



LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
3rd session

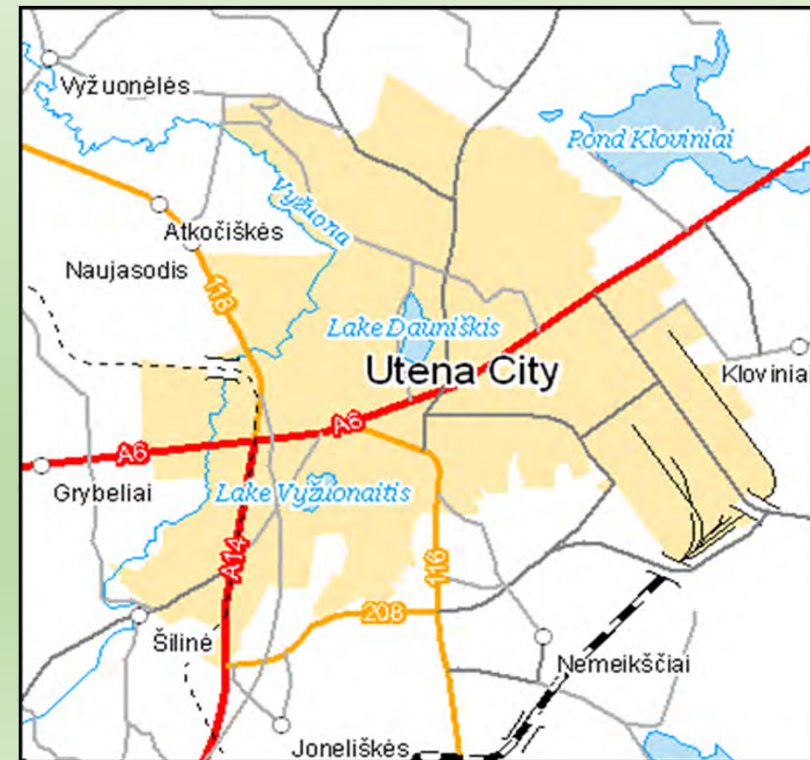
UTENA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



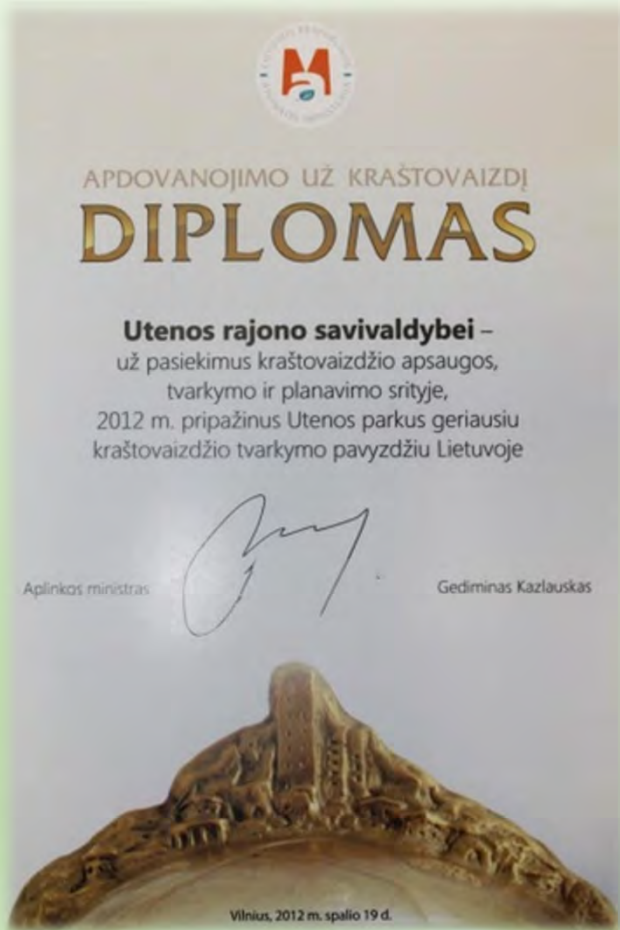
Project

„U-PARKS. U-TURN WE LOVE“

Where is Utena ???



Utena parks project was awarded with the National Landscape Award in 2012



The National rules governing the landscape award were prepared and adopted in 2007

First competition was organized in 2008, second in 2012, next one is planned in 2016

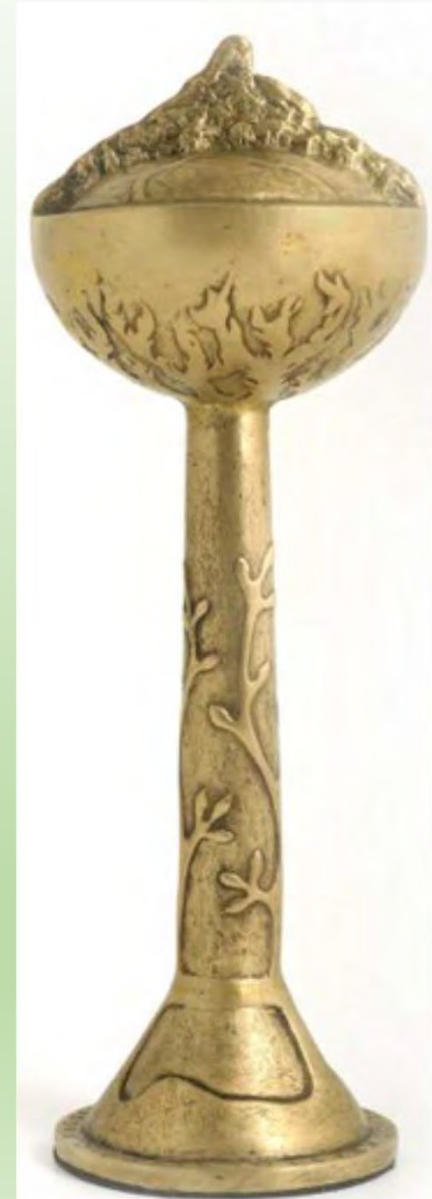
The National award is conferred in even year

The selection of the project

In 2012 the winner was selected from 29 localities, which were presented by 27 candidates.

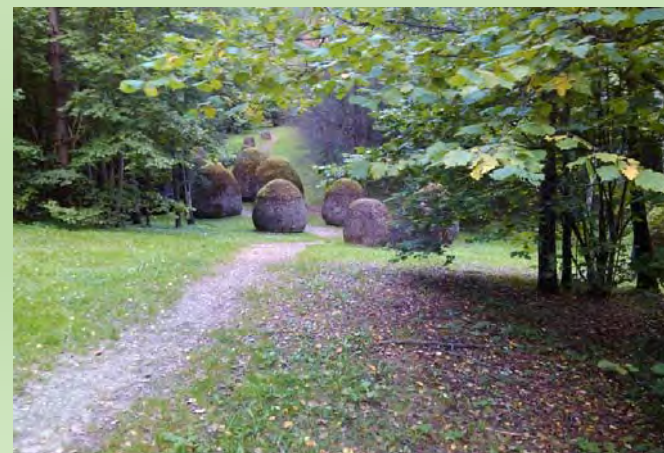
The candidates were:

- 13 local municipalities;
- 3 Directorates of protected areas;
- 3 communities;
- 3 public institutions;
- 2 individual persons;
- 2 companies;
- 1 school.



Candidates for the National Award submitted applications on 5 different groups of landscapes:

- Landscape of protected areas – 5 localities
- Landscape of villages – 2 localities
- Landscape of water bodies territories and they environment – 5 localities
- Landscape of recreational territories - 14 localities
- Landscape of urban territories – 3 localities



Landscape of recreational territories (resorts, zones of recreation, parks, forest parks) – 14 localities

Recreational zone in resort locality of Ignalina

Vienas iš turizmo centrų ir dabartinis ir būsimas sporto, poilsio vieta. Pasiekiama esant šilumai ir saulės spinduliams, erdvė tiki pat Ignalinos kultūros ir sporto centro. Sutiksi čia šeimų su mažyliais, turistų, besifotografuojančių ežero fone prie trykštančio fontano. Dideleje viešojoje erdvėje galima linksintis ir puikiai praleisti laiką švenčiant, Jonines, Užgavėnes, dalyvaujant jaunimo roko festivalyje ir kt.

Sutvarkyta, atnaujinta patraukli Ignalinos miesto vieta džiugina ignaliniecius ir miesto svečius.

Igyvendinus projektą „Bendro naudojimo rekreacines teritorijos prie Mokyklos gatvės Ignalinoje kompleksiskas pertvarkymas ir pritaikymas turizmui“ rekonstruota krantinės ir valčių prieplaukos teritorija ties tiltu

rekonstruotas pėsčiųjų tiltas per Paplovinio ežerą

rengta asfalto dangos aikštelė nedientininkams ir vaikų žaidimo aikštelė

sutvarkyti esami pėsčiųjų takai ir įrengti nauji

rekonstruota teritorijos apšvietimas, pertvarkytas apželdinimas

pastatyta elektrifikuota aikštelė su tentu (lauko koncertams)

Projektas vykdytas pagal 2014 metų numerio 3 U. bei Europos regioninio plėtros fondo bei savivaldybės biudžeto lėšų. Tinkamų finansuoti išlaidų suma 633 390 lt, projekto vykdytojo lėšos 111 775 lt.

Pertvarkyta teritorija galės naudotis visi vietos gyventojai ir miesto svečiai, bus inicijuojama su poilsiu susijusių turizmo paslaugų plėtra. Siekiama, kad mūsų kurortinis miestas gyventojus ir dia atvykstančius lankytojus bei poilsiautojus džiugintų ne tik įdomiomis veiklomis, bet ir gražiai sutvarkytomis, įrengtomis viešosiomis erdvėmis.

Įvykdžiusi šį projektą Ignalinos rajono savivaldybės administracija tikisi prisidėti prie rajono gyventojų gyvenimo kokybės gerinimo, padidinti bendrą turistų susidomėjimą krašto gamtiniais, architektūriniais ir kitais turizmo išteklių. Sutvarkyta rekreacinė zona prie Paplovinio ežero prisidės prie visos Ignalinos krašto turizmo infrastruktūros plėtros ir sumažins sezoniskumo įtaką turizmo sektoriumi.

Park in Smalininkai



Landscape of urban territories – 3 localities

Old town territory of Jurbarkas town



The square in Zarasai town



Outcomes of the National Award

The possibility to enjoy high quality National landscapes of different types was given.

The methods of different types of landscape management were presented (protection, management, restoration, renewal, transformation).

The experience how society can influence on changes of they landscapes was spread.

The exhibition representing the best landscape management projects was prepared and presented to the municipalities.

Active participation in the competition of National Landscape Award convinces that Lithuanian people are not indifferent about the quality of landscape. Lithuania can be proud of having examples of good landscape management all over the country.

Our winner – Utena district Municipality Project „U-PARKS. U-TURN WE LOVE“



Some history and facts:

- Utena settlement is has counted 754 years, population of the city is 28 000 in 2012.
- There are 2 lakes and 4 valleys of small rivers
- During the period of Soviet Union the city has changed and in 1970-1990 became the center of industry of the Eastern region of Lithuania.
- Industrial town area was enlarged and exceeded former city territory several times.
- The quality of landscape was not controled enough at that time.
- The land restitution and privatization processe complicated the planning system.

For Lithuanian people the name of Utena associates with:



Lakes — Utena is the regional centre of Eastern Lithuania – there are about 1 thousand lakes in this region (Utena district has 185 lakes, forests cover about 29 % of the area)



Tradicional horserace



Tasty beer



Good quality knitwear

But the city have never been recognized for it high quality living environment and exemplary development of green spaces.



**Green surrounding
region.....**

....and industrial areas in the city (about 1970-1980)



The parks of Utena are formed on the steep slopes of the valleys of the rivers and wet, marshy shores of the lakes. Having not even one developed and adopted for people needs park, Utena district municipality during the period of eight years has completely designed and implemented 4 parks.

Abandon, full of rubbish, overgrown with low value shrubs green spaces were transformed into places of recreation and entertainment.

The project is long continuous work:

1. Dauniskis park (from 2005)
2. Vyžuona park (from 2010)
3. City garden park (from 2005)
4. Krašuona river residential areas (from 2009)

UTENA PARKS



1 - Dauniskis park
2 - Vyžuona park
3 - Town Gardens
4 - Krašuona riverside

An aerial photograph of a university campus. In the foreground, there are several large, multi-story brick and concrete apartment-style buildings arranged in a grid-like pattern. A wide road with a roundabout or interchange runs through the middle of the campus. To the left, a large blue lake is visible, surrounded by green trees and grass. The background shows a suburban residential area with houses and more greenery, extending to a horizon line under a clear sky. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

Utena project „U-parks. U-turn we love“ What is so special about it?

First – Utena stands out from other towns because in manufacturing city the new green spaces are in perfect harmony with the industrial areas.

Second – the actions of landscape protection, management and maintaining are long lasting and cover whole town area.

Third – project has been implemented primarily in respect of public needs and in consultation with the community.

Fourth – the project effectively increased the public's awareness of the importance of landscape.

The main goals of the Project were:

to protect the general structure of the landscape and the ecological network in the town;

to enhance aesthetic and recreational potential of the natural landscape and create high quality recreational areas;

to sustain accessibility to the main landscape values for all citizens and visitors;

to improve quality of water;

to build new connections and enhance better communication between the different parts of the city and the people;

to raise the quality of living spaces;

to improve the image of the town and the general climate for investment.

BEFORE:



AFTER:

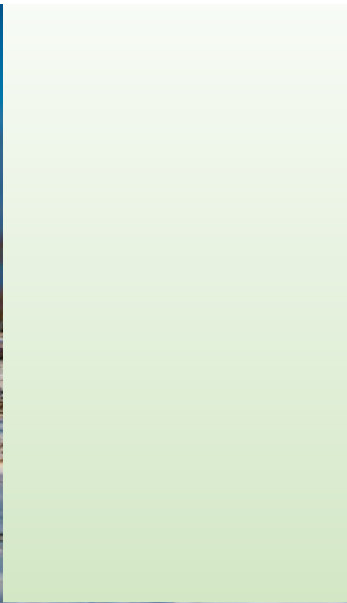


BEFORE and AFTER





Vyžuona park (2010)



Some facts

The project started in 2002 and continued till 2010.

About 8.7 million Euros, have been invested in the parks. The strongest finance support was given by European Union funds.

More than 7 km of lighted paths were created, 12 new bridges were built, drainage system installed in 10 ha, parkings, playgrounds, swimming places, water treatment instalations were created , ect.

Now Utena has 50 ha of developed parks and is planning 2 new parks – the actions are long lasting and cover the whole town area.

15 permanent jobs were created, during high season up to 25 people are working.

Achievements:

Best landscape architects of the Republic of Lithuania have highlighted the idea, that landscape is a common good and everyone is responsible for it.

With the changes of landscape, change of culture of participation in the decision making process changed too. The new parks (Vyžuonaičio and Krašuona) development projects were initiated in 2010 by the residents of surrounding areas; they are active participants in the process of planning and designing.

The prestige of the city has changed. The prices of the real estate have increased. Utena became a city where it is good to live in.

Young people don't want to leave or emigrate from Utena any more.

Future plans



Landscapes values for citizens and visitors









The most important people for project success:



A scenic view of a lake with a church steeple in the background. The church is white with a tall steeple topped with a cross. The background is filled with green trees and a clear blue sky. The foreground is a calm body of water reflecting the sky and the church.

GREEN CITY – A HAPPY CITY

**We invite you to sense the spirit of this city by
watching a film about Utena parks**

Enjoy it!

utena film\VIDEO TS\VTS 01 1.VOB

