



REPORT CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

ZVIAHEL URBAN TERRITORIAL COMMUNITY

CREATING
URBAN SPACES AS PUBLIC
LOCATIONS FOR SOCIAL
INTERACTION
AND RECOVERY

5 OCTOBER - 3 NOVEMBER 2024



**ZVIAHEL
CITY COUNCIL**



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Citizens' Assembly of the Zviahel community took place with the comprehensive expert, methodological and financial support of the Council of Europe project "Strengthening democratic resilience through civic participation during the war and in the post-war context in Ukraine".

The Council of Europe Office in Ukraine extends its sincere gratitude to the territorial community of Zviahel for its support and assistance in organising and holding the first Citizens' Assembly in Ukraine.

Special thanks go to Mr Mykola Borovets, Mayor of Zviahel, Ms Oksana Hvozdenko, Secretary of the Zviahel City Council, and Ms Iryna Hudz, Deputy Mayor of Zviahel, for their dedicated work and efforts in organising the Citizens' Assembly.

We deeply appreciate the experts, facilitators and volunteers who were actively involved in the process for their contribution and professionalism.

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Council of Europe Office in Ukraine, 2024



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PREFACE BY THE ZVIAHEL CITY COUNCIL



The urban territorial community of Zviahel in the Zviahel district of the Zhytomyr region spans 254 sq. km and had a population of 61,603 as of 2021. The community is home to the city of Zviahel and 5 starosta districts: Natalivka, Velykyi Molodkiv, Didovychi, Maistriv and Pylypovychi. Today, the community faces the important task of developing public spaces that would promote social interaction and the recovery of the urban environment.

Challenges

The Zviahel community is sorely lacking in modern public spaces that could meet the needs of various population groups, including children, adolescents, the elderly, veterans, people with reduced mobility, etc. The lack of inclusive and convenient recreational areas limits opportunities for social interaction, leisure and cultural life for the locals. This affects the overall satisfaction with life, social cohesion and development of the community as a whole.

Purpose of the Citizens' Assembly in Zviahel

The Citizens' Assembly in the Zviahel community aims to address the lack of quality public spaces by actively engaging residents in the planning and decision-making process. The primary objective is to identify priority areas of development and design the concept of open public spaces that would provide a comfortable, inclusive and attractive environment for all residents. As a tool, the Assembly is a platform where residents can express their ideas and feedback for improving public spaces, which will ultimately contribute to the transformation of the Zviahel community into an attractive place for living and recreation.

We are delighted that we managed to engage the residents of Zviahel and the surrounding villages and establish an active public discussion in order to create a comfortable, attractive and modern environment for living and recreation together.



Expected Outcomes

The Citizens' Assembly in the Zviahel community should lead to the following changes:

- **Improving the quality of life:** developing a concept for modern, comfortable and functional public spaces that will be accessible to all population groups.
- **Inclusive and barrier-free spaces:** ensuring equal access to public spaces and options for comfortable stay and recreation by different population groups together, including people with reduced mobility, people with disabilities, children, adolescents, the elderly, veterans, etc.
- **Strengthening interaction with the community:** improving social cohesion and developing mutual understanding between different population groups.
- **Strengthening the legitimacy of decisions:** decisions adopted through the Citizens' Assembly will be more legitimate if they are based on the proposals and needs of the residents themselves.

The recommendations developed are vital in order to make Zviahel a model community where every resident has access to high-quality urban spaces.

Furthermore, the Zviahel Community Development Strategy 2024–2030 was approved in July 2024. It was designed with the participation of the authorities, the public, CSOs and businesses together with experts from the Council of Europe project “Strengthening democratic resilience through civic participation during the war and in the post-war context in Ukraine”. The document outlines key tasks in all areas of community life, fostering comfortable conditions for business development, attracting youth and ensuring a high quality of life for all residents.

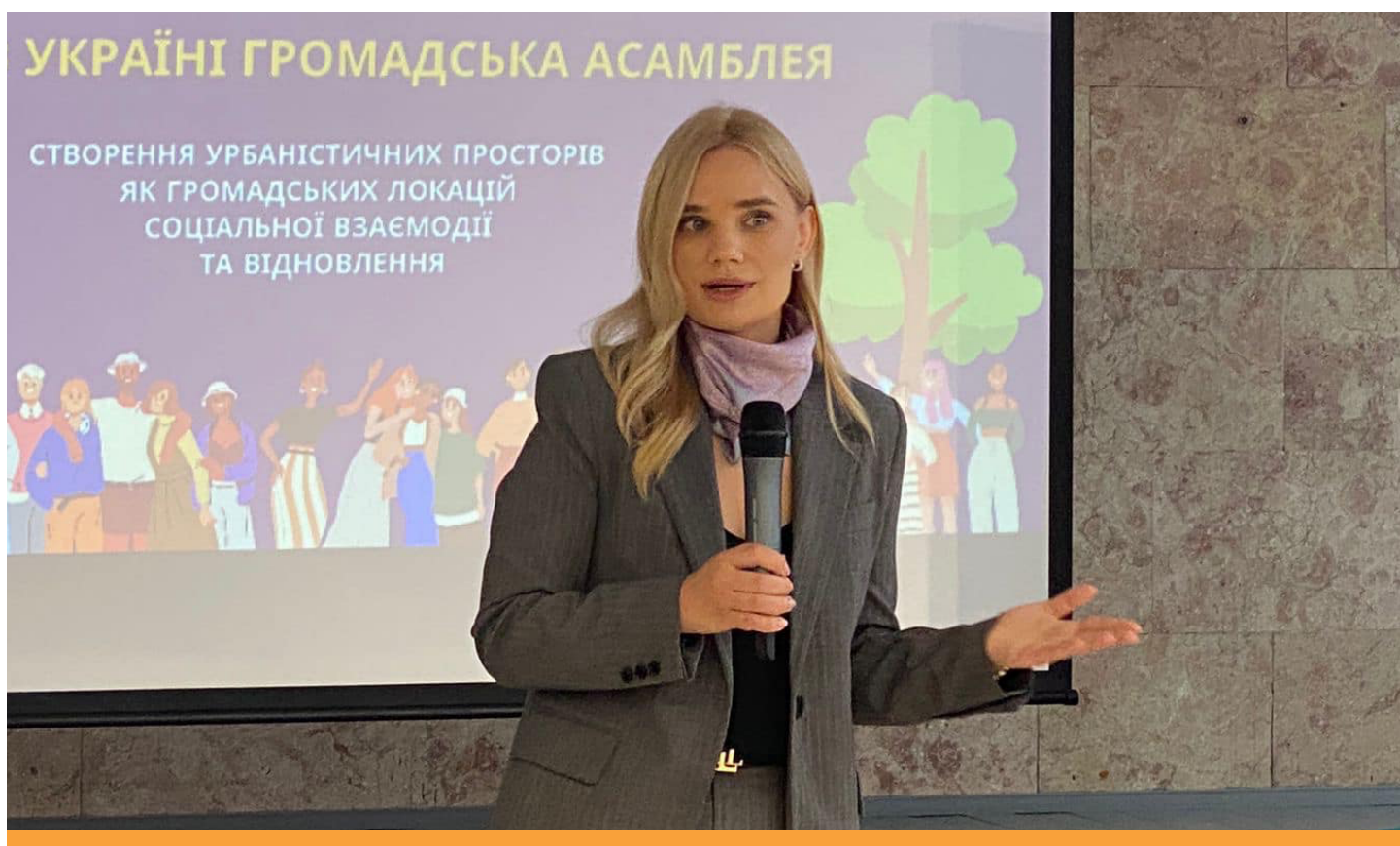
MYKOLA BOROVETS

Mayor

IRYNA HUDZ

Deputy Mayor





The Citizens' Assembly is a deliberative democracy tool that has already been successfully implemented in many countries across Europe and beyond, including Germany, Italy, France, Poland, Belgium, Canada, Australia, and the United States. **In Ukraine, however, it was held for the first time.** The Assembly was designed, prepared, and conducted in accordance with the [Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member states on deliberative democracy and international standards of participatory democracy](#).

The process was designed to ensure maximum transparency, actively involve community residents in decision-making, and develop well-rounded recommendations that address the concerns of a diverse range of stakeholders. The Citizens' Assembly has proven to be an effective platform for dialogue, enabling the community—supported by experts—to collaboratively develop **concrete proposals**.

The Citizens' Assembly in Zviahel **is a groundbreaking initiative that integrates best practices** from global Citizens' Assemblies while adapting them to the Ukrainian context. For the first time in Ukraine, residents—selected through a random and representative process—had the opportunity to deliberate on key community issues, engage in discussions, and collaborate with experts to find common ground. On a global scale, this project was also unprecedented, as it marked **the first-ever Citizens' Assembly held during wartime**, underscoring the resilience of democracy even in the most challenging circumstances.

Over the course of three weekends (sessions), participants developed a vision for the development of public spaces, formulated specific recommendations, and created an advocacy plan for relevant initiatives. The Citizens' Assembly produced proposals with the potential to shape local policies and drive meaningful

change. Notably, on December 19, 2024, during the 57th Session of the Zviahel City Council, local authorities approved both the **outcomes of the Citizens' Assembly and the** [Action Plan for implementing its recommendations](#), marking a significant step toward their realisation.

Equally important, the Assembly fostered stronger cooperation between local authorities and the community. The authorities expressed their commitment to engaging with the public, while residents gained a stronger voice in shaping the local agenda and policies. As a direct outcome of the Assembly, eight advocacy groups were formed, and the idea of establishing a civil society organisation (CSO) emerged. This CSO will focus on enhancing public spaces, securing funding, and participating in relevant initiatives.

The first Citizens' Assembly in Ukraine has proven highly effective as a tool for engaging citizens due to its inclusiveness and structured methodology. The Zviahel Assembly contributed to qualitative changes in the behaviours of both the authorities and the community, encouraging active civic participation in decision-making processes and strengthening the responsibility of residents for community development. The deliberation process also gave a boost to citizen cooperation, strengthened their

advocacy skills and laid the foundation for more sustainable and active civic participation.

We firmly believe that the experience of the Zviahel community will be scaled up to other communities in Ukraine that seek to implement innovative tools for involving citizens in decision-making. The success of the first Citizens' Assembly opens up prospects for the further development of deliberative democracy and its tools in Ukraine, as well as for enshrining them in legislation.

This report on the implementation of Ukraine's first Citizens' Assembly highlights the crucial role of civic participation and the impact of collaboration between authorities and the community in addressing challenges on the path to a sustainable democracy. We hope that Zviahel's experience will inspire other communities to actively participate in shaping local policies and encourage Ukrainian authorities at all levels to embrace the tools of deliberative democracy.

DARYNA SOKOLOVA

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"Strengthening democratic resilience through civic
participation during the war and in the post-war
context in Ukraine"*



WHAT IS A CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY?

Deliberative democracy is a process of direct discussion of policies or legislation among citizens. It is rooted in the idea of using deliberation (thoughtful, careful, reasoned discussions) to seek solutions to social problems, as well as the capacity for finding a middle ground to resolve conflicts and address sensitive issues. Its proponents see deliberative democracy not only as a way to secure better public policy outcomes, but also as a way to strengthen public trust in democratic processes in general.

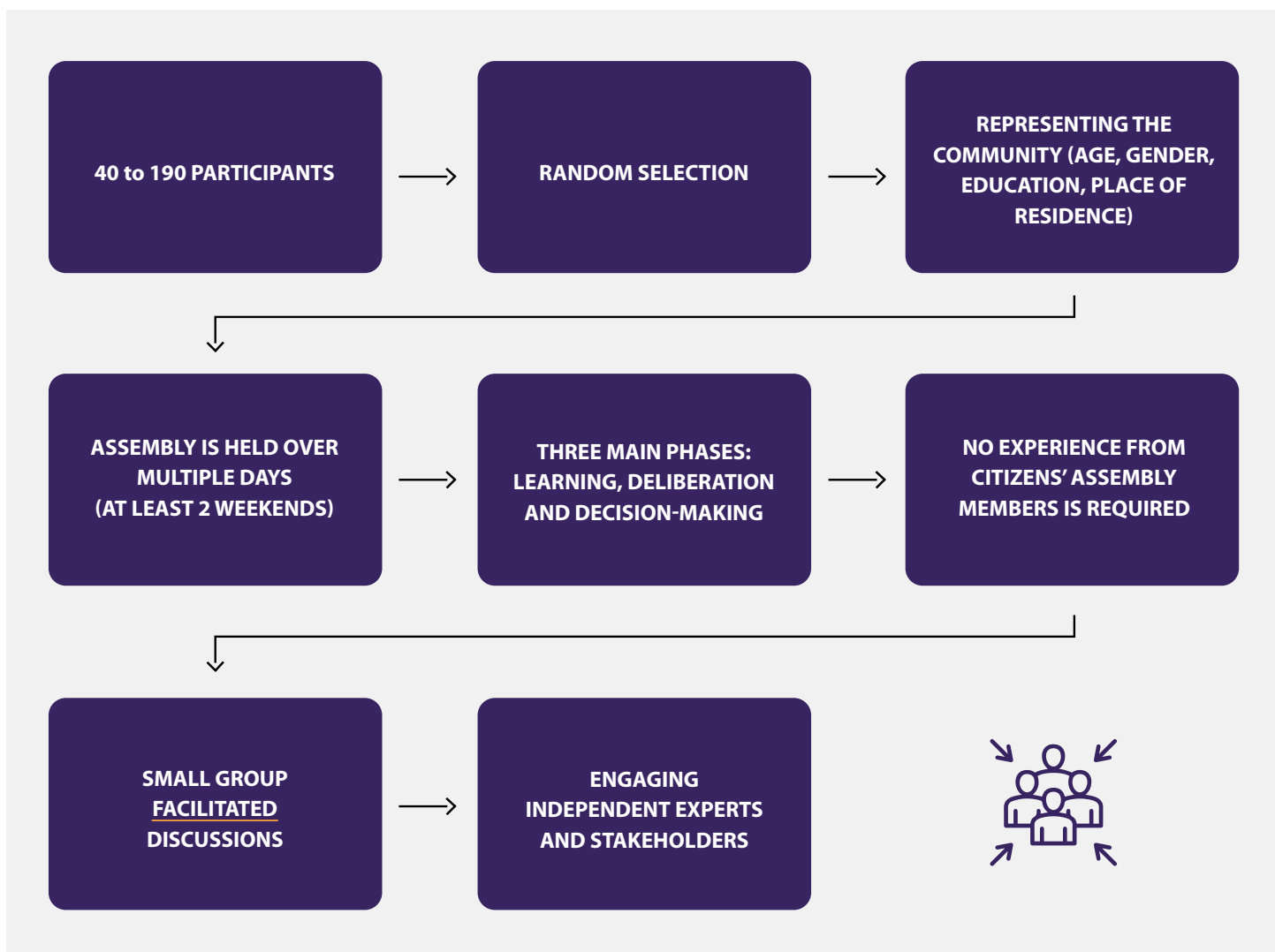
Over the years, through the efforts of policy-makers, researchers and civil society, numerous models of deliberative processes have been designed, tested and implemented globally. Among the most common models is the **Citizens' Assembly**.

A **Citizens' Assembly** consists of a group of people (usually 40 to 150) representing a certain community (city, region, country). Members are selected randomly but ensuring that the selected group reflects the community in terms of key demographics (gender, age, education, place of residence, etc.). Assembly members thoroughly study an issue, engage in facilitated discussions, and collaboratively develop recommendations for decision-makers, providing valuable input into the policymaking process.

A Citizens' Assembly typically takes place over multiple sessions, lasting at least two or three meetings. Each session spans one or two days. The process begins with participants exploring the issue at hand by receiving key information and data from experts and learning about various stakeholder perspectives. Guided by trained facilitators—who help structure discussions and foster consensus—participants engage in dialogue, analyse the facts, and explore potential solutions. In the final stage, the Assembly formulates consensus-based recommendations and submits them to local authorities for consideration and decision-making.

Advantages of the Citizens' Assembly:

- Strengthening the legitimacy of political decisions.
- Developing potential solutions to controversial issues.
- Studying and discussing the issues on the agenda of the Citizens' Assembly, as well as hearing opposing viewpoints, brings citizens closer together and promotes mutual understanding, solidarity and cooperation.
- After a long discussion, members of the Citizens' Assembly formulate their proposals together rather than as individuals.
- Awareness of the authorities about the perspectives and experiences of citizens and understanding the public consensus on problematic issues.
- Spotlighting issues of community importance.



PLANNING AND ORGANISATION

Organising the Citizens' Assembly in the Zviahel community is a complex process that has been ongoing since April 2024. In March 2024, the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine and the Zviahel community signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) on the implementation of the Citizens' Assembly, with expert, methodological, and financial support from the Council of Europe. The planning process spanned several months and was carried out jointly by the Council of Europe project and the Zviahel community, with support from international expert [Eva Bordos](#), lead expert [Mariia Hryshchenko](#), and lead facilitator [Nataliia Chornohub](#).

In preparing for the Citizens' Assembly in Zviahel, the organising team drew extensively on the experience of previous Assemblies in Hungary—specifically in Érd, Budapest, and Miskolc—as well as best practices from similar initiatives at the local level in other countries.

At the initial stage, the Council of Europe project selected three coordinators from local civil society: [Larysa Kapchynska](#), [Olha Shyrokoipoias](#), and [Liudmyla Kharchenko](#). A series of training sessions was conducted for both the [Assembly coordinators](#), and representatives of Zviahel's local authorities to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills for organising and implementing all stages of the Citizens' Assembly.



The topic for the Assembly was selected through a multi-stage process. First, local authorities identified three potential topics. Then, a Stakeholder Forum was held to discuss them, bringing together representatives from civil society, CSOs, businesses, students, volunteers. Facilitated by a Council of Europe project expert, the Forum concluded with an open vote in July 2024, determining the final topic: **“Creating urban spaces as public locations for social interaction and recovery.”**

In May and June 2024, a comprehensive communication plan was developed. It included crafting key messages, designing visual materials (banners, posters, leaflets, etc.), identifying communication channels, and preparing invitations for potential participants. Active and transparent communication ensured the community was well informed about the purpose and objectives of the Citizens’ Assembly, fostering strong civic engagement.



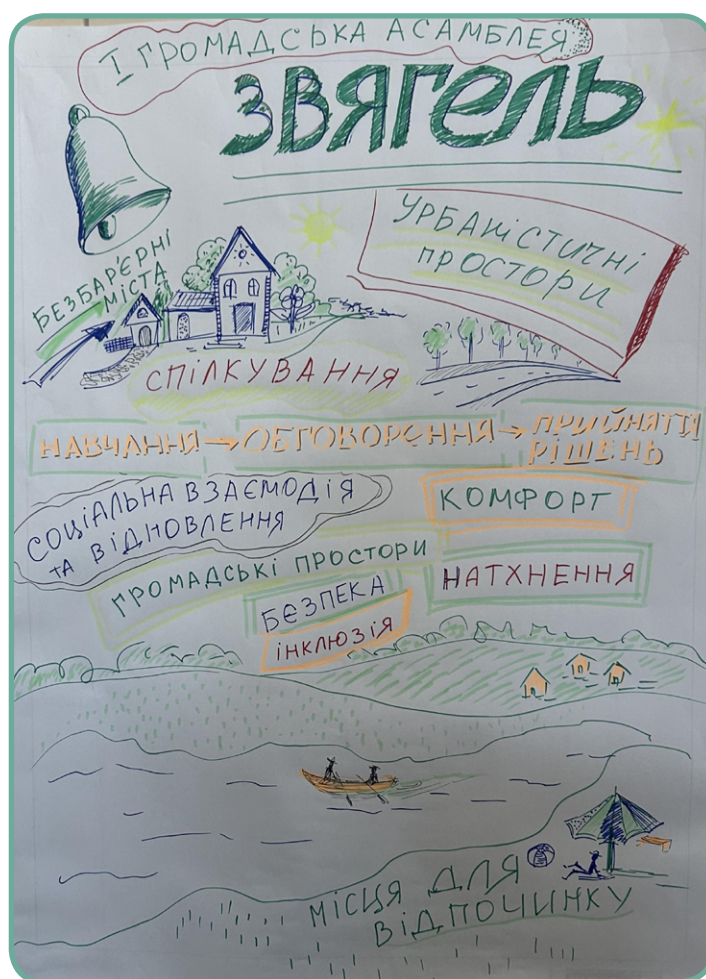
At the same time, the City Council established a **Supervisory Committee** comprising representatives from political parties, the education sector, CSOs, and local opinion leaders. Its role was to ensure that the entire preparation and implementation process of the Assembly remained inclusive and transparent.

After several months of preparation, the first Citizens' Assembly of the Zviahel community took place in the open space of the IDEA Hub and at Gymnasium No. 5 of the Zviahel City Council. The sessions were held over three weekends: **October 5–6, October 19–20, and November 2–3, 2024.**

The Council of Europe project engaged facilitators who had previously been trained by international expert **Christiane Amici-Raboud** to support the Assembly. Their training covered moderation and dialogue techniques, as well as methods for organising group work, specifically tailored to the unique format of a Citizens' Assembly. The lead expert of the Citizens' Assembly, **Mariia Hryshchenko**, oversaw the professional coordination of the Assembly and developed the agenda. Lead facilitator **Nataliia Chornohub** managed a team of eight independent facilitators, each responsible for guiding discussions at separate tables. The facilitation team—**Olha Hvozdk, Bohdana Beschastna, Uliana Dzhurliak, Mariana Kuzemska-Danyliuk, Borys Pakholiuk, Serhii Harashchuk, Nataliia Malynovska, and Tetiana Popova**—ensured productive group work, adherence to pre-defined guidelines, and responsiveness to participants' needs throughout the three weekends of the Citizens' Assembly. Facilitators supported participants across all six days, helping structure discussions, refine the wording of recommendations, and prepare them for the final vote. The lead facilitator also ensured the Assembly adhered to established guidelines, developed a detailed agenda for each session, and moderated specific sessions.

Visual facilitation techniques were also employed at the Citizens' Assembly in Zviahel. Sketches were created in real time by students from the art department of the Zviahel School of Arts, along with their teachers, **Olena Bondarenko** and **Olha Shkabara**. Positioned near the discussion tables, the artists visually captured the participants' ideas. This effective technique allowed everyone to easily recall the key concepts expressed during the Assembly sessions.

In order to drive the widest possible engagement, including from abroad, proposals and opinions on the Assembly topic could be submitted on the community website via the *Online Proposal Form*. 54 proposals were thus submitted. The proposals were collected online from 21 August to 4 October 2024. Feedback from a total of 54 people was received, 44 of whom had specific proposals. The appeals contained from 1 to 11 proposals. They were analysed and considered during the discussions of the Citizens' Assembly. A list of proposals is provided at the end of this Report.



The Council of Europe project conducted a three-phase survey: first, among those who received invitations before the Citizens' Assembly; second, among selected members just before the Assembly; and third, among participants after the Assembly. The survey aimed to assess the opinions of the members of the Citizens' Assembly on the instrument, its process, outcomes of the Citizens' Assembly and other related issues. The survey results are presented at the end of this report.

At the end of the third session, the youngest participant, Maksym, and the oldest, Nelia, planted a tree in downtown Zviahel to mark this historic event—the first Citizens' Assembly in Ukraine.

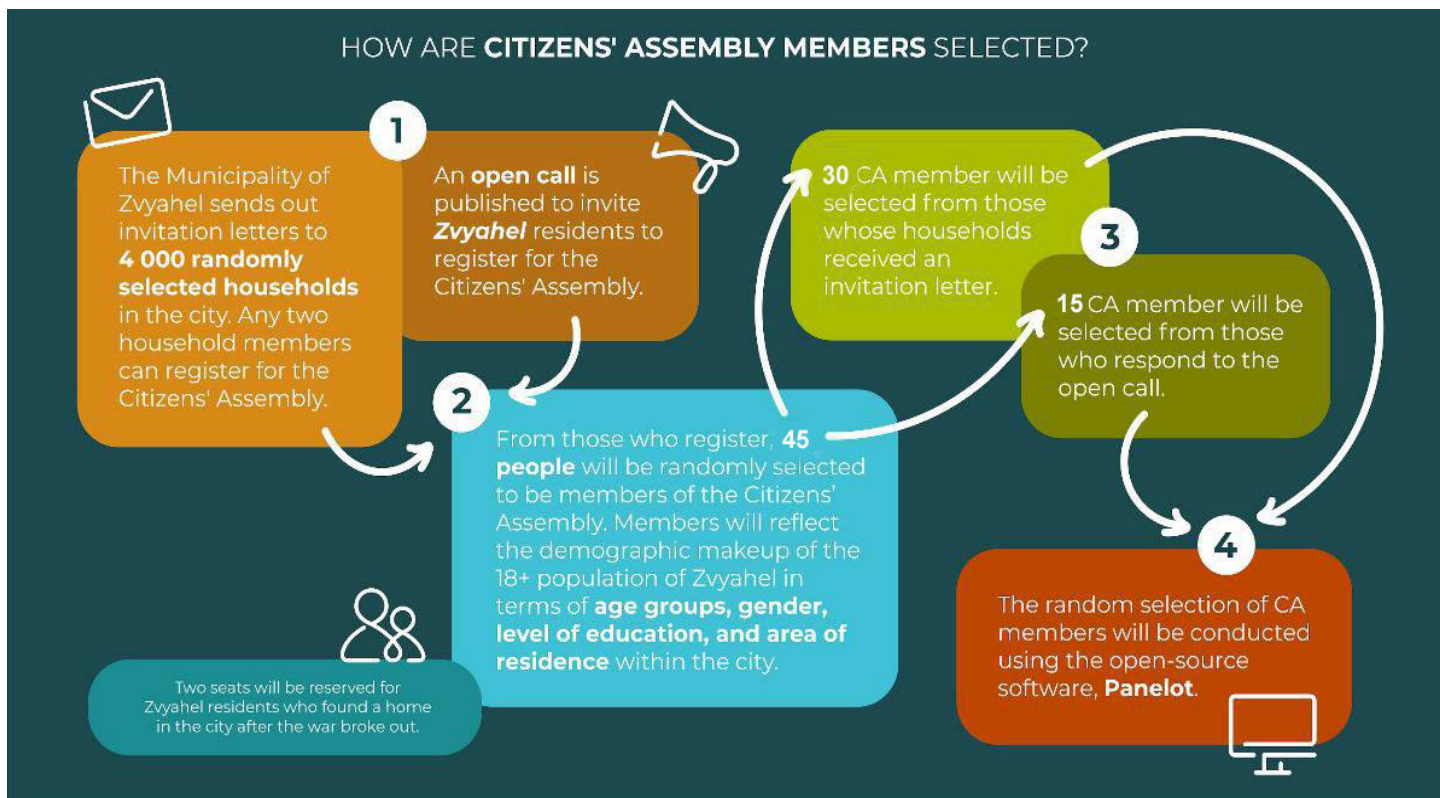


Video on the Citizens' Assembly in Zviahel:
<https://vimeo.com/1045285103>



SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY OF THE ZVIAHEL COMMUNITY

A key methodological aspect of organising the Citizens' Assembly is the step-by-step random selection of participants. This approach ensures equal opportunities for all community members to be chosen for participation. Special emphasis is placed on involving residents who do not typically participate in decision-making processes.



STAGES OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

Following guidelines developed in collaboration with Council of Europe international expert Eva Bordos — who contributed to the development and coordination of Hungary's first Citizens' Assemblies—the Zviahel City Council distributed 4,000 invitations in August 2024. These invitations were sent to randomly selected households, inviting residents to sign up for the Citizens' Assembly.

Special rules were established to ensure the random selection of households invited to sign up for the Citizens' Assembly. In total, the community was divided into 9 districts (in line with the 2020 electoral districts). 4,000 invitations were distributed proportionately based on the number of residents aged 18 and older in each district, ensuring a fair allocation among Zviahel and the villages within the territorial community.

Within each district, invitations were distributed randomly by selecting private houses and apartments, thereby determining the households that would receive them. The selection process was tailored to each district, considering population density and housing types.

ЗВЯГІЛЬСЬКА МІСЬКА РАДА
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Шановний(-а) жителю(-ко) Звягельської громади!

Щиро вітаю Вас із тим, що Ви стали одним/однією з 4 000 мешканців/мешканок громади, яких запрошено до участі в першій Громадській асамблеї!

Ваша думка та голос можуть стати ключовими у вирішенні важливого для Звягельської громади питання!

У жовтні-листопаді 2024 року наша громада разом із проєктом Ради Європи «Зміцнення стійкості демократичних процесів через громадську участь під час війни та в післявоєнний період» організовують **першу в Україні Громадську асамблею**.

Громадська асамблея (ГА) – це інноваційний інструмент залучення мешканців і мешканок до прийняття рішень у громаді, що успішно застосовується у багатьох країнах світу. Жителі та жительки Звягельської громади мають честь стати першими українцями, хто пройде цей захопливий шлях!

Сьогодні це запрошення отримали **4000 мешканців та мешканок Звягельської громади**. Воно було надіслано випадковим чином. З усіх осіб, які зареєструються до участі в ГА, буде обрано 45 людей методом жеребкування за спеціальною методикою, щоб в результаті було представлено громаду за основними демографічними показниками (вік, стать, освіта тощо). А далі – вони разом напрацюють рекомендації для влади з визначеного питання.

Як все відбуватиметься на сесіях: члени ГА за допомогою експертів вивчають тему, за допомогою фасилітаторів висловлюють свої думки у групах, формують консолідоване рішення для влади.

Тема: Створення урбаністичних просторів як громадських локацій соціальної взаємодії та відновлення.

Дати: 5-6 жовтня, 19-20 жовтня, 2-3 листопада 2024 (з 9:00 до 17:00).

Важливо! Буде забезпечено обід і кави-перерви (а також трансфер до місця проведення в разі необхідності). Учасники ГА отримають пам'ятні подарунки як подяку за присвячені громаді час і зусилля, а також дипломи.

Ми хочемо почути голос кожного/кожної! Тож запрошуємо Вас зареєструватися – до 15 вересня 2024 року! Також будемо вдячні, якщо Ви відповісте на декілька запитань про цей новий формат нашої взаємодії

Зареєструватися:

Більше інформації:

Опитування:

Також, щоб зареєструватися, ви можете зателефонувати за номерами 0-800-30-09-97, +38 067 410 01 05 або звернутися у каб. №24 Звягельської міської ради (II поверх, вул. Шевченка, 16, в будні дні з 9:00 до 17:15).

*Цей лист є запрошенням стати кандидатом на участь у ГА для будь-яких двох осіб, які проживають у Вашому домогосподарстві (віком від 18 років).

З повагою,
Звягельський міський голова
Микола Боровець





Moreover, all interested residents could sign up independently through an open online form on the city council website if they were not among those who received an invitation.

REGISTRATION

Those who received an invitation or wished to sign up through an open form had time from 8:00 on August 21 to 23:59 on September 15 to [sign up for the Citizens' Assembly](#). During the registration period, the Zviahel City Council opened a special hotline which, along with the contact details of the Zviahel City Council, was available to potential participants to ask questions, receive technical assistance with registration or sign up if online registration was not available to them.

Throughout the registration period, the Zviahel City Council used multiple channels to inform citizens about the Citizens' Assembly. Local authorities regularly promoted the initiative and encouraged participation through the city council's website and Facebook page, with the mayor making two video addresses to the public. They also displayed billboards, city lights, and posters at transport stops and distributed informational leaflets. Additionally, local media actively covered the Citizens' Assembly.

During the registration period, **437 applications** were submitted to participate in the Assembly.

REPRESENTATION

One of the core principles of the Citizens' Assembly is the random selection of participants from those who signed up. The selected members must reflect the adult population of the community (over the age of 18) in terms of demographics, such as gender, age, education, and place of residence. As a result, the participants of the Assembly form a miniature model of the entire community. To ensure representative selection, data from the State Statistics Service, as well as information on the number of registered voters by electoral district as of 2020, were used.

Following the registration period, the participants were categorized to closely mirror the community's adult population by age, gender, education, and area of residence. From this pool, 45 core members (30 from those who received invitations and 15 from those who did not) and 12 additional members of the Citizens' Assembly were selected through a random draw using open-source software, Panelot. Notably, 2 places were reserved for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

DRAW PROCESS

The experts from the Council of Europe project conducted a random draw using Panelot, an open-source software, to select the members of the future Citizens' Assembly in the community. This software generates a random sample from the list of participants, ensuring the necessary demographic quotas (gender, age, education, district, IDP status, etc.) are met.

During the registration period, 437 applications were received for participation in the Citizens' Assembly. In accordance with the guidelines, two applications were deemed invalid—one from a resident of another community and one from a minor. These two applications were excluded during the selection (draw) process, as including them would violate the principles of the Citizens' Assembly. Additionally, two members of the Zviahel City Council were excluded from the list.

The selection process, facilitated by the Council of Europe expert using the open-source software Panelot, involved entering the data required for participant selection anonymously. Apart from the unique identifier assigned to each registrant, the software only “knew” basic demographic data.

In addition to the 45 core members of the Assembly, 12 additional members were randomly selected as substitutes in case any of the selected core members dropped out. Both core and additional members were chosen in the same manner.

Відбір учасників та учасниць Громадських асамблей

ЯК ОБИРАЮТЬСЯ ЧЛЕНИ ГРОМАДСЬКОЇ АСАМБЛЕЇ?

1. Мислярка розсилає запрошення 4000 домогосподарств громади, обираючи випадковим чином. Кожен учасник отримує лист з інформацією про участь в Громадській Асамблеї.
2. В усіх осіб, які зареєструються, випадковим чином за гендером, віком, освітою, районом, статусом IDP, вибирають 45 членів Громадської Асамблеї, які будуть працювати у робочих групах протягом 10 днів по: **ідеї, статтю, рішення, акції та робочі пропозиції**.
3. 30 членів ГА будуть обрані з тих осіб, які зареєструвалися, отримавши лист запрошення.
4. Вибір членів ГА випадковим чином буде використаний для подальшого призначення робочих груп і запланованих зустрічей.

Panelot 1. Compute a Civic Lottery 2. Draw a Panel Learn More

Everyone deserves a fair chance

Panelot (panel selection by lot) is a not-for-profit system for randomly selecting citizens' panels in a way that is representative of the population and fair to volunteers.

Step 1: Compute a Civic Lottery Generate a fair distribution of your community, quickly and easily.

Step 2: Draw a Panel Select a random panel from a representative list.

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

Demographics	Residents of the community	Persons who signed up for the Assembly	Target number for selection (participant sampling model)	Selected members of the Citizens' Assembly who agreed to participate	Selected "alternative participants" who agreed to participate	Participants who participated in the voting on the proposals
Gender						
female	51%	349 (80%)	23 (51%)	23 (51%)	5 (42%)	22 (49%)
male	49%	86 (20%)	22 (49%)	22 (49%)	7 (58%)	23 (51%)
Age						
18-29	13%	63 (14%)	6 (13%)	6 (13%)	1 (8%)	4 (9%)
30-49	38%	244 (56%)	17 (38%)	17 (38%)	5 (42%)	15 (33%)
50-64	31%	100 (23%)	14 (31%)	14 (31%)	4 (33%)	18 (40%)
65+	18%	28 (6%)	8 (18%)	8 (18%)	2 (17%)	8 (18%)
District of residence						
1	20%	104 (24%)	9 (20%)	9 (20%)	2 (17%)	11 (24%)
2	22%	80 (18%)	10 (22%)	5 (11%)	1 (8%)	5 (11%)
3	4%	62 (14%)	2 (4%)	7 (16%)	3 (25%)	9 (20%)
4	7%	32 (7%)	3 (7%)	5 (11%)	1 (8%)	5 (11%)
5	11%	27 (6%)	5 (11%)	3 (7%)	1 (8%)	1 (2%)
6	11%	34 (8%)	5 (11%)	4 (9%)	1 (8%)	5 (11%)
7	4%	32 (7%)	2 (4%)	2 (4%)	0	2 (4%)
8	9%	21 (5%)	4 (9%)	4 (9%)	0	2 (4%)
9	11%	43 (10%)	5 (11%)	6 (13%)	3 (25%)	5 (11%)
Education						
Secondary education	42%	60 (14%)	19 (42%)	14 (31%)	4 (33%)	10 (22%)
Vocational secondary education	27%	64 (15%)	12 (27%)	11 (24%)	2 (17%)	10 (22%)
Higher education	31%	311 (71%)	14 (31%)	20 (44%)	6 (50%)	25 (56%)
IDP status						
Not an IDP		423 (97%)	43 (96%)	42 (93%)	11 (92%)	43 (96%)
IDP		12 (3%)	2 (4%)	3 (7%)	1 (8%)	2 (4%)
Those who received an invitation by mail						
yes		203 (47%)	30 (67%)	29 (64%)	7 (58%)	29 (64%)
no		232 (53%)	15 (33%)	16 (36%)	5 (42%)	16 (36%)

The development of proposals for the modernisation and improvement of public spaces in the Zviahel community during the Citizens' Assembly was facilitated through a step-by-step approach. Following the established guidelines, the ideas were developed in several key stages:

SESSION 1:

- Introduction to the issue and training;
- Assessment of the existing community infrastructure, analysis and assessment of public spaces in the Zviahel community, identification of the community's strengths and challenges related to meeting public needs in recreational areas, green spaces, and urban areas;
- Mapping of popular public spaces as well as those in need of attention and modernisation;
- Defining key principles for the future modernisation and development of public spaces in the Zviahel community;
- Defining and identifying key issues and spaces for further work at the Citizens' Assembly.

SESSION 2:

- Defining a vision for the development of the community and public spaces;
- Coming up with ideas for the development of selected public spaces: Discussing the current state of the selected spaces, identifying users and their needs in these public spaces, initial brainstorming on the development of the spaces;
- Generating ideas for the development of public spaces in the community based on selected issues: Assessing the audience and its needs, evaluating the current state, identifying key problems, and conducting initial brainstorming to address these problems and meet the needs of the audience.

SESSION 3:

- Finalising recommendations in selected areas;
- Discussing the developed recommendations with public officials;
- Outlining the first steps for implementing the outcomes of the Citizens' Assembly;
- Prioritising the developed recommendations for the development of public spaces in the Zviahel community.



SESSION 1: LEARNING PHASE (5–6 OCTOBER 2024)

The first session of the Citizens' Assembly included numerous expert presentations and lively discussions on the issue. The main objective in developing the program and schedule was to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of key aspects related to the development of public spaces. Assembly members explored the needs of different population groups, identified the shortcomings of existing spaces, examined modern urban planning trends, and listened to expert presentations on how to design spaces that are comfortable, inclusive, and barrier-free.

The program provided practical guidance on creating a barrier-free environment, modern landscape design based on sustainable development principles, and efficient resource use to reduce costs for maintaining spaces and improving urban areas. Additionally, public officials presented key priorities for developing public spaces in alignment with the Community Development Strategy.

A key aspect was the active involvement of participants in discussions. After each 20-minute presentation by the experts, participants worked in small groups (7–8 people) to analyse the presented ideas and had the opportunity to ask questions to clarify or expand on the topic.



At the end of the session, participants were also given the opportunity to invite additional experts, emphasising their active involvement in the decision-making process and ensuring they had all the necessary information for the Assembly's next steps.

While working in eight groups, with the support of facilitators, the participants compiled a list of the strengths of the Zviahel community and identified key challenges in the development and maintenance of public spaces.



1. SPORTS FACILITIES

- ✓ Swimming pool
- ✓ Football pitches
- ✓ Tennis courts
- ✓ Cycling paths
- ✓ School sports grounds (No3, No5, No11)
- ✓ Avangard Stadium



2. ОСВІТНІ ТА КУЛЬТУРНІ ЗАКЛАДИ

- ✓ Educational institutions (schools, gymnasiums, colleges)
- ✓ Sports schools
- ✓ Art schools
- ✓ Lesya Ukrainka Cultural Centre
- ✓ Lesya Ukrainka Museum
- ✓ Amateur Art Theatre
- ✓ Veselka Children's Ensemble



3. SOCIAL SERVICES AND CENTRES

- ✓ Social centre
- ✓ Territorial centre
- ✓ Transparent office (Administrative Services Centre)
- ✓ Rehabilitation centre for children with disabilities



4. RECREATIONAL AREAS AND PUBLIC SPACES

- ✓ Beaches (children's beach)
- ✓ Recreational areas of the Sluch and Smolka Rivers
- ✓ City park
- ✓ Eco-park around Gymnasium No. 5
- ✓ Forestry recreation area
- ✓ Chornobytsi Square
- ✓ Slava Alley
- ✓ Fortress site
- ✓ Square near the Taras Shevchenko statue
- ✓ Suspension bridge



5. ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES

- ✓ Cafés in the park (My Coffee, Turrin)
- ✓ Network of cafés and restaurants
- ✓ 3D cinema near the hospital



7. TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

- ✓ Public transport that runs on time
- ✓ LED traffic message board and traffic schedule application
- ✓ Taxi network



6. ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPING

- ✓ Clean streets and timely garbage collection
- ✓ Public drinking water fountains
- ✓ Many green areas and natural landscapes





PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS

- ✓ Lack of parks; only one in the city centre but none in the suburbs
- ✓ Run-down parks
- ✓ Central Park needs reconstruction
- ✓ Park behind the Officers' House needs landscaping
- ✓ Lack of a well-maintained embankment in the Fortress Island area
- ✓ Lack of a holistic concept for the embankment landscaping
- ✓ Lack of recreation areas, especially in remote neighbourhoods (*Lubchytsia, Karier, Druzhba, Zeleni*)
- ✓ Lack of dog walking areas
- ✓ Lack of a mini-zoo
- ✓ Recreational area near the village of Maistrova Volia needs development



WATER SUPPLY AND ENVIRONMENT

- ✓ Low quality of drinking water provided by the water utility
- ✓ Polluted water in rivers
- ✓ Lack of alternative sources of drinking water (*public water fountains*)
- ✓ Lack of separate garbage collection



LEISURE AND COMMUNICATION

- ✓ Few leisure activities for the elderly and the youth
- ✓ Not enough venues for young people where they could gather and socialise
- ✓ No volunteer organisations
- ✓ No malls (*people travel to Rivne for go-karting and to Zhytomyr for the ice rink*)
- ✓ Winter entertainment (*ice rink*)
- ✓ Pitches for team sports (*volleyball, basketball*)



CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

- ✓ Few cycle paths; it is dangerous to cycle around the city
- ✓ Cycling infrastructure needs to be expanded



SPORTS FACILITIES

- ✓ Small variety of sports clubs
- ✓ No swimming pool for adults or children
- ✓ A year-round swimming pool or water park is needed
- ✓ Pitches for team sports



INFRASTRUCTURE AND LANDSCAPING

- ✓ Condition of roads and pavements (*poor pavements, lack of benches*)
- ✓ Avangard Stadium needs reconstruction (*running tracks, seats*)
- ✓ Pedestrian zones in neighbourhoods need improvement
- ✓ Lack of parking system
- ✓ No municipal tow truck service
- ✓ Lack of Druzhba — Lubchytsia connection
- ✓ Poor street roads in the villages of Didovychi and Borysivka
- ✓ Lack of uniform design and size of private fences, which undermines the overall appearance of local public spaces
- ✓ Lack of shelter for pets



HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION

- ✓ Lack of facilities providing medical and rehabilitation services for military personnel
- ✓ Need for additional school education (*lack of electives due to lack of funds*)





SPACES NEAR HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

- ✓ Convenient navigation that reflects the community's identity: Adding information signs, QR codes, etc. about historical value
- ✓ Involving residents and developing volunteer activities to preserve and spotlight landmarks
- ✓ Archaeological research before reconstruction



PEDESTRIAN ZONES, STREETS AND SQUARES

- ✓ Barrier-free spaces, accessibility, universal design
- ✓ Implementation of an effective system of fines for violating rules in public spaces
- ✓ Mandatory involvement of the community in the development of the spaces (*e.g. public consultations*)
- ✓ Prioritising walking and cycling (*cycling zones*)



SPACES IN RURAL AREAS

- ✓ Barrier-free accessibility
- ✓ Involving local residents prior to implementing projects
- ✓ Considering the interests of the locals when creating and modernising spaces
- ✓ Creating opportunities for leisure throughout the day, including in the evening (extending the opening hours of establishments)
- ✓ Overgrowth removal, clean-up



PARKS, SQUARES

- ✓ Inclusive and barrier-free spaces
- ✓ Adaptation to climate change Quality care for greenery, e.g. lawns with sprinkler systems
- ✓ Creating ecosystems and biodiversity, including multi-level and perennial plants
- ✓ Benches with integrated rubbish cans
- ✓ Creating opportunities for different groups to spend time together, including zoning of spaces, but open for everybody
- ✓ Places for walking pets
- ✓ Safety: Vandal resistant lighting, video surveillance

During the first session of the Citizens' Assembly, participants mapped neglected and dangerous areas that required attention, as well as locations where they typically spend their free time and seek entertainment. After summarising the proposals from all groups, following the established guidelines for group work and individual ideas, **a list of public spaces and issues that needed attention, care, and improvement by local self-government was developed:**

PUBLIC SPACES	ISSUES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suspension bridge and the area around it across the mill (<i>Smolka River</i>) 2. "Ostrivets" Island 3. The Fortress Embankment towards the island (<i>left side of the embankment</i>) 4. Park of Culture and Recreation, central alley (<i>entrance area</i>) 5. Park of Culture and Recreation, the entire territory of the park 6. Village of Maistrova Volia — creation of a multifunctional youth space 7. Village of Didovychi — creation of a space near the Cultural Centre and stadium 8. Sports venue between the villages of Velykyi Molodkiv and Hrud 9. Park of Culture and Recreation (<i>memorial side</i>) 10. Embankment from the central city beach to Druzhby Street 11. Embankment upstream from the beach, right bank 12. The Smolka District — water park 13. Banks of the Smolka River 14. Provalka Recreational Zone (<i>Smolka River</i>) 15. Morske District — Lypova Alley — square/recreation area 16. Lesya Ukrainka Square 17. Memorial Square 18. Playground on Hranitna Street 19. Prison 20. Pedestrian zone connecting Kyivska Street to the Dytiachyi Svit Department Store 21. Hospital — rehabilitation centre 22. Stone mushroom — natural landmark 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing guidelines for research, engagement and monitoring when designing a concept for the improvement of public spaces 2. Parking system 3. Developing rules for the maintenance and landscaping of green areas 4. Developing a concept for high-quality pedestrian space in the city 5. Developing a plan for a network of sports venues for various activities 6. Developing concepts for establishing small indoor recreation spaces 7. Equipping open multifunctional areas, stages for dancing, yoga (<i>especially for the elderly</i>) 8. Creating a network of cycling pedestrian routes 9. Developing and implementing rules for landscaping and architecture 10. Locating and creating spaces for interaction between children and people of all ages 11. Developing principles for infrastructure maintenance 12. Developing rules and setting up public toilets 13. Equipping equal access to drinking water in public places 14. Ensuring safety in public spaces <i>€</i> (<i>lighting, video surveillance, etc.</i>) 15. Engaging youth in the creation and development of public spaces in rural areas 16. Developing a concept for creating a sports and recreation area in rural areas 17. Developing a concept and implementing the principles of accessibility, barrier-free spaces and safety 18. Analysing user needs and streamlining embankment services 19. Cleaning the riverbed and improving water quality (<i>ensuring control and monitoring</i>) 20. Creating spaces for psychological recovery and improving mental health 21. Organising a leisure system and spaces for teenagers 22. Developing and implementing rules of conduct and spaces for walking pets



The members of the Citizens' Assembly selected **four priority issues for the development of public spaces and four specific public spaces** to focus on for more detailed recommendations. This decision was based on consultations with experts and public officials, as well as a preliminary analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the Zviahel community.

Participants chose issues and spaces from a broad list formed in the previous stage through voting. The selection criteria included three issues related to urban areas or the community as a whole, and one issue related to rural areas, as well as three urban public spaces and one rural space. This approach was proposed to ensure the balanced development of the community. These ideas formed the foundation for a comprehensive set of proposals that were developed by the end of the Assembly.

Following the discussions and group work, the members of the Citizens' Assembly individually **voted for the following four priority spaces in the community:**

- Park of Culture and Recreation, central alley, entrance area
- Park of Defenders of Ukraine *(near the Officers' House)*
- Embankment. Upstream from the beach *(right bank)*
- Village of Maistrova Volia. Creation of a multifunctional youth space

Four issues were also selected **for further development of recommendations, including:**

- Parking system in the community;
- Engaging youth in the creation and development of public spaces in rural areas;
- Cleaning the riverbed and improving water quality;
- Creating spaces for psychological recovery and enhancing mental health.



SESSION 2: DELIBERATION (19–20 OCTOBER 2024)

The second session began with presentations from experts during a panel discussion titled “Life in Public Spaces: Creating Inspiring Events and Co-Creation Practices.” The participants discussed ideas for hosting events that drive community engagement and foster co-creation in public spaces. They also listened to presentations on tactical urbanism and learned strategies for involving residents in active space management.

To shape a vision for the future of the Zviahel community, the participants of the Citizens’ Assembly created **future scenarios by designing the covers of globally recognized magazines, such as Forbes and Vogue.** This exercise led to the development of a list of common conceptual ideas that summarized the participants’ work:

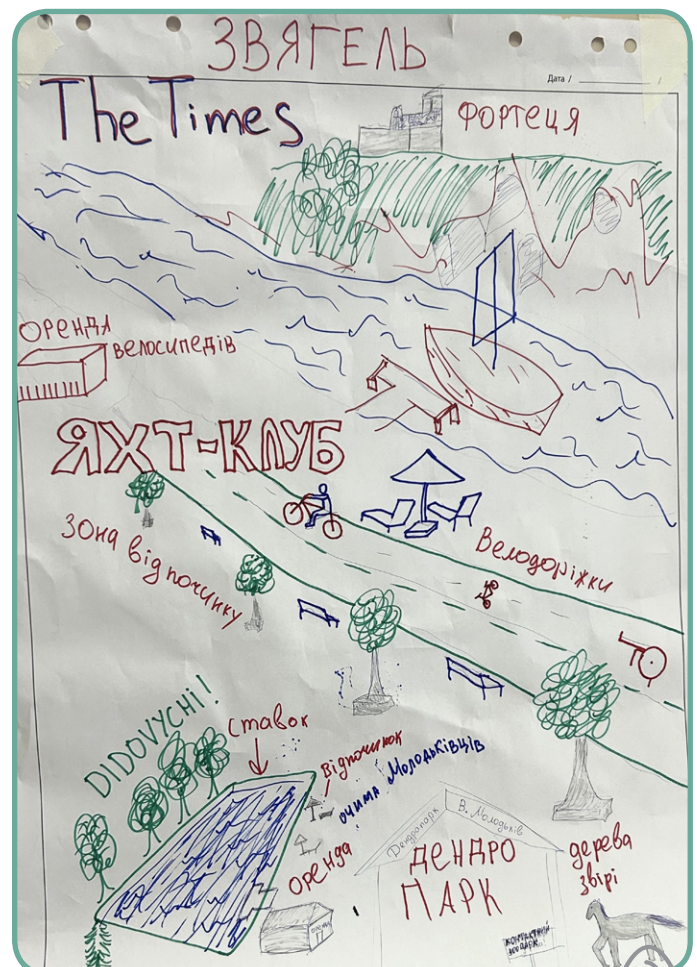
1. Energy Efficiency: Emphasis on creating a sustainable and energy-efficient environment. This includes the use of renewable resources and building infrastructure optimised for minimal energy consumption.

2. Water and Environment: Clean and accessible water is a priority. The vision includes purified water sources, so clean that you can catch fish and crayfish, highlighting the eco-friendly nature of the space.

3. Recreation and Modern Amenities: Offering modern recreational options, such as boat trips, to residents and visitors to the community, so that they can enjoy the beauty of nature while supporting local tourism.

4. Cultural and Historical Heritage:

- Honouring heroes and creating an friendly and respectful environment that recognises their contributions;
- Promoting culture and history through the preservation of historical heritage, which includes the creation of facilities such as an underground museum to honour historical figures, including local heroes such as Lesya Ukrainka.



5. Sports and Inclusion: Supporting active lifestyles through sports facilities and creating inclusive spaces accessible to everybody regardless of physical ability.

6. Economic Development: Promoting the development of the local economy through business initiatives, such as greenhouse farming, which contributes to sustainable economic growth and job creation.

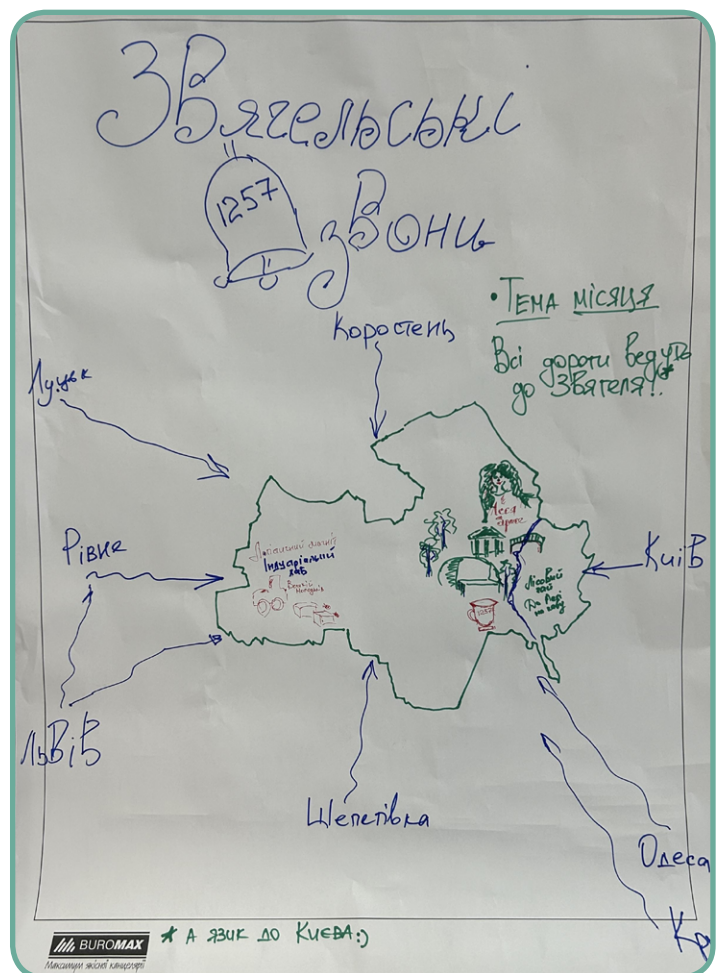
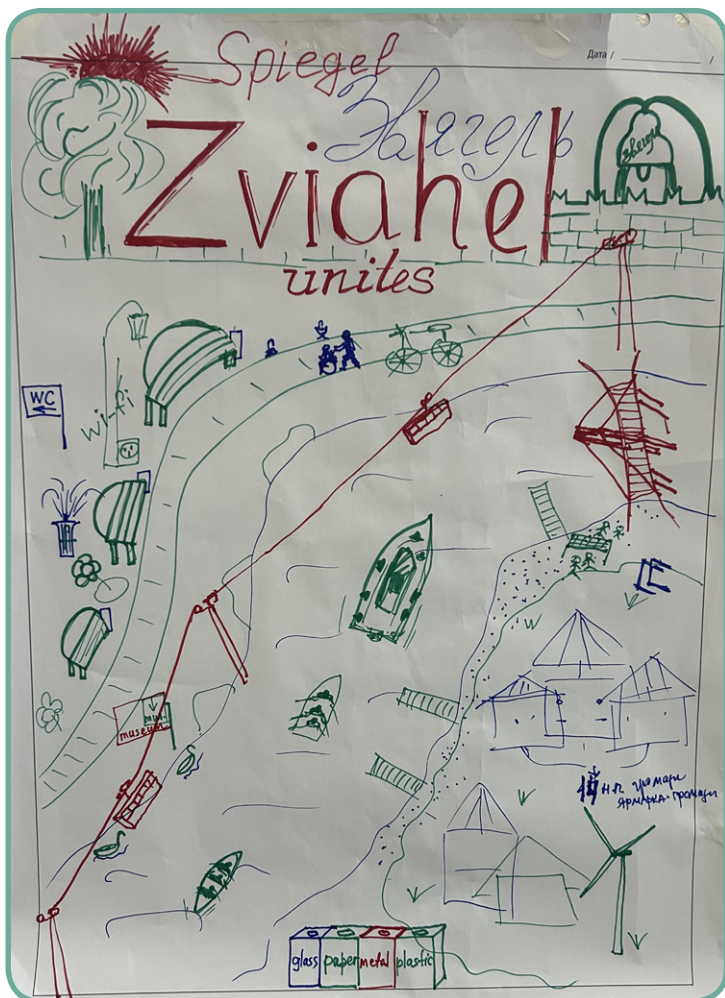
7. Integration of Rural Areas: Recognising the value of rural areas and the importance of integrating them into the overall community structure, including jointly addressing challenges and promoting unity between urban and rural spaces.

8. Parks and Green Spaces: Addressing issues related to the maintenance and expansion of parks, ensuring the accessibility of green spaces for the community, and promoting environmental awareness.

9. Community Participation and Role:

- Increasing the visibility and role of the community as a model for active civic participation;
- Highlighting the importance of community efforts to create a positive impact, foster a sense of pride and responsibility among residents;
- Emphasising the importance of cooperation and unity in achieving these goals.

10. Zviahel with Love: The vision of Zviahel as a place where people live, love and work in harmony; a community focused on mutual support, where every resident feels important and involved.



The vision of the future of Zviahel is not just an individual aspiration but a joint effort that requires the shared commitment of the entire community.

The participants of the Citizens’ Assembly were divided into groups to develop detailed recommendations at designated tables for the four key issues and four public spaces selected in the previous session. Over the course of two days, participants rotated through the different tables, ensuring that everyone had the opportunity to work on all four public spaces and four issues during the session.

1. Recommendations for the improvement of the public space:
Park of Culture and Recreation, central alley, entrance area

<div></div> <div>What works well in the park? What do you like about the park? What should be preserved and strengthened?</div>	<div></div> <div>What needs to be improved?</div>
<div>1. Infrastructure</div> <div><div></div> Two modern cafés offering a variety of food and drinks.</div> <div><div></div> A new restroom that would be comfortable for the visitors.</div> <div><div></div> Convenient location so that the park is accessible to residents and tourists.</div>	<div>1. Infrastructure problems</div> <div><div></div> The roads and pavements are in poor condition, which creates barriers to movement.</div> <div><div></div> Lack of drainage on the sports ground (<i>flooding after rain</i>).</div> <div><div></div> Inadequate lighting, which reduces safety at night.</div> <div><div></div> No navigation, clear zoning and accessible spaces for playing chess (<i>only in the café</i>).</div> <div><div></div> No stage for events, so they are held in front of the central entrance on the pavement.</div> <div><div></div> No inclusive restroom or room with a baby changing table.</div> <div><div></div> No drinking water fountain.</div>
<div>2. Recreation and Entertainment Spaces</div> <div><div></div> A seasonal venue for children's entertainment where they can be active outdoors.</div> <div><div></div> The Lisova Kazka Store & Café is a popular food place among children and teenagers (chips and snacks).</div>	<div>2. Accessibility problems</div> <div><div></div> Both entrances to the park have stairs, which prevents access for people with disabilities and reduced mobility.</div> <div><div></div> No leisure spaces that factor in the needs of all population groups.</div> <div><div></div> Rigs for climbing trees and children's rides from the Soviet period are in a breakdown condition and endanger children.</div>
<div>3. Eco-Friendliness</div> <div><div></div> Ban on selling alcohol to contribute to a safer environment in the park.</div> <div><div></div> Large trees so that people can hide in their shade from the heat or rain.</div> <div><div></div> Flowerbeds that enable creating colourful flower arrangements and improve the aesthetics of the park.</div>	<div>3. State of disrepair and hazards</div> <div><div></div> Shabby green spaces, hazardous trees and neglected flower beds.</div> <div><div></div> A neglected “green” toilet.</div> <div><div></div> No Wi-Fi zone.</div> <div><div></div> Lack of garbage sorting.</div> <div><div></div> Bricks fall from the central entrance, endangering visitors.</div> <div><div></div> Dangerous slide with protruding nails that are a child safety hazard.</div>
	<div>4. Suboptimal use of space</div> <div><div></div> The open-air cinema is abandoned and unused.</div> <div><div></div> The Lisova Kazka Store is surrounded by inadequate infrastructure, and people drink alcohol nearby.</div> <div><div></div> Limited variety of plantings and inefficient use of the space (a large part remains unused).</div> <div><div></div> The “Shower” works on incorrect days (cold or rainy instead of hot).</div>

2. Recreation and Entertainment Spaces



 A seasonal venue for children’s entertainment where they can be active outdoors.



 The Lisova Kazka Store & Café is a popular food place among children and teenagers (chips and snacks).

3. Eco-Friendliness



 Ban on selling alcohol to contribute to a safer environment in the park.



 Large trees so that people can hide in their shade from the heat or rain.



 Flowerbeds that enable creating colourful flower arrangements and improve the aesthetics of the park.

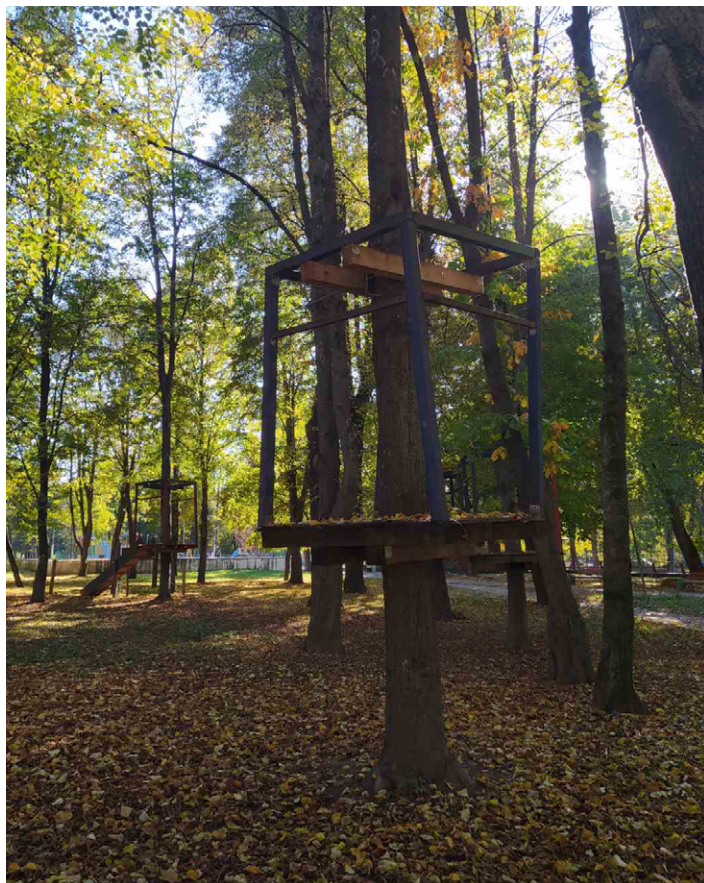
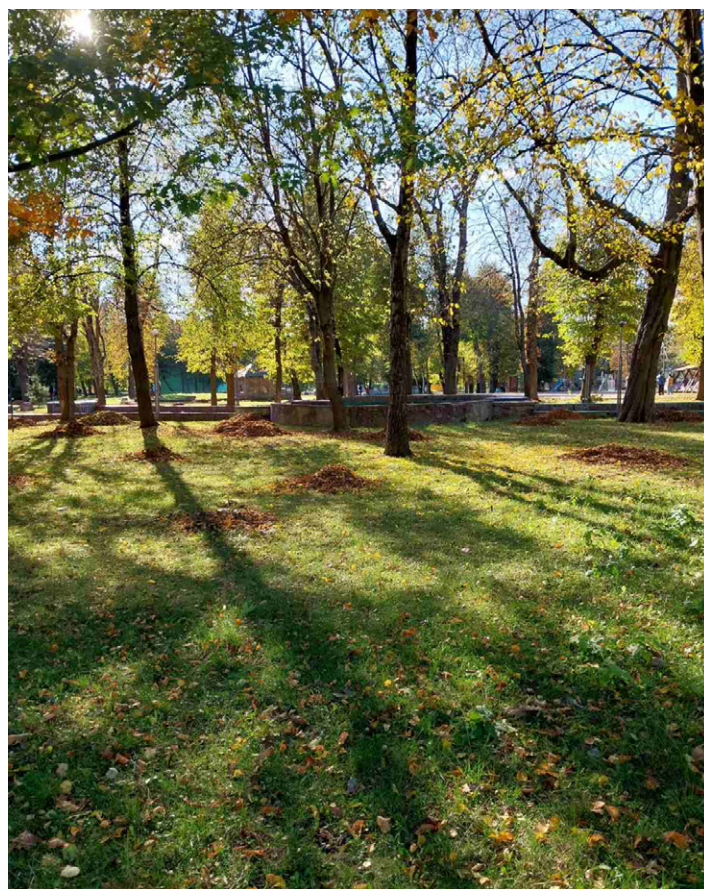


Photo of the Central Park. Author: Iryna Daniuk



*Photo of the Central Park.
Author: Anastasiia Romanenko*



*Photo of the Central Park.
Author: Taisiia Salchuk*



1. Types of park users

- Children with parents: leisure, using rides.
- Schoolchildren (2 schools nearby): visiting the park for recreation, collecting chestnuts to helping the Armed Forces.
- Youth, college and university students: using the park for recreation, transit, and visiting the Lisova Kazka Store.
- Teachers: accompanying schoolchildren during visits to the park.
- The elderly: listening to the orchestra in the summer, resting on benches.
- People with disabilities: using the park for recreation or transit but facing accessibility problems.
- Internally displaced persons: visiting the IDP Assistance Centre for humanitarian assistance.
- Military personnel and veterans: visiting memorials to lay flowers.
- Public officials: also visiting memorials.
- Entrepreneurs and employees at the café/rides: serving visitors, organising rides and fairs.

2. Activities available in the park

- Rides: actively used in the summer
- Children's Day events: various rides and entertainment activities.
- Cafés (*Turrim and My Coffee*): places for visitors to relax.
- Orchestra: performing in the summer and on holidays, attracting mostly older audiences.
- Chestnut picking by schoolchildren/students to help the Armed Forces of Ukraine.
- The Lisova Kazka Store: a popular place among young people and children (*approximately 86% of park visitors*).
- Transit: the park is on the way to schools, homes, etc.
- Family events: in the summer and warm seasons.
- Crafts Fair: used to be held before the full-scale invasion.
- Memorials and the Honour Board: laying flowers and celebrating the leaders in various fields.
- Pet walking: no designated place.
- Humanitarian aid for internally displaced persons: distributed at the IDP Assistance Centre in the Summer Theatre.
- Children play in the fountain that is in a breakdown condition in the summer, and on the slippery curb of its basin in the winter, which is dangerous.
- Winter period: no activities in the park; only cafés are open.





A participant of the Citizens' Assembly expressed her future vision of the Zviahel Central Park in verse:



*I go there to breathe freely,
With each step plunging into grace.
The sound of waves, the scent of flowers.
It's so cosy here! What a wonderful space!
Again I'm on a comfy bench, daydreaming
I sip my coffee as birds trill their song.
There is a balance here, everything is fitting,
I feel at peace, and nothing's wrong.
The trees cast shade as I admire sculptures,
So proud to know the people who created them!
I'll read a book or scroll through stories
And go to the Litniy to see the premiere.*



Olha Zakharova



Priority tasks for improving the park:

1. Improving accessibility

- Ensuring barrier-free access: adding ramps at both entrances.
- Retiling all entrances, replacing them with non-bevelled flagstone.
- Fencing or putting an enclosure around the fountain in a breakdown condition for the safety of visitors.
- Considering alternative use of the Honour Board or replacing it with something more appropriate.
- Tidying up the memorials and considering how to redesign the podium flowerbed that used to feature the cannon.
- Cutting dry branches for safety and aesthetics.

2. Business and social responsibility

- Conducting an inventory of the park's territories to determine who is responsible for what (*lease, business*).
- Placing social responsibility on businesses: obliging entrepreneurs to take care of the areas next to their facilities.

3. Aesthetic improvement

- Obliging private owners and utility services to decorate their areas with colourful garlands and cosy lanterns.
- Replacing the graffiti on the garage wall with a mural celebrating the legacy of Lesya Ukrainka, featuring the characters of her famous works.

4. Organising activities and events

- Holding thematic festivals twice a week in both summer and winter to attract visitors and keep up activities in the park throughout the year.

5. Modernising the rides and sports grounds

- Turning the existing sports ground into a multi-purpose space accessible to all population groups.
- Replacing old Soviet rides with modern ones to improve the safety and attractiveness of the park.

6. Other improvements

- Setting up an effective sign system for easy navigation in the park.
- Improving lighting, ensuring its proper levels in the nighttime.

What long-term changes should the park see in the future?

What should the city's Central Park be like?

1. Inclusivity and social interaction

- The park should be an inclusive space accessible to all population groups.
- Choir venue (possibly the stage of the Summer Theatre).
- Dance floor for the elderly to revive the park's traditions ("Koshara").
- Yoga and Pilates area to promote a healthy lifestyle.

2. Art and cultural events

- Locations for placing sculptures by local artists to support local culture and art.
- Disco for teenagers and young adults to engage young people in active recreation activities.



3. New recreation areas

- Winter activity area: a tubing slide to keep the park active in winter.
- A “dry” fountain flush with the pavement, with lighting and music, to attract visitors.
- A relaxation hut where you can read or relax in silence.
- Quiet recreation areas with secluded gazebos.
- Benches with backs for greater comfort of visitors.



4. Reconstruction and improvement

- Reconstruction of the area with benches around the perimeter near the “Litniy” Summer Theatre for more comfortable leisure.
- Installation of a sensor that would determine the anniversary visitor (*1,000th or 10,000th*) to make visiting the park interactive and attractive.



2. Recommendations for the improvement of the public space: Park of Defenders of Ukraine (near the Officers' House)

According to the participants of the Citizens' Assembly, the space of the Park of Defenders today is currently associated with large trees, abandonment, neglect, birds, squirrels and failure to fit the name.

 What works well in the park? What do you like about the park? What should be preserved and strengthened?	 What needs to be improved?
<p>1. Nature and ambience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Quiet and tranquillity, which creates a pleasant ambience for relaxation. ☺ Clean air due to extensive greenery. ☺ Large trees that provide shade and protect from the heat. <p>2. Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ A large area suitable for walks and various activities. ☺ The spring is a natural element that adds to the authenticity of the park. ☺ A gazebo near the spring where people can relax and enjoy nature. ☺ Benches along the paths for comfort and relaxation. ☺ Paths that facilitate walking and ensure comfortable movement through the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☹ There is nothing that would tie to the name of the park. ☹ The paths are bumpy, interspersed by roots. ☹ Uncut grass, overgrown area. ☹ The playground equipment is outdated, broken and hazardous. ☹ All entrances to the park have stairs; there is no barrier-free access. ☹ There is no lighting or toilets. ☹ The stairs on the descent to the spring are steep. ☹ The stairs lack handrails. ☹ The brick fence of the observation deck is crumbling; it is a hazard. ☹ The trees need pruning since branches are falling. ☹ There are no flowers or flower beds; vegetation is monotonous. ☹ The outer fence of the park is partially broken down. ☹ There is no safe passage to the river. ☹ Undeveloped area next to two monuments. ☹ Two signs with inscriptions from the Soviet era.

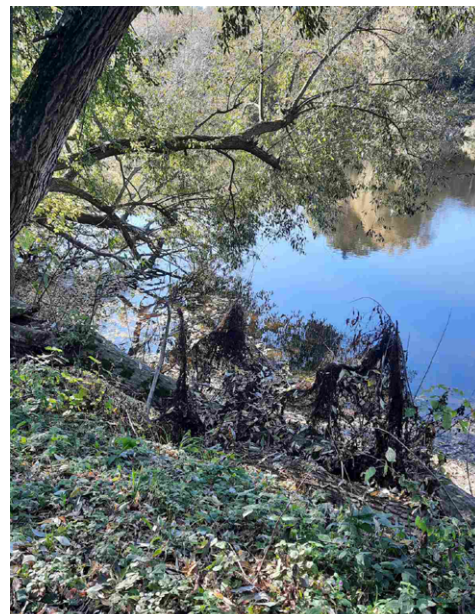
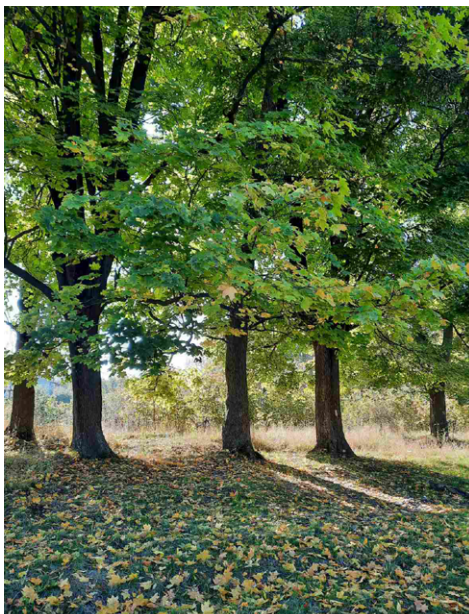


Photo of the Defenders Park. Photo by Tetiana Kosiak.



Photo of the Defenders Park. Photo by Serhii.

Users and activities in the park today:

- **Mothers with children:** children play on the playgrounds, mothers walk with strollers along the paths and sit on benches.
- **Social workers and the elderly:** Nordic walking.
- **Everybody:** going to the spring to get water.
- **Youth:** jogging along the paths.
- **Families, teenagers:** walking along the paths, visiting the observation deck.
- **Newlyweds:** taking pictures on the observation deck.

Vision of the future transformation of the park space. What should the park feature and what measures are needed to achieve the vision of the future park?

1. Accessibility and infrastructure

- Entrances without stairs, with proper pavement for barrier-free access.
- Handrails on the descents to ensure the safety of visitors.
- Stairs and a ramp to the spring with handrails on both sides for convenient and safe access.
- A circular path for people in wheelchairs with places to stop and rest.
- Wider paths divided into a pedestrian part and a bicycle path.

2. Comfort for visitors

- Benches that will be conveniently placed and not blocked by curbs.
- More gazebos for cosy relaxation.
- Lighting near the spring and in general throughout the park for safety and convenience.
- Upgraded playgrounds that will be more modern and safe.
- Convenient water collection from the spring so that visitors do not stand in the water.

3. Memorial and cultural sites

- Modern inscriptions on the signs, reflecting the spirit of the times and historical events.
- A sign with the names of the defenders of Ukraine from the community, celebrating their contribution.
- Small installations with QR codes that facilitate learning more about the defenders.
- Small sculptures contributing to the aesthetics and historical significance.

4. Aesthetic improvement

- More flowers and flower beds decorating the park area.
- Modernising green areas to ensure attractiveness and comfort.

5. Administration and support

- An advocacy group (*supervisory board*), which will be responsible for the support, development and improvement of the park.

6. Other improvements

- Restrooms that meet modern standards of comfort, hygiene, inclusiveness and gender equality.



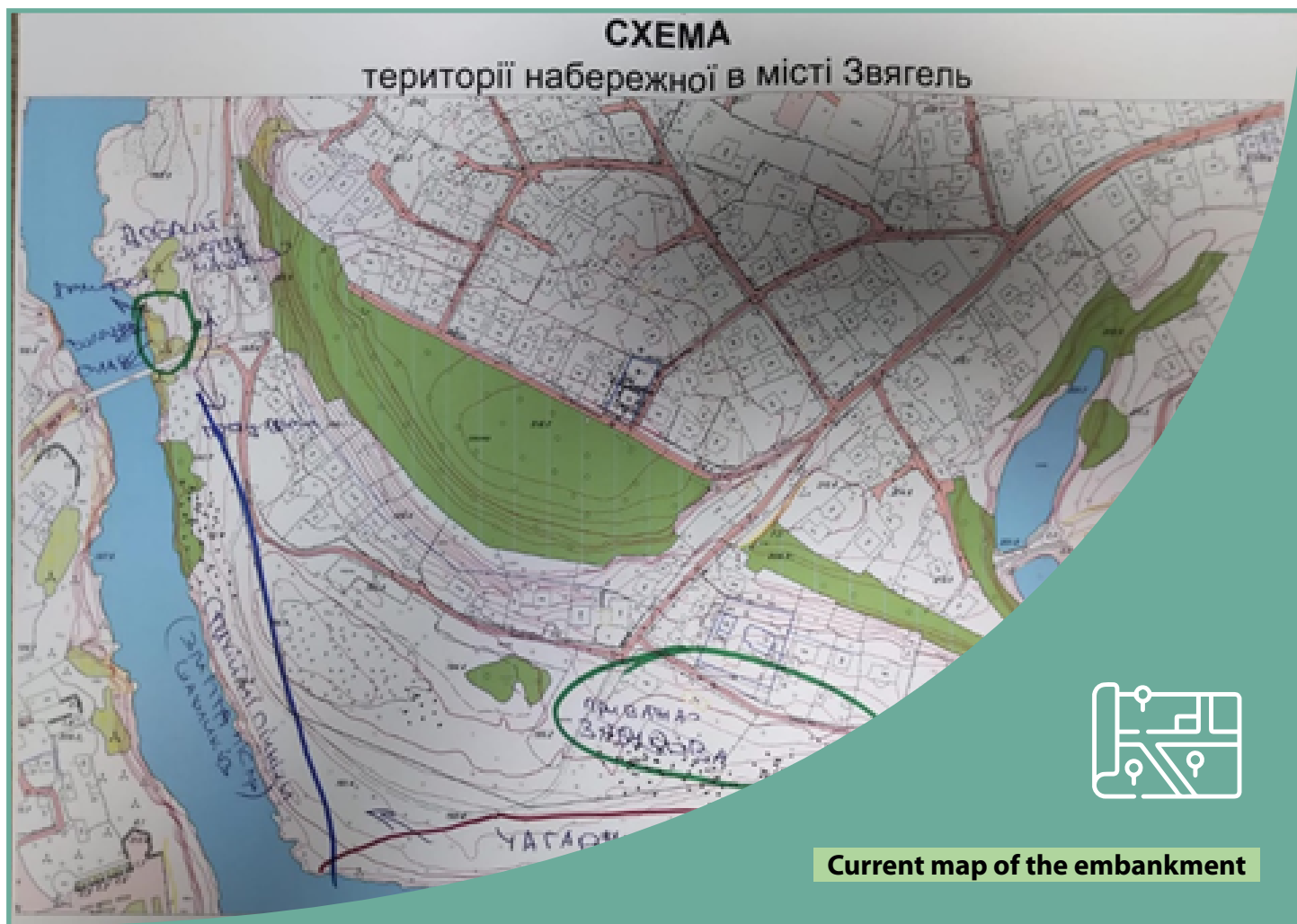
Map of proposals
for the transformation of the
zones of the Park of Defenders of Ukraine

3. Recommendations for the improvement of the public space: Embankment. Upstream from the beach (*right bank*)

When thinking about the space, the participants of the Citizens' Assembly associate it with restoration and relaxation, a sense of peace and natural harmony. A clean river with a sandy beach comes up in their mind's eye, reminiscent of a relaxing day by the water. A key feature is a river fountain, similar to the famous Vinnytsia Fountain, which is considered one of the city's landmarks. The Vinnytsia Fountain is one of the largest floating fountains in Ukraine and Europe, renowned for its spectacular design. It boasts a unique combination of water jets, light effects and music, together creating a fascinating show that attracts locals and tourists alike. Multicoloured evening lights along the river further complement the fountain, emphasising the beauty of the natural landscape and surrounding architecture, as well as creating a romantic and cosy ambience for walks or nighttime relaxation. This element can be a powerful tool for developing local infrastructure and attracting visitors. Fishing piers and benches overlooking the river are perfect for quiet relaxing time, and a promenade along the shore makes the space more dynamic. Water transport, such as kayaks, catamarans and pleasure boats, promotes active recreation. Souvenir benches, sculptures, street lighting and an alley of roses add cultural appeal and comfort to the space. Assembly participants generally associate these elements with positive memories of embankments in other cities, which indicates their desire to see a similar experience in their local space.

 What works well? What do people like about the embankment? What should be preserved and strengthened?	 What needs to be improved?
<p>1. Beautiful landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ The embankment features an attractive natural landscape that creates a cosy ambience for walks. ☺ Lots of greenery and green spaces. ☺ A large amount of greenery provides fresh air and shade, which makes for a comfortable stay on the embankment even in the heat. <p>2. Centennial oak</p> <p>A historic tree is an important element of the embankment, adding natural beauty and historical significance to the space.</p> <p>3. Proximity to the Defenders Park and historical monuments</p> <p>The embankment borders historical monuments, including the Defenders Park and the Division Headquarters, which makes it an important part of the city's cultural heritage.</p> <p>4. Equal distance from different districts of the city</p> <p>The convenient location of the embankment ensures easy access from different neighbourhoods, contributing to its popularity among residents.</p> <p>5. Nature</p> <p>The embankment is adjacent to natural areas, making it a perfect place for relaxation and stress relief.</p> <p>6. "Ostrivets" Island</p> <p>The small "Ostrivets" island creates an additional area for relaxation and walks, while adding unique character to the embankment.</p>	<p>1. Lack of embankment as such</p> <p>The embankment is in poor condition, which limits the opportunities for comfortable and safe recreation by the river.</p> <p>2. Poor water quality in the Sluch River</p> <p>Low water quality negatively affects the ecosystem and recreational opportunities by the river.</p> <p>3. Overgrown riverbanks</p> <p>High grass and reeds make the riverbanks inaccessible and dangerous for walking and recreation purposes.</p> <p>4. Private properties</p> <p>Private properties limit access to the embankment, reducing opportunities for public use of the space.</p> <p>5. Litter throughout the banks and unregulated landfills</p> <p>There is litter throughout the riverbanks, which creates unsatisfactory conditions for recreation and reduces the eco-friendliness of the area.</p> <p>6. Lack of basic infrastructure</p> <p>There are no equipped paths, lighting, benches and garbage cans, which makes walking along the embankment inconvenient and dangerous.</p> <p>7. Poor accessibility</p> <p>Inconvenient descents to the water and the lack of facilities for walking with baby strollers or people with reduced mobility limit the accessibility of the embankment.</p> <p>8. No equipped fishing places</p> <p>Unequipped fishing places make access to this activity difficult for locals and tourists alike (furthermore, slippery and rocky slopes and silted riverbanks pose increased hazards to visitors).</p> <p>9. No drinking water fountains</p> <p>There is no option for getting drinking water, which limits the comfort of visitors to the embankment, especially on hot summer days.</p> <p>10. Lack of retail infrastructure</p> <p>There are no points of sale for food, drinks or souvenirs, which reduces the convenience of staying on the embankment.</p> <p>11. Lack of inclusion</p> <p>The embankment does not accommodate people with disabilities, which makes it less accessible to all population groups.</p>





The Sluch River embankment is currently used by local residents as a transit zone. The area along the riverbank is actively utilized by fishermen for fishing, and by community members as a grill/barbecue area. The embankment lawns are only used for active leisure by children and youth in the spring and early summer, before the grass grows tall.

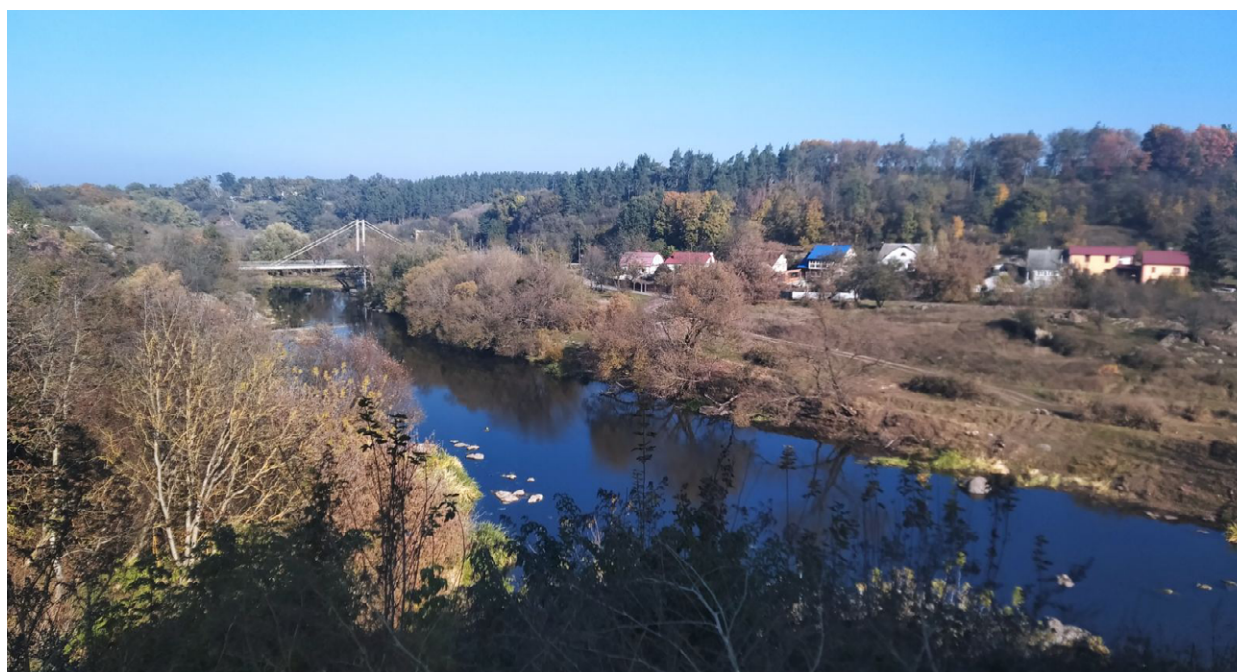


Photo of the Sluch River Embankment. Photo by Olha Zakharova

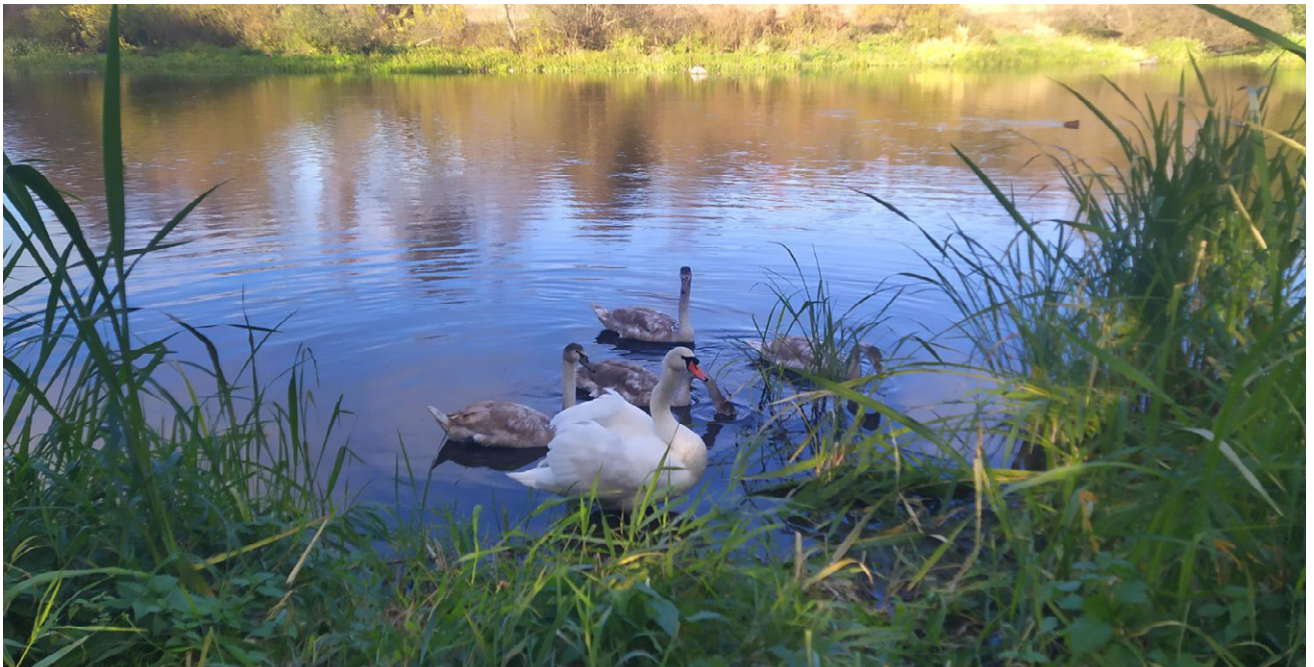


Photo of the Sluch River Embankment. Photo by Olha Zakharova

Users of spaces along the Embankment and key activities (*prospects*)

- **School-age children:** engaging in active outdoor leisure, sports and walks with their parents in the fresh air.
- **Parents with strollers:** spending time on walks and relaxing in the fresh air with their young children.
- **The elderly:** visiting the embankment for walks, relaxing on benches and fishing.
- **Young people:** engaging in active leisure and sports, as well as barbecues with friends.

Activities

1. Active outdoor leisure. Running, cycling, scootering, outdoor games, etc.
2. Sports. Mostly outdoor practices, jogging, fitness classes.
3. Walks and outdoor recreation. Walking, admiring nature and socialising.
4. Fishing. Elderly people fish on the embankment, spending quiet time by the water.
5. Barbecues with friends. Young people host barbecues.

Proposals for the arrangement and renovation of the Embankment space:

1. Improving accessibility

- Providing convenient transport access to the embankment from different areas of the city.
- Ensuring physical accessibility of the embankment for people with reduced mobility (*ramps, convenient descents to the water*).

2. Cleaning the riverbed

- Cleaning the riverbed of reeds, garbage and silt to improve the environmental situation in the reservoir and create more attractive conditions for recreation.

3. Modern infrastructure for recreation and active leisure

- Integrating new infrastructure elements into existing natural landscapes and green areas of the embankment.
- Arranging cycling and pedestrian paths made of natural materials along the river.

4. Sports grounds

Installing:

- Beach volleyball and beach soccer courts.
- Children's playground with a safe surface.
- Table tennis court.
- Sports ground which can be transformed into an ice rink in winter.

5. Water activities

- Arranging a boat station with pleasure boats, kayaks, stand-up paddle boards and other water transport.
- Building a wooden pier for walking and fishing.

6. Infrastructure for passive leisure

- Arranging benches, barbecue areas and convenient fishing spots.
- Installing outdoor lighting and a video surveillance system for the safety of visitors.
- Installing a drinking water fountain for the convenience of visitors.
- Arranging for seasonal trade (cafés, a coffee shop) to provide recreation opportunities.

7. Beach development

- Installing changing stalls and arranging for a gentle riverbed slope in the area where people enter the water for safety.
- Installing toilets for visitors to the embankment.

8. Winter activity areas

- Installing a slide for skiing and sledging near the observation deck.

9. Greenery at the embankment

- Planting new green spaces to create shade during the hot season to enhance visitor comfort.

10. Bridge to the “Ostrivets” Island

- Building a bridge to the small “Ostrivets” Island and connecting it to the left bank to ensure easy access and expand the recreation area.

11. Parking spaces

- Arranging convenient parking spaces for visitors.

**Proposed plan for zoning the embankment
space and placing key activities
along the river**



4. Recommendations for the improvement of the public space: village of Maistrova Volia. Creation of a public multifunctional youth space

Audience: Active youth that still needs motivation to organise. For the purpose of discussion, young people can be divided into two age groups: 3–15 years and 15–35 years. This represents approximately 20% of the village population. The number of young people increases during the summer season when many come for the holidays. Additionally, there is a group of bikers in the village.

Breakdown of youth activities and existing opportunities for young people in the village:

- in the summer season, they play sports such as football and volleyball;
- have fun on water bodies (pond);
- go on picnics;
- ride bicycles (almost everyone has a bicycle);
- in the winter season, they gather (spend time as groups) according to their specific interests;
- listen to music;
- discuss books;
- there is a local blogger with whom they meet and spend time;
- there is a building for meetings in the village; however, it is in poor condition;
- the village has quite a few young people and will develop;
- there are many water bodies around the village.

What is youth lacking in terms of leisure in the village for each audience group?

1. Youth (*under 15 y. o.*)

Needs:

- **Outdoor leisure:**
 - ☐ Sports pitch (*football, volleyball*).
 - ☐ Mini football pitch.
 - ☐ Exercise machines (*with the option of covering them*).
 - ☐ Organising beach volleyball.
 - ☐ Arranging cycling paths (*everyone has a bicycle*).
- **Entertainment and leisure:**
 - ☐ Space for various types of board games.
 - ☐ Organised beach with installed garbage cans, toilets, barbecue and campfire areas.
 - ☐ Park area for walks and play.
- **Social spaces:**
 - ☐ Recreation areas for parents who bring children to play.
 - ☐ Free Wi-Fi zone for learning and communication.
- **Support:**
 - ☐ Arranging an area for a designated body of water (*pond or quarry*) as a safe place for play and swimming.



2. Youth (15–35 y. o.)

Needs:

— Sports and active recreation:

- Pump track for cycling.
- Sports fields (*volleyball, football*).
- Swimming pool or ice rink to attract youth from other settlements.
- Exercise machines to encourage fitness.
- Organised beach with active recreation areas (*beach volleyball, barbecue*).

— Creativity and self-expression:

- Space with beautiful locations for photos (*for bloggers and social media*).
- Space to meet with a local blogger and host events.
- Communication and cultural development space (*book discussions, musical events*).

— Social spaces:

- Renovating a building for gatherings (*creation of a youth centre or club*).
- “Kolyba” building to be used as a venue for relaxation and thematic events.
- Park area with greenery for informal gatherings and walks.

— Transport and amenities:

- Parking for bicycles and cars.
- Free Wi-Fi zone for work and communication.

— Community development:

- Supporting local authorities in financing improvements.
- Engaging entrepreneurs in creating public catering establishments (*cafés, coffee shops*).

3. Common needs (*for both groups*):

— Spaces for relaxation and gatherings:

- Organised beach with relaxation areas.
- Space for board games and creative activities.
- Renovating a building to create a youth space.

— Infrastructure development:

- Arranging a reservoir as leisure area.
- Park area for joint recreation and activities.

— Engaging young people in public life:

- Engaging young people in planning local initiatives (*e.g., choosing a reservoir for improvement, entertainment ideas*).
- Hosting motivational events (*large events, festivals, competitions*).

Additional aspects:

1. Seasonality of activities:

- Summertime: football, volleyball, beaches, bicycles.
- Wintertime: ice rink, gatherings in a building based on shared interests.

2. Supporting motivation:

- Creating opportunities for self-actualisation (*participation in projects, hosting events*).
- Joining existing initiatives (*e.g., collaborating with a blogger, engaging local authorities and entrepreneurs*).



Layout of public spaces proposed by Assembly participants



Proposal for the development of public spaces in the village of Maistrova Volia:

Proposals for the development of public spaces in the village addressed two parallel spaces, a reservoir (lake at the outskirts of the village) and a youth park (in the centre of the village). Participants worked out zoning for both spaces. Unused areas that are owned by the community were determined for both locations.



Idea 1. Creating a family space for recreation at the lake

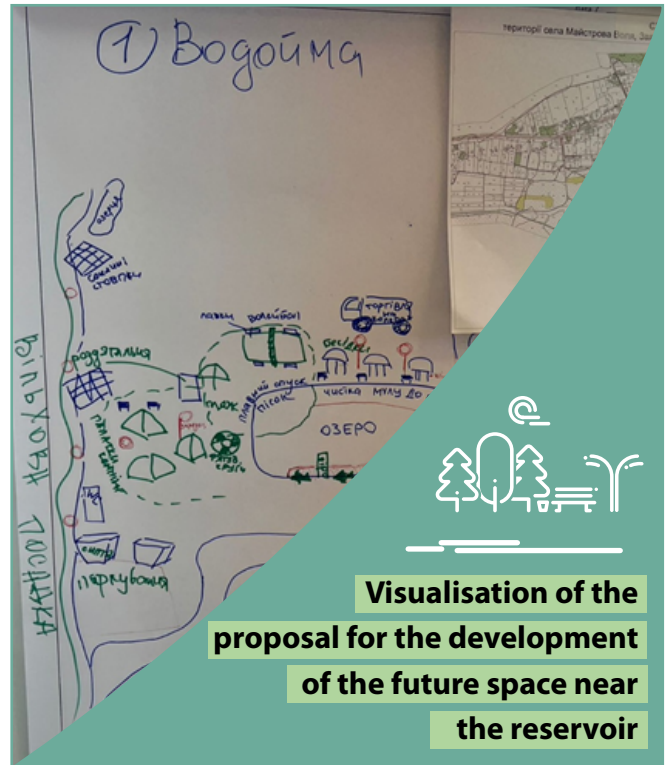
Vision: recreation at the lake for families and friend groups, for locals and tourists. This space will increase tourist attractiveness in the summer.

What should be done? Arranging the following areas around the lake:

- camping area,
- beach,
- beach volleyball area,
- gazebo and barbecue areas,
- car park,
- rubbish cans and changing rooms.

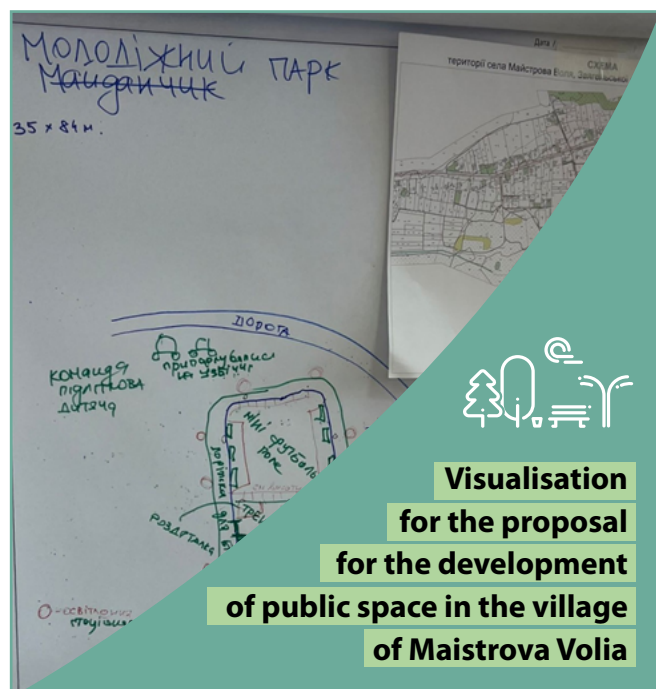
Furthermore:

- Building a pier for fishing and walking by the lake, providing lifebuoys.
- Agreeing on mobile food sales points.
- Equipping a walking area along the alder grove with solar lighting.
- Providing lighting and charging of gadgets around the lake using solar panels.



**Visualisation of the
proposal for the development
of the future space near
the reservoir**

This approach can be considered as a universal approach (*a unified standard*) that is, however, subject to changes depending on the area (*rocky terrain, plains, car entrance areas, etc.*).



Idea 2. Multifunctional youth park

What should be done? Arranging a public space with the following functional elements:

- mini football pitch, bleachers with roofing and a locker room,
- high fences around the pitch,
- playground for children,
- outdoor gym,
- jogging track around the park with lighting,
- benches and tables with covers for parents who bring children to play and for young people who can play guitar or board games there (*one of the tables can be turned into a chess board*),
- mobile coffee and water stands,
- restroom,
- speed limit sign on the road next to the pitch.



5. Recommendations on the selected issue: Parking system

Problems in the community's parking system, which were worked out by the participants of the Citizens' Assembly

Rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Bicycle parking. □ Lack of bicycle parking areas near schools, kindergartens, clubs and hospitals. □ Overparking in cemeteries during events such as Hrobky <i>[commemoration of the dead on the second week following Easter]</i>. Lack of equipped parking areas.
Residential areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Not enough parking spaces near houses. □ Families living in these houses own many cars. □ Poor traffic connections between neighbourhoods. □ Land plots near flat complexes are insufficient for parking spaces <i>(the plots are not transferred to associations of owners of the flats in a building (OSBB) but are in municipal ownership)</i>. □ Visitors rather than residents park in the parking spaces near houses. □ Lack of cycling infrastructure. □ Parking near educational institutions during peak hours <i>(when parents bring and pick up children)</i>. □ Lack of underground car parks.
Central part of the city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Lack of equipped parking spaces. □ Outdated road infrastructure and planning <i>(general layout)</i>. □ No municipal tow truck service. □ No parking assistance guidelines. □ Suburban transport stops in the city centre. □ Lack of parking spaces for people with disabilities. □ Taxi parking. □ Lack of development of alternative sources of transport. □ Parking on curbs and pavements. □ Lack of navigation. □ Lack of bicycle parking spaces. □ Inconsistent parking of electric scooters. □ Lack of fines <i>(or selective fines)</i>.

Inconsistent and spontaneous gathering and parking of private cars in the courtyards of multi-storey buildings and in adjacent areas leads to:

- uncontrolled gathering and parking of private cars on public roads and on adjacent pavements in crowded places;
- insufficient number of parking spaces and areas in the city, in many cases their uncertain legal status.

The participants of the Assembly further agreed on other problems:

- Lack of appropriate markings of parking spaces and parking bans: frequent systemic cases of irresponsible behaviour of drivers/car owners when violating parking rules;
- Poor monitoring of these violations by the competent authorities;
- Insufficient awareness of drivers/car owners about the availability and location of existing car parks in the city, their public accessibility and other features *(conditions, whether the lot is guarded, paid/free, etc.)*.

In summary, the parking issues on public roads and adjacent pavements in the city, especially in the central area, stem from several factors: the insufficient number of parking spaces, unclear parking regulations, drivers' lack of awareness about the availability of nearby (*and sometimes better-equipped*) parking areas, the indifferent attitude of property owners towards providing parking spaces for visitors, the inadequate number of traffic signs indicating parking rules, and poor traffic discipline.

All of these issues result in traffic disruptions, particularly when a two-way street is reduced to one lane, obstruct emergency services' access, create inconveniences for pedestrians when vehicles are parked on pavements or green spaces, and negatively impact the overall image and appearance of the city.

Recommendations of the group on the establishment of the parking system:

1. Priority points for the implementation of the project in the parking system:
 - 1.1. Pedestrian zone (*Shevchenko Street from the roundabout to Lesya Ukrainka Square. Total length is 50 to 100 metres*).
 - 1.2. Providing accessibility of infrastructure and parking spaces on Orzhevskya Street.
2. Conducting a detailed inventory of land plots in the city to identify potential areas for car parks.
3. Arranging parking navigation signs around the city (*e.g., putting up signs on the availability of parking near the Administrative Services Centre, which no one knows about due to the lack of information or navigation options*).
4. Medychna Street. Redirecting transport to accessible paid parking. Informing about this option (*freeing the space and the street from overparking*).
5. Increasing the number of parking spaces in the central part of the city.
6. Banning parking of private taxi services in non-designated areas. Co-financing parking spaces to be arranged by private taxi services.
7. Introducing a municipal parking and tow truck service. Control over compliance with traffic rules and the introduction of fines.
8. Establishing parking spaces near all educational institutions (*applying appropriate markings*).
9. Arranging a car park on Gogol Street (*opposite Avtoliga*).
10. Organising an OSBB working group to address arranging parking spaces in yards, including resolving the land issue.



The participants of the Citizens' Assembly have developed the following **The participants of the Citizens' Assembly have developed the following:**

1. Courtyards of multi-storey buildings and adjacent territories (where the basic unit is a block, i.e. a residential area outlined along the perimeter by public roads).

The main issue faced by most OSBBs¹ regarding parking spaces for residents is the mismatch between the number of parking spaces originally planned for the area and the actual number of car owners. Additionally, there is a lack of forward planning for parking in surrounding areas and courtyards, where parking spaces are often poorly organized and insufficient. Both car owners and other residents of OSBBs are dissatisfied with this situation due to the resulting inconvenience and damage to landscaping.

Proposals:

- ! Competent departments of the City Executive Committee, together with the heads and boards of OSBBs, businesses and other institutions located in the selected block, should identify the party the land plot is assigned to and the terms of the assignment (inventory) and hold meetings with proposals;
- ! Estimating the need for parking spaces and comparing it with what is available, agreeing among all parties and developing an action plan to improve the parking situation through proper arrangement of parking spaces and, if possible (accounting for any limitations), building new car parks (even if small, to remove cars from pavements and green areas);
- ! Resolving the issue of financing the arrangement and construction of new car parks (at the expense of an OSBB, the city, businesses, other institutions, car owners who live/operate at the site, whether independently or in any combination of the above);
- ! Informing all stakeholders and strengthening oversight (with proper response) of car owners regarding their compliance with the landscaping rules and the liability for their violation.

The following recommendations are proposed to be included in the Action Plan:

1. The General City Development Plan should put a greater emphasis on the construction of new car parks and upgrading existing ones.
2. A local target Parking Programme should be developed.
3. The plans for the socio-economic development of the city should provide for annual work on the arrangement of car parks and allocate the necessary financial resources for this.
4. Businesses should be actively involved in the construction and upgrading of car parks on a paid basis.
5. When constructing or reconstructing new facilities that are to provide services to the public, the issue of arranging the estimated number of parking spaces on the land plot allocated for construction should be coordinated with the owner.
6. When building and overhauling local roads, places for temporary car parks should be designated (including "pockets").
7. Designated employees of the city executive committee departments should be assigned to manage and continuously monitor issues related to car parking, and these functions should be included in their job responsibilities (including control functions).
8. Best practices of other Ukrainian cities in the rational use of land plots for car parks and improving road traffic conditions should be studied and adopted.

1. OSBB stands for "Obiednannia Spivvlasnykiv Budynkiv" (in Ukrainian), which translates to "Association of Co-owners of Apartment Buildings" in English



9. The number of road signs in the city pointing towards car parks should be increased, mini-signs on parking in the courtyards of OSBBs and signs banning parking on certain sections of roads should be installed. For example, there is a large private car park on Anna Yaroslavna Street near the central hospital, and there are always free parking spaces there (several hours cost UAH 10, a day costs UAH 25), but drivers park on Medychna Street on both sides. Perhaps it is expedient to prohibit parking on this street for cars, except for official transport and emergency services.

10. Information on the geolocation of car parks and parking conditions should be developed and published on city maps, city council websites and other city websites.

11. Communication of local authorities with the national police regarding monitoring the compliance with traffic rules and car parking in the city should be improved.

6. 6. Recommendations on the selected issue:

Water treatment

The participants of the Citizens' Assembly listed the following factors that, in their opinion, lead to the deterioration of the water quality in the community's rivers:

1. Problems related to decreasing water levels

- A decrease in the number of springs and streams is a consequence of climate change and human impact.
- A slowdown of the flow rate is caused by climate change and the construction of engineering structures, such as a dam in the village of Chyzhivka.

2. Water quality and ecosystem problems

- Poor water quality and dying fish are the result of sewage and phosphate discharges due to uncontrolled water use and impunity.
- River overgrowth is caused by phosphate discharges and a decrease in fish species that keep vegetation in check.

3. Silting and riverbed cleaning

- Silting of the riverbed is associated with a slowdown of the flow rate and a lack of riverbed cleaning (previously done by a dredger).
- Unprofessional riverbed cleaning due to the use of inappropriate special equipment and lack of expertise or technology.

4. Human impact and uncontrolled water use

- Ploughing and development of the banks: consumer attitude towards the areas near the river, which contributes to the ecosystem preservation problem.
- Uncontrolled water use due to an increase in the number of boreholes and wells, which leads to a decrease in the water level.
- Lack of fines for violations.

The participants of the Citizens' Assembly identified the following features of the river that they wish to see: clear water, fish can be seen in the water from the bridge, cleared river banks for access to swimming and fishing areas, mostly free of water lilies and duckweed, no silt.

The participants of the Assembly noted that the condition of the reservoirs began to deteriorate 15 to 20 years ago.

All of the issues listed below negatively impact the quality of drinking water, as the community relies on river water for its water supply. While the problem is not yet critical, thanks to the modernisation of the water utility, there remains a potential threat.



The Citizens' Assembly has developed the following recommendations for improving the condition of water bodies and the spaces around them:

1. Raising public awareness

- Organising a campaign to inform residents about the possibilities and necessary actions to improve the water quality.
- Explaining the importance of cleaning the river and the need for civic participation in these activities.

2. Clearing out vegetation

- Continuing clearing water from vegetation using a UTV.
- Organising clearing priority areas from excess vegetation, engaging locals.

3. Creating an advocacy group, conducting an advocacy campaign

- Establishing an advocacy group with the involvement of experts (environmental experts, hydrologists) to coordinate efforts, select priority areas and advise on clearing issues.

4. Organisation of clean-ups

- Organising “toloka”-style meet-ups to clean the approaches to the river, involving residents in cleaning the riverbanks and surrounding areas.



7. Recommendations on the selected issue: Involving rural youth in the development of public spaces

'Youth' refers to individuals under the age of 35. It's important to recognize that this group includes people with diverse interests and needs.

Youth groups

- **Children under the age of 12** are a younger category that needs appropriate infrastructure for recreation and development.
- **Schoolchildren** in grades 6–9 form the main student group, as there are no schools offering grades 10–11 in the villages.
- **High school students** (grades 10–11) attend schools in Zviahel or other communities, as local schools do not offer high school classes.
- **University students:** young people pursuing higher education often leave for other cities to study but return for holidays.
- **Young parents:** an important group that combines the needs of young people and their children.
- **Young people from neighbouring communities** come for recreation, study or work.
- **Children who come to visit relatives on holiday:** temporary visitors who maintain social ties.
- **Young people who come for weekends or holidays** come to relax or help relatives.
- **Active military personnel:** young people who are serving in the army but maintain contact with the community.

Breakdown of the activities of young people who spend their leisure time in public spaces:

1. Active youth

- Contributing to the creation and attending events in villages, such as concerts and workshops.
- Participating in fairs and hosting exciting events such as the Cossack Day.
- Volunteering: assistance to the army, charity events, hosting gatherings in support of the army, transporting aid to the eastern regions.

2. Less active youth

- Those who are not involved in the organisation of events but sometimes attend them.

3. Sports and outdoor recreation

- Martial arts club: engaging young people in fitness.
- Sports community: young people uniting around team sports.
- Recreation on ponds: fishing, outdoor leisure.
- Recreation in park areas: active leisure in places that are not designated for this.
- Young parents: walks with children, cycling, hikes in the forest.

4. Cultural and religious community

- Religious youth and young people who are not part of the community attend events organised by the religious community.
- Playing musical instruments and other musical activities bring some young people together.



5. 5. Social and leisure activities

- Socialising in a café or next to shops.
- Biker community centred around motorcycles and a local blogger covering this topic.
- Social media and smartphones: primary way to communicate and unite.

6. Youth who work outside the community

- Travelling to big cities or abroad for work.

The Citizens' Assembly highlighted the following opportunities for youth to be developed in the Community:

1. Existing and planned spaces

- Public premises of the outpatient clinic: the idea of creating a gym, a board game area, a library and co-working area, which will ensure multifunctional use of the space.
- The Citizens' Assembly's Maistrova Volia Village Project: creating a multifunctional youth space for active recreation, education and development.

Motivational opportunities

- Developing local sports clubs where young people will be able to play sports and participate in physical activities in their communities.



What does rural youth lack? Recommendations for improvements or new initiatives needed in the community:

1. Infrastructure for music and culture

What is lacking?	Proposals for the Zviahel City Council
Poor musical equipment in cultural institutions	Equipping cultural institutions with modern equipment: procuring high-quality musical instruments, audio systems and microphones for rehearsals and events to bring musical classes and cultural events to a new level.
Lack of an outdoor stage with roofing	Construction of an outdoor stage with roofing: assembling a stage in a park or on the central square for cultural events, concerts and theatre productions and protecting it from the elements.
No space for music classes	Setting up a musical space in a youth centre: Allocating a separate room with sound insulation for musical rehearsals, stocking it with musical instruments and equipment for classes.

2. Sports infrastructure and active recreation

What is lacking?	Proposals for the Zviahel City Council
Lack of a sports ground with a high-quality surface	Upgrading the sports ground: replacing the old surface with a new one (e.g., rubber or acrylic surface) to ensure comfort and safety during practice and sports competitions.
No scooters, bicycles or infrastructure for them	Development of infrastructure for active transportation: Arranging bike paths, parking spaces for bicycles and scooters, considering renting scooters and bicycles in the park or on squares.

3. Creation of youth spaces and centres

What is lacking?	Proposals for the Zviahel City Council
Lack of options for creating youth spaces	Creation of a multifunctional youth centre: opening a youth centre that will feature a gym, library, co-working area, board games, music and creativity rooms. It is important to ensure free access for young people.

4. Modernisation and upgrade of general infrastructure

What is lacking?	Proposals for the Zviahel City Council
Infrastructure is in very poor condition	Repair and modernisation of existing facilities: reconstruction and modernisation of parks, playgrounds and other recreation areas (e.g., upgrading benches, lighting and paths) to make the spaces more attractive and safe for young people.

5. Improvement of transport accessibility

What is lacking?	Proposals for the Zviahel City Council
Inconvenient logistics for travelling to the city	Launching regular public transport routes: ensuring convenient routes from different districts of Zviahel to the city to facilitate access of young people to activities and educational institutions.

6. Self-expression and Creativity Spaces

What is lacking?	Proposals for the Zviahel City Council
Lack of spaces for self-expression	Setting up spaces for creativity: creating places for music rehearsals, theatre productions, art workshops and other forms of self-expression and ensuring access to them for young people of different ages.

7. Support of youth initiatives

What is lacking?	Proposals for the Zviahel City Council
Insufficient support for youth projects	Launching a grant programme for youth projects: initiating funding for youth initiatives and startups to motivate young people to actively participate in community life, realise their potential and create new projects.



Recommendations to the Zviahel City Council on engaging young people in creating public spaces in rural areas:

1. Conducting an audit of existing street spaces and premises in each village, assessing their condition and possibilities for transformation, reconstruction or demolition and construction of new ones.
2. Determining specific needs of each village: collecting proposals in each village for specific activities in sports and cultural infrastructure.
3. Optimising the use of resources and spaces based on the previous two items.
4. Maintaining sustainability (*security, rules of use*) + identification of those responsible (*youth group, village head, school, club*).

8. Recommendations on the selected issue: Spaces for psychological recovery and enhancing mental health.

Categories of people in need of 'healing' and the reasons they require spaces for psychological recovery and mental health:

1. **Children:** the youngest category that needs to be supported in their physical and emotional development.
2. **Teenagers:** a vulnerable population facing psychological challenges in transition.
3. **Adults** need resources to overcome stress and improve their mental health.
4. **Elderly people:** it is important to provide support and healing for this population, including through socialisation and physical exercise.
5. **Veterans:** a population that needs specialised rehabilitation programmes and psychological support.
6. **Military personnel** need emotional and physical support due to their military experience.
7. **Families of military personnel** need psychological help to overcome emotional difficulties.
8. **Hospital patients and visitors** face physical and emotional stress during treatment or care. Psychological rest areas will help them cope with fears, anxiety and emotional burnout.
9. **Educators, doctors and social workers** exhibit high levels of professional burnout due to working with people, as well as emotional stress associated with helping others.
10. **Internally displaced persons** face significant stress due to loss of home, adaptation to new living conditions and social isolation. Healing spaces will help them integrate into a new environment and overcome trauma.
11. **Parents on maternity/paternity leave** face emotional burnout due to isolation, day-to-day monotony and lack of support. Relaxation and psychological healing spaces will help parents reduce stress levels and support their mental health.

Population group	Stressors and pains	Healing practices	Conditions for healing in public spaces	Actions to support psychological healing
1. Children	Lack of safe places to play, social isolation	Running, active games, safe equipment, organised games, private spaces, quiet areas	Playgrounds, areas with safe equipment, quiet rest areas, places for organised games	Installing modern equipment on playgrounds, creating areas for organised games and quiet rest
2. Teenagers	High level of stress due to studying, limited opportunity for self-expression and socialisation	Communication with peers, discussions, recognition, group associations, physical activity	Discussion areas, organised events, sports grounds, spaces for creativity and discussions	Hosting discussion clubs, sports tournaments and creative activities, setting up support groups
3. Adults	Emotional burnout, social isolation, lack of opportunities for relaxation	Recharging, peace and quiet, contemplation, change of activity, communication, interaction with animals	Spaces for relaxation, communication and being closer to nature	Arranging spaces to have some quiet alone time and relax, organising outdoors activities (<i>excursions, walks, interaction with animals</i>)
4. Elderly people	Social isolation, limited access to social services	Communication, mobility, specials, hobbies, attention	Spaces for communication, specialised clubs, spaces for joint activities	Hosting club meetings, creating specialised clubs, organising joint events
5. Veterans	PTSD, anxiety, adaptation to peaceful life, lack of support	Socialisation, normalisation, visibility, appreciation, rehabilitation	Rehabilitation centres, veterans' clubs, creating support groups, areas for active recreation	Creating rehabilitation centres, hosting events for veterans, facilitating meet-ups and communication
6. Military personnel	Constant stress, adaptation difficulties, lack of family time	Psychological assistance, quiet, communicating with nature, family time, understanding	Recreation spaces for the entire family, the possibility of interacting with nature, private areas for relaxation	Organising family events, creating spaces for psychological support and family leisure
7. Families of military personnel	Worrying about loved ones, social isolation	Support and training, the opportunity to get distracted, activities, understanding the community	Family spaces, communication areas, organised activities for children and adults	Hosting group meetings to support families, create spaces for communication and active leisure
8. Hospital patients and visitors	Stress due to treatment, anxiety, lack of support	Communication with loved ones, prayer, privacy, quiet, communicating with nature, psychological support	Spaces for communication with loved ones, places for relaxation, chapels or rooms for spiritual support	Providing conditions for communication with loved ones, creating private areas for rest and spiritual support
9. Educators, doctors, social service workers	Heavy emotional toll, professional burnout	Relaxation, quiet, recharging, physical activity, yoga, meditation	Ease for relaxation, spaces for physical activity, areas for meditation and solitude	Organising relaxation sessions, sports programmes, hosting yoga and meditation classes
10. Internally displaced person	Anxiety, losses, adaptation to new conditions, social isolation	Support and training, understanding from the community, communication among IDPs	Integration centres, spaces for communication, places to learn new skills	Creating centres for adaptation, organising programmes for socialisation and skill development
11. Parents on maternity/ paternity leave	Social isolation, emotional burnout, lack of opportunities to rest from children	Sleep, reboot, rest without children, consultations and support, changing things up, communication	Spaces to have some privacy, temporary childcare spaces, parent support clubs	Organising childcare spaces, providing places for parent support groups and consultations

Recommendation to the Zviahel City Council on establishing psychological recovery and rehabilitation spaces

Short-term actions should focus on providing immediate psychological support and actively engaging residents in creating new spaces.

The initial steps can be implemented in locations already frequented by those in need of support, such as healthcare facilities, social services, and educational institutions, which serve diverse groups, including children, adolescents, and their parents. Ensuring these spaces are accessible, well-maintained, and equipped with seating (e.g., benches) and landscaping is essential. Additionally, key public areas should accommodate different needs by offering options for both active recreation and quiet, safe relaxation. Long-term actions should prioritize infrastructure development and the continuous implementation of healing and socialisation programs. A collaborative effort between authorities and the community will help create an environment that fosters mental well-being and enhances the overall quality of life.

Spatial assessment of the Central Park of Zviahel

On the second day of the session, an on-site spatial assessment of Zviahel's Central Park was conducted. The goal was to analyze its accessibility, barrier-free design, and suitability for different social groups. The assessment followed Jan Gehl's methodology and the Space Sustainability Assessment Process, offering a comprehensive approach to evaluating public spaces. The program included a 30-minute tour to inspect and assess the park's key parameters. Citizens' Assembly participants were divided into teams of five to seven, conducting their assessment with the assistance of facilitators. Afterward, they took a guided tour to explore the park's features in greater detail. Each participant received a questionnaire for an individual assessment, using a five-point scale. The joint tour and evaluation aimed to teach participants how to assess public spaces in terms of comfort, accessibility, and alignment with nature-oriented urban planning. This collaborative practice helped identify "invisible problems" and allowed participants to examine the park space more closely, generating new ideas for its transformation.

Building on their experience from the Central Park assessment, Assembly participants were tasked with visiting other urban spaces throughout the week. Using the same methodology, they were to conduct further assessments to develop proposals for the modernisation and enhancement of public spaces in the Zviahel community.

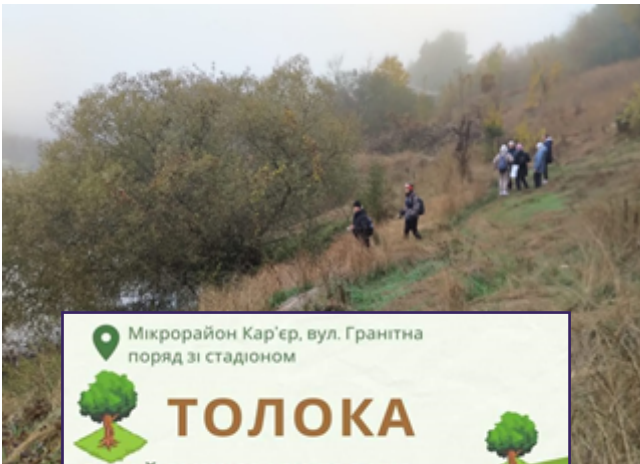


Study of the embankment and a self-organised “toloka”²-style clean-up that involved the participants of the Citizens’ Assembly

On 26 October 2024, between two weekends, some members of the Assembly gathered to assess and improve the public space near the quarry on Hranitna Street (next to the stadium) in Zviahel. Public officials also participated in the event.

As part of their work on recommendations for developing the embankment, the team organised a joint on-site trip along the Sluch River and assessed the public spaces of the embankment.

During the assessment and informal discussions, Assembly members gained a deeper understanding of the methodology for evaluating the accessibility of public spaces. They also clarified technical issues, discussed challenges related to space maintenance with experts, and exchanged feedback on their ideas.



Assessment of the quality of natural spaces: Rate from 0 to 10		
Biodiversity: 6.25 Diversity of plant and animal species Local (native) species Variety of birds, animals, insects Multi-layered plantings at different levels Creation of environments for birds, insects, small mammals Water bodies for animals No allergenic plants	Quality of green areas: 5.6 Plant health and condition Compatibility of plants with the local climate Resistance to diseases and pests Low maintenance plants that will survive without care	Water resources management: 2.5 Rainwater collection systems Permeable surfaces Efficiency of water use for irrigation
Microclimate: 9.5 Creation of shady areas Improvement of air quality Noise absorption Significant number of uncovered areas — Reducing the heat island effect	Waste management: 1.75 Rubbish bins are available Availability of separate waste collection systems Composting of organic waste Minimising the use of disposable materials	Socio-environmental interactions: 3.25 Opportunities for community gardening Engaging the community in the care of green spaces
Resilience to climate change: 2.0 Ability to withstand extreme weather Conditions for surviving drought Capacity to avoid the negative effects of flooding	Educational element of the space: 0.5 Information stands on the local ecosystem Hosting environmental events and programmes Opportunities to learn new things and raise public awareness	High-quality, durable, natural, locally sourced materials (steel): 1.0 Use of natural materials Use of recycled materials Use of locally sourced materials Durability and reusability of materials

At the event, participants assessed the condition of the embankment, beautified a square, cleared damaged trees, planted more than 20 new trees, dismantled deteriorated structures, and installed children’s swings as planned.



2. In Ukrainian, “Toloka” refers to a traditional community gathering where people voluntarily come together to help with a task, such as building a house, harvesting crops, or other communal work. It embodies the spirit of mutual aid and cooperation. Historically, toloka was an essential part of rural Ukrainian life, reinforcing community bonds and collective responsibility.

The Assembly also developed specific recommendations for improving transport and social infrastructure, with a focus on enhancing accessibility and comfort for all residents, especially individuals with disabilities.



Creation of a social taxi for people with disabilities

- Developing a programme to introduce a social taxi that will ensure comfortable and safe transportation for people with disabilities.
- Identifying sources of funding, as well as attracting specialised transport operators and an adequate transport fleet.

Introduction of paid parking and regulating inconsistent parking spaces in non-designated areas

- Establishing a paid parking system in the central areas of the city to regulate the traffic and increase driver discipline.
- Regulating inconsistent parking spaces in non-designated areas, arranging official parking spaces, ensuring convenient access to the key city facilities.
- Defining clear parking rules and appropriate signs on the streets.

Creation of a public transport stop near the city hospital

- Arranging a public transport stop directly at the entrance to the city hospital to ensure convenient access for patients and medical staff.
- Changing the routes of city buses so that they pass through the hospital, reducing transport difficulties for visitors to healthcare facilities.

Arrangement of lighting in remote areas of the city

- Developing and implementing an outdoor lighting project for remote areas where there are safety concerns due to insufficient lighting.
- Installing energy-efficient LED lights along main streets and in residential areas to increase the level of safety and comfort of residents.

Installation of picture symbols on public buildings

- Installing picture symbols at the entrances to public buildings to facilitate navigation for people with disabilities, such as those with visual impairments. Putting up picture symbols on public facilities such as hospitals, schools, administrative buildings, libraries and other institutions to increase accessibility and clarity for all residents.

SESSION 3: DECISION-MAKING (2–3 NOVEMBER 2024)

The third and final session of the Citizens' Assembly focused on finalising proposals, making decisions, and fostering dialogue. At the start of the morning session, participants met with community leaders and civil servants to collaboratively analyze the ideas presented by Assembly members during the first and second sessions.

Mykola Borovets, Zviahel City Mayor; Oksana Hvozdenko, City Council Secretary; Iryna Hudz, Deputy Mayor; Dmytro Hudz, Deputy Mayor; Oleh Hodun, Head of the Housing, Utilities and Ecology Department; Anatolii Romanchuk, Director of the Zviahel Service Utility Company; and Mykola Andrushchenko, Head of the Zviahel Business Club, joined the session.

The local authorities and experts evaluated all ideas based on the following criteria:

- ? Does a similar initiative already exist among the projects being considered by the community?
- ? Is the idea consistent with other ongoing or planned projects? Could it be adapted to fit within such a project?
- ? What is the estimated cost of the project? Is there sufficient funding allocated in the budget, or is grant funding a viable option?
- ? If the necessary funds are available, what is the estimated timeline for project implementation?
- ? Will the community's senior officials support the idea? If not, why?
- ? Would senior officials propose changes to the idea? If so, what specific modifications would they suggest?

The purpose of the consultations with civil servants was to receive feedback on previous developments. This process helped identify priority steps and proposals, determine the order of implementing recommendations, and establish expectations for future civic participation in decision-making.

Based on this feedback, the Assembly members moved into a new stage of discussions to further develop and refine their initial ideas. These discussions frequently referenced insights from expert presentations while also incorporating participants' own experiences and ideas. Throughout the process, the experts of the Citizens' Assembly remained available to assist and provide guidance as needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN DEVELOPED AT THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY SESSIONS

Following the discussions, 40 recommendations were developed, and each participant evaluated them using a 5-point scale.

No.	Recommendations	Average score	Support rate (%)
Park of Defenders of Ukraine (near the Officers' House)			
1	Upgrading the Chervona Kalyna spring: creating a convenient and safe descent to the spring, providing easy access to the water, installing proper drainage, and displaying information about the water's composition.	4,6	92%
2	Holding a competition for projects to upgrade the entrance area of the park and selecting a project that would include installations celebrating the defenders, placing QR codes of foundations for donations for the needs of defenders.	4,2	84%
3	Creating an inclusive and safe space in the park: updating and expanding the paths with a bike path; arranging a barrier-free entrance to the park, conveniently placing benches with backrests and entrances for people in wheelchairs; placing information about the park (including in Braille); installing signs to different areas of the park, inclusive restrooms, lighting throughout the park, police call buttons; creating a safe descent to the river; updating playgrounds, etc.	4,6	92%
4	Updating the observation deck: repairing benches, installing a swing for adults, arranging a photo zone with pergolas made of natural materials, installing a gazebo.	4,4	88%
5	Installing additional open spaces made of natural materials for sitting and relaxing among the trees.	4,2	84%
Park of Culture and Recreation, central alley, entrance area			
6	Reconstruction of the central entrance alley and existing paths in the park to account for the barrier-free access principles and close the fountain in an emergency condition.	4,8	96%
7	Reconstruction of the "Litniy" Summer Theatre building while preserving its function (<i>functional purpose</i>) and preserving the unique mosaic on the façades by engaging art historians and other experts who can assess the historical value.	3,5	70%
8	Arrangement of spaces with covers/roofing for active recreation and relaxation (<i>dance floor, folk singing, yoga, reading books, etc.</i>).	4,3	86%
9	Designation of a remembrance space at the location of the existing burial ground to commemorate the tragic history of this place.	3,2	65%
10	Holding a meeting with all businesses present in the park, with the participation of the community and the city authorities, regarding plans for the development of their/leased areas (<i>rides, cafés, shops</i>).	4,1	82%
Embankment. Upstream from the beach (right bank)			
11	Organising and holding an open all-Ukrainian architectural competition to develop a concept for the construction of the embankment and its zoning (<i>accounting for the principles of inclusion and accessibility and subject to the involvement of environmentalists and the greatest possible use of natural materials and perennial herbs</i>).	4,5	90%
12	Clearing the protected area of the Sluch River within the embankment site (<i>including with broad community participation</i>).	4,6	93%



13	Laying the main walking route along the embankment and arranging areas for picnics, active leisure for children and other elements of landscaping (<i>organisation of solid waste collection points, etc.</i>).	4,4	88%
14	Developing and approving land management documentation for the embankment area with the target designation of “recreational land” (<i>to prevent unregulated development of the site</i>).	4,5	89%
15	Organising and conducting an advocacy campaign to secure broad support for the embankment construction project in the city of Zviahel (<i>visualising the zoning layout and informing the public about the status of the project preparation and implementation through local communication channels, media, etc.</i>).	4,0	80%
Village of Maistrova Volia. Multifunctional park and lake			
16	Holding public hearings on the arrangement of recreation areas in the village of Maistrova Volia.	4,2	83%
17	Creating a supervisory advocacy group to ensure transparency in the implementation of projects.	3,8	76%
18	Local governments should attract co-financing from investments, the local budget and local businesses.	4,1	83%
19	Determining the scope and areas of work that locals can start performing now.	4,3	87%
20	Preservation of the natural landscape during the implementation of the project (<i>minimum interference with the natural environment</i>).	4,3	87%
Parking system			
21	Developing design and estimate documentation for the reconstruction of Shevchenko Street from the roundabout to Lesya Ukrainka Square and the construction of a pedestrian zone.	4,5	90%
22	Developing and presenting to the public a city target programme for the development of parking areas in the city that would account for the recommendations developed during the Assembly.	4,3	87%
23	Priority arrangement of municipal parking spaces near educational institutions.	4,0	81%
24	Ensuring the placement of information road signs for parking spaces and providing information about possible parking spaces in electronic applications (<i>e.g., E-Zviahel</i>).	4,2	84%
25	Developing adequate mechanisms for involving associations of owners of the flats in a building (OSBB) in the arrangement of parking spaces in the courtyards of flat buildings.	4,0	80%
Water treatment			
26	Conducting an advocacy campaign to unite the community around the problem of cleaning the riverbed (<i>identifying target audiences, key messages for each target audience, communication channels, drawing up an advocacy campaign plan</i>).	4,7	93%
27	Identifying places where liquid sewage is discharged into the river and taking measures to stop pollution.	4,9	98%
28	Introducing herbivorous fish species to the section of the river from the dam near the mill to the dam in the village of Chyzhivka and banning their capture.	4,4	89%
29	Continuing cleaning the riverbed from vegetation, attracting special equipment for cleaning silt, expanding the cleaning area.	4,7	94%
30	Developing a Riverbed Cleaning Programme (<i>for 3–5 years</i>).	4,6	92%



Involving rural youth in the development of public spaces			
31	Engaging representatives of each settlement of the community in the Youth Council and holding regular council meetings in each settlement one by one.	4,5	90%
32	Informing young people about existing programmes and grant opportunities for creating public spaces in villages; hosting events to share experiences, successful cases and youth networking with other communities in Ukraine.	4,4	89%
33	In the near future, implementing small pilot projects involving young people to increase motivation; holding ideas competitions with the allocation of small funds for the implementation of these ideas.	4,1	82%
34	Meeting the following conditions: ensuring representation of the village population in the strategic planning department; developing a targeted programme for the development of public spaces in 14 settlements of the community; introducing the practice of regular receptions of local deputies and visits to villages by executive authorities; creating events and spaces for community building among all residents of the Zviahel community.	4,1	82%
35	Conducting an audit of existing spaces in each village, assessing their condition and potential for development; collecting proposals and assessing needs for public spaces; ensuring the optimal use of resources and creating safe spaces with shelter; attracting businesses located in these villages, equipping and supporting public spaces and offering benefits to participating businesses.	4,5	89%
Spaces for psychological recovery and enhancing mental health			
36	Creation of psychological support centres based on library spaces with the landscaping of the surrounding area.	4,2	85%
37	Arrangement of an open space for mental recovery in the hospital yard.	4,4	87%
38	Creating a Veterans Hub with the landscaping of the surrounding space based on a study of the needs and preferences of veterans.	4,4	88%
39	Inventory, modernisation and creation of new sports spaces with artificial surfaces throughout the Zviahel community.	4,2	83%
40	Organisation of leisure programmes for the elderly and teenagers with the arrangement of separate creative open spaces throughout the community.	4,3	86%



The following action plans were developed for each issue and public space, to be implemented in collaboration with the community:

Action Plan: Park of Culture and Recreation, central alley, entrance area

Action	Description	Target audience	Deadline	Expected result
1. Providing information on the results of the Citizens' Assembly on social media	Publishing reports and summaries of the Assembly on the official pages of the community on social media	All residents of the community	Within 1 month after the end of the Assembly	Raising public awareness about the outcomes of the Assembly and achieving transparency
2. Conducting an outreach campaign with activities in the public space	Organising a series of events (<i>e.g., lectures, workshops</i>) to raise awareness about the outcomes of the Assembly and encourage community participation	All residents of the community	Within 2–3 months after the end of the Assembly	Increasing community participation and creating a positive image of the Assembly
3. Conducting an online survey on the recommendations of the Assembly	Conducting a survey among residents who did not participate in the Assembly to collect additional opinions and feedback on the recommendations developed	Residents of the community that did not participate in the Assembly	Within 3 months after the end of the Assembly	Involving more residents in the discussion and building trust in the Assembly results
4. Assembly: Follow-up speech and presentation of outcomes	Gathering Assembly participants, public officials and the Council of Europe to present the achievements in half a year. Organising a tour to present the implemented projects in a year	Assembly participants, public officials, partners from the Council of Europe	In 6 and 12 months after the end of the Assembly	Presentation of progress in implementing projects, strengthening trust and support from the community and partners
5. Mural competition with the participation of art school students	Organising a mural competition for the wall of garages that would involve teachers and students of the Art School to visually reflect the ideas of the Assembly	Students and teachers of the Art School, community residents	Within a year after the end of the Assembly	Supporting creativity and enriching public space through art, involving young people in implementing the ideas of the Assembly

Participants mapped locations that should be supplemented/removed/reimagined, etc. Furthermore, everyone agreed that there is already a certain zoning, which can be partially supplemented with places for recreation, sports and playgrounds for teenagers without making the park too busy with new structures and paths. Nature must be preserved to the greatest extent possible, including flora/fauna of the park so that various birds and squirrels can live there.

- 1. The site of the soldiers' graves (*the authorities agreed on reburial*) should be preserved and turned into a place of remembrance.
- 2. The entrances should be upgraded to one without steps so that they meet the requirements of barrier-free access.



3. The fountain, which is currently in a breakdown condition, should be temporarily enclosed with a wooden deck, thus creating an element of tactical urbanism, which will enable observing the ways and reasons different categories of visitors use it; the enclosure will also prevent injuries to children/teenagers/elderly people. In the future, this fountain should be replaced with a “dry” light and music fountain (*of the same height as the enclosure*).
4. Removing the rectangular flower beds; benches should also be replaced and installed to account for the standards of barrier-free access (*every 30 metres*).
5. Modernising the Heart photo zone.
6. Creating a mural on the walls of the garages by engaging art groups from the School of Arts.
7. Expanding the sports ground and installing exercise machines there.
8. Modernising the playgrounds by adding a theme to each one.
9. Upgrading the rides.
10. Dismantling the “green” toilet and creating a recreation area with a canopy and benches in its place.
11. Creating a space for youth/teenagers with a skate/parkour area and a communication zone next to the Ferris wheel.
12. Instead of the Orangerie building, arranging an open greenhouse or a renewal garden with recreation spaces with roofing in this green area.
13. Preserving the function and mosaic of the “Litniy” Summer Theatre building.
14. Leaving the existing markings while balancing the track surface between hard and natural soft surfaces such as gravel, wood chips, etc.

Action Plan: Park of Defenders of Ukraine

1. Organising a clean-up

- Conducting a “toloka”-style meet-up to clean up areas of the park inaccessible to machinery.
- Posting an announcement about the clean-up in residential areas near the park to attract more volunteers.
- Painting the playground to freshen it up and ensuring its safety.
- Installing covers on sandboxes to prevent access by animals.
- Initiating the removal of debris resulting from the trees that were cut down during the clearing and modernisation of the park.

2. Repairing benches at the observation deck

- Finding the necessary materials to repair the benches (*possibly with the support of local entrepreneurs*).
- Engaging a craftsman to repair the benches.

3. Coordination

- Creating a group in a messenger application to coordinate all participants in the Defenders Park Modernisation Project to promptly discuss tasks and progress.

4. Engaging entrepreneurs in park development

- Together with representatives of housing and municipal services, engaging entrepreneurs to help with park development (*e.g., installing pergolas, swings for adults, benches and solar-powered lighting near the spring and observation decks*).

5. Initiation of water analysis

- Initiating water analysis in the park to ensure its quality and safety for visitors.

6. Updating inscriptions on monuments

- Restoring inscriptions on monuments using a new layer of paint to preserve their appearance and readability.



Action Plan: Parking system

1. Holding talks with heads of OSBBs.
2. Submitting the recommendations developed to the city authorities.
3. Participating in the discussion of the programme.
4. Initiating joint efforts on the preparation of a city target programme (*possibly a working group*).
5. Cooperation with deputies to support and develop a city target programme on parking.
6. Adopting at a city council session.
7. Inclusion of a pedestrian zone in the Economic and Social Development Programme for the next year (*initiating changes to the Programme*).

Action Plan: Improvement of the embankment

1. Creating a page/community on social media to promote the project idea.
2. Organising and holding a public meeting.

Action Plan: Cleaning the river

1. Organising a “toloka”-style meet-up to clean the approaches to the river.
2. Meeting with the members of the city council who are part of the Standing Committee on Housing and Municipal services, Environment and Water Resources to discuss step-by-step actions to clean the riverbed.

To ensure the sustainability of the outcomes and the implementation of the recommendations developed, experts and facilitators have prepared the following recommendations for the Zviahel City Council:

1. Conducting regular public consultations and engaging the public in the decision-making process

Regular consultations with the public are proposed as part of the community’s strategic planning.

This will allow citizens to be regularly informed about current and future initiatives, as well as to take their opinions and needs into account in the decision-making process. This transparent approach will help residents feel involved in community life, which will reduce conflict, strengthen trust in leadership and promote peaceful coexistence of different social groups in the community.

2. Developing a communication structure to support feedback with residents and village starostas³

To ensure effective communication, a separate department should be created or a responsible person should be appointed to maintain constant communication with the local public and coordinate work with village starostas.

This will ensure a stable and transparent channel of communication between senior officials of the community and its residents, allowing for timely consideration of the local needs of each settlement. Regular contact with village starostas will contribute to better coordination in infrastructure development, solving local issues and mitigating conflicts.

3. Conducting an audit of communication channels and updating the public outreach strategy

An audit of existing communication channels is recommended, including an inventory of all CSOs operating in the community.

This will improve residents’ access to information, making it more accessible and relevant.

A section should be created on the official community website with a list of active CSOs, and a special department should be established for coordination with remote settlements and village starostas.

3. In Ukrainian, «starosta» (село́ста) refers to the head or leader of a rural locality, typically a village or a small community. The role of the starosta in Ukraine is an official position within the local government, especially in rural areas. The starosta is responsible for representing the interests of the local population, coordinating community activities, and working with higher government authorities to address the needs of the village or community.

This will allow addressing the needs of various social groups in the community and ensure access to the necessary information.

4. Introducing mandatory regular meetings with village starostas

It is proposed to organise regular meetings with village starostas to discuss current affairs, including funding opportunities, grant activities, and the development needs of each settlement.

These meetings will facilitate the prompt resolution of local issues, promote open dialogue between the community center and the villages, and ensure that the specific needs of each territory are taken into account, contributing to the balanced development of the community.

5. Enabling professional development for communications experts and sharing experiences to improve community engagement

A key step in improving communication is building the skills of the communications department. Training sessions and courses should be organised to enhance communication and conflict management skills, as well as to help staff effectively engage with diverse audiences.

This will ensure a professional level of community service to increase the public trust and the quality of interaction with the community, both for the city of Zviahel and the rural settlements of the community.



RESULTS OF THE COLLECTION OF ONLINE PROPOSALS FROM RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC SPACES

Proposals were received from 21 August to 4 October 2024. A total of 54 submissions were received, 44 of which included specific proposals. Each submission contained between 1 and 11 proposals.

Distribution of proposals by directions:

- 1. Development and restoration of green areas (10):** Landscaping of parks and squares, creation of protected areas, high-quality care for greenery, planting of local and perennial plants.
- 2. Development of sports infrastructure (8):** Creation and renovation of sports grounds, halls, clubs for youth and children, skate parks.
- 3. Restoration and development of pedestrian zones (8):** Needs for repair of roads, pavements, creation of pedestrian zones.
- 4. Education, development and leisure for children (8):** Creation and development of clubs (focus on both girls and boys), playgrounds, children's spaces.
- 5. Reservoirs (5):** Restoring, cleaning, setting up recreation and rest areas, preservation.
- 6. Creation of places for interaction, communication, cultural events (5):** Venues for cultural events, places for leisure for the entire family, youth spaces, open-air cinema.
- 7. Rehabilitation and restoration (5):** Rehabilitation centre for veterans and military personnel, Places of Power for Veterans and Their Families, centres for children with disabilities, rehabilitation and therapy spaces.
- 8. Community infrastructure (4):** restoration of bridges, road surfaces, parking systems, etc.
- 9. Safety (3):** Increasing public safety in spaces, traffic safety (*speed limiters*).
- 10. Cycling infrastructure (3):** cycling paths, bicycle parking spaces.
- 11. Historical heritage (2):** spaces near the fortress, preservation of background buildings, preservation of historical elements of landscaping.
- 12. Design code, navigation, tourist routes, identity (2):** Development of design code, navigation, single paving standard, tourist routes.
- 13. Inclusivity and accessibility (2):** Creating a barrier-free environment, creating opportunities for interaction among different generations, especially involving elderly people.
- 14. Establishing recreational areas (1):** General wishes for quality improvement.

Proposals for the transformation of specific spaces:

- 1. Druzhba District (4):** Playgrounds, open air gyms and sports spaces, football pitch, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, cleaning of the reservoir and landscaping.
- 2. Gymnasium No.8 (3):** Landscaping around the gymnasium, sports ground, football pitch.
- 3. Park of Culture (2):** General renovation of paths, restoration of the open-air cinema, fountain.
- 4. Lesya Ukrainka Square(1):** Making it pedestrian, reconstruction.
- 5. Sluch River (1):** cleaning of the reservoir, arrangement of recreation areas, creation of a regional landscape park, creation of a reserve fund.
- 6. Zhytomyrskyi Bridge (1):** road repair.
- 7. Franko Street near the Tourist Centre (1):** Ivan Franko statue.



8. Creation of a single tourist route with tourist attractions (1): Fortress (*Castle*), Railway Bridge, Mezentsev's Palace, Lesya Ukrainka Museum.

9. Byky Bridge, Druzhba and Pivzavod Districts (1): Creation of high-quality pedestrian and bicycle connections, restoration of the bridge.

10. Rural areas (2): Playgrounds, open air gyms, youth spaces, arrangement of places for recreation and communication.

11. Historical heritage (2): Spaces near the Fortress (*Castle*), support of the historical environment and real estate development nearby (buildings at 18 Zamkova Str.; 11 (*Doctors' House*), 16, 27 Heroiv Maidanu Str.; 18 Hetmana Sahaidachnogo Str.; 2, 62, 74 (*building of the District Territorial Centre of Recruitment*) Sobornosti Str.; 20V Yuriia Hlukhova Str.; 48 Kyivska Str.; Stage Station building).

12. Heroiv Maidanu Str. (1): Traffic safety: Solutions are needed to limit the traffic speed.

13. Behind the Fora Store (1): Renovating the basketball court.



CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY IN THE ZVIAHEL COMMUNITY IN FIGURES

The feedback and impressions of participants are key indicators of the effectiveness and efficiency of tools for civic participation in decision-making.

To assess the Citizens' Assembly—a new instrument of deliberative democracy in Ukraine—the participants in the Zviahel community were invited to take part in a survey. The survey consisted of three stages: pre-Assembly, immediately before the Assembly, and a final follow-up survey. This process provided insights into participants' attitudes toward the Citizens' Assembly as a form of deliberative process, its outcomes, and other related topics. The responses were collected voluntarily and processed anonymously.

One key indicator of residents' willingness to engage in local affairs was their motivation for joining the Citizens' Assembly. Of the 44 participants who took part in the survey, **37 cited a desire to contribute to the development of their community** as their primary reason for participation. The second most common reason was the **opportunity to influence decision-making in the community, chosen by 15 respondents**. **Interest in the Assembly itself ranked third, with 13 participants** selecting this reason.

Another important indicator of citizens' desire to participate in public affairs is the fact that, on a scale from 1 to 5, respondents rated **the importance of the people's will in state policies at an average of 4.83**. The following statements received the same average score: 'Politicians should always focus on people's problems' and 'A democracy should ensure that citizens have a voice in making decisions on the most important issues.'

Additionally, respondents frequently agreed (*average score of 4.73*) with the statement that, **in a democracy, it is important to reach an agreement among people with different views**.

Nevertheless, the vast majority—**52.38%—of respondents believe that the political system in Ukraine allows ordinary citizens to influence political decisions only to a small extent**. **35.71%** believe that influence is enabled to a large extent, while **4.76%** selected 'Provides unimpeded influence' or 'Difficult to answer.' Only **2.33%** of respondents chose 'Provides no influence.'



The central element of the Citizens' Assembly methodology is building participants' knowledge through expert presentations, insights, and Q&A sessions. **95%** of participants in the Citizens' Assembly in the Zviahel community who answered this question stated that they learned more about creating urban spaces thanks to the information provided during the Assembly. This is further confirmed by the high level of satisfaction with the work of both the experts (*rated 4.49 on a five-point scale*) and the lead expert (**4.65**).

Further evidence of the positive impressions participants had is that **100% of respondents** who answered this question expressed willingness to participate in the Assembly again **if a similar event were held and would recommend it to their friends** if they had the chance.

According to the feedback, participants rated their overall satisfaction with the organisation of the event at **4.67 out of 5**, and the communication between organisers and participants at **4.63**. The work of the facilitators was rated an average of **4.65**, while the lead facilitator received an even higher rating of **4.72**. Respondents also agreed that the facilitators were neutral (*unbiased*), with this statement scoring **4.4**.

All members of the Assembly had equal opportunities to participate in discussions and express their opinions, with respondents supporting this statement by rating it an average of **4.47 out of 5**.

The survey also showed that **97.62%** of participants positively assessed the Assembly, as **78.57%** noted that the **event exceeded their expectations**, and another **19.05%** indicated that it **met their expectations**.



PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK ON THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY



"Two days of joint efforts brought a clear understanding that I'm not just doing something important for the community, helping local authorities and so on. I'm doing it for my family, for my own grandchildren who will one day come to the beautiful square, to the playground in Zviahel and say, 'Grandma, look, what a beautiful place!,' and I will tell them that I was one of those who came up with it."



"The Citizens' Assembly made it clear that you can be the change in the community where you live. The Assembly inspired me to take action in the development of public spaces, work in a team of like-minded people."



"The Citizens' Assembly in Zviahel met all expectations. Accessible. Non-preachy. Inclusive. Optimistic. The facilitators were qualified. The residents were creative. Many thanks to the organisers!"



"I truly appreciate this interesting, meaningful, insightful and informative project. Thank you for the exciting organisation of the Assembly. It was packed with content, effective and modern. I believe that all initiatives will reach their logical conclusion through implementation. I'm looking forward to the next Assemblies!"



"In addition to working together for the benefit of the community, here, at the Citizens' Assembly, we meet interesting people and make friends to keep in touch outside these walls. I'll be happy to come back here again, because my new friends and I have already developed several great ideas for creating public spaces and will lobby for them at the next sessions."



"First and foremost, the Citizens' Assembly brought into my life and worldview important experience of working with other residents and government initiatives. Now I think that I wouldn't mind creating my own project, and I understand how important it is for me and the community. I am very grateful for this wonderful experience!"



"The Citizens' Assembly is a great opportunity to engage the public in making important decisions regarding the development of the community. I'm sincerely grateful to the organisers for this opportunity to be heard and to offer my ideas."



"The Citizens' Assembly made it clear that you can be the change in the city where you live. Thank you for this learning opportunity."



CONCLUSION

Among the key challenges for the Zviahel community, which includes 14 settlements, is the effective management of both urban and rural development. Decentralisation processes impact the entire community, making it essential to address not only the needs of Zviahel city residents but also those of the villages to ensure sustainable and balanced territorial development.

Ensuring quality living conditions for all community members, regardless of their location, remains a primary objective. Equal attention must be given to both urban and rural areas, with careful consideration of the community's demographics. Another priority is creating a barrier-free, inclusive environment that fosters community cohesion and resilience in today's conditions.

Residents face several challenges, particularly with critical infrastructure, which require additional attention and resources. Despite progress in recent years, the community's needs demand a comprehensive approach to address them. Engaging both local authorities and the public in joint actions will contribute to the ongoing development and improvement of life quality in the community.

The Citizens' Assembly has proven its relevance in addressing complex issues, particularly for communities like Zviahel, where in-depth discussions

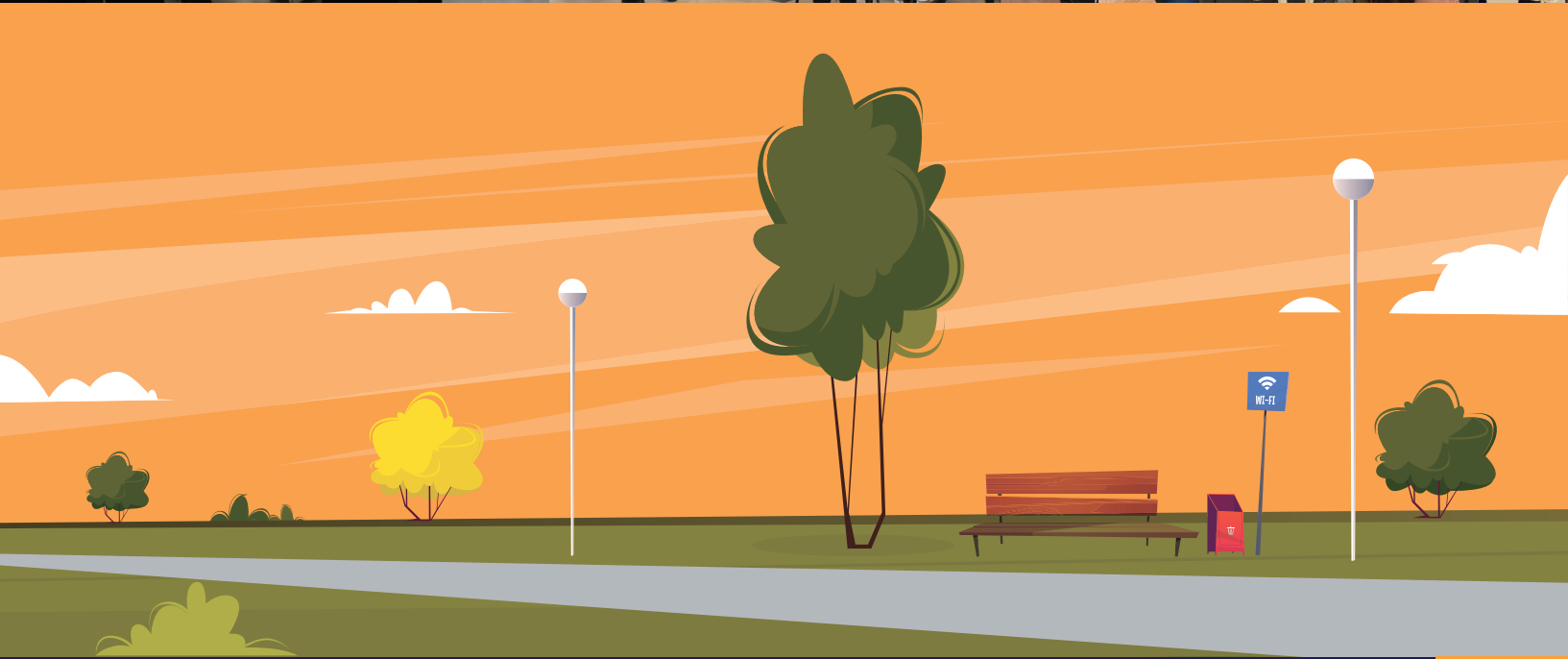
at various levels are necessary. With the support of senior community officials, the Assembly participants were actively engaged in the process, sharing insights on ongoing challenges and collaboratively seeking optimal solutions.

At the Assembly, participants had the opportunity to learn not only from experts but also from one another. Many came to understand that, even though change—no matter how small—can be challenging, the community possesses the tangible capacity to improve its environment. This resulted in a package of proposals aimed at driving significant progress across various aspects of community life, which we hope will benefit the residents of each settlement.

We firmly believe that the thoughtfully developed proposals will guide future changes, with the Citizens' Assembly serving as a launching pad for new community initiatives. The Zviahel City Council now has an important tool—a sort of compass—reflecting the citizens' priorities and helping to shape policies that enhance the quality of life, considering the needs of each settlement, from the city of Zviahel to the most remote villages.

We wish the Zviahel community continued growth and success, with high-quality public spaces for recreation, development, and leisure.





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