# Assessment of therapeutic qualities of ten public parks in Bydgoszcz

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Abstract: This paper presents a binary rough assessment of ten public parks in Bydgoszcz, followed by a detailed assessment of one of them – Dolina Pięciu Stawów. The assessment was conducted using the universal pattern of design for health-affirming urban landscapes. The binary rough assessment results were satisfactory and similar for all parks. The results of the assessments indicated areas for possible improvement and can be used by the designers and inhabitants as justification for amendments. The major advantages of selected parks were qualities of space for mental and physical regeneration while the major deficiencies resulted from a lack of recreational equipment for various age groups and limited opportunities for social contacts. There were no major discrepancies and the fact that the rough assessment showed only little variation depending on the size of parks is proof of its limitation. This subjectivity of the rough evaluation was mitigated by a detailed assessment of Dolina Pięciu Stawów. This evaluation indicated further areas for improvement. The universal pattern of design for health-affirming urban places can be used as a ready-to-use tool.

**Keywords:** architecture, urban design, health-affirming urban places, health-affirming urban landscapes

#### 1. Introduction

Living conditions in modern cities are indirectly linked to many lifestyle diseases. There is a direct link between the incidences of diseases and the distance from the place of residence to open green areas [1], [2]. Today, one of the key design problems is the creation of an urban environment that can promote the residents' health. Research evidence indicates that many factors have a positive impact on humans. One of them is architecture and urban design [3], [4]. Everyday contact with nature, the appropriate level of physical activity, the possibility of mental regeneration and satisfying social relations are linked to longevity and good health [5], [6]. It is a crucial challenge for the designers to create health-affirming places and urban landscapes. The definition of health-affirming landscapes implies that they unite the qualities of therapeutic landscapes, i.e. material aspects, social constructions, symbolic significances, and allegories of positive aspects of human health and well-being to influence people physical, mental and spiritual healing [7], [8]. A study by Japanese doctors demonstrated that senior's longevity relates to the frequency of park visits regardless. Neither gender differences nor social status discrepancies were observed [9]. Other studies evidenced the health impact of walking [10], [11].

The role of organized greenery is crucial for bringing people to nature. The natural areas and public parks can be used analogously, but the composed greenery has some advantages.

The first is of universal accessibility. The even surface of manmade pathways could facilitate navigation of park areas for people with reduced mobility and disabilities. The clear signage, benches, handrails, and ramps could embolden people who are scared of falling and prone to accidents due to any debilitating conditions. The organized forms of greenery can offer varied visual stimulation – invigorating or calming. Potential nuisances like poisonous, thorny or allergic plants could be avoided. Many of the therapeutic qualities could be enhanced by human intervention, e.g. framed views, long vistas, etc.

In this paper, the results of the study undertaken in the city of Bydgoszcz are presented. The city of Bydgoszcz was chosen because it is one of the greenest cities in Poland. There are numerous parks and green squares, therefore, there is plentiful material for comparison [12]. The public parks in Bydgoszcz are accessible and well maintained and therefore it was anticipated that the results would be relatively good.

### 2. Methods of assessment of health-affirming qualities

The health-affirming qualities were assessed using the author's original method – the universal pattern of design for health-affirming urban places (Tab. 1). This tool was developed using the triangulation of research evidence and field studies [13]. This tool can be used as an audit tool to determine the potential health affirming qualities of urban places. This pattern can be used to evaluate existing parks as well as a design tool to make improvements in open public green areas. In this study, the tool was expanded with the "access to park" category. This category is based on evidence which demonstrated that pleasant walkways to public parks are directly connected to increased frequency of visits to parks [14], [15], [16].

This tool was used to assess the therapeutic qualities of ten public parks in Bydgoszcz for a rough assessment, followed by a detailed assessment of one selected park – Dolina Pięciu Stawów. The selection of ten public parks was based on the criterion of accessibility, variety of size and functions and the pattern of the urban tissue. Ten popular parks with easy universal access either by foot or by bus were selected. The selection encompasses parks surrounded by a dense urban grid with high population density. The Balaton, Księżycowy and Dolina Pięciu Stawów could be treated as examples of urban regeneration projects.

Dolina Pięciu Stawów was chosen for detailed assessment because it is located in the center of the city and within close walking distance from numerous users. The health-affirming impact of this park design could be important. The size of this park is approx. 5 ha – it is an example of a pocket park. The other reason is that this park is a result of the successful urban regeneration project. It was created on a brownfield, which has an impact on soil and water quality [17], [18], [19].

Both the rough and detailed assessment was performed by one and the same researcher. Typically, one hour was spent in each park, more time was needed for larger parks with numerous equipment and garden features. All parks were visited between 01.06.2019 – 04.09.2019

Table 1. Universal pattern of design for health affirming urban places. Source: [13]

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1. UNIVERSAL DESIGN	2. PARK'S FUNCTIONAL PROGRAM	3. ORGANIZATION OF SPACE AND FUNCTIONS	4. PLACEMAKING	5. SUSTAINA-BILITY	6. ACCESS TO PARK
1.1 Place Area	2.1. Psychological and physical regeneration	3.1. The park spatial composition follows the	4.1. Works of Art 4.2. Monuments in	5.1. Green Infrastructure 5.2. Parks of Second (New)	6.1 Sidewalk Infrastructure
Location	Natural Landscapes	surrounding urban pattern	the park	Generation	Width of sidewalk Even-
Surrounding urban	Green open space	3.2. Architectural variety	4.3. Historic places	5.3. Biodiversity protection	ness of surface
pattern	Place to rest in the sun and in the	of urban environment	Culture and	Part of park not-available to	Lack of obstructions Slope
1.2 Environmental	shade	Focal points and	connection	visitors	Sufficient drainage
characteristics	Place to rest in silence and solitude	landmarks	to the past	Native plants	6.2 General conditions:
Soil quality	Possibility to observe other people	Structure of interiors and	4.4. Thematic gardens	Native animals	Maintenance
Water quality	Possibility to observe animals	connections	4.5. Personalization	Natural maintenance methods	Overall aesthetics
Air quality	2.2. Social Contacts Enhancement	Long vistas (Extent)	4.6. Animation of	5.4. Sustainable water	Street art
Noise level	Organization of events inside	Pathways with views	place	management	Sufficient seating
Biodiversity	the park	Invisible fragments of the		Rainwater infiltration	Perceived safety
Forms of nature	Gathering place for groups	scene (Vista engaging the		Irrigation with non-potable	Buffering from traffic
protection	2.3. Physical Activity Promotion	imagination)		water	Street activities
1.3 Universal accessi-	Sports and recreational infra-	Mystery, Fascination		Park in a flood risk zone	Vacant lots
bility (addressing need	structure	Framed views		5.5. Urban metabolism	6.3 Traffic
of people with disa-	Community gardens	Human scale		5.6. Ecological energy	Speed
bilities)	2.4. Catering for basic needs	3.3. Optimal level of		sources	Volume
1.4 Access to park	Safety and security (presence of	complexity			Number and safety of
Distance to potential	guards, cleanness, maintenance, etc.)				crossings
users	Places to sit and rest	3.5. Engaging features			Stop signs
Public transport stops	Shelter	Risk/Peril			On-street parking
Walkways to park	Restrooms	Movement			6.4 User Experience
	Drinking water	3.6. Presence of Water			Air quality
	Food (possibility to buy food in the	3.7. Sensory stimuli			Noise level
	park or close vicinities)	design			Sufficient lighting
		Sensory stimuli: Sight			Sunshine and shade
		Sensory stimuli: Hearing			Transparency of ground
		Sensory stimuli: Smell			floors of building
		Sensory stimuli: Touch			
		Sensory stimuli: Taste			
		Sensory parn			

## 2.1. The binary rough assessment of 10 public parks

Ten parks were chosen for assessment (Tab. 2). The size of selected parks ranged from 2 ha (Park Księżycowy) to 830 ha (Leśny Park Kultury i Wypoczynku Myślęcinek). The rough assessment was limited to therapeutic qualities of park area. The category "access to park" evaluation was limited to entrances to park.

Table 2. Parks chosen to analysis

1. Dolina Pięciu Stawów	6. Park Balaton
2. Botanical Garden	7. Park Załuskiego
3. Park Jana Kochanowskiego	8. Park nad starym kanałem
4. Park Henryka Dąbrowskiego	9. Park Księżycowy
5. Leśny Park Kultury Wypoczynku Myślęcinek	10. Park Kazimierza Wielkiego



Fig. 1. Approximate location of studied parks in Bydgoszcz urban tissue. Map source: google maps, retrived on: 09.09.2019

Table 3. The rough assessment of ten public parks in Bydgoszcz

for Therapeutic Parks  – attributes and characteristics					Selected public parks	ırks				
	<ol> <li>Dolina Pięciu Stawów</li> </ol>	2. Botanical Garden	3. Park Jana Koch- anowskiego	4. Park Henryka Dąbrowskiego	<ol> <li>Leśny Park Kultury i Wypoczynku Myślęcinek</li> </ol>	6. Park Balaton	7. Park Załuskiego	8. Park nad starym kanałem	9. Park Księżycowy	10. Park Kazimierza Wielkiego
Universal design										
				1:1	Place					
Area, approximately	5 ha	2,4 ha	3,2 ha	2,9 ha	830 ha	5,1 ha	16,9 ha	46,6 ha	2,0 ha	2,3 ha
Location	city centre	Bydgoszcz	Bydgoszcz	Bydgoszcz	Bydgoszcz	Bydgoszcz	Bydgoszcz	Bydgoszcz	Bydgoszcz	Bydgoszcz
Surrounding urban pattern	dense urban tissue	dense urban tissue	dense urban tissue,	dense urban tissue, steep slope	loose urban tissue, forest	dense urban tissue,	dense urban tissue,	dense urban tissue, riverfront	dense urban tissue,	dense urban tissue,
				1.2 Environmental characteristics	al characteristics					
Soil quality	brownfield	poog	poog	poog	poog	recultivated brownfield	poog	poog	poog	poog
Water quality	historic retention ponds reconstructed from 2001-2003 and 2007 [19]	poog	poos	poog	poos	poog	n/a	poos	poog	poog
Air quality	very good according to polish air quality standards	very good	very good	very good	very good	very good	very good	very good	very good	very good
Biodiversity	rich in species	rich in species	rich in species	rich in species	rich in species	rich in species	rich in species	rich in species	rich in species	rich in species
Forms of nature protection	no	ou	ou	no	no	ou	no	ou	ou	ou
<ol> <li>Universal accessibility</li> </ol>	accessible	accessible	accessible	partially accessi- ble, steep slope	accessible	accessible	accessible	accessible	accessible	accessible
1.4 Access to park										
Distance to potential users	less than 500m	less than 500m	less than 500m less than 500m	less than 500m	Using public transportation, cars, bicicles, etc. Less than 1000m walking	less than 500m	less than 500m	less than 500m less than 500m less than 500m less than 500m	less than 500m	less than 500m
Public transport stops	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
walkways to park	multiples	multiples	multiples	multiples	multiples	multiples	multiples	multiples	multiples	multiples

Natural Landscapes Green open space	_		_	•	•					,
Green open space 1 Place to rest in the sun 1		_,	Ī		_,					_
Place to rest in the sun		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	_	-	1	1	1	1	_	1	1	_
Place to rest in silence		-	_	1	-	1	1	1		-
Possibility to observe		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	_	-	_	_
Possibility to 1 observe animals	_	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	_
2.2. Social Contacts Enhancement										
Organization of events	_	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	1
Gathering place for 1			_	1	1		1			
2.3. Physical Activity Promotion										
Sports and recreational	1	0	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	_
Community gardens 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.4. Catering for basic needs										
Safety and security 1		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	_
to sit and rest			- -	_		- -	-	- -	-	_ -
			- -		- -					
Drinking water 0			10	0	-	10		-		
	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	_
3. Organisation of space and functions	ions									
3.1. The park spatial composition										
follows the surrounding urban	_		_	_	_	-	_	_	_	_
3.2. Architectural variety of urban 1 environment	_	1	-	-	-	_	1	1	1	_
Focal points and landmarks 1		-	_	-	-	-	_	_	-	_
Structure of interiors and 1	_	-		1	1	1	1	-		_
Long vistas (Extent)		1	-	1	-	-	-	1	_	_
Pathways with views		_	_	-	_	_	_	_	-	_
Invisible fragments of the scene (Vista engaging the 1 imagination)	_	_	-	-	-	_	1	_	_	_
Mystery, Fascination 1		1	1	-1	-	_	_	-	_	_
Framed views 1		_ -					_ -	_ -	_	_ -
Human scale		_	ī	1	_	1	_	_	_	_
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3.4. Natural surfaces 1		1	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	_

Risk/Peril	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Movement	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Presence of Water	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Sensory stimuli										
design		•				•				
Sensory stimuli: Sight	_	I	Ī		Ī		Ĭ	Ī	Ī	I
Sensory stimuli: Hearing	_		_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Sensory stimuli: Smell	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Sensory stimuli: Touch	-	1	1		1	-	1	-	-	-
Sensory stimuli: Taste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sensory path	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Placemaking										
Works of Art	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	0	-
Monuments in the park	0	1	0			0		1	0	-
Historic places										
Culture and connection to	-	1	1	1	1	_	_	_	_	1
Thematic gardens	0	-	-	_		-	0		-	0
Personalization	-	-	1	_	-	1	-	1	-	-
Animation of place	-	_	-	_			1	_	_	-
Pursuit of -sustainable development	evelopment									
Green Infra- structure	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-
Parks of Second (New) Generation	1		1	_	-	-		-		-
Biodiversity protection										
Part of park not-available to visitors	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Native plants	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Native animals	_	_	1	_	1	-	1	1	_	1
Natural maintenance methods	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sustainable water management										
Rainwater infiltration	_	_		_		_	_	_	_	_
Irrigation with non-pota- ble water	Data n/a	Data n/a	Data n/a	Data n/a	Data n/a	Data n/a	Data n/a	Data n/a	Data n/a	Data n/a
Park in a flood risk zone	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	ou	ou
Urban metabolism	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ecological energy sources	Data n/a	Data n/a	Data n/a	Data n/a	Data n/a	Data n/a	Data n/a	Data n/a	Data n/a	Data n/a
TOTAI	41	-								

The binary assessment used 1 for presence and 0 for the absence of the given attribute. Therefore, it only allowed for notification if determined quality or equipment were present in the park. It was not possible to indicate that in larger parks there are multiple options, while in smaller parks they were limited to only one. For example, only one green open space to organize a group aerobics in a smaller park, and multiple open green spaces where simultaneous group aerobics for various age groups could be organized.

The results of this study demonstrated that the major advantages of selected parks were qualities of space for mental and physical regeneration, traditionally associated with public parks in Bydgoszcz.

At the same time, the major deficiencies resulted from a lack of recreational equipment for various age groups and opportunities for social contacts. It would be important to provide more seating alongside the pedestrian paths and moveable chairs for informal meetings. The basic needs of users could be satisfied better if there were public toilets, garden pavilions providing shelter, drinking fountains, and fruit-bearing plants and trees. Collective gardens could also be installed within public parks to increase opportunities for social contacts and therapeutic gardening.

As expected, the binary rough assessment results were satisfactory and similar for all 10 parks selected. There were no major discrepancies. The fact that the rough assessment showed little variation depending on the size of parks is proof of its limitation. Although the largest park in Myślęcinek scored 48 points, a bit more than smaller parks, the variation was not strongly pronounced. That may be also a proof that the parks studied were well-equipped and maintained.

Therefore in this study, after the binary rough assessment, one park was chosen for detailed assessment. This subjectivity of the rough evaluation was mitigated by a detailed assessment. The assessment also demonstrates the method of use of the universal pattern. The assessment could be repeated and performed for any public green space.

### 2.2. The detailed assessment of Dolina Pięciu Stawów public park



Fig. 2. Location and rough borders of Dolina Pięciu Stawów park in Bydgoszcz. Source of map: geoportal360.pl, retrived on: 01.11.2019

Table 4. Assessment of health-affirming urban place – Dolina Pięciu Stawów public park. Part 1. UNIVERSAL DESIGN

UNIVERSAL DESIGN	Rough assessment	Detailed assessment	Suggestions for improvement
1.1 Place			
Area, approximately	5 ha		
Location	city centre		
Surrounding urban pattern	dense urban tissue	Multifamily building blocks, townhouses, large surface commercial centre.	
1.2 Environmental characteristics			
Soil quality		Sufficient for recreational use. No visibles tracks of pollution	
Water quality	historic retention ponds reconstructed from 2001- 2003 and 2007 [17]	Non-potable water in the ponds. No swimming allowed	
Air quality	very good according to polish air quality standards	Good air circulation, plants and water improve local micro- climate.	
Noise level	moderate	Noise nuisance originates from traffic in streets adjacent to park	
Biodiversity	rich in species	Ponds have become a habitat for many species of insects and birds. Tables in the park explain the strive for biodiversity protection.	
Forms of nature protection	no		
1.3 Universal accessibility	accessible	Pathways are wide and even, majority of park's area is acces- sible.	Accessibility could be improved.
1.4 Access to park			
Distance to potential users	less than 500m	People who live in surrounding buildings, people who use public transport, clients from the commercial centre.	
Public transport stops	yes	Bus stops are located next to park's entrances.	

1. UNIVERSAL DESIGN	Rough assessment	Detailed assessment	Suggestions for improvement
Walkways to park	multiple, park is not fenced, therefore is easily accessible	Additional evaluation of streets leading to park presented below.	

The qualities evaluated in Table 1 are based on objective data retrieved from officially published data and subjective assessment by the researcher. The water quality measurements taken in the park was described by Marcin Gorączko in 2007 [19]. The ponds are located in close vicinity of a former chemical factory, therefore, the water included an excessive amount of silver compounds in 2007 [19]. However, the subjective observation of the phytoremediation process results in summer 2019 led to the conclusion that water in the ponds is inhabited by the biodiversity of plants. The colonies of mallards *Anas platyrhynchos* were observed in the ponds. Moreover, during the park visit, the practice of recreational fishing was observed. However, the ponds are not open to swimming and the water is marked as non-potable.

The air quality is measured by a station located in Plac Poznański in close distance to the park. The results on 31.10.2019 during the heating season in Poland were presented as very good (Fig. 2).

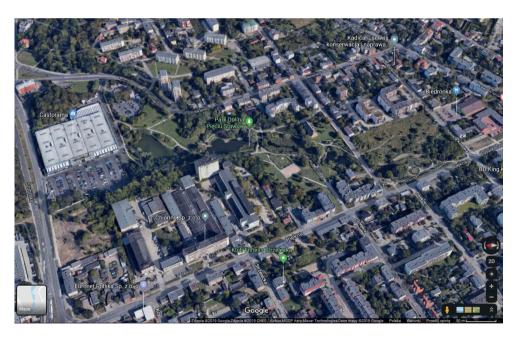


Fig. 3. Aerial photo of Dolina Pięciu Stawów park in Bydgoszcz presenting the surrounding urban tissue. Source: google maps, retrieved on: 09.09.2019

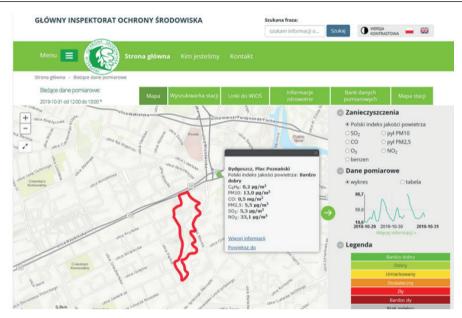


Fig. 4. Fragment of map representing air quality measurement system location near the Dolina Pięciu Stawów Park and air quality indicators on 31.10.2019 afternoon, Measurement station: Bydgoszcz, Plac Poznański, Polish air quality index: Very good, data source: http://powietrze.gios.gov.pl/pjp/current, retrieved on: 31/10/2019



Fig. 5. Fragment of road noise map LDWN prepared for the city of Bydgoszcz presenting the area of the Dolina Pięciu Stawów Park, source: http://mapy.bydgoszcz.pl/VisMap/apps/Bydgoszcz/public/index. html, retrieved on 31.10.2019

One of the minor nuisances present in the park was the traffic noise. The noise level was moderate close to the parking lots located near the large surface shopping center, but not disturbing inside the park. The incidences of noise level exceeding the permissible levels of noise did not concern the area of the park (Fig. 4). However on the streets leading to the park, the noise levels were exceeded on Szubińska and Piękna streets.



Fig. 6. Fragment from the map of exceedances of permissible levels of road noise LDWN in the city of Bydgoszcz presenting the area of the Dolina Pięciu Stawów Park, source: http://mapy.bydgoszcz.pl/ VisMap/apps/Bydgoszcz/public/index.html,, retrieved on 31.10.2019

The assessment of therapeutic qualities of public park determined following strong points of the park: natural scenic beauty which can be associated with lots of opportunities for physical and mental regeneration (Fig. 2), universal accessibility, well-defined connections to green infrastructure, protection of biodiversity and wildlife. These points are crucial and responsible for this park's popularity among users as they explained to the researcher during the study.

Table 5. Assessment of health-affirming urban place – Dolina Pięciu Stawów public park. Part 2. PARK'S FUNCTIONAL PROGRAM

2.	Park's functional program	Rough Binary Assessment	Detailed Assessment	Suggestions for improvement
2.1.	Psychological and physical regeneration			
Nat	ural Landscapes	1	Natural borders created with maturing trees create parks interiors which give impression of pristine natural landscape.	
Gre	en open space	1	Multiple	

Park's functional program	Rough Binary Assessment	Detailed Assessment	Suggestions for improvement
2.1. Psychological and physical regeneration			
Place to rest in the sun and in the shade	1	Multiple	The benches should have backrests and armrests.
Place to rest in silence and solitude	1	Numerous places.	
Possibility to observe other people	1	There are many places to observe activities of other people. It is a form of effortless social contact – emotional participation, required for psychological restoration [20].	
Possibility to observe animals	1	There are many places to observe wildlife (birds, i.e. colonies of mallards <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> )	
2.2. Social Contacts Enhancement			
Organization of events inside the park	1	Open green areas can serve to organise events.	
Gathering place for groups	1	There are spatial possibilities to organize meetings.	
2.3. Physical Activity Promotion			
Sports and recreational infrastructure	1	Limited recreational infrastructure for children.	It would be beneficial to install new recreational infrastructure for various age groups.
Community gardens	0	There are no community gardens inside the park.	Park's space offers possibilities for organizing the community gardens.
2.4. Catering for basic needs			
Safety and security	1	Subjectively assessed by the researcher as safe place. Park is well maintained, clean and offers good visibility. Constant presence of park users was observed. Good visability. Park space is monitored.	
Places to sit and rest	1	There are numerous benches.	It would be useful to build a garden pavilion with running potable water and electricity.
Shelter	0	There are no man made shelters in the park. Visitors can find provisional shelter under the canopies of trees.	It would be useful to install a garden pavilion.
Restrooms	0	Not in the park. However, there are toilets in the commercial centre nearby.	It would be useful to construct a public toilet in the park.
Drinking water	0	Not in the park. However, there is drinking water fountain in the commercial centre nearby.	It would be useful to install a drinking fountain in the park.

Park's functional program	Rough Binary Assessment	Detailed Assessment	Suggestions for improvement
2.1. Psychological and physical regeneration			
Food	0	Not in the park. However, there are food stands in the commercial centre nearby.	It would be useful to allow construction of a food stand in the park

On the other hand, the assessment helped to determine opportunities for improvement, which included: lack of comfortable seating for the elderly and disabled (with backrests and armrests), lack of recreational equipment for various age groups of children and adults, neither community gardens nor edible plants and no garden pavilions to provide shelter. Providing satisfactory infrastructure for various groups of users is crucial for placemaking efforts. However, various groups have different needs and careful design is needed to minimize possible conflicts of groups of users with different needs. Other points for improvement could be to install a table with a description of the history of this place, drinking fountains, improve orientation with better pronounced focal points and pockets of activities and install equipment to facilitate meetings and gatherings, e.g. open-air theatre.

Table 6. Assessment of health-affirming urban place – Dolina Pięciu Stawów public park. Part 3. ORGANISATION OF SPACE AND FUNCTIONS

3. Organisation of space and functions	Rough Binary Assessment	Detailed Assessment	Suggestions for improvement
3.1. The park spatial composition follows the surrounding urban pattern	1	Park is well inscribed into surrounding urban tissue.	
3.2. Architectural variety of urban environment			
Focal points and landmarks	1	The sculptural forms at the crossroads of pedestrian paths	It would be useful to install focal points that would be more pronounced.
Structure of interiors and connections	1	Clear, legible structure of interiors and connections.	
Long vistas (Extent)	1	Yes, parks offers numerous picturesque long vistas	
Pathways with views	1	Yes.	
Invisible fragments of the scene (Vista engaging the imagination)	1	Yes, numerous designed vistas engaging the imagination	
Mystery, Fascination	1	Parks offers the feeling of mystery and fascination.	

3. Organisation of space and functions	Rough Binary Assessment	Detailed Assessment	Suggestions for improvement
Framed views	1	Numerous framed views.	
Human scale	1	Park is designed in human scale.	
3.3. Optimal level of complexity	1	Subjectively evaluated as satisfactory.	
3.4. Natural surfaces	1	Yes.	
3.5. Engaging features			
Risk/Peril	1	Multiple elements offer the subjective feeling of overcoming controlled risk.	
Movement	1	Water in the ponds and cascades, shimmering greenery.	
3.6. Presence of Water	1	Presence of water increases the recreational values of space.	
3.7. Sensory stimuli design		•	
Sensory stimuli: Sight	1	Numerous features, variety of visual stimuli, rich in details	
Sensory stimuli: Hearing	1	Shimmering water in the cascades	
Sensory stimuli: Smell	1	Groups of plants with strong and pleasant scent, water.	
Sensory stimuli: Touch	1	Groups of plants with various textures, water.	
Sensory stimuli: Taste	0	No.	It would be useful to plant edible plants, allow food trucks or food stands in the park
Sensory path	0	No	It is recommended to create a sensory path

The organization of space and functions of Dolina Pięciu Stawów was evaluated as satisfactory. The architectural structure is legible and well-organized. Parks offers various possibilities for physical and mental regeneration: engaging features, sensory stimuli and optimal level of complexity. The proposed suggestions for improvements included planting some edible plants (e.g. fruit trees), allowing food trucks or food stands in the park. It would be also recommended to create a sensory path.

Table 7. Assessment of health-affirming urban place – Dolina Pięciu Stawów public park. Part 4. PLACEMAKING

4. Placemaking	Rough Binary Assessment	Detailed Assessment	Suggestions for improvement
4.1. Works of Art	0	No.	It could be interesting to organise temporary exhibitions of sculpture in the park.
4.2. Monuments in the park	0	House located next to park, at Orla 66 is inscribed in the register of national monuments. The building was for sale and required renovation [23]	It is recommended to renovate the historic house located at Orla 66 and remodel it to serve as shelter with restrooms, food and water. (e.g. café or restaurant)
4.3. Historic places			
Culture and connection to the past	1	Historic retention ponds and water reservoirs.	It could be interesting to install a table with this place history.
4.4. Thematic gardens	0	No.	It could be interesting to install thematic gardens in this park.
4.5. Personalization	1	During events organised by local government and associations	
4.6. Animation of place	1	During events organised by local government and associations	

The park visitors interviewed during this study emphasized the strong place identity of Dolina Pięciu Stawów public park. The open green area could be a place for the organization of local events like temporary exhibitions of sculptures or tables with the description of local history. Thematic gardens could also enrich the phenomenon of local identity.

Table 8. Assessment of health-affirming urban place – Dolina Pięciu Stawów public park. Part 5. PURSUIT OF -SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

5. Pursuit of -sustainable development	Rough Binary Assessment	Detailed Assessment	Suggestions for improvement
5.1. Green Infrastructure	1	Park is an important part of green and blue infrastructure.	
5.2. Parks of Second (New) Generation	1	Can be regarded as such.	

Pursuit of -sustainable development     3.3. Biodiversity protection	Rough Binary Assessment	Detailed Assessment	Suggestions for improvement
Part of park not-available to visitors	1	Parts of ponds.	Provide enclosures for wildlife not available to visitors.
Native plants	1	Yes. Native plants were observed.	Increase the percentage of native plants.
Native animals	1	Yes. Native animals were observed.	
Natural maintenance methods	0	No data	
5.4. Sustainable water management			
Rainwater infiltration	1	Porous, permeable surfaces on some pathways	
Irrigation with non-potable water	Data n/a		It is recommended to use non-potable water for irrigation.
Park in a flood risk zone	yes	Partially [17, 18, 19]	
5.5. Urban metabolism	1	Waste segregation.	
5.6. Ecological energy sources	Data n/a		It is recommended to use ecological energy sources

The efforts for sustainable development were assessed as satisfactory. The suggestions included increasing the percentage of native plants and providing enclosures for wildlife not available to visitors. Another improvement could include using ecological energy sources (photovoltaic cells) for lighting or non-potable water for irrigation when necessary.



Fig. 7. The scenic beauty of Dolina Pięciu Stawów, 2019, author's photo

The results of the detailed evaluation of access to the park demonstrated that there were some deficiencies.

Nine streets were evaluated: Szubińska, Piekna, Orla, Stroma, Kossaka, Kcyńska, Strzelecka, Gołębia, and Jaskółcza. The traffic and noise level were important, but some deficiencies of sidewalks and drainage were also observed on Piekna, Orla, Stroma, and Kossaka streets. Lack of ramp for the disabled alongside the stairs was marked as a crucial deficiency of Szubińska street. Kcyńska, Strzelecka, Gołębia, and Jaskółcza were recently renovated and therefore the walking experience alongside those streets was evaluated as more pleasant. What was noted was lack of seating along all of the streets leading to the park which could hinder the frequency of park visits, especially among the elderly. Street greenery could also be improved and rain gardens installation could be beneficial.

#### 3. Conclusions

This study confirmed that chosen parks in Bydgoszcz have numerous health-affirming qualities, but there are still possibilities for improvement. The detailed assessment of Dolina Pięciu Stawów indicated areas for possible improvements and facilitated the formulation of design recommendations.

Moreover, this study leads to the conclusion that the universal pattern of design for health-affirming urban places can be used as a ready-to-use tool. It is a useful addition to classic inventory of analyses commonly used in landscape architecture (such as functional

and spatial, nature, compositional, sensual analysis, etc.) It offers the possibility to assess both objective and subjective health-affirming qualities of landscapes. This tool was created to facilitate the Evidence-Based Design of public parks with therapeutic qualities. It can be used alongside other tools like SOPARC [21], [22] to evaluate the design and performance of public parks and justify the introduction of advisable changes. SOPARC can be used for the assessment of park users' physical activity, while the universal pattern is a tool for the evaluation of physical features and design qualities of public parks and their vicinities.

The main conclusion resulting from this study is the confirmation that the assessment of the therapeutic qualities of any public park should not be performed alone without the careful assessment of the urban tissue which surrounds it. The qualities of walkways to the park are as important as the qualities of the public park to create health affirming urban places. The results of a detailed assessment of Dolina Pięciu Stawów demonstrated that there could be numerous opportunities for improvement of the user experience and frequency of contacts with nature by improving the walkways to park. On the other hand lack of proper maintenance of sidewalks can hinder the health-affirming effects of any therapeutic park.

Table 7. Assessment of health-affirming urban place - Dolina Pięciu Stawów public park. Part 6. ACCESS TO PARK

6. ACCESS TO PARK	\rangle RK								
STREETS	Szubińska	Piękna	Orla	Stroma	Kossaka	Kcyńska	Strzelecka,	Gołębia,	Jaskółcza
6.1. Sidewalk Infrastructure	tructure								
Width of sidewalk	boog	narrow	narrow	narrow	Too narrow	boog	narrow	narrow	narrow
Evenness of surface	poog	poog	Partially uneven	uneven	Uneven, unpaved	yes	yes	yes	yes
Lack of obstructions	Stairs, no ramp	Lack of obstructions	Lack of obstructions	Cars parked on sidewalks	Cars parked on sidewalks	Cars parked on sidewalks	Lack of obstructions	Lack of obstructions	Lack of obstructions
Slope	Not important	Not important	Not important Not important	Important steep slope	Not important	Not important	Not important	Not important	Not important
Sufficient drainage	sufficient	sufficient	Lack of drainage	Lack of drainage	Lack of drainage	Sufficient drainage	Sufficient drainage	Sufficient drainage	Sufficient drainage
6.2 General conditions									
Maintenance	poog	poog	poog	Requires renovation	Requires renovation	poog	poog	poog	poog
Overall aesthetics	poog	poog	poog	Requires renovation	Requires renovation	poog	poog	poog	poog
Street art	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Sufficient seating	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Perceived safety	boog	varying	no	no	no	boog	good	boog	boog
Road noise	Noise levels exceeded	Noise levels exceeded	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate
Buffering from traffic	Partially with greenery	Partially with greenery	no	Partially with greenery	Partially with greenery	Buffering with greenery	Buffering with greenery	Buffering with greenery	Buffering with greenery on one side
Street activities	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Vacant lots	yes	Yes, temporary parking lots	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
6.3 Traffic									
Speed	important	important	slow	slow	slow	slow	slow	slow	slow

Volume	Important, main road important	important	little	little	little	little	little	little	little
Number and safety of crossings	Street lights, safe	One safe	One safe	no	multiples	no	ou	no	no
Stop signs	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes
On-street parking	prohibited	prohibited	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no
6.4 User Experience									
Air quality	average	average	average	average	average	average	average	average	average
Noise level	important	average	average	average	average	average	average	average	average
Sufficient lighting	yes	yes	average	Requires renovation	Requires renovation	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sunshine and shade	lack of trees providing shade on one side	Trees provide shade	Trees provide shade	Trees provide shade	Trees provide shade	no	Trees provide shade	Trees provide shade	Trees provide shade
Transparency of ground floors of building	Commercial centre – lack of transparency	Residential floors	Residential floors	Residential floors, individual parking	Residential floors, individual parking	Residential Residential floors, malindividual individual parking parking	Residential floors, walls, individual parking	Residential floors, walls, individual parking	Residential floors, walls, individual parking

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## Ocena walorów terapeutycznych wybranych dziesięciu parków publicznych w Bydgoszczy

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Streszczenie: W artykule przedstawiono ocenę walorów terapeutycznych 10 parków publicznych w Bydgoszczy. Ocena została przeprowadzona z wykorzystaniem narzędzia – Uniwersalnego wzorca projektowania miejsc sprzyjających promocji zdrowia. Przedstawione badanie obejmowało ogólną ocenę 10 wybranych parków publicznych w Bydgoszczy, a następnie szczegółową ocenę jednego z nich. Wyniki oceny walorów terapeutycznych wybranych parków miejskich wykazały obszary wymagające poprawy i mogą być wykorzystane przez projektantów i mieszkańców jako uzasadnienie wprowadzania zmian. Uniwersalny wzorzec projektowania miejsc sprzyjających promocji zdrowia może być wykorzystany jako gotowe narzędzie wspierające proces projektowy.

**Słowa kluczowe:** architektura, urbanistyka, krajobrazy miejskie sprzyjające promocji zdrowia