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PORTFOLIO

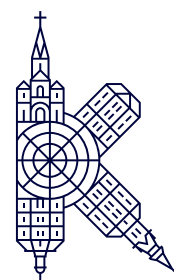




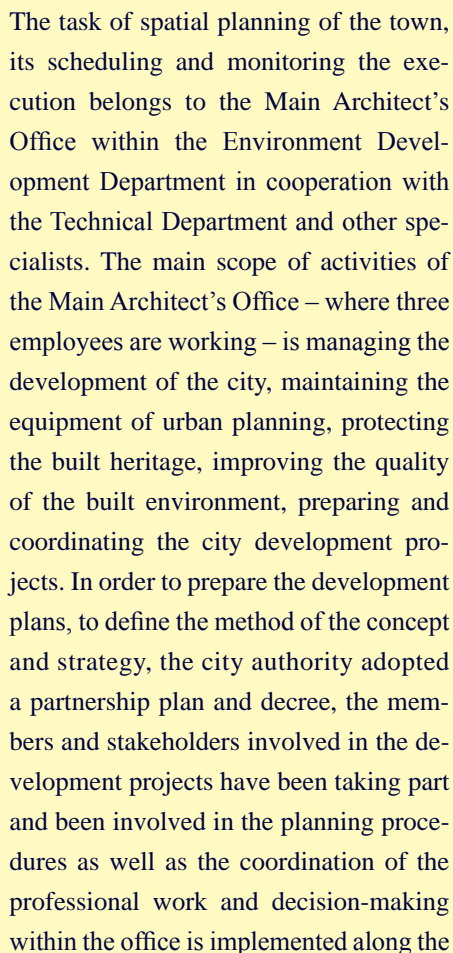
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# Introduction



The history of Kaposvár, a city lying in the hilly area in the centre of southwest Hungary, has a long history going back to centuries. The city of Kaposvár is divided into two parts by the river Kapos and it has an area of 113.59 km<sup>2</sup>. Its development started in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and it had a fresh impetus in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The leaders of the city kept the importance of the “green city” concept in mind, which did not even exist at that time: lines of trees were planted along the freshly covered roads and huge areas of parks were created in the heart of the city in the 1920s, laying the foundations of a liveable city. This attitude is being followed by present day Kaposvár by creating a sustainable, visitor-friendly environment that meets the requirements of the 21<sup>st</sup> century where the 64000 residents, including the disabled and also tourists have access to high-quality services.



The image for the future expressed during the partnership reconciliation and defined in the base strategy documentation of urban development and also the long-term aims means a good starting point for the review and preparation of urban planning methods as well as for completing the medium-term regional and sectoral strategy documentation.

- The City Maintenance Unit is responsible for the management of the municipality such as the maintenance of public cemeteries, public lighting, building and maintaining the local road network and its appurtenances, creating and maintaining public parks and other public spaces, parking facilities for vehicles. The necessary funds, that is in the range of 3.38 M €, in addition to its own revenues the municipality subsidy provides 26% of this budget which is spent on the maintenance of green areas, that means taking care of parks, playgrounds, green stripes, boulevards, areas planted with flowers, and also maintaining playground facilities and equipment, other artefacts, pieces of arts, monuments, statues, plaques, fountains, ponds, separating fences, decorative cladding, railings in the city. The surface area of the green area handled by the City Maintenance Unit is 2.000.000 m<sup>2</sup>.



# Natural Environment



Kaposvár does not belong to those cities of Hungary which have polluted air, mainly traffic causes air pollution and emission, the air quality further from the main roads with heavy traffic is better. There are two manually operated measurement stations, which belong to the nationwide network. Sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and sediment particles are the materials which are measured but the results are announced only six months later, consequently these are inappropriate for immediate intervention. As a result, an automatic measurement station is planned to be erected in 2018 along with an awareness raising campaign mainly focusing on changing heating habits. In order to diminish air pollution arising from traffic we have set traffic lights to ensure smooth passage for through traffic. The complete public transport fleet was exchanged: 25 pieces of bus and 15 pieces of articulated bus empowered by CNG (compressed natural gas) were introduced in 2015. All of the new buses comply with the regulations of Euro-6 environmental emission norms and that of equal opportunities. The city's public service provider companies have been using more, zero-emission electric cars. In order to develop the city's traffic a Sustainable Mobility Plan has been completed. The bicycle road network is going to be extensively developed in the following years, including the improvement of the bike sharing system. The system has already been in operation with four docking stations and the opportunity to provide electric bicycles and scooters was introduced here for the first time in the country. It is part of sustaining air quality to implement regular mowing of ragweed as a form of protection, in case of weedy private property even with enforced mowing can be requested, as well as informing residents and children through education, and creating a pollen calendar.

*„THE COMPLETE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FLEET WAS EXCHANGED: 25 PIECES OF BUS AND 15 PIECES OF ARTICULATED BUS EMPOWERED BY CNG (COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS) WERE INTRODUCED IN 2015.”*

The rocks that form the soil are mainly loess (yellow soil) and clay. The city used to be surrounded with forests consequently mainly forest soil has been formed. Along watercourses in the wet areas meadows and alluvial soils have been formed in smaller areas. Agricultural land is protected and the quality of the soil is taken into account when the areas to be developed are designated.

The most significant watercourse of Kaposvár is the river Kapos, which receives the surface water of the whole municipality. There are nine bridges over it within the municipality boundaries and it has 10 forks. Its water level changes are extreme, in summer it is at 60 cm, in case of a downpour a 4.5 m high water level can easily be found in the section leading out of the city. The regular floods threatening the lower lying streets of Kaposvár ceased to exist after the completion of the so called dry reservoirs in 2014, which has a storage capacity of 1 680 000 m<sup>3</sup> in 105 acres. Along the road leading to the reservoirs a nature trail was created with the purpose of raising awareness. As a result of developments implemented in industrial companies and the closing down of the landfill site the water quality has improved.

The largest surface water area is Dese-da Lake that was created in the 1970s with the primary purpose of water resource management, in order to reduce the high-water level in case of floods. The lake and its environment is a locally protected conservation area. The lake is primarily used for recreation and tourism. In order to improve water quality illegal sewage connections were detected and ceased during the authority visits. At the moment there is an ongoing comprehensive water quality examination to identify the problems to be solved.

In Kaposvár a company in the municipality's property provides a daily amount of 11 000 m<sup>3</sup> drinking water in the network that is free of ammonia. The proportion of flats supplied with piped water is 100 % within the municipality boundaries.



The beginning of modern sewage cleansing started in 1910. In the Number I waste-water treatment plant an intensification was implemented in the 1980s, then a new waste-water treatment plant was planned and built, with a capacity of 80 000 m<sup>3</sup>/day mechanical, 20000 m<sup>3</sup>/d hydraulic and 7200 kg BOD<sub>5</sub>/day biologic treatment. The Number II waste-water treatment plant is still receiving and treating the sewage of 18 other municipalities, its development is in accordance with the up-to-date technology, complete sewage sludge and biogas treatment is in the planning phase at the moment. The diameter and material of sewage pipelines is varied. The drainage network in Kaposvár is a separator system. The length of the drainage network system is 196 km, which of the standpipes is 27 km. The rate of supply is 100%, the connection rate is 89%, over the country average. The connections are subsidized by the local council.

Draining away rainwater is resolved with constructing uncovered ditches and with a closed drainage system. The length of the rainwater drainage system is 106.4 km, the length of the closed drainage system is 60.8 km.

Kaposvár provides the waste treatment tasks in the form of a partnership together with 117 other municipalities. The partnership has already completed the revegetation of 77 abandoned communal solid waste landfills in the value of 25.4 M € and completed an investment of 19.7 M € aiming at developing the waste manage-

ment system. In Kaposvár residents can enjoy the benefits of dispatching waste to be recycled, green waste and communal waste from their homes. The collected waste is delivered to the waste treatment plant. The packaging waste is selected into fractions and in order this material to be used, it is sold. Mixed waste is taken into the mechanical waste treatment, where the fraction that is light and has high calorific value is separated by air separator and it is forwarded so that it can be used for energy recovery. In order to have a successful waste treatment management service the cooperation of the residents is indispensable, therefore the service provider organizes awareness raising campaigns. The awareness raising playground created in the area of the waste treatment plant is unique in the country.

Three household waste recycling centres (HWRC) have been created in order to prevent illegal waste dumping, where the residents can dispose their toxic, bulky and inert waste for free. The household waste recycling centres are also reusing points, where from the useable furniture and equipment is delivered to the people in need.

Since 2006 the construction and demolition debris has been taken over by the inert waste treatment plant, where the waste is ground, recycled as useful material, the rest is dumped. 60.000 tons of construction debris is treated here annually, arriving from Kaposvár and the nearby 32 villages.

In residential areas compost boxes have

been handed out.

In order to improve the look of recycling bins in the urban design, the local council had a covering system designed and for implementation a financial subsidy and professional help was offered to condominiums by the municipality.

The Smart City Concept has been completed by Kaposvár, and it is the basis of transforming the city by 2050 into a real green city, which means to have energy independence to the utmost, and the locally produced energy will be used locally. Some of the actions to support the above mentioned aim: heating the city bath with biogas produced by the sugar factory and also using this for empowering the buses, the electricity created by the district heating is used to empower electric vehicles, more than 50 % of street lighting can be remotely controlled using LED panels, having public buildings insulated, having the doors and windows changed, if possible having a roof covered with solar panels, implementing remote safety systems in the buildings in order to improve energy efficiency. We are planning to implement energy efficiency modernization in case of more public buildings, the refurbishment of the sewage plant where sewage sludge is turned into biogas, to purchase electronic vehicles for rubbish and waste collection, to improve district heating, to implement a biomass heating centre, to build a solar panel park, to purchase electronic buses.

◀ COMPLETED IN 2014, THE FLOOD RESERVOIR IN A PERIOD OF LOW WATER IN THE RIVER KAPOS











„THERE ARE 35 NATIONALLY PROTECTED HERITAGE BUILDINGS IN KAPOSVÁR, 2 OF THEM ARE MEDIEVAL, 12 BAROQUE, 5 CLASSICIST, 10 ROMANTIC-ECLECTIC, AND 6 FROM THE 20TH CENTURY.”

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# Built Environment

The task of spatial planning of the built environment is completed on the basis of settlement plan that is defined by the long-term municipal development concept and the short-term integrated municipal development strategy. The concrete regulations of the construction are included in the local construction regulation, based on the structural plan and the regulation plan.

The architectural image of Kaposvár is defined by the mixture of Eclectic and Art Nouveau buildings in the city centre, in the areas outside the city centre partly prefabricated blocks of flats with four or ten storeys and partly ground-floor, small town-style building style is typical. The newly built detached houses in residential areas and in some spots industrial areas to be developed can be found in the outer ring around the city.

There are 35 nationally protected heritage buildings in Kaposvár, 2 of them are medieval, 12 Baroque, 5 Classicist, 10 Romantic-Eclectic, and 6 from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Buildings belonging to historic preservation are typically in municipality property, their technical condition is appropriate. However, our city preserves not only nationally protected heritage. Based on a local decree passed in 1995, 360 buildings, sections of buildings and 11 areas were announced to fall under historic preservation.

In case of construction work on buildings under protection or in areas under protection or on any building that is significant from the aspect of urban design, the Main Architect's Office must be notified and consulted or an opinion procedure must be conducted. The Townscape Image Booklet of Kaposvár will be completed in 2017, that divides the city into 9 architectural characters, within each character the typical usage of land, public space, architectural characteristics and also the problems are identified, and it

gives a recommendation about architectural regulations on how to preserve the characteristics. These regulations will be incorporated into the local decree about the protection of the municipal image to be complied with.

In connection with the maintenance of the buildings the local municipality has the right to make the owners preserve the technical and aesthetic values and state of any given building even through an obligatory procedure in case the building poses a threat to cause an accident or death, but instead of these sanctions, personal persuasion and a tender system is used. The latter is open to the owners of buildings with a protected façade, who can apply for a 50% non-repayable aid for the refurbishment. For this purpose, 127 000 € is separated in the budget in 2017. In order to save some iconic, abandoned buildings, it happened many times that the local council had a share in the property with the primary aim of saving the building and with appointing a new function, involving funds to be applied for and using own funds, the conservation and refurbishment was started.

In the field of street furniture there is no ambition to prefer only one specific type, but the Municipal Image of Kaposvár recommends having street furniture in harmony with the specific characters. Street furniture can be placed in public areas only with the permission of the Main Architect. Every piece of the new or refurbished street furniture is completed in RAL5008 shade to create a harmonic appearance.

Advertising devices cannot be placed in public areas individually, only with the supervision of a system administrator. The type, size and quantity of advertising devices are defined in a local decree. The unification of street signs was started in 2017.



*„IN THE CITY, THERE IS A HIGH PROPORTION OF FORESTS, ARABLE LANDS, ORCHARDS, NON-AGRICULTURAL LANDS, MEADOWS. THE AREAS IN THE MUNICIPALITY BOUNDARIES ARE SURROUNDED BY A BIGGER, CONTINUOUS FORESTED AREA AND PARK FORESTS.”*

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# Landscape

The area of Kaposvár can be divided into two parts. In the north, slightly wavy terrain can be found, in the south, the area is rich in hills and valleys. In between these lies the lowest point of the city, the valley of Kapos. In the early days, the city was founded close to the water of the river Kapos and the swampland that offered shelter. The bigger part of Kaposvár can be found even today in the northern areas of the Kapos, in higher parts, which are free from floods.

About 20% of the area of the city is valuable from an ecological point of view; its periphery in the south partially belongs to the Natura 2000 network.

The whole area of the city belongs to the drainage basin of the Kapos. The water in the Kapos first flows into the Sió, then into the Danube. In the alluvial soils and habitats (e.g. in the ponds of forests around the city), seaweeds flourish, along the banks and shores of waters there are reeds and cattails, from trees willow trees and alders are typical. There are only few types of fish living in the Kapos (crucial carp, perch, tench, bluegill), but there are a lot of bird species.

In the city, there is a high proportion of forests, arable lands, orchards, non-agricultural lands, meadows. The areas in the municipality boundaries are surrounded by a bigger, continuous forested area and park forests. The forests provide habitats mainly for hornbeams and oaks; silver lindens and beeches. Their ecosystem is defined by arthropods (e.g.: *Rosalia longicorn*), birds (e.g.: peckers, jays, great and blue tits, common wood pigeons, hawks and buzzards). Mammals are often represented by foxes, badgers, martens and pine-martens. Boars and deer are also common in the forests. The first park forest was the 77 acres of Gyertyános in the county in 1971, that practically showcases everything offered by Zselic in its relief and ecosystem, it is acting as a “mini-Zselic”. Due to the special climate, some rare and protected plant species live here: e.g. horse tongue lily and butcher’s broom. The lowland agricultural areas, meadows and pastures all belong to the country’s ecological network; their utilization is regulated by conservation regulations. The valleys of streams are important greenways from the aspect of through ventilation of the city. On the ridges and hillsides, which are difficult to be cultivated, from vineyards being transformed and orchards around the town, valuable green cover with lots of trees have come to exist, and its existence is crucial from the aspect of our city’s image and also because of conditioning the air quality, and also to prevent damages arising from soil erosion. In the area defined in the Regulation Plan it is guaranteed on the level of Local Building Code.









# Green spaces

There is a long tradition of creating green areas and flowerbeds in Kaposvár. The first plantation of trees happened around 1775, the first public park was created in the 1920s and the organized plantation of trees in public areas started at the end of the 1960s. József Schillián was appointed as the Main Gardener of the city in 1900 and he ordered 100 pieces of *Taxus baccata* (yew) from the city of Bártfa and these were planted in private and public properties and several pieces of these are still alive. The real breakthrough happened in the spring of 1912, when the Kaposvári Szépítő Egyesület (Town Embellishment Society) was organized, as it announced and practised social solidarity and it went a long way to create an organized and plan urban image and to increase the area of green spaces. The slogan of the Association “Floral Kaposvár” became widely known between the two world wars in Hungary. Present-day Kaposvár is continuing this tradition and its efforts have been rewarded with numerous prizes. The city has been taking part in the Hungary in Bloom contest to improve the environment for years; among some special prizes we can take pride in having two grand prizes as well. Following the winning in 2003, the city was awarded Golden Medal in this European contest; the commemorative plaque of this can be seen next to the main entrance of the Town Hall. The inner parts of the city are mainly institutional and residential areas. In the

gardens of older buildings, you can still see fruit trees (sour cherry, apple, walnut, etc.), flowers and smaller patches of grass, whereas gardens created around the turn of the millennium or later look slightly different from the older ones. It is not typical to have a vegetable or kitchen garden or fruit trees, the majority of the area is covered with lawn and ornamental trees, also shrubs are widespread. Modern gardens tend to have small ponds and herb gardens.

The proportion of biologically active areas in the city is high as there is a big proportion of garden city-like residential areas and between the buildings of housing estate projects extensive landscaped green areas have been created. The area of green spaces maintained by the city is 1 565 000 m<sup>2</sup>, which has a per capita ratio of 24 m<sup>2</sup>.

Currently there are 35 000 trees and 200 000 shrubs in Kaposvár, and these greatly define the townscape. There are 12 parks in the city, which have a varied surface area, between 0.5-20 acres. The parks are proportionately located within the body of the city, following the urban development. The most traditional is the protected, 3.5 acres of Berzsenyi Park, the latest is the City Park with an area of 5.5 acres, where numerous sport facilities can be found and it also hosts various city events. There are several tree species in the parks, with some rare specimen as well, for example the Osage orange (*Ma-*

*clura pomifera*) that is rarely planted in Hungary in the protected Toponár school park with an area of 5.6 acres. The trees in the alleys connecting the parks were originally planted at the beginning of the 20th century and due to their age, being healthy and having a spectacular view make them really precious. The alleys have a positive impact on the urban microclimate as well. Németh István Alley (planted in 1904) and the double line of horse-chestnut trees in Toponár (planted in the 1900s) are protected but the sycamore alleys in Ezredév, Noszlopy and Kossuth streets are also valuable. The renewal of alleys is taken care of, for example the invasive species of black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) in Bajcsy-Zsinszky Street was replaced with Kobushi Magnolia trees (*Magnolia kobus*) in 2017 by the city.

On the basis of a local decree passed in 1991 about the protection of certain areas, trees and alleys, so far two parks, two alleys and 253 pieces of individual trees have been designated to be protected. In the process of designation as protected, the following criteria of the plant are taken into account: its role played in the urban image, its species and its historical value and also the age. With the purpose of spreading the knowledge regarding the above, the Head Gardener of Kaposvár wrote the book of “Trees in Kapos in the light of history” in 2002. Beyond the data referring to the trees, the connected his-



torical events and a general description of their environment, there is general dendrology and environmental protection information as well.

A tree, shrub in public areas or a protected tree on an area in any kind of property can be cut down only in case of holding an official authorization. An equal amount of money representing the value of the tree has to be paid in and the incoming amount is spent on tree plantation.

The Park Forest around Deseda Lake includes a 26-acre arboretum as well. The area has varied natural factors; there are dry hillsides, slight slopes and swamps too. The plantation was started by the local forestry in 1978. Almost all the local resident tree species can be found here, 73 deciduous and 38 coniferous species. In the 10 cemeteries, which came to exist as the city expanded, mainly similar alleys and plant stocks flourish. The two big public cemeteries have an outstanding green cover value due to the dendrologic, urban landscape and conditioning value of the linden, maple, sycamore and horse chestnut alleys. In the cemetery of Töröcske district there are rare, protected orchid species: for example green-winged orchids, three-toothed orchids and Early Spider-orchids. In their habitat mowing is timetabled according to the life cycle of the plants.

There are 79 playgrounds in the city. Within the framework of the comprehensive "Children's smile playground

implementation programme" completed in 2013-2014, the existing equipments were refurbished and new equipments were installed, in 4 locations a completely new playground was built. The action plan of the programme was created and approved with the extensive involvement of the public; there were several rounds of residential forums, for mainly families with young children.

In Kaposvár every elementary and secondary school has a gymnasium or PE classroom but there are a significant number of outdoor sports fields. The Klebelsberg Secondary School Dormitory has an indoor sports hall, gyms and a swimming pool, and also there is an outdoor football pitch, tennis court and basketball court.

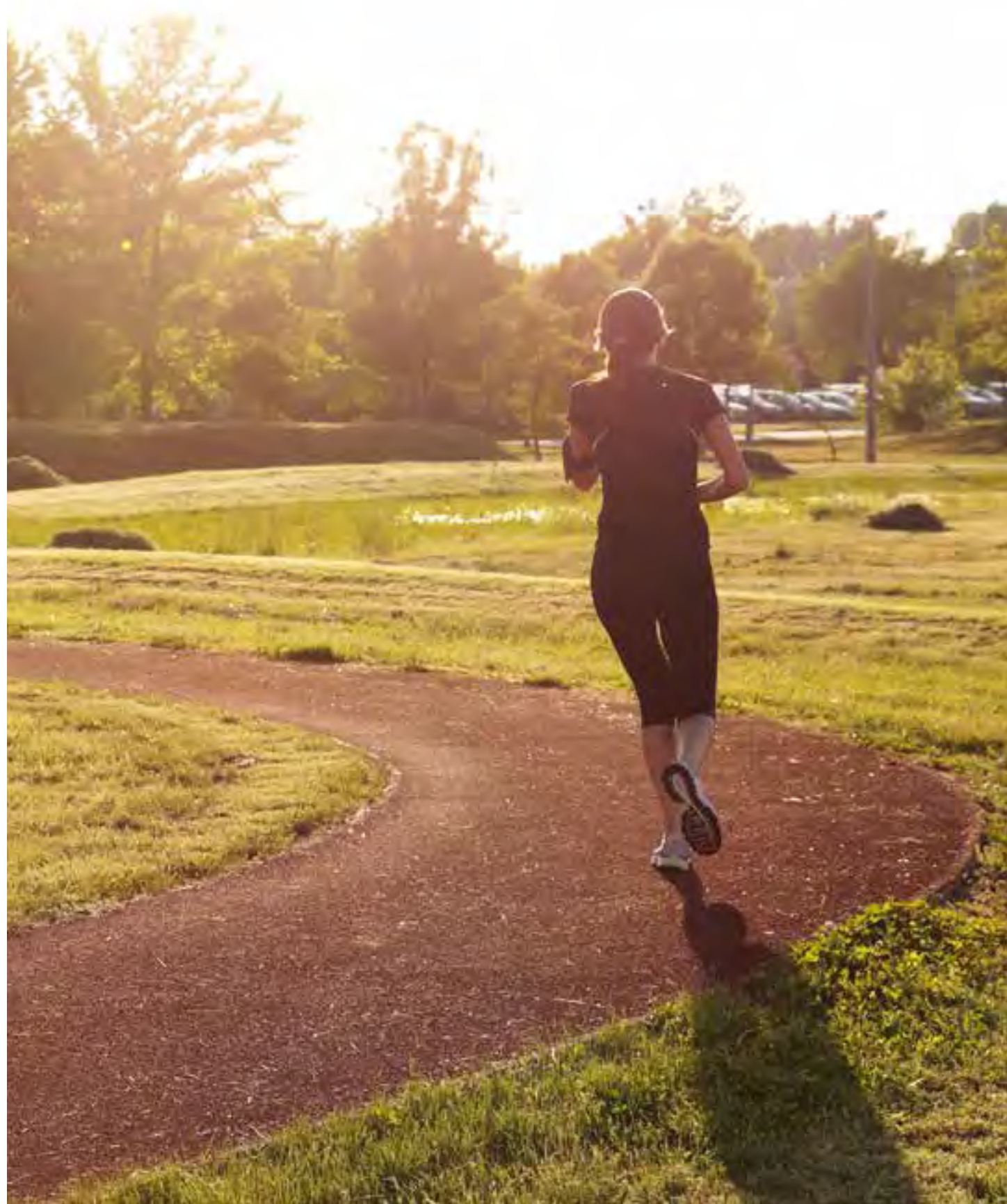
The Ice Rink was opened in 2005 and schoolchildren and kindergarten-age children have trainings incorporated in their timetable and also the Sports School's Ice hockey section has trainings here; league and cup ice hockey matches are held here but it is a popular place for public ice skating as well.

The Round Sports Hall is convenient for judo and table-tennis events, basketball and volleyball matches of high quality and there is another sports hall that is appropriate for rhythmic gymnastics, ballet and Greco-Roman wrestling. A sports arena with a seating capacity of 4.000 is under construction that will be suitable to host international sporting events. There is an all-weather running track next to

the Sports Hall. There is a 1 km long all-weather running track available for amateur athletes in City Park along with 4 petanque courts, an artificial turf football pitch, a roller-skate park and basketball parkland. There are more football pitches: a pitch for matches and one for training in Rákóczi Stadium, a standard-sized artificial turf and lawn football pitch along with two elongated lawn football pitches and one elongated artificial turf pitch and also a small-sized lawn football pitch in Bene Ferenc Football Academy. Residents can play football in a lit, big-sized lawn football pitch in Toponár and also Kaposfüred. Within the boundaries of the city six futsal-sized artificial turf pitches have been built.

Tennis players can pursue their hobby either in a covered hall or in outdoor courts. Kaposvári Virágfürdő (Flower Bath) welcomes swimmers all year round in its covered 25-metre long swimming pool and in the 50-meter outdoor pool that is covered in winter. The pool can be used by every child in Kaposvár for free, in an organized form. The aim is to teach every child to swim. The biggest covered riding hall can be found in Kaposvár, different types of horse riding competitions are held here. A swimming pool with 10 lanes meeting the requirements of organizing international events is being built; it will have been finished by 2018.







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# Planting – Permanent and Seasonal

Trees are cultivated in accordance with the relevant government decree and local decree about trees and woody plants. Approximately 35 000 pieces of trees are registered, every tree with trunk diameter wider than 10 cm in the city centre are marked on a map, their cultivation and treatment is defined. Cultivation and treatment means creating their crown, watering, adjusting the supportive structure and pest control. Young trees receive a crown shaping pruning and if it is necessary, the trunk or main branches are tied or supported. In case of older trees crown thinning is needed. In case of alleys in streets the main aim is not to let the crown get closer than 2 metres to the roof structure of the houses. Consequently individual alleys are pruned in every three years using special, so-called alpine technique. For phytosanitary reasons cutting down thicker branches is avoided. In such cases when this happens the fresh wound is treated with a special paint. Pruning is done in dormant periods. Green pruning is rare. As a result of regular pruning breaking of branches or causing damage is rare. Special sprayers, reaching as high as 30 metres, are used against species-specific pests of sycamore, horse chestnut and linden trees, using strictly regulated pesticides which do not pose a threat to warm-blooded animal species. Sub-contractors are involved in the process and the local residents and bee-keepers are informed in advance. Apart from this, preventive, chemical-free processes are used, for example cleaning the sycamore trees' bark manually.

Shrubs are treated the same way as trees. In recent decades a great number of bushes have been planted to create a closed, air-filtering plant "wall" between areas used for public traffic and pavements and the landscape of the city have become more aesthetic as well. Shrubs are pruned according to regulations regarding the width of public roads. In case of young specimen plant protection tasks and watering is provided. Pests and pathogens which are difficult to combat are not typical in our city's ecological environment.

Perennial plants are not really typical in our city; these are mainly planted in the pots and containers in the pedestrian area. These are usually mixed with lower shrubs in order to create a more varied colour and shape pattern. Perennial plants can also be found in the gardens of institutions, kindergartens and schools.

Annual planting was already dominant in the city the 1930s. In 1932 32.000 flower plants were planted in the city with 35.000 inhabitants. A "Flowering Week" was organized in 1934 to award the most beautiful window and balcony in Kaposvár. Later, as with the





growth of trees their shadow impact grew, consequently annual plants were placed mainly in more central squares and parks. According to the 2017 planting plan there are 48 venues with 45 taxons. Some genera from the ones used: Begonia, Ipomoea, Verbena, Impatiens, Coleus, Salvia, Rudbeckia, Celosia, Ageratum, Iresine, Tagetes, Amaranthus, Ricinus, Pennisetum. Flower beds usually have extended surface, including different types of alternating, artistically arranged plants. These species are produced in Hungary; being domestic species means they tolerate the local climate better. In areas where there was no green lane or free green area but there was a requirement for being decorated with plants, the public was impressed by flower baskets hanging from electricity poles as early as in 1913. The practice exists nowadays as well; there are 1860 pieces of geraniums in flower baskets along the sides of the roads. Annual plantations are watered daily by using a contractor.

Special species can be found in Kaposvár. In the year of the Millennium seven trees were planted to commemorate the seven chiefs of Hungarians, two of these trees are still alive. Japanese cherry trees (*Cerasus serrulata* Kanzan) decorate Temesvár Street, their spring blossoming is spectacular and it attracts crowds of people. In the garden of the Rippl-Rónai villa the daffodil garden has been replanted in order to restore the environment to look like as it did in the painter's era. The almost 20 000 daffodils create magic when blossoming; it is a good excuse to organize a daffodil celebration. Kaposvár is the town of flowers and Rippl-Rónai as well, the combination of the two resulted in planting a display flowerbed based on one of the artist's painting, in honour of the Entente Florale Europe contest.

85 % of the green cover areas is grassed which is mowed in accordance with their location and function. Beside different types of grass there are massive areas of daisies (*Bellis perennis*), common dandelions (*Taraxacum officinalis*), dead-nettles (*Lamium purpureum*), scatteredly primulas (*Primula vulgaris*), meadow buttercups (*Ranunculus acris*), marsh marigolds (*Caltha palustris*), and English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) occur mixed with other species. Mowing is most often done in the city centre where the height of grass cannot be higher than 8 cm. The next category is 15 cm, then 25 cm height. In the outskirts, along roads it is required to mow the grass twice or three times per year. The cut grass is collected and transported. In spring in central areas raking for increased ventilation is required. In certain areas if needed, substances are replaced with fertilisers. To prevent weeds, regular mowing, hoeing and scarification on ballast is done.

# Environmental Education



Our municipality takes the task of shaping the public opinion and raising awareness about environmental education seriously. Children between the ages of 3-7 are educated in 13 kindergartens managed by the city. In the local educational programmes of kindergartens there is a strong emphasis on environmental education, experience-based knowledge gain, involvement of families, becoming familiar with special days and celebrations. Children gain knowledge about the nature in accordance with their age, they monitor the weather, try doing garden tasks, germination, sowing and when they go hiking they can watch plants and animals in their natural habitats. Several kindergartens have been awarded with “Green kindergarten” certification. Where possible, they recycle; look after the flower beds and rockeries. The kindergarten teachers are happy to take part in educational trainings regarding the topic and collect and share good practices. When they celebrate bank holidays and special days and dig deeper into different topics, for example folk traditions, healthy nutrition, the importance of saving water, the protection of the earth, and the significance of recycling.

In educational institutions, the colleagues of the municipality regularly give information about how to use the compost, recycling, water treatment and manage-

ment. The interactive playground located in the waste treatment centre draws the attention to the importance of the waste hierarchy and waste management. The E-On Energy Globe prize in municipality category was awarded to Kaposvár in March 2017 and thanks to this an awareness raising eco-playground was built in the city centre. In all of our institutions the international days of Water (22nd March), Earth (22nd April), Birds and Trees (10th May) and Environment Protection (5th June) are celebrated.

Every spring a thorough cleaning has been organized by the municipality, involving institutions, civil organizations, the general public and councillors taking part since 2011. The municipality coordinates the coverage of the areas, provides tools for cleaning and transport the collected waste. This event motivates the residents, a strong sense of community is visible. Flower planting follows the cleaning. Local residents can purchase the necessary plants for a favourable price in the flower sale organized by the city. The general public, institutions, civil organizations are supported by the municipality in this. Within the framework of the „For the more flowery and greener Kaposvár” application, with the professional help of gardeners the people involved can apply for annual flowers to be planted in spring and shrubs and trees

to be planted in autumn, there is a budget of 16 000 € appointed for this in 2017.

In response to President Mr János Áder’s appeal Kaposvár has also joined the “Living Planet” movement, which means a climate day organized once a year, that is a whole day awareness raising programme for schools and kindergartens.

With our programmes organized for the Art Nouveau Day we would like to draw attention to the valuable Art Nouveau architecture of the city. With the photography contests being connected to the daffodil celebration and cherry tree blossoming we would like to promote the city identity and brand. We would like to underline the culture of shop windows with the initiative to have abandoned shop windows decorated by civil organizations and institutions. Our municipality in cooperation with three other institutions organized a shop window exhibition on the topic of recycling, which was renewed in case of every significant event. We have joined the national car-free day in order to attract attention to the environmentally sound effect of public transport. Some busy roads are closed for cars that day but in return participants can use public transport for free. In 2017 the Day of Birds and Trees a sightseeing tour was organized for local residents to become familiar with the extraordinary natural values of the urban environment.





„AT THE MOMENT THERE ARE 373 REGISTERED CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS IN KAPOSVÁR AND 60-70 % OF THESE ARE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS OF THE CITY'S LIFE.”

#9

## Effort and involvement

At the moment there are 373 registered civil organizations in Kaposvár and 60-70 % of these are active participants of the city's life. Most of them are active in the field of culture, the rest in sport, education, healthcare and the number of pensioners' organizations is significant. The organizations dealing with nature and environmental protection as well as promoting environmental-conscious lifestyle also organize hiking tours and programmes to make the urban environment more beautiful. Our civil organizations regularly cooperate in the organization of city events, reinforcing the famously strong sense of community. 5% of the registered civil organizations took part in their preparations for the participation of Entente Florale Europe contest since autumn, and in the spring campaign and on the day of making the final decision by the jury presumably 50% of them will represent themselves, including the organizations of the handicapped.

Our office has conducted more surveys about the opinion, expectations and problems of the environment of the residents, and the result was used for the development plans. Summarizing the results of the surveys we can conclude that the issue of the environment is crucial for the local residents, they are aware of the problems and the possible solutions and usually they evaluate them proportionally. They regard their own role and possibilities important to facilitate the issue of the environment and a great part of the residents take the initiative (in case its conditions and circumstances are provided). To make the residents active obvi-

ously there is need for an outside contributor. This task has been taken over by the local council by coordinating the thematic days and different initiatives to make the environment more beautiful and to provide the necessary coordination and organization.

The residents of Kaposvár have a sense of strong local community, they are happy to take the initiative to support their city within the frames of organized programmes. After the big spring city cleaning, the special flowerer sale, the city announces the „For the more flowery and greener Kaposvár” application, in which the most beautiful, neat and tidy houses and balconies have been awarded for almost 20 years. It means a serious prestige to enter the contest for the general public, civil organizations and shops and the winners are proud to place the plaques on their buildings. In 2017 we joined “The most beautiful kitchen garden” movement. This movement provides us with the opportunity to put the special plants, vegetables, growing methods and pest control practices in the limelight which are hiding in the kitchen gardens. For the Entente Florale Europe contest we are preparing with the citizens' help. The deadline to submit the applications for „For the more flowery and greener Kaposvár” contest had to be extended due to the great interest. Shops displayed a sticker depicting the logo of the contest in their shop windows. There was an outstandingly high participation rate in the city cleaning and the flower sale was also successful.



#10

# Tourism and Leisure

Kaposvár is a liveable, friendly city with the heritage of the painter József Rippl-Rónai and with numerous sights which we proudly show to visitors. The city's attractions are well highlighted by the natural values and free-time available activities in the region.

The inner city of Kaposvár with its Eclectic and Art Nouveau buildings, fountains, flowers, alleys, nice statues and terraces attracts every tourist to explore it, and an audio guide, a guide or our "City Strolls" publication is provided, on demand. The Main Square was given its present image in 2003, it is the location of one of the big events, and the Christmas tree stands here in December. Outstanding from the buildings surrounding the square is the Cathedral of Our Lady, consecrated in 1886 with the statue of the city's patron saint completed in 1742 in front. The Neo-Renaissance building of the Town Hall also stands here, its staircase and its auditorium is a treasure. Kaposvár's Inner City received the prize of being the most beautiful main square and main street of Hungary in 2010.

The names of Rippl-Rónai and Kaposvár are merged, several statues, plaques, even a fountain commemorates the painter's name. His old home is a memorial house now. There is a horse chestnut alley leading to the two-storey Romantic villa building furnished with original furniture and paintings. The park surrounding the villa served as the background to the artist so-called "corn"-style paintings. The old vine-dresser's house lying to the

south from the alley served as his studio. As a mirrored image, the new visitor's centre was built in 2012 where Rippl-Rónai's arts and crafts masterpiece, the reconstructed dining room design of Andrásy can be seen.

Deseda Lake lying to the north from the city has the reputation to be a great fishing lake, there is the opportunity of Boilie fishing, fishing competitions are regularly organized here. Trekking routes, resting places and bridges provide the opportunity to walk or cycle around the lake. On the western side there is a lookout tower offering a view over the lake. The peninsula lying to the north from road 67, in the arboretum and the nearby park forest, in a real adventure forest, there is a real opportunity to spend their free time. On its side there is the Fekete István Visitor's Centre, opened in 2014. The building offers an interactive exhibition depicting the ecosystem of Deseda, it consists of a fresh water aquarium and a life-size model of an oak tree and its eco-system. The complex also includes stations to monitor the eco-system of reeds, there are playgrounds, bicycle and boat renting places. Deseda boat service leaves from here.

Kaposvári Virágfürdő (Flower Bath) boasts the highest number of visitors. The outdoor bath complex opened in 2006 offering the largest connected water area in Transdanubia and the complex refurbished in 2011, consisting of 18 pools in the swimming pools, spa bath and leisure pools offering a variety of services welcome people of all ages who wish to relax or recover.





People looking for activity holidays will not be disappointed in Kaposvár, either. There are a number of marked trekking routes in and around the city, which are convenient for shorter and longer excursions. The bicycle road network has been significantly extended, offering easy access to the sights of the inner city and outskirt areas, as well as Deseda Lake, having resting places. Electric bikes and scooters are also available in the bike-share system. The City Park is an ideal location for sport-lovers, as there is a running track, parkour court, roller skate ring, football pitches and basketball courts.

The big events of the city are organized on dates which have stood the test of time, spread for the whole year, following old traditions and creating new ones. The first in the line is the Carnival of Kaposvár, which has been organized for more than 30 years based on literature, with funny dresses and burning a doll. On the following day participants complete the half marathon on Kaposvár Hillsides, passing sights. At the beginning of May every other year International Children's Theatre Biennale is organized. At the end of May, the light-hearted, Mediterranean atmosphere can be enjoyed in the multidisciplinary the Rippl-Rónai Festival. Its name evokes the famous son of the city, József Rippl-Rónai, but the programmes include exhibitions, street artists and concerts. In the summer the Kaposvár Theatre Evenings are held at the oldest preserved sight, the ruins of Szentjakabi abbey. In July football teams for the age groups between 9–19 arrive from



all over the world at the Youth Football Festival and bring the magical atmosphere of an international sporting event to the city. There are basketball, handball and volleyball matches in the programme. In August the International Chamber Music Festival offers more than one concert a day, and also meaningful supplementary programmes. The masterpieces performed by one-off formations of world-famous artists prove to be real treats for every music lover. At the beginning of September everybody, old and young celebrate in the "The City is Ours" Festival, where a string of concerts offers the perfect show for every generation. The Honey Festival is an autumn programme, which includes a professional meeting of bee keepers, but there is a Honey Order procession, honey and honey making equipment fair and cultural programmes are on offer. One of the most significant events for the agriculture is the Kaposvár Breeding Days in early autumn. Every year on the first Sunday in Advent a huge crowd gathers together in Kossuth Square to witness the start of the decorative lighting illuminating the whole city. During this series of programmes, lasting for weeks, concerts, children's performances and Christmas Fair creates the festive atmosphere. Besides there are regular sporting events, horse-riding programmes (preliminary to National Gallop, Dressage), military bands meetings, different world day events.



The Council of Europe launched the European Destination of Excellence, EDEN competition in 2006, and the winner of the 2013 accessible tourism theme application was Kaposvár. The city offers such programmes, locations, destinations which are easily available for anyone and these offer space for the disabled. Kaposvár has been monitoring the situation of the disabled for years. Recently the city has implemented such developments which along with the comfort of local residents also facilitate the sense of comfort for tourists arriving in the city. Since 2009 there has been a map for the blind and partially sighted, leaflet with Braille inscriptions, and an audio guide. The deaf and hearing impaired people can get information about the city from a film with inscriptions and sign language. On top of this, the Tourinform Kaposvár office, the public spaces of the city centre, the cultural venues and main sights are also accessible, including public transport vehicles.

Kaposvár was one of the first places to join the national network of Tourinform and create its own tourist information office, wel-

coming visitors in the pedestrian street in the inner city. There are five colleagues working there, their professional achievements have been awarded many times, holding an excellent quality reward. In the high season they have longer opening hours; out of opening times a terminal built-in in the shop window provides information. Their tasks include uploading information into the national touristic database about the city and the neighbourhood, representing professionally the touristic enterprises, editing publications, acting as an agent. The newsletter compiled by the office is sent to thousands of addresses, guides are provided for groups, organize programmes for the city's events, deal with Kaposvár Card, sell tickets and souvenirs. Their annual customer turnover was higher than 90 000 contacts. Tourinform Office operates more websites: [www.tourinformkaposvar.hu](http://www.tourinformkaposvar.hu) site provides information about the sights in and around Kaposvár, accommodation, restaurant and programme opportunities, [www.visitkaposvar.hu](http://www.visitkaposvar.hu) dealing with the members and work of the local touristic association, and also the run the Facebook profile.





At present there are altogether 2296 beds available in commercial and private accommodation. The capacity of beds change year from year, usually it is in the range of 1900-2400. Approximately 250 are in hotels, 293 in pensions, 1532 in youth hostels, the rest in bed and breakfast. Our hotel with the highest rating is a 4-star hotel.

The number of registered guests in accommodation in the past three years was the following:

|      | Number of guests | Number of overnight stays | Average days spent here |
|------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2014 | 24 041           | 65 648                    | 2.73                    |
| 2015 | 25 713           | 60 906                    | 2.37                    |
| 2016 | 28 774           | 70 300                    | 2.44                    |

72-80% of guests and 65-72% of overnight stays are generated by domestic guests.





*„A DEDICATED LOGO, MATCHING THE IMAGE OF THE CITY OF KAPOSVÁR, HAS BEEN MADE, AFTER THE KICK-OFF PRESS CONFERENCE; THIS LOGO WILL BE PLACED ON EVERY SURFACE.”*

#II

# Communication

The Local Council's press officer participated in the preparation for Entente Florale Europe contest, to reach the general public, to communicate the messages about the contest and the city. Their activity was completed on the basis of a previously compiled timetable, involving the local press. The local TV, printed media, internet sites and the social media site of the city all participate in the campaign. Press conferences are preferably organized in outdoor locations, connected to the contest. Until the final decision is made by the jury, the connected application announced by the local council, any celebration, completed performance will be informed about more times per day. Especially about the „For the more flowery and greener Kaposvár” application, pruning of trees, flower planting, transporting green waste, the big cleaning of the city, the days of water, earth, birds and trees. A dedicated logo, matching the image of the city of Kaposvár, has been made, after the kick-off press conference; this logo will be placed on every surface. Individuals, institutions, civil organizations and businesses joining the preparations will be provided with badges, stickers and pens depicting the logo. To initiate the participation in the preparation a dedicated spot has been made for television and radio appearances. The contest will be promoted in our events; as a result, it has been given a separate programme point in the season opening touristic conference, the daffodil festival and the Rippl-Rónai festival as well.

Besides we have joined the Hungary in Bloom contest, and the press programmes and social media sites connected to Entente Florale Europe contest organized by the Hungarian Tourism Agency.





# Application for thematic prize

Kaposvár is settled in a very lucky position as Zselic is to the south from the city, when you leave the city in any direction, you will find a park forest and city residents have an active connection to nature. Zselic is a vast area and 10 500 acres of that has been conserved since 1976 and it belongs to the Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate. In this area forests are managed by the professionals of the National Park and also of the county forestry company, Sefag Zrt.

To the north from the conserved area, right next to the city, lies the Gyertyános (Hornbeam) Park Forest with its 510 acres of land where a mountain chalet, fireplaces, fishing pond is available for tourists. The area with varied terrain is rich in springs and thanks to its climatic conditions its ecosystem is diverse. The Pannon flora territory (Pannonicum) is situated in the South-Danubia flora area (Praeillyricum), in the Inner-Somogy flora region (Somogyicum). Along with the Eurasian and European flora elements, Illirian flora elements can be found.

Referring to the ecosystem there is available data mainly not about Gyertyános (Hornbeam) but the whole Zselic. The natural flora is the plant community of silver linden-beech, hornbeam-Cornish oak and these are mixed with individual trees of different species. The shrub level is more developed than beeches, but it is not significant. The herb layer is rich and species-rich. The plant community consisting of protected plant species flourishing here is recommended to be under protection on the basis of „Red Book about plant communities in Hungary”.

The number of plant species so far is approximately 930 in the area of Zselic, and 62 of these are protected. Early Spider-orchid (*Ophrys Sphegodes*) is specially protected and among the other protected species there are other species of orchids. There are 23 species existing in Zselic enlisted in the II Appendix of Washington Treaty, and 5 species living here are mentioned in the V Appendix of CORINE Habitat Directive.

Zselic is the most densely forested area in Hungary, settlements are only on the edges of the hilly regions, and consequently the

streams and temporary watercourses draining away the waters of Zselic are free from waste water. There is no need for treatment or regulation in order to maintain their natural quality. In the habitats along stream courses, tree vegetation must not be cut down within 50 metres from the banks of the watercourse and in case of logging of individual trees, the microclimate cannot be changed by letting direct sunshine reach the shady watercourse. It is also important to keep the willows in the area.

Although Zselic is a relatively low hilly area, the fragmentation of the terrain and the distribution of rainfall is typical of low mountain ranges, consequently the fauna is in harmony with that. Invertebrates are mainly endangered by clear cutting over 4 acres as the mezzo-climate changes impair the living conditions for species preferring cold and wet circumstances. Due to the intense forests in Zselic, invertebrate communities have a good regenerative ability. The majority of protected species are committed not to the base species of the community but to the accompanying tree stock. In order to maintain them, a mixed composition of ages of the trees is needed and it is desirable to create forests with varied tree species and with two levels of tree-stratums and also to keep the compound species.

212 vertebrate species exist in Zselic, 177 out of them are protected. 22 out of the 32 fish, amphibian and reptile species, 130 birds out of 140 species and 25 mammals out of 40 are protected. Fish tend to live in artificially created fishing ponds, populated with invasive species. The topographic and climatic conditions are favourable for amphibians, so there is a high number of yellow bellied toads (*Bombina variegata*), which is registered as mountainous species. Forests offering plentiful food and nesting opportunities are rich in birds, silver linden and beech with their soft material is ideal for making holes for nesting. In the Middle Ages panage (keeping pigs in the oak forests) was typical in the area that influenced the number of big-bodied mammal species. Nowadays there is a high number of species of roe-deer, deer, and boars. Carnivores are not included in the food chain.







# Application for thematic prize

It is important for Kaposvár to provide the residents with a liveable, friendly environment and to provide the opportunity for the locals to create and support it themselves. There is a sense of strong local community; people living here are real patriots. It is a tradition that certain issues influencing the city are decided by the residents. That is what happened at the end of the 1980s when Fő Street was paved with decorative cladding as the first element of the inner city pedestrian zone. Local residents had the opportunity to choose from three available patterns to opt for the one they liked best. It was also the local residents who could appoint the place where the statue called Dissembler was erected. When the complete bus fleet was replaced with environmentally friendly means of transport, local residents chose the colour of the vehicles and later they chose which famous people with ties to Kaposvár should be depicted on the sides of the buses.

The people of Kaposvár are happy to take the initiative to support their city. This is how it was possible to overcome the city of Szeged having 166 000 residents and entering 10 122 runners in the competi-

tion for „the running capital of the countryside” whereas Kaposvár with its 65 000 residents could enter 13 208 runners. Residents helped to get the „Municipality of the Year” prize, as well as the Eon Energy Globe Hungary prize that helped to build an eco-playground in Kaposvár which contributes to increasing the knowledge of children and their positive attitude to the concept of a sustainable city. Along with children, adults are also in focus in raising awareness because education is organized to teach the proper use of waste collection for recycling and compost boxes.

People in Kaposvár invest a lot of effort in making their environment beautiful. There is an old tradition of „Floral house, balcony” prizes, dating back to decades. Individuals who keep their environment neat and tidy and full of flowers can apply for the highly prestigious prize, which is awarded by a professional panel of judges after an on-site visit. In the frames of „For the more flowery and greener Kaposvár” application in order to widen horticultural knowledge and to offer professional help, condominiums, institutions and civil organizations have had the

opportunity to apply for annual flowers, shrubs, trees, soil and lawn seeds since 2016. The plants can be selected from a list compiled by gardeners to ensure and guarantee that such species are delivered which are appropriate in the local climate and circumstances. Local residents can purchase annual flowers and geraniums at favourable prices in the annual flower sale organized by the city. Local residents are happy to join not only the movement of planting flowers but also cleaning the city. Every spring for two days local schools, institutions, communities at work, civil associations are busy working on cleaning a particular part of the city, park or street. In this programme that makes every generation contribute, statues, benches, fountains are cleaned, rubbish is collected, and flowers are planted to make the local residents be proud of contributing to the beauty of Kaposvár.





# Application for thematic prize

Kossuth Square in Kaposvár plays a central part in the city's life. The main square received its present image; the statue of its eponym has been standing here since 1911. The square embellished with flowers and fountains is popular with locals and tourists alike, it serves as the venue of several events, concerts are held here regularly and it serves as a festival village during the Youth Football Festival. The city's Christmas tree is set up here and the Christmas decoration lights are lit here on the first Sunday of Advent. The most significant of the buildings surrounding the square is the Cathedral of Our Lady, consecrated in 1886. The statue of the city's patron saint, John of Nepomuk, completed in 1742 is placed in front. The other iconic building is the Town Hall built between 1902 and 1904, its staircase and its auditorium is decorated with stained glass windows.

The square was incorporated into the pedestrian zone of the city centre and its cladding with the characteristic pattern was completed in 2003. The spectacle of the square is so much typical of our city that when the new urban image was formed in 2016, this became the central motif of the logo and the image. Its atmosphere is enhanced with the fountain system made of Moroccon limestone that lies as far as the centrepiece and it plays a show that is accompanied with a sound show twice a day and also the benches matching the scene with their materials. The vegetation is planted in pots so that it is possible to move them and it is reasonable as the area has a wide range of regular and different usage. At the same time lack of permanent plantation does not make the impression of the square being barren as every street entering the square has striking vegetation. The two pieces of South European flowering ash (*Fraxinus ornus*) at the beginning of the Main Street and the Platanus alley in Noszlopy Street are striking examples. Annual flowers, geraniums, oleanders are typical of the square. The building of Hotel Kapos does not make an integral part of the square from an architectural point of view but this angularity is counterbalanced by the planted flowers which are in perfect harmony with the flowers of the square.

Kossuth square and Main Street in Kaposvár received the prize of being the most beautiful main square and main street of Hungary in 2010.



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*The history of Kaposvár, a city lying in the hilly area in the centre of southwest Hungary, has a long history going back to centuries.*

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