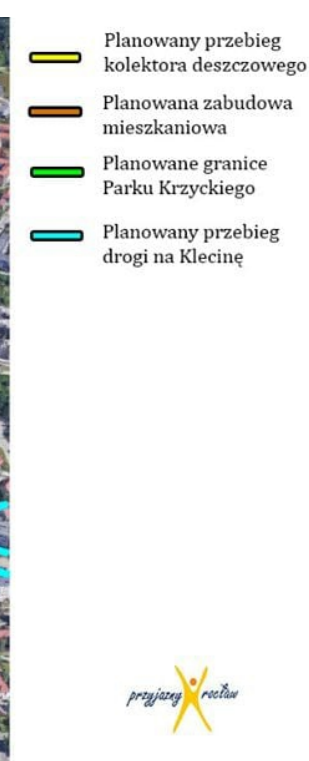
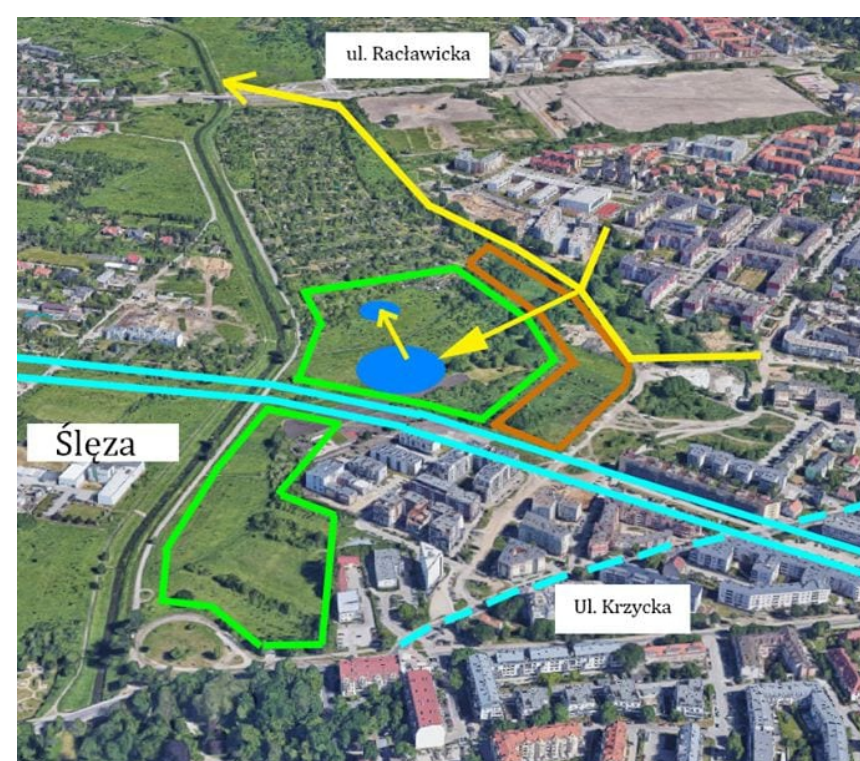
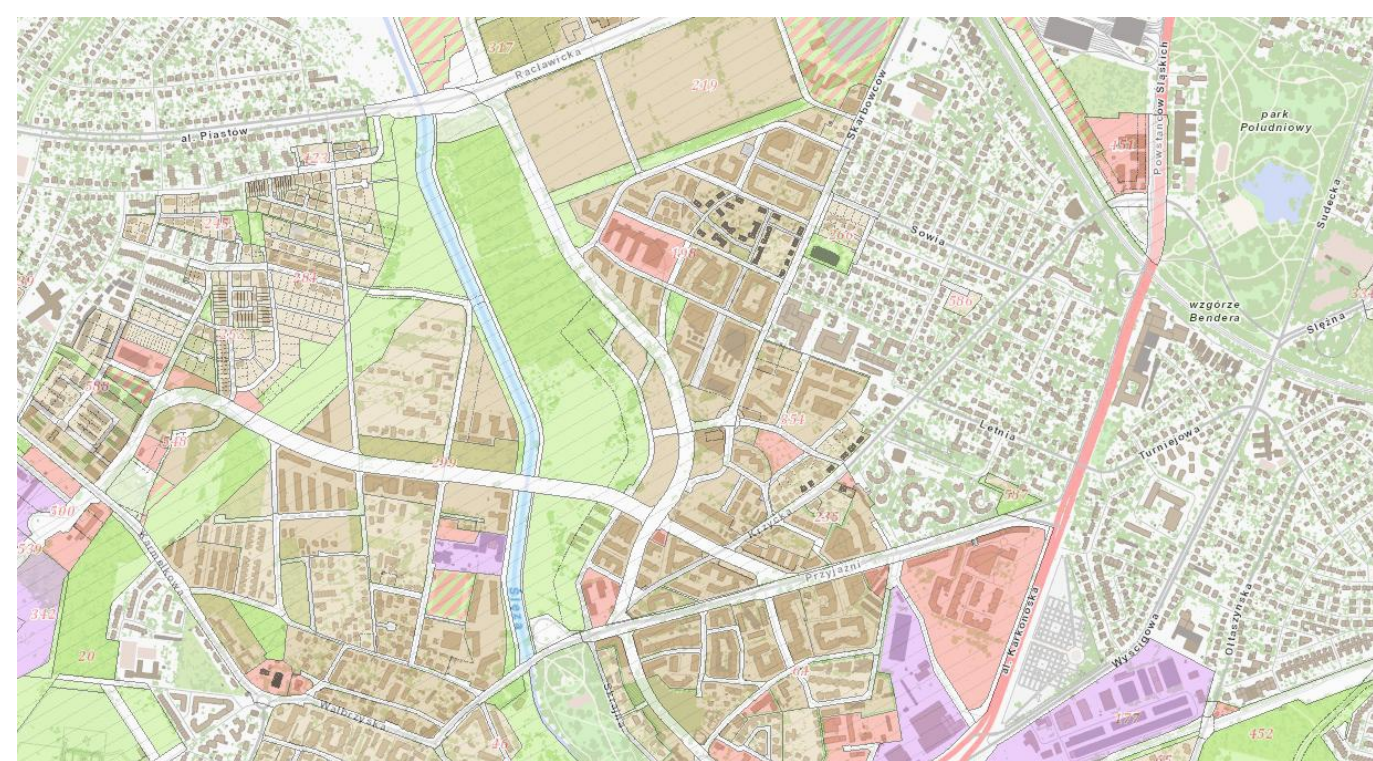


Shaping blue-green infrastructure in urban areas on the example of the Olszówka Krzycka valley in Wrocław

Kształtowanie błękitno-zielonej infrastruktury na terenach zurbanizowanych na przykładzie doliny Olszówki Krzyckiej we Wrocławiu

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The dynamic development of urbanised areas is inextricably linked to the increasing anthropopressure often exerted on valuable natural and landscape ecosystems. Modern urban management and planning should take into account the role and importance of ecosystem services of blue-green infrastructure with a particular focus on existing components. Comprehensive planning and the creation of sustainable rainwater management systems based on nature should be the foundation of sustainable strategies for climate-resilient cities of the future. Meanwhile, investments are still being made based on spatial development plans drawn up a few decades ago, which are completely unsuited to modern needs and realities. The project was to involve plugging up the watercourse, which would have involved cutting down valuable old-growth trees. It failed, however, to stop the progressive development of the floodplain of the Śleza river valley in this area, including the bridging up of a section of the Olszówka Krzycka riverbed under one of the residential buildings.



Hypsometry of the Śleza and Olszówka Krzycka valleys

Justification for the construction of a rainwater collector - official position of the city of Wrocław

A rainwater collector will also be built as part of the project. Why? The collector is a necessary element of the investment. Its task will be to collect rainwater from an area of about 68 hectares - from a section of Krzycka Street and from Skarbowców, Szaruga, Babiego Łata, Misty, Róża Wiatrów, Wietrzna and Południowa streets. The rain collector will not discharge water directly into the River Śleza. It will first clean it and then supply water to the two ponds in Krzycki Park, as well as a section of the Olszówka Krzycka - near the most valuable trees in the area.

Can't the Olszówka canal be cleaned and deepened to use it as a rainwater drainage channel? A drainage concept has been produced for the site, which indicated that the Olszówka Krzycka is not capable of draining all the rainwater flowing from the site. The design flow from the concept is 1,500 l/s, while the maximum flow rate of the Olszówka is about 10l/s. In addition, it has a slight longitudinal gradient of the bottom, hence its cross-section quickly becomes overgrown, creating difficulties in the free drainage of rainwater.

<https://www.wroclaw.pl/portal/park-krzycki-pytania-i-odpowiedzi>

"The city will build a rain collector in Krzyki. Residents: "We feel we are being let into a pipe".

A rainwater-fed park will be built in Wrocław. The area between the Śleza River and Olszówka Krzycka will be developed. This is another step by the city to combat drought. A special collector draining rainwater into two ponds located in the park will contribute to this.

Residents of the estate have doubts about the route of the collector. They do not want the pipe to run from the planned park to Raclawicka Street.

- Some fragments of the collector are planned without any sense," believes Łukasz Szymanowicz, a resident of the Krzyki estate, "In the design, the route of the collector runs through a very rich natural area, which "retains" water very well on its own. However, the collector will deprive it of this water. This is not a fight against drought - this is the drainage for fat millions of EU subsidy," he adds.

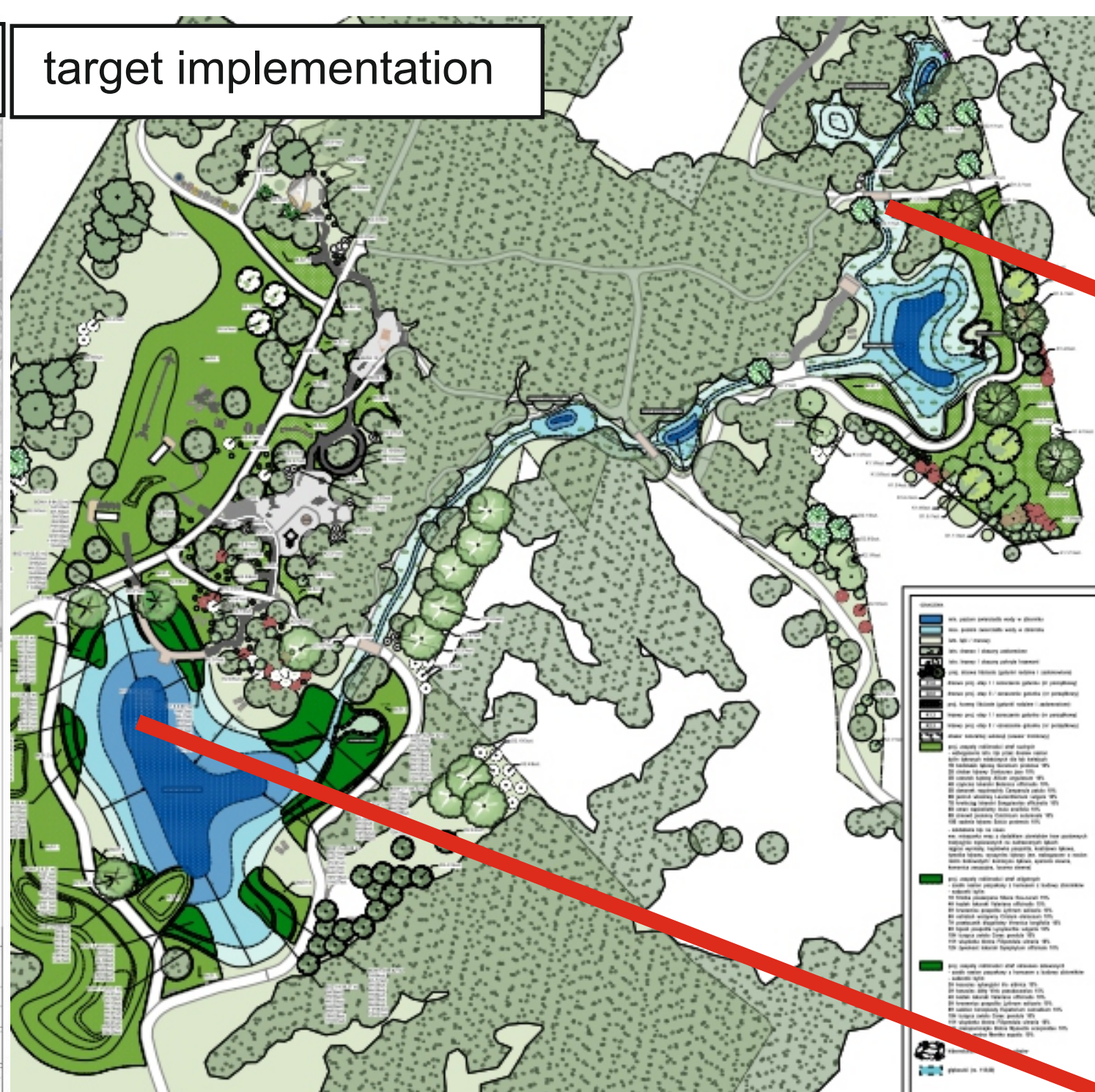
Residents note that the construction of the collector will destroy the Olszówka - a stream that takes care of the natural water retention in the area. The construction is also linked to the felling of trees and the destruction of the root system of valuable old oak trees.

<https://www.eska.pl/wroclaw/miasto-zbuduje-kolektor-deszczowy-na-krzykach-mieszkancy-czujemy-sie-wpuszczeni-w-rure-aa-idaX-wXsb-V9jF.html>

Dispute over the Olszówka Krzycka valley

In 2020, the dispute over MPWiK's investment in Krzyki was loud. Residents, including naturalist Małgorzata Piszczek and Przyjazny Wrocław activist Łukasz Szymanowicz, opposed the construction of a collector that would collect water from the estate. This was to involve the felling of approx. 400 trees. The Magistrate assured them that the collector is a necessary part of the investment and is to protect the residents of the Krzycka Street area. - In this way, we will solve the existing problems of the inhabitants of this part of the city, whose properties are flooded during heavy rains," explained Tomasz Konieczny of MPWiK at the beginning. - I believe that a solution which will lead to water retention locally, in the Olszówka valley, is possible. Water is a precious resource that must be protected," said Professor Tomasz Kowalczyk of the University of Life Sciences. After protests, the Wrocław magistrate decided to redesign the investment.

<https://wroclaw.wyborcza.pl/wroclaw/7,35771,28411624,dolina-olszowki-krzyckiej-naturalna-chlodziarka-we-wroclawiu.html>



The problems associated with the realisation of the investment associated with the construction of the KD collector in the Olszówka Krzycka valley show that investments affecting environmental resources should already at the conceptual stage be subject to specialist consultations and transparently presented to the public. Involving Wrocław's scientific community, as well as independent specialists, in this work will make it possible to develop and implement projects that are both technically and economically efficient, as well as responding to contemporary environmental and climate problems, which will translate into sustainable development of the city and improved living conditions for its inhabitants.

The "Krzycki Park" project is a good example of the possibility of establishing a dialogue between municipal authorities, residents, activists and the world of science, the common aim of which is to improve environmental conditions while respecting the existing natural and retention potential of green river valleys. This should form the nucleus of new standards for modern planning and implementation of Wrocław's blue-green infrastructure for the 21st century.