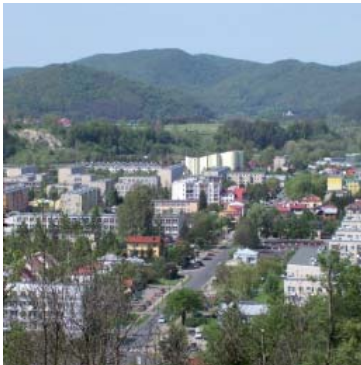




Municipality area	28,5 km ²	Population	41,214 (2006)
GDP per inhabitant	not available	Trend	decreasing
Area of green spaces	all open spaces: 28,00 km ² urban green spaces (public): 15,41 km ²		
Area of green spaces per inhabitant	679,4 m ² (all open spaces) 373,9 m ² (public urban green spaces)		



Sanok and its green structure

Sanok is situated in South-East Poland, at the main east European roads intersection. The River San and its tributaries are the main water courses in the locality and contain lush greenery along their banks.

The most important public green spaces are the Forest Park in the city centre, the river banks, and the old military testing ground and at the city borders the protected area of 'Park Krajobrazowy Gór Slonnych' (a landscape park which is currently protected under the EU NATURE 2000 programme). Sanok has adequate provision of green spaces but due to a lack of long-term maintenance these are in a poor shape as regards condition, facilities and infrastructure. In parts of the city the security of visitors is a problem.



Urban green space strategy

The challenges and approach to building an urban green space strategy

The lack of financial resources is the major obstacle currently being faced by the city. With the support of projects such as GreenKeys and the INTERREG III C MILUnet Project the city is trying to implement its development strategy. It should be noted that a green space strategy is not included on the priority list of the political decision makers.

The first approach towards the achievement of a green space strategy embodies the updating of relevant documents, including the city's existing master plan. This plan is no longer valid for some parts of the city. 'Green Sanok' has not been confirmed by the city council because it is a concept for green areas utilization. Some parts were, however, useful for the Green Space Strategy.

Existing plans and concepts such as 'Green Sanok' can prove to be very helpful in such a situation as they can act as a starting point for building the green space strategy.



Description of the urban green space strategy

Vision, mission and goals

Vision:

By the year 2020 Sanok will benefit from well developed green spaces, which satisfies the different needs of residents and visitors.

Mission:

To present the city as an example of well maintained and sustained green spaces by improving the leisure and recreational values of the green areas and protecting natural landscape. It is also proposed to emphasise the historic values of the city and to create green enclaves and corridors or benefit from the value of the natural flora.

The goals:

- Well developed, accessible and safe Municipal Park
- Develop a boulevard along the San River between the bridges, with places for different user groups
- Well developed city scarps with viewing terraces, walking paths and the kinds of gastronomic offers which are currently to be found in the old town
- Develop the old military testing ground in the northern part of the city (along the boundary with the NATURE 2000 area). This is a unique zone of considerable value from the environmental point of view, which is going to be used for educational objectives,
- Well developed and maintained squares, recreational spaces and green plots in the residential areas
- Organise promotional campaigns to emphasize the importance of green spaces and their natural values
- Preserve the landscape and natural character of the green areas
- Support water sports and river activities

The concept and main issues

- Improvement of urban green spaces funding
- Improvement of green space quality
- Improvement of safety
- Increasing the satisfaction of all user groups
- To protect the natural heritage and the urban environmental ecosystem

Guidelines, recommendations, standards

Recommendation: To integrate, in the longer term, the Green Space Strategy into the City Development Plans ('Strategy of Development of City of Sanok' and Municipal Master Plan).

A further important document is the Study of Conditions and Directions of Development.

Important tasks and actions

Meetings with stakeholders including nature conservation organisations are organised. Plans and concepts are published by the local media. Public campaigns and a public opinion poll are organised.

The annual wide scale action 'Cleaning the City', is popular amongst children and youth.

Working Steps

- Working group established – 2006
- Mission and Vision drafted – 2006
- Information for new City Council – 2007/2008
- Actualisation of Green Areas Database – 2007/2008
- Working on the 'new' green areas – in cooperation with other projects

Good practices/lessons learnt

- Benefits gained from different finance models and public participation in developing the green space strategy
- Benefit from participation in other projects
- Building the green space strategy by connecting with the relevant ongoing actions and projects
- To label and promote Sanok as the Gateway to the Bieszczady Mountains.





Green Project > the Municipal Park

Key data

Name of the project	Viewing platform in Municipal Park	Area	10 ha
Targeted users	Residents Visitors to an historic place Recreation seekers Visitors who use the observatory services of the park		
Responsible body	Municipality of Sanok		
Size of the project	Large		
Progress of the project	completed		

Short description of the project

The pilot project implementation concerns the improvement of an existing green space as part of a more comprehensive municipal project. The city centre will primarily benefit from the project. Sanok's Municipal park is the biggest mountain type park in Poland. It is situated on the slopes of a hill (height 362 metres) within the Bieszczady range in the Eastern Carpathians and provides a natural landscape and specific attraction for the city. The forest has existed for more than a hundred years. The park has mainly recreational functions but it is also home for many interesting protected species of flowers, birds and invertebrates. It contains historic features from the 19th and 20th Centuries including, amongst its 3km of avenues, an Avenue of Trees and Monuments. It is equipped with a number of more modest features of recreational infrastructure such as benches, lamps and summer houses.

The viewing platform is the first infrastructure which enables visitors to enjoy a panorama of the city and the hills of Bieszczady mountains. Future plans include the building, in the neighbourhood of the platform, of a small amphitheatre and centre for ecological education.

Objectives and goals for the improvement

- Improvement of an existing green space
- Provide and enhance a specific attraction for the city by fostering its natural character
- Provide recreational functions
- Protect and promote the existing historic places within the park

Challenges and Problems

- Delays due to low accessibility of the building site by construction machinery. Most of the construction works had to be done by hand
- Park's deforestation
- A few incidents of vandalism
- Additional works which were not foreseen in the documentation phase. The design had to be changed to include an additional second-level floor.
- Providing suitable infrastructure to enable the platform to accommodate equipment for astronomic observations

Actions undertaken

The formulation of the initial idea and the consequent decision making on the part of the municipality commenced in October 2004, with the technical documentation lasting from November 2005 until March 2006. The construction of the required infrastructure was completed by the end of 2006. In the same framework the tender procedure began in May 2006 and the works were initiated in June 2006. The project was completed and launched in June 2008 as the revitalisation works in the park were finalised.

Maintenance Concept

The maintenance of the Green Project will be incorporated into the regular maintenance scheme that the municipality has for all its urban green spaces. Like other GreenKeys Partner Cities Sanok has, in light of the lack of funds, related the level of maintenance to the resources available. Increasing the funding for green spaces is a top priority.

Good practices/lessons learnt

- Having a clear, firm vision from the outset (clear idea even before GreenKeys)
- Creating a new activity in the park (observatory platform)
- The municipality put together the funds from a range of different sources (municipal, GreenKeys, national) for the development of the park and implementation of the project
- Collaboration between different departments of the municipality concerning planning and the development of small recreational infrastructure features in the municipal park
- Good publicity and public involvement, with a mediator to support the project