

P2_19 Court garden in Sremski Karlovci – natural and cultural heritage of Serbia



The lime trees alley

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the research of „Court garden in Sremski Karlovci“ was to find out when exactly it was designed, what was the original project and architecture of Garden, to find out historical names, historical plants of Garden, and to make an inventory of dendroflora in 2022. In this paper landscape-architectural, horticultural, dendrological, natural, cultural, historical and other values of the garden protected as natural monument, were represented. Archival material from archives, museums, documentation of the Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina province, of Cultural Heritage Preservation Institute, the current urban planning, cadastral maps, plans, old photographs, postcards, e sources, etc. has been investigated. The Court garden was designed in the first half of the 19th century. A 117 species and lower taxa (21 coniferous and 96 deciduous) were recorded. Based on the analysis of the current state of the garden, values, historical genesis and current needs, it is possible to propose a measures of the protection, renewal and development.

Keywords: Court garden, natural monument, dendroflora, historical and field analysis

INTRODUCTION

Natural monument Court garden is located in Serbia, in Vojvodina, settlement of Sremski Karlovci - historic town of great architectural and cultural-historical value. Court garden is located on the left bank of the Strazilovo stream. It belongs to the Serbian Patriarchate. The garden was built on the site of the utility garden of the Metropolitanate of Karlovci. Mičić (2004) presents Court garden date back to early 18th century. On the initiative of Metropolitan Josif Rajačić, a park with a flower garden and a brick greenhouse was built. The total area is 7.29 ha. Ninić Todorović, 1986 records 137 species and 24 lower taxonomic units (varieties and forms).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

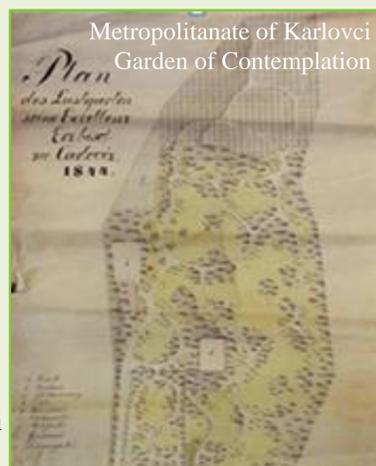
Archival material from different periods of historical genesis from archives, museums, documentation of the Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina province, of Cultural Heritage Preservation Institute, the current urban planning, cadastre, old photographs, postcards, etc. has been investigated. Analysis was carried out in the field in the aim to: perform the audit of boundaries of the park and total area, prepare complete list of dendroflora. Historical gardens were presented in the UNESCO Venice Charter (1964). The Florence Charter (ICOMOS, 1982) is basic document in the field of preservation of historical gardens. The Florence Charter classified historic gardens as “living monuments”.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Landscape-architectural and cultural-historical values
Court garden is Natural Monument, in the boundaries of Important Plant Area (IPA). Local ecological corridor stream of Strazilovo flows through the Garden. The database is compiled and maintained by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina province.



Natural monument Court garden in Sremski Karlovci



Gardens are important elements green infrastructure providing ecosystem services. Court garden is located in the old nucleus of the settlement of Sremski Karlovci, border with the slopes of Natural Park Fruška gora covered with vineyards and forests. Park greenery is covering 7.29 ha.



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Original plan of Court garden dated back in 1844 was presented in internet (https://www.delcamp.net/en_GB/collectables/search?search_mode). The original name was Metropolitanate of Karlovci Garden of Contemplation. The historical data collected provide information about the park's structure and design. Park was created by combining elements of the geometric design (formal garden) with the lime tree alley ending with fountain and a green area covered with more or less circular paths and lawns with smaller groups of mostly deciduous trees (informal garden).

The original plan represents the space with the historic buildings like orangery, a complex of buildings in the central part of the space and a building at the end of the Linden Alley and fountain. All of these objects are still presented, but their condition requires renewal. Old stone benches have not been preserved.



The Black Pine trees in Court garden



The Strazilovo stream

Dendroflora

The park has various species and indigenous dendroflora, allochthonous species and exotics. Mostly deciduous trees are represented. In total, 117 species and lower taxa (21 coniferous and 96 deciduous) was noted by field analysis in 2022.

The park is dominated by deciduous trees. The most common species are: *Styphnolobium japonicum* (L.) Schott, *Broussonetia papyrifera* (L.) L'Hér. ex Vent., *Tilia tomentosa* Moench, *Gleditsia triacanthos* L., *Ailanthus altissima* (Mill.) Swingle, *Acer campestre* L. and *Fraxinus ornus* L. In parks in Vojvodina *Fraxinus excelsior* 'Diversifolia', *Castanea sativa* Mill., *Torminalis glaberrima* (Gand.) Sennikov & Kurtto and *Thuja plicata* Donn ex D. Don which are present in the Court Garden are rare.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the present conditions of the park, values, historical data and results in this paper, it is possible to propose measurement of renewal. Present condition of park is the basis for the planning and design process. Identifying the historical compositional elements, including a buildings, system of paths, botanical species to be protected, safeguarded and replanted should be considered the first step for future management planning process. It is important to preserve the existing linden trees alley and all valuable trees. All buildings and garden architectural elements require renewal and development.

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