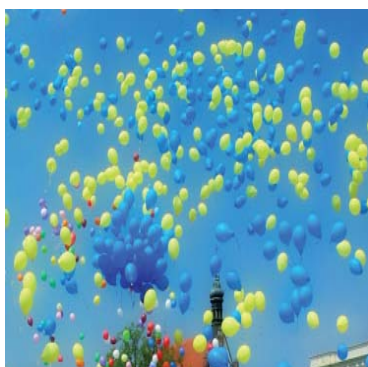




Municipality area	174,57 km ² (data for 02/2008)	Population	352 000 (2008)
GDP per inhabitant	ca. 6 074 Euro (22 474,00 PLN (2005). GDP per inhabitant in the region there is not separated data for city.	Trend	decreasing
Area of green spaces	all open spaces: 98,111 km ² urban green spaces 17,066 km ² (11,216 public + 5,85 private), agricultural land 16,473, forest & woodlands 47,431, derelict land and quarry 10,700 total urban area covered by vegetation 91,67km²		
Area of green spaces per inhabitant	264,3 m ² (all open spaces) 46,0 m ² (public and private green spaces) 34,0 m ² (public urban green spaces)		



Bydgoszcz and its green structure

Bydgoszcz is located in the north central part of Poland, 258km to the west of Warsaw, along the banks of the Brda and Vistula Rivers. The two river valleys, together with the connecting Bydgoszcz Canal delineate the central part of the city landscape and shape the identity of the town. Bydgoszcz has benefited from having an inland river port since the Middle Ages and regional airport since 1929. The city is an important junction for Poland's north-south and east-west road and railway routes.

The outer parts of the city are located on the slopes of the river terraces and the outskirts amongst the surrounding hills and woodland. Part of the physical form of the city is characterised by several steep slopes and canyons. The relief of the river valley has been the prime determinant in influencing the direction and layout of both the spatial and the roads infrastructure. Because of the terrain there is a need to overcome a range of technical difficulties in implementing any development. On the other hand this kind of relief provides the city with a picturesque background, diversifies the landscape and confers on it a special landscape identity.

The city's green structure is both linear and of a more clustered form, covering over half of the whole city area. The main characteristic areas are:

- the larger Forest Park of Culture and Leisure (830ha);
- smaller forests;
- city parks distributed in the centre; and
- suburbs and green areas along the river and canal banks.

Several of the areas function as green belts and buffers to the factories and infrastructure. Some are interconnected or very close to each other and form interlinked green groups.

Urban green space strategy

The challenges and approach to building an urban green space strategy

The first approaches employed in the construction of an acceptable and feasible Strategy related to an inventory of the existing green spaces, their current status and the availability of resources. This work enabled an analysis to be made of the potential and the environmental, social and economic needs for urban green.

The major problems encountered:

- The inventory of green spaces is a time consuming process
- The ownership situation is not clear
- A strong builder/developer lobby coupled with no interest in providing green spaces
- No previous guiding strategic documents or pioneer work
- A need for compromise between the social, environmental and economic needs.

A strategy building group was established, composed of two sub groups:

1. Deciding Body - the main interdisciplinary group responsible for building up the strategy; and
2. Elaborating & Assisting Group - that develops the detail of the strategy and assists the 'Deciding Body' by collecting and analysing data and organising the main group work.

Description of the urban green space strategy**Mission, vision and goals****Mission:**

To develop well defined urban green areas with high environmental quality, to achieve local satisfaction and to promote the city's unique natural and cultural values

Vision:

Promotion of the leisure attractions of the area and its natural and environmental resources so as to introduce the city as a green gateway and transition area between city life and the natural environment.

Goals:

1. Formulation of a rational spatial model of urban green to secure a sustainable space order in city planning through the establishment and modification of legal norms, determination of areas and quality of urban green spaces
2. Preserving the natural resources and concurrently improving the facilities of urban green space.
3. Improving the management and maintenance systems of urban green areas.

The concept and main issues

The Main issues are:

- To systematically improve existing green spaces by refurbishing their facilities
- To improve the financial and managerial systems of maintenance
- To protect the natural heritage and the urban environmental ecosystem
- To increase the awareness of inhabitants about the city's natural and historic heritage
- To improve the use of green areas and therefore the quality of life
- To improve the image of the city through the provision of better green spaces
- To enhance the potential of the historic heritage for tourists and investors

Guidelines, recommendations, standards**Maintenance concept:**

To be considered within the framework of the Strategy. Organisational changes are required within the municipal management of urban green spaces. Standardisation of quality in urban spaces is needed.

Important tasks and actions

- An Order for building the Strategy has been issued and the members of the Strategy Groups have been appointed under political and legislative support.
- Communication with interested groups and representatives of all stakeholders.
- Promote the process of building the strategy by presenting information about the current stage of works and by publishing information folders.

Good practices/lessons learnt

- The development of Urban Green Space Strategy is a long-term process calling for wide cooperation among the city's departments and stakeholders. The schedule for developing the Strategy needs to evaluate the real time required for each phase, taking into account possible difficulties in obtaining the necessary data and the time needed for elaborating on each part of the document.
- Appointing the official group for building up the green space strategy with a list of responsibilities and tasks to kick off the process helped in coordinating and progressing the works.
- The political support and legalistic process for building the strategy 'opened' many doors and encouraged stakeholders to cooperate.
- The synchronization of the main goals of the strategy and consideration of other existing spatial documents and city strategies reduced the conflicts and helped to build a consistent city image.
- The diversified profile of co-workers and stakeholders involved in the development of the strategy helped in the creation of an optimal document which considers different approaches towards solving the problems.





Green Project > Botanical Garden

Key data

Area	20 ha
Targeted users	Visitors from the entire region
	City inhabitants
	Students and scientist

Short description of the project

The project area is located in the northern part of the city, 3,5 km from the city centre and on the edge of a large forest complex (830 ha) called 'Forest Park of Culture and Recreation'. This is bordered by a significant sports venue and a residential area of prefabricated housing slabs. The area is easily accessible from the city centre by tram, car and by bicycle. The area is hilly and diversified and gives the potential for the creation of the special habitats which are necessary for the Arboretum. It is currently used as a municipal green space, in accordance with the spatial development plan. The area contains no existing roads or watering systems and no equipment like benches or playgrounds. Through the implementation of the pilot project the municipality of Bydgoszcz wishes to introduce a process of new strategic management and improvement to the urban green. Through this it will increase the importance of urban green in city space and life. The name of the project, 'Arboretum', constitutes an extension of the existing botanical garden. The project is based in an individual area of green space with aims set in line with the general target of improving existing green spaces. The implementation of the pilot project will secure the improvement and enlargement of the existing botanical garden through the provision of an Arboretum. In this way the botanical garden will be directly influenced by the project. It is also anticipated that the Forest Park of Culture and Recreation will be affected by the increases in both the numbers of plants growing and the expected visitors. The main goal of the project, however, is to impact on the groups of visitors and observers from the entire region, to improve the biodiversity of the woodland area and to upgrade the spatial structure of the city. This is a long-term project and the lasting effects will be realised and only fully appreciated in later years.



Objectives and goals for the improvement

- Improve and enlarge the existing botanical garden through the construction of an Arboretum
- Make an impact on the groups of visitors and observers from the entire region
- Improve the biodiversity of the woodland area
- Upgrade the spatial structure of the city.

Challenges and Problems

- Limited PR activities and public participation (little general information on local TV or in newspapers) because of probability of theft and vandalism. Major PR activities planned for the time of inauguration
- Problems in preserving the plants in the winter season and against wild animals living in the neighbouring forest complex
- Problems in collecting all the desired species
- Vandalism
- The whole of the Arboretum has not been realised because it is necessary to firstly 'build' the habitats that may later host the required species. Also, the real effect of the current activities will be visible only in 15-20 years.

Actions undertaken

In 2006 the construction contract was signed and the plants were ordered. In the same period the planting procedures began, which also continued in 2007. In June 2007 45% of the project was implemented, 656 trees and bushes out of 1800 had been planted and the necessary documents had been prepared. During the spring and autumn of 2007 all the planting works had been finished, information boards installed and labels with botanical names prepared. The final inauguration will take a place in spring 2008, because of the better weather conditions during that season.

Maintenance Concept

The maintenance of the Pilot Project will be provided according to the horticultural practices of nursing young plants with a flexibility to reflect the environmental conditions. The Municipality of Bydgoszcz has no specific programme for the maintenance of the GreenKeys Green Project. The project will, however, be protected and cared for by the Forest Park of Culture and Leisure PLC: this organisation is contracted to maintain the existing botanical garden. The meadows in the Arboretum area will be cut regularly. The trees and bushes will need to be watered and protected against potential damage and natural hazards during all seasons. The long term concept of constructing the Arboretum assumes there will be a systematic enlargement and establishment of the habitats by changing grounds and providing adequate species.

Good practices/lessons learnt

- Simplicity of the project (easy design, easy maintenance, modest targets, working step-by-step) helps in achieving its successful implementation.
- Pilot project implementation may be used to promote the green space strategy when both are in agreement. The choice of a pilot project can also determine or influence social feedback and provide support to the whole Strategy.
- The pilot project should represent the current approach to urban green and respond to a wide range of local spatial and social problems.
- The pilot project can improve the image of the town or city and promote its environmental and social values.