

## DEMONSTRATION & IMPLEMENTATION

### Lodz, M: 13-24

#### **Tree stock-taking in the Sokolowka river-valley between Zgierska street and Wlokniarzy avenue, which served as the basis for the creation of the Sokolowka Valley Park, its landscape design and the layout of the park alleys**

The stock-taking of trees conducted by the University of Lodz showed a large number of valuable species, among them several species of *populus sp.*, *carpinus sp.*, *Acer platanoides (L.)*, and groups of *Betula pendula (Roth)* forming alleys in this area. Numerous and large *Quercus sp* groups lays superb foundations for a municipal park. In 2007 the area was enriched with several *Fraxinus sp.* trees, moved there due to their removal from the areas used for investments in other parts of the city.

The concept in the local development plan has been developed. It defines the area as a half-natural park, exposing the existing resources of trees and the meadow vegetation. The planned works on the park establishment will be conducted in a way which will guarantee the maximal protection and maintenance of the existing groups of species, which means that the existing biodiversity will be maintained. The variety of the trees species in the area contributes to the natural attractiveness of the place. Part of the trees need to be removed, however, due to their bad condition, while others meet the standard for being called "Monuments of Nature".

In the first phase of the park design, a basic layout of walking alleys as well as green spaces on the borderlines of its area are planned to be constructed. In the second phase a new, meandering water-bed, lighting, and design of places ultimately to become sports and recreational grounds, are planned.

The concept includes a layout of the park alleys consisting of the main alley located around the whole area, and of the inner paths connecting its separate sections to the residential parts. The clay-gravel surface, typical for a landscape parks, is planned to be laid. Because of the manifesting wide interest in the development project among the residents of the adjacent housing estates, the residents will be involved in the planning of the transportation network in the design stage. The newly designed plants and trees will enrich the already existing groups, diversify the area and surround the designed walking pathways.

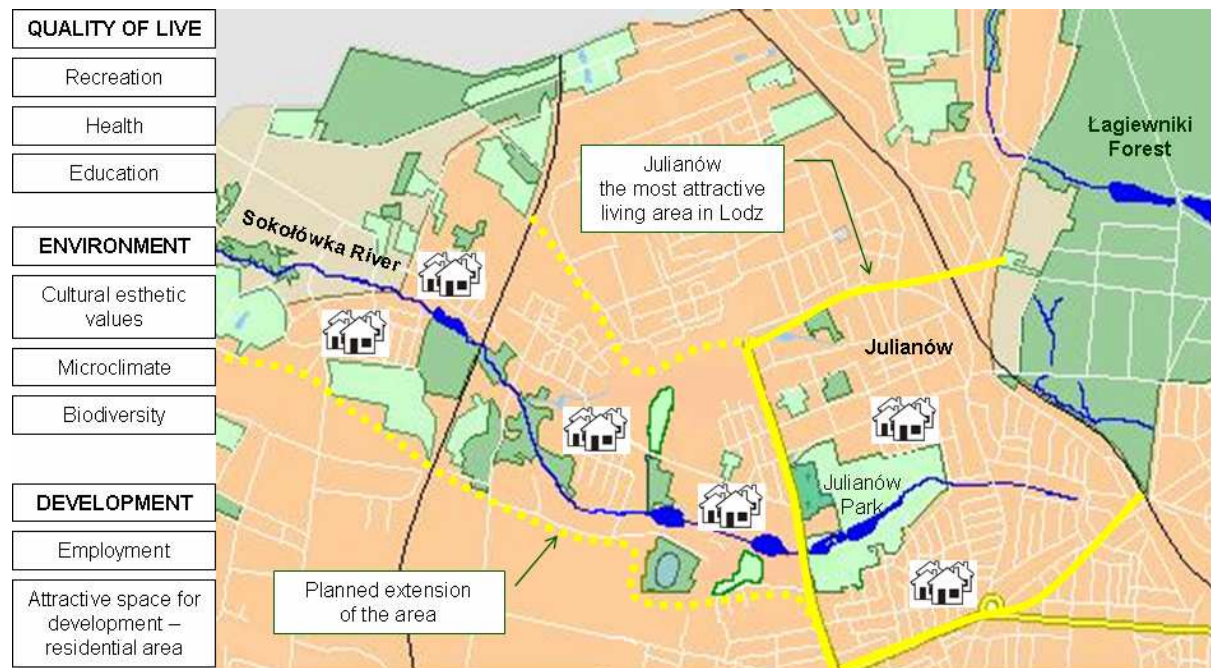


Figure 1. Expansion of the attractive living space in the Lodz city by restoring of the Sokolowka river valley, enhancing its ecohydrological functions and including as an integral and functional element into the city landscape (Zalewski & Wagner, 2008).

Zalewski, M. & Wagner, I. 2008. Ecohydrology of urban aquatic ecosystems for healthy cities [In:] Wagner, I., Marshalek, J. and Breil, P. (eds). 2008. *Aquatic Habitats in Sustainable Urban Water Management: Science, Policy and Practice*. Taylor and Francis/Balkema: Leiden;