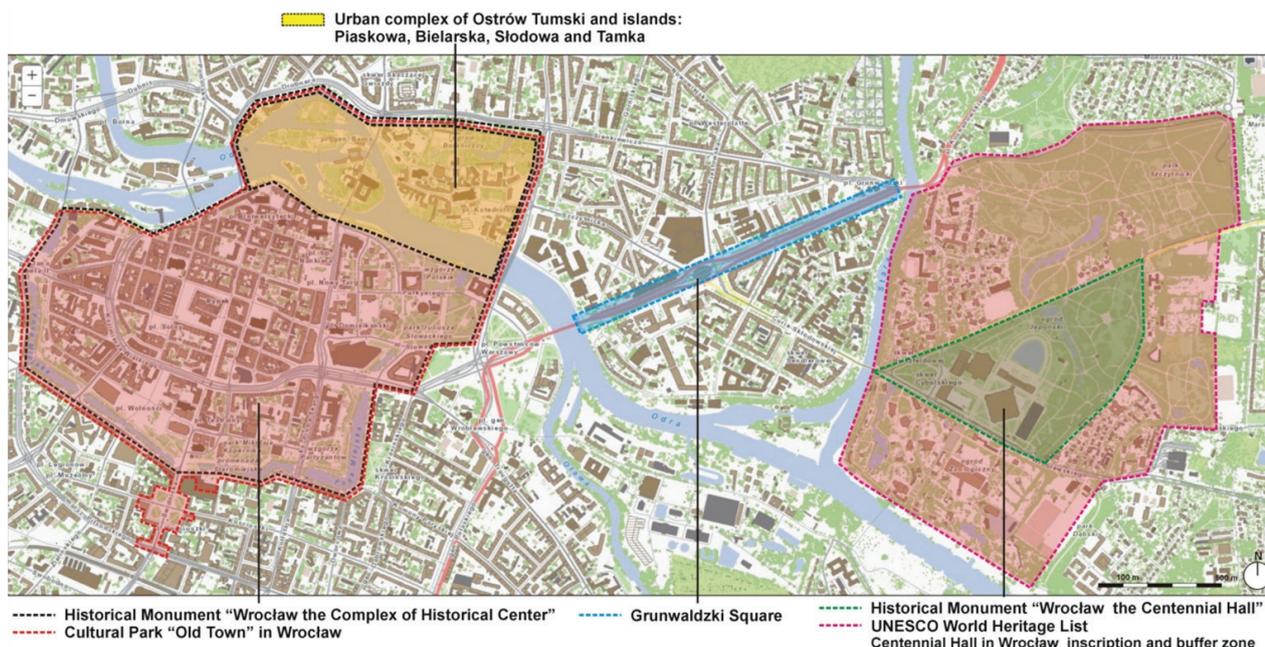


Fig. 2. The most important areas of greenery works in the years 2000–2010 in Wrocław, including the area of Szczytnicki Park. These areas coincide with areas of high historical and cultural value, the so-called classy places, as well as Grunwaldzki Square, which is the largest academic center of Wrocław (source: [32], elaborated by S. Rozalski)

- II. 2. Najważniejsze obszary prac w założeniach zieleni w latach 2000–2010 we Wrocławiu, w tym rejon parku Szczytnickiego. Obszary te pokrywają się z rejonami o wysokiej wartości historycznej, kulturowej, tzw. miejscami z klasą, jak również pl. Grunwaldzkim, który jest największym wrocławskim centrum akademickim (źródło podkładu: [32], oprac. S. Rozalski)

pp. 108, 109], [35, pp. 132–148]. A strong support for later works within SZPK was *Ustawa o ochronie przyrody* [Act on Nature Protection] of 2004, which allowed for comprehensive protection of one of the most valuable areas of the city in terms of nature and culture, which included: Szczytnicki Park with the Japanese Garden, the Centennial Hall complex and the Olympic Stadium, the Morskie Oko bathing site and the Municipal Zoological Garden, as well as modernist garden estates with promenades along the Oder River [36]. Subsequently, due to the obligatory requirement of *Ustawa o zagospodarowaniu przestrzennym* [Spatial Development Act], all attention and considerable financial resources of the city were focused on the local spatial development plans developed for SZPK [37], [34, pp. 108, 109], [35]. The conservation protection of the park is further ensured by a number of legal regulations, i.e. entry in the register of monuments, an archaeological protection zone in local plans, as well as recognition of its fragments as a monument of history (2005) and inclusion in the protection zone of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Outstanding Universal Value with its buffer zone (2006) [38], [39], [2]. At the level of local planning and operational documents, the park protection postulates have been reflected in many studies, including: *Conditions and Directions of Spatial Development, Wrocław Spatial Development Study, Municipal Monuments Care Programme, Local Revitalization Programme of Wrocław, Assumptions of Socio-Economic Policy* and others [29], [31]. Each of the studies postulated conservation activities in the area of historic greenery.

### ***Investment and renovation works in Szczytnicki Park in 2000–2018***

In Wrocław, for many years a systematic restoration and ongoing maintenance of historic green areas has been carried out by replacing or repairing the surface of communication systems, maintenance of garden architecture (bridges, arbours, sculptures), renovation of buildings, technical infrastructure, replacement of elements of small architecture or supplementing planting. Evidence of good source preparation and protection of greenery areas are restorations in 2000–2018, among which the following can be mentioned: South Park, Old Town Garden, sections of the Old Town Promenade, square in St. Matthew's Square and many other implementations [7], [31], [40, p. 801].

The most valuable, but also the most demanding in terms of conservation protection, greenery in Wrocław is Szczytnicki Park, in which restoration works have been continuously carried out for decades<sup>8</sup> [7]. On the basis of data obtained from the Management of the Municipal Greenspace Authority, conducted literature studies and own research, the author has arranged chronologically and topographically the most important works in Szczytnicki Park implemented since the 1990s until 2018. The list of activities is presented in the table and graphically

<sup>8</sup> For ease of reference, this paper divides the park into eight sectors (I to VIII), according to the nomenclature used in industry publications and the nomenclature used by the facility manager [7] (Fig. 3).

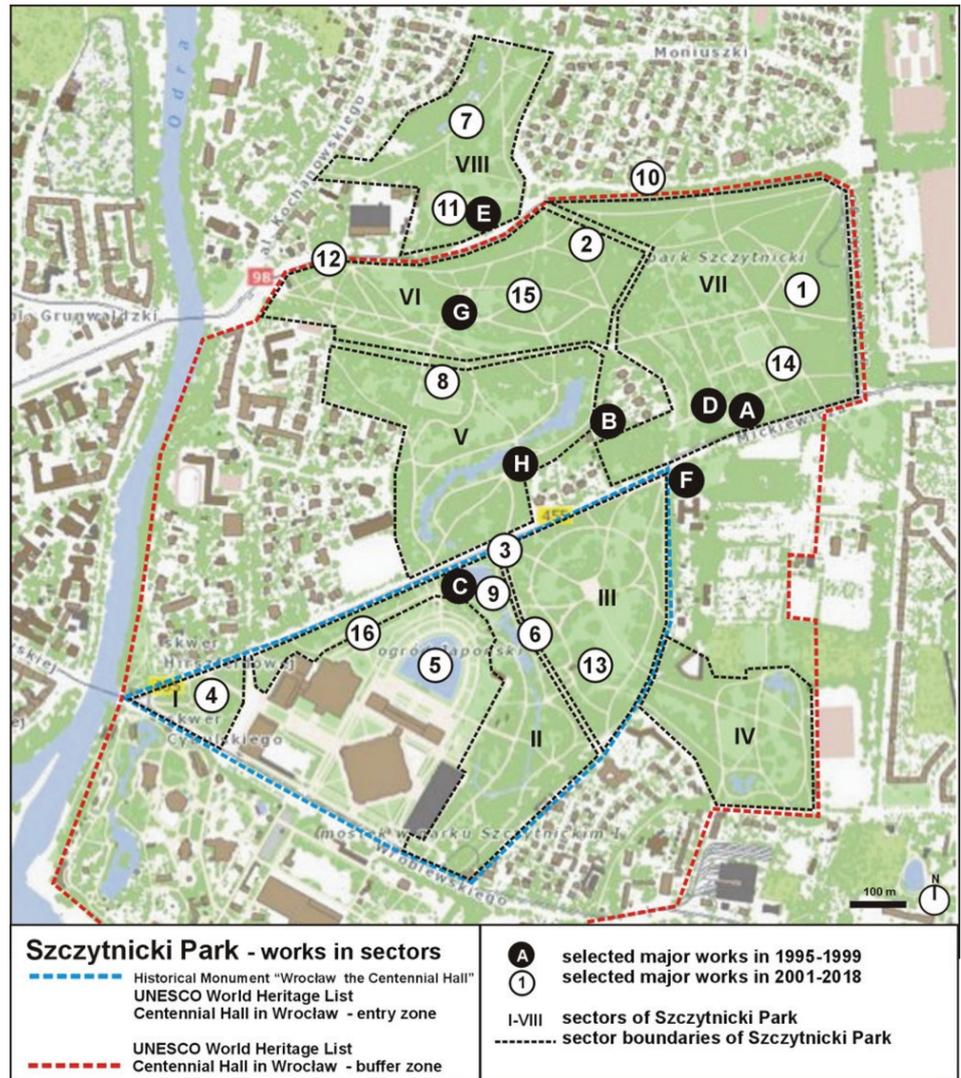


Fig. 3. Major works in sectors of Szczytnicki Park in 1995–2018 (source: [32], elaborated by S. Rozalski)

II. 3. Najważniejsze prace w sektorach parku Szczytnickiego w latach 1995–2018 (źródło podkładu: [32], oprac. S. Rozalski)

on the map (Fig. 3, Table 1) [8]. The importance of this greenery assumption can be evidenced by the fact that the investment task “Revitalization of Szczytnicki Park” from the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century appeared in various city

programs (long-term investment plan, assumptions of socio-economic policy) and other documents that form the basis for operational activities of the Wrocław City Hall [7], [29].

Table 1. Chronology of the most important works in Szczytnicki Park in 1995–2018 (elaborated by S. Rozalski)  
Tabela 1. Chronologia najważniejszych prac w parku Szczytnickim w latach 1995–2018 (oprac. S. Rozalski)

Marking on the map	Year	Most important works in Szczytnicki Park	Sector
1995–1999			
A	1995	restoration of “różanka” in sector VII	VII
B	1995	reconstruction of the monument of Friedrich von Schiller in sector V	V
C	1996–1997 1999	restoration of the Japanese Garden in sector II; renovation of the Japanese Garden after the July 1997 flood	II
D	1996–1997	restoration and development of the ornamental “plunge pool” in sector VII destroyed after the July 1997 flood	VII
E	1996–1997	new playground complex at Różycki Avenue in sector VIII	VIII
F	1997	revitalization of the contemporary garden located at Mickiewicza Street (the foundation is located outside the park sectors, outside the historical monument boundary, and within the UNESCO buffer zone)	–

Table 1 cont. Chronology of the most important works in Szczytnicki Park in 1995–2018 (elaborated by S. Rozalski)  
 Tabela 1 cd. Chronologia najważniejszych prac w parku Szczytnickim w latach 1995–2018 (oprac. S. Rozalski)

Marking on the map	Year	Most important works in Szczytnicki Park	Sector
G	1997	construction of a playground in the center of the northern part of the park in sector VI	VI
H	1998	restoration of the park vegetation after the flood in 1997	–
2001–2018			
1	2001	renovation of paths in sector VII	VII
2	2002	renovation of paths in sector VI	VI
3	2003	renovation of a section of Dąbska Avenue with construction of parking spaces for people with disabilities	II
4	no data available 2015–2016	renovation of park alleys in sector I reconstruction of the Diana monument in sector I	I
5	2005 2008–2011 2008–2009 2010 2011	renovation of park lighting around Pergola at the Centennial Hall renovation of small architecture around Pergola renovation of the Pergola structure along with protection of vegetation growing on Pergola construction of a multimedia fountain – project entitled: “Rebuilding the water basin located at the Centennial Hall in Wrocław for a multimedia fountain” construction of video surveillance system in Pergola and its surroundings renovation of pavement, full renovation of lawns, planting dwarf trees within Pergola and multimedia fountain	II
6	2006 2008–2009 2011	securing ivy plantings at Dąbska Avenue maintenance of the water reservoir between Kopernika and Mickiewicza streets in sector II renovation of the bridge located in sector II of the park by the Japanese Garden renovation of the bridge on “Black Water” at Czackiego Street	II
7	2008–2009	renovation of alleys with the construction of lighting and landscaping elements in sector VIII; connection for park lighting	VIII II
8	2008	establishment of a cherry orchard in sector V	V
9	2006–2008 2009 2011 2015–2016	renovation of bridges concerning regulation of water relations, repairs of watercourses and reservoirs, modernization of the watercourse in the Japanese Garden renovation of wooden bridge in the Japanese Garden renovation of pavilion and gazebo roofing, maintenance of small architecture in the Japanese Garden renovation of wooden marina in the Japanese Garden renovation of the Taiko Bashi arch bridge and garden architecture (gazebo, tea house, wooden gates, fencing, terraces and other elements of small architecture) in the Japanese Garden	II
10	2010	renovation of historic fence at Różycki Street	–
11	2011	reconstruction of playground in sector VIII of the park at Chopina Street	VII
12	2013	renovation of historic municipal toilet at Różycki Avenue	VI
13	2014 2015–2016 2017–2018	renovation of the church roof renovation of the church tower walls comprehensive revitalization of the remaining part of the church with development of the immediate surroundings	III
14	2014	renovation of garden pavilion (gloriette) in sector VII along with the access road	VII
15	2015–2016	renovation of the Frederick II Column in sector VII	VII
16	2011 2017–2018	construction of power connection for lighting the park section between Mickiewicza, Kopernika and Wystawowa streets and power supply to the Japanese Garden restoration of a part of Szczytnicki Park (I stage) (area between Pergola, Japanese Garden, Mickiewicza Street and Four Domes Pavilion with a fragment of paths by the Japanese Garden)	II



Fig. 4. Wrocław, St. John of Nepomuk Church in Szczytnicki Park: a) before renovation in 2009, b) after renovation in 2018 (photo by S. Rozalski)  
 Il. 4. Wrocław, kościółek pw. św. Jana Nepomucena w parku Szczytnickim: a) przed remontem w 2009 r., b) po remoncie w 2018 r. (fot. S. Rozalski)

Works in the park covered many areas and varied in scale and frequency. They usually concerned several activities simultaneously. The simplest thematic classification allows to group the works according to the scope concerning:

1) current maintenance and upkeep of park greenery (care, replenishment of plantings, tree stand management) and ensuring cleanliness and order,

2) creation of large attractions attracting tourists and business (i.e., construction of a multimedia fountain, modernization and expansion of the restaurant with conference facilities),

3) restoration and renovation of single, recognizable monuments (i.e., St. John of Nepomuk Church, the column of Frederick Wilhelm II, reconstruction of Diana's monument, etc.),

4) cultivation of green areas which are very popular among tourists (i.e., Japanese Garden, surroundings of the Centennial Hall),

5) renovation of technical facilities (i.e., public toilets at Różycki Avenue, Pergola structure, bridges),

6) renovation of park infrastructure (paths, squares, lighting, small architecture),

7) renovation of elements of the water and drainage system (maintenance of watercourses, reservoirs, strengthening of the coastline),

8) celebration of diplomatic relations (i.e., establishment of a cherry orchard in Sector V – to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of cooperation between Poland and Japan) [7], [8].

The list of undertaken activities presented in the table is of documentary nature, ordering chronologically and spatially the works in particular sectors of Szczytnicki Park. The subject of works carried out, motives of decisions made, accepted design solutions, course of conservation works, functional significance of the object, exploitation and maintenance seem to be so varied and extensive that most of the tasks could become and often have become the subject of separate papers [2], [13], [14], [19], [20], [21]. For example, the works in wooden church of St. John of Nepomuk were carried out in stages at different times for almost 4 years (Fig. 4a, b). During that time, the

roof covering, church tower, walls, interior, and the immediate surroundings were repaired.

Over the years, the Management of the Municipal Greenspace Authority has focused much attention and financial resources on Szczytnicki Park and the surroundings of the Centennial Hall. In the years 2008–2018, approximately PLN 20 million was allocated for investment and renovation works. The most costly tasks include: renovation of Pergola at the Centennial Hall (PLN 7.1 million), restoration of part of the former exhibition grounds near Pergola (PLN 4 million), renovation of wooden church (PLN 2.3 million) or renovation of the historic toilets at Różycki Street (PLN 1 million). Due to the large size of the park and the saturation with garden art objects the actions require considerable financial outlays, hence the restoration works are carried out in stages in particular sectors over a longer time perspective. It is noteworthy that selected projects located in the area included in the UNESCO World Heritage List were carried out comprehensively. Subsequent investment and renovation initiatives are systematically submitted for implementation within the so-called *Investment Project Charters* and the demand for financial resources in the Wrocław City Hall [7], [8].

A cross-sectional analysis of works shows that over the years there has been no comprehensive undertaking of actions for entire sectors, no clear vision for the selection of priority areas (the order of proposed investments) and no procedure for the preparation of project concepts for fragments that have not yet been developed<sup>9</sup>. While observing these activities from a distance it can be argued that they were more interventionist than rationally planned. However, it should be noted that the area and saturation of the park with attractions required considerable financial

<sup>9</sup> Over the years many design concepts have been developed, such as the programmatic and spatial concept of the Chinese Garden, the concept of the World Gardens in Szczytnicki Park, the reconstruction of the School Botanical Garden, and others. Most of the above mentioned projects have not been implemented. The exception was the development of a part of the former exhibition grounds by the Pergola implemented in 2017–2018 [7].



Fig. 5. Szczytnicki Park in Wrocław:

- a) the area around the Pergola and the Four Domes Pavilion after restoration (2017–2018),  
 b) typhographic plaque in the form of a relief in metal alloy located by the Pergola (photo by S. Rozalski, 2019, 2020)

Il. 5. Park Szczytnicki we Wrocławiu:

- a) okolice Pergoli i Pawilonu Czterech Kopuł po rewaloryzacji (2017–2018),  
 b) tablica tyflograficzna w formie reliefu w stopie metalu zlokalizowana przy Pergoli (fot. S. Rozalski, 2019, 2020)

resources that were usually lacking in the city budget priorities [8]. In the period 2000–2010 it was a good practice to commission the Management of the Municipal Greenspace Authority to prepare the *Strategia rewaloryzacji Parku Szczytnickiego we Wrocławiu* [Strategy of restoration of Szczytnicki Park in Wrocław] [15]<sup>10</sup>. In 2008, the documentation concerning water management in the area of the whole Szczytnicki Park was elaborated [12]. On the basis of these studies in 2009 a tender for technical documentation of development of a part of the park in the area of former exhibition areas (sector II) was announced. The whole process of design work stopped then on the level of preliminary concepts. The breakthrough came only in 2017, when in relation to the possibility of obtaining EU funding for nature projects, the decision was made to develop this part of Szczytnicki Park<sup>11</sup> (Fig. 5a, b) [7].

At the stage of project documentation and conservation programs, all solutions in the park were introduced taking into account, among others, opinions, recommendations, and decisions of conservators, as well as decisions regarding archaeological research made by competent institutions [7]. In Wrocław, the highest level of restoration of historical green areas is due to many years of multilevel and meticulous work and the involvement of many specialists. The most important ones include: land managers, designers, historians, scientists, civil servants, industry inspectors and work contractors.

<sup>10</sup> *Strategy of restoration of Szczytnicki Park in Wrocław* was discussed in various groups, but the meetings did not lead to formal legal approval of the document [15].

<sup>11</sup> The project entitled *Development of a part of the Szczytnicki Park area in Wrocław, the area adjacent to the Four Domes Pavilion, bounded by A. Mickiewicza Street, the fence of the Japanese Garden and the Pergola*, implemented by the Management of the Municipal Greenspace Authority in 2017–2018, received funding from the European Regional Development Fund, under the RPO of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship 2014–2020 [7]. A detailed description of the investment activities was published in [2].

## Conclusions and challenges

The research resulted in collection and systematization of information on the protection of historic greenery on the example of the most important investment and renovation works implemented in Szczytnicki Park in Wrocław in 2000–2018. The data is presented in graphical form and catalogued in terms of the period of implementation, substantive scope and location. Conducted research has provided evidence to confirm the thesis that works in Szczytnicki Park in the analyzed period were mainly of conservation and intervention nature. This paper fills the gap of knowledge on the contemporary works in one of the most valuable parks in Wrocław. The study can be a reference material for future research studies. Literature studies, inventory of accomplished works and source materials collected in the Management of the Municipal Greenspace Authority allow to conclude that Szczytnicki Park is too big to be renovated within one investment. The needs in the scope of works are much higher than financing possibilities granted by Wrocław Municipality. That is why the tasks were and are implemented in stages in the following years divided into sectors and objects<sup>12</sup>.

The long duration of preparatory works and implementation of greenery assumptions carried many risks. The consequences could be the necessity of staging larger investments over many years, which significantly prolonged the whole process and threatened the increase of costs. Moreover, design documentation for uncompleted tasks, the permits of which had expired, required updating [8].

Challenges faced by managers of such unique objects as Szczytnicki Park are not limited only to financial or

<sup>12</sup> Each year, further investment and renovation initiatives are systematically reported within *the Investment Project Charters* planned for implementation and the need for funding [7]. An opportunity for financing works may be grants under the new perspective of European funds for 2021–2027.

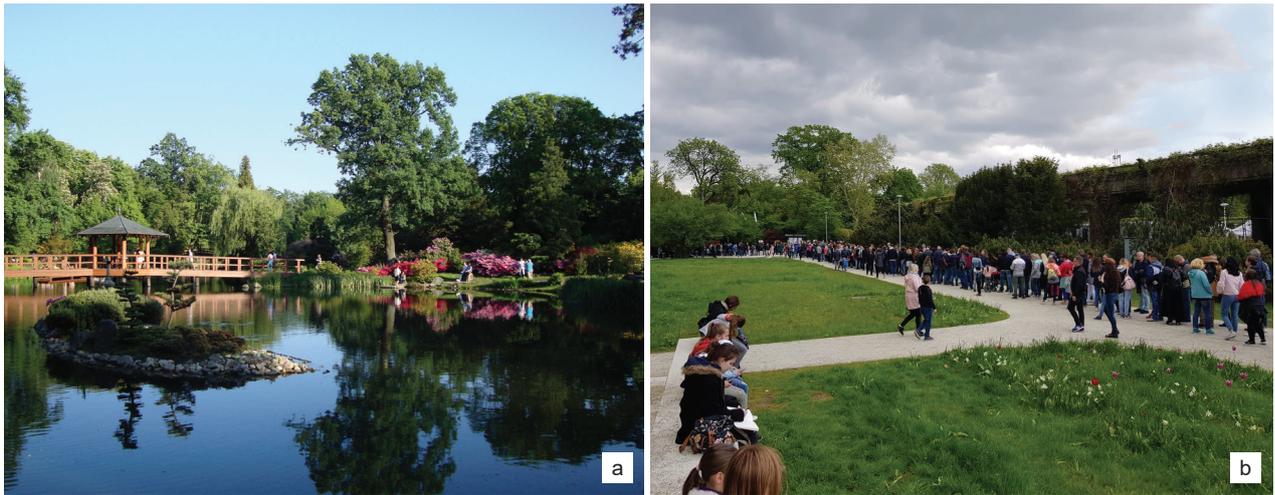


Fig. 6. The Japanese Garden in Szczytnicki Park in Wrocław:  
 a) view of the restored garden (photo by S. Rozalski, 2015),  
 b) queue to the ticket office in front of the entrance – an example of protecting green areas by limiting absorption photo by T. Broens, 2019)

Il. 6. Ogród Japoński w parku Szczytnickim we Wrocławiu:  
 a) widok na odrestaurowany ogród (fot. S. Rozalski, 2015),  
 b) kolejka do kasy biletowej przed wejściem – przykład ochrony założeń zieleni poprzez limitowanie chłonności (fot. T. Broens, 2019)

legal issues. One of many contemporary challenges of greenery protection is e.g. the issue of zoning and limiting recreational capacity of selected sites. It is increasingly common to limit the number of participants of events for reasons of safety and maintenance of vegetation. Such limitation was introduced in the Japanese Garden, which thanks to the use of fences and ticketed entrance has a chance to maintain the balance between cultural tourism and garden art. Such objects of high historical, natural and artistic value should have a barrier regulating the number of visitors (Fig. 6) [7].

In terms of Szczytnicki Park management by the Management of the Municipal Greenspace Authority is also

important to provide proper care after the works have been completed. The research on soil retention of green areas carried out at Wrocław University of Life Sciences show that urban areas are periodically seriously threatened by the occurrence of droughts of a scale and duration dangerous for plants [4, p. 108]. One of the solutions used in the context of problems of periodic drought, but also to reduce the cost of water for maintenance, can be extensive methods of greenery management. After 2018, solutions such as enclaves of unmowed lawns or floral meadows started to appear in greenery assumptions in different parts of Wrocław, e.g., in Szczytnicki Park (Fig. 7a, b) [7].



Fig. 7. Szczytnicki Park in Wrocław. Naturalistic, extensive direction of green areas maintenance after 2018 – unmowed lawns:  
 a) in the Pergola area, b) in sector IV of the park – description in the photo “We don’t mow the lawn. Here we feed insects”  
 (photo by S. Rozalski, 2019, 2020)

Il. 7. Park Szczytnicki we Wrocławiu. Naturalistyczny, ekstensywny kierunek utrzymania terenów zieleni po 2018 r. – niekoszone trawniki:  
 a) w rejonie Pergoli, b) w sektorze IV parku (fot. S. Rozalski, 2019, 2020)

Providing multifaceted protection to Szczytnicki Park and the objects included in its complex certainly had an impact on the perception of high rank of the object, not only by the Wrocław authorities, but also by the citizens. Numerous works carried out in 2000–2018 have been a proof of our care. From the point of view of further pro-

tection it will be important to maintain the durability and good condition of the completed works so that the park can fulfil its functions and delight future generations of users.

Translated by  
Wiktoria Mroczek

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### Abstract

#### *Protection of historical greenery in Wrocław. Investment and renovation works in Szczytnicki Park in the years 2000–2018*

Szczytnicki Park is the oldest and the largest public park in Wrocław. The assumption with an area of over 100 ha is characterized by a multi-part, diverse composition resulting from a multi-phase transformation process, which lasted over 200 years. The subject of this paper is protection of historical greenery on the example of investment and renovation works implemented in Szczytnicki Park in 2000–2018. The author assumed a hypothesis that the activities of this period were mainly of conservation and intervention nature. For its verification, the author made an inventory of 45 representative works based on field, bibliographical, and iconographic analyses, but primarily on source materials collected by the Management of the Municipal Greenspace Authority in Wrocław. These works are described from the perspective of a researcher-practitioner who has been a project manager at the Management of the Municipal Greenspace Authority for many years. On the one hand, the paper synthesizes data presented in studies regarding the park, on the other hand, it broadens the knowledge on the newest implementations that have not been presented in literature so far.

**Key words:** Wrocław, Szczytnicki Park, Centennial Hall, UNESCO, historic greenery

### Streszczenie

#### *Ochrona zabytkowych założeń zieleni we Wrocławiu. Prace inwestycyjno-remontowe w parku Szczytnickim w okresie 2000–2018*

Park Szczytnicki jest najstarszym i największym parkiem publicznym we Wrocławiu. Założenie o powierzchni ponad 100 ha charakteryzuje się wieloczęściową, zróżnicowaną kompozycją wynikającą z wielofazowego, trwającego ponad 200 lat procesu przemian. Tematem artykułu jest ochrona zabytkowych założeń zieleni na przykładzie prac inwestycyjno-remontowych zrealizowanych w parku Szczytnickim w latach 2000–2018. Autor przyjął hipotezę, że działania z tego okresu miały charakter głównie konserwatorsko-interwencyjny. W celu jej weryfikacji przeprowadził inwentaryzację 45 reprezentatywnych prac, bazując w swoich studiach na analizach terenowych, bibliograficznych, ikonograficznych, przede wszystkim jednak sięgając do materiałów źródłowych zgromadzonych w Zarządzie Zieleni Miejskiej we Wrocławiu. Prace te zostały opisane z perspektywy badacza-praktyka, który od wielu lat jest kierownikiem projektu w Zarządzie Zieleni Miejskiej. Artykuł z jednej strony syntezuje dane przedstawione w opracowaniach na temat parku, z drugiej poszerza wiedzę na temat najnowszych realizacji dotychczas nieprzedstawianych w literaturze przedmiotu.

**Słowa kluczowe:** Wrocław, park Szczytnicki, Hala Stulecia, UNESCO, zabytkowe założenia zieleni

