

COMPLEX OF THREE PARKS FORESEEN AS A SITE OF THE INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION 2024, ŁÓDŹ, POLAND

Section	 <p>CLEARINGHOUSE 中欧城市森林应对方案</p> <p><i>This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 821242</i></p>
1	<p>TITLE OF CASE STUDY AREA: Complex of three parks foreseen as a site of the International Horticultural Exhibition 2024, Łódź, Poland</p>
2	<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>The International Horticultural Exhibition 2024 in Łódź (Poland) will cover 2 parks (3rd May Park – Historic Park and Baden Powell Park) and the neighbouring green square in the City centre (altogether covering over 77 ha). The exhibition's title "Nature of the City" expresses the desire for a city as a place to live in a pleasant environment to live, work, rest, entertain and relax. The exhibition will not only concern revitalization (urban revival), but also the shaping of the urban landscape and the use of the potential of green spaces in cities. Currently, these parks and the green square are separate green spaces, but in 2024 exhibitions and floral constructions will cover these three green spaces and they will form one, coherent exhibition site. In connection with the Expo, the character of these green spaces may change significantly, and they may lose some of their previous functions delivered to city residents.</p>
3	<p>KEY FACTS AND FIGURES OF THE CASE STUDY AREA</p> <p>Biogeographic region: Continental/temperate climate</p> <p>Surface area: 77.3 ha</p> <p>Country: Poland</p> <p>Region/Province: Łódź Region (Voivodeship)</p>
4a	<p>LOCATION MAP(S)</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">Place of Horticultural Exhibition 2024 in Łódź, Poland</p>

	Location of the study area – Complex of three parks foreseen as a site of the International Horticultural Exhibition 2024 (https://expo2024.uml.lodz.pl/czeste-pytania/)	
5	NAME OF MUNICIPALITY AND WEBSITE ADDRESS City Office of Łódź: https://uml.lodz.pl/en/contact/	
6	LEAD ORGANISATIONS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Office of Łódź; • Department of Ecology and Climate (Environmental Management Unit). 	
7	LOCAL CONTACT(S) City Office of Łódź Department of Ecology and Climate (Environmental Management Unit) Piotrkowska Street 113, 90-430 Łódź Phone number: (42) 272 64 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-mail: dek@uml.lodz.pl • E-mail: wks@uml.lodz.pl • E-mail: expo@uml.lodz.pl 	
8	PRINCIPLE UF-NBS (Urban Forests as Nature-Based Solutions) ACTION(S) The theme of the exhibition concerns the use of nature for the development of the City and improving quality of residents' life. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the quantity and improving the quality of green spaces in the City; • New plantings of trees, decorative shrubs and flowers; • Creation of green walls and green corridors; • Creation of small ponds, water reservoirs and fountains. 	
9	OTHER PRINCIPLE NBS ACTION(S) – non-UF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big outdoor events e.g., exhibitions, fairs, concerts; • New park infrastructure, leisure equipment, pavilions and restaurants at the Exhibition site. 	
10	LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS LIST ONLY 1. Governing authorities: The City authorities are responsible for organising the exhibition and they support it; The event is also supported by regional authorities, such as the Marshal of the Łódź Region; 2. Associations: The Polish Nurserymen Association; 3. Citizens: Individuals, as well as concerned residents associated in the association 'Nie dla Expo' ('No to Expo') who expressly oppose the organization of Expo 2024 in the proposed site; 4. Municipalities: City Office of Łódź – Department of Ecology and Climate (Environmental Management Unit), Neighbourhood Council (Downtown-East); 5. Public/private institutions: Private consulting company – PwC, geotechnical opinion – a private company GEOTEST, the BIO-EKSPERT Nature Services Office; 6. Park planner and authorities: Expert Dendrologist of the Polish Society of Tree Surgeons; Inventory of nature was carried out by the BIO-EKSPERT Nature Services Office; Landscape architects. 7. Technicians for park maintenance/monitoring and to educate and support citizens: n/a	
11	UF-NBS FRAMEWORK	
	a. UF-NBS typology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green urban areas, gardens, parks (i.e., amenity green spaces); • Hedgerows; • Ornamental trees; • Flower installations, ornamental shrubs.
	b. Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built-up infrastructure (e.g., exhibition buildings, restaurants, pavilions, plant installations, places for

			<p>relaxation – benches, deckchairs, small bridges, fountains, new residential areas on the southern edge of the exhibition site);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport infrastructure (e.g., big parking lots, planned new road near parks).
c.	Network/connectivity		The Expo organisers plan to create green corridors connecting the exhibition site with other green spaces related to the exhibition, but these plans are quite general and details are missing. The connecting pedestrian and bicycle routes may be temporary only, though – e.g. through temporary traffic restrictions.
d.	Multifunctionality		In the case of the Expo, cultural services dominate, emphasis is placed on aesthetics, entertainment and sightseeing. In turn, the exhibition plan does not include regulatory or provisioning ecosystem services. Issues related to physical activity in the park, education or spiritual aspects are also omitted. Therefore, we can talk about neglected multifunctionality.
e.	Multi-scale		The Expo in Łódź is planned at regional and municipal level, however, an inflow of tourists from all over the country and abroad is expected. It is also expected to have an impact on tourism and the attractiveness of the entire region. Organization of the Expo is a matter of prestige for the local authorities, a mega event that is meant to ensure their political success. However, the project depends on funding from the central government (decision pending).
f.	Strategic planning processes		The whole project is managed by the City Office of Łódź, with the support of the Marshal of the Łódź Region and the obligatory support of the government (although the funding decision is still pending). The City Council collaborated with private external companies and external experts in implementing the feasibility plan for the Expo.
g.	Inter- and transdisciplinary		The Expo involves officials from the City Office, experts (dendrological and geological analysis, inventory of nature), a landscape architect, as well as planners from the Municipal Planning Office. Intriguingly, the City collaborates with external and not local experts. As for cooperation with residents, it is negligible, there is almost no public consultation, and the opposition of local residents is neglected.
h.	Social cohesion and biocultural diversity		Focus on very specifically understood cultural ecosystem services, neglect of many others which leads to reengineering a park to deliver this specific ecosystem service – a site of an exhibition. The structure of park users may change during and after the exhibition, doubtless, tourists, young people and families will dominate, while local residents, the elderly and those practicing sports may be “pushed out” of this place and

				will have to look for an alternative UGS (Urban Green Space)/park.	
i.	Governance arrangements	I. Project management structure.		The rights to organise the International Horticultural Exhibition are granted by the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) in cooperation with the World Exhibitions Office (BIE). In turn, in Poland, the City Office of Łódź is responsible for the organization – especially, the Department of Ecology and Climate (Environmental Management Unit).	
		II. Local community engagement and the nature of their engagement.		Some residents expressly oppose the organisation of Expo 2024 in the 3 rd May Park and Baden Powell Parks, and especially in the green square near Konstytucyjna Street, which altogether form an oasis of greenery for the surrounding housing estate – Radiostacja. The residents’ arguments against the Expo are presented e.g. on the website of an association they created to criticise the idea of the Expo: http://niedlazielongoexpo.pl/ There have been no positive reactions to the Expo from the local residents voiced in the media.	
		III. City-scale and/or region-wide governance for the project and/or UF-NBS (city and regional stakeholders and character of their engagement)		The City authorities are responsible for organising the exhibition and they support it, along with the Marshal of the Łódź Region and the President of the Polish Nurserymen Association. The organisation of the Expo is a matter of prestige for the local authorities, a mega event that is meant to ensure their political success. Hence, the authorities promote its organisation and invest public money in this project while still expecting a final decision from the Polish government on providing additional key funding. According to concerned citizens, the City organised too few public consultations regarding the Expo 2024.	
		IV. National and international governance context (national and international stakeholders and character of their engagement)		Although the National government supported the organisation of the Expo in the very beginning, later discussions revealed that the government would not want to financially contribute to the organization of this event. A final decision has not been made yet, and the negotiations between the City Office and the government continue.	
		V. Other (specify)		n/a	
	j.	Institutional frameworks	I. Project staff responsibilities.		The Project Manager of the Expo Horticultural at the City Office of Łódź is Anna Wierzbicka and the whole project is supervised by the City Office.
			II. Project Management Committee (Y/N) if Y.		Department of Ecology and Climate (Environmental Management Unit) – Expo team.
			III. Frameworks above the project that exert influence on the project and/or UF-NBS e.g.		Currently, the National government does not support the organisation of the Expo exhibition in Łódź, in turn, the Marshal of the Łódź Region and the President of the Polish Nurserymen Association support this exhibition.

		Municipality, National Forestry Department.	
		IV. Private companies that work on behalf of/or are embedded within the project.	A private consulting company – PwC – has developed a project feasibility study on behalf the city, which includes detailed urban, architectural, financial, transport, programme, investment and organisational plans related to the implementation of the Expo. Moreover, expert tests were carried out: Those included water and soil tests, a dendrological and fauna inventory, and also a description of the plant cover.
		V. Trade representative organisations that are involved in the project	The Polish Nurserymen Association
		VI. Regulatory frameworks that the project operates within (i.e. bylaws, municipal laws, national laws, licences and leases, partnership agreements etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2018, Łódź gained AIPH (the International Association of Horticultural Producers) approval to organise EXPO Horticultural 2024, however, the Polish government must submit an official application for the organisation of the Expo in Łódź, which is still pending due to ongoing debates on funding; • The global budget of the Exhibition assumes the expenditure of approximately EUR 100 million. <p>City Council resolutions - public information bulletin (examples):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of the Feasibility Study for the Organization of Expo Horticultural 2024 in Łódź Ref. No: DOA-ZP-III.271.67.2018 • Resolution on ensuring the proper implementation of the Project entitled "Organization of the exhibition Expo Horticultural 2024 Łódź Poland" Ref. No: 9602/VII/18 • Logistics services for study visits abroad and in Poland carried out in 2020, in preparation for the organization of the Expo Horticultural 2024 exhibition in Łódź Ref. No: DOA-ZP-II.271.22.2020
		VII. Other (specify)	<p>Other institutions involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Medical University of Łódź (its main hospital is located by the green square foreseen as part of the Expo site, hence the Medical University has an interest in the project, in particular in creating a large car park for the visitors within the green square); • The Łódź Administrative Railway (the railway goes in the tunnel on the southern edge of the Expo site, and there is one local railway station next to the

			Expo site which is meant to serve local transit needs); • The Municipal Planning Office in Łódź.
k.	Economic frameworks	I. Community fundraising	n/a
		II. Project delivered services and monies raised by project	According to some estimates the income generated by the Expo will cover the costs, but according to others it will not. The main benefit of the Expo is meant to be a promotional one – promoting the city internationally.
		III. City, regional general funds	The Expo finances are constructed based on the city's budget with the support of the Polish government, private investors and potential EU funding.
		IV. Special funds e.g. National Lottery, Challenge funds	n/a
		V. National government funds	Decision pending, subject to additional discussion and broader political tensions (one political party is ruling in the country, while another (opposition) in the city of Łódź.
		VI. Private sector investment	Announcements related to the cooperation of business/private investors with Expo organisers will be available in the public information bulletin – in the public procurement section. According to preliminary assumptions, the sponsors will be able to support the organisation of EXPO in Łódź through financial contributions or e.g. barter. Private companies focused on long-term cooperation with profiles related to Horticultural EXPO 2024 will be desirable.
		VII. International funds e.g. European Union structural funds, LIFE + etc.	The EXPO 2024 budget may be supported by EU subsidies. Co-financing of projects related to environmental protection and urban regeneration falls within the European Parliament's priorities for the coming years.
		VIII. Other (specify)	n/a
i.	Sino/European comparative relevance		In comparison to Chinese cities, Łódź is quite small and the area covered by the Exhibition is not large. However, in the scale of the whole country it is a large Exhibition, related to a very large number of potential tourists and outdoor events.
m.	UF-NBS valorisation		City parks should constitute an oasis of biodiversity, have a positive impact on the microclimate in the city, be a meeting and integration place for residents, and be a place of relaxation and active recreation (sports activity). However, the assumptions of the Expo show that the Expo site will be largely paved, with numerous pavilions and new structures, the amount of typical park space will be significantly reduced, and the Exhibition will reduce biodiversity.
n.	Procurement of UF-NBS		The organisation of the Expo in Łódź is associated with considerable controversy and generates certain conflicts

			<p>and tensions. Especially regarding the fact that, residents are against the organisation of the exhibition (especially in the historic park), and the government has not expressed its support for this event. Therefore, the organisation of the exhibition does not get much support and will probably require numerous compromises on the part of the City Office. Still, NBS seem to be relatively far on the agenda, burdened with other, more pressing organisational issues.</p> <p>The Expo organisers focus on a whole range of cultural services – aesthetics, entertainment, heritage and interpersonal integration. In their vision, they emphasise the importance of revitalisation, social participation and social involvement. However, other ecosystem services are definitely lacking, especially those related to providing habitat for wild animals and plants, improving the microclimate, air purifying, noise attenuation or water retention, etc.</p> <p>In the case of the Expo we can talk about the opposite of the term renaturing, because this exhibition is related to reduction of parks' biodiversity and "wildness" and interruption of ecological connectivity.</p>
12		<p>LESSONS AND TRANSFERABILITY</p> <p>If the Expo 2024 is organised in a designated place, then a certain group of residents will lose access to these green spaces – due to fees, fences, noise and crowds. However, the City Administration ignores local opinions, including the association of concerned inhabitants. The Expo slogan is "Nature of the city" and that seems rather ironic, especially given that the exhibition will be organised in quite a "wild" and historic park, instead of e.g., undeveloped green spaces. It is likely that with the Expo the parks will cease to perform their current functions – with new paved paths and exhibition buildings, part of trees will be cut down, parks will lose their wildness and unique character, and also biodiversity (while biodiversity should be a cornerstone of NBS).</p>	
13		<p>REFERENCES (Harvard style):</p> <p>Expo Horticultural 2024, Łódź Poland, Application, the City Hall of Łódź, 2018</p> <p>The study of determinants and directions of spatial development (Masterplan), Łódź, Municipal Planning Office</p> <p>The website of the Expo: expo2024.uml.lodz.pl</p> <p>The website of the City Hall of Łódź: https://uml.lodz.pl/aktualnosci/artukul/expo-2024-w-lodzi-zobacz-wyniki-konsultacji-eksperckich-id28682/2019/6/19/</p> <p>The website of the Municipal Planning Office – local zoning plans – numbers 19, 117, 121, 129 (3rd May Park, Tuwima, Małachowskiego, Konstytucyjna, Kopcińskiego and Przędzalniana Streets,)</p> <p>The website of the PwC company: https://www.pwc.pl/pl/media/2018/2018-12-14-expo-horticultural-2024-lodz-pwc.html</p> <p>The website of a local association created to express opposition to the Expo: http://niedlazielongoexpo.pl/</p> <p>The website of AIPH: http://aiph.org/aiph_event/nature-of-the-city-lodz-poland-a1/</p> <p>Article in the local press: https://dzienniklodzki.pl/apartamenty-tuwima-osiedle-obok-parku-3-maja-w-lodzi-apartamenty-tuwima-plany-budowy-tysiaca-mieszkan-w-lodzi/ar/c9-14745928</p>	



Article in the local press: <https://lodz.wyborcza.pl/lodz/7,35136,24931713,zielonego-expo-w-lodzi-nie-bedzie-glinski-trzeciorzedna.html>

Article in the local press: <https://lodz.wyborcza.pl/lodz/7,35136,24934850,rzad-pis-nie-da-lodzi-zielonego-expo-wiceprezydent-gdy.html?disableRedirects=true>

Article in the local press: <https://lodz.wyborcza.pl/lodz/7,35136,25173300,lodz-szykuje-sie-do-zielonego-expo-o-wystawie-wiadomo-coraz.html>

Interview with Maciej Riemer (on Radio Łódź): <https://www.radiolodz.pl/posts/42376-maciej-riemer-radio-lodz>