

HISTORIC GARDENS AND PARKS OF LATVIA IN PRESENT RURAL LANDSCAPE

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Beginning with the 18th century, the development of the historic gardens and parks has undergone drastic changes, which in many aspects brings human closer to nature. In the later years in the landscape research, the aspects of protection, conservation, and development of the historic gardens and parks, taking into account their values and significance in the environmental and socio-economic area, are highlighted as important issues in the context of the cultural and natural heritage. Landscape qualities of Latvian historic gardens and parks have mostly been influenced by political factors, including both world wars in the 20th century. During this period, the historic gardens and parks as part of manor ensembles were divided between numerous farms and developed according to the functional changes and the needs and requirements of social life of the ensembles' main buildings. As a result, the historic landscape is visually and functionally fragmented and supplemented with new construction volumes, which rarely are in accordance with the compositional principles of the historic landscape. Similarly, the change of the political regime, alongside with the Independence Declaration of the Republic of Latvia in 1991, introduced significant changes in the development of the historic gardens and parks. Consequently, the territory of the historic gardens and parks repeatedly loses its wholeness or integrity in the ownership recovery processes. During this period up to nowadays, functional transformation of the existing buildings in the manor ensembles has been occurring, and in most occasions it is not increasing the landscape qualities of the historic gardens and parks. Thus, the general quality of the cultural landscape in Latvia decreases, and hence the problem issue related to the development planning of the historic gardens and parks arises: How to plan sustainable development for the cultural and natural heritage values, at the same time ensuring the heritage continuity for future generations?

To answer the question, the following conceptions of sustainable development of historic gardens and parks are overviewed: the place evidence conception; the heritage conservation; the heritage management conception and the development conception in the context of tourism industry.

Development of the gardens and parks in the world from the 18th to the 21st century

Gardens are of great significance. A garden is a powerful environmental component in a human's life exceeding time, place, and culture. Gardens are our own mirrors, contemplations on sensory and personal experience. Starting from the emergence of gardens, they have had the power of expression¹. The term 'garden' usually refers to a restricted and intensely cultivated environment with an emphasis to plants². However, the term 'park' in architecturally artistic terms is coined alongside the embodiment of ideas on Chinese parks in regular gardens³, which in the rise of the philosophical ideas in Europe in the 18th century gradually discards strict borderlines and thorough and intensive cultivating traditions, resulting in a picturesque landscape. Words with the same etymology not always can be transferable from one language to another. The boundary between the terms 'garden' and 'park' cannot be drawn and their use depends on the peculiarities of national languages, cultural phenomena, established traditions, phenomena ratings, etc.⁴, as well as the particular features of the historic landscape development. However, traditionally "a garden" is a cultivated territory of a smaller scale and "a park" is of a larger scale, but historically these scales can also be evidenced in reverse proportions⁵. Architecturally artistic theories in a historical perspective have undergone an evolution due to extraordinary individuals who ideologically destroyed the luscious, flamboyant, and accurately calculated Renaissance gardens exposed by the Italians and French, more increasingly declaring the idea of the natural splendidity of nature from various points of view⁶. The beginning of the 18th century is characterised by the emergence of Romanticist and Sentimentalist theories in the garden architecture and art, when several

writers in their oeuvre expressed their reaction towards the formal gardens of Baroque. Poet and playwright Joseph Addison (1672–1719), poet Alexander Pope (1688–1744), writers Henry Wotton (1568–1639), Francis Bacon (1561–1626), and John Milton (1608–1674) must be mentioned among the most influential writers. They gradually directed the planning opinions of the architects towards natural landscape gardens, leaving the formal Renaissance gardens disregarded⁷.

The basic elements of the landscape park compositions resulted from getting acquainted with the art of the Far and Middle East cultures, where nature was cultivated on a regular basis, yet it was not transformed⁸. A certain role was played also by painting. French artists Claude Lorrain (1600–1682), Jean Antoine Watteau (1684–1721), and François Boucher (1703–1770) actively painted landscapes. In the further development of landscape parks, poets and painters played a significant role also as consultants to architects, who then incorporated the new ideas in their plans and implemented these in nature⁹.

In the second half of the 18th century, the English landscape garden gradually became popular also in other European countries. The English garden alongside with the modern gardening under the management of Thomas Whateley (1726–1772) caused a great influence in France in the 1770s¹⁰. However, in Germany the English gardens were ambitiously created in the time period between 1764 and 1800, when following the request of Prince Leopold Friedrich Franz von Anhalt (1740–1817) several parks were implemented. Furthermore, the characteristic traits of the English landscape park emerged fast in the Russian garden art in the second half of the 18th century, when Empress Catherine II (1729–1796) started to rule, and were implemented on a large scale¹¹.

In America, including Canada, the parks rarely have been an important visual and

aesthetic part of the landscape, in comparison to the landscape parks of the 18th century in England. It can be partly explained with economic considerations, yet, for most of the occasions it is the result of the scale, because the wilderness of the North America won over the attempts of the human to establish a landscape. However, in America, too, the garden art was considerably influenced by the style principles of the English landscape, but in this case they were expressed on a much bigger scale than in Europe¹². At the same time, in the American garden art eclectics of styles was dominating, and mostly it formed under the influence of scale and climate conditions. Yet, in Canada there has traditionally been strong interest in botanic, crop farming, landscape planning, and gardening. In the 1630s, the Canadian plant materials were identified and sent back to France. Exchange with plants continued and accelerated the interest and knowledge of Europeans about the botanic and crop farming related matters, which flourished at the end of the 18th century and in the early 19th century¹³. Thus, at the turn of the 18th and 19th century, the tradition of introducing rare and special species became more popular in the entire world¹⁴. It was one of the facilitating factors in the development of landscape gardening as a business in trade industry.

Further on, the commercial dimensions of the gardens and parks are established along with the exploitation of the gardens and parks to satisfy the spiritual and physical needs of society. In certain European countries the society was not in need of so big and professional gardening products and it facilitated the use of gardens and parks for recreational events¹⁵. However, the rise of the first serious public interest in gardens is referred to the 19th century, when the middle class of city dwellers started to compete with the garden formation and admiration traditions of the higher class. Such an active flourishing of recreation at the end of the 19th century

encouraged the working class, too, to get engaged in gardening, and gardens and parks became a significant element of public life and tourism industry.

Due to the rise of commercial dimensions of the historic gardens and parks, their qualities in the 20th century decreased, gradually losing their philosophical and artistically architectural ideas¹⁶. Europe was shattered by significant ambitions of political powers, as a result, part of the historic gardens and parks experienced damages and only after the Second World War most of the European cities started acknowledging the historic gardens and parks as part of the cultural and natural heritage¹⁷. The first protection systems in the context of legislation were elaborated. Also, the restoration instruments of the historic gardens and parks were introduced in practice.

The development of gardens and parks landscape and protecting policy in Latvia from the 18th to the 21st century

In Latvia the garden art started to develop simultaneously with other European countries, transferring the same tendencies of style and philosophy that were created and actively developed in England and other European countries. Although the English landscape park as a new fashion trend reached Latvia later than other European countries, it did not affect its amplitude, though it must be noted that on most occasions the deeply philosophical principles were neglected. At the end of the 19th century, the situation was similar also in other European countries.¹⁸ The main developers of Latvian gardens and parks art were country noblemen, who either by spending the military service time outside the borders of Latvia or by travelling around in Europe noticed the new garden fashion tendencies. Nobility as such introduced significant changes in Latvian landscape that can be characterised with the rights of the

country noblemen and influence in the politics. The landscape changed according to the powers or taste of each nobleman. Until the beginning of the 20th century, nobility preserved its rights.

In the 1930s, tourism became a significant part of the Latvian regional development. The development of tourism as an industry became exhausted since the Soviet occupation of Latvia in 1940, because various prohibitions were introduced restricting the movement of tourists in the territory of Latvia. Also, the tourists from Western countries were allowed to visit only certain places: Riga, Jūrmala, Sigulda, Rundāle Palace¹⁹.

Protecting policy of historic gardens and parks. The first protection efforts of the cultural heritage in Latvia are related to the reign period of the Swedish King Gustav II Adolf (1611–1632). More serious interest about the raising awareness of the cultural heritage in Latvia emerged in the first half of the 19th century along with the establishment of several unions of records and art. A new phase can be marked with the period of the Republic of Latvia (RL) (1918–1940), when in 1923 a special state authority was founded — the Board of Monuments. Until the Soviet occupation in 1940, there were 1454 monuments under the state protection. After the Second World War, there were different structures of the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Culture of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Latvia, as well as institutions under their supervision operated in the area of the cultural heritage²⁰. Along with the restoration of Latvian independence in 1991, new legislation on the cultural and natural heritage was elaborated and passed.

Since according to the regulations of the Latvian legislation historic gardens and parks are both under the category of the cultural monument and the category of a specially protected nature territory, and they can contain separate cultural and natural monuments, their protection, conservation and

management are stipulated by the legislation on both cultural and natural heritage. Furthermore, the historic gardens and parks are not only monuments, but also functionally and recreationally significant territories that respectively require appropriate management and development planning principles. Thus, the historic gardens and parks, in the context of the national legislation, can be divided into three following categories:

- the category of cultural heritage — the legislation system on the preservation of the cultural heritage in Latvia is based on the Law on the Protection of Cultural Monuments passed in 1992²¹, the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers (hereinafter, the CM) of the Republic of Latvia, such as the CM Regulation No. 916, By-law of the State Inspection for Heritage Protection, the Convention on the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Heritage²², and 37 other laws and normative regulations that are related to the area of the cultural heritage, as well as the regulations issued by the Ministry of Culture of the RL and the State Inspection for Heritage Protection of the RL under its supervision²³.
- The category of natural heritage — on the basis of the nature conservation regulations there is the Nature Conservation Act²⁴ and the Law on Specially Protected Nature Territories²⁵. The leading state authority in nature protection is the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of RL (hereinafter, the MEPRD), as well as the Nature Conservation Agency under its supervision, that respectively has the CM regulations elaborated in relation to nature protection, conservation and management, as well as the Code of Conduct of the institutions.
- The category of parks — the management, preservation, and planning development of the historic gardens and parks are stipulated by the Law on Forests²⁶ and the CM Regulations No. 819,

Principles of Park Establishment and Administration. The forest industry is under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture of the RL.

The legal regulations in the area of cultural heritage in general correspond to both the economic situation of Latvia and the basic principles and international normative regulations and decisions adopted in European countries. In addition to the current normative regulations Latvia has ratified several international normative regulations, including the ones that are important in relation to the historic gardens and parks: World Heritage Convention, European Convention on Culture, Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe, European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites, European Charter of the Architectural Heritage, Cultural Tourism Charter, Charter of Florence, Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage, the European Landscape Convention.

As regards the natural heritage, the historic gardens and parks may form a part of the natural heritage, for instance, they can be as part of a specially protected nature territory. Also, the historic gardens and parks may contain certain natural monuments, for instance, avenues, secular trees, caves, etc. As regards the natural heritage of the historic gardens and parks, the State of Latvia has ratified several conventions that are related to the protection of the biological diversity.

The cultural and natural heritage categories of the historic gardens and parks each separately proposes regulations, provisions, and solutions according to its own interests that not always conform with the opinion of the opposite party. Therefore, the general landscape policies are particularly very important, because they function to ensure a balance among all related par-

ties. The guidelines of the Latvian landscape policy were under elaboration in 2006 and for this purpose there was a special task group arranged which functioned under the supervision of the Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government²⁷. Unfortunately, the elaboration of the landscape policy guidelines was not implemented due to the liquidation of the ministry in 2010. However, in July 2012, MEPRD announced a new public participation project to elaborate new landscape policy guidelines, which are planned to be developed in the time period 2013–2019.

The factors affecting landscape quality of the historic gardens and parks and their characterisation

The landscape quality assessment, including the cultural and historical values, can be achieved by analysing the continuity of the landscape in the course of time²⁸. In the course of time, the landscape suffers from several transformations caused by the influences of climatic, functional, social, political, and technical factors and cultural changes²⁹. Also, the landscape variability may be both gradual or long-term and rapid or short-term³⁰, which leaves visual evidence of both partial and complete transformation of the landscape. Contemporary landscape can be understood only by looking at the historical development of the landscape retrospectively. The landscape that we see today consists of the elements inherited from different time periods. The stages of Latvian manor houses and the processes affecting their formation are presented in Table 1.

A great part of the Latvian cultural heritage is in a critical condition, because the rural landscape in the post-war years has been deteriorated and still has not been fully cleaned up. The landscape of the historic gardens and parks in the last hundred years has undergone significant and less significant

Table 1. Factors affecting the landscape variability of Latvian castles and manor houses in the course of centuries

No.	Time period (century, year/-s)		Factors affecting landscape variability
1	16 th century		Collapse of the Livonian Order; establishment of manor houses
2	17 th century	1600	Setting up gardens around the manor houses (small baroque gardens, mostly for food provision)
		1683–1690	Reduction of manor houses
3	18 th century	1700–1721	Northern Wars
		1722	The expropriated manor houses are received back; restoration of manor houses begins
4	19 th century		Intensive construction of new castles and manor houses; setting up landscape parks (Tingere, Mežotne, Eleja, and other manor parks)
5	20 th century	1905	The Revolution — burning campaign of manor houses, in Courland 45 manor houses are destroyed
		1914–1918	The First World War
		1920–1937	Agrarian reforms; dividing the big manor houses and giving to landless peasants
		1939–1941	The Second World War; emigration of Baltic Germans
		1945	The territory of Latvia is included in the USSR
		1952–1957	Beginnings of finding and documenting natural monuments
		1968	First reconstruction projects of the manor gardens and parks are elaborated
		1977	The Restoration Planning Bureau of Cultural Monuments is founded under the authority of the Ministry of Culture
		1991	Declaration of Latvia's independence; agrarian reforms, studying the cultural and historical heritage
6.	21 st century	2000	The European Landscape Convention is adopted and passed

changes. Studying the historical processes and the existing situation, the major landscape transformation factors of the historic parks and gardens that have directly affected

the visual quality of the historical landscape can be defined and they have been illustrated in Figure 1.








Landscape transformation factors and caused consequences analysis	Figure	The positive and negative effects analysis
<p>Urban load increase</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Long-life consequences Complicated segregation</p>		<p>New construction volumes brought into complex territory:</p> <p>"+" territory is populated, provided infrastructure, workforce;</p> <p>"-" changes the composition, sight quality.</p>
<p>Complex main building functionality change</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Short-term consequences Easy segregation</p>		<p>New structures brought into the park.</p> <p>"+" regularly used, managed;</p> <p>"-" changes landscape composition, relief, covering, sight quality.</p>
<p>New infrastructure establishment</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Long-life consequences Impossible segregation</p>		<p>Territory of the park divided into.</p> <p>"+" high visual and physical accessibility;</p> <p>"-" changes the composition, relief,</p>
<p>Industrial object development into the rural landscape</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Long-life consequences Complicated segregation</p>		<p>Brought new construction volumes into complex cultural historical volumes.</p> <p>"+" no positive influence;</p> <p>"-" changes composition, aesthetical quality both at the visual and cognitive sense level.</p>
<p>Agriculture massivization (monoculture)</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Short-term consequences Partly easy segregation</p>		<p>Park landscape isolated.</p> <p>"+" high visual availability;</p> <p>"-" isolated park ecological system, unclear accessibility,</p>
<p>Military object creation</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Long-life consequences Impossible segregation</p>		<p>Park landscape fully transformed, bringing into new structures.</p> <p>"+" can serve as military historical monument;</p> <p>"-" lost historical park conception; degraded, abandoned landscape.</p>
<p>Ownership factors: Territory fragmentation</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Long-life consequences Complicated segregation</p>		<p>Park landscape is at different development stages.</p> <p>"+" park landscape may be multiform;</p> <p>"-" various conflicts due to interests, unequal usage and management quality, intensity etc., visual landscape degradation.</p>

Fig. 1. Landscape variability aspects and analyses of the historic parks and gardens

The gathered and analysed landscape variability aspects indicate not only negative landscape variability consequences, but also the positive ones. However, these factors on most of the occasions have left long-term consequences in the landscape of the historic gardens and parks with complicated liquidation opportunities that in most properties require considerable landscape re-planning and investments. Therefore, when proposing the positive influences, the historical landscape can be developed using the existing situation to maximum.

The functionality of the landscape policy aspects

The protection criteria of the historic gardens and parks as part of the cultural and natural heritage are very different, but at the same time they do not protect the entire cultural heritage of the world. For instance, in Germany the cultural heritage protection provisions are different comparing with the protection system in Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland where it is uniform in the entire country. However, in Finland a term like 'national protection' does not even exist. The development efficiency is not related to a powerful and centralised system of institutions; however, the protection system of the national cultural heritage is powerful in all countries. For instance, in Germany the protection of cultural heritage objects is under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture.

Ministries closely cooperate with higher and lower municipalities in the protection and management of the objects. In Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, and Poland the main responsible institutions are at the national level, including ministries and lower institutions, therefore a question arises: who is responsible for some less important questions that do not require solutions at a national level³¹? The landscape policy issues of Estonian historic gardens and parks in the last few years have been supplemented with guidelines that refer

to the development planning of the historic gardens and parks, but at the same time Estonia has not signed the European Landscape Convention. Austria, too, is especially rich in historic gardens and parks, the total number in the country is approximately 1.8 thousand, but only 56 historic gardens and parks have been protected by law, which indicates a very weak legislative system referable to the protection of the historic gardens and parks. In Sweden, England, and Ireland the protection systems of the historic gardens and parks at a national level have been particularly developed and contain definitions, provisions of significance and garden aesthetics, materials for the restoration of the historic gardens, theoretical and practical approaches in the restoration of gardens applied in the last few years, contemporary tendencies and descriptions of methodologies and protection tools. Essential contribution in the development of the historic gardens and parks of these countries is provided by non-governmental organisations and associations that are the main regulators in the systems of national level. Non-governmental organisations are also the main financial sources³². In the ex-soviet countries Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, and Slovakia the regulations related to the protection of the cultural and natural heritage, including the historic gardens and parks, are weaker than in the previously mentioned South-Western and Scandinavian countries. For instance, in Slovakia the law on the preservation of Slovakian monuments stipulates that the owner of each monument has to cover the preservation costs of the monument. At the given moment, uniform methodology at a high level has not been elaborated for particularly preserved objects. This situation is often used by the investors imposing their interests to the government representatives, when planning the preservation of the respective object³³. In Russia, despite the intensity and uniqueness of the historic gardens and parks, the protection, preservation

and management regulations at a national level are very weak. In most cases, they concentrate on general provisions and unfortunately do not defend the cultural and natural heritage³⁴. In Ukraine, since 2000, the regulations referring to the historic gardens and parks have been essentially supplemented, yet there is lack of protection regulations that would refer to the historic gardens and parks as “living monuments”, as well as national connection with laws, recommendations and other regulations passed in the world³⁵.

The core groups of the problematic issues among the European countries are related to the interest conflicts on the protection of the cultural and natural heritage and the existence of the development planning principles. The situation in Latvia is similar to other European countries, which are located in the post-Soviet territory. Particularly notable are such European countries as Sweden, England, Ireland, Italy, and Germany, where the normative acts provide detailed instructions and criteria regarding the protection and development issues of the historic parks and gardens. The legislation of these countries also clarifies how the solution for these issues is manifested in the conservation and management planning tool which is put into practice.

Conceptions of sustainable development planning

Because the historic gardens and parks are one of the most significant socio-economic values of environment and the cultural and natural heritage, their planning is essential both in the context of environment protection and development. The aim of development planning of the historic gardens and parks would facilitate sustainable and stable development of the state, as well as the increase of the life quality and welfare of inhabitants. In order to achieve it, the approach of a gradual planning and continuity principles is necessary, which is possible to implement proposing the following conceptions:

- *the place evidence conception* that is based on the historical evidence research approaches and an analytic and comparative assessment of the contemporary situation, thus facilitating the awareness and protection of the values and significance of the local cultural and natural heritage;
- *the heritage conservation conception* that is based on the conservation plan and envisages the protection of the values of the historic garden and park, ensuring safe integration in further development processes;
- *the heritage management conception* that is based on the management plan and envisages systematic management activities in long-term, including financial and work load calculations;
- *the development conception in the context of tourism industry* that envisages development strategies of the historic gardens and parks on the basis of the existing values.

Characterisation of the place evidence conception. In any stage of sustainable planning of the historic gardens and parks, the place potential must be examined through its values and their significance in a local and national context. Thus, the place evidence study conception is based on the research of the historical evidence of the gardens and parks and an analytical overview. To implement it, a strategic research of the philosophical, architectonic, and artistic features of the place must be conducted, including the physical elements and structures, following the principle of gradualness in time perspective. Such methods are offered by several scientists³⁶. They are flexible and multifaceted enough to carry out the study of any historical landscape. When performing the place evidence study of a historic garden and park, first, both material and immaterial historical evidence is examined, second, a bridge between the past and the present is built, thus obtaining

both emotional and physical place identity impulses and qualities, and, third, the added values that have occurred in the course of time, for instance, the biological diversity, are examined. Also, gathering information on the historical evidence allow finding out strengths and weaknesses that are mostly related to the protection aspects, functionality opportunities and management activities. Whereas, the understanding of the significance of values through analytical and comparative assessment at a local and national level facilitates their protection in future, as well as integration in the socio-economic activities of the place and growth. Therefore, the initial identity of the place is returned strengthening the symbols of belonging, visual image, and recognisability. The qualities of the cultural environment provide grounds for the economic and social activities in the rural territories, facilitating the improvement of employment, business, education, legal capacity of inhabitants, and life quality³⁷. Thus, the place evidence conception is the first step in such historical gardens and parks, whose values and significance so far are not examined or are examined only partly and which at the given moment are not fully integrated in socio-economic activities of a local scale. The place evidence conception is essential in occasions when the historic garden and park is divided among several mutually unrelated owners. In such cases the understanding of the found values and their significance facilitates opportunities to move forward to a common goal at the same time preserving the visually territorial integrity of the place.

The place evidence conception is the first and main conception in the context of all further conceptions and without it no development planning of any historical garden and park is admissible. The significance of the place evidence conception is reflected in succession principles as a qualitative heritage provision for future generations.

Characterisation of the heritage preservation conception. It is very important to protect the values of the historic gardens and parks that contain the components of both cultural and natural heritage in their further use. Therefore, the preservation conception must be the next stage of action, irrespective whether a historic garden and park retains the current positions or new visions are elaborated in its development. In order to implement optimum protection and preservation of the heritage, guidelines for the conservation of historical landscape have been elaborated on a global level. The guidelines of the conservation plan determine two stages of activities: (1) analytical overview of risks and opportunities of the historic garden and park, and (2) the description of the conservation implementation process. The risks and opportunities of the historic garden and park reflect to what degree and in what manner the values of the historic garden and park are vulnerable, at the same time identifying the improvement opportunities. Whereas, the description of the conservation implementation process stipulates how the existing historical values of the historic garden and park will be conserved and improved, as well as how the conflicts between various heritages will be solved, for example, between the cultural and natural heritage, and respectively the conservation standards for each heritage type are appropriated. Also, at this stage it is stipulated who, when, and how will perform the conservation works. In the implementation of preservation of Latvian historic gardens and parks, applying the conservation planning instruments, first, further deterioration of the heritage parts, including the architectural and artistic manifestations and the existing qualities of physical elements and structures is prevented. Second, the visual and physical accessibility is improved, simultaneously developing new modes for public participation, facilitating the opportunities of environmental education and growth, and,

third, laying stable foundations for successful development planning in future — focused on the attraction of the social and economic activities to increase the local life quality and well-being.

The proposed heritage preservation conception is mostly applicable to such historic gardens and parks that contain diverse and unique heritage parts and which obviously are under the threat of human factors and atmosphere. The main risk groups are the historic gardens and parks that due to various reasons are not used, as well as the historic gardens and parks that continuously or periodically suffer from intensive workload. Furthermore, it is essential to apply the heritage preservation conception not only in relation to those heritage parts that are located within the territory of the historic garden and park, but also to those parts that ensure the general qualities of the heritage. It means that it is essential to preserve the connection of the cultural heritage with the surrounding territories, and they are viewing points and lines, access roads, etc., as well as the connection of the elements and structures constituting the natural heritage to the surrounding biotopes — forests, meadows, natural water reservoirs, etc. Important role in the preservation of these connections is played by the heritage individual protection belts or zones.

Conservation is a management change process important for the place and its surroundings aimed at strengthening the heritage values³⁸, therefore the heritage preservation conception is a very important stage of development planning of the historic gardens and parks which should be included in long-term and short-term territorial development programmes and binding provisions of any local authority.

Characterisation of the heritage management conception. The management of the historic gardens and parks in any of the development stages is one of the most important

activities. However, not always the management principles are determined according to an extensive study of the place and interests that increase the place quality and facilitate its further development. Thus, the heritage management conception that is based on the guidelines elaborated and applied on a global scale practice is the most appropriate method to implement regular and controlled management activities in long-term. In more simple terms, the management plan is a document, which explains how the historic garden and park, including the heritage parts and significance, will be managed in any utilisation, improvement or reconstruction in future. The guidelines of the management plan stipulate two stages of activities: (1) elaboration of the desirable development targets of the historic garden and park, and (2) specification of the management. The desirable development targets must be based on the historical values and development aspects of the garden and park according to contemporary interests for a rational functionality of the place. It means that the mode of the place development must be accordingly defined and it mostly determines all further activities related to the development planning. In an ideal case, the desirable development targets are subordinated to the previously described conceptions, in the framework of which the total development potential of the historic gardens and parks is determined, taking into account the strengths and weaknesses of the place. The management specification is a logical continuation of activities for the optimum achievement of the set targets. The management specification determines who, in what manner, when, and how often will perform the maintenance works of the desirable qualities and puts forward a new list of jobs based on the desirable development targets and the provisions of its implementation. One of the most important management specification parts is the calculation of employment and finances in the framework of which the manpower resource

to be attracted is determined and the annual budget planning is performed. Also, in the framework of this planning, pursuant to the desirable measures, additional allocation of funding is planned from the funds of governmental or non-governmental organisations, as well as the EU Funds.

As a result of the heritage conception implementation of Latvian historic gardens and parks, first, the particular place of the historic garden and park is clearly defined in terms of development planning strategies and visions of the general territory both in the framework of smaller and bigger scale. Second, the usefulness of the historic garden and park is reviewed in all optimum development aspects of the environment and, third, a strategic development plan and a gradual growth of the place are ensured in long-term. Therefore, the heritage management conception both in total and per stages of activities is applicable to the facilitation and planning of future development for any historic park and garden. The heritage management conception should be incorporated in the development plans of local authorities at district levels closely cooperating with the local rural municipalities, understanding their individual needs, interests and opportunities. However, on the district territory planning scale, initially it is important to elaborate common strategies that are related to the development planning of the historic gardens and parks, thus ensuring the diversity of this field and mutual cooperation opportunities in future among the rural municipalities, as well as regions.

Development conception in the context of the tourism industry. As it has been clarified in the layout of the previously proposed conceptions, it is essential to ground the development planning of the historic gardens and parks on the values and heritage parts occurring in them. Therefore, the development conception in the tourism industry is one of the planning modes of the historic gar-

dens and parks which generally is based on the specific weight of the values and qualities or resource groups and tourism industry interests occurring in the historic gardens and parks. Tourism industries that find historic gardens and parks attractive are multifaceted; however, the following four industries are more visible: cultural tourism, natural tourism, rural tourism and ecotourism.

The resources occurring in the historic gardens and parks are not strictly categorised and they may mutually overlap. Thus, the related tourism industries are only subjected to a particular resource group according to the interests of industry. However, having examined the characteristic traits of the current contemporary situation, each historic garden and park has one of the mentioned resource groups dominating to some degree with other groups subjected respectively. The dominating or prior values of the historic gardens and parks are the cultural and natural heritage values, whereas, the aesthetic and ecological values are secondary or resulting from the previously mentioned values. However, on occasions when there is no historical evidence preserved in the historic gardens and parks that would refer to the cultural and natural heritage the aesthetic and ecological aspects are prior. Thus, in order to use the existing resources of the place to maximum, it is necessary to ensure an appropriate provision for the interests of the respective tourism industry. Whereas, when developing the provision the offer of tourism opportunities is intentionally made on a wider scale both at the district and regional levels.

Although the development conception of the historic gardens and parks in the context of the tourism industry in this case is directed to the attraction of visitors at both local and international level, it unavoidably refers to the growth of opportunities for local communities, for instance, in the employment area. However, despite the possible positive influence of tourism in relation to the growth of

the place and surroundings, attention also must be drawn to the opportunities of local communities to use the resources of the historic gardens and parks for cultural, recreational, educational, research, and other activities. Therefore, in any development planning strategy of a historic garden and park it is important to ensure the access of local public to the existing resources of the historic gardens and parks, as well as to facilitate their participation in the protection, management, and further planning of the resources to a maximum degree.

The proposed sustainable development planning conceptions of the historic gardens and parks are not referred to one universal approach, because in a contemporary view the development planning of each historic garden and park is determined, first, by its individual features which are reflected in a historical development in certain time periods and geographical location both in relation to the natural base and the landscape created by a human. And, second, the development planning is determined by general development planning traditions that to a great extent stipulate the contemporary approach in terms of the cultural and natural heritage and their integration in social, economic, and political processes. At the same time, the elaborated conceptions are flexible and serve as the ground base for adapting diverse situations and finding the appropriate solutions. Furthermore, they are based on the gradualness and continuity approaches, which in this case is the unifying aspect and, irrespective of the diversity of the historic gardens and parks, the gradualness and continuity principles ensure the planning of sustainable development.

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LATVIJAS VĒSTURISKIE DĀRZI UN PARKI MŪSDIENU LAUKU AINAVĀ

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Anotācija

Atslēgvārdi: *parku un dārzu attīstība, ainavas aizsardzības politika, attīstības plānošana*

Sākot ar 18. gadsimtu, vēsturisko parku un dārzu attīstībā notiek nozīmīgas pārmaiņas, kas, no dažādiem aspektiem raugoties, tuvina cilvēku dabai. Turpmākos gados ainavu pētniecībā vēsturisko parku un dārzu vērtību un nozīmi vides un sociāli ekonomiskajā jomā, to aizsardzības, konservācijas un attīstības jautājumus kultūras un dabas mantojuma kontekstā izceļ kā ļoti nozīmīgus. Latvijas vēsturisko dārzu un parku ainavas kvalitāti galvenokārt ir ietekmējuši politiski faktori, ieskaitot abus 20. gs. pasaules karus. Šajā periodā vēsturiskos parkus un dārzus kā muižu ansambļu daļas sadalīja atsevišķās saimniecībās un veidoja atbilstoši jaunajai funkcionālajai vajadzībai un galvenās ēkas ansambļu sociālās dzīves vajadzībām un prasībām. Tā rezultātā vēsturiskā ainava ir kļuvusi vizuāli un funkcionāli fragmentēta un tikuši papildināta ar jaunām būvēm, kas tikai retos gadījumos saskan ar vēsturiskās ainavas kompozīcijas principiem. Arī politiskā režīma maiņa, līdz ar Latvijas Republikas Neatkarības deklarācijas pieņemšanu 1991. gadā, ir radījusi nozīmīgas pārmaiņas vēsturisko parku un dārzu attīstībā — īpašumtiesību atjaunošanas procesā vēsturisko parku un dārzu teritorija ir zaudējusi kopumu vai integritāti. Šī perioda laikā — līdz pat mūsdienām — muižas ansambļu esošās ēkas ir tikušas funkcionāli pārveidotas, un vairumā gadījumu veiktie pārveidojumi nav uzlabojuši vēsturisko parku un dārzu ainavisko kvalitāti. Tādējādi, kultūrainavas vispārējā kvalitāte Latvijā pasliktinās. Rakstā meklēta atbilde uz jautājumu: Kā plānot kultūras un dabas mantojuma vērtību ilgtspējīgu attīstību tā, lai nodrošinātu kultūras mantojuma saglabāšanu nākamajām paaudzēm?