

4COURTS PARK

ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

PARK

Considering the geological conditions of the area (clayey soil which suffocates new plants that have not been pre-cultivated in these conditions), the main concept of dealing with vegetation that was chosen was the principle of directed succession. The park was designed as the entrance into the landscape. The landscape - area with undirected succession - is a logical and natural continuation of the succession areas of the park.

The 4Courts Park is not delimiting itself from the landscape but it gradually merges into it. The park on the site of the former military area is naturally interconnected by the chosen concept with both the immediate and the more remote areas of the communities that are close to the landscape, as well as with the ecosystem of nearby ponds.

Name and location / 4 Courts Park (Park 4 Dvory)
České Budějovice - district Four Courts
Investor / Statutory City of České Budějovice
Authors / Architects / Markéta and Petr Velička and David Prudík
Cooperation / Terezie Havlíková, Kateřina Koudelová,
Pavla Drbalová, Jitka Daňková, Jan Cyrany, Eva Teplická
Bench Vagabund / Jan Zemánek
Photographs / Jakub Holas
Main contractor / Gardenline s.r.o.
Building cost approx. / 1 080 000 €
Time from the architectural competition
to the acceptance of the works / Jan 2012 - Aug 2014
Project preparation / Oct 2012 - Nov 2013
Implementation / Dec 2013 – Aug 2014
Opening /19 September 2014
Total area of the park / cca 28 400 m²
Succession area / cca 16 900 m²
Park lawn area / cca 5 500 m²
Hard surface area / cca 6 000m²



VEGETATION LAYOUT

Considering the problem of traditional establishing the vegetation elements, the basic idea is to leave the larger area of the park to its natural development - succession. The areas are divided into stages 1-3 according to the intensity of intervention into the spontaneously developing communities. In the given conditions of the area, it is fir wood that would naturally develop in this habitat. The younger succession phases have developed from the grass-herbaceous community, through shrub and tree invasions, up to a full-grown forest. An important role is played by the unevenness of the terrain, which creates a mosaic of dry and wet areas.

The aim is to monitor the natural development of the community and to direct it in the required direction, so that certain succession stages (herbaceous, shrubs, trees) are kept in the individual areas. The directed succession therefore consists in the monitoring and regular interventions in the areas, but in comparison with the traditional park interventions, it considerably decreases the maintenance costs.

- 1. HERBACEOUS COMMUNITY**
- meadow grass, high grasses
- The interventions include regular grass mowing along paths, elimination of tree invasion and of large enclaves of ruderal vegetation.
- HERBACEOUS SPECIES: bushgrass, reed canarygrass, deergrass, carex caryophylla, field wood-rush; hydrophilic meadow plants
- 2. SHRUB COMMUNITY**
- with the invasion of trees up to 4 m high
- The interventions include removing invasive timber species, too dense invasion of trees, and trees higher than 4 m.
- TREES: birch, aspen, white willow, brittle willow, poplar, wild cherry, small-leaved lime, pine
SHRUBS: wild rose, shrub willow, sloe tree



- 3. YOUNG FOREST**
- continuous tree and shrub layer - young forest phase with trees with a trunk diameter of up to 30 cm
- The interventions include removing invasive timber species and trees with a trunk diameter of more than 30 cm.
- TREES: birch, aspen, white willow, brittle willow, poplar, wild cherry, pine, ash, oak
SHRUBS: wild rose, shrub willow, sloe tree

