Contemporary Parks in Post-Industrial Cities of Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis

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Abstract. The subject of the article is greenery in the public space of modern post-industrial cities with a particular role of city parks. The research concerns the current trends in the creation of urban parks, new forms and functions of urban greenery and ways of their introduction into the spatial structure of cities. The research is based on the cities of the Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis - one of the largest and most urbanized metropolitan areas in Poland with an industrial heritage. The article deals with the issues of creation, repair and protection activities undertaken in the 21st century related to the shaping of urban and suburban greenery in public spaces. The research presents selected activities carried out on a local and regional scale in the area of the metropolitan core. In the Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis, the slow process of increasing the area of green areas faces the processes of increased industrialization and urbanization. With the use of appropriate legal, financial, planning and organizational methods and instruments, this process can lead post-industrial cities towards „green” cities. It may also raise one's hope to improve the conditions and quality of life of urban communities and create a new image of post-industrial cities. The shaping of a new metropolis image is connected with the search for new challenges and new landscape identity. And, here is a chance in the creation of new green areas, and in particular broadly understood and much more complex than originally urban parks. The article objective is to show the role of parks in creating a new „green” image of a metropolis and impact on the quality of life of their inhabitants. It is also an attempt to answer the questions whether these activities are sufficient to make cities with an industrial heritage become „green” cities and the effect of these actions to be visible in the metropolis landscape. The article also tries to answer the questions whether contemporary different approaches to shaping urban greenery change the space and character of post-industrial cities and whether they meet the needs of a post-industrial society daily contact with nature.

1. Introduction
Nowadays, in the process of searching for a new image of cities of post-industrial metropolis, the recognition of the natural resources and conditions of cities of post-industrial agglomerations is of particular importance. Urban greenery becomes an important element of the landscape, identity and identification of the cities. It is essential for the functioning and maintenance of environmental sustainability in urbanized areas. If properly cultivated, it can significantly influence the spatial composition, revive and renew urban spaces, make public spaces more attractive. A special example of cultivated greenery is the park. Defined by the green, parks also reflect the achievements of civilization, technique, technology and culture of the city. Parks serve people, enable them to interact
with nature, meet their needs, provide a source of activity, provide opportunities for rest and recreation, bring satisfaction and enjoyment, affect the quality of urban space and the quality of life of their residents.

The article deals with the issues of creation, repair and protection activities undertaken in the 21st century related to the shaping of urban and suburban greenery in public spaces. It also applies to current trends in the creation of urban parks, new forms and functions of urban greenery and ways of their introduction into the spatial structure of cities. The research is based on the cities of the Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis – one of the largest and most urbanized metropolitan areas in Poland with an industrial heritage. The changes that occur continually raise questions about the ecological rehabilitation of the region, the „new” landscape identity and the living conditions of the inhabitants. The shaping of a new image of metropolis cities is connected with the search for new challenges and new landscape identity. And, here is a chance in the creation of new green areas, and in particular broadly understood and much more complex than originally urban parks. Cities rich in parks, with good environmental status, give their residents a greater sense of comfort and life satisfaction. The article objective is to show the role of parks in creating a new „green” image of a metropolis and impact on the quality of life of their inhabitants. It is also an attempt to answer the questions whether these activities are sufficient to make cities with an industrial heritage become „green” cities and the effect of these actions to be visible in the metropolis landscape. The article also tries to answer the questions whether contemporary different approaches to shaping urban greenery change the space and character of post-industrial cities and whether they meet the needs of a post-industrial society daily contact with nature.

2. Contemporary trends in shaping urban parks

In the history of the development of urban parks over the years, there are changes in the approach to their formation. They were associated with cultural, social and economic evolution, as well as new technologies and techniques. The constant search for new solutions was also associated with the relevant trends, modalities and ideas in architecture and urbanism, as well as in nature, philosophy, economics and many other disciplines, relevant for a given moment of civilization development. The turn of the 20th and 21st centuries poses a number of new challenges to an urban park. In Europe, the modern parks are recognized those that were established after 1982. There was a competition for the 21st Century Park in the La Villette district of Paris at that time. This competition has changed the approach to the park landscape formula to the benefit of prestigious parks, closely linked to the surrounding modern architecture, with the geometric layout of the space [1]. The next milestone in the creation of a new form of urban parks was a mix of activities and initiatives that led to the accentuation of the quality of built and natural environment and the maturation of the philosophy of sustainable urban development. Starting from 1992 (the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro) a new generation of sustainable development parks, called „eco-parks”, began to emerge. Their characteristic feature was the minimal interference with the existing natural and cultural environment, a small number of accompanying objects, the flexibility of space utilization and the connection to the urban green system. As a result, in post-industrial areas, which have been seen so far in the context of environmental, health and social hazards, there has been noticed a chance to develop and introduce new quality. New parks began to emerge in former mines, steel mills, (Nordsternpark in Gelsenkirchen, Duisburg-Nord Duisburg in Duisburg); warehouses (Bercy park in Paris); shipyards (Thames Barrier Park in London, IGA park in Rostock); airports or military areas (Landschaftspark Riem in Munich, Bornstedter Feld in Potsdam, Elbe park in Magdeburg) but also in unkempt residential areas (Mile End Park in London, Marzahn Park in Berlin) and urban wasteland (Natur Park, at the site of former Schöneberger Südgelände train station in Berlin, Eco Park in the experimental housing estate of Millennium Village in London, Neue Wiesen in Berlin) [2]. An important part of

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1 The Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis was established on 1 July 2017. It’s comprising 41 cities, but the core is comprising 13 cities.
created parks has been the use and skilful transformation of elements of the natural environment degraded by industrial activities such as: pits, excavations, artificial water bodies or rivers. These include elements actively pursued by green, adapted only to utility requirements and „tamed” by residents. Other, reclaimed and redeveloped, are becoming a symbol of the quest for new quality based on industrial identity. Still others, subjected to protective and remedial actions, relate to the necessity to neutralize the negative effects of this heritage in space. Many of them introduce new features that are desirable in the urbanized space. These are mostly natural functions with an indication of recreation, leisure and sport or cultural functions: representation, identification or composition [3]. Their characteristic feature is the combination of the functions introduced with the identity of the place, the industrial heritage and the history of the cities.

Parks created today make up a part of a program of spatial, social and economic activities related to the renewal process of urban and regions. Comprehensive approach to revitalization programs involves natural regeneration, rehabilitation and renaturalization of existing elements of the natural environment, the introduction of new green areas into existing urban structures and taking of systemic actions on the natural environment. Thus, the parks began to play an important role in planning the transformation of urbanized structures and the development of ecological strategy and landscape renewal of cities and regions. Great green projects have become a visiting card of among others: Berlin, Hanover, Hamburg, Rotterdam, London, Ruhr or Nord Pas de Calais. Among them are large-scale, comprehensive projects involving landscape parks, regional parks and linear parks. River valleys are for many parks the compositional and integration axis. Great creative-repair-protection programs are being implemented in Barcelona along the Besòs and Llobregat Rivers (Agrari Park), Bilbao on the Nervion River (Ribera Park, Doña Casilda, Campa De Los Ingleles Park), Paris along the Seine River (Le parc du Chemin de L’Ile), in Cordoba in valley of the Guadalquivir River (Parque de Miraflores) and many others [4]. Contemporary parks are also being built in places not yet accessible: on viaducts, transportation routes, tunnels, roofs (Rail Park in Philadelphia, Jardin Atlantique or Jardins de l’Arche in Paris), walls (Musée du Quai Branly) or underground (Meteor Paris metro station). In this way, the modern park grows into architecture, using all the places so far unavailable. The created parks face the challenge of urbanization, they work by experiment, they create new faces for art, culture and education. Parks do not keep off hustle, but help to alleviate urban stress, provide the opportunity to interact with nature and the other person. Such parks are characterized by diversity, individualism and originality.

Nowadays, the concept of the park loses its sharpness, referring to forms much more complex than originally. Alternative forms of greenery, such as urban farms, themed gardens, promenades, temporary installations, flower stalls, beer gardens and pocket parks are gaining more and more importance in the cities. Apart from alternative forms, the specialized forms of cultivated greenery have been created, accompanying scientific, industrial, technological parks and amusement parks. They are complementary to urban green spaces and together with traditional parks create a space of social communication. They are also complementary to recreational areas, provide facilities and enrich the system of pedestrian, and bicycle paths and other urban activities. The essence of contemporary parks is derived from a quote taken from the study Green Debate. Summary, based on discussions with residents of Warsaw in 2009 as part of the project implemented by the Capital City of Warsaw: „The modern parks of London, Paris, Berlin and Barcelona are perfectly maintained public spaces, vibrant with activity, reconciling the interest of nature with the interest of a man living in the city. There is a place for them to play loudly and for quiet contemplation. Parks teach and relax, surprise with innovative form, but also refresh with the traditional style of functioning. The space of a modern city park must satisfy many different communities and thousands of people. That is why it is usually fitted with a whole host of places, including facilities and attractions. You can sit, walk, lie, jog, skate, do yoga, dance and meditate. Its functioning is determined by the designer, conditions of the place, and finally, what is important, by the manager of the site” [5].

Gradually, urban parks, apart from basic social, natural and cultural functions, gain marketing functions. They begin to decide on the value of the environment and the attractiveness of the city, and
become one of the measure of the value of urban investment. Neighbourhood property gain value and contribute to faster economic development. Parks, in addition to entering the cities's natural environment, also became entering into the network of urban cultural and economic links. They have become a catalyst for many social, educational and environmental initiatives. The way they are shaped, following the needs, emotions and behaviours of urban space users has made the parks become a strategic component of the public space system, contributing to the physiognomy of the city, building its spatial composition and quality of life of local communities.

3. The contemporary parks of the Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis

The Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis is not perceived as a green region. Stereotypic perception of agglomeration through the prism of industrial past, lack of knowledge of changes, cursory insights taken from various media, all of this constitutes the image of the region encoded in the perceptions of the external audience and visitors. Residents look at their cities differently but also, they do not have full knowledge of all existing, planned and realized „green” investments. For them the important green areas are those which are localized closest to their place of residence, which offer an attractive program that is available and safe. A characteristic feature of the Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis cities are the parks or recreation and educational facilities with a high proportion of green that arise in degraded areas, brownfield. They are created in metropolis cities for the purposes of:

- nature – to increase the share of green areas in the structure of cities, biodiversity conservation, protection and restoration of habitats, create new habitats and enter them in the ecological network connections;
- culture – to increase the value of investments, raising the prestige of the place, and the strengthening and respect for identity of the place, changing the image of cities;
- social – creating available and safe places for rest and recreation for the residents of heavily urbanized areas; activation of residents to take action and initiatives to improve the quality of their lives.

New initiatives very often fit into the urban regeneration programs combined with natural regeneration of brownfield sites. It is important for them not only to maintain the special natural and cultural heritage but also to meet the needs of the modern user and the challenges of urban development. Shaping the green areas in the metropolis cities is carried out through the following actions:

- protection of existing natural and cultural values;
- protection from investing or changing the method of development (post-industrial wasteland of landscape and social potential, untilled land);
- processes of reclamation, restoration and redevelopment; (acceleration of spontaneous regeneration processes, the use of native plant material, introducing new features);
- creation of new green areas stimulating the development of urban areas.

In recent decades the actions to repair, renew or restore the appropriate balance between the natural and built environment were repeatedly taken in the Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis. Few of them were conducted on a regional scale. Their result is a new approach to shaping the image of the metropolis.

3.1. Activities on a regional scale

In recent years, two initiatives in the supra-local scale undertaking subject parks were taken in the Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis. The first one was realized by the Upper Silesian Metropolitan Union in 2010-2012. It concerned the international project „Periurban Parks – Integrating natural and
rural areas into our cities". The project involved 14 partners from 11 countries of the European Union who represented the local, regional and metropolitan authorities, nature parks and associations of nature parks. The project concerned the shaping and management of suburban parks as natural areas functionally and spatially linked to urban areas. Particular attention was paid to the improvement of environmental conditions, protection of the landscape and the preservation of biodiversity in the areas adjacent to heavily urbanized areas. An important goal was to provide suburban spaces open for recreation. The result of the project was to develop a common methodology and formulate recommendations to include the Periurban Parks in European Union legislation. The area located in three cities: Katowice, Mysłowice and Tychy was selected for the project at the territory of the Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis. This area of about 80 km² was in 98% composed of forest complexes. It consisted of five recreation centres established on degraded areas. The connecting component of the recreation centres was the presence of former ponds and recreational potential. After analysis, it was found that the suburban parks can provide the city and its residents important services: regulatory, health, natural, supporting, socio-economic, recreational, and services related to the broadly understood culture [6]. It was assumed that the task of parks located in suburban areas, as public open areas, would be: improving the socio-economic conditions in degraded areas, reducing the phenomenon of urban sprawl, reducing environmental hazards, strengthening biodiversity, offering leisure opportunities to residents of heavily urbanized areas in the immediate contact with nature [7].

Referring to the idea of sustainable urban development, it was deemed necessary to:

• protect suburban natural and agricultural areas;
• take into account the role of suburban areas in spatial planning;
• promote the creation of multifunctional suburban parks able to serve multiple functions: ecological, social and economic;
• create appropriate structures to manage the suburban parks;
• create relationship with the surrounding of suburban areas, as key components of a network of green infrastructure;
• connect the suburban parks with urban areas;
• promote the parks as a European brand/business card testifying the rank of these areas and their role for cities and metropolises [8].

The result of the project was to present recommendations to the authorities responsible for spatial policy in urban areas. In the longer term, this project aims to contribute to the initiation of the actions aimed to protect existing open spaces and the creation of new public open areas, integrated into the regional natural system [9].

The second initiative taken in the Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis is the project „Zagłębie's Linear Park – revitalization of the functional area of the Przemsza and Brynica river valleys”. Its implementation commenced in 2013. The project partners are: Dąbrowa Górnicza, Sosnowiec, Będzin, Siewierz, Sławków, Psary and Będziński district, which in collaboration with the public, non-governmental, economic and scientific sector have established cooperation in the framework of the Partnership of Zagłębie Dąbrowskie Municipalities\(^3\). The sites included in the Linear Park are among others: Green Park in Dąbrowa Górnicza; City Park with Exotarium in Sosnowiec; Rozkówska Park, „Monkey Grove” and the riverside area Brzozowica in Będzin; area at the Castle and City Park in Siewierz; recreation and sports areas on the Biała Przemsza River in Sławków and green areas in the Góra Siewierska in the Commune of Psary [11]. The aim of the project is to create a multifunctional

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2 The project worth 2.2 million Euro was financed from the European Regional Development Fund under the "INTERREG IVC" Programme [10].

3 The source of financing is the Regional Program „Urban development through strengthening the competences of territorial self-government units, social dialogue and cooperation with representatives of civil society”, implemented under the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area 2009-2014. The financial participation of municipalities is 15% [11].
system linking the green areas, enter it into the urban structures as well as functional, natural, social and cultural linking with other systems of the metropolis cities. The Linear Park is to be created by revitalized organized green spaces and environmentally valuable areas located in the valley of the Przemsza and Brynica rivers. The linked components shall create a system of complementary, attractively managed public spaces, giving the entire region the possibility of diverse leisure activities in contact with nature. The essence of the project is to assess the natural values of the river valleys, restore the ecological functions of river valleys and stimulate the development of services in their surroundings. The whole system has to be connected to a network of natural-didactic paths, biking, walking and water routes that form places of activation and integration of local communities. The Linear Park on a par with the rest of the components of the urban spatial and functional structure is to create a coherent wholeness, conditioning the sustainable development of the city and the quality of life of residents [12]. According to today’s trend in landscaping an important part of the project is the co-operation with residents, their involvement in joint problem solving and designing „green” public spaces. The development concepts of individual riverside green areas are prepared in the framework of public consultation, questionnaires, discussions and open air workshops in the form of so-called live planning. As part of the work on the linear park it is planned to identify:

• variety of ways to connect green areas along the rivers to form a coherent system;
• functional and aesthetic solutions for problem areas with particular emphasis on accessibility and safety;
• appropriate forms for the various green areas, taking into account the existing conditions, the results of the public consultation and the provisions of the existing strategic and planning documents;
• pieces of urban planning equipment and landscape architecture for the Linear Park area, emphasizing the ideological coherence of the whole project and allowing its unambiguous identification;
• identification and visual information for a linear park [13].

Awareness of the role of urban and suburban parks, its impact on the character and image of metropolis, attention to the quality of human life and sustainable development at the supra-local level are visible in the undertaken projects.

3.2. Activities on a local scale
The attempts to introduce new green areas in the metropolis, taken in the 21st century, the most common were carried out on a local scale. These include both shaping and revalorisation of urban parks in post-industrial areas, creation of squares, gardens, theme parks in public spaces in individual cities and legal protection of the most valuable park areas located in areas transformed by industrial activities. Among the activities carried out in post-industrial areas in recent years, creative activities can be distinguished, introducing new development towards the park, leisure and recreation areas, for example, the park around the reclamation of the reservoirs „Amelung” in Chorzów (2007) or the park „GEOsfera” in Jaworzno (from 2013 under construction). Many initiatives are adaptation, reclamation, revitalization and modernization activities that include cities park once created in post-industrial areas. These parks are characterized by extensive management, poor functional program and limited accessibility. Their aim is to return a fragment of the city to nature and to make it accessible to the inhabitants for recreational purposes. An important role is their educational function making the local community aware of the local value of the „restored” nature. Examples include, among others, the park and recreation area implemented as part of the CircUse project in Piekary Śląskie (2013) or the park, recreation and education areas in the area of the Bytomka River in Zabrze (2012). A separate group consists of protective activities, within which legal protection is included in the most valuable green areas with park, recreational or educational functions created in the place of former excavations, settlers, heaps and wastelands. Among them stand out, for example Nature and landscape complex „Frog Pits” on the border of Bytom and Chorzów (1997), Ecological uses like „Pszczelnik Park” in
Siemianowice Śląskie (1997) or „Park and forest complex Piaśniki-Chropaczów” in Świętochłowice (2003) [14,15,16].

In recent years, more and more examples of cultivated greenery designs concern the green associated with modern spatial clusters of industrial and scientific objects, such as technology parks and industrial parks. Those parks, supporting the activities of municipalities in creating spatial order, bring high quality architectural solutions and modern-style design to the urban landscape, as well as attractive public spaces and landscaped areas. Most of the specialist parks in the statutory activities introduced the improvement of greenery condition in the area covered by their activities, implemented through the introduction of parks, greenery, squares and insulating greenery stripes. Currently, the green areas occupy on the average 5-10% of the area of specialist parks located in the metropolis (with the initial status 0%). In the case of the Euro-Centre Industrial Park in Katowice, located in the centre of one of the more prestigious districts of the city, the cultivated green areas (insulating and decorative) occupy even up to 1/3 of the total area [17].

Very rarely, urban parks are part of great public investments. One of the few examples of creation of new green spaces in the Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis is the Culture Zone in Katowice, which, apart from the „Spodek” Sports and Entertainment Hall, comprises three powerful investments – the International Congress Centre, the new seat of the National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra and the new Silesian Museum. They are located at the area of the former „Katowice” coal mine. The public space was created between them, part of which are the „Sensory Gardens” designed at the NOSPR building by KONIOR STUDIO in 2014. The designers selected the right greenery, planted „Doorenbos” birches, bird cherries and plane trees, and incorporated lawns crossed by pedestrian paths. An important part of the concept are the devices referring to the reception of urban space with senses, such as: metal drums or equivalent. In addition, the labyrinth designed deep in the park is a symbolic representation of the downtown of Katowice from the beginning of the last century. By using natural components (water and/or rock) the central downtown squares, market, Rawa River and tram tracks were marked. The Culture Zone in Katowice requires further design activities. What is missing in the public spaces is the better accessibility for the local residents. The problem is the lack of residential and office buildings, which may revitalize the area beyond the moments of cultural events and the proper proportions between the areas of communication service and new areas of greenery.

In metropolitan cities, theme parks are gaining importance. In recent years, over a dozens of them have been created in larger cities. Many of them are implemented as part of the development of major, urban public spaces (Sensory Park at the Radio station in Gliwice, 2017). Others are created by the existing green areas: parks, squares (Sensory garden on the square near the kindergarten in Chorzów, 2015 or „Explorado” Discovery Park in Chorzów). Still others are inscribed in city tourist routes (Park of Military Technology or Park 12C, which are part of the complex of Queen Luiza Adit in Zabrze, 2016). The aim of thematic parks is to introduce an educational and recreational function, to enable the residents to experience various phenomena by means of the senses and practical activities in nature. Parks are a space in which users can in an attractive way learn about issues related to the elements of the earth, senses, technology and energy in nature. The main idea of parks is interaction, active learning and fun, as well as leisure. However, in many thematic parks, greenery plays a marginal function or only complementary urban composition.

In the agglomeration cities, shaping a new, sustainable urban area, in line with the idea of green infrastructure, is manifested in the realization of objects in which greenery appears on the walls, roofs, screens (International Congress Centre in Katowice, 2015, Academic Clinic in Gliwice, 2016). The greenery in other buildings enters directly into the buildings and surrounds it with green screens (Infinite Dreams Office Building in Gliwice, 2012). In the centres of strongly urbanized cities of the metropolis, activities similar to the so-called „pocket parks” are more and more important. They respond directly to the need for proximity to green areas. Their idea is to create a small area of greenery often located on wasteland, places after demolished objects, or degraded yards. These activities do not require large and expensive terrain transformations. The emphasis is on the activation of the local urban community. The benefit of „pocket parks” is to increase the quality of space and the
standard of living in the city and the value of everyday landscapes. In pocket park projects, not only greenery, but also devices for recreation, elements of small architecture or gastronomic gardens are taken into account. Many examples of the implementation of new areas of greenery come out on the residents’ initiative. As a result, small parks, green areas and squares are being built on dumps, urban wastewaters, watercourses near the area of residence. An interesting initiative was taken by the inhabitants of the Bańgów district in Siemianowice Śląskie. The residents developed the riverbank near the residential blocks in a small valley on the “Michałkowicki Ditch”, along the section of several hundred meters. They allocated lots, allocated each of them a host, developed the rules of development and use, and laid out the greenery decorated with the objects of the so-called „small architecture”. As a result, riverside gardens with free access, pedestrian paths and varied vegetation were created. In recent years, city authorities, organizations and associations have become increasingly involved in organizing various types of artistic events as well as cultural and education animation projects that result in the introduction of new green spaces in public and semi-public spaces. Many of the initiatives taken are durable actions, bringing new quality in urban areas. Among them are the „Square on the glade” project, whose aim is to revitalize the Silesian courtyards. Its main value is the active participation of the inhabitants and „taming” the nearest place of residence, among others, by means of greenery [18]. Other activities are temporary, but they have the power to influence the image and attractiveness of cities.

An example of the fact that one can speak about green spaces in different languages are the artistic installations introduced into public spaces in Katowice, related to the city’s efforts to become the European Capital of Culture 2016. Among others, the following items appears under the slogan „Katowice - city of gardens” in the city space: „Cazador del Sol” by Agata Norek and Rene Hildebrand – installation depicting a flowery meadow in the middle of the city (2010); „Flowers” – installation by German artist Peter Grotz, featuring a colourful, unusual garden at the Ronde of Art (2012); „Superogród”, the artistic and social project realized by Katarzyna Jędrośka-Goik and the Culture Institution „Katowice-City of Gardens” – introducing flower pots into the city center space (2011-2013); „Mobile Garden” designed by Wzorro Design collective. Temporary acts and artistic actions bring an element of surprise, change the space and character of the city, revitalize the space, draw the attention of both residents and tourists to the alternative role of green in the modern city.

Planning, design and management plays an important role in the park creation. Tools for shaping and protecting green areas are recorded in Polish law. The most valuable green areas are covered by legal protection - natural and cultural - under the Nature Conservation Act of 2004 and the Act on the Protection of Monuments and Care of Monuments from 2003. The regulation of green areas at the level of spatial planning is ensured by the Spatial Planning and Development Act from 2003. Despite the statutory provisions in the laws, regional development plans and strategies, and in local documents, a sustainable policy on the built and natural environment is hardly put into practice. Often the problem is the insufficient level of education of self-government authorities, lack of activity and pro-social attitudes of inhabitants and the lack of communication skills at various levels: administration with society, decision-makers with designers and specialists in various fields. The problem is also the lack of effective sources of financing the „green investments”, the lack of greater spending on urban greenhouses in urban budgets, and the commercialization of urban wastes and degraded land. All this leads to the destruction of existing green areas, the inability to create new parks and the scarcity of public spaces. At the same time, despite adversities, it is increasingly possible to introduce provisions in planning documents that take into account the need to create new parks and incorporate them into the natural systems of urban metropolis. It is a slow but noticeable process.

4. Results and discussions
The quality of the built and natural environment is a key issue for the development of post-industrial metropolis cities. The Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis needs a clear and consistent implementation of a strategy to improve the image of the industrial past, based on existing capabilities, responding to the future and considering new directions of development. The factor that can significantly influence
the creation of a new image of metropolis is the state of the natural environment, the access to the green areas and their quantity and quality. Well-functioning urban greenery causes the culture of everyday life in metropolis cities to grow. Urban greenery, various types of investments or projects where the theme is „a widely-understood park”, build the meaning of a place, create an image of a city, become a determinant of the landscape, determine the quality of the place of residence, value and attractiveness of urban space. These „parks” are for the people, they serve the inhabitants of cities, affect their well-being and activity, they come closer to nature, they satisfy the needs of recreation and relaxation, they give a sense of strong local identity. This approach is in line with the provisions of the New Athens Charter, according to which: „The emotional connection between human beings and their environment - their sense of place - is a fundamental need for successful urban living. The best-loved cities and urban places offer a rich and positive environmental experience. Environmental quality is a major factor in guaranteeing the economic success of a city - it also contributes to social and cultural vitality”, [19]. Constant enrichment of urban greenery in the areas of compact urban development, enhances the aesthetic qualities and natural values of the urban environment, and affects the quality of life in the city.

5. Conclusions
Caring for the values of the natural environment can make it a link that will combine the functional and spatial structure of the post-industrial metropolis and contribute to the creation of a harmonious cultural landscape. In the Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis, the slow process of increasing the area of green areas faces the processes of increased industrialization and urbanization. With the use of appropriate legal, financial, planning and organizational methods and instruments, this process can lead post-industrial cities towards „green” cities. It may also raise one's hope to improve the conditions and quality of life of urban communities and create a new image of post-industrial metropolis.

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