

Bursary Award 2009



Regeneration of a resting point at “Pod Zbrojnicí“

Regeneration of the “Pod Zbrojnicí” resting point

The Town of Chrudim has for 8 years already been participating in the WHO Healthy Town and the Local Agenda 21 project. Our town develops systematically in harmony with internationally applicable significant documents: Health 21, Agenda 21 and the National Action Health and Environmental Plan.

Our goal is improving the quality of life of Chrudim’s citizens and promoting health issues while respecting the principles of sustainable development, which is in harmony with strategic planning, and expecting the involvement of the public.

***The motto we would like to fulfil is:
“Act locally, think globally or, in other words, keep the future in mind.”***

This report has been compiled by Šárka Trunečková,
the coordinator of the Healthy Town and Local Agenda 21 project,
in partnership with the Investments Department of the Municipality of Chrudim in May 2009
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Reasoning the necessity of the project :

A General Development Plan for Greenery has been drawn up to control landscape planning. It is the sole planning tool directed towards the biological sphere. It is an important material used when working on the municipal (territorial) plan, when decisions are made on new green areas and a long-term base incorporating basic data required for designing activities in this sphere.



Photo No.1 – The present state of the considered territory among blocks of buildings, the Pod požární zbrojnicí locality – general view

The regeneration of the area is carried out in harmony with the **current municipal (territorial) plan**, the aim of which is to create conditions for comprehensive solutions and spatial arrangement of the territory and to coordinate interests and intentions of subjects within the locality, to protect natural and cultural heritage and civilisation values of the territory, as well as to support diversity and other aspects.

The territory under consideration is the “Pod požární zbrojnicí” locality, in the west of the town. The area is bordered by blocks of flats and access roads. There are four-storey concrete-panel houses, built on the turn of 1960’ and 1970’s. The outcome of the layout of the buildings is an open space with a little park, which might suggest an opportunity for neighbourly, peaceful get-togethers. The main entrances to the buildings mostly face the other side, the road, and are not connected with the park. This means the green patch is not a busy place through which many people pass.

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Photo No.2 – A view into the space among blocks of buildings – a place for sitting



Photo No.3 – A view of the path paved by arenaceous marl

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The whole territory designed for regeneration covers an area of 11,000 m². Availability to people living within 300 m in neighbouring streets: Družstevní – 92%, Topolská – 99.9%, Požárníků - 100% and Slovenská - 96%.

As time passed, people started complaining more and more that flats facing the park were over-shaded. Most of the trees are as old as the houses, from late 1960's and early 1970's and were planted by people renting the flats without giving any thought as to how big the trees might get when they mature. On top of that, their composition was not suitable either and today poses a problem. Some trees are very close to windows (a problem in a space among houses). Some plants are showing signs of being unhealthy due to unsuitable spacing. There are very few bushes and their character is rather below-average.



Photo No.4 – A view of chance planting of trees in the late 1960's and early 1970's

The goal of the project is to create pleasant environs which will respect conditions for a good quality of life for people living in the neighbouring houses, and to offer them a chance to use their free time in an active way, to improve the function and safety of greenery in use. There will be resting points, which will support inter-generation co-existence – there will be a space for children and adolescents to play and quiet spots for senior and disabled citizens.

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Photo No.5 – A view of a stone wall still in place

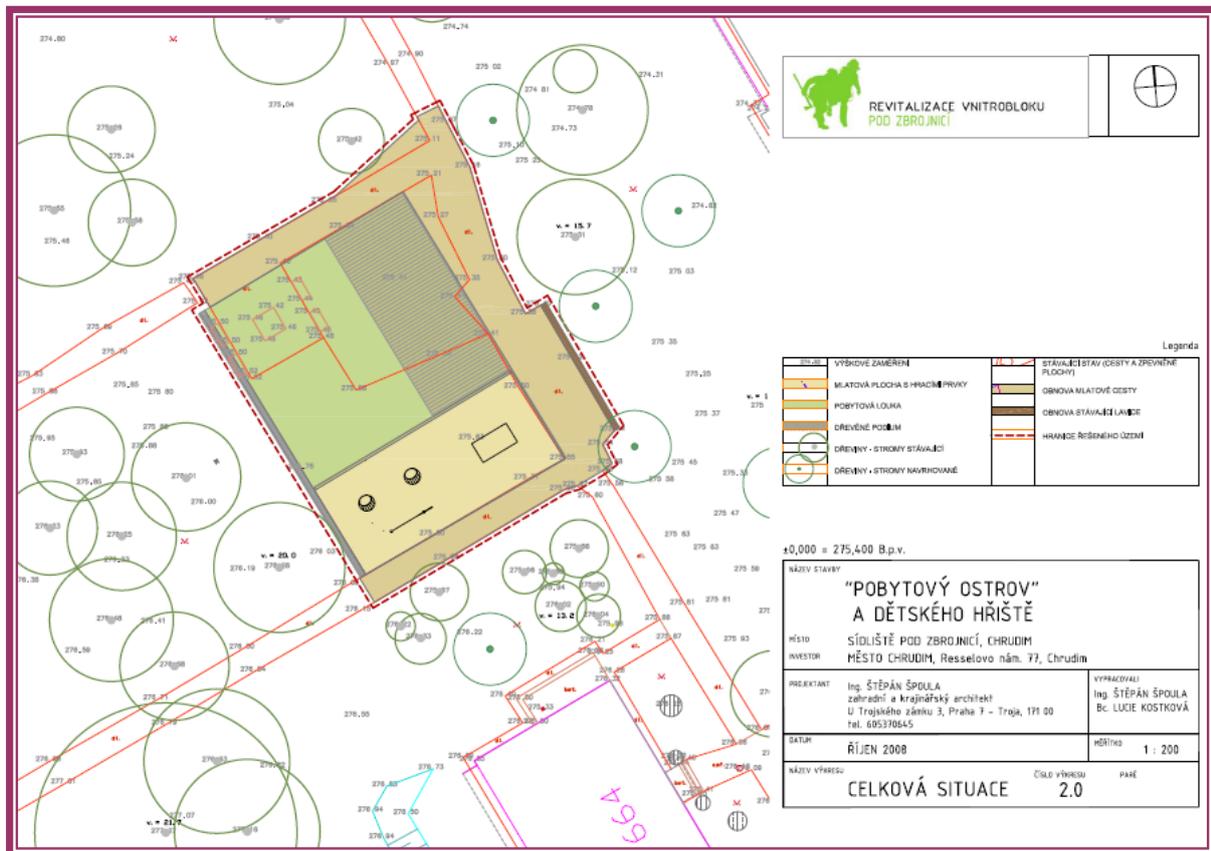


Fig. : A general view of the territory under consideration – a study

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The target group of this project are people living in the Pod požární zbrojnicí locality, children attending the nearby maternity school and, naturally, it will be open to the public at large.

The project incorporates:

The first planning meeting with citizens – obtaining their suggestions and comments

The public is involved in the planned regeneration of the territory. People become co-authors of the design. In the first meeting we concentrated on emphasizing the benefits of the area and on pin-pointing its negative aspects.

People would like to have trees and other green plants arranged around the sandpit to provide some shade, to remove trees close to the houses and to pay attention to the urban significance of newly planted trees. They want a place for elderly people to rest, furnished with a table and benches. To improve cleanliness, they asked for more litter baskets (next to the sandpit and the point for the elderly), to restrict the movement of dogs (furnish the entries into the park with 4 signs informing about this restriction) and ensure more frequent removal of separated waste. Also provide lighting and reconstruct the network of paths.

For children, they asked for a bigger and efficient sandpit and to build a multi-functional element for playing and exercising.

Suggestions and proposals thus obtained were passed over to the designers who were preparing a study of the area. This was shown to the public at the second planning meeting.



Photo No.6 – A general discussion during the first planning meeting with the public

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The second planning meeting with citizens – raising comments to the project design

The next meeting, the second one, was held for people to comment on the project design – a draft for the reconstruction and regeneration of the space among buildings at the Pod požární zbrojnicí locality. Mutual agreement was reached on thinning the trees and shrubs. This work will be based on a dendrologic survey.

Inside the area (around the existing sandpit) there will be “a leisure meadow/a leisure island” for activities. It should preserve the character of a little park while being a focal point of activities for all age groups – to enable social contact across all generations. There will be elements for pre-school children to play on (multifunctional elements), elements for school children (rope structures) and facilities for sporting activities of adolescents and adults (pétanque, ping-pong, basketball, and the like). The sand area will be fenced in and will remain in the centre of the little park. Around it, there will be wooden piers and benches. The “leisure meadow” will follow the outlines of the existing grassy patch. It will be bordered by the existing path paved by arenaceous marl, which also needs to be repaired. However, marl should not be used for the main walkway (preference is to be given to stabilized granular or similar surface). The furnishing will also be improved – benches will be placed both in shaded and sunny spots, stands for bicycles will be installed, lighting will be more efficient, the network of paths will be optimized and paper bags for dogs’ excrements will be supplied in sufficient amounts.

At first, people living in the neighbourhood suggested to make space available for dogs outside the little park. Nevertheless, in the end it was agreed that we would try to make use of the psychological effect of combined activities in the centre where dog owners should respect that dogs are barred from certain marked areas (the “leisure meadow”, playground).



Photo No.7 – A discussion right on the spot of planned remodelling – the second planning meeting with the public

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The third planning meetings with citizens – discussing the results of a dendrologic survey

A dendrologic survey had to be made to assess the greenery of the area. Inventory was made of a big group of trees and shrubs and these were then studied more closely. The data were compiled in a table which then indicated which trees and bushes are the oldest, which taxa are the best preserved and which are damaged, which have the highest or lowest landscape value, and other information. Then the most suitable and prospective taxa for the given position are being determined, proposals made for the best method of treatment for the trees, and calculations are made to decide substitute plants for felled trees. The suitability of interventions into shelter belts of trees is considered, the level of damage to trees is assessed and the ecological harm estimated.

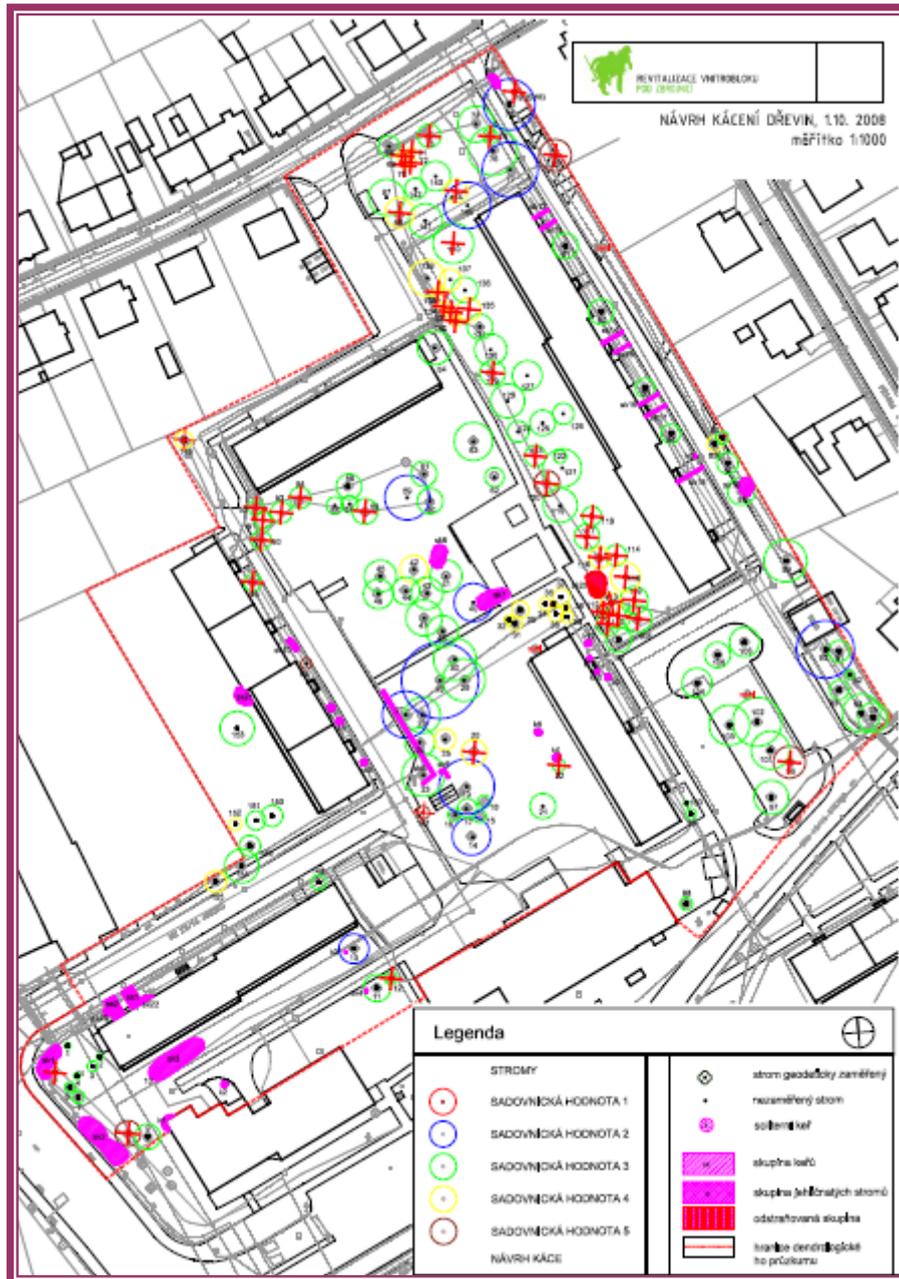


Photo No.8 – A discussion with the public over the results the dendrologic study

Another of a series of planned meetings with citizens took place in the framework of the planned regeneration of the space among blocks of flats at the Pod zbrojnicí locality. The target of this, already third, meeting was to inform the people about the results of the dendrologic survey of the area (the survey was made not only to find out about the “species” but also about the height of the tree or shrub, the trunk girth, landscape value, biomechanical stability and safety factor) and to consult them about planned intervention.

The results of the dendrologic study and proposed improvements are enclosed in the file “Proposal for cutting down woody plants of October 1, 2008“, prepared by architect Mr. Špoula on the basis of people’s comments.

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A graphic representation of the results the dendrologic study

Constructing a “leisure island”

The territory in question is situated in the central section of an open space among houses at the Pod požární zbrojnicí locality, at the intersection of several park paths. There is also a resting point there. The territory incorporates a patch of grass and some park land, area paved with marl and partially also by mortar joint material. There are four benches and a small sandpit. On its eastern border is a low wall meant for sitting; its wooden seat is in ill repair.

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Description of the draft architectonic design, which includes comments from the people:

Above all, the draft architectonic design assesses the space at the Pod požární zbrojnicí locality from its functional and social aspect. The idea behind the layout for the playground and recreational zones is collision-free everyday sojourn of people from the neighbourhood.

There are three quiet spots. There is a wooden pier with an integrated sandpit and a solarium chiefly for toddlers and young children and their mothers, and also for senior citizens. Behind the wooden wall, a patch with stabilized granular surface will be furnished with standard playground furniture for bigger and more independent children, while the meadow next to it is to be used for games and relaxation by anybody from the neighbourhood. The leisure meadow, furnished with movable furniture, is to have a garden-character seating arrangement. The leisure meadow and the playground will be separated from other vegetation areas by a low stone wall, which can also be used to sit on.

The draft incorporates the existing network of paths, which give it its outlines, and the layout maintains the current status.

Description of landscaping: We will mostly preserve the current figure of the terrain, which gently slopes from the south to the north, and will make the new structures to fit in. The old marl pavement (62m²) needs to be removed around the current unsuitable seats. The material will be partially used for the planned low wall and some solitary tiles can be fitted into the playground area as elements for playing.

The surface around the standard playground furniture will be of stabilized granular material.

Description of the structural design: The wall and the wooden pier should have a natural look. There will be a barrier-free transition from the wooden structure to the remaining parts of the little park. Larch wood has been chosen for this purpose as it is the most resilient type of local timber for outdoor use. It will be used predominantly and only the joining material will be made of metal.

Description of hard surfaces: Stabilized granular material is to be used for the playground. At the impact places of the vertical network, the stabilized granular material will gradually taper. Sand will then be used to level the surface.

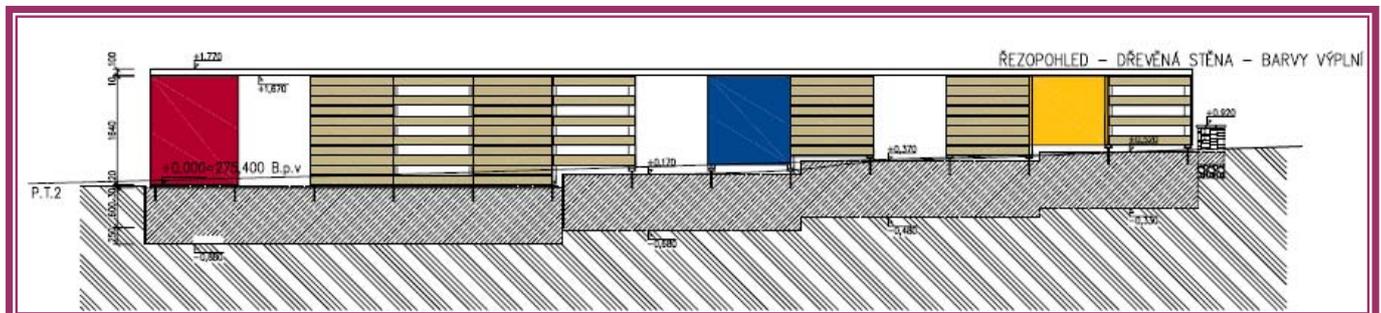
A new path will be constructed with stabilized granular surface to replace the existing marl walkway. The paving will be partly left around the spot where the wall with a seat is now.

Wooden wall, wooden pier, furniture and elements for playing : A wooden deck 14 390 x 6 150 mm will be placed in the space. The sandpit integrated into the pier will measure 2 090 x 2 080mm. Under the wooden pier will be a layer of gravel pebbles up to about 5 cm above ground.

The sections of the wooden wall will be made alternately of solid slabs, windows without slabs and boards painted with mat varnish to be used for drawing on. Comments from the people helped to choose the furniture: a chair, an easy chair, an armchair, and a table.

The supplied furniture will be designed for outdoor use.

There will be elements for playing – a vertical net and a balancing beam on rope, an inclined stainless steel bar and a swivel stainless steel disk.



A graphic representation of the wooden wall – colours of its panels

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Following this stage of regeneration, there will be the stage of improvement of vegetation inside the little park. People – co-authors of the design – will be involved in this stage, in the planting of trees and shrubs and in other landscaping jobs.



Photo No.9 – Proposed element for playing No. 1 – to be used in the little park

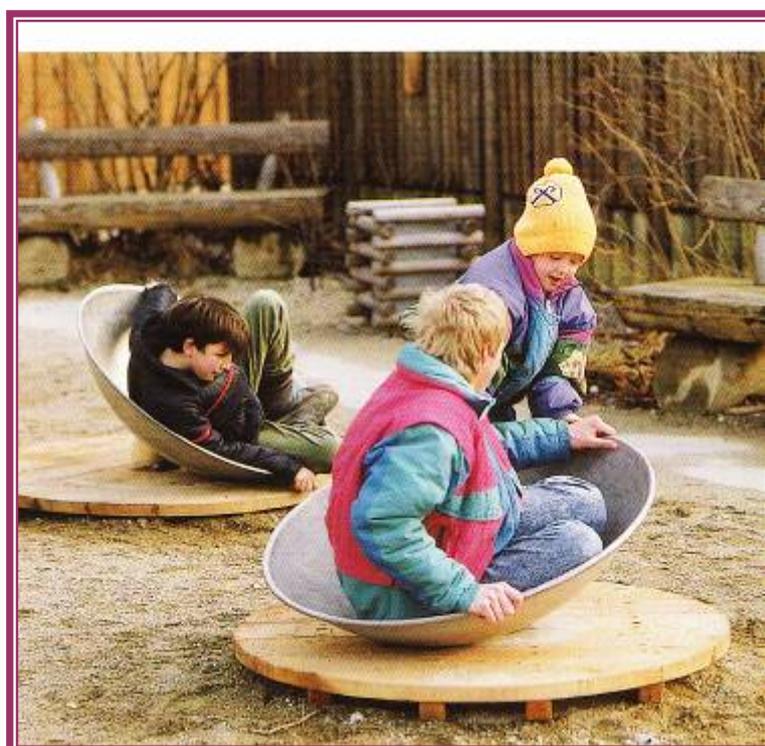


Photo No.10 – Proposed element for playing No. 2 – to be used in the little park

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Budget breakdown

name of goods, delivery and assembly	Price in Kč (CSK)	GBP rate of 3/6/2009
Pin pong table	23205	743.75
Set of chairs, inclining chairs and a table	59500	1907
Playing element – swivel disk - 2 off	175075	5611
Vertical bar - 1 off	59811	1917
Inclined climbing bar - 1 off	36741	1177.5
balancing beam on ropes – 1 off	24035	770.3
Wooden pier	114769	3678.4
Stone wall	42982	1377.6
Stabilized granular surface	87293	2797.8
Total	623411	19980.35