



Municipality area	298 km ²	Population	502 651 (2005)
GDP per inhabitant	14.399 € (2005)	Trend	stable
Area of green spaces	61,26 km ² /196,5 km ² (2005)		
Area of green spaces per inhabitant	121,9 m ² /inh. 390,9 m ² /inh.		



Leipzig and its green structure

Leipzig's green space structure is characterised by a sizeable floodplain forest which penetrates deep into the built up areas of the city. The forest forms the city's modern and historical parks, which are designed into a ring and radial green system. Whilst the city is expanding gradually, some quarters in the inner city have been deserted. In the wake of this situation there are presently many derelict and decaying houses and other properties lying in an unkempt environment. This environment offers opportunity and potential, however (temporary or permanent), for utilizing the areas as green spaces so as to enhance urban life and improve the image of the inner city.

Many of the properties have already been converted into green areas but the maintenance of the new spaces has placed financial pressures on the city. Leipzig succeeded, nevertheless, in securing funding from the EU for building investment and improved citizen engagement in the Inner City. Leipzig is a partner in the green circle project 'Grüner Ring Leipzig': a project which aims to develop and provide recreation facilities in the outskirts of the city in close collaboration with adjoining communities.

Urban green space strategy

The challenges and approach to building an urban green space strategy

Leipzig has several different approaches, guidelines and concepts which deal with the various aspects of urban green. There is, however, a need for these to be incorporated into the strategic attempt(s) for the overall city strategy. This is important because the political support for the urban green strategy may change over time.

Leipzig has set down some Strategic Municipal Aims for its spatial, economic and social development. One aim is to develop better living conditions for children and families, which offer the chance to integrate a green space strategy into the concept. Some actions have been raised within public and political discussions. The aspects of green management and maintenance have already been included on the municipal agenda as funding of these plans has become problematic. The only practical solution is for these to be integrated into the concepts for municipal planning and funding. Citizen Participation and orientation to their needs is one of the main strategy issues. The opportunity currently exists, in addition, to incorporate new standards into the urban green space strategy. Additional marketing strategies for urban green have been implemented.

Description of the urban green space strategy

Mission, vision and goals

Vision:

Protecting and developing urban green as an essential part of a Liveable City 2015

Mission:

- To safeguard a network of good quality, well managed green spaces for citizens and tourists with suitable facilities for children and handicapped people.
- To use green spaces to demonstrate the city's historic background and local identity.
- To ensure the existence of sustainable green spaces with high ecological value which are efficient in terms of healthy living and working conditions. Applying for adequate provision of leisure and sports facilities.

Main Objectives:

- To achieve the municipal vision of 'green and blue ribbons' in a ring and radial system by developing an accessible and attractive network of green spaces and integrating them into binding spatial planning concepts
- To improve the city's quality standards, adapted to users interests and new green typologies; based on sustainable maintenance, financial potentials and development concepts, with a main focus on playing facilities
- To increase citizen participation in planning, building and maintenance activities in order to develop a green and liveable city

**The concept and main issues**

The main strategic issues are

1. Development strategies for the Leipzig Green System and green space supply
2. Development strategies for quality and maintenance of green spaces and street trees
3. Preservation and sustainable development of the Leipzig green space system
4. Strategies for services concerning Urban Green
5. Strategies for Urban Green to rise up the political agenda
6. Development of a strategic partnership for Urban Green
7. Improving principles for green public relations guidelines, recommendations, standards
 - Create flexible standards for quality, design, building and sustainable maintenance of green space and trees
 - Develop guidelines for marketing, public relations and participation and to improve public commitment for Urban Green

**Important tasks and actions**

- Special concept environment and green spaces for integration into urban spatial planning and funding concepts (SEKO)
- Working on and implementing a city-wide playing concept
- Improving the database Green Information System (GRIS) as one part of the new maintenance and management concepts
- Developing strategic partnerships for urban green (citizens, associations and clubs, enterprises, farmers, private/public partnerships)
- Continuing and increasing projects and actions to improve public commitment for Urban Green
- Improving binding principles for a comprehensive quality management as a current process

Good practices/lessons learnt

- Using city-wide discussion processes in the implementation of the strategies.
- Integration of local residents into planning concepts.
- New maintenance strategies to be expanded on a city-wide scale: an extensive pasture system with robust cattle and horse species and adolescents caring for their new venue by signing a contract of good guardianship.



Green Project > Green Bow Paunsdorf

Key data

Name of the project	Green Bow Paunsdorf
Area	120 ha
Targeted users	Young people Neighbourhood residents
Responsible body	the Municipality of Leipzig, Parks and Recreation Office
Size of the project	large



Short description of the project

The Citizens' Park venue and the former army firing range (Leipzig GreenKeys pilot project) are both part of the 'Green Bow Paunsdorf'.

The 'Green Bow Paunsdorf' is one of the largest municipal green projects located in the north-east of the city and is a key project of the Leipzig Green Circle System. The project covers a landscaped area of 120 ha adjoining the edge of the prefabricated housing slabs 'Heiterblick' in Leipzig-Paunsdorf. A Citizens' Park, with a lake, sports park and several playing facilities will gradually evolve alongside new features associated with urban nature protection. The Park will also be attractive for use by the local residents and contribute to the improvement of existing green spaces. Areas formerly utilised by the army, fallow land and the 'Paunsdorfer Copse' will be incorporated into a new park ring to form a contemporary landscaped garden. The implementation of the overall project will occur gradually, with completion expected by 2011.



The Citizens Park venue and the former army firing range have been planned and constructed during the scientific project and partly financed by GreenKeys under the banner heading: 'Nature protection through utilisation.'

Objectives and goals for the improvement

- To resolve typical suburban problems (deficit of adolescent leisure facilities, social conflicts due to high density of prefabricated housing estates)
- To protect and improve existing green spaces and their valuable natural habitats
- To develop, implement and monitor an extensive and sustainable management system of the adjacent former army firing range
- To develop a public park for citizens of different ages
- To improve the public accessibility and usage of the area through the provision of a path system
- To implement the aims of the adolescents by creating a graffiti project at the venue (noise protection wall)
- To ensure a sustainable maintenance regime for the area through public partnership contracts



Challenges and Problems

- The adjoining residential area is characterised by high density, social conflicts, a lack of recreational facilities and missing connections to the hinterland.
- There are no footpaths across the area and insufficient amount/poor quality of green spaces.
- The valuable habitats of the former army firing range would disappear beneath growing shrubland.
- A challenge to open up the landscape for leisure and sport activities in order to improve the local residential qualities and discourage people from moving away.
- Problems of vandalism.
- Problems concerning people's involvement and participation at the outset.
- A chance to test new kinds of green space maintenance.
- The challenge for the future will be the establishing of arrangements that ensure the satisfactory co-existence of all generations and groups at the site.

Actions undertaken

The project was concluded by the end of Summer 2007. It contains a particular attraction near the residential area with cattle and wild horses grazing on the former army firing area. A new path system for pedestrians and cyclists has been constructed which has improved the accessibility to and experience of the adjoining open spaces. The GreenKeys Pilot Project forms part of a wider municipal programme for the revitalisation of the area. This is financed by the municipality from various sources.

Maintenance Concept

The maintenance of the Pilot Project is part of the municipal green space management programme. The extensive pasture project on the former army firing range, owned by the municipality, will be conducted on a day by day basis by a 'not for profit' enterprise. The area will be maintained through a scientifically based regime of animal pasturing which is geared to annual extensive nature sustainability. The banner heading for the scheme is 'nature protection through utilisation'. The new concept was monitored until 2005 with the results expected in 2008. Thus far it has gained general public acceptance.

The area of the venue for adolescents will be maintained by the municipality in close collaboration with a non-profit enterprise (pasturing by sheep). Social control has been delegated since 2006 to the citizens club Paunsdorf working together with young people.

Good practices/lessons learnt

Precise identification and involvement of possible users, residents, administration, entrepreneurs.

Early involvement and consultation of different stakeholders in the planning process and maintenance led to high acceptance of the project by users and residents.

Putting the project within a wider framework as a key project of the Green Circle System Leipzig and securing finance by integration into actual spatial development concepts.

Implementing an extensive pasture system with robust cattle, horse species and sheep next to the residential area.

Public governance: adolescents caring for their new venue by signing a contract of good guardianship.