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## *Public greenery in Głogówek from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day: An analysis of historical and compositional changes*

### *Abstract*

Public greenery is an essential part of a city's or town's urban layout. When it is designed in an informed manner during its various stages of development, it becomes an artistically and functionally mature organism. In Głogówek, the first systems of landscaped public greenery were observed to be built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. With the development of industry and the expansion of the town, new urban public gardens were created – they formed a distinct system in the spatial layout. At present, the number of public greenery complexes has increased, but they no longer form an ordered and interconnected system.

This paper discusses the public greenery system in Głogówek in different historical periods. This paper analyses the changes that took place between the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the present. This made it possible to formulate guidelines for revalorisation and define directions for further development. They aim to develop a system of urban gardens based on historical patterns and place-based identity.

Available archival material, including cartographic and iconographic material in particular, was used to characterise the public greenery system in the city, as well as the transformations it underwent. The research also drew on literature on design guidelines, analogies or the wider context. The contemporary state was determined by in-situ surveys.

After analysing the findings, it can be assumed that public greenery designed in an informed manner is of great significance – as it is one of the expressions of a place's identity that enables not only a link between historical and contemporary buildings, but also a better identification of the city in the region.

**Key words:** public city gardens, city landscape, place-based identity, greenery systems, Silesia

### *Introduction*

Głogówek is a small town<sup>1</sup> located on the Polish-Czech border, in the southern part of the Opole Voivodeship. In the past, it was dubbed “little Berlin”, and now, because of its architecture, as a “pearl of Opolszczyzna” (Derkacz, Szała and Szała 2009, 6, 7). The history of this town dates back to the Middle Ages, where the first mention of a village under the name Glogov comes from documents of Bishop Wawrzyniec from 1213–1217. The exact date of when the town received its charter is unknown. Tadeusz Chrzanowski (1977, 9, 10) states that this could proba-

bly have happened around 1264. In the Middle Ages, the town's centre was marked by a quadrilateral square with a town hall in the middle. Streets with a grid-like layout emerged from corners and intersected frontages. On the north-west corner of the town was a Gothic fortress that was later transformed into a Renaissance and Baroque castle. The parish church of St Bartholomew was in turn sited in the south-western part. A Franciscan monastery was situated next to the castle to the south. A defensive wall was erected around the entire complex, with three entrance gates and at least four towers. In addition, a moat was dug on the outer side (Przybyłok 2014, 30–52). Suburbs developed around the city – Winiary, Kozielskie, Wodne and Oracze (Hauptstock 2016, 39–46). In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Count George III Oppersdorff turned the town into a majorate. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the market buildings, originally wooden, were replaced with masonry development that consisted of row tenements in the Baroque style

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<sup>1</sup> The area of the town is 22.05 km<sup>2</sup> (Główny Urząd Statystyczny 2024).

(Kłuskiewicz, Grzegorzczak 2008, 20–22). The final spatial layout of the locality was formed at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the city walls were demolished, the moat was filled in and the former suburbs were incorporated into the city. Modern infrastructure was developed to a considerable extent: in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, waterworks and a municipal sewerage system and a new water tower were built, industry developed, and a railway connection was established (Hauptstock 2016, 15–25; Chrzanowski 1977, 27–39).

Today, the historic town centre is protected by being listed in the Opole Voivodeship register of monuments (Reg. no.: R.184 of 10.06.1949). In addition, a number of singular buildings and green spaces are also listed in the register of monuments and included in the municipal monument records.

Stanisław Nicieja (Kłuskiewicz, Grzegorzczak 2008, 56) described Głogówek as a town of towers and gardens. The town owes this description to a picturesque view of its panorama, with numerous towers steeped in greenery. This was also influenced by the nature of the former urban suburbs, mainly engaged in horticulture (Wrobel 1993, 67–81; Hauptstock 2016, 39–46).

With the development of the city, urban greenery also played an important role in improving aesthetics, health, and environmental and social conditions. According to Marek Siewniak and Anna Mitkowska (1998, 295), urban greenery essentially forms a certain system of composed and interconnected spaces. The function and form of the vegetation has varied at different times. Public greenery has special significance in this regard, and can be defined as spaces that are accessible to the public without the necessity to meet additional, externally imposed conditions. Such areas mainly include town and garden squares, parks, urban gardens and ancillary green spaces along circulation paths and roads. They are generally owned by the state or local government (Mierzejewska 2011, 16, 17; Sutkowska 2006, 186). The development and establishment of public greenery in Głogówek was evident from the 19<sup>th</sup> century

onwards, when the town significantly expanded its territory (Fig. 1). The course of successive wars at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century brought a lot of damage, and gardens were not exempt from this. Contemporary layouts of landscaped greenery partially reference historic patterns, but new areas for recreation are also created.

This paper discusses the public greenery system in Głogówek in different historical periods. It characterises garden complexes, their development and transformation in the period between the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the present. Insight into changes in garden layouts has allowed for a better understanding of the town's spatial characteristics. As a result, guidelines for revaluation and directions for further development were formulated, taking into account not only the identity of the site but also its historic urban fabric.

### *State of research, materials and methods*

The research into the design of public greenery layouts in Głogówek was divided into two main stages. During the first stage, the state of the art was determined and an archival query was performed. Based on the literature, it was found that public greenery in the area under study had not been fully explored thus far. Hauptstock (2009, 63) makes only cursory mention of urban gardens in his publication on the town. However, there are many studies on the history and urban development of Głogówek (Chrzanowski 1977; Wrobel 2004; Hauptstock 2009). There are also items devoted to individual buildings, such as the parish church (Legendziewicz 2021, 47–64). Nevertheless, public greenery, both as an element of the urban layout and its individual components, has not yet been the subject of detailed analysis. The researchers focused only on the city park – they described its history, touched on contemporary wildlife and ecological issues (Romanowska 2009, 46–57). Attention has also been paid to denominational cemeteries, i.e., characteristic green areas that are memorials (Steuer-Jurek 2019, 133–144).

The archive queries yielded publications and sources on the history and urban transformation of the town (Schnurpfeil 1860; Kosian 1931). In addition, articles from local periodicals (Oberglögauer Stadtblatt 1905, 1906, 1929) which reported, among other things, on the changes that had taken place in landscaped greenery. In addition, records commissioned by heritage conservation services were used (Próchnicka, Czyżowski 1987). The research also drew on literature on design guidelines, analogies or the wider context (Majdecki 2008; Jäger 1877; Koch 1914; Rozmarynowska 2017).

Cartographic and iconographic material was also acquired. The main focus was on maps from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (Plan Głogówka z 1811 r., sygn. RO IX/19; Urnesstischblatt 1825, sygn. Kart. N 729; Messtischblatt 1883; 1913; 1940). This made it possible to identify the changes in the layout of the entire town. Archival postcards (a set collected in the study by Kłuskiewicz, Grzegorzczak 2008) and numerous period photographs (Kłuskiewicz 2018) were also extremely helpful. On the basis of these, compositions and garden interiors were identified, as were plant species and garden features.



Fig. 1. Głogówek – postcard from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century showing the market square, the square in front of the post office, the castle park, and the square in front of teachers' seminar (source: Wojewódzka Biblioteka Publiczna im. E. Smółki w Opolu)

Il. 1. Głogówek – pocztówka z końca XIX w. przedstawiająca rynek, plac przed pocztą, park zamkowy, plac przed seminarium nauczycielskim (źródło: Wojewódzka Biblioteka Publiczna im. E. Smółki w Opolu)



Unfortunately there is a lack of publications on the contemporary state and layout of public greenery in Głogówek. Although there are documents dedicated to the nature of the city (Program Ochrony Środowiska... 2021) the system of urban gardens is not described in them in any way. There are also no conservation guidelines for the revalorisation of greenery and no directions for its development as an element of the town's historic layout have been outlined.

The second stage of the research consisted of numerous research trips to the area. They identified the current urban conditions and assessed the state of preservation of the previous greenery systems. Contemporary public gardens were also surveyed. The observations also made it possible to identify development trends in both old and new areas of landscaped greenery. This formed the basis for the formulation of general guidelines for the revalorisation of greenery and outlining directions for the development of landscaped greenery systems.

### Public greenery in Głogówek in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

The 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the large-scale development of urban garden complexes. Increasing attention was paid to beautifying cities by creating green spaces, garden squares, city parks and plantings along roads (Jäger 1877, 616). The garden section exerted a strong influence on the shape and development of cities – it created a consciously shaped system of green areas, often linked by sequences of avenues (Majdecki 2008, 312). Evidence of similar trends can also be observed in Głogówek, where public greenery began to develop significantly from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

The first account from which the system of urban gardens in the area in question can be read is from a plan of 1811 (Plan Głogówka z 1811 r., sygn. RO IX/19). In it, one can see the green belt that was created on the eastern side of the town, where the defensive walls had previously been located (Fig. 2). This is similarly depicted on the *Urmess-tischblatt* 1825 (sygn. Kart. N 729). Although this layout is

clearly marked on the map, no source provides detailed information on it. Schnurpfeil (1860, 4) only wrote that there had been orchards on the site of the former moat and city walls. *Festschrift zur 700-Jahrfeier der Stadt Ober-glogau* (Strecke 1925, 21) indicated instead the existence of gardens between the city walls, which was mainly related to defensive aspects. Numerous panoramas from the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries show the town surrounded by tall trees, which may confirm the existence of a greenery system in the area. It is worth noting, however, that the establishment of urban parks on the sites of former defensive walls was common in Europe (e.g., Krakow, Vienna, Brzeg). As cities grew and became larger, fortifications lost their significance and were replaced by public parks. It is therefore possible that there were ornamental or fruit tree plantings in this area as well. Jäger (1877, 620–622) emphasised the importance of preserving undeveloped land to create urban gardens. He pointed out that this was important for both the urban structure and the community. Often – unfortunately – such spaces were used for further development instead of for the expansion of public parks.

A greenery complex of this type also disappeared in Głogówek in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and was replaced by development. The urban layout, however, began to expand towards the suburbs. New areas of public greenery were created – they formed a distinct system, whose elements can be divided into four categories: parks, squares and garden squares, cemetery greenery, avenues and promenades (Fig. 3). During this period, landscape architect (German: *Landschaftsgärtner*) Oskar Janoroschke, owner of a plant nursery, was active in the town. He was involved in both conservation work and green space design<sup>2</sup>.

The castle park was one of the most striking features of the layout. Like many other royal or court parks in Europe

<sup>2</sup> Janoroschke published his theoretical work on Silesian parks and contributed to journals on garden-related topics, including *die Gartenkunst* and *Möllers Deutsche Gärtner-Zeitung*.

Fig. 2. Plan of Głogówek from 1811 with gardens created on the site of the former town walls (source: Archiwum Państwowe w Opolu, sygn. RO IX/19)

Il. 2. Plan Głogówka z 1811 r. z ogrodami powstałymi w miejscu dawnych murów miejskich (źródło: Archiwum Państwowe w Opolu, sygn. RO IX/19)



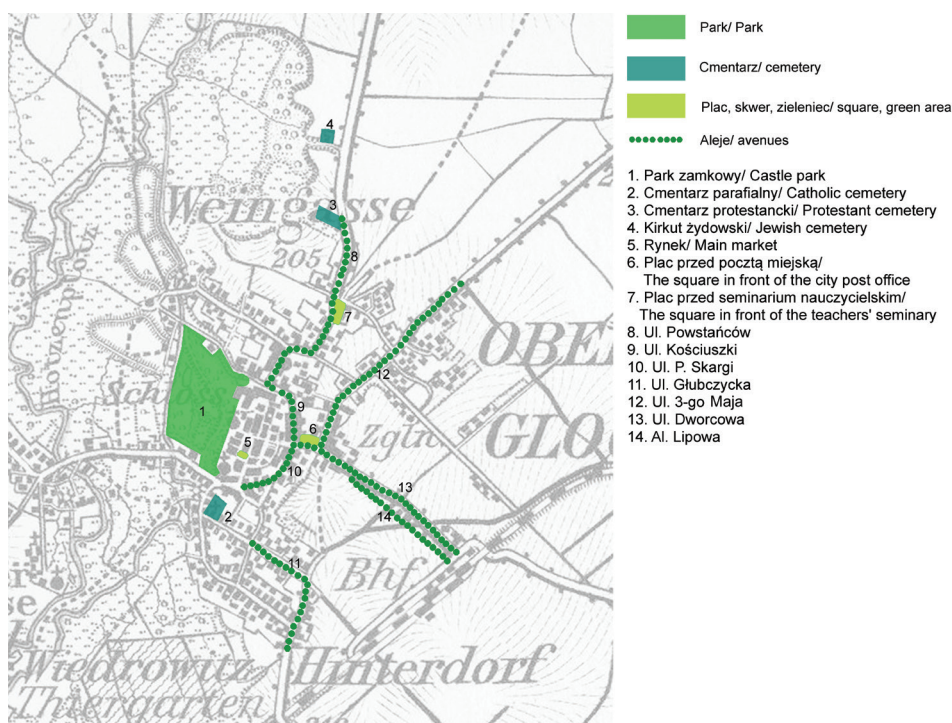


Fig. 3. Plan of Głogówek in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with public green areas marked (elaborated by A. Steuer-Jurek based on "Karte des Deutschen Reiches" 1886)

Il. 3. Plan Głogówka w XIX w. z zaznaczeniem terenów zieleni publicznej (oprac. A. Steuer-Jurek na podstawie "Karte des Deutschen Reiches" 1886)

(Majdecki 2008, 312–396), it was opened to the public. It was famous throughout Silesia for its highly sophisticated composition, topography and rare plant species. Although the first complex was built on the site in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the peak period of development dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Próchnicka, Czyżowski 1987). According to Kosian (1931, 149, 150), Duke von Pückler-Muskau gave advice on its composition, structure and was responsible for the selection of plants. The park was open to the public until 8 pm except on selected days of the year, and the entrance was under guard (Schnurpfeil 1860, 161).

The other type of green spaces were town and garden squares. The market square, which is the town's most important square, was essentially all paved. Only on the south side of the town hall has a row of trees with a circular outline been planted. Postcards from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Kłuskiewicz, Grzegorzczak 2008) show two more composed squares in the town. The first was located near the town post office. It had a free-form layout, with tall trees, as well as ornamental flowerbeds. Benches were placed along the garden square's paths. The whole was maintained in accordance with the trends of the time, in a park-like fashion. A postcard from 1899 shows that the area was enclosed by a fence (Kłuskiewicz, Grzegorzczak 2008, 18). Equally important for the residents was the square in front of the teachers' seminary in the former suburb of Winiary. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the area merged with the teaching garden. The front garden of the school was formal and surrounded entirely by a hedge. The part that formed a garden square, on the other hand, was most likely planted with fruit trees<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> It is likely that initially this part had been an orchard and an experimental garden where horticulture classes were held. Josef Schermuly (1902, 142–145) wrote that the northern part of the complex belonging to the seminary was maintained in a park-like style.

A mesh fence was erected around it. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the fence was removed and the fruit trees were replaced by common chestnut trees and flowerbeds were created. The compositional layout was marked by a wide, straight avenue branching off in the southern section. Benches were placed along the path.

The third type of green space is denominational cemeteries – Catholic, Jewish and Protestant<sup>4</sup>. According to Jäger (1877, 628–632), this type of area, due to its garden-like character, was a frequent place where the town's residents took strolls. It was therefore necessary to introduce a planned and well-thought-out layout on their site. The parish cemetery, probably dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Parafia pw. św. Bartłomieja... 2024), as it covered a considerable area and was located on a hill, stood out in the urban layout. At the same time, due to its topography, it was an attractive walking spot from which to observe distant views, including the town's skyline. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, its area was significantly increased<sup>5</sup>. The compositional layout was based on avenues that intersected at right angles. The main paths leading out of the entrance gates were framed by lime trees. The remaining denominational cemeteries were small in size and therefore did not have a clear layout of landscaped greenery (Steuer-Jurek 2019, 133–144).

Along the town's main streets, avenue plantings were created connecting the individual gardens to each other. Archival photographs (Kłuskiewicz 2018) and postcards from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Kłuskiewicz, Grzegorzczak 2008) show trees in their maturing stage. This indicates that these

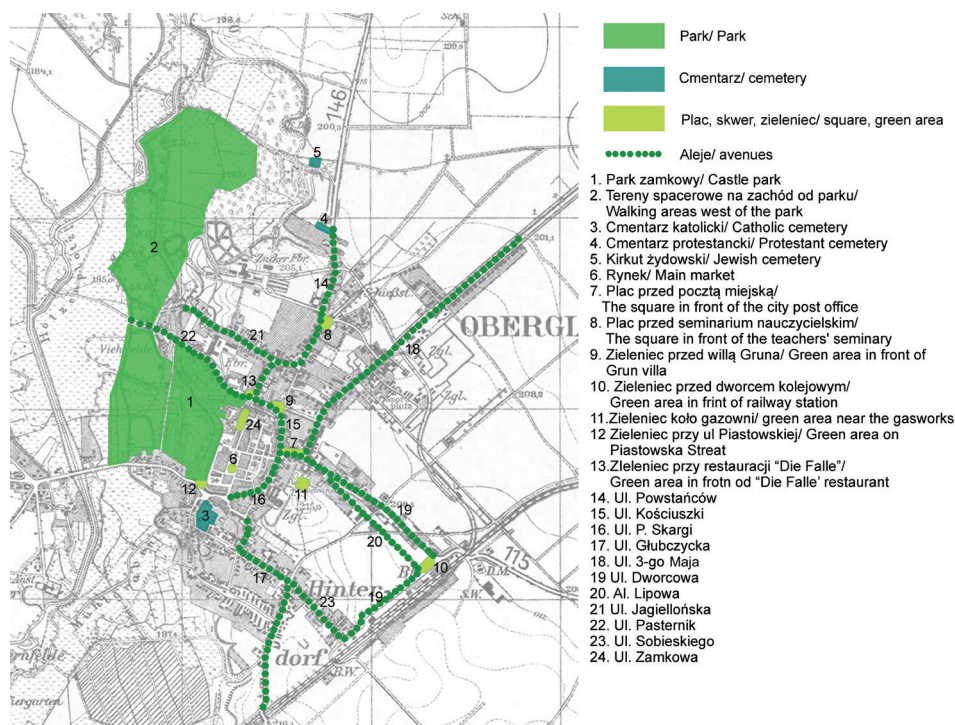
<sup>4</sup> Before the demolition of the city walls, all cemeteries were located in the suburbs.

<sup>5</sup> The assessment was made based on analysing the map in (Urmess-tischblatt 1825, sygn. Kart. N 729; Karte... 1886; Messtischblatt 1913).



Fig. 4. Plan of Głogówek in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with public green areas marked (elaborated by A. Steuer-Jurek on the basis of Messtischblatt 1940)

Il. 4. Plan Głogówka w 1. poł. XX w. z oznaczeniem terenów zieleni publicznej (oprac. A. Steuer-Jurek na podstawie Messtischblatt 1940)



plantings were probably made at least in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, however, a new pedestrian promenade was created leading from Przedmieście Kozielskie to the railway station, which was then located on the outskirts of the town. It was planted with small-leaved lime trees. It was the site of frequent walks by the town's residents.

### 20<sup>th</sup>-century changes

The introduction of landscaped greenery in the urban layout continued in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1905, the Garden Building Society (German: *Gartenbauverein*) was established (Oberlogauer Stadtblatt 1905, no. 55). In 1906,

in turn, the mayor of Freyhube founded the City Beautification Society<sup>6</sup> (German: *Verschönerungsverein*) (Oberlogauer Stadtblatt 1906, no. 49). These associations were active until the 1930s. Their aim was to improve the visual amenity of the city by supplementing and restructuring existing urban gardens and creating new public green spaces (Fig. 4). Among others, harmonised and coherent features were introduced (on photographs we can see identical wooden benches painted white). The square in front of the post office was remodelled (Fig. 5). Reviewing archival

<sup>6</sup> Similar Societies also existed in many other towns in Silesia, including Wrocław, Brzeg, Głogów, Oleśnica and Jawor (Rozmarynowska 2017, 137–141).



Fig. 5. Square in front of the town post office in Głogówek:

- a) at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (source Wojewódzka Biblioteka Publiczna im. E. Smółki w Opolu),  
 b) contemporary state (photo by A. Steuer-Jurek, 2024)

Il. 5. Plac przed pocztą miejską w Głogówku:

- a) na początku XX w. (źródło: Wojewódzka Biblioteka Publiczna im. E. Smółki w Opolu), b) współcześnie (fot. A. Steuer-Jurek, 2024)

photographs, Kłuskiewicz (2018) notes that a circular square was created in front of the building's façade. The sophisticatedly planned paths were replaced by straight, wide avenues. Most of the trees have been removed and new, smaller trees were planted, that did not obstruct the building<sup>7</sup>. A fountain was built in the western part. Such solutions were in line with the trends and guidelines of the period (Jäger 1877, 625, 626). The market square was also changed. Instead of trees, a green area with four quarters was created. A memorial to the fallen of the World War I was placed in the centre. At the beginning, the plots were planted with grass and trees with a columnar outline (hornbeam or beech), and pots with annual plants were placed. It is reasonable to assume that this arrangement may have obscured the Renaissance Town Hall<sup>8</sup>. It was later decided to change plant composition to include globular maples and ornamental perennials.

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, during the construction of the municipal sewer system, most of the street trees were cut down. The actions of the Societies led to their restoration along major urban arterials. A wide pedestrian promenade was also built leading from the railway station to the former suburb of Oracze (now Dworcowa Street). The entire area was flanked by strips of lawn, planted with lime trees and enhanced with park features<sup>9</sup>. There were also plans to beautify the square between the water tower and the gasworks (Oberglogauer Stadtblatt 1906, no. 136).

During the inter-war period, the City Beautification Society continued to develop public green spaces, pave streets and maintain order. The focus was mainly on the outskirts of the town<sup>10</sup>. During the period of urban densification and industrial development, areas outside the urban boundaries became particularly attractive to residents as they offered distant views and contact with nature (Rozmarynowska 2017, 130). To the west of Głogówek, behind the castle park, new strolling areas were also established. Existing field paths were decluttered and extended with a new circulation system, and footbridges were built. The area was equipped with benches and litter bins, and road signs were installed to signal the hierarchy of the roads. Pasternik

Street underwent modernisation and the park slopes were planted with vegetation (Oberglogauer Stadtblatt 1929, no. 86).

During this period, many new green spaces appeared in the town. For example, a circular square was built in front of the "Die Falle" restaurant with a solitary tree planted in the centre. Other photographs from the years 1930–1940 show a green area in front of Grün's Villa (now the administrative headquarters of ZPC Piast), in the middle of which a square with a fountain was built. The whole was framed by perimeter plantings of perennials and annuals. There were also benches in the area.

After the World War II, some areas were destroyed and many public green spaces deteriorated due to lack of care. By resolution of the city council, the castle park was transformed into a town park (Hauptstock 2009, 172). In 1945, a cemetery for German soldiers killed in the World War II was located in the northern part of the town, in the immediate vicinity of the Evangelical cemetery. Its compositional layout was very simple. The main axis was marked by a rectilinear avenue of granite blocks. A lawn was created to the north with individual trees and a field altar. In the southern section, an arrangement of simple, geometric plots in a linear arrangement was created. A concrete cross has been placed at the end of the main path.

### *Current state*

At present, numerous public green areas can be found in Głogówek (Figs. 6–8). These include gardens and greens with historic character, as well as newly created sites. Street greenery, parks, garden and town squares can still be found in the city, as well as green areas in cemeteries. It is also possible to distinguish publicly accessible sports complexes that had not been there previously. In the spatial analysis of green spaces, the scattered distribution pattern of the sites is notable. It is not possible to read a clear system of gardens that would be interconnected in the urban layout. They also do not form a coherent whole in compositional terms.

Of the historic areas in the town plan, the town park still distinguishes itself the most. It is fully accessible to residents. In the last twenty years it has undergone partial revalorisation consisting mainly of improvements to the traffic and circulation infrastructure. New structures and zones have also been created in its area, such as squares, playgrounds, Jordan gardens and nature trails.

The urban forest dubbed "Olszynka" became a second major element in the layout. Once located outside the compact development structure, it is now a popular place for residents to walk. Essentially, there is no clear compositional layout here and the whole is centred on naturally formed scrub woodland. Vehicular traffic is handled by an asphalt road that leads to the community development, and pedestrian paths do not have a clear compositional layout. There is also a lack of garden features.

In terms of street greenery, only a few of the historic avenues have survived in the town's urban interiors. Essentially, relics of former plantings formed by old-growth, small-leaved lime trees can be found along several roads,

<sup>7</sup> Several postcards from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century show four palm-like trees along the façade of the post office building. It is possible that these were container plants displayed in front of the building from spring to autumn, or that exotic plants were originally planned to be introduced there. In the end, however, it was decided to plant native species.

<sup>8</sup> Hugo Koch (1914, 569) wrote about the need to select suitable tree species adapted to the surroundings.

<sup>9</sup> From as early as the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many theorists and designers have emphasised the important role of promenades and strolling paths in the urban greenery system. In addition to the visual aspect of the city, the creation and maintenance of such spaces built confidence in public authorities among society. On footpaths, it was recommended that providing shade was to be a priority and that resting places (benches, seats) be organised. This meant that promenades were both functional and attractive (Schmidlin 1863, 467–469).

<sup>10</sup> The creation of new urban gardens and walking promenades in the former suburbs and on the outskirts of the city was in line with Koch's indications (1914, 43). This architect recommended directing pedestrian traffic away from the city because of the promenades' high natural and recreational potential.



but their original compositional arrangement can no longer be read. Only the two pedestrian promenades leading to the railway station (now Lipowa Avenue and Dworcowa Street) have survived in their entirety. The first of these was protected as a monument to nature in 2022 (Uchwała Rady Miejskiej... nr LII/450/2022). Initial stages of work on recreating old avenue plantings can be observed in the town. Several streets have new trees (dominated by small-leaved lime trees).

The cemetery greenery is maintained in good condition. At the municipal (formerly parish) cemetery in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, extensive restoration and decluttering work was carried out. The paths have been repaired, a lapidarium has been created and part of the former lime avenues have been preserved. The cemetery of those who died during the World War II is in a good state of repair and the whole is tidy and well-maintained. The Jewish cemetery has undergone cleaning over the past ten years thanks to the efforts of local residents, although the tombstones and fence are not in good technical condition. However, the entrance to the Protestant cemetery has been closed and it is no longer part of the public green space. The site is currently untidy with numerous self-sown trees. The tombstones there have been largely damaged.

The term “sports greenery” is used to describe newly developed facilities within the city, such as “Orlik” football pitches or skate parks. They are located close to primary schools, but can also be accessed outside of school hours. In the context of green space planning, elements of a planned compositional layout are missing here. Mostly there are self-sown or accidental plantings from earlier years. There are also other sports facilities in the town, but they are not open to the public and therefore do not function as public spaces.

The last type of greenery found in Głogówek are town and garden squares (Fig. 8). Their number has noticeably

increased, although this does not translate into quality of composition and architectural solutions. The square in front of the post office has retained its original form. The basic circulation layout partly refers to previous solutions. Study visits found that the paved area in the square in front of the post office façade had been enlarged. New planting compositions have been introduced that do not form a coherent, well-planned whole. Individual plants from the historic layout (mainly common ash trees) can be seen in the area. The garden square next to the former teachers' seminar (now the Głogówek School Complex) has remained within its original boundaries and has kept its composition unchanged. Along the main path are mainly horse chestnut trees. In terms of landscaping, only three benches, litter bins and a notice board can be mentioned. The lack of this space's comprehensive design, including an absence of plant compositions or garden features means that it is not attractive to residents.

In terms of urban greenery, attention we should note the composition of the planting in the market square, which references the layout from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (Fig. 7). Although it is not a faithful reproduction, the way the plots are shaped and the choice of plant species (common maples in the globular variety) harmonises with the surrounding architecture and emphasises its features and corresponds to urban conditions. The situation is less favourable in other parts of the market, where concrete and wooden pots with coniferous plants, as well as annuals, have been placed. Such furnishings blend badly with the Baroque architecture of the surroundings and the formal character of the place.

There are also a number of other squares in the town that are essentially urban gardens built in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. They essentially do not display high aesthetic value, do not feature a dominant compositional style, modern solutions or layouts that would reference place-based history or tradition.

Fig. 6. Public greenery in Głogówek – today (elaborated by A. Steuer-Jurek based on topographic map obtained from: Główny Urząd Geodezji... 2024)

Il. 6. Zielen publiczna w Głogówku – współcześnie (oprac. A. Steuer-Jurek na podstawie mapy topograficznej z: Główny Urząd Geodezji... 2024)

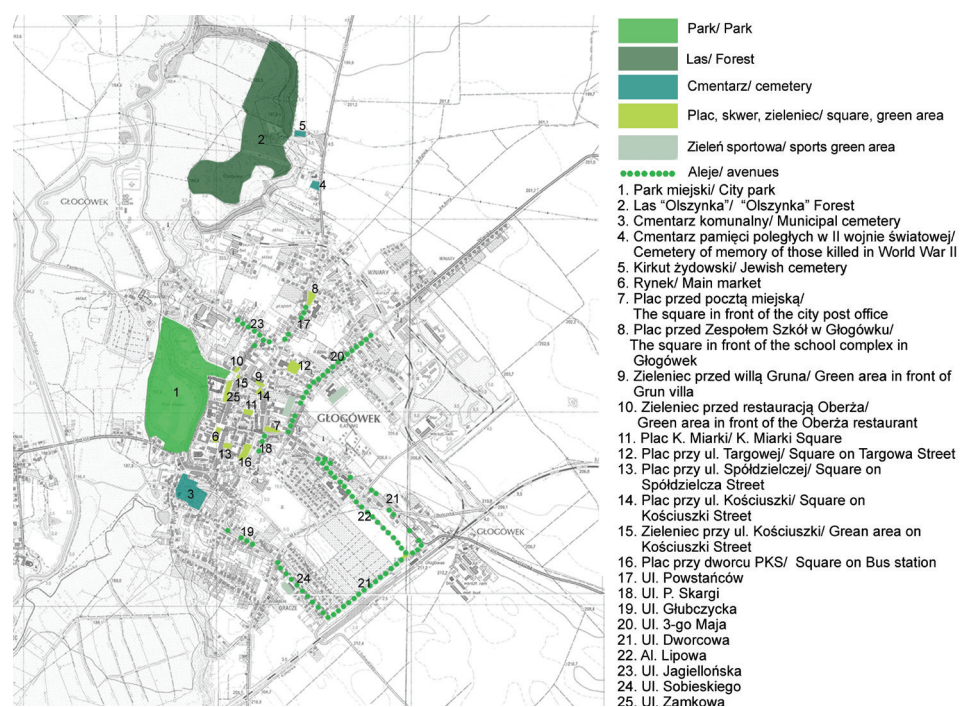






Fig. 7. Głogówek market square: a) north side, b) south side (photo by A. Steuer-Jurek, 2024)

Il. 7. Rynek w Głogówku: a) strona północna, b) strona południowa (fot. A. Steuer-Jurek, 2024)



Fig. 8. Examples of public greenery in Głogówek: a) Lipowa Avenue, b) tree planting along 3 Maja Street, c) square in Kościuszki Street, d) square in Targowa Street, e) square at the bus station, f) square at the School Complex in Głogówek (photo by A. Steuer-Jurek, 2024)

Il. 8. Przykłady zieleni publicznej na terenie Głogówka: a) al. Lipowa, b) nasadzenia drzew wzdłuż ul. 3 Maja, c) plac przy ul. Kościuszki, d) plac przy ul. Targowej, e) plac przy dworcu PKS, f) plac przy Zespole Szkół w Głogówku (fot. A. Steuer-Jurek, 2024)

Most of these sites are based on the existing layout of tall vegetation, with a small proportion of other types of greenery such as ornamental shrubs, perennials and climbers. The garden squares, especially in formal areas, are dominated by coniferous species and plants with contrasting leaf colour. Nonetheless, because of their garden character, they provide a place for residents to walk and relax<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> This confirms the view that attempts to adapt spaces to the needs of modern users can be seen in cities. The cultural value and social perception of these places do not depend on the size of the area or the quality of the vegetation – artistic and social phenomena play a major role (Waryś 2016, 236, 237).

There are also open spaces of estate greenery in the urban landscape. Complex vegetation planting systems were not found to be present during the survey. Biologically vital areas were limited to lawns, individual flowerbeds and a few mature trees or shrubs. Although these areas are open to the public, due to belonging to estate homeowners' associations they are not considered part of the public green space.

## Conclusions

At present, as in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, green areas are starting to play an increasingly major role in the cityscape. They are important for both psychosocial, environmental and



visual reasons. Based on the presented changes that occurred over successive periods, we can assume that public greenery that is designed in an informed manner contributed to the town becoming an artistically and functionally mature organism over its periods of development. In Głogówek, the greatest growth in the number of complexes and the development of garden forms took place when specialist bodies were created. They significantly contributed to producing an aesthetically pleasing and cohesive image of the urban layout. Currently, despite increasing the number of generally accessible green areas, it is difficult to rate them as harmonious due to their artistic and ecological quality.

In a town with a historic structure and distinctive Baroque development dominating its centre, it is essential for contemporary greenery to be an integral part of this place's identity. It is therefore considered crucial to take deliberate measures to connect greenery to the surrounding architecture. At present, unfortunately, two extremes can be observed here. Koch (1914, 1, 2) wrote about the first – he pointed out that one of the biggest problems in urban planning is the failure to entrust a specialist (landscape architect) with the planning of the overall greenery system.

The second issue, already noted in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is the tendency of designers to manifest their individuality, leading to a public green spaces losing cohesion (Jäger 1877, 624).

In Głogówek, due to the spatial scale, attention should be paid to designing greenery complexes as a unified system that consists of interconnected areas. In today's town and garden squares, one can observe the creation of separate miniature landscapes that are not adapted to their surroundings. It is therefore advisable to treat green complexes as a whole by creating sequences of architectural interiors. It is necessary to adapt the layout and species selection to the scale of a given urban garden and its surrounding architecture. In both the revalorisation of historical compositions and contemporary developments, a certain order should be sought and coherent elements should

be introduced. Such solutions were already used in the town in the past (e.g., the unification of interior features). The greenery should also highlight points of formal importance in a city's urban plan, which will allow for better identification and the construction of a place's identity. It is also worth considering the restoration of former avenue layouts along the main urban arterials, which is consistent with the historic image of the town. This procedure does not infringe on current legislation, including § 72 (Rozporządzenie Ministra Infrastruktury... 2022) on technical regulations concerning roads.

When talking about urban greenery, it is also important to pay attention to the natural and ecological potential of these places. It was noted that currently in Głogówek the selection of plant species is significantly limited, which poses a significant challenge. For environmental and safety reasons, the plant species used should be adapted to urban conditions, while at the same time not impeding traffic or obscuring the architecture. Therefore, the small-leaved lime trees or the common maples in the globular variety, which grew in the area in the past, seem to be the right choice. At the same time, we should aim to enhance biodiversity in urban spaces by introducing varied plant types. This is crucial not only for environmental conservation reasons or aesthetic pleasantness, but also creating ecological enclaves.

By learning about how public greenery in Głogówek transformed, a more accurate characterisation of the town can be made. At the same time, the study presented can help to develop strategies and directions for the development of the greenery system based on historical patterns. It can also raise awareness that public gardens aid in developing cities, both spatially and socially. They are an expression of place-based identity and allow connecting historical and contemporary buildings, contributing to a better identification of the city in its region.

Translated by  
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## Streszczenie

### *Zieleń publiczna w Głogówku od XIX w. do czasów współczesnych. Analiza przemian historyczno-kompozycyjnych*

Zieleń publiczna stanowi istotny element układu urbanistycznego miasta. Świadomie kształtowana na różnych etapach rozwoju sprawia, że staje się ono dojrzałym artystycznie i funkcjonalnie organizmem. W Głogówku pierwsze układy komponowanej zieleni publicznej zostały zauważone w XIX w. Wraz z rozwojem przemysłu i powiększeniem się miasta powstawały nowe miejskie ogrody publiczne – tworzyły wyraźny system w układzie przestrzennym. Obecnie liczba zespołów zieleni publicznej zwiększyła się, nie tworzą już one jednak uporządkowanego i połączonego systemu.

W artykule nakreślono charakterystykę zieleni publicznej w Głogówku. Przeanalizowano przemiany, jakie zachodziły od XIX w. do czasów współczesnych. Dzięki temu można było precyzować wytyczne zarówno dotyczące rewaloryzacji, jak i kierunków dalszego rozwoju. Mają one na celu wypracowanie systemu ogrodów miejskich opartego na historycznych wzorcach i tożsamości miejsca.

Dostępne materiały archiwalne, w tym w szczególności kartograficzne oraz ikonograficzne, posłużyły do scharakteryzowania systemu zieleni publicznej w mieście, a także przemian, jakie w nim zachodziły. W badaniach sięgnięto również po literaturę przedmiotu i odniesiono się do wytycznych projektowych, analogii i szerszego kontekstu. Stan współczesny został określony na podstawie badań in situ.

Po analizie wyników badań można przyjąć, że świadomie kształtowana zieleń publiczna ma duże znaczenie – jest bowiem jednym z wyrazów tożsamości miejsca pozwalających nie tylko na połączenie historycznej i współczesnej zabudowy, lecz także na lepszą identyfikację miasta w regionie.

**Słowa kluczowe:** miejskie ogrody publiczne, krajobraz miasta, tożsamość miejsca, systemy zieleni, Śląsk