

Suburban forests – delimitation, location and optimization of their area

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Social-recreation and sanitary-hygienic function of the forest stands belong to the most important non-production functions of the forests. Their role is even more emphasized in the suburban areas, being the most prominent at the biggest cities and industrial agglomerations. Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, is surrounded by forests, which have the status of commercial stands, without special management regime, oriented on the maximization of functions mentioned above. To lower this fail of the administration sphere, Ministry of Environment, Czech Republic, granted a project oriented at delimitation, location and optimization of the area of Prague's sub-urban forests, managed by the Faculty of Forestry and Environment, Czech University of Agriculture Prague.

The basic approach, aims and parameters of this project can be characterized as:

1. quantification (objective) of the social demands on the area of sub-urban forests of Prague, especially of their socio-economical importance, its spatial distribution, determination of modes and intensities of the re-creational use of the representative forest parts,
2. optimization of the use of sub-urban forests of Prague, their location, structure and equipment,
3. definition of topical and target management of the area of interest,
4. quantification of the economical demands on the management of the target area, quantification of economical impacts, comparison of commercial and target-oriented forest management,
5. categorization of the area as for: type and intensity of use, zonation, social demands.

The basic outputs are represented by:

- Delimitation of the urban forests of the Prague capital and its objective approval (on the most topical knowledge basis). Final outputs will be represented by maps with inner as well as outer zones and other data.
- The rough fundamentals of the target-oriented forest management in urban (sub-urban) forests. The manual enabling the basic orientation in the forest management for the state administration as well as for forest managers, aiming the optimization of the functional potential.
- Economical parameters of the differentiated forest management in sub-urban areas. Quantification of particular forest management systems as for their impact on the economy, forest species, spatial and age structures.
- The categorization of the forests in the sub-urban area of Prague capital.

The partners in this project and their main activities are:

- a) Faculty of Forestry and Environment, Czech University of Agriculture Prague: co-ordination, quantification of real load of forests by particular social needs, finalization of the work. Calculation of economical parameters of the changes in the forest management, real delimitation of the area of suburban forests, formulation of the management rules. The main compartments involved are Department of Silviculture, Laboratory of Landscape Ecology and Department of Forestry Economics and Management. The coordinator is responsible also for the publishing of results and outputs of the project.
- b) Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry, Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, Institute of Landscape Management: application of the methods, used in the EU, for determination of areas necessary for Prague capital from the point of view of size and quality quantification, further the use of the original method for quantification of the potentials of forests for particular functions (especially of social-recreation and sanitary-hygienic functions), delimitation of the area size of suburban forests of Prague (without real location).
- c) IDS, private research and data analyzing firm: GIS and numeric data synthesis, transfer and standardization of data of individual partners, finalization of outputs.

Outputs of this project should be a basis for the decisions concerning the determination of the zones of suburban forests, for their management as well as for the calculation of economical expenses eventually benefits. The project represents a beginning of further discussion, concerning the mission of forestry in heavily loaded regions.

As one of coming events (outputs of this project) is the international conference on PERIURBAN FORESTRY, held in Prague October 4th to 7th 2005 (kupka@fle.czu.cz)

Note: The presentation originated as a part of the research project **VaV 640/07/03 Problematika péče o lesy v okolí hl. m. Prahy s ohledem na formy jejich funkčního využívání** of the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic