

The village of Hrušky is situated about 4 km away from Slavkov u Brna and 25 km from Brno in the Czech Republic.



AEFP

Association Européenne pour le
Fleurissement et le Paysage



ENTENTE FLORALE EUROPE 2016
Hrušky / Czech Republic



Welcome to Our Village!

Dear evaluation committee members, welcome to the village of Hrušky. We are honored to have been able to participate in an international competition of ENTENTE FLORALE EUROPE 2016. We are proud to show you our beautiful home place - a village where friendly, hospitable and hard-working people live. The people who are trying to create pleasant, interesting and healthy environment suitable for living. This competition is an opportunity and incentive for local people as well as the municipal council to create even better environment for everybody's life.

The village of Hrušky is a place rich in history as well as the present. The first written notice about the village dates back to 1294. However, the findings of skeletal remains of a Celtic warrior suggest that the place was inhabited before Christ. Our village is included within the region of Slavkov (Austerlitz) where European history was once created. Napoleon, Francis II. and Alexander I. of Russia - these famous emperors got as far as Moravia during the Napoleonic Wars and became a part of the regional history.

Our home place is rich in cultural events, solidarity and collectiveness of all local people who live and work here. Getting back to the traditions and heritage of our predecessors we are trying to draw attention to the fact that Hrušky is a place which we affectionately protect and develop for the present as well as future generations.

Hrušky is a common Moravian village. There are neither mountains, the sea, famous sights nor unique natural localities. Despite this, we are extremely proud of our region and we think it has a lot to offer.

We will be happy to offer the visitors our typical Hrušky cakes and local pear brandy.

Our village and its surroundings are, thanks to the location, an ideal place for sightseeing and recreation tourism. Visitors may participate in many cultural and sports events which are organized every year. The village neighbourhood offers easy and relaxing hikes to tranquil natural areas where visitors can watch unique fauna and flora typical of our region.

The way we treat and protect greenery and the environment of our village, how we develop them, how local people contribute to the greenery protection is presented further in the text. Practically, our effort may be seen in representative localities of the village.



History of the Village

The first written notice about the village of Hrušky dates back to 1294 when it was owned by the Lords of Deblín. The name itself probably comes from a German Birnbaum. The village was divided into two parts in the second half of the 16th century. The larger part was owned by the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John (later called the Order of Malta), the other part was owned by the Kaunitz family. Therefore, two villages were established; each of them being governed independently. Both parts were politically and territorially united again in 1850. The history of the village is commemorated by two seals.

The Order of Malta owns land in the village till nowadays.

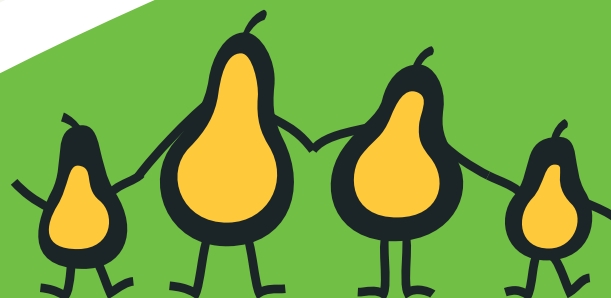


The village of Hrušky has its own local traditional costume called a traditional costume of Brno.

Traditional costumes are currently worn during important events such as local village festivals, church ceremonies, etc.

Village Emblem and Flag

The emblem and the flag are based on historical village seals. The emblem shield is divided into two parts commemorating the division of the village in two parts.



"Hrušky" means "pears" in Czech.

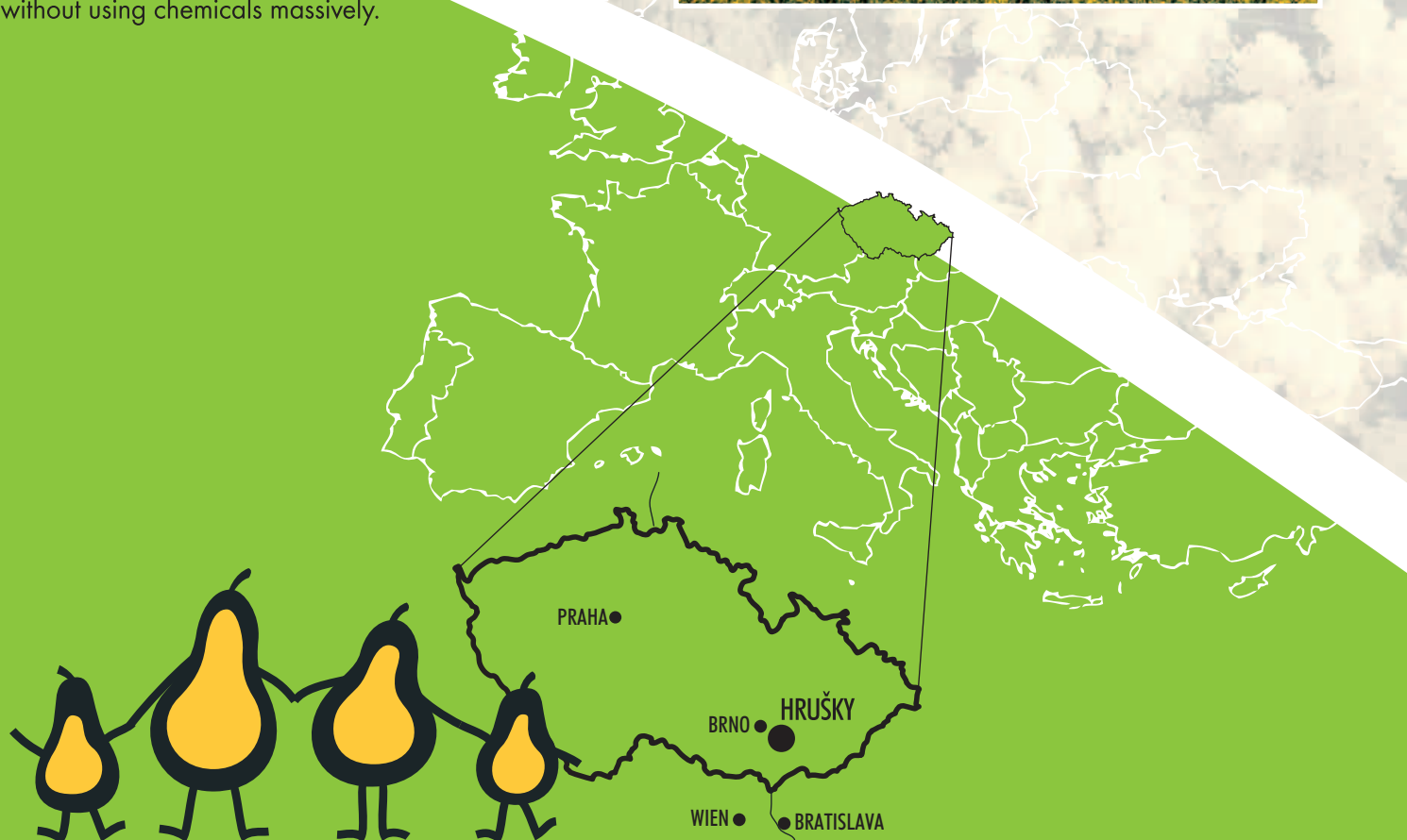
Village Area

The village is located almost literally in the heart of Moravia, in the southeast of Brno at an altitude of 199 meters above the sea level on a confluence of the Litava and Rakovec streams in a flat area of Lower Morava Valley. In the area of 541 hectares there are 771 inhabitants. The village is a part of Ždánice Forest and Politaví regions which are formed by 27 towns and villages.



Landscape

The landscape surrounding the village is rather flat or wavy, easily accessible for field cultivation - there is a rich tradition of agriculture in this area. Very fertile soil in the whole territory of the village enables growing cereals, fodder crops, potatoes and sugar beet which was planted in the fields in the past. In the area of Hrušky there are two agricultural companies focused on plant production. Most inhabitants are engaged in cultivating gardens where they plant basic vegetables and fruit for their own purposes without using chemicals massively.



Build-up Area

The village of Hrušky is a village with a typical central village square – terraced houses along both sides of the main road going through the village. Similar buildings are seen in other parts of the village along the roads. Most houses have small gardens at the front planted with flowers and shrubs; traditional farmyards and utility gardens.



The citizens take care of their houses and reconstruct and renovate the buildings in compliance with the village architectural style of the area. The traditional architecture is observed when constructing new buildings as well. There are no abandoned or devastated buildings in the village. Reconstruction of municipal buildings is carried out to maintain original historical appearance of the village.

Village renewal takes place naturally – old houses are inhabited by young families. Massive construction of suburban areas is not planned. There are areas which will later be developed, however, the target is to keep the village of a moderate size. There is a strong will to use vacant land for new construction, preserve village architectural style and thus communality of local people.



Village Amenities – Infrastructure

Hrušky is a small- to moderate-sized village. However, citizens are offered comfortable living thanks to village amenities. A water supply network, sewage pipeline system, gas pipeline, electrification and public lighting have been constructed. Among other amenities of the village there are a kindergarten, elementary school (1st to 4th grade), grocery shop, restaurant, gym and cultural hall, basic services. A medical care centre, post office, civic amenity site, and cemetery may be found in the neighbouring village of Křenovice (1 km away from Hrušky). Municipal authorities are found in Slavkov 5 km away from Hrušky. Regular public transport service and highway proximity enable convenient accessibility of Brno (secondary schools, colleges, universities, jobs).

Hrušky is situated close to the city of Brno, with its own amenities, but at the same time it manages to preserve unique rural character suitable for tranquil living and relaxing hiking. Living in the village is thus very attractive.



Climate, Fauna and Flora

The climate is rather warm; winds blowing from the northeast are mostly dry. The village is located in the rain shadow.

A forestless area is covered with thermophilic vegetation including the following plants - narrowleaf plaitain, tussilago, greater celandine, camomile, horsetail ... A relatively small amount of rainfall, a great number of sunny days, soil rich in marl, chalky and marl sandstones - these conditions are especially favourable to the vegetation to grow.

Fauna may be spoken about in a similar way. The climate provides the fauna in groves, fields, water as well as air with very favourable living conditions. The Litava and Rakovec streams are bursting with underwater life. There are species, such as swan mussels, which would not be able to survive in low-quality water. Water areas are home to wild ducks and muskrats.

In addition to these streams, there are two ponds in the centre of the village, each amounting to 0.5 hectares. They are used for fishing, relaxing and winter sports activities such as ice skating. Among other natural relaxation areas there are nearby wildlife corridors and pools. The environment around the ponds and pools is well-cared for by the village authorities cooperating with local fishing and hunting associations.

By renewing and planting new greenery, planting trees along the roads and enlarging the area of ponds and wetlands we are trying to improve biological diversity and conditions for the overall ecological balance.

Village Greenery and Environment

During several decades, the village has intentionally undergone substantial changes regarding the environment and greenery care. Greenery has been planted along avenues; public areas designed for relaxing have been restored. As an example, a part of the village square is planted with original leafy trees. Furthermore, the village is decorated by seasonal flowers planted in public areas, local gardens and windows of the houses, in decorative pots placed in the village square.





The target of improving the greenery and local environment is to incorporate a natural element in an everyday life of the village as well as its inhabitants. Coexistence with the nature has always been present in the village where construction development naturally links residential area and greenery.

Current greenery restoration could only be realized with help of volunteers; however, individual local associations were participating as well. Another successful project is a natural-style Nursery School garden which shows results of a long-term development strategy of the village in terms of greenery and environment care. The Nursery School garden has been awarded as one of the best regional projects of this kind.



There are several parks and green areas in the village designed for relaxation of people of all ages. An outdoor natural-style playground with entertainment equipment has been constructed for fun and sports activities. For adults and teenagers there has been an outdoor sports facility constructed.

The village council is highly concerned with cleanliness and tidiness - common waste bins and dog excrement bins have been installed. Regular road and pavement cleaning is provided by self-help, municipal workers and co-suppliers. The village is clean and tidy and its original appearance without any negative features (such as property damage, graffiti...) is preserved thanks to cooperation with local inhabitants.



When realizing the greenery restoration in the village and the surroundings we cooperate with renowned gardening and landscaping companies. Only expert knowledge of specialists is used so that only original species of trees and plants which were traditionally growing in this area are planted. There is also a necessity for professional treatment of the plants. Landscaping experts provide us with projects, search for suitable plants, modifying trees, planting new vegetation and other specialized activities. Public greenery is maintained and treated in a traditional, mechanical, way by means of agricultural machinery and manual workers.



In the territory of the village there are numerous sacred structures - crosses which used to welcome visitors entering the village and say goodbye to them when they were leaving. They are also a reminder of various tragedies or memorials to thank for surviving misfortune. They are maintained using our own financial resources as well as subsidies.

Village Development

– Strategy

Village development is governed by a long-term plan being realized from 2016 to 2021 which takes all aspects of living in the village into account including vegetation restoration and development. Regional planning of the village is currently being processed on the basis of which most projects are being realized and further ones planned. It also serves as an important background material for planning other development projects.

Regional planning of the village is prepared to respect rural character of the village while satisfying citizens' needs. Original buildings and natural areas are maintained and restored. Vegetation restoration projects are designed to make use of the landscape for coexistence with people while preserving its natural character.

Projects implemented and commenced in 2010 - 2016:

Vegetation restoration in the village, facade reconstruction of the Elementary School, thermal insulation of the Nursery School, natural-style garden construction in the Nursery School, pavement reconstruction, reconstruction of the local radio station, playground for children, car park in the village square, municipal backyard reconstruction, natural-style garden reconstruction in the Elementary School, renovation of the park in the village centre, greenery planted along the roads (pear trees, plum trees, and others).

Projects in the development plan to be implemented in the period of 2016-2021:

A water supply network in the area, anti-flooding measures, reconstruction of the municipal authority office, construction of starter flats, renovation of the park situated in the "Under the Lime Trees" quarter ("pod lipami" quarter), reconstruction of bathrooms in the Nursery and Elementary School, thermal insulation of the fire station, reconstruction of local memorials, implementation of a crime prevention project, renovation of the road in the Chaloupky quarter, construction of a bridge over a local stream.

Most projects in the village are apparently focused on vegetation restoration and development.

The following trees are supposed to be declared as memorable trees in the regional planning of the village: the small-leaved lime, the elm at the pond, the purple beech in the Elementary School garden.

The plan including other projects implemented by the municipality is displayed on www.obec-hrusky.cz. Invitations for various events as well as photos taken at these events, important information about news in the village and information about municipal council meetings are placed on the web. Other sources where the citizens can find important information about further development of the village are the Bulletin (Zpravodaj), noticeboard, Facebook and the local radio station. A very important source of information not only for the locals is articles in regional newspaper, Czech Radio broadcast and TV news. Most posts presented in the media are associated with construction and greenery maintenance including implementation of landscape features. The village is regarded as a very positive place to live in.





Hrušický zpravodaj

řízen 2016

Zasedání zastupitelstva obce

Dne 21. 12. 2015 proběhlo 16. zasedání zastupitelstva obce Hrušky. Na programu byly tyto body:

- 1) OZ projednálo a schválilo dohodu o společném skokovém obvodu s obcí Křenovice. Dohoda je potřebná pro podání žádosti o dotaci na rozšíření kapacity školy obcí Křenovice. Dohoda však neomezuje rodiče žáků z Hrušek ve výběru školy, do níž budou hrušské děti docházet (nezavazuje k povinné docházce do ZŠ Křenovice).
- 2) OZ bere na vědomí informaci o přidělení dotace ve výši 170 000 Kč z Fondu životního prostředí na realizaci úpravy parku u provozovny Mlýna. Rozpočet na akci dle projektu činí cca 230 000 Kč. Realizace plánována na jaro 2016.
- 3) Starosta obce informoval OZ o zamítnutí dotaci na rekonstrukci lávky přes Litavu – bude dopracován projekt a žádost bude podána opakovaně.
- 4) Starosta obce informoval OZ o připravované realizaci projektu – úprava prostranství „pod lipama“. Bude nutno zajistit přeložení elektrického vedení (žádost na EON). OZ schválilo zřízení přeložky elektrického vedení současně i pro realizaci obnovy pivovarského rybníka a rekonstrukci budovy OÚ.
- 5) OZ projednálo smlouvu na nákup auta pro místní hasiče v částce 250 000 Kč (bude hrazeno z financí hasičů + odměny za vítězství v soutěži).
- 6) Starosta obce informoval OZ o nabídce EON na výměnu veřejného osvětlení (klasické žárovky nahrazeny LED svítilnami).
- 7) OZ schválilo revokaci usnesení č. 1 z jednání OZ ze dne 5. 11. 2012 o výměně pozemků p. č. 2205 a p. č. 613 mezi obcí Hrušky a MS Nimrod Hrušky.
- 8) Starosta obce informoval OZ o stavu realizačního projektu pro vybudování vodovodu v lokalitě u rybníku. OZ schválilo vypracování projektu.
- 9) OZ projednálo ve spolupráci s pracovníci MAS „Program rozvoje obce“ (MAS zajišťuje v rámci projektu zpracování aktualizace PRO). Byla zpracována SWOT analýza, která bude dále předmětem jednání a dopracována.
- 10) Starosta obce informoval OZ o nutnosti zajistit zpracování pasportu místních a účelových komunikací. V souladu s novým zákonem o pozemních komunikacích přechází na obec povinnost – bude řešeno ve spolupráci se Slávkovem u Bma.



Cultural and Community Life in the Village – Activities of Local Organizations

Cultural life of the village is very rich and contributes to cohesion, solidarity and collectiveness of its inhabitants. A huge number of cultural events is held in natural outside areas. Among the most significant cultural events held in the village there is a Hrušky feast during which local traditional costumes are worn. It is held by a local sports organization which cooperates with the local youth. There is a costume parade with traditional folklore habits held followed by an evening dancing party. Every year the citizens are provided with the best opportunity to meet other local people, families and friends. The citizens usually tidy the village and their houses before this event and help to prepare it.

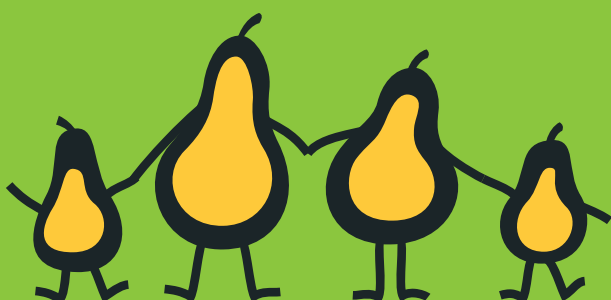
Another very popular event held in the village is a spring wine tasting and a wine exhibition with an evening dulcimer band party. Dancing events and hunters' balls, Easter carnival, children's carnival, spring open day - burning the witches, fun water events taking place at a local pond have become traditional events held in the village. During winter months there is a Saint Nicholas event with a live nativity scene, which is a performance comprising of traditional Christmas carols and a biblical story about Mary and Baby Jesus rehearsed by a local theatrical group which gathers volunteer actors of all ages. There are also volleyball tournaments, fishing and firefighters' competitions held regularly. These sports events provide the citizens with a yet another opportunity to meet each other.

Among other opportunities of how the citizens can spend their free time actively and in a healthy way there are volleyball, table tennis and ice-hockey clubs. Outdoor sports grounds have been constructed near the village ponds. There are volleyball courts with facilities, a football pitch; an ice skating rink of local ponds is used for sports activities in winter. The green sports grounds and their surroundings have been constructed and are maintained by club members' volunteer work by which the sportspeople contribute to the appearance of the place and the village in general.

A cycle track is to be constructed in the following term. This cycle track is supposed to connect the villages located in the region. The current cycle track goes on second- and third-class roads, which is insufficient especially regarding the safety. Therefore, a study for further development was carried out in cooperation with other neighbouring villages.

All local associations contribute to the greenery development and maintenance. Firefighters' help is absolutely invaluable regarding their equipment for watering plants and trees.

Every year the associations, especially local children, participate in "Let's Clean Up the Czech Republic" and "Let's Clean Up Europe" events.



Citizens Volunteering on Further Development of the Village

Volunteer work is deeply rooted in the village of Hrušky. Local people have always been interested in beautifying their village. So far, we have succeeded in following and developing this trend. The village is thus maintained by municipalities as well as local volunteers. Hrušky has a typical village-style terraced housing with a small garden at each house. The citizens keep on maintaining the gardens, beautifying them and planting traditional flowers – spring bulbous plants, daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, roses and annuals.

Hrušky “**young pensioners**” club is a very significant group of volunteers. These are very active and lively elderly who are always willing to help under all circumstances. They arrange for the greenery, help during cleaning and tidying of the village, prepare the background of cultural events and others.



Nicely treated pools and a pond with various plants growing around may serve as an ideal presentation of active voluntary work of local citizens. The area of the pond is not created based on expert advice and recommendations. The work has been done for pleasure to beautify the village and author's desire for self-realization to create a relaxation place for others.

Recently, “**Brontosaurus**” youth association have been voluntarily participating in planting trees in the village territory.

Activities of Children's Scouts club are similarly focused on the nature and harmonious life with the nature.

Another organization which focuses on nature protection and maintaining the natural balance is a local hunters' association. In addition to game keeping and preserving the nature, they

also try to put their knowledge and experience further to the youngest generation – the children.

However, the greatest part of volunteer work is most visible in organizing cultural and social events. There is a “Cultural Club” which organizes a great number of events held in the village, and associates active volunteers. We thus organize and arrange all the events, the background and promotion by ourselves. Hrušky festivals and events, which are well-known in the region, are largely visited by many people from neighbouring villages. Hrušky cultural life would be non-existent without volunteer work of Hrušky enthusiasts.



Important Achievement

Ing. Vit Kotrba Csc, is an important personality of our village who made it famous worldwide. He was awarded by the Queen Elizabeth II. for his invention of acoustic engine covers which substantially contributed to environment improvement.

Chapel of Virgin Mary of the Snow Dominating the Village

The original belfry dating back to 1914 located in the village square was demolished in 1975. The bells were deposited with the citizens and the statue of Hrušky Madonna dating back to 1340 was placed in the parish church of Křenovice. It was sent to the Archbishop Museum of Olomouc from there. No sooner than in 2000 did the suitable time for constructing a new chapel come. A land in the village centre was selected for construction of a triangle-shaped chapel to symbolize belief in the Holy Trinity. A large eight-pointed cross placed at the top of the tower symbolizes the presence of the Order of Malta in our village. The chapel approved of by Brno Bishopric was constructed by Hrušky volunteers and financed by collections and village council contributions. The chapel may serve as an ideal example of Hrušky citizens' solidarity and hard work. The chapel constructed in a modern style has

become a contemporary dominating feature of the village. It is a meeting place of the locals where regular masses are served, it is used for christening children, wedding ceremonies and concerts. There is a copy of the Hrušky Madonna statue above the altar, which is the most dominant feature of the chapel. The original statue was, unfortunately, never sent back by the museum.

In front of the chapel there is a little park where cultural activities and festive masses are held.

The village of Hrušky is a part of Křenovice parish where there is a cemetery used by both villages.



Hrušky Region and Environment Care in Practice

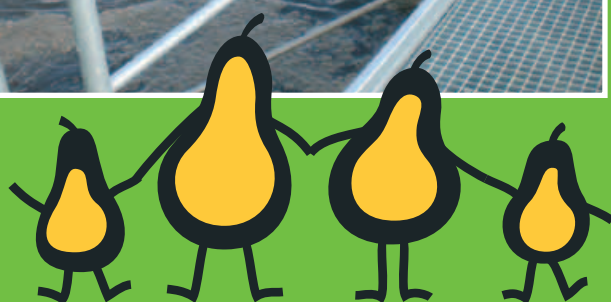
Wastewater Treatment Plant

The village council is concerned with purity of local streams and rivers and deals with wastewater and rainwater. Back in the 1960s Hrušky was the first village in the region to connect the sewage system to a mechanical wastewater treatment plant. However, this wastewater treatment plant system is no longer able to meet contemporary requirements for water treatment. It is also no longer convenient regarding the capacity. Thanks to the subsidies gained, which were mostly granted by the EU, a new, modern wastewater treatment plant efficient in capacity was put into operation in 2009.

This facility treats wastewater of the village of Hrušky as well as the neighbouring village of Křenovice. The capacity of the wastewater treatment plant is 2,940 equivalent inhabitants and it treats 15,400 m³ monthly. The facility consists of a pumping station, a joined wastewater treatment plant - this building includes a mechanical pretreatment facility and a storm water basin - a biological treatment unit and a sediment

storage tank. During trial operation it was equipped with a technology enabling phosphorus disposal, a residual pollutant coming from laundry detergents.

There is no industrial facility in the village which could damage the environment. The above-mentioned wastewater treatment plant only treats household water. The village council is gradually implementing systems and facilities for collection and use of rainwater. There are rainwater tanks placed in gardens of municipality buildings (such as the Nursery School and Elementary School). This water is used for watering nearby greenery. Furthermore, most houses have their own tanks for collecting rainwater. Rainwater drainage to the sewage network system is thus minimized.



Waste Management

Collection of household waste is provided regularly by a contracting company. Separated waste – plastic and paper - is collected by municipality workers and submitted to waste disposal. Other kinds of waste are placed in a civil amenity site in the neighbouring village of Křenovice which Hrušky concluded a contract about waste disposal with. Hazardous bulk waste and large-volume waste is collected in special containers several times a year. Local organizations (firefighters, hunters) participate in collection of recyclable waste and they collect paper, iron waste and electrical waste directly at local inhabitants' houses. The collection of household waste is provided in regular intervals. By complete collection of waste the village management virtually prevented "illegal dumps" to

appear in the territory of the village. Moreover, collection of separated waste and sorted waste poses a financial benefit for the village.

All houses in the village have their own bio-composters for disposal of biodegradable waste which were purchased on the basis of the municipality council initiative and financing. The village council has also bought a chipper which is used to process large and bulky wood. The substance is later used as mulch for the citizens' planting purposes.



Air and Water Quality

There is not a factory or another source of pollution either in the village territory or in its immediate vicinity. The village has been equipped with a gas pipeline network for more than 20 years, which contributes to better air quality in the area.

Houses are connected to the central sewage system which flows into a local wastewater treatment plant. The local Litava stream is thus prevented from pollution.

The municipality council intends to use solar energy sources when constructing new buildings. Construction of a municipal cider house and fruit drying house is scheduled. The citizens would be provided with a yet another opportunity to use and process products of their own gardens and municipal orchards.



bridge reconstruction



bridge today

Ecological Stability Centre

A natural area of local ponds used for relaxing and fishing was, thanks to an initiative of a local citizen, expanded by another element - pools. These pools serve as home to various water species and amphibians. However, the place still serves recreational purposes. This area has not been well-kept until recently. The pools have been improved and are being maintained by Mr. Pokorný who takes care of them in his leisure time. He uses his own financial sources as well as municipality support to maintain them.

The pools are directly adjacent to another natural area - a restored distributary of the Rakovec stream. Last year the banks were cleaned up and planted with new trees which would slowly replace original poplars and willows.

A new river bed of the Rakovec stream was revitalized in 2010 because of a possible risk of floods and insufficient capacity. Young volunteers who are members of "Brontosaurus" youth association protecting the nature in the Czech Republic planted the banks with new plum trees. The planting was performed by families living in the village of Hrušky. Each tree planted by one family carries the family's surname.



Pools and Wildlife Corridor

These natural features were created thanks to subsidies provided by the EU, the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic and the land owner who was willing to give up on economic profit. He thus decided to preserve the landscape and protect the environment. The target of this project was to create a functional element in an otherwise intensively agriculturally used landscape which would stabilize the area in terms of ecology.

Four smaller artificially constructed pools of different size covering an area of one hectare are located in a peaceful location called "Under the Vineyards" ("pod Vinohrady"). They are to a large extent supplied by underground water, furrow or rainfall water. There are so called bio-technical facilities among the pools used for animal reproduction and development. They are home to herons, wild ducks, common brown frogs, common toads, southern hawkers. Natural conditions created artificially may serve as new home to many endangered and scarcely occurring fauna and flora species. Stonewalls

provide ideal conditions for reptiles (blindworms, lizards and garter snakes), thermophilic insect and plants. Birdhouses and semi-birdhouses ensure reproduction of birds. Birds of prey such as buzzards, harriers and hawks may appreciate seating poles. Wetlands were planted with marsh marigold, yellow iris or flowering rush.

Located in the south about 1.5 km from each other there are two wildlife corridors in "Náloch" and "Žleb". This area is planted with adequate natural woody vegetation which is so typical of this place. The entire complex includes a pool, stonewalls, places for reptile reproduction and birdhouses. A natural preserve for endangered species and forest animals is emerging here. Animals, such as hares, deer, pheasants, partridges and quails, would not otherwise have suitable conditions for surviving in this locality.



Study: Anti-Flood Measures

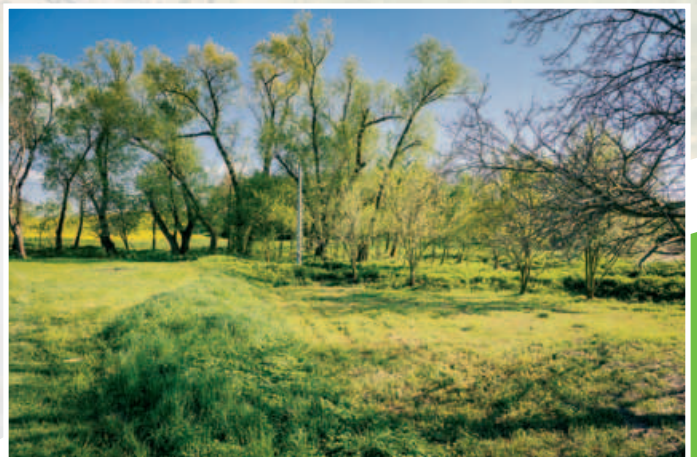
The village is situated in an area of the Litava and Rakovec streams which are prone to flooding. Therefore, it is absolutely essential to implement anti-flood measures for further village development and sustainability. A study providing a solution to the situation is currently being processed. Flow areas and dry retention tanks in the region have been defined; measures to decrease culminating flow and increase retention capacity of the area have been proposed. Construction of levees and earth embankments, which would prevent the river from flooding residential and agricultural areas, is planned. Floodplain vegetation will be naturally restored including the structure of floodplains and distributaries.

There will be new structures appearing in the river bed and this will lead to creation of biotopes with characteristic vegetation. In addition to the primary protective function, a new stable landscape unit serving as a wildlife corridor will be created. The solution will add on the recreational potential of the area surrounding the streams which is tightly connected to the residential area.

The village council is currently dealing with purchasing the land and handling project documentation. The council will apply for EU subsidies to construct the above-mentioned anti-flood measures.

Study: Water Tank Restoration and River Bed Revitalization

The municipality is trying to construct as many green areas designed for relaxation as possible. Restoration of the original pond located in the local stream flow will be implemented. This stream brings water from other local streams. The river bed will be cleaned up, planted with natural greenery such as walnut trees, European ashes, plum trees, Norway maples, white willows, chestnut trees, small-leaved limes, pear trees, plum trees, dog roses... A levee will be constructed to prevent the streams from flooding the area. The water will then be directed to a restored tank. Implementing the project will contribute to an increase of the landscape variety and retention ability. This project is in compliance with environmental protection of the landscape and nature and follows anti-flood measures which have already been planned. The implementation of the project shall start in 2017.



Environmental Education

Nursery School

The village council provides pre-school children with care, which allows parents to work, and children thus have access to pre-school education.

The Nursery School was constructed by Hrušky volunteers and was ceremonially opened and put into operation in 1964. It substituted for an old facility the capacity of which was insufficient. It is located in a tranquil place far from a busy road. The total capacity of the school is 40 children. It has undergone multiple reconstructions during the last 50 years.

The school canteen furnished with modern equipment supplies lunch menus to both Nursery and Elementary Schools as well as local pensioners.

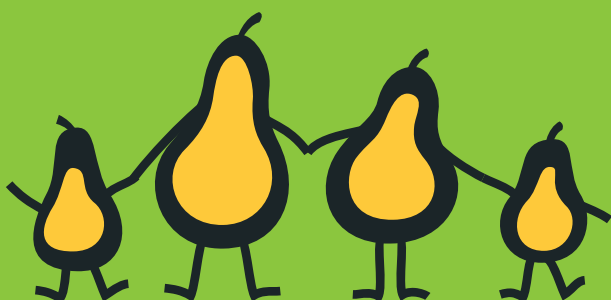
There is a large garden at the school building which had changed its appearance several times until it got the final natural-style look. It was achieved by means of "natural-style garden" projects and European subsidies.

Throughout the year the garden offers the children an effective way of spending their free time climbing monkey frames, playing in sandpits, on swings, slides, a suspension bridge, rocker elements and a sensory sidewalk. A wooden gazebo, terrace, amphitheatre, sandpit and a musical corner were designed for more relaxing activities. If snow conditions allow that, the hill becomes especially popular among children in winter as they can go sledding.

Herb beds provide children with a source of rich and unexpected goodies. Not only are they taught to recognize herbs according to their smell, colour, leaf shape, but children are even instructed how to use them practically to prepare salads or tea. They are taught to dry the herbs for better preservation during winter.

Vegetable beds support children's skills needed for simple planting activities (sowing seeds, planting seedlings, beds weeding, watering). They are taught organic farming - composting. By observing the biotope and insect house, the children are taught that the nature surrounds them and they recognize the insect and animals in their natural habitat. They learn about the relation between animals and plants. Demonstration of natural water cycle teaches the children about how important it is to save and preserve water rather than to pollute it.

The goal of the project is to make the children familiar with the environment where they live. It is important to create a very positive relationship between the children and the environment, enable to use the nature for playing by teaching them not to harm it, but understand it, treat it well and preserve it.





Elementary School

The Elementary School has become a municipality priority. Children have been educated there since 1892. The Elementary School is situated in a historic building dating back to 1892 which has recently been reconstructed successfully. It was provided with new thermal insulation which resembles the very original appearance of the building dating back to the period of establishing the school.

The total capacity of the school is 60 pupils. Currently, children are educated in two classrooms; the school is attended by 32 children of first to fourth grade. There is a large garden at the school building which had changed its appearance several times within the last tens of years until it got its current look.

At the time of the school establishment, the garden served primarily for practical education of the pupils. The children got, in compliance with school regulations, a training in agricultural, fruit growing and livestock skills. However, the character and purpose of the garden has changed under the influence of various reasons. The garden was used more or less for recreational purposes in the past years. Current reconstruction of the garden is supposed to create a large education/relaxation place which would to a large extent resemble the very original intention dating back to the turn of the 19th and 20th century, and would enable application of modern trends in education. Pupils are thus supposed to create key competencies by means of appropriate educational methods.

A pear tree orchard, which is so typical of this area, includes tree varieties grown in the past. The varieties of pear trees were consulted with pomologists working at Mendel University in Brno. The target is to teach children basic knowledge and skills of growing fruit. The orchard with pear trees resembles the name of the village and commemorates the original school orchard.

Outdoor classroom – enables teaching and studying natural scientific subjects in natural environment; is used for recreational and pleasure activities during school breaks and after-school club lessons.

School playground – artificial sports grounds enable the pupils to exercise during their PE lessons and after-school club lessons.

Decorative flower beds – serve especially for education of natural science and biology, they are primarily designed as living herbarium. Pupils are taught to recognize outdoor decorative and healing plants and learn how to take care of them. In addition to the educational function, they also contribute to development of pupils' esthetic feeling.

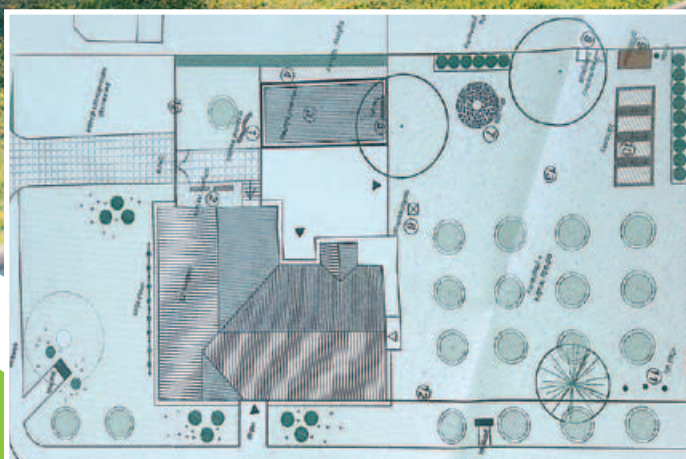
Plant beds – serve primarily as demonstrative grounds or for education of natural science and biology; pupils take care of plants, observe their structure and life cycle and finally harvest and eat the products.

Game and relaxation facilities – a music corner enables music lessons to be taught outside, campfire place will serve to pupils and their parents' informal relaxation activities.

Weather station – enables continuous and systematic weather observations and records kept by the pupils themselves.

Bee hives – are used for better understanding of beneficial effects pollinating insect has on the ecosystem; children supervised by beekeepers observe bees in their natural habitat.





The target of the **Hrušky School Garden project** is to move natural science education from a classic classroom to natural environment outside, and to make children interested in the nature. Creating environment suitable for game and relaxation purposes means increasing popularity and efficiency of the entire educational process with younger children. Last but not least, creating a school garden may be understood as a tribute to school horticulture which has a long and rich tradition within the system of schooling.

Example of Industrial Site Use

The Navara Site is a place drawing attention to an industrial site which has been preserved from the time not long ago. However, it performs a totally different role nowadays. It presents a great opportunity of how to use a non-functioning agricultural complex of buildings for business and private residential purposes. A unique ornamental garden was created in an old paved backyard formerly used as a car park for agricultural vehicles. Planting various trees, plants and flowers widely contributed to relaxation purposes. An area connecting the business part with the residential part was created by a further modification of the complex and the surrounding area. Having reconstructed the complex itself, the owners contributed to better environment in the village and provided other enthusiasts interested in innovative housing with a proof that once there is a will there is a way. The place is a successful example of how to use abandoned industrial buildings and bring them to life again.



Connection of Residential, Utility and Decorative Areas

The garden is a yet another example of how to connect rural style of housing, ornamental and utility garden and livestock.

The house was build on a vacant plot of land with an intention of using natural, near-natural and utility elements to a maximum extent and creating housing space.

The entrance to the plot is formed by a decorative lawn. Then, there is a house enabling entrance to the remaining part of the plot, with a paved terrace which merges into a well-kept lawn. At the end there is a little garden lake with a reed bed. This place is designed for relaxation purposes and presents an esthetically attractive area. Finally, there is a building used as a technical background of the house, and individual compartments for breeding domestic animals.

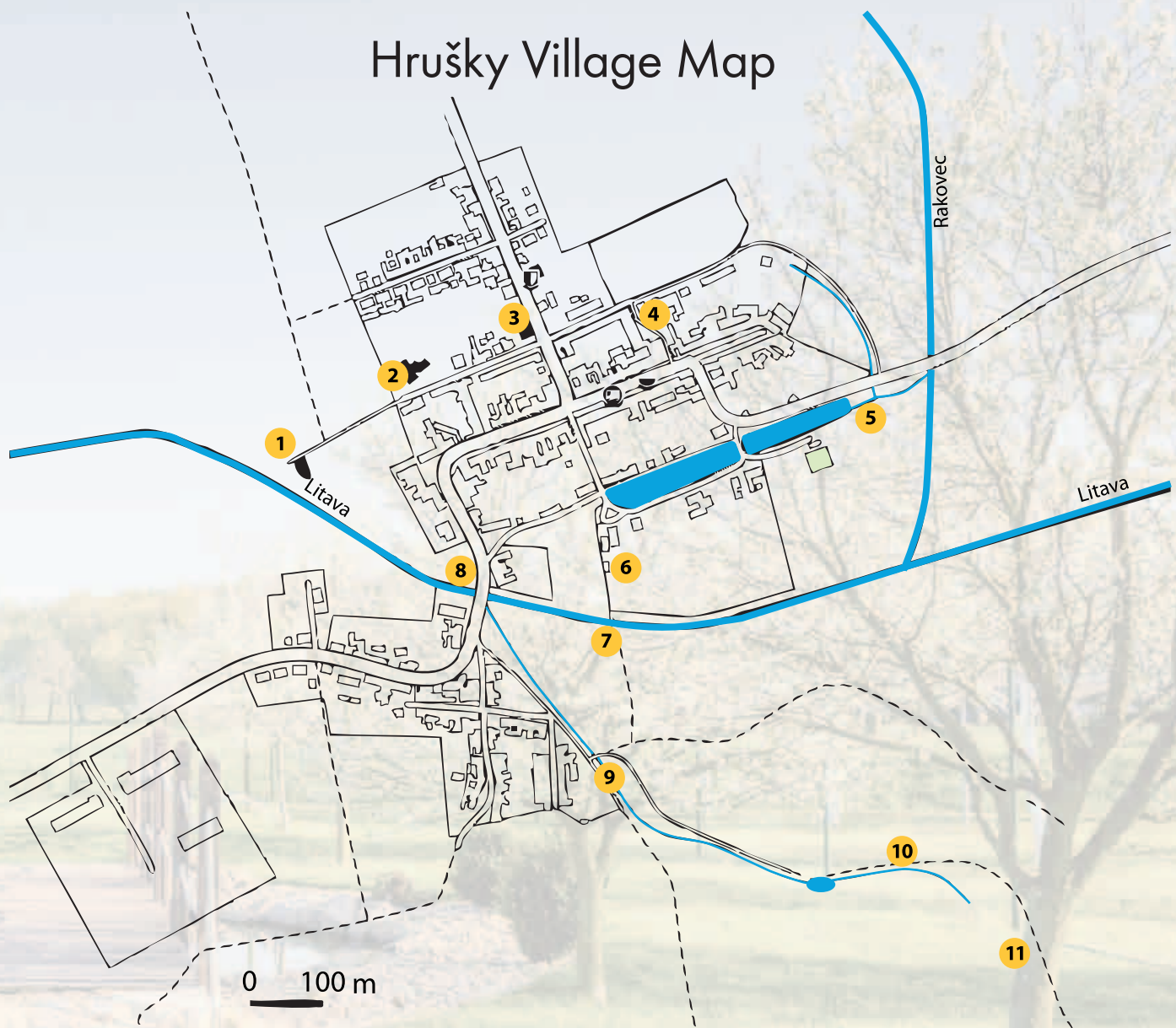
Slightly uneven terrain connected with the above-mentioned building was designed as a rock garden planted with perennial plants and ornamental shrubs. The remaining part of the plot was turned into a utility garden with vegetable beds and fruit trees. In this area there is one more, bigger, garden lake with a reed bed and a wooden bridge. This very natural-looking lake with water plants and shrubs on the banks contributes to the value of the entire place. Both garden lakes are water areas suitable for life and reproduction of amphibians, fish and insect and are used this way.

This part is directly connected to a neighbouring plot of land by a fence. This land is used as a free-range grazing area for horses, goats and poultry, with stabling.

The layout and use of the entire residential space may serve as an example of rational housing surrounded by the countryside, growing utility plants and keeping domestic animals for own needs, and sports activities.

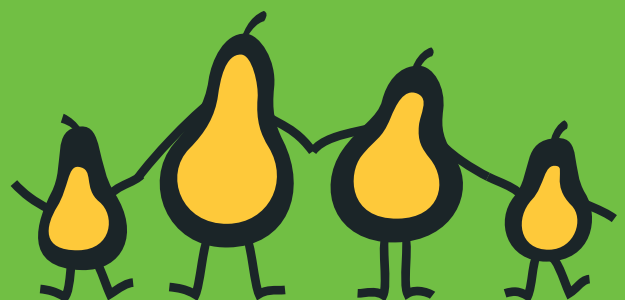
A private garden — an open area — thanks to its location close to the playground the garden gives children an opportunity of watching domestic animals.

Hrušky Village Map



- 1 - Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 2 - Nursery School
- 3 - Elementary School
- 4 - Navara Site
- 5 - Ponds

- 7 - Litava Sudy: Anti-Flood Measures
- 8 - Chapel of Virgin Mary of the Snow
- 9 - Water Tank Restoration and River Bed Revitalization
- 10 - Pools
- 11 - Wildlife Corridor



Conclusion

We would be happy to know that you felt comfortable in the village of Hrušky and we hope you enjoyed staying in our village. We have tried to introduce the village as it is and as we like it the most. Many volunteers who participated in preparation of the village presentation were brought together by our participation in the competition. Our effort and preparation was followed by local as well as regional press.

We highly appreciate the opportunity which has been given to us by ENTENTE FLORALE EUROPE 2016.

We are looking forward to meeting you.

Hrušky

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