



## ASSOCIATION OF LODZKIE REGION LANDSCAPE PARKS

is comprise of 7 lanscape parks (Łódź Hills Landscape Park, Bolimowski Landscape Park, Spalski Landscape Park, Sulejowski Landscape Park, Przedborski Landscape Park, Załęczański Landscape Park, Warta-Widawa Landscape Park) and it is situated on Lodzkie and partially on Masovian, Silesian and Świętokrzyskie Voivodships. All the landscape parks cover an area of ca. 175 000 ha, which is almost 10% of the Lodzkie region area.

With in the borders of the landscape parks there are areas with exceptional environmental and scenic values i.e. part of the valley of the Pilica river (between Przedbórz and Sulejów), valley of the Rawka river, high and steep landscape that is part of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains and the vicinity of the gorge of the Varta river (Załęczański Łuk Warty), not to mentioned the best preserved forests, especially the remnants of the Pilicka Primeval Forrest as well as characteristic edge zone of the Łódź Hills – the natural museum of the post glacial geomorphologic forms.

Each of the landscape parks play different functions: sightseeing, recreational, touristic, educational, scientific. At the same time protect the endemic nature and landscape.

### ŁÓDŹ HILLS LANDSCAPE PARK

Created in 1996 (14 663 ha) to protect the varied glacial terrain. It is characterized by the presence of numerous moraine hills, ravines and deep ravines. The latter, with a depth of up to 8 meters, can be seen among others in the "Parowy Janinowskie"



reserve. The park is a known postglacial geomorphologic forms museum. The many hills in the southern part of the park allow to admire the picturesque panorama.

A typical element of the park are springfens from which many rivers flow, including the Bzura River and the Moszczenica River. The Młynówka River Valley is protected as a nature reserve "Struga Dobieszkowska".

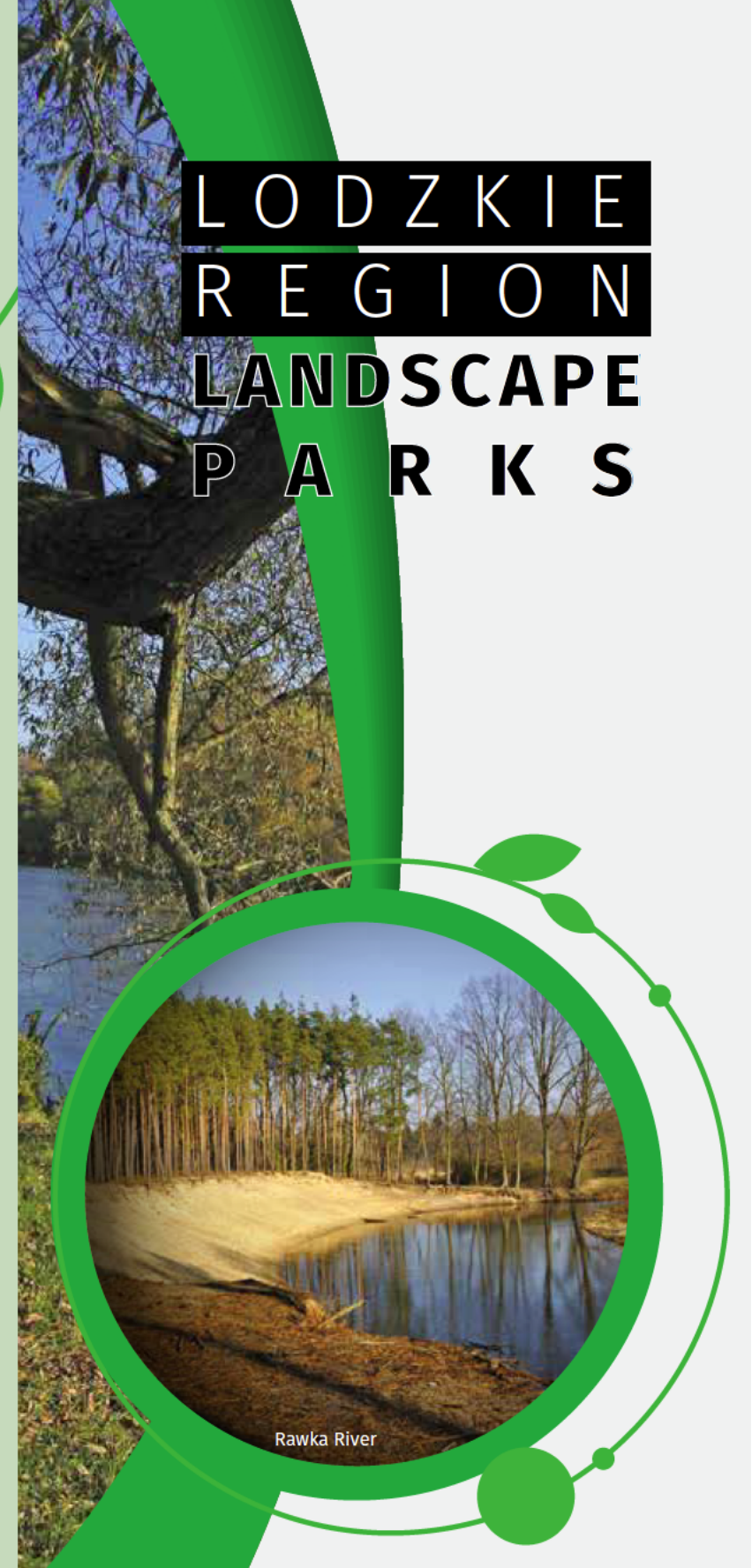
Nearly 1/3 of the Park is covered by forests. Among these important natural places there is Łągiewnicki Las with the area of more than 1,200 ha. It is one of Europe's largest forest complexes located within the administrative boundaries of the city. In the forest a reserve of the same name is located.

### BOLIMOWSKI LANDSCAPE PARK

Created in 1986 to protect the forest complex called Bolimowski Primeval Forest and the wild Rawka River valley. It covers an area of 23 614 ha, which is a remnant of the forests: Bolimowski, Korabiowski, Wiskicki and Jaktorowski. The most valuable "treasure" is the Rawka River, the last river in central Poland, where the edges are preserved in their natural state. Along its entire length it is covered by legal protection as a nature reserve. The park is dominated by glacial slightly undulating plain and the terrain is diversified by clearly indented Rawka River valley and its major tributaries, terraces and sand dunes within the Bolimowski Primeval Forest. The river valley, with the width of several hundred meters to over a kilometer, is the most famous landscape and nature attraction. Forests cover about 70% of the area, dominated by different types of pine forests.

Valuable meadow vegetation communities, bog, swamp and rush ones survived in the Rawka River valley, as well as on a number of midforest glades in the Bolimowski Primeval Forest i.e.: on the Siwica, Starożyńska, Bielawa, and in parts of wilderness in Nieborów, Bolimów, Miedniewice and near Bartniki.

# LODZKIE REGION LANDSCAPE PARKS



Rawka River





## PRZEDBORSKI LANDSCAPE PARK

Created in 1988, it covers an area of 16 553 ha and its buffer zone equals 18 466 ha. This includes the most valuable parts of the Przedborsko-Małogoskie Range and Włoszczowa Basin and Łopuszno and Opoczno Hills. The main attraction of the park are high and steep hills that are part of the Holy Cross Mountains, composed of Jurassic limestone and Cretaceous sandstones, with numerous small outcrops and quarries. The varied landscape creates an undulating plain with dunes to the west and wetlands, woodland and meadows to the east on the Black Włoszczowa (Pilica tributary). The hills reach a height of up to 347 m above sea level (Fajna Ryba Mountain). Forests cover about 63% of the area, pine forests are interlaced with birch forests and boggy pine forest. The diversified flora includes about 900 species of vascular plants, including 51 protected ones such as water wolffia arrhiza - the smallest flower plant in the world! In a few places where unique landscape is preserved and an abundance of flora and fauna species was found, 5 nature reserves were created: Beech Mountain (forestry), Oleszno (forestry), Murawy Dobromierskie (steppe-like vegetation), Czarna Różga (forestry) and Piskorzeniec (raised-bog with beavers reintroduced) as well as Ewelinów reserve in the buffer zone of the park.

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## SULEJOWSKI LANDSCAPE PARK

Created in 1994 (53 760 ha) because of the rich flora and fauna and the unique landscape of the river there. The Park is located on the Piotrków Plain and the Hills of Radomsko and Opoczno, and its hydrographic axis is created by the Pilica River with Sulejów Reservoir. The Park rises to the south and reaches 282 m above sea level in Bąkowa Góra. Mesozoic and Cretaceous outcrops are revealed by the quaternary landforms (Bąkowa Góra, Czantoria): shale, clay, sandstone, marl and quartz sands. There are caves located next to Nagórzyce, unique remnant of the submerged exploitation of soft sandstone. Pilicka Forest covers 69% of the Park. It is dominated by pine forests, dry and fresh, and mixed forests, mainly pine and oak. Areas of outstanding natural beauty are protected in 11 nature reserves: Błogie, Czar ny Ług, Gaik, Jaksonek, Jawor, Las Jabłoniowy, Lubiaszów, Meszcze, Twarda, Wielkopole and Blue Springs of total area of 624 ha all being ecological. Most of them are forest reserves, but the Blue Springs, for example, constitute the most valuable landscape and water reserve in central Poland. Near Smardzewice, from 1934, there has been a Bison Breeding Centre of the area of 56 ha.

## SPALSKI LANDSCAPE PARK

Created in 1995 (37 244 ha) is a part of Piotrkowska Plain, Radomska Plain and Białobrzezka Valley. Its main advantage is a picturesque part of the valley Pilica breakthrough in Inowódz with Jurassic outcrops and ravines and the lowland part of the river valley with wide terraces, meanders, oxbow lakes and ancient forest complexes of the ancient Pilicka Forest. The highest elevations in the park are 210 m above sea level, and many of them are excellent viewpoints. Forests dominate (57.4% of the area) with a significant share of agricultural land (35.6% of the area). The most interesting natural forests (grand oaks, pines and spruces). An interesting group of mammals are bats. In the old bunkers in Konewka there is one of the largest bat hibernacula in Poland. Of the 200 species of birds here you can find the black stork, kingfisher, corncrake, merginae and a very rare black grouse Konewka and Inowódz region is a sanctuary for many rare species of insects. In the Park and its buffer zone 6 nature reserves can be found: Konewka, Jeleń, Sługocice, Spała, Żądłowice and Gać Spalska.

## WARTA-WIDAWKA LANDSCAPE PARK

It was created in 1989 to protect the valley of the Warta and Widawka Rivers along with their tributaries, as well as accompanying natural flora and fauna. It covers an area of 25 330 hectares, and has a diverse landscape in the valleys of the rivers, especially the gorge of the Warta, where the river banks are even 45 m high. In the valleys three accumulation terraces can be seen. Groundwater flows to the surface in the form of a number of seepages, swamps and overflow springs in the banks area. Meandering rivers, numerous oxbow lakes, dune and peat areas are also natural and landscape valuable areas of the park. The vicinity of Szykielów is unique in this respect. Peat-

lands near the Niecierz and the estuary of the Oleśnica and the Warta hidden among peatlands are of high natural value (continued below). Forests in the park are only less than 25% of the total area and are dominated by artificially made forest communities. Xerothermic species are the most important elements of the park's flora from the geobotanical point of view. For the sake of keeping most natural values of the park four nature reserves were created: Winnica, Korzeń, Hołda and Grabica. ŁÓDŹ HILLS

## ZAŁĘCZAŃSKI LANDSCAPE PARK

Created in 1978, covers an area of 21 673 ha. It occupies the north-eastern part of Wieluń Upland, which is part of the Cracow-Częstochowa Upland - frequently called Polish Jura. It protects Jurassic lime-stone inselbergs, hiding many forms of karst, calciphilic flora and fauna and the section of the Warta river described as the most beautiful and diverse in relation to the whole of its course. Jurassic rocks appear on the surface of the ground at the top of the lime-stone inselbergs, on the edges of the Warta river valley near Lisowice and in numerous quarries, where you can admire geological sections, fossil karst formations and marine fossils, mainly ammonites, sponges, bivalves, belemnites and sea urchins. A significant part of the Park (about 50%) is covered by forests, dominated by coniferous habitats on very poor sandy soil. Large areas of the park are occupied with treeless, barren, sandy areas, which developed into grasslands. For the sake of keeping most natural values five reserves have been created in the park: Bukowa Góra, Dąbrowa, Węże, Szachownica, Stawiska. 19 objects are protected as monuments of nature. Among them there are numerous geological objects: St. Genevieve Mountain, Dark Blue Springs, Frog Pond.