

# SLAVKOV U BRNA

Entente Florale 2016









# SLAVKOV U BRNA

Slavkov u Brna – Austerlitz – is a city of many stories and it is visited by tens of thousands of visitors every year. Perhaps you know the story of Napoleon Bonaparte, who, thanks to his brilliant strategy, won the Battle of the Three Emperors in 1805 and became the master of Europe for several years thanks to this victory. This story is interesting and full of contradiction, however, the character of the landscape surrounding the city was barely affected by it. Thus, only

a short part of the following text is dedicated to it. The city is located in the South Moravian Region, near Brno. This location makes it an attractive place to live thanks to the city being located near the D1 highway and also thanks to the close connection with the regional city.

Its area is located on the boundary of the warm and the mild-warm climate area. The surrounding landscape can be characterized by the strongly undulated



relief with the wide valley of Litava on the south, which is a part of the Dyje-Svratka Valley. The valley of the river is lined by the Litenčice hills in the north and the Ždánice forest hills on the south.

The dominant feature of the city is the Urban hill. At its peak, in 350 meters above sea level, the St. Urban's Chapel glows to the dark. It guards the city and invites people to pilgrimages and religious events, but also to simple walks. It is a dominant landmark offering a distant, unique view. You can examine the whole city and its green beauty that shine through the landscape like scattered pearls: baroque composition of the landscape, a baroque castle with its garden, horse-chestnut alleys, a system of ponds, the "Thirteen Lakes" wetlands and Urbánek with its mosaic of vineyards on the hillside. You only need to find the pearls, pick them up and they will form a precious jewel.



Palacky Square

# COMPOSITION OF THE LANDSCAPE

The preserved baroque composition of the landscape is characteristic for Slavkov u Brna along with the intentional construction of buildings meant for walking around, for discovering new points of view, for the play of light and shadows. It is an embodiment of contrast, dynamics and liveliness. It is spectacular. In Slavkov it is embodied by the mosaic of fields with bosks and balks, with crosses and other sacral objects near the roads or near the borders with adjoining municipalities.

In the historic center of the city there is a preserved castle with its garden. It was built in the 18th century by the, at the time very powerful, family of Kounic. The axes project from this point to the landscape. To the west of the castle garden the triangle, which con-

nects Slavkov and the municipalities of Holubice and Křenovice, is located.

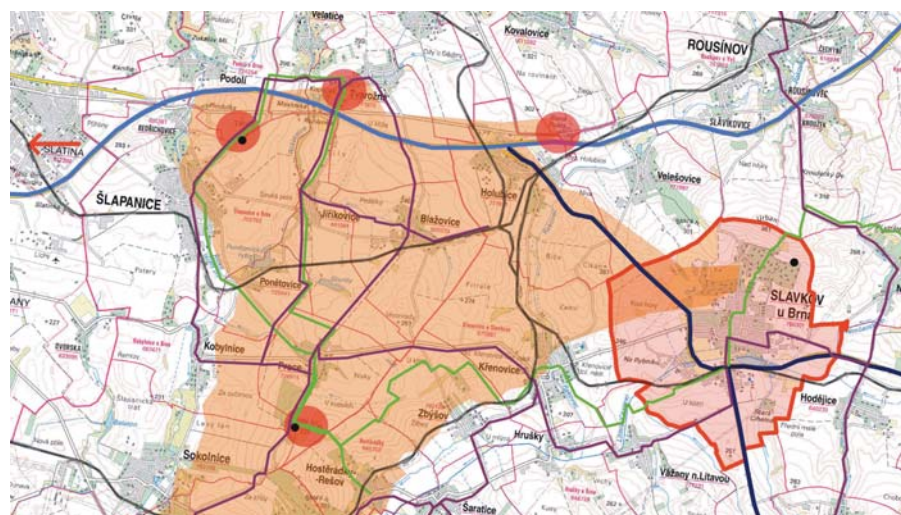
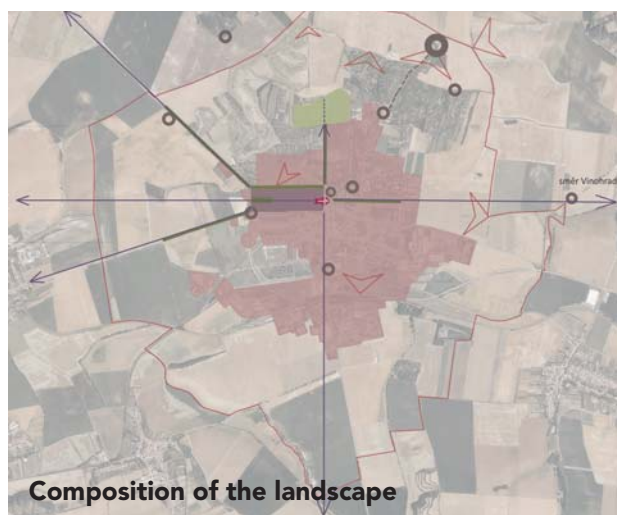
Another characteristic features are the accompanying alleys alongside the road. There is a mention in the archival materials about a regulation that commands planting of fruit trees alongside the main road. The eastern side of the castle garden is lined by the alley of horse-chestnuts, which offers unexpected new views to the St. Urban's Chapel and its surroundings. The alley goes the opposite way, to the east too, where it is a part of the greenery system and it gives life to the city parterre.

In this direction, the elevation Vinohrad holds an extraordinary location. The hill, which is located at the borderline of the two neighboring municipalities

Němčany and Hodějice, was a place from which the axes and the main objects of the composed landscape, including the castle, were localized. There are small sacral objects – wayside shrines, crosses, little chapels and statues of the saint persons – placed throughout the whole municipality area and they still take an important part in lives of local residents.

## The Landscape Protected – Zone Slavkov battlefield

The western part of Slavkov u Brna's municipality area belongs to the landscape protected zone Slavkov battlefield. The Battle of the Three Emperors took place on the 5th December 1805. The French were fighting under the command of Napoleon against the



## Slavkov battlefield

### LEGEND:

- Cadastral Austerlitz
- D1 highway
- first class road E50
- direction Brno
- hiking trail
- bicycle path
- railway
- significant points of the Battle of Austerlitz
- protected monument zone of the Austerlitz battlefield
- memorial of the Battle of Austerlitz



Russian Empire coalition with the czar Alexander I. in the lead, and against the Austrian Empire with Francis II in the lead. The battlefield is roughly defined by municipalities Pozořice (in the north), Slavkov u Brna (in the east), Žatčany (in the south) and Šlapanice (in the west), it contains 25 municipalities and takes up the overall area of 120 km<sup>2</sup>.

Some of the most significant historic sights, which are located at this area, are an Art Nouveau monument The Cairn of Peace Memorial located near Prace, a cubist monument on Žuráň, a natural hillock Santon with a chapel, fortification and a grave, pension Stará pošta, where Napoleon and his marshals stayed during the battle and where he came up with the legendary tactics. Another significant area is the Old vineyard, especially one of the elevated places of the Pracký hillock, which was the scene of some of the crucial fight of the battle. The truce of the tree emperors was declared at the Slavkov castle, the baroque heritage of the family of Kounic.

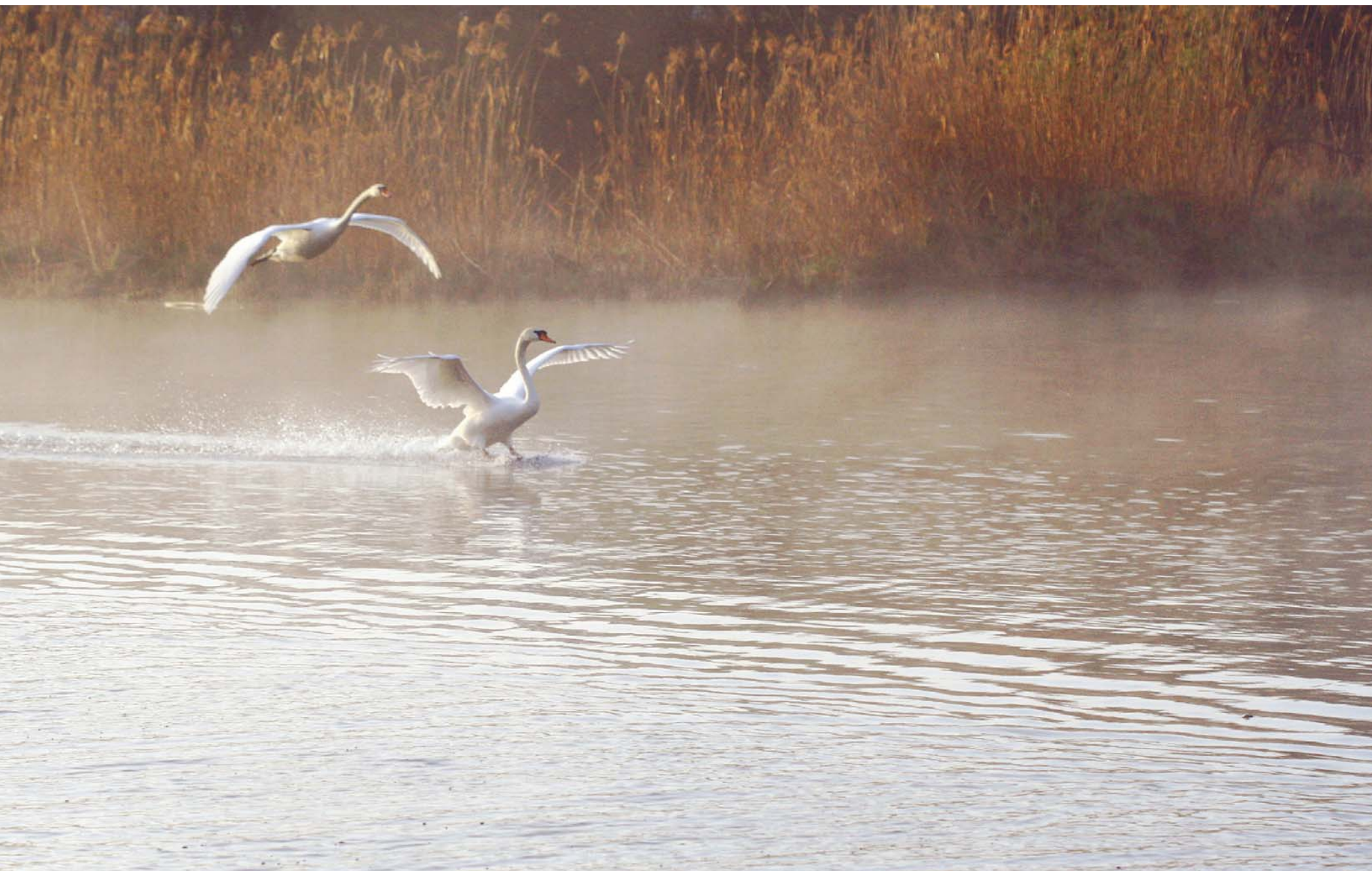
### History of the city

Presence of a man, according to the archeological findings, can be dated in accordance with several stages of the pottery development. The oldest findings are from the period of 4500–3000 B.C. The first written mention proving the existence of Slavkov u Brna comes from the year 1237. This document describes the change of ownership in 1222, when the Teutonic Order became the owner.

In 1509 the family of Kounic becomes the owner of the domain. The family of Kounic considered Slavkov as the center of their family dominion and after the year 1655 the reconstructions gradually converted into the baroque style. They started reconstructing the Renaissance castle to the baroque style according to the design created by Domenico Martinelli. He set the elemental baroque appearance and character not only of the castle, but also the of whole settlement city. The essence of Martinelli's designs is still preserved.









# NATURE

## **Waters – the “Thirteen Lakes” wetlands**

In the last decade a new rare locality in the southern part of the city was created – the “Thirteen Lakes” wetlands. It is the part of the flood control measurements made on the river Litava. In fact, 16 lakes can be found there along with rare fauna and flora. This place is often visited by local residents, but also by specialists from all over the country. This place is a concern of “Slavkov’s conservationist association”. Rare kinds of birds and other animals can be found here.

The area of SO ORP Slavkov u Brna is located in the river basin Litava. In the past the river was polluted by the sewage and wastewater from surrounding municipalities and by dangerous substances coming from the adjoining fields. During the 70s and 80s the pollution reached level 5, which equates to water without any possibility of living forms. These days, when the biggest polluters (municipalities and factories near the river) built sewage treatment plants and the agriculture laws are stricter, the situation is way better. Thanks to these steps not only small animals, such as insects and amphibians, but also fish are returning to the river.

## **Flood control measurements**

The flood flow rate of Litava often threatened a significant part of the city. In 2006 and 2007 the capacity increase of the river bed took place. Height of existing barrages was increased and a spillway to Velký (Great) pond, which helps to minimize the culminating flow, was built, along with the renewal of greenery around the river and pond.

In the next phase building of a construction meant for capturing the extreme floods from Prostředníček stream took place. This construction is a complex of several measurements, from the mobile barriers to drain canals and unique wetlands, which, in periods of higher water states, will keep water from Prostředníček stream. A natural biocorridor (now a unique locality of the Thirteen Lakes) was created on the area of 35 000 m<sup>2</sup>. The expenses for mentioned flood control measurements reached CZK 130M (5 200 000 €)

## **Water erosion – dry detention basins**

During the past years Slavkov municipality has been working on several nature friendly water management projects. In the north of the city it is a system of joined dry detention basins that lead the water into the water flow Prostředníček in the southern part of the city. From all these projects only the detention basin “Pod Urbanem” was realized in 2014 on the north of the city. The next buildings are integrated to the local plan.





### The Big pond and the system of ponds

The Big pond was built for the needs of a former sugar factory. Because of this function, the water doesn't contain enough of oxygen, which was not suitable e.g., fish farming. In 1996 a revitalization of the pond took place, during which the shore was supposed to be strengthened with willow osiers, pools for amphibians were projected and an eastern pond, which was used as a pre-cleaning water surface, was built. The pond is taken care of by the city to this day. These days, preparations for reparations of the southern dyke are taking place.

### Water management

The level of ground water in the city is very high. This was the reason why, for example, a church tower couldn't be built. The church itself is built on oak posts. The high level of ground water affects many



Swan chicks

buildings, it often reaches cellars of family houses and must be pumped out.

The city is one of the shareholders of the Vodovody a kanalizace, a.s. (Water and sewerage ltd.) company, which operates the water piping and the sewerage sys-



Chestnut alley



Pond

tem in the city and surrounding municipalities. During the past years the city made big investments into construction and reconstruction of water piping, sewerage system and sewage treatment plants. The quality of drinking water is very good.

When it comes to the water management, we need to get ready for periods of drought and heavy rains.

### Castle garden and alleys

The castle garden in Slavkov u Brna is an inseparable part of the castle grounds and it is one of the most significant historical gardens in Moravia. It takes the area of 15.5 ha. Today's appearance of the garden is a result of many transformations, which were carried out along with the castle being transformed into new architectural styles.

The renewed castle garden was opened at the occasion of the UNESCO symposium about baroque gardens, which took place in September 1977. Since 1996 there has been a golf court with six holes at the back of the garden, continuing way back behind the northern castle wall. The garden includes also a garden cen-



ter, original baroque greenhouses and Panská školka (panšula) – nursery, where young plants for the park and forest of the family of Kounic were planted.

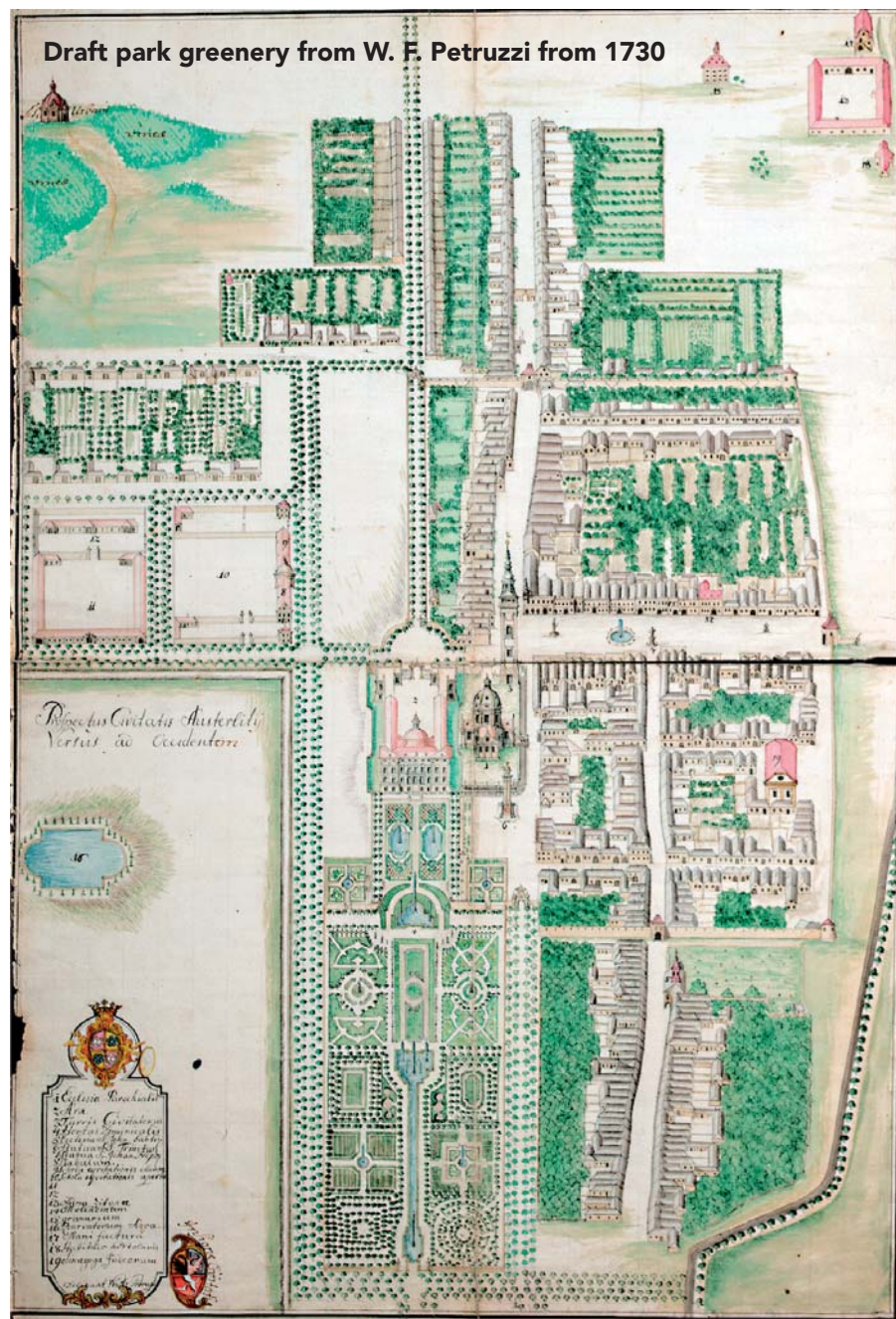
The whole composition of the garden was arranged through the landscape with three alleys, each of which has four rows, continuing to the western horizon and the new developed city was formed in accordance with it. In addition, three parallel alleys going up to north were built with the baroque St. Urban's Chapel being the crown of this composition. Another alleys were grown in the south of the city. The overall space disposition of the castle garden is depicted in Petruzzi's drawing from 1732 and in the maps of the I. and II. military mapping.

During the second half of the 18th century small garden buildings (parazol – a bird aviary) and a well preserved Chinese summerhouse (the city is working on a project for its renovation) were built in the castle garden. In the first half of the 19th century the garden was transformed into an English park.

In the 70's of the 20th century a generous reconstruction of the castle garden took place. It was based mainly on the project from 1774 and gave the park its former baroque look. A dominant feature of the park is a set of freely situated baroque sculptures based on mythology, which were created by Giovanni Giuliani for the original orangery. Full-grown conifers and broadleaved trees (the rarest of which are catalpas, ginkgo biloba and rare oaks) were planted in the strictly organized geometric composition.

In January 2015 one of the most important environmental events of the last few years started. After 200 years, essential renewal of the five historic alleys and the castle garden started. During the first phase the woodmen cut down old and dangerous trees (approximately 200 trees) and performed the health cuts. During the next phase the gardeners planted almost 900 new trees.

The health of the trees was affected by the horse-chestnut leaf miner, there was a danger of falling and using chemicals was not possible because of the rare bug *osmoderma eremita* being present here. This en-





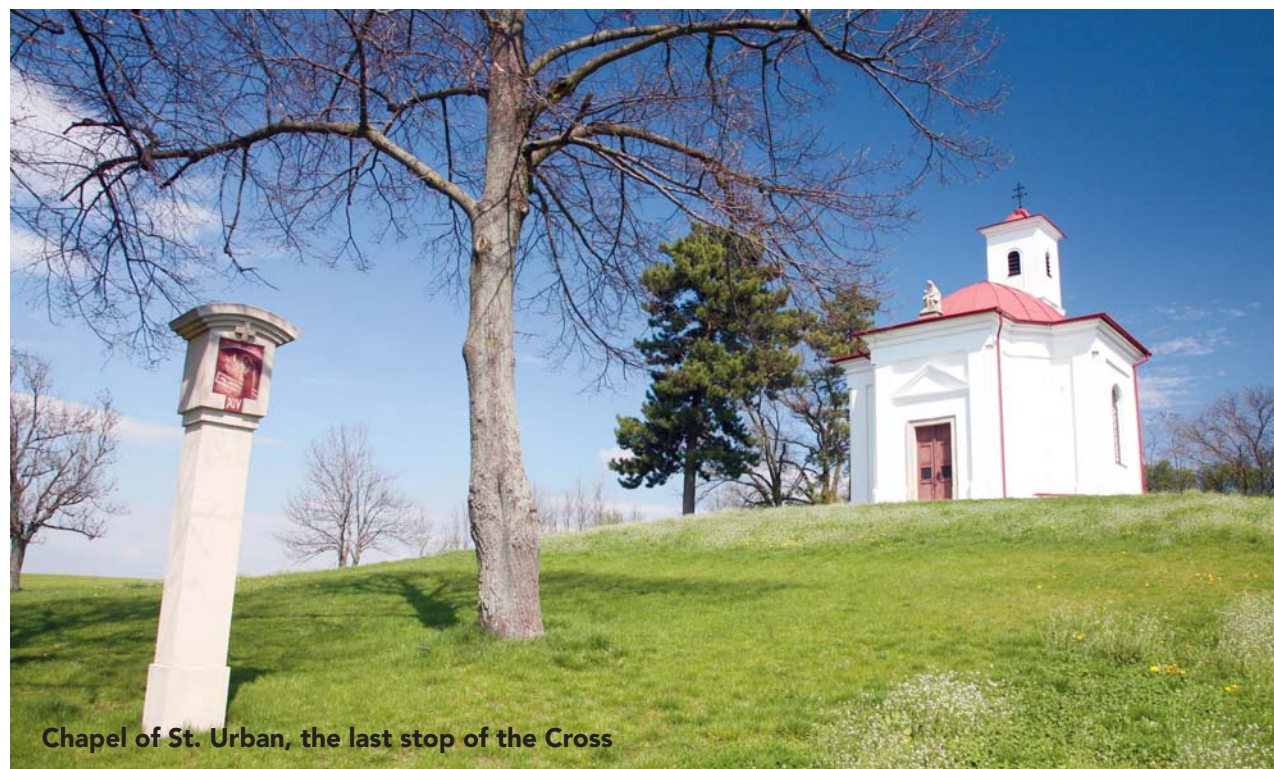
dangered species live in several trees mainly in the castle garden and in the alley heading towards Křenovice. This endangered species need to stay in their natural habitat. That's why the dendrologists moved several tree torsos to the near area of Panská školka – nursery, near the castle wall. A new and unique place for bugs came into existence next to the Křenovická alley.

The horse-chestnut leaf miner is a tiny microbutterfly, which came here for its food, leaves of the horse-chestnut, which is more typical for southern Europe. *Osmoderma eremita*, or the hermit beetle, as the protected species, was chosen, along with another rare animals, to the system or European protected areas NATURA 2000, which is a unique environment of old cavernous trees with animals that are a part of the natural life circle – they create the nutrients for the roots of plants and trees by the decomposition of wood.

The castle garden and horse-chestnut alleys are some of the most popular places in the city. They are typical and characteristic for the city. The alleys attract people for walks and create magical secluded places. The length of the alleys is more than six kilometers and the alleys take up the area of more than 66 000 m<sup>2</sup>.

### Urbánek

The Urban hill is visible from almost every place in Slavkov. Its magnificence is completed by the St. Urban's Chapel in baroque style, which was built in 1712 in accordance with Domenico Martinelli's design. A steppe that surrounds the chapel forms another interesting component. In 2015 the Way of the Cross with 14 stops was finished and pictures by Milivoj Husák were added to the stops' niches. The Way of the Cross starts at the statue of John of Nepomuk at the turning from the street Tyršova. The hill is located in the northern part of the municipality area along with a large area of a lotment gardens. In the western part a Jewish cemetery, which was founded in 1744, adjoins them. The cemetery is original, surrounded by a wall. Inside the cemetery there are approximately 300 original tombstones.



Chapel of St. Urban, the last stop of the Cross

### Biocorridors

In the close surroundings of the city there are new biocorridors growing: field grassy roads with alleys and windbreaks. Slavkov u Brna decided to renew these landscape elements and to contribute to the erosion control of Slavkov's surroundings by doing so. Use of the plans and proposals for so called common facilities of land adjustment process (such as biocenters, biocorridors, field roads, anti-erosion barks) means a unique chance to make a positive change.

In the times of the state being out of money and the budget and grants being constantly cut down, Slavkov u Brna municipality with its environment department agreed on a step by step realization of these projects with their own funds and with the help of volunteers from citizens' initiatives and the public. This activity

was joined also by Slavkov's gamekeepers and kid Scouts. The city provided suitable estates, bought trees, stakes and wire mesh, Technical services provided transportation, the machinery needed and the base, environment department planned the action and the rest was handled by the members of approached initiatives.

The intention of Slavkov u Brna is to continue in these activities as much as possible with the budget provided and to involve not only the gamekeepers and Scouts, but also wider public in the activities. With this gradual renewal of individual landscape elements the environmental stability and biodiversity will be increased, as well as the water and wind erosion will be reduced. Interconnection of these elements by the field grassy roads will form new routes suitable for walking not only for the Slavkov residents.



During the next year this initiative will be joined by the local gardeners who will provide planting of old varieties of fruit and decorative trees. The estate was already chosen.

### Flowers

Every year the administrative buildings of the city are decorated by mobile annual planting. Windows are decorated by flower boxes of pelargonium. The city hall is decorated by bigger mobile containers with planted flowers. The flowerbeds of annual flowers can be traditionally seen in front of the church and, for the first time this year, in front of the Komenský's Elementary school. Also, the circle flowerbed on the castle courtyard draws a lot of attention.



Floral decoration on Palacky Square

Beds of perennial flowers in front of citizens' houses are the Slavkov's phenomenon. It seems as if the families competed in whose garden is more beautiful. They can be found at Tyršova, Jiráskova and Luční streets. In the near future we can expect the Invitations from flower meadows in the surrounding of the city.

### Birdlife at the "Thirteen Lakes"

The locality of the "Thirteen Lakes" wetlands is a beautiful piece of nature, which, along with a big pond and the Šámy, forms a valuable locality for birdlife. During several years after building the wetlands birds returned to the area. Surprisingly, even the kinds that couldn't be previously found around Slavkov settled down here. In 2015 there were 112 kinds of birds ob-



Great Reed Warbler

served here, 5 of which are critically endangered species registered in the "List of especially protected species of birds in the Czech Republic". One of them, the common redshank, has been nesting here since 2013!

A lot of water and mud birds found their shelter around the Thirteen Lakes. Little grebes, mallards, Eurasian coots and common moorhens can be spotted here, as well as the water rail can be heard squeaking in the reeds. At the next little lake you can see a swan family of ten wade through the mud, timid grey herons taking off and two black storks. At the muddy shores of the lakes there are loads of wood sandpipers, common snipes, common sandpipers and little ringed plovers. With the characteristic noise, a group of 50 northern lapwings fly away. We can also spot a common kingfisher.

Aside from birds, mammals and invertebrate were found at the area of wetlands, too: for example





Chateau park





a muskrat, European water vole, European hare, European mole, a coypu, steppe polecat and European polecat, least weasel, a stoat, Eurasian harvest mouse and so on. The invertebrates are not fully examined, but there were found representatives of the European fire-bellied toad, grass snake, European green toad, the edible frog, the marsh frog, southern hawker and a variety of butterflies. Most of them are listed in the List of especially protected species.

### Butterflies and beetles of Slavkov u Brna and its surroundings

Insects are the most widespread class of animals and butterflies and beetles are the best known representatives.

In Slavkov u Brna 81 out of the total of 161 kinds of butterflies of the Czech Republic (18 of which has gone extinct) can be found. The only kinds missing here are the ones living in the mountains and the ones living in specific biotopes. Slavkov u Brna is located in the northern part of Pannonian basin, which affects the diversity of insect species living here by its climate. Most of the area of the Pannonian basin consists of lowlands in the altitude of 100 m above the sea level – in Slavkov it ranges from 230 to 360 m above the sea level. In the Slavkov's surroundings we can find mostly agricultural areas, the remains of the steppe, groves, parks, wet-

lands, but also relatively large orchards and allotment garden areas at the north of Slavkov. This diversity of biotopes is a prerequisite for a rich species diversity.

However, the diversity of butterfly species change over time, too. It is mostly affected by the gradual change of climate, human activities (intensification of agriculture and forestation – the use of pesticides and planting of grain monocultures are the main factors in biodiversity devastation) and, to a lesser degree, the change of biotopes of caterpillars. While after the World War II the continental climate was dominant here, in the present days the Czech Republic is more and more under the influence of the oceanic climate. And the present composition of butterfly species matches this. Some of the previously plentiful species disappeared (for example the black-veined white or the large tortoiseshell) and the other way around, some previously rare species are now very common (the map or a brand new species – *colias erate*, which expanded to us from the southern Europe in the 80s of 20th century). Some species disappeared from the surroundings, too, due to the change of living conditions of caterpillars – as in the case of Danube clouded yellow butterfly, which used to live on the hillsides near Ždánice just 40 years ago.

Slavkov u Brna and its surroundings are a home to various endangered species of butterflies. From the more known it is the Old World swallowtail and the



Scarce Swallowtail, which can be often found in the gardens and tens of them can be seen on the Urban hill during the mating season. While the caterpillar of the more known Old World swallowtail lives on wild plants from the Chenopodiaceae family, caterpillars of the Scarce Swallowtail feast on blackthorn leaves, which line the roads at the foot of the Urban hill. Both of these swallowtail kinds are protected by law, but are not endangered at the moment – their population has been increasing since the 20th century.

Other endangered species are not so striking. We can name for example the brown hairstreak and a very rare *Cupido decoloratus*. Both of these species can be found in the gardens above Slavkov. Near the wetlands and water areas, where sorrel is present, the large copper butterfly can be found.

Our town and its surroundings are a significant locality for another order of the insects – beetles. Classification of the castle garden and its adjoining alleys into the European system NATURA 2000 in the Pannonian Basin under the number “83 Slavkov u Brna – the castle garden” is the proof of it. There is a documented presence of species such as the hermit beetle, *lucanus cervus* (or simply the stag beetle) or *lamprodila rutilans*. Sixteen kinds of the longhorn beetle, four kinds of the ground beetle, nine kinds of the buprestidae and many other kinds of beetles are present here.



# SLAVKOV CASTLE – THE CULTURAL HERITAGE MONUMENT

The castle is both the dominant part of the city and the social center of local residents. Its owner is the city, Slavkov u Brna, which is highly uncommon in Czech conditions. Slavkov Castle – Austerlitz is not only a historic sight attracting tourists from all over

the Czech Republic and other countries. It became a “city center of culture”, too, so it organizes cultural and social events. It also operates the city theatre, the biggest house of culture – Bonaparte, the city library and also a tourist information center. Only this year

the castle prepared more than fifty culture events – from discussions, exhibitions, concerts, markets, balls and events for children to above-regional events that are visited by tens of thousands of people.

## **Reconstruction of the castle and bringing the horse barns back to life**

Only five years ago the castle didn't look like a shiny baroque pearl. The facade was chipped and the courtyard was covered with grit. Water was leaking into underground areas. The horse barns were referring back to their near history when it served as a fruit and vegetables storage and a base for the technical services.

For the castle to remind us of its memorable history of the Slavkov's masters again, the city focused on its reparations. European Union, the state and the city have invested almost CZK 100M (approximately € 3 700 00) since 2008 into the castle. The original facade was renewed, a suitable floor tiling was put in the courtyard, investments into hydroisolation of the underground areas were made and new access paths to the castle were built. The castle horse barns were brought back to life and these days it's a home to an “Austerlitz – small town with big history” exhibit. This historical sight is almost all repaired and made accessible. When it comes to the building, the only thing left is a reconstruction of the castle embankments and the castle wall, which was damaged by floods. The city has



Castle courtyard



already asked for a grant at the European structural and investment funds. The efforts lead to the continuation of turning the castle barrier-free and accessible even for immobile citizens. The exhibition in horse barns is accessible for the wheelchair users. However, the castle itself and its sightseeing tour is not barrier-free. The city investment department has prepared a project for building an elevator going to the first floor.

A beautifully repaired historical sight is not everything, though. A big amount of the money meant for operation of the Slavkov Castle – Austerlitz comes from the city. The city budget must expect giving out an annual contribution of approximately CZK 8M (approximately € 300 000). Then, the castle, by its own operation (entrance fees, renting of space, organization of culture events), can earn about CZK 4-5M (about € 148 000-185 000).

As a comparison: the city can annually release maximum of CZK 10M (€ 370 000) for investment projects such as repairing of the communications, construction of playgrounds and so on. In the past years this amount of money was from a big part invested into the castle – as a contribution to the projects supported by external budgets.

### New projects and plans

After all these strenuous reparations, building interventions and renewal of the castle garden, the public-benefit corporation can focus on its own main mission: creating a pleasant space full of culture events and social experience not only for tourists, but mainly for the Slavkov residents.

The castle is a natural place for a rest and for experiencing happy moments. The most beautiful Historic hall is the place where local students receive their school certificates, in the representative areas discussions with historians, authors or artists take place. The castle also opens its doors for free for important occasions.

Also “soft” projects are planned, for example investing into an upgrade of the reservation and ticket book-

ing system or investing into building an educational footpath in the park using a mobile application. Recently a new web portal was launched, along with a mobile city guide in 4 languages.

The city also carries out steps towards the future, so that the baroque statues and the Chinese summer-house can be repaired soon. Also, new furniture for the resting tourists will be added to the castle garden. We are looking for options leading to reparation of the unique greenhouses.

### Urban Conservation Area

The castle is not the only treasure that was left for us by the Slavkov’s masters. The city center has been an Urban Conservation Area since 1995. The core of the Urban Conservation Area is the main Palacký’s square, the castle grounds and the castle garden, former Jewish district with the Brněnská, Úzká and U Synagogy streets and the eastern part with Husova, Zborovská and Hradební streets. One of the most interesting buildings of the city is the city hall building, along with the church of Vzkříšení Páně (resurrection).

### The city hall

The oldest building in the city is the city hall in the Renaissance style, which stays on gothic foundations.



The city hall



Church of Vzkříšení Páně

This building from 1592 has been the seat of the city officials and representatives since it was built. Only the prison and taproom weren’t preserved. The city emblem is interesting, too, it is placed above the main entrance and it was granted to the city by Václav IV. on 1st June 1416. It is the oldest extant emblem privilege known to the Czech lands.

### Church of Vzkříšení Páně – Resurrection

This unique classicist church was built between the years 1786 and 1789 and designed by the Vienna court architect Ferdinand Hetzendorf von Hohenberg. A noticeable dominant feature of the interior is the main altar made from red Salzburg marble.



# CITIZENS' INITIATIVE

The big Slavkov's phenomenon are its residents. Officially there are more than 6000 people living in Slavkov u Brna.

Despite the city being located only 20km away from the second largest city of the Czech Republic, Slavkov's streets and the square are full of people throughout the year. Slavkov is not only a place where workers from Brno come to sleep, as showed by the number of registered businessmen in Slavkov, which reaches the number 1400. Several important companies, which employ hundreds of employees, have their headquarters in the city. Unemployment in Slavkov is one of the lowest in the Czech Republic in the long term (3.7%).

Another characteristic trait of the local residents is their desire to join each other and socialize. There are almost 40 leisure activity groups in Slavkov. Projects and events are organized by the fishermen, gamekeep-

ers, gardeners, diabetics, modelers, historic clubs, Scouts, environmentalists, theatre enthusiasts, sportsmen, musicians, folklorists, churches...

Local schools are active, too, and they are attended by almost 1 700 children and students. The outcome of this socialization can be seen by each and every citizen. The gardeners of Slavkov are one of the most significant citizens' initiative. And it is not only because of the gardens leading to Urban form an outstanding landscape element and important greenery. The gardeners organize a marvelous exhibition of fruit and vegetables every autumn, which is visited and admired by people and schools from the wide surroundings.

## Gardeners "zero-waste producers"

Significant benefit of the local gardeners is the fact that they are "zero-waste producers". Thanks to their dutiful storing of the biowaste in the previously placed containers the city composting plant returns everything to the nature. In 2015 alone the workers of the Technical services brought 597 tons of biologically decomposable waste to the composting plant. These days the composting plant has to deal with the opposite problem - it cannot cover the demand for fertile soil, which it produces from the waste and gives to the citizens for free.

Slavkov regularly reaches up the high places when it comes to the Czech statistics about the amount of recycled waste per citizen.

Another fact that proves the citizens' interest in the environment is their joining environmental events

such as the spring cleaning at the occasion of the Earth Day, planting new trees at the unbuilt on areas of the city (biocorridors and other planting) and so on.

Local children can achieve big things, too. For example a beautiful educational "Josífek's garden" was built in the Christian kindergarten Karolinka thanks to the volunteers consisting of the parents and friends of the school. The children even earned the money for the dominant element - the dragon - themselves. During the project of activities called "Je to na draka (It's for a dragon)" they performed their own song about the garden during one of the benefit concert, they made presents to be sold at the market, they joined a literary and fine arts competition and contributed to the collecting of old paper.

The patronage of the garden reconstruction was right at the beginning given to St. Joseph - that's where the name of the garden came from. As a good garden for children this garden has its own story, which is being reflected in the placement of individual natural play elements.

An interesting factor of the citizens' initiatives is also the media. More than a half of the official monthly magazine - Slavkovský zpravodaj - is filled with entries from schools, initiatives, churches and sports clubs and so on. It often touches on significant historical milestones and stories of the citizens, too. The monthly magazine is distributed to every household for free. A medium of importance, which allows a social discussion, too, is a private portal [veslavkove.cz](http://veslavkove.cz) or the official facebook account of the city.



Gardening exhibition



# CULTURE AND LEISURE TIME

What made Slavkov u Brna famous beyond the city border is culture and sport. The connection of the significant culture events and beautiful surroundings of the castle form a very attractive enticement for people.

The city and its citizens' initiatives organize reverential and commemorative historic events which remind us of the events of 1805, too. The Summer Napoleon's games in the castle garden and mainly the winter Commemorative event for the Battle of the Three Emperors are visited by tens of thousands of people, including foreign tourists.

The castle garden is also a traditional place for concerts with a mass attendance. Not only the Czech music stars, but also, for example, Deep Purple or Jethro Tull have performed here. The castle is also famous for the biggest meeting of the veteran cars in the Czech Republic – the Oldtimer festival.

But the visitors don't visit only the castle and its garden. Several times of the year the central Palacký's square is filled with people, too. Wide range of performances is presented at the square in July during the Slavkov Days. At the occasion of Commemorative events, the legendary pre-Christmas market takes place. Events such as the Pork feasts, lighting of the Christmas tree with carols singing and the New Year's Eve fireworks are events with a community character.

But it's not only the mass events that allow you to have a nice time in Slavkov. For this year the Slavkov Castle – Austerlitz, as the city culture center, prepared

over fifty events of different characters. The favorite craftsmen market takes place for several times of the year in the castle garden. The castle gallery is permanently occupied by exhibitions aimed at all the genera-

tions. The most beautiful Historic hall is often the venue of both professional music events and music events of the local arts school. The magnificent Historic hall is never left out from the unique Concentus



Napoleonic games



Moraviae festival. Various discussions with historians, authors and artists often take place at the castle, too. The castle also arranges regular tours with costumes not only for children and they are usually sold out a few weeks ahead.

For the 600th anniversary of the city emblem the Slavkov Castle – Austerlitz prepared a few significant events aimed mainly at the local residents. For example, the castle roof trussing and lofts are made accessible, many free concerts at the courtyard are organized and also the summer Slavkov Days and autumn Václavský market in a medieval style are held.

Culture and social events do not take place only in the castle, its garden or at the city square. The city owns the biggest house of culture – the Bonaparte center. Thanks to its big hall and quality facilities approximately 10 balls are held here every year along with several theatre plays and concerts. The house of culture is used by the local initiatives and schools, too.

The Bonaparte center is also a house of the Slavkov theatre club, whose members shows their talent to the public several times a year. In March the club also contributes to the organization of traditional Theatre Days, which provide content for every generation.

There are other art clubs in Slavkov u Brna and they can fill up not only the local concert halls. The church choir Collegium Musicum Bonum consists of almost 30 members and creates a unique atmosphere during special occasions. Slavkov is also the hometown of the legendary country music band Poutníci (Pilgrims).

There are several other places where culture events can take place in the city. One of them is for example the courtyard of the Aristocratic house, which is one of the oldest houses in the city. Music sounds amazing in the church of Vzkříšení páně, too, along with the St. Kříž chapel in the castle or in the St. John the Baptist chapel at the local cemetery. Culture events organize also private initiatives.

It's not only the culture that offers local residents a way of relaxing and cultivation. There are several ex-



traordinarily equipped sport venues and even more sport clubs with a big member base and ambition.

Slavkov is famous beyond its walls for its golf course, beach volleyball, winter swimming, cycling and cheerleading. The golf course owns an international accreditation and hosts many important tournaments. Despite the club card not being for everyone, people without the membership can enjoy the game, too. The golf club cooperates with the local Komen-ský's Elementary school, so that children can play for free in their classes of physical education and they can learn the basics of the game. Also, the six-hole training course in the castle garden is accessible for the wide public. Anyone can play there for a symbolic fee. The teeing ground is open, too.

The magnificent beach volleyball court at the outdoor swimming pool is accessible, too. Despite the high-ranked tournaments taking place here many times throughout the year, most of the time you can see local residents playing here. The volleyball club also organizes camps for adults as well as city camps for children.

And the outdoor swimming pool is the best for many more reasons. High quality facilities, 50m long swimming pool and mainly the helpfulness of the Technical services helped the expansion of winter swimming. Six winter swimmers represent Slavkov internationally. Swimming competitions take place here regularly, too. The cold water attracts "amateurs", too. For the third year in a row the swimmers from Slavkov organized the Christmas swimming. While three years ago only





Swimming pool

two more daring people got into water with them, in 2015 it was sixteen people swimming altogether.

Slavkov has its high-ranked representatives in cycling, too. The biker Pavel Boudný has been winning more and more international races in the past few years. Currently he is the 2nd best European marathoner.

Similarly, the children of Komenský's Elementary school successfully represent the city as a cheerleading team Glitter Stars. There are 26 teams in the Czech Republic that are annually being beaten by the Glitter Stars and that's why this team belongs to the top Czech teams. They collected 20 medals at the last Czech Republic Championship. Three Slavkov citizens also represented the Czech Republic at the World Championship in Florida.

Another growing sport is athletics. The athletics club has the biggest member base in the city these days. During the past five years the number of members grew from 20 to 100 despite the athletes of Slavkov not having ideal conditions for training. This is one of the reasons why the city decided to submit an application for a grant this

year for reconstruction of the formerly high-ranked athletics stadium. After the reconstruction it will be used not only by the athletes but also the mentioned 1700 children from local schools. The stadium primarily needs a reconstruction of the running track and of the support walls. The project is designed so that athletes can train and race in conditions that meet the requirements of the Czech Athletic Federation. The 400 m long six track should have a tartan surface and should be used for all running disciplines, including the hurdle race.

The city supports other athletes, too. Quality facilities are provided to tennis players, who train in an inflatable hall during winters. The city also built an outside gym next to the football stadium and intends to gradually extend it. The exercising machines are used not only for the warm up by young athletes. Runners, who make use of the suitable terrain of the castle garden, alleys and the golf course, use it as well. The aim of the city is to expand these running and walk paths as much as possible and to offer the residents new ways of discovering the city.



Days of Austerlitz



Paul Boudný at the Championship in Austerlitz



# THE CITY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT

## Technical services of Slavkov u Brna

The care of the city's tidiness and public greenery was entrusted to a public-benefit corporation Technical services of Slavkov u Brna (TSMS). The workload of TSMS is taking care of roads and communication, the public swimming pool, stadium, public lighting and the cemetery and re-cultivation. Its overall annual budget is about CZK 16M (€ 620 000), a half of which

is intended for the care about the city's appearance – its tidiness and public greenery.

The tidiness of the city includes activities linked with the winter and summer maintenance – removing the snow from pavements and roads. The Technology Park is outdated and needs a reconstruction. The city is planning to equip the TSMS with new sweeping multi-purpose vehicle this year (the price is CZK

3.6 M – € 130 000) and a new technology for the environmentally friendly elimination of weeds by pouring hot water on it with the WAVE machine (the price is CZK 530 000 – € 20 000).

Last year there were almost 1000 new trees planted during the renewal of baroque alleys and they need a special care – manuring, irrigating, anchoring, tying and health cutting. With the old trees there is a need of the safety cuts and removal of tree stumps. Grassy areas are in need of regeneration, regular cutting and fallen leaves must be cleaned. Another activities of TSMS are planting of annual flower beds and the follow-up care. This year we will start sowing the flower meadows, too.

## Waste management – biowaste and the composting plant

In 2009 a composting plant was built at the location of a former waste dump. Overall expenses reached CZK 9.3M, out of which 90% was covered by the Czech environmental fund from the European Union resources. Operating of the composting plant is arranged by TSMS based on the compiled “Collecting system”. Capacity of the plant is 950 tons per year. Both the public greenery and biologically decomposable waste collected from the citizens is used for composting. Collecting of the waste takes place every 14 days. Handover options: containers (40pcs) bags, paved areas in front of houses, dustbins for biowaste.

The system of collecting and processing of the biologically decomposable waste in Slavkov u Brna is



Composting



very advanced and used by the citizens. The city, as the first in the Czech Republic to establish such system, became an inspiration for other cities more than once. However, this leads to an unexpected problem: the capacity of the composting plant is sometimes insufficient and the city is looking for solutions that would lead to satisfying the increasing demand.

### **Collecting the waste and waste collection point**

The waste collection is handled by the Respono, a.s. company, whose co-owner is our city. This company operates a waste dump of mixed municipal waste, the sorting line for paper and plastic, dismantling workroom for electronic waste and 8 waste collection points. The citizens separate paper, plastic, glass (both clear and colored) into specified containers of color or they can use the service of the waste collection point.

To the waste collection point in Slavkov you can bring for free the biologically decomposable waste, electronics, hazardous waste (paints, glue, oil...) and other waste (carpets, mattresses, furniture...). For a fee you can bring in tires, construction/demolition waste.



Slavkov u Brna usually takes a leading role in the statistics about waste sorting. The city ended up among the first 20 cities of the Czech Republic in the competition called Crystal dustbin for several times. This competition evaluates the recycling system and its results.

### **Energies – Cogeneration units**

The city owns a central furnace room, which supplies the whole housing estate Zlatá Hora (Golden mountain) with heat. Currently there are plans for a complete reconstruction of the furnace room, including building a cogeneration unit. This project will cost approximately CZK 10M (approximately € 37 000).

### **Public lighting**

The streets are lit by the discharge tube lights. A device for lowering the voltage in public lighting network is being gradually installed. Thanks to this the voltage is lowered to 50% at night. The light is muted from the midnight to 4 a.m.

### **Awards in the environmental field – Biocorridor in Koží hory**

In 2013 the local authority of Slavkov u Brna was awarded a special prize for successful realization of the erosion control measurements with the active involvement of the public during the project “Biocorridor in Koží hory”. This project was realized in cooperation with the local gamekeepers association, the Scouts, and the Technical services.

### **Waste and the municipality – Municipal waste management**

Out of 650 contestants the city took the 14th place in the 2015 “Crystal dustbin” competition. The degree of activity in the field of municipal waste management is evaluated, mainly when it comes to the sorted waste collection. Slavkov u Brna finishes among the first places of the competition in the long

term. In 2009 Slavkov even reached the 3rd place in its category.

### **Awards for the old appliance collection**

The city obtained a Certificate for the highest utilization rate of electrical appliances per citizen in the “Cities above 15000 residents” category.

### **Environmental projects of local companies**

It is not only the city and the residents who take care of the beauty of the city. Despite the industrial production bringing distinctive downsides for the nature, the effort of some of the businessmen to improve both its near and distant surroundings should be emphasized. For example, a new playground with natural elements for children grew at a dismal area in the U Mlýna street (near the Slavkov brewery). It was built by the company Autotransport Matušík, which also installed new benches and planted new flowers. This company is interested in supporting the future planting of trees and greenery in our city. The biggest manufacturer of bandsaws, the company Pegas Gonda, is not blind to the environment, either. This company supports and finances planting and maintenance of the perennial flower beds throughout the northern part of the city.

### **The future**

One of the most significant environmental projects not only in the Czech Republic is the passive development center LIKO-Noe of the LIKO-S company with its headquarters in the industrial park in the western part of the city.

This world’s unique building was built during the spring of 2015 in only 27 days with a vision of creating a building that would serve as beneficial for its residents and surroundings. The aim is to create a functional concept of a so called “zero net” building, which is fully self-sufficient and independent on external networks, and to set a future path for the construction in-



dustry. The LIKO-Noe building won a prestigious competition Zasedačka roku 2015 (The Conference room of the year 2015) in the Healthy office category.

The core of the building's operation is the so called natural heat stabilization system. Water in the living facade and adjoining lake reduces the temperature of the building, does not emit heat to the surroundings, reduces dustiness and creates a healthy microclimate. The ground is used for storing the heat, so it helps to cool the building during summer and heat it during winter. Solar energy absorbed by the photothermal wall heats up water and thus heats up the building. The air flow along with permeable walls provide enough fresh air inside of the isolated building. The result of this system is a building, which uses only the natural sources of energy, is not a burden for the environment, is beneficial for health of its residents and surroundings and, last but not least, its operating ex-

penses are minimal. This functional system consists of several basic construction elements. They are:

The living facade – The living facade cools the building during summer and heats it up during winter. It creates a good microclimate because it does not emit heat, it releases moisture in the air, prevents the building from overheating during summer and reduces the dustiness in its surroundings. Thanks to the breathing walls the inside of the building is significantly better.

Diffusive permeable walls – The building combines compacted wooden panels and a sprayed-on heat isolation ICYNENE®, which gives the building its diffusive permeability. Thanks to this the building breathes – the walls allow penetration of the water molecules. Undesired moisture and CO<sub>2</sub> can leave the building this way, which helps both the building and its residents.

Isolation – The above the ground part of the building is isolated by the sprayed-on isolation ICYNENE®,

which doesn't absorb water and allows penetration of water steam at the same time. This way it allows the building to breathe.

Water – LIKO-Noe can collect and repeatedly use all the water, whether it's the rain water or the waste water, and it is able to clean it thanks to its own root zone waste water cleaner. This water is later used for irrigation and nourishment of the wetlands facade. A retention lake is a part of the system, too. It is the storage of water for the whole company area during the times of drought and it can also be used for collecting and accumulation of water during heavy rains.

Energy – The energetic conception of the building is based on natural sources of energy, whether it's the cold from the underground or the solar energy. The system is based on a heat pump, which uses a ground collector as its primary source of energy. The solar collectors supply energy to the storage for heating and water heating and the excess is accumulated in the underground. The excess heat is stored in the underground storage and helps with the building's heating during winter. During summer the underground is used for cooling the building down.

The inside – The sufficient amount of fresh air is provided by the heating and venting system with recuperation. Many circulation holes along with the underground storage of cold air, the ground collector, living facade and accumulation heater help maintain a pleasant temperature in the building throughout the year. Thanks to its natural heat stabilization the LIKO-Noe building doesn't need air-conditioning even during the hottest summer. The emphasis on environment is reflected in the interior, too. Wooden walls and solid oak floors are treated with an eco-friendly paint on the oil basis, which doesn't emit any dangerous chemical fumes. A sufficient amount of light is guaranteed by big windows. Acoustic parameters of the interior are improved by the SilentPET panels made of recycled PET bottles. LIKO-Noe is beneficial not only to the environment, but to its residents, too.











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Text: M. Jedličková, V. Slámová and collective, Students Faculty of Horticulture MU Brno

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