

11. Mysłęcinek Forest Culture and Leisure Park

The park was established in stages starting from 1972. This recreational-park zone was designed by engineers Aleksander Pietrzak and Edward Bartman. It became a part of Bydgoszcz in 1977. Currently, this is the largest Polish municipal park, covering 830 ha. Over half of the park area is covered with a pine, linden, oak, hornbeam and beech forest. The park is criss-crossed by paths for walkers, runners, and Nordic Walking enthusiasts, bicycle and rollerblade paths. In winter, one can use a ski run with a lift. Clearings encourage to leisure and making picnics. Diversified surface features encourage to horseback riding (a riding recreation centre has been located in the park area since 1982). In the eastern part of the park, there is the Polish Fauna Garden with a separate mini zoo, an aquarium and a terrarium. In the garden we can see European bison, fallow deer, lynxes, wolves, ravens, eagles, and falcons. In the cascaded Struga Mysłęcińska River Valley, a vast 60-ha Botanical Garden was established in 1983. It was divided into different climate zones, and an alpine garden. Didactic paths, including a special route for the blind, were marked out. Tourist trails, e.g. Brda River trail and S. Meysner tourist trail, run through the park in Mysłęcinek. The Jeremi Przybora tourist trail also starts here.



Interesting fact: Mysłęcinek village had been a part of a noble estate from the Middle Ages to World War Two. A mill and an inn operated here starting from the 18th century, and a distillery was established here in the first half of the 19th century, which was transformed into a brewery with a restaurant in 1861. Mysłęcinek beer was hugely popular. The brewery was closed in 1945. Its brick ruins one can see at the intersection of Gdańska and Konna Streets.

12. Other natural phenomena in the city centre:

- Lane with Swedish mountain ashes in Szymanowskiego Street, planted in the neighbourhood of the Basilica
- Silver maple in 1 Mikołaja Kopernika Street
- Maidenhair tree in 2 Gimnazjalna Street
- Chinese sumac in Jagiellońska Street in front of the Voivodeship Office
- Maidenhair tree at the corner of Jagiellońska and Konarskiego Streets.
- Bartek Oak, noteworthy though not located in the City Centre – the oldest tree in Bydgoszcz, over 500-year tree.

Interesting fact: In the streets of Bydgoszcz, sculptures are made of dead tree trunks by Zbyszko Piwoński. One can see them in 30 Gdańska Street – Women in doves, in Mickiewicza Avenue – Awakening of the elves (both sculptures from 2006), in Słowackiego Street – We'll play in a while (2010). In Konopnickiej Street, one can see the Dwarfs monument by Mirosław Kufel (2012).

Bydgoszcz Water Tram

Bydgoszcz of the river, or from the deck of one of Bydgoszcz's water trams. The Bydgoszcz water tram, consisting of three vessels (two modern solar powered ones and the historic MS Bydgoszcz), runs along the Brda River and the Bydgoszcz Canal from early June to September. A cruise on a water tram is a must on every tourist's route, since it is a unique opportunity to see Bydgoszcz from the perspective of the river flowing through the very city centre. An additional attraction is going through locks.



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The city of Bydgoszcz

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First gardens in Bydgoszcz were established by monasteries and in the suburbs – these belonged to rich burghers. In the period of the partitions of Poland, the Association of Bydgoszcz Beautification City and Its Immediate Vicinity (active in the years 1832-1898) contributed to covering the city with greenery – streets were planted with trees, and squares were planted out. The project "Recreation of the trees avenue in the City Centre" based on plantings from the 1920's and 1930's has been implemented since 2004. As regards green areas in Poland, the city is second to Warsaw only.

1. Henryk Dąbrowski Park:

It became particularly popular starting from in the first years of the 20th century, when a water-tower with a view platform for admiration of the city panorama was constructed at the top of the hill. In 1920, general Henryk Dąbrowski became the patron of the park. He stayed in this place in October 1794. The park features several natural phenomena: common oak, red oak, maidenhair tree, Siberian elm, broad-leaved linden, and white willow. In 2013, a Caucasian oak 'Concordia', a scarlet Japanese pagoda tree, and a dogwood 'Variegata' were planted.



2. Mill Island:

Located in the heart of the city, this green oasis encourages to leisure by the humming Międzywodzie canal, to admiration of the Venice of Bydgoszcz, to walking along the paved lanes planted in the 19th century with horse chestnuts, lindens and willows. In the central part of the island, there is a playground for children.



3. Casimir the Great Park:

the oldest park in the city. It was here that the Nuns of St Clare had their garden within the convent buildings in the 16th century. In July 1909, the Deluge Fountain, which became a huge attraction was unveiled. The park trees was affected during World War Two, when bunkers were dug in the park area. This is an exceptionally bewitching place with two ponds, a fountain being recreated, and a playground for children. The park features rare specimens, which are also natural phenomena: common oak, London plane, swamp cypress, and European white elm. A kestrel, and endangered species in Europe, nests on the tower of the Church of Saints Peter and Paul.



4. Jan Kochanowski Park:

Owing to the scenically meandering lanes, vast green areas, playground for children, and many species of trees and shrubs, the park is one of the residents' favourite recreational areas. The park's neighbour is the Academy of Music, from the windows of which music flows and adds charm to walking. The most eagerly "visited" sculpture in the park is the Archeress, placed in the park square opposite the Polish Theatre in 1960. In the 1970's, on the initiative of the director of the Pomeranian Philharmonic Andrzej Szwalbe the establishment of the so-called music district was started. The park and the vicinity of the Pomeranian Philharmonic were successively beautified with sculptures of composers and virtuosos (e.g. F. Chopin, I. Paderewski, S. Moniuszko, H. Wieniawski, G. Bacewicz). The park also features several natural phenomena: black poplar, Italian alder, red horse chestnut, and common oak.



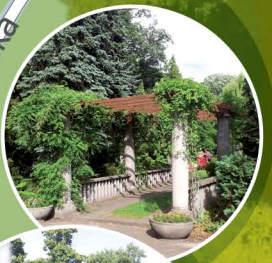
5. Wincenty Witos Ludowy Park:

established in the 1950's on the site of a Protestant necropolis (an obelisk from 2007 commemorates the cemetery). The park's ornament is the old stand of trees. It features the city's most magnificent horse chestnut with 540 cm in circumference (natural phenomenon), a rare southern catalpa with exceptionally spectacular leaves, and another natural phenomenon – a common oak. In 2013, an elm lane was planted. The bust of the park's patron (designed by Witold Marciniak) was placed in the southern part of the park in 1984.



6. Botanical Garden:

The garden area was fenced and divided into sectors: systematic, biological, crop plants, and decorative plants. In the latter sector, there was a rectangular square, in the middle of which a sundial was placed on a platform, and at the four corners – figurines of children depicting the seasons of the year. In the southern part of the square a bas-relief of the street plan of Bydgoszcz was put on the fencing wall. In 1995, the Botanical Garden was granted the complex natural phenomenon status. The garden currently features over 300 tree and shrub species, including unique and relict ones. Alien species come first of all from Asia and North America. 15 protected tree and shrub species grow in the park (e.g.: shrubby birch, dwarf birch, daphne, Swiss pine, dwarf cherry, bladdernut). From April to late autumn the park is open to the public through the main entrance at the intersection of Niemcewiczka Street and Weysenhoffa Square, and in winter one can get to the park only from the side of the Casimir the Great University complex.



7. Park on the Bydgoszcz Canal:

The park extends along the canal, with beautiful specimens of old trees – black poplars, horse chestnuts, oaks, elms, beeches, and hydrophilous black alders. Here, the oldest necropolis of Bydgoszcz – Starofarny Cemetery established in 1806 – neighbours with the area on the canal. Next, at the level of the lock no. 4, the canal is crossed by Wrocławska Street, in which some grand buildings of elegant restaurants with ball and concert rooms have been preserved. From this lock, the most beautiful part of the canal promenade starts, with a pair of floating fountains and a swan island, next the lock no. 5 and another lock in Bronikowskiego Street.



8. Sielanka

district garden, dating back to the middle of the 19th century. At that time, the municipal authorities purchased a vast area as a reserve for the future extension of the city. In the late 19th century, the project of a city-garden spatial arrangement was to be created. In 1912, the final project was made by Joseph Herman Stübben, which became the foundation for the plotting out of Sielanka. The district green square (now Marian Turwid Square) was located in the centre. The district was popular among the Bydgoszcz elites. The new look of the square was created in 2001 and is based on regular shapes of yew and thuya hedges trimmed into balls and cones. Noteworthy is a magnificent specimen of Japanese weeping cherry and sour cherry.



9. The broad oak Ossolińskich Avenue features the Oak Lane of Meritorious People. Such people as Pope John Paul II, painter and graphic artist Leon Wyczółkowski, writer Tadeusz Nowakowski, and cryptologist Marian Rejewski have their trees here. A common magnolia (natural phenomenon) grows in 12 Ossolińskich Avenue. It is one of the most magnificent and the oldest magnolias in Bydgoszcz.



10. Nicolaus Copernicus Square:

Nicolaus Copernicus sculpture is the main element of the square. The square is exceptional owing to its natural stone ellipses, on which individual planets orbit. Their system is emphasised with plantings of blooming plants and tulips of the new variety called Nicolaus Copernicus. A solitary tree – a green ash named Nicolaus has been planted in the square as well.

