

## ASSESSMENT OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING CULTURAL PARKS IN SELECTED RURAL AND SMALL TOWN AREAS IN THE LUBLIN PROVINCE

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### ABSTRACT

The study objective was to identify and assess the cultural landscape resources in two counties in the Lublin Province (Poland) – county of Radzyń Podlaski and county of Łęczna – and to examine the public opinion about the establishment of cultural parks within these two counties. The research procedure included an analysis of district-level planning and strategy documents, a SWOT analysis, a field inventory, and a questionnaire survey. This research was preceded by an analysis of the functioning of cultural parks in other regions in Poland. An additional goal of the study was to join the global discussion about cultural parks. The research has shown that the county of Radzyń Podlaski and county of Łęczna have great potential for creating cultural parks. However, it is necessary to improve the public awareness (particularly of local governments and property owners) about the cultural park as a form of protection and the development opportunities related to its establishment e.g. revitalisation, tourism and recreation. System-wide changes in the scope of establishment and functioning of cultural parks are also advisable.

**Keywords:** cultural landscape, landscape protection, cultural park, Lublin Province

### INTRODUCTION

A discussion about cultural parks as a form of protecting cultural heritage in various regions around the world has been going on for several years (e.g. Mascarenhas & Barata, 2005; González, 2013; González & Vázquez, 2014; Roe & Taylor, 2014). Cultural parks as a form of historic monument protection were introduced by the Act on the Protection and Care of Historic Monuments (2003). In particular, they are established to protect the

cultural landscape and preserve areas of outstanding landscape with immovable monuments characteristic of the local building and settlement tradition (Art. 16 par. 1 of the Act). The Act regulates the process of establishing cultural parks by districts by way of resolutions (Art. 16 par. 1a-6). At present, more than 40 cultural parks exist in towns and rural areas across Poland ([www.nid.pl](http://www.nid.pl)). The parks comprise monuments of architecture, fortifications, memorial sites, archaeological sites, historical rural and urban layouts, designed complexes of water reservoirs and

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canals in parks as well as historic road networks. Intangible cultural values associated with sites and landscapes are also protected. In one of its reports, the Supreme Audit Office in Poland recognised this form of protection as an instrument for maintaining order in public space even though certain irregularities have been observed in the functioning of cultural parks (NIK, 2017).

Based on analyses carried out in 2005 by the Regional Centre for Research and Documentation of Monuments (abbreviation of the Polish name: ROBiDZ) in Lublin, cultural parks were proposed in 60 areas in the Lublin Province, a peripheral region with a predominantly agricultural character. These are mostly rural areas (46 parks). Unfortunately, no such park has been established so far within urban or rural areas which face numerous developmental problems. What is the reason of this situation? Is it related to the loss of cultural landscape values or an unfavourable attitude of local governments and residents to this form of protection? Already ten years ago, Kałamucka (2008) observed that there was little interest in establishing cultural parks at district level. To a large extent, this results from the lack of awareness of the value of cultural landscape as well as the functions of cultural parks and benefits arising from its establishment. Furthermore, at the stage of delimiting cultural parks in the Lublin Province, it was observed that only a few local planning documents refer to this form protection (Michalska, 2007).

## METHODS AND STUDY AREA

The study objective was to identify and assess the cultural landscape resources in two counties in the Lublin Province – county of Radzyń Podlaski and county of Łęczna – and to examine the public opinion about the establishment of cultural parks (CPs) within these two counties. In particular, the study concerned the rural districts of Czemierniki and Wołyń (county of Radzyń Podlaski), Spiczyn (county of Łęczna), the urban-rural district of Łęczna and the urban district of Radzyń Podlaski, representing the rural and small town areas of the Lublin Province (Fig. 1). It should

be noted that the Regional Centre for Research and Documentation of Monuments proposed the establishment of at least one such form of protection in each of the districts above, namely Radzyń Podlaski CP (town of Radzyń Podlaski), Wołyń CP (Wołyń district), Suchowola CP (Wołyń district), Czemierniki CP (Czemierniki district), Łęczna CP (town and district of Łęczna), Zawieprzyce CP (Spiczyn district). This factor determined the selection of the two counties as the study area. An additional goal of the study was to join the global discussion about cultural parks. The research procedure included an analysis of district-level planning and strategy documents, a SWOT analysis, a field inventory, and a questionnaire survey. This research was preceded by an analysis of the functioning of cultural parks in other regions in Poland.

The achievement of the study objective required the use of many sources of information and application of various research methods in accordance with the mixed-methods research approach (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). First, these were methods of collecting information concerning cultural parks (review of literature and online sources). The next stage consisted of an analysis of planning and strategy documents and a field observation<sup>1</sup> along with a cultural landscape inventory. A search for provisions related to cultural parks was carried out in the relevant documents. Within the cultural landscape inventory, attention was focused on the cultural markers of landscape, historical functional and spatial links, historical silhouettes and landscape dominants, the degree of preservation of cultural landscape elements, and threats to the landscape. These elements were selected based on other inventory cards (Delimitation of Cultural Parks, 2005; Sałyga-Rzońca et al., 2010; Regulation, 2019). Furthermore, types of landscape were identified based on the typology of the present landscapes of Poland (Chmielewski et al., 2015). This typology is the basis

<sup>1</sup> As Chojnicki (1999, p. 37) observes, “the share of own observations in the preparation of factual material has decreased”, but it still plays “a key cognitive role” in geographic studies.

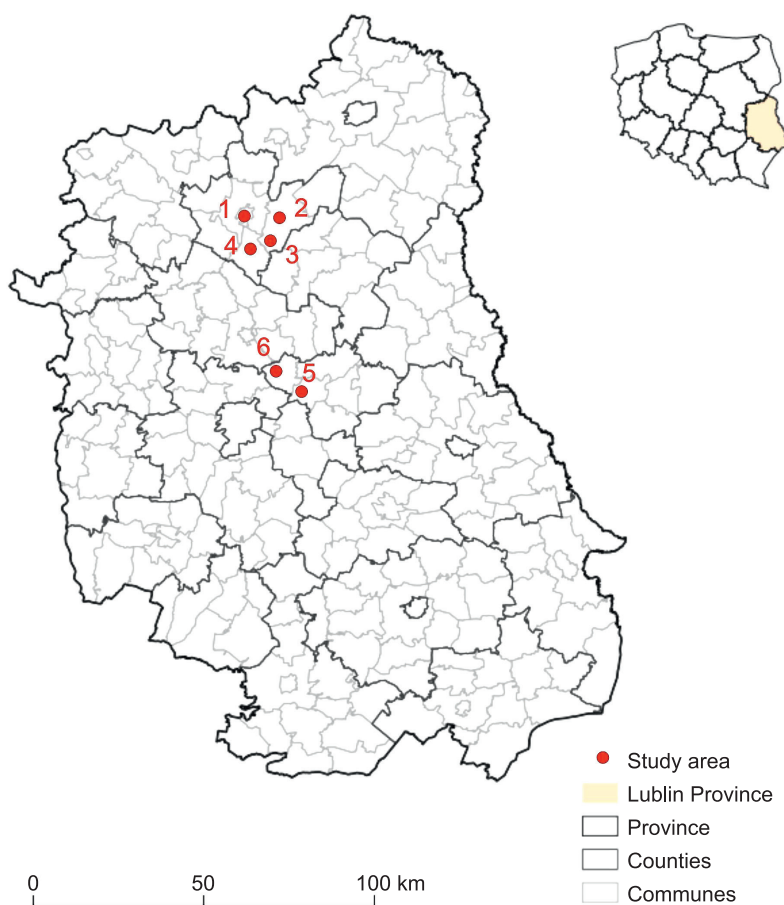


Fig. 1. Location of the study area. 1. Radzyń Podlaski, 2. Wołyń, 3. Suchowola, 4. Czemierniki, 5. Łęczna, 6. Zawieprzyce

Source: own elaboration.

for delimiting and classifying landscapes as part of the landscape audit procedure (Regulation, 2019). The field inventory was enriched with photographic documentation. Based on the stages of the research procedure described above, a SWOT analysis of the particular landscape parks was carried out. This analysis, identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (existing and potential) is a popular method for determining the directions of spatial development (Bieda & Brzozowska, 2017).

The results of the survey conducted among residents of the districts under study (also local government employees) were used to examine the public awareness about cultural parks. The survey was conducted using the CAWI (Computer Assisted

Web Interview) and PAPI (Paper and Pen Personal Interview) methods although using only the latter was initially planned. However, the pandemic restrictions resulted in the need to use the Internet as well. A total of 194 questionnaires were collected (from 112 women and 82 men), most of them from the county of Radzyń Podlaski (N = 126). The survey was conducted separately for each of the counties under study in the years 2020–2021, using similar questionnaires consisting of 9–10 questions. The respondents were asked to rate the attractiveness (including the aesthetic appearance) of the cultural landscape within the area of the proposed cultural park, evaluate the idea of establishing a cultural park in a given area, and justify this rating. In addition, in the case of districts

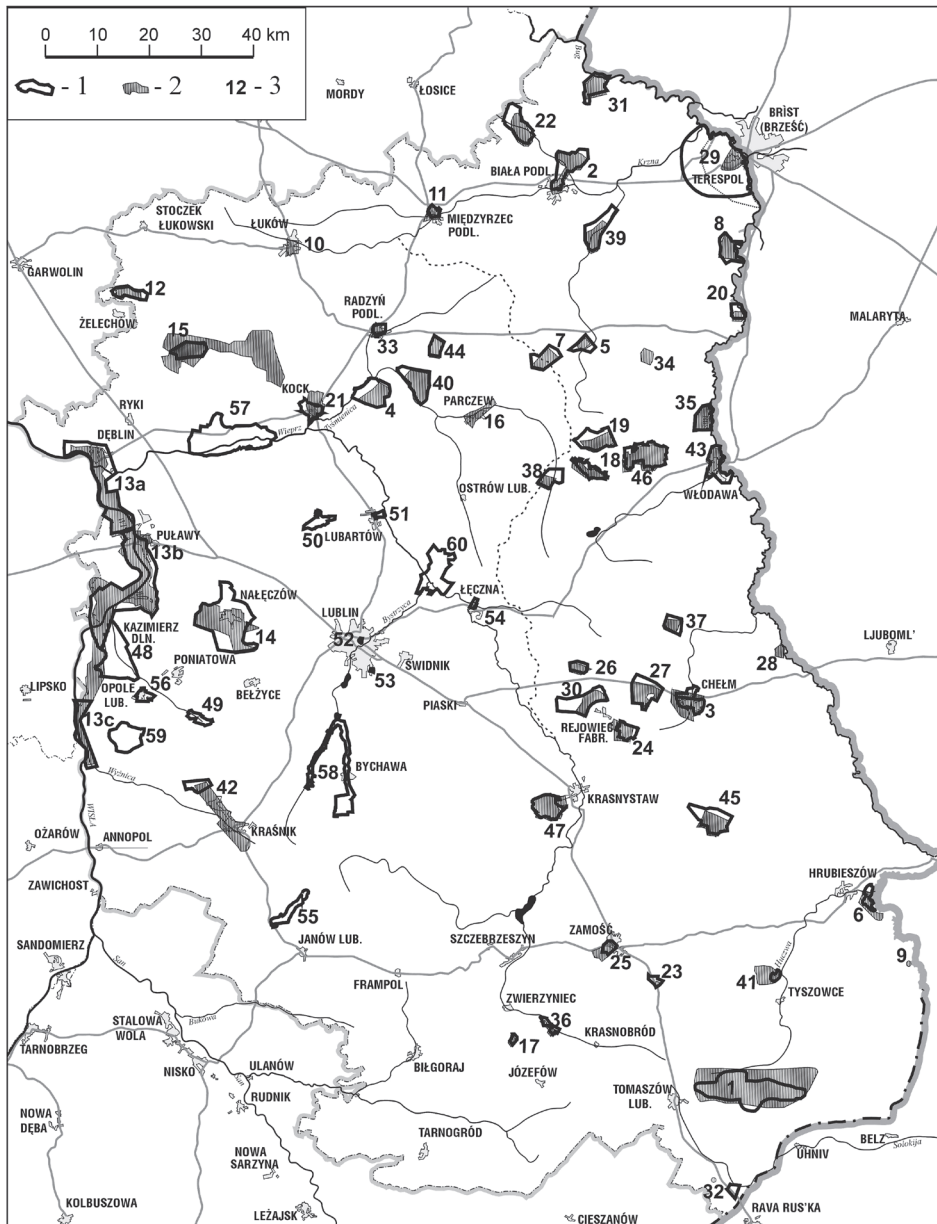
in Radzyń Podlaski county, the questionnaire started with questions about the knowledge of cultural parks as a form of protection, while in the case of Łęczna county, the definition of a cultural park as form of protection was provided in the introduction.

Thus, the research had a predominantly qualitative, descriptive, and exploratory character. An important part of this research were case studies based on the analysis of records of available data sources: publications, websites (desk research), and field observations in different regions of Poland. The qualitative research was complemented with quantitative research related to the diagnostic survey and collation of statistical data on pipe organs. Using both types of research was aimed at a comprehensive analysis of the research problem. The approach based on analysing records of the available data sources is a basis for preparing conclusions on the investigated sites and phenomena, subsequently verified during field observations and surveys.

The Lublin Province is on the periphery of the European Union, located by the EU's eastern border. Due to its low level of industrialisation and high unemployment rate, it is one of Poland's poorest regions. However, the region's assets include its high natural, cultural and landscape values. The Lublin Province is cut across by the border between Europe's two primary physical-geographical units: the area of Eastern Europe and area of Western Europe. The east-west oriented, tripartite character of macrorelief is another distinctive feature of the province's natural environment. The Lublin Upland is in the central part of the province, the South Podlasie Lowland and the West Polesie are in the northern and north-eastern part, the hills of Roztocze, separating the Lublin Upland from the Sandomierz Basin, are in the southern part, while the eastern part consists of the Volhynian Polesie, the Volhynian Upland and the Pobuże Basin (Solon et al., 2018). The environmental value of the regions is evidenced by numerous protected areas, some of the country's richest plant communities, and sanctuaries of numerous rare and endangered animals species. The Lublin Province comprises 2 national parks

(Poleski and Roztoczański), 85 nature reserves, 17 landscape parks, 17 areas of protected landscape, 7 nature and landscape complexes, 194 areas of ecological land, 23 special bird protection areas, and 100 special habitat protection areas. The province is also distinguished for its rural and small town cultural landscapes with former Jewish buildings, traditional rural buildings including windmills and water cranes, stork nests as well as palace and park complexes. For centuries, various cultures intermingled with each other here, which has been reflected in the landscape, both its tangible and intangible layer. In the eastern part of the province, within short distances from each other, you can find a Catholic sanctuary (Kodeń), Orthodox monastery (Jableczna), Neo-Uniate parish (Kostomłoty), Jewish synagogue (Włodawa) and Muslim cemetery known as *mizar* (Lebiedziew). The multicultural mosaic and rich history of the region, along with the richness of its nature, are undoubtedly the region's hallmarks conducive to the development of tourism. The assets mentioned above are complemented by the preserved field patterns as well as rural and urban layouts, even dating back to the Middle Ages.

The county of Radzyń Podlaski lies in the northern part of the province, while the county of Łęczna lies in the central part. According to the Local Data Bank of the Central Statistical Office, the former county had 59,278 residents in 2019, while the latter had 57,331 residents. In both counties, the agricultural function predominates even though the industrial function related to the "Bogdanka" Hard Coal Mine is also significant in the county of Łęczna. According to the regionalisation by Solon et al. (2018), the area of the county of Radzyń Podlaski mostly belongs to the South Podlasie Lowland (mesoregions: the Łuków Plain, the marginal stream valley of the Wieprz, and the Lubartów Heights). The remainder of the county's area is part of the West Polesie (mesoregions: the Łomazy Depression, the Parczew-Kodeń Heights). The county of Łęczna lies within the South Podlasie Lowland (the Lubartów Heights mesoregion), Lublin Upland (the Świdnik Plateau mesoregion), and West Polesie (the Łęczna-Włodawa Lakeland and



(1) boundaries of parks based on the update from the Regional Centre for Research and Documentation of Monuments in Lublin; (2) range of parks according to the Spatial Development Plan of the Lublin Province; (3) numbers of parks corresponding to the names placed under the figure 1. Archaeological CP of Grzęda Sokalska, 2. Biała Podlaska CP, 3. Chełm CP, 4. Czemierniki CP, 5. Horodyszcze CP, 6. Hrubieszów CP, 7. Jabłoń CP, 8. Kodeń CP, 9. Kryłów CP, 10. Łuków CP, 11. Międzyrzec Podlaski CP, 12. Mysłów CP, 13. Vistula River CP, 14. Nałęczów CP, 15. Okrzeja CP, 16. Parczew CP, 17. Florianka CP, 18. Hola CP, 19. Horostyta CP, 20. Jableczna CP, 21. Kock CP, 22. Leśna Podlaska CP, 23. Łabunie CP, 24. Rejowiec CP, 25. Renaissance Locational Foundations of Zamość CP, 26. Siedliszcze CP, 27. Stołpie CP, 28. Świerże CP, 29. Brest Fortress Fortification CP, 30. Pawłów CP, 31. Podlasie CP, 32. South Roztocze CP, 33. Radzyń Podlaski CP, 34. Romanów CP, 35. Różanka CP, 36. Roztocze CP, 37. Sawin CP, 38. Sosnowica CP, 39. Studzianka CP, 40. Suchowola CP, 41. Tysowce CP, 42. Urzędów CP, 43. Włodawa CP, 44. Wohyń CP, 45. Wojsławice CP, 46. Wyrki CP, 47. Żółkiewka CP, 48. Archaeological Park of the Lower Chodelka River, 49. Chodel CP, 50. Kozłówka CP, 51. Lubartów CP, 52. Lublin Eastern CP, 53. Lublin South CP, 54. Łęczna CP, 55. Modliborzycze CP, 56. Opole Lubelskie CP, 57. Lower Wieprz River CP, 58. Central Bystrzyca River and Kosarzewka River CP, 59. Wrzelowiec CP, 60. Zawieprzycze CP.

**Fig. 2.** Cultural parks (CPs) in the Lublin Province  
 Source: Kałamucka (2008).



the Dorohuczka Depression mesoregions). The Gap of the Wieprz River, protected as a landscape park, is also situated here.

Cultural parks in the Lublin Province were already proposed in the Spatial Development Plan for the Lublin Province (abbrev. of the Polish name: PZPWL) from 2002 (Fig. 2, numbers 1–47). The Regional Centre for Research and Documentation of Monuments proposed numerous changes to update the plan. In the case of five cultural parks, i.e. Kryłów, Łuków, Parczew, Romanów and Świerże, it was recommended not to establish them owing to the insufficient value of the cultural and natural landscapes or due to the large transformation of landscape (Delimitation of Cultural Parks, 2005). Areas not included in the plan were also indicated as worthy of protection (Fig. 2, numbers 48–60). The total area of the proposed cultural parks is about 300 km<sup>2</sup>, which accounts for 1.2% of the area of the province (Kałamucka, 2008). Most of them are located in the northern part of the region, along the valleys of the Vistula and the Bug, as well as in the Chełm and Zamość area. The proposed parks vary in terms of the level of their cultural value. 23 sites are of supraregional value (including 5 at the European level), 38 are of regional value, and 5 are of local value. Kałamucka (2008) distinguished 7 categories of parks in the Lublin Province based on the subject of protection and cultural value: archaeological parks, fortifications, historic town centres, residences, religious parks, smaller localities with a preserved historic urban layout, harmonious landscape with preserved historic sites of various categories.

In the current PZPWL from 2015, 57 cultural parks were indicated, including all the parks under study in the county of Radzyń Podlaski and Łęczna. The recommended cultural parks have been placed under planning protection primarily based on the functional and compositional protection of buildings (including historic lines of building) and the prohibition of new buildings and structures having an adverse impact on the landscape (e.g. wind farms).

## CULTURAL PARKS AS A FORM OF PROTECTION

The concept of cultural parks is related, among other things, to the work of National Park Services (NPS) in the USA and of UNESCO for the preservation of cultural landscapes as an element of heritage<sup>2</sup> as well as the phenomenon of ecomuseums. In recent years, the number of cultural parks around the world has been growing continuously (González, 2013, González & Vázquez, 2014). Cultural parks are established in various ways in different countries. However, it is always a complex process involving local communities aware of the value of the local cultural landscape.

In Poland, the cultural park as a form of cultural landscape protection<sup>3</sup> was introduced by the 23 July 2003 Act on the Protection and Care of Historic Monuments. A cultural park is established pursuant to a resolution of a district council after obtaining an opinion from the province's historic monuments preservation officer (Principles, 2005). A local government that decides to establish a cultural park has to justify the decision and conduct an in-depth analysis of the natural environment and cultural potential. The information on the commencement of work on the establishment of a cultural park is presented in the local media and announced by way of an official notice, in the customary manner, indicating the form and deadline for submitting motions concerning the draft resolution. The recognition by residents that the cultural landscape needs to be protected, and their involvement in the process are important aspects

<sup>2</sup>In 1992, the category of cultural landscape was introduced to the UNESCO Convention system; this category allows taking into account various manifestations of interactions taking place between humans and nature, also in the sphere of religious, artistic, and cultural practices (Luengo & Rössler, 2012).

<sup>3</sup>Cultural landscape is defined in the Act as “the space perceived by people, containing elements of the natural environment as well as the products of human civilisation, historically shaped by natural factors and human activity”.

of establishing a cultural park (Kałamucka, 2008). The resolution specifies the name of the cultural park, its boundaries, protection measures, and restrictions within the park's boundaries. A protection plan is prepared for the cultural park, and a business unit responsible for managing the park can be created. The district where a cultural park has been established is obliged to prepare a local spatial development plan for the area. Pursuant to Art. 17 par. 1 of the Act on the Protection and Care of Historic Monuments (2003), "in a cultural park or within its parts, prohibitions and restrictions can be introduced concerning:

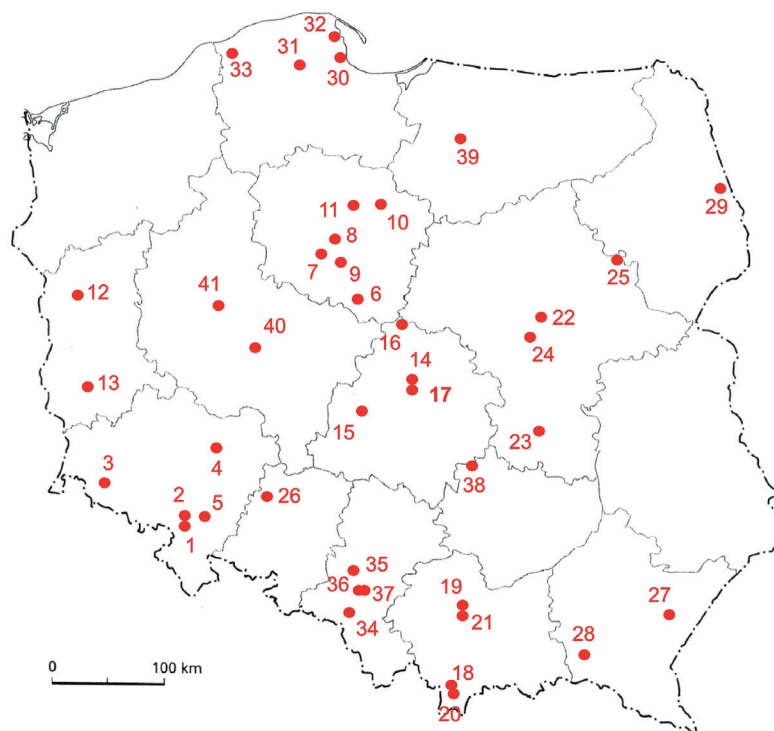
1. Carrying out construction work or industrial, agricultural, breeding, commerce or service-related activity;
2. Changing the way of using immovable historic monuments;
3. Placing signs, boards, advertisements and other items of signage unrelated to the protection of the

cultural park, except for traffic signs and signs related to protecting public order and safety, subject to Art. 12 par. 1;

3a. Rules and conditions of locating small architectural features (street furniture);

4. Waste storage" (Act, 2003, p. 11).

So far, about 40 cultural parks have been created in Poland (Table 1), including 18 parks in rural areas. However, according to a report by Myczkowski et al. (2017), two of them (Osieczek CP in Osieczek, Mary Magdalene Church CP in Łopatki) have already been liquidated. In addition, the functioning of some parks (e.g. in the Jelenia Góra Basin) is under threat (Pawłowska, 2016). The largest number of cultural parks are located in the Kuyavia-Pomerania Province (six parks) and Lower Silesia Province (five parks) (Fig. 3).



**Fig. 3.** Location of cultural parks against the administrative divisions of Poland (Numbering of cultural parks as shown in Tab. 1)

Source: own elaboration.

**Table 1.** List of cultural parks in Poland

Voivodeship	O.n.	Name	Year of establishment
Dolnośląskie	1.	Fortress Cultural Park in Srebrna Góra	2002
	2.	Kłodzko Fortress Cultural Park	2005
	3.	The Cultural Park of Jelenia Góra Basin	2009
	4.	Cultural Park of the Old Town in Wrocław	2014
	5.	Cultural Park “Castle Hill, Budzówka and Nysa Kłodzka Valley” in Kamieniec Ząbkowicki	2014
Kujawsko-pomorskie	6.	Wietrzychowice Cultural Park	2006
	7.	Kalwaria Pakoska Cultural Park	2008
	8.	“Church of St. Oswald” in Płonkow Cultural Park	2009
	9.	Sarnowo Cultural Park	2010
	10.	Osieczek Cultural Park	2014
	11.	St. Mary Magdalene Church Cultural Park in Łopatki	2014
Lubuskie	12.	Cultural Park „Dolina Trzech Młynów” in Bogdaniec	2006
	13.	Grodzisko in Wicino Cultural Park	2013
Łódzkie	14.	Cultural Park of the Town of Weavers in Zgierz	2003
	15.	Cultural Park of the Castle Hill in Sieradz	2009
	16.	Cultural Park of the ethnographic sub-region of Kutno connected with the romantic poet Józef Bohdan Zaleski	2015
	17.	Piotrkowska Street Cultural Park (in Lodz)	2015
Małopolskie	18.	The Cultural Park of the Zakopane Basin	2006
	19.	The Old Town Cultural Park in Krakow	2010/2011
	20.	Krupówki Cultural Park in Zakopane	2016
	21.	Nowa Huta Cultural Park	2019
Mazowieckie	22.	Ossów Cultural Park “Gate of Battle of Warsaw 1920”	2009
	23.	Old Radom Cultural Park	2011
	24.	Wilanów Cultural Park	2012
	25.	Cultural Park of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński in Andrzejewo	2016
Opolskie	26.	Cultural Park “Prince’s Town Brzeg”	2016
Podkarpackie	27.	Cultural Park of the Old Town Complex and the Complex of the Dominican Fathers in Jarosław	2009
	28.	Krosno Old Town Cultural Park	2019
Podlaskie	29.	Bohoniki Cultural Park	2019
Pomorskie	30.	Gdansk Fortress City Culture Park – Hevelianum Centre	2002/2013
	31.	Cultural Park of the Eight Beatitudes in the village of Sierakowice	2006
	32.	Cultural Park “Seal Hunters Settlement” in Rzucewo	2008
	33.	Cultural Park „Klasztorne Stawy” in Słupsk	2009
Śląskie	34.	Cultural Park of the Jewish Cemetery in Żory	2004
	35.	Cultural Park „Hałda Popłuczkowa” in Tarnowskie Góry	2006
	36.	Cultural Park for the Old Town Area in Bieruń	2016
	37.	Cultural Park for the Dyke Area in Bierun	2016
Świętokrzyskie	38.	Końskie Cultural Park	2005
Warmińsko-mazurskie	39.	Cultural Park of the Warmian Landscape Way Gietrzwałd-Woryty	2009
Wielkopolskie	40.	Mickiewicz Cultural Park	2007
	41.	The Old Town Cultural Park in Poznan	2018

Source: own elaboration based on [https://www.nid.pl/pl/Informacje\\_ogolne/Zabytki\\_w\\_Polsce/Parki\\_kulturowe/Zestawienie\\_parkow/](https://www.nid.pl/pl/Informacje_ogolne/Zabytki_w_Polsce/Parki_kulturowe/Zestawienie_parkow/) (21.06.2021).



Dworniczak (2016) distinguished the following seven categories within 35 cultural parks (CP) established until the end of 2016:

1. Cultural parks established to protect the cultural landscape of historic old town areas in town/city centres (seven parks);
2. Cultural parks established to protect the cultural landscape of historic building complexes outside town/city centres (four parks);
3. Cultural parks established to protect primarily the cultural landscape of non-urbanised areas (seven parks);
4. Cultural parks established to protect landscapes related to religious worship (four parks);
5. Cultural parks established to protect the cultural landscape of fortified complexes (two parks);
6. Cultural parks established to protect the relic resources of cultural landscape (eight parks);
7. Cultural parks established to protect sites and locations associated with the activity of historic figures and events (two parks).

## RESULTS

The counties of Radzyń Podlaski and Łęczna have a wealth of natural, historic and cultural values. The conducted inventory indicates that the richest cultural landscape values occur in three out of four areas designated for the establishment of cultural parks (CPs), namely Czemiernicki CP, Radzyński CP, and Zawieprzycki CP. The following landscape types were distinguished within the parks under study: rural (with a predominance of ribbon-like complexes of small arable fields, meadows and pastures, or with a predominance of built-up areas of rural character), mosaic-like (suburban, with a predominance of former agricultural areas), and urban (localities with a preserved historic layout). The most valuable monuments in the proposed cultural parks include the palace and park complexes in Radzyń Podlaski (Fig. 4), Czemierniki (Fig. 5) and Zawieprzyce (Fig. 6). Historic churches and chapels (mainly Catholic) and historic urban and rural layouts are also of high value.



**Fig. 4.** Radzyń Podlaski  
*Source:* S. Bernat.



**Fig. 5.** Czemierniki  
*Source:* S. Bernat.



**Fig. 6.** Zawieprzyce  
*Source:* S. Bernat.

The analysis of planning documents showed that provisions on the possibility of establishing cultural parks were included only in the documents prepared for the town of Radzyń Podlaski and the Czemierniki district (Table 2).

The establishment of cultural parks creates opportunities for improving the spatial order and attractiveness of landscape, obtaining external funding, the development of tourism and recreation. Some of the threats are related to the chaotic building development and inadequate development of historic sites held in private hands as well as the potential social conflicts.

The questionnaire survey conducted among residents of Radzyń Podlaski county shows that the cultural park is little known as a tool for cultural landscape protection. Only 27% of the respondents indicated their familiarity with this form of protection, and just a few mentioned specific cultural parks: Old Town CP in Kraków, CP in Zakopane, Wilanów CP. While all the respondents supported the initiative of creating the proposed cultural parks, they found it difficult to provide a justification. They indicated that the establishment of the park would improve the protection of historic buildings and make revitalisation processes more efficient, regulate

**Table 2.** Strengths and weaknesses of establishing cultural parks in the counties of Radzyń Podlaski and Łęczna

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Radzyń Podlaski CP	presence of numerous historical monuments in a good state of preservation (revitalisation) developed hotel and catering infrastructure provision for a cultural park in the study of conditions	no mention of the cultural park in the local plan
Czemierniki CP	numerous monuments good state of preservation of some monuments (revitalisation) provision for a cultural park in the study of conditions and in the local plan	lack of hotel and catering infrastructure private ownership of the palace and park complex
Suchowola CP	well-preserved composition of the manor layout	location within the palace and park complex of the Hospital for the Mentally Ill – lack of care for the historic values of the facility, difficult access lack of hotel and catering infrastructure lack of provisions in planning and strategic documents
Wohyń CP	presence of multicultural monuments and their good state of preservation (revitalisation)	lack of hotel and catering infrastructure lack of provisions in planning and strategic documents
Łęczna CP	presence of historical buildings and a unique urban layout ongoing revitalisation proximity of Nadwieprzański Park Krajobrazowy (Riverside Landscape Park)	lack of provisions in planning and strategic documents
Zawieprzycze CP	presence of numerous monuments in a good state of preservation buffer zone of the Nadwieprzański Landscape Park functioning of the Zawieprzycze Castle Ensemble location on the John III Sobieski Trail (obtaining funds for trail development)	lack of provisions in planning and strategic documents discontinued revitalisation of the palace and park complex in Kijany and the creation of the Jan III Sobieski Educational and Historical Centre on its premises

Source: own elaboration.

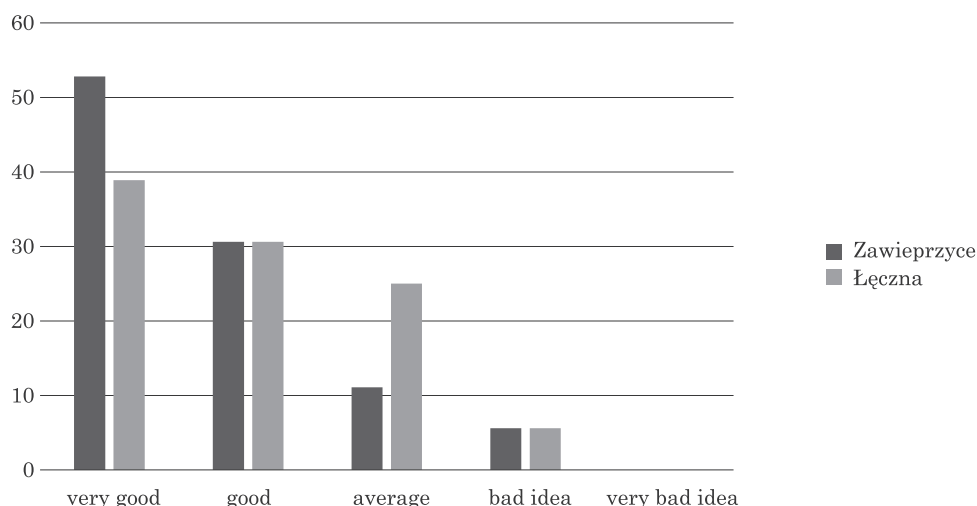
matters related to aesthetic appearance, help the development of tourism, and improve the visibility of a given locality in the entire province, etc. Some persons were unable to explain their answer, but they supported the establishment of a cultural park.

The survey results for the county of Łęczna indicate that the idea of establishing a park in Zawieprzyce was supported by a majority of residents (52.8%) although opinions were divided in the case of Łęczna. 38.9% of the respondents rated the idea as “very good”, 30.6% rated it as “good”, 25% “average”, while 5.6% thought that establishing a cultural park was a bad idea (Fig. 4). The favourable responses were justified by indicating better opportunities for the continued revitalisation of the Old Town, which would be highly beneficial for the inhabitants of Łęczna because it would improve their quality of life and ensure the development of tourism. In the case of Zawieprzyce, there were opinions saying that such a park should be established to protect the local historic monuments (the palace and park complex in particular) and the picturesque cultural landscape featuring the valley of the Wieprz river. Some respondents indicated that the establishment of a cultural park would help increase the appeal of the area and thus attract

tourists. In one of the responses, it was mentioned that events dedicated to history and cultural events could be organised in the cultural park.

## DISCUSSION

In the light of the literature, a cultural park is regarded in various regions around the world as a model of the active involvement of the public in the protection and evaluation of cultural landscapes. It is associated with an improvement of the residents’ quality of life, preservation of heritage, and sustainable development, particularly in rural areas. The role of cultural parks is also to strengthen identity, social cohesion and economic growth (Bray, 1994). The interpretation of heritage and use of narratives related to heritage fosters the collective awareness of the need for protection, and strengthens the uniqueness of a given location (Daly, 2003). Furthermore, this concept is conducive to a holistic understanding of landscape (overcoming the divisions nature vs. culture, tangible values vs. intangible values), and is a planning instrument for landscape management (Mascarenhas & Barata, 2005).



**Fig. 4.** Evaluation of the idea of establishing cultural parks in the Łęczna County (% of responses)  
*Source:* own elaboration.

The establishment of cultural parks in Poland faces several challenges. According to administrative law, a cultural park is a special area (Tomczak, 2019). When such a park is established, property owners may receive compensation for the restriction of the use of their property, or they may demand their property to be purchased by way of an agreement if the establishment of the cultural park results in the restriction or impossibility of using their property in the way they had used it previously. Districts can be afraid of the necessity to secure funds to cover the expenses related to the establishment of a park. There are also various lobby groups (particularly investors in the construction industry) that try to block the plans to create cultural parks and call for the liquidation of the existing parks. According to an expert report prepared by Myczkowski (2017), the advantages of the functioning of cultural parks in Poland include the flexibility of this form of protection, availability of “good practices” concerning the establishment and functioning of cultural parks, and the introduction of protection rules laid down in the protection plan and thus significant for local planning. The weaknesses include the organisational and management structure. The formation and functioning of a cultural park is the responsibility of district local governments which do not always have sufficient funds for measures concerning historic monument preservation. Another challenge are the regulations concerning the establishment of a park (the resolution to establish a park may be amended by other resolutions of a district council). The opportunities include the use of the media to promote the protection of cultural landscape and the growing public awareness concerning landscape and historic monument preservation. The establishment of new cultural parks can be threatened by an erroneous interpretation of certain pieces of legislation aimed at protecting natural, historical and cultural values as well as a by social conflicts, e.g. protests of local entrepreneurs (Myczkowski et al., 2017). The analysis of 38 existing cultural parks indicates that only 11 parks have all the required documents, 14 parks have most of the documents, nine parks operate only based on a resolution, while four parks

have been completely liquidated. As Żołnierczuk (2019) demonstrates, a clear majority of protection plans for cultural parks does not enable a full protection of cultural landscape. The authors of documents often focus on individual sites while forgetting about their mutual relationships. The most frequent features was the SWOT analysis, but most of them lacked schedules of measures, provisions concerning funding, etc. Therefore, it is advisable to adopt legislation containing elements of protection plans that would have to be included in each document.

Myczkowski et al. (2017) distinguished 4 groups of parks based on the managing entity and activity:

- active parks dedicated to the protection and popularisation of heritage (11 parks);
- active parks dedicated to the protection of space and maintaining spatial order (8 parks);
- existing parks that do not show visible signs of activity (15 parks);
- liquidated parks (4 parks).

Among cultural parks subject to analysis, only 5 parks were found to be an example of the proper establishment and functioning of a cultural park. One of these 5 parks is the Kalwaria Pakoska Cultural Park in Pakość (Kuyavia-Pomerania Province). The revitalisation measures conducted here had a significant influence on the development of tourism (Gotowski & Parzych, 2014). Unfortunately, there is no up-to-date register of parks, which indicates the need to monitor the functioning of parks (Marcinek et al., 2021).

According to Kałamucka (2006), the establishment of cultural parks in areas of outstanding natural, historical and cultural value will be conducive to the creation of effective instruments to protect these values and to the development of tourism in the region. The latter effect was confirmed by Gryszel et al. (2010) who used the example rural areas of the Jelenia Góra Basin. However, the greatest number of cultural parks are established in large towns/cities (within their historic centres) as a form of protection conducive to the control of advertising (Klupsz, 2016) and as a tool useful in conducting revitalisation processes (Myczkowski, 2016; Marcinek et al., 2021).



However, problems related, for example, to the acoustic dimension occur here as well (Muras, 2020).

As Myczkowski (2018) accurately noted, a cultural park is the most significant manifestation of the local government's responsibility for the area entrusted to its care. It is not merely a collection of prohibitions and orders, but also a recorded diagnosis and forecast for the development of the local cultural landscape. The initiative to establish a cultural park is a choice of the community, but the decision on its establishment is made by the local government. A cultural park offers an opportunity to protect the value and attractiveness of the local landscape, it is a textbook example of a "landscape bank" (Myczkowski, 2007). It is indispensable, however, for district governments to take their tasks in this respect seriously and quickly adopt and approve protection plans, draw up local spatial development plans, and appoint units responsible for managing the parks (Klupsz, 2016). There are concerns about the instability of cultural landscape protection at the local level owing to the possibility of introducing changes and restrictions of protection measures in resolutions, and even of annulling the resolutions establishing cultural parks. This is related to political opportunism, the lack of continuity in the local policies for cultural landscape protection and, frequently, short-sighted surrendering to the lobbying of investors.

As Pawłowska (2016) observed, landscape management in the form of a cultural park does not meet expectations. Although the catalogue of the forms of cultural landscape protection is relatively broad, it is not supported by efficacy, which largely results from the conflict between the natural and cultural values of landscape on the one hand and the social and economic rationale for the location of new investment projects. Furthermore, cultural parks can be viewed as forms of landscape protection that compete with the concurrently introduced forms of nature protection. According to the 24 April 2015 Act on the Amendment of Certain Acts in Relation to Strengthening the Landscape Protection Tools (the so-called Landscape Law), most measures related to landscape protection and planning are

linked with the landscape audit carried out for the territory of a particular province. The landscape audit presents the types of landscapes occurring in a given area as well as their characteristics. Furthermore, it indicates the location and boundaries of cultural parks. Regardless of the cultural park as a form of protection, the above-mentioned Landscape Law also governs matters related to the control of advertising (Myczkowski et al., 2017). As Pawłowska (2016) aptly observes, the regulations introduced by the Landscape Law may prove to be more effective with regard to the control of advertising and may lead local governments to adopt landscape resolutions only, instead of implementing a more comprehensive landscape protection plan prepared for cultural parks along with the identification of characteristic features of the cultural landscape. Marcinek et al. (2021) rightly propose linking the initiative to establish a cultural park with the results of the landscape audit and, possibly, the status of a monument of history<sup>4</sup>. The proposed three-level concept of cultural parks is worthy of attention. It consists of district cultural parks, provincial (or regional) priority cultural parks, and national cultural parks linked with the designation as a monument of history. The State consistently supports protection measures under the monument of history category, which can influence the economic condition, competitiveness, and image of districts.

It should also be noted that cultural parks do not have a strong presence in the awareness of local governments and local communities. Therefore, a well-thought-out information and education strategy is needed to convince the public that the creation of a cultural park does not impede growth but instead it channels growth so that it is a continuation of the local tradition while protecting against global cultural degradation.

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<sup>4</sup> According to the 23 July 2003 Act on the Protection and Care of Historic Monuments, a monument of history encompasses immovable monuments of particular historical, scientific, and artistic value, established in the popular consciousness and having significant meaning for the cultural heritage of Poland.



## CONCLUSIONS

The establishment of cultural parks in large towns or cities, within their historic centres, is a currently predominant trend in Poland. These actions are primarily aimed at maintaining order in urban space, which is often interpreted as combating illegal advertising and taking care of aesthetic appearance. Such a narrow interpretation of cultural landscape results in a loss of its essence (cf. Klupsz, 2016). Rural and small town landscapes are the most characteristic types of cultural landscape in Poland (particularly in the eastern regions), which results, among other factors, from their large territory, diversity, good condition, and stronger links with nature, history and culture.

The survey conducted in the rural areas of the Lublin Province indicate that, in the case of Radzyń Podlaski county, it would be reasonable to create a cultural park only in Radzyń Podlaski and Czemierniki. Both localities are of outstanding historical and cultural value. The local planning documents contain provisions concerning the possibility of establishing cultural parks. Furthermore, the questionnaire survey results confirmed the viability of establishing cultural parks in the above localities. In the county of Łęczna, on the other hand, the greatest opportunities for establishing a cultural park were identified in Zawieprzycze. However, the local planning documents lack provisions about the proposed cultural park. Most historic sites in the localities analysed are in a good state of repair. The revitalisation and redevelopment measures should be continued, however.

The survey indicates that it is necessary to improve the public awareness (particularly of local governments and property owners) about the cultural park as a form of protection and the development opportunities related to its establishment e.g. revitalisation, tourism and recreation. Although the predominant attitude among residents in the areas under study is favourable to establishing cultural parks, the knowledge about this form of protection is relatively limited. Furthermore, local planning and strategy documents contain few references to cultural

parks as a form of protection. Promoting good practices with regard to the functioning of cultural parks in other regions as well as system-wide changes concerning this form of protection could improve the opportunities for establishing cultural parks both within the counties under study and in other areas featuring valuable cultural landscapes.

The problems that emerged during the survey were primarily related to the residents' (especially men's) unwillingness to express their opinion in the questionnaires, and the difficulty in obtaining information on the local governments' position on cultural park initiatives. Another obstacle was the difficult access to some historic sites (held in private hands). Despite the challenges, further research is planned on the possibility of establishing cultural parks in other areas of the Lublin Province.

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