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## REVALORISATION PROJECT OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup>-CENTURY BOHATERÓW MONTE CASSINO PARK IN JAROSŁAW

### PROJEKT REWALORYZACJI XIX-WIECZNEGO PARKU MIEJSKIEGO IM. BOHATERÓW MONTE CASSINO W JAROSŁAWIU

#### Abstract

This article concerns the issue of revalorisation of the Bohaterów Monte Cassino Park in Jarosław. The park was created at the beginning of the 20th century in connection with the Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition organised there, which, in those times, was both an economic, cultural and social event. It was then that the spatial layout of the park was laid out and exhibition pavilions were erected, which, unfortunately, did not survive to the present day. However, the urban layout with its historic tree stand has been preserved. Sadly, the park is currently badly neglected, which has influenced the town authorities to agree to its revitalisation and restoration. For this purpose, a conceptual project has been prepared, and subsequently, on the basis of the former, a civil engineering design with a dendrological analysis. It should be added that, since 1992, the area has been inscribed in the voivodeship monument register, which puts it under the conservation services supervision.

**Keywords:** Jarosław, city park, revalorisation, revitalisation

#### Streszczenie

Niniejszy artykuł dotyczy rewaloryzacji parku miejskiego im. Bohaterów Monte Cassino w Jarosławiu. Park ten powstał na początku XX wieku w związku z organizowaną w mieście Wystawą Przemysłową i Rolniczą, która w owych czasach była wydarzeniem nie tylko gospodarczym, ale także kulturalnym i towarzyskim. Wówczas to wytyczono układ przestrzenny parku, a także wzniesiono pawilony wystawowe, które nie przetrwały do naszych czasów. Zachowało się natomiast samo założenie urbanistyczne z zabytkowym drzewostanem. Niestety park jest obecnie bardzo zaniedbany, co wpłynęło na decyzję władz miasta o podjęciu działań na rzecz jego rewitalizacji i rewaloryzacji. W tym celu opracowano projekt koncepcyjny i na jego podstawie projekt budowlano-wykonawczy wraz z ekspertyzą dendrologiczną. Należy przy tym dodać, że teren od 1992 roku jest wpisany do rejestru zabytków województwa, co sprawia, że jest pod kontrolą służb konserwatorskich.

**Słowa kluczowe:** Jarosław, park miejski, rewaloryzacja, rewitalizacja

## 1. Introduction

In the historic town of Jarosław, at the junction of Bandurskiego and Konfederacka streets, a vast town park covering almost 8 hectares was created in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was realised in connection with the Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, organised in the year 1908, which was both an economic, cultural and social event in those times. After the exhibition, the park was used as recreational space for the inhabitants of Jarosław. However, in recent years, it has deteriorated. The local authorities of Jarosław decided to restore it to its former glory, at the same time creating a place for rest and relaxation for Jarosław residents. For this purpose, the architectonic concept of revalorisation 3517/1, 3517/2, 3516/1, 3516/2, 3441, 3553/2, 3554/1n and revitalisation of the space was prepared in 2013, and in 2017, the civil engineering design was based on it. However, its description ought to be preceded by an outline of the history of the park, which has been inscribed in the monument register of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship since 1992 (Entry no: A-479).

## 2. History

As has already been mentioned above, the Bohaterów Monte Cassino Park in the town of Jarosław was founded at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Its development was associated with the Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition organised in the year 1908 [1].

At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, larger and smaller cities and towns frequently organised industrial-agricultural exhibitions imitating those which first appeared in England and France in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. Those exhibitions were intended to promote

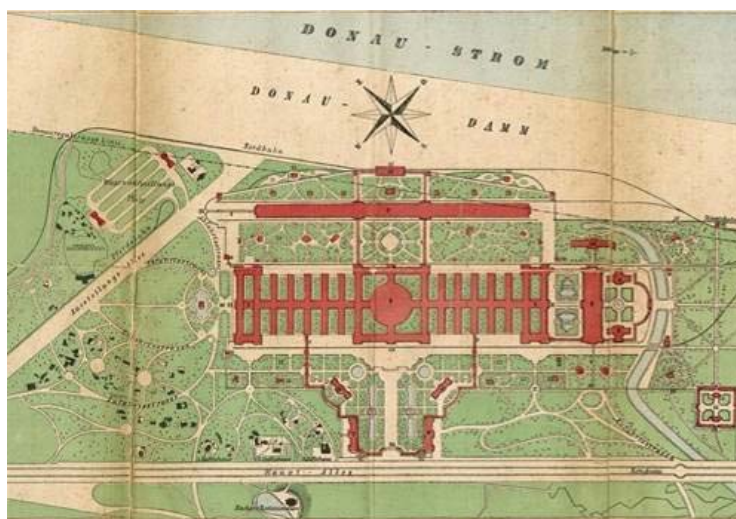


Fig. 1. Plan presenting a fragment of the World Fairgrounds in Vienna. Copy of the map (source: Archive of the Chair of History of Architecture, Urban Studies and Art, Faculty of Architecture, Cracow University of Technology WA PK, s.v.)

the achievements of a given region in the field of economy, but often education and culture, too [2]. They were also political events, which resulted in economic stimulation frequently connected to a plan of political reforms [3].

For the land of Galicia, where Jarosław is located, the models for industrial-agricultural exhibitions were found primarily in Vienna and then Lviv. The exhibition in Vienna, i.e. the Weltausstellung (the World's Fair) was organised in 1873. It is worth emphasising that entrepreneurs from Galicia were also present there [4].

Soon after the exhibition in Vienna, members of the Galician Economic Association came up with the idea of organising a similar event in Lviv. Four years later, the Association in cooperation with Włodzimierz Dzieduszycki, Prince Leon Sapieha and Ludwik Wierzbicki, supported by the Agricultural-Economic Society in Krakow, national chambers of commerce and management of industrial museums realised the plan and organised the Agricultural-

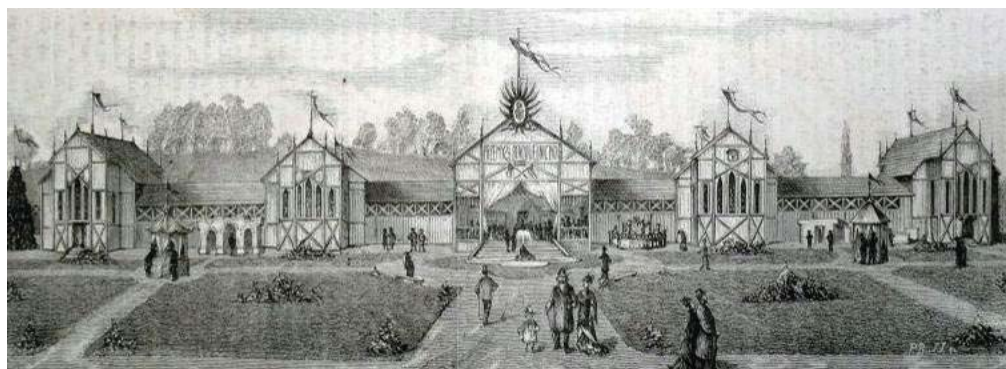


Fig. 2. Main pavilion of the Industrial-Agricultural Exhibition in Lviv on a sketch (source: Tygodnik Ilustrowany 1877)



Fig. 3. Main pavilion of the Industrial-Agricultural Exhibition in Lviv (source: Author's Archive)



Fig. 4. Main pavilion of the Industrial-Agricultural Exhibition in Lviv. View of the entrance area  
(source: Author's Archive)

Industrial Exhibition in Lviv. Its purpose was a review of the agricultural and industrial production in Galicia, and determining primary trends in its development [5]. The event was planned to be held in the Jabłonowski park, and particular exhibitions were situated in four pavilions. Two were specially built for the occasion, and the other two were private property [6]. The whole exhibition was divided into four sections. In each section, there was a specific group of products that were presented. Since the exhibition in Lviv turned out to be a success, other Galician cities wanted to follow in its footsteps and began to organise similar events.

Following the example of the Lviv exhibition, the idea of organising a similar event was born in Jarosław. Its author was an entrepreneur from Jarosław, a member of the League of Industrial Assistance and of the Sokoł Association - Stanisław Gurgul who, in order to organise the exhibition in Jarosław had to gain approval of the then town authorities, the authorities of neighbouring counties, as well as local landed gentry and Galician industrial milieu. At that time, Jarosław possessed all the assets indispensable to host an exhibition of a regional magnitude. Back then, the town numbered about 25 thousand inhabitants and was among the richest towns in Galicia. It had appropriate economic potential and technological infrastructure. It also boasted long commercial traditions and developed agriculture, especially in the magnate estates. The town was already well linked with Krakow and Lviv, e.g. by means of the railway line. The catering and hotel facilities in Jarosław also allowed for organising such an event as an exhibition, and hosting exhibitors and guests involved in it. However, for the exhibition to take place, a vast, empty stretch of land was needed where the organisers could build display pavilions as well as all necessary infrastructures accompanying the exhibition. For this purpose, an area was selected in the suburbs of Jarosław, known as Olszanówka, which had been used for recreational activities since 1902.

The head of the organisational committee of the exhibition was the already mentioned Stanisław Gurgul, the secretary of the agricultural committee was Józef Dąbrowski, and of



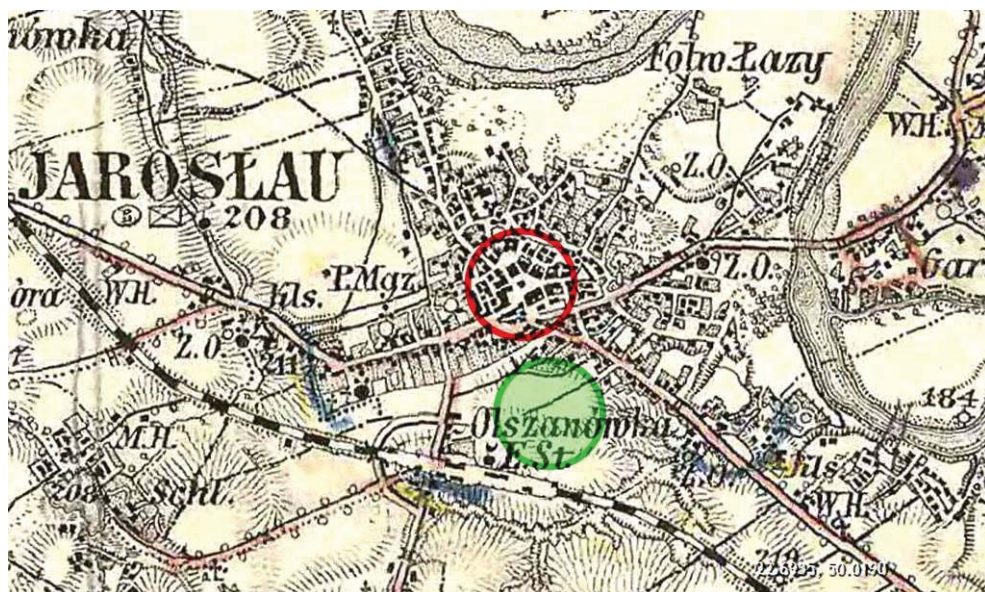


Fig. 5. Third Military Survey from the 2nd half of the 19th century depicting Jarosław. On the map red colour marks the location of the main square and green marks Olszanówka where, at the beginning of the 20th century, the town park was created (source: Archive of KHAUiSzP WA PK, s.v.)

the industrial committee Samuel Kornman. Then, the president of the exhibition itself was Witold Czartoryski from Pelkinie, and vice-presidents were – the Mayor Adolf Dietzius and Jerzy Turnau from Mikulice. The patrons of the event were prominent representatives of local landed gentry: Maria and Jerzy Czartoryski from Wiązownica, Andrzej Lubomirski from Przeworsk and Stanisław Siemieński-Lewicki from Pawłosiów. The organisers made sure that the exhibition was well advertised. For this purpose, an advertising poster was commissioned along with a large-scale promotion programme in the press by means of published announcements and advertisements.

The exhibition lasted one month; during that time craft, machines, as well as flora and fauna, were displayed in the park. Since the exhibition was also perceived as a cultural event, theatre performances, film viewings, concerts, games and other amusements were organised in the park for residents of Jarosław. In the exhibition, various commodities were presented by 240 exhibitors not only from Galicia, but also from Silesia or Greater Poland. Goods were presented according to 18 approved thematic sections. Exhibitions were organised in 29 specially prepared pavilions, which varied as far as their size and architectonic form were concerned. They were built using the funds of the exhibition committee or private investors. The committee financed, e.g. the construction of the industrial pavilion, covering the area of 1.200 m<sup>2</sup>, which had been designed by architect Mieczysław Dobrzański. In turn, the agricultural pavilion was built according to the design by an architect from Lviv, Zygmunt Fedorski [7]. The secretary of the industrial committee, Samuel Kornman, designed the entrance gate, the theatrical and musical pavilions and the seat of the exhibition management. Unfortunately, the above-mentioned objects or

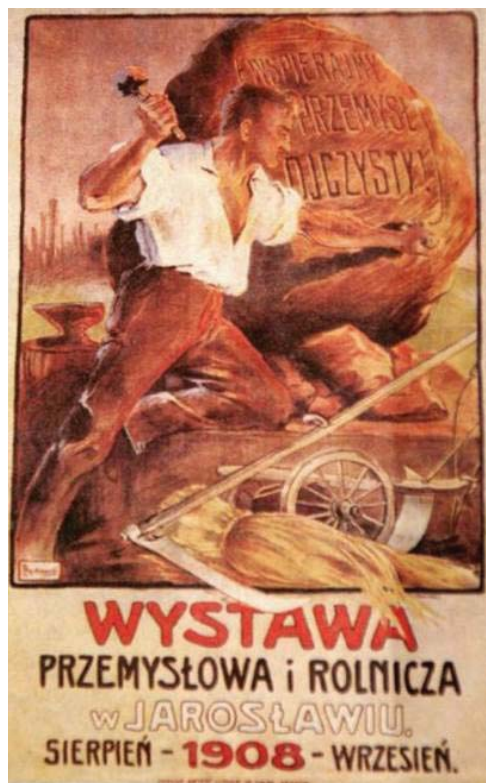


Fig. 6. Poster for the Industrial-Agricultural Exhibition in Jaroslavl designed by Franciszek Zajchrowski (source: Author's Archive)

architectonic features have not been preserved until today. They were destroyed in the course of World War I and II.

The exhibition turned out to be a spectacular success. It was visited by over 40 thousand people. It also ensured the promotion of the town. It was emphasised that as far as the size and perfect organisation were concerned, it rivalled national exhibitions, even though it was a local event [1].

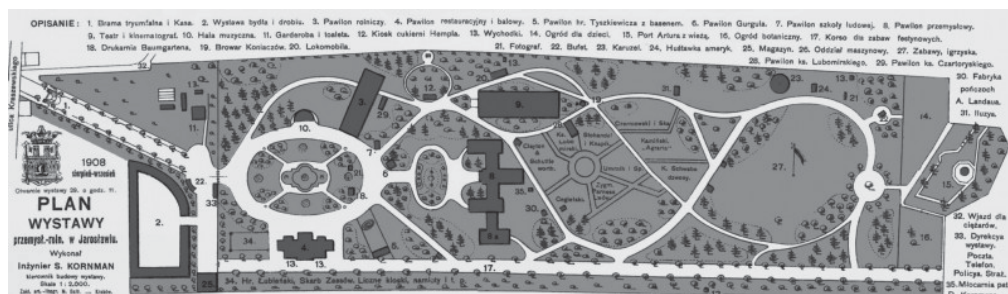


Fig. 7. Plan of the Industrial-Agricultural Exhibition in Jaroslavl (source: Author's Archive)



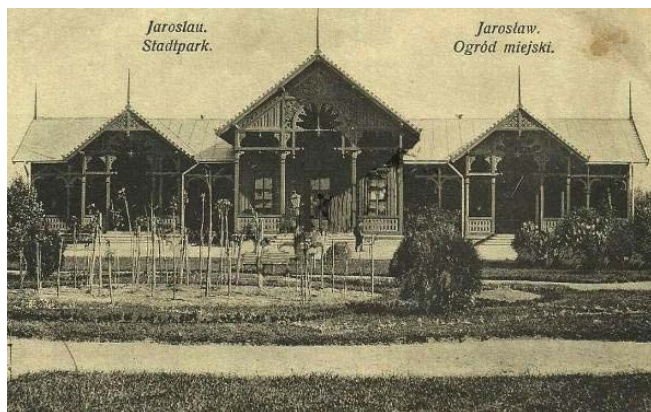


Fig. 8. View of one of the no longer existing pavilions in the Bohaterów Monte Cassino Park in Jarosław in the 1st half of the 20th century, on archive postcards (source: postcards in Author's Archive)



Fig. 9. View of the main park avenue in the 1st half of the 20th century, on an old postcard (source: postcards in Author's Archive)



Fig. 10. View of the main entrance to the park in the 1st half of the 20th century, on an old postcard (source: postcards in Author's Archive)

### 3. Revalorisation of the historic park

The town park, which is a legacy of the Exhibition, is currently badly neglected. In its area, there are numerous pedestrian paths with dirt surfaces, which are in poor technical condition and do not meet the currently binding standards. Architectural features in the park in the form of benches and lanterns have been vandalised, and are randomly situated instead of arranged. The entire park area is surrounded by a fence, which is varied. Fragmentarily, it is made up of historic spans of the fence from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, while the rest of it consists of typical modern segments. The historical character of the park and its urban layout from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century have been relatively well preserved and



Fig. 11. View of one of the lawns (photo by M. Krupa, 2017)



Fig. 12. View from a distance of another lawn (photo by M. Krupa, 2017)



Fig. 13. View of a fragment of the main avenue (photo by M. Krupa, 2017)



Fig. 14. View of one of the park lanes connecting lawns (photo by M. Krupa, 2017)



Fig. 15. View of a fragment of a historic park fence (photo by M. Krupa, 2017)



are still visible. Similarly, trees are also historical. The park area borders currently on housing estates consisting of both apartment blocks and detached houses, and so is a vital place for recreation, walking and meeting among local residents, and because of its accessibility, also people living in other areas of Jarosław. Because the Bohaterów Monte Cassino Park is currently the largest recreational space in Jarosław, the town authorities decided to have it restored and revitalised.

Project work was carried out in several stages. The first stage involved preparing an inventory of the park, from the dendrological and architectonic-urban-planning point of view. The conducted inventory served as a basis for the concept created by the designing office ARCONT Robert Pelc. The concept included ordering the historic spatial layout, newly planted greenery, new architectural features in the form of benches, lanterns, fountains, information boards, deckchairs, info-kiosks, bicycle racks, rubbish bins etc. [8]. The concept, besides the investor's demands and regulations of the Local Spatial Development Plan, also had to take conservation guidelines into consideration. The designers intended to create a highly functional space for the town inhabitants, with interesting natural and educational spaces in order to increase their ecological awareness.

On the basis of the above-mentioned concept, the ZERIBA Designing Office<sup>1</sup> with a team of designers from the fields of dendrology, construction, electrical installations and sanitary systems prepared a detailed civil engineering project together with a Programme for tree protection – evaluation of endangered trees because of the planned investment and guidelines concerning treatment of trees during project work and execution.

The park revalorisation primarily involved the restoration of the historic communications system, which was supplemented with several modern pathways related to the current needs of users. Pedestrian and pedestrian-bicycle lanes will be made from natural, permeable gravel-clay surface. The appearance of the surface resembles the “hanse grand” surfaces, frequently applied in historic parks, but is not so expensive or difficult to maintain.

An important element of the project was the renovation and completion of the historic fence, which has been fragmentarily preserved until today. In order to achieve this, it was planned to renovate the metal and wrought-iron elements and to replace or repair the underpinning. Because the historic entrance gate to the park has not survived, and the current one does not fit in with the historic character of the place, it was redesigned according to the suggestions of the Voivodeship Monument Conservator.

Architectural features have also been selected with regard to conservation guidelines. For instance, new lanterns have been designed, black in colour and in a historical form alluding to those applied in historic park complexes. In turn, benches and park deckchairs, also maintained in the classic stylistics, will be made from wood covered with walnut shade stain varnish, and their bases will be made from cast iron and coated with black varnish. Likewise, such elements as bicycle racks, rubbish bins and information boards were chosen in such a way as to allude to the historic character of the park. Another important element is the educational garden

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<sup>1</sup> Team: Prof. Arch. Dominika Kuśnierz-Krupa, landscape architect; Ph.D. Arch. Michał Krupa, Ph.D. Arch. Łukasz Wesołowski, M.Sc. Arch. Anna Krukowiecka-Brzeczek, landscape architects.

house, designed in the northern part of the park. It is supposed to constitute an open space, thus offering a possibility for running various educational activities in the open air and the natural surroundings.

Yet another challenge for the designers was the project of vegetation that could not overshadow historic greenery, which had previously been tidied up by cutting down self-seeders. The project highlighted the particularly valuable avenues of trees as well as individual specimen. Newly-designed plantings were divided into several groups of plants: ground covers; fragrant and nectar source plants; plants by the playground and additional vegetation. The designed botanical paths constitute a significant educational element on the way to shape pro-ecological attitudes and behaviour, both among children and adults. The paths are to enable park visitors to experience nature through direct and active contact.

Ground covers are to be planted beneath tree boughs in the form of irregular flower carpets. They include e.g. *Hydrangea petiolaris*; *Vinca minor*; *Cotoneaster dammeri* 'Major'; *Pachysandra terminalis* 'Green Carpet'; *Clematis* 'White Swan'; *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*; *Hedera helix*. Those plants are to create educational paths called "Plant pillows". Because of their properties, they can be grown in the shade and can also replace the lawn. The "Plant pillows" pathway takes advantage of natural conditions prevailing in the park at the time and, moreover, the plants used perfectly fit in with the historic character of the place.

Fragrant and nectar source plants, in turn, are to be planted in the vicinity of the bee garden, and are to create the path called "Scents of enchanted gardens". They are to include, e.g. *Heliotropium*, *Lavandula*, *Nepeta*, *Lathyrus odoratus*, *Viola*, *Salvia officinalis*.

Special varieties of willow are designed to be planted by the playground, e.g. *Salix integra*, *Salix purpurea* 'Nana', *Salix purpurea* 'Pendula', which are to allow children to create labyrinths from willow osiers, and thus learn while playing.

Besides greenery related to intended educational paths, other plantings have been planned in the park in order to add to the existing vegetation. That aim has been achieved by using plants, such as e.g.: *Rhododendron*, *Philadelphus*, *Magnolia*, *Syringa*, *Mahonia*, *Calycanthus*, *Buddleia davidii*, *Frangula alnus*, *Pyracantha coccinea*, *Cornus mas*, *Tilia cordata* and *Hydrangea paniculata* [9–11].

In conclusion, it should be remembered that the fundamental idea of the designers while creating the project of the park was related to making it available to the largest possible number of users of different ages. Inhabitants of Jarosław, both older and younger, are to find in the park a place for rest, leisure, but also education through entertainment. The park is to be a safe haven, where one can spend free time away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Such elements of the project as the educational garden house, the bee garden or the natural playground are meant to give visitors an opportunity for active recreation combined with education, e.g. via observing nature through a telescope designed in the western part of the park. In turn, specially selected plants are to allow for contemplation and relaxation among flowers, bushes and trees with diverse textures, colours and aromas. Such a project solution meets the requirements of the inhabitants and the authorities of Jarosław in their strife for modernising the recreational urban space within the broadly understood standards of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



Fig. 16. Visualisations of the project of the town park in Jarosław. View of the leisure laws  
(Prep. by Zeriba Designing Office, 2017)



Fig. 17. Visualisations of the project of the town park in Jarosław. View of a fountain  
(Prep. by Zeriba Designing Office, 2017)



Fig. 18. Visualisations of the project of the town park in Jarosław. View of the pedestrian path  
(Prep. by Zeriba Designing Office, 2017)



Fig. 19. Visualisations of the project of the town park in Jarosław. View of the educational garden house  
(Prep. by Zeriba Designing Office, 2017)



Fig. 20. Visualisations of the project of the town park in Jarosław. View of the bee garden  
(Prep. by Zeriba Designing Office, 2017)



Fig. 21. Visualisations of the project of the town park in Jarosław. View of a fountain  
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