

The impact of the local community on the preservation of wild green space in the city

Case study of the Drwinka River Park, Cracow

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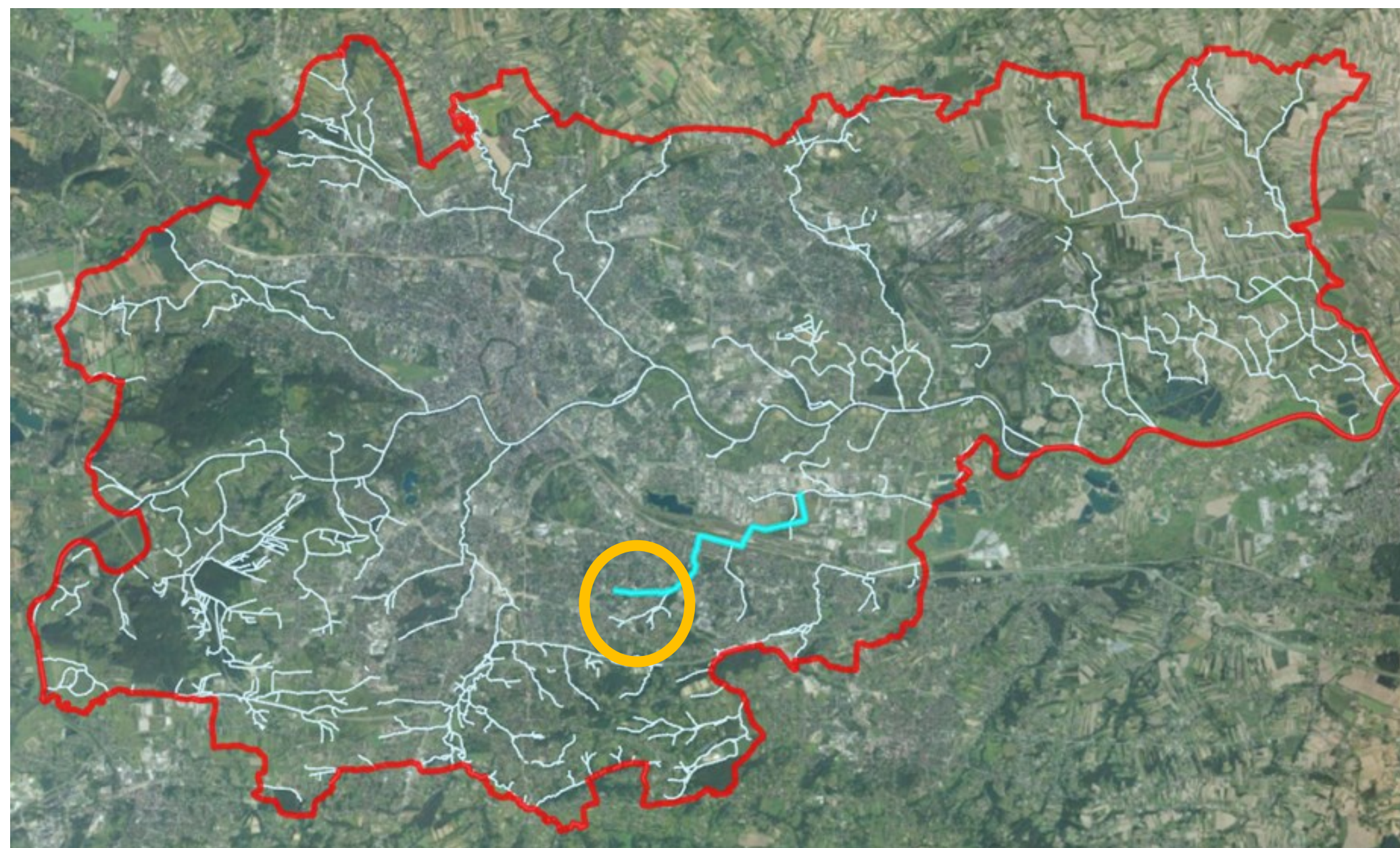
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Research context

- **Progressive development**, urban densification vs. valuable natural areas;
- Strong involvement of **local residents**;
- Building resilience to **climate change**, fighting air pollution, preserve nature;
- Case study within the **CLEARING HOUSE** project.

Case study area



Methods

- Analysis of planning **documents, literature, reports, maps**;
- **Research walk** in the Drwinka River Park;
- **Consultations** with officials, president of Drwinka Association;
- Upcoming – **survey among residents** in the park area.

Natural values



Key actors

- Municipality of Cracow;
- Municipal Greenspace Authority;
- Drwinka Association;
- Local residents;
- Companies – technical infrastructure.

Results and impacts

- Strong social commitment – **local zoning plans**;
- Detailed documentation of **700 species** (flora, fauna, mycobiota);
- Outdoor **educational activities** for children (natural trials, dead wood paths, educational boards);
- From grassroots initiative to **green space protection**.

Further challenges

- **Investment pressure** – developers, part of local residents;
- Transformation of the park area into **forest** land use;
- Reduction of **physical barriers** (tunnels for animals);
- Reduction of **light pollution** (bats, insects);
- Conflicts of interests – **diverse needs** of local residents;
- Fighting vandalism and littering.