



# The renovation and revitalisation of Erdödy Castle Park

Jastrebarsko, 2015





Dear visitors!

Welcome to the Town of Jastrebarsko and to Erdödy Castle Park – one of the most beautiful parks in Croatia where the rich history of Jastrebarsko was created. This *green heart* of Jastrebarsko is the favourite place of all the citizens of Jastrebarsko and I am extremely delighted that the Town of Jastrebarsko constantly invests in its renovation, alongside the Ministry of Environment and Nature, the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund, as well as with other partners.

Erdödy Park has become an important place in the life of Jastrebarsko and all of its citizens. In our Park we respect its historical meaning, and at the same time it is a perfect place for organizing events related to cultural, artistic and economic values of Jastrebarsko and its surrounding areas.

This *jewel of Jastrebarsko* is a monument of garden architecture protected not only by law, but also in the hearts of the citizens of Jastrebarsko. Many people find it as a place inseparably connected to their childhood, youth or first love. It is the soul and the jewel of the Town of Jastrebarsko which is, day by day, restoring its splendour and making all its inhabitants feel proud.

**Zvonimir Novosel, BSc**

*Major of Jastrebarsko*



Dear citizens of Jastrebarsko,

Erdödy Park is a jewel of landscape architecture and even much more than that. It is a green oasis of Jastrebarsko and the pride of all the citizens. The role of the Ministry is to protect such valuable natural monument so that its beauty and natural diversity could be enjoyed by all citizens, as well as by future generations who will inherit this beautiful Park from us.

The Ministry has therefore supported the Town of Jastrebarsko in the realization of the renovation and revitalization project for Erdödy Park, and through the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund we have provided 80% of funds, that is, almost 2 million Croatian Kuna.

This project is important for the Town and for all the citizens of Jastrebarsko. Every day our fellow citizens walk in the Park, and it attracts numerous visitors who enjoy the beauty of this horticultural monument. The renovation and revitalization project will also enable the organization of various events in the park, which will attract even more visitors and contribute to the development.

It is my great pleasure as the Minister to have had a chance to help bring about the realization of the Park's renovation project in order for all of us to be able to enjoy its full splendour.

**Mihael Zmajlović, BSc in Economics**

*Minister of Environmental Protection and Nature*



The possibilities for receiving state grant up to 80% for projects of conservation of protected areas and the development of visitors' facilities through the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund are incentives for their even greater development.

In last three years, the number of such projects being co-financed through our Fund has increased four times, and the amount of irrevocable grants even seven times.

Such as in the case of Erdödy Castle Park, national and European funds can be used for carrying out a project which is an example of the conservation of natural and cultural treasures which at the same time have the function of sustainable development and are available to visitors.

**Sven Müller, PhD, BSc C. E.**

*Director of the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund*



I am glad to see how this jewel of landscape architecture undergoes its renovation and revival under the supervision of the major and his team, and with help from the authorized ministries.

The Croatian Forest Research Institute, being its nearest neighbour, is closely connected with the park and has long been responsible for its maintenance, which has been done with extreme love and with special professional care for every single plant and tree. Regarding the importance and praises the park receives, it is unquestionable that this care still continues today. Specifically, due to efforts of the scientists of the Institute, the genetic material from the old beech tree (*Fagus sylvatica*) knocked down in Teodor storm was preserved and that way unique plants have been created, having the same genetic code as the centuries-old beech of Jastrebarsko.

Apart from enjoying the most beautiful view in the town from our offices on daily basis, we also care for the health of all the trees, only to be ready to provide professional care and protection when needed.

Finally, we share the pride with all the citizens of Jastrebarsko while watching their and also our Park restoring its splendour every day, and in that way becoming a place where professionals, citizens and politicians understand its importance for the entire sustainable development of green areas in the Town.

**Dijana Vuletić, PhD**

*Director of the Croatian Forest Research Institute*



## About the Park

Erdödy Castle Park in Jastrebarsko, whose origin traces back to the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, has structural-compositional features which are mostly found in the landscaping movement initiated in England during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. With time this movement has in various forms affected the Town of Jastrebarsko, where it also tried to interpret natural forms aiming at the directing towards the establishment of functional and sustainable landscapes.

Because of its existence and its specific flora, Erdödy Park makes a considerable contribution to the richness of biological and ecological diversity of Jastrebarsko region and it has been protected as a natural monument of garden architecture.

In terms of composition, the Park was designed as an interpretation of an English landscape park (garden) and in terms of its function as an urban park in which activities connected to the presentation of the Town, the county and the region take place. For many years, the Park used to be neglected, and only in the last few years did Jastrebarsko start to take care of it.



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### DID YOU KNOW?

**From 1926 to 1939, Aleksandar Ehrmann used to be the owner of Jastrebarsko's castle, as well as of the whole estate and the hunting-ground. He spent a huge amount of money on the renovation of the Castle, and on the estate, which was on the same location as today's Park, he introduced egg incubators, started to breed trotting horses and Great Danes, renewed the game stock and stocked the pond with fish. In the Castle he kept the Natural History Museum founded by Stjepan Erdödy, opened it for public, and hired famous zoologist and ornithologist dr Miroslav Hirtz to do inventory and classification.**



## About the Park's Protection

The Park has been put under protection by Nature Protection Act and Protection and Conservation of Cultural Heritage Act. The boundaries of the protected area in the Park are the same according to both laws. The main criteria for giving an object of garden architecture a natural monument status are: recognition of the style, authentic composition, beauty and harmony, diversity and the preserved condition of floral, water and architectural facilities, the time of its establishment, preservation, and the lack of development on the historical area. In some cases, the preservation of one of the main features which noticeably shows the historical origin of a garden, park, square, line of trees, park lane etc. is sufficient in the process of being given a natural monument status.

The Park of Jastrebarsko was put under protection as a monument of garden architecture, Decision n. 220/1-1963 g. by State Institute for Nature Protection, under article 40 on Nature Protection Act (NN n. 19/60). According to the stated decision, the protection covers an area of 10 hectares.

The Park was added to the Register of Protected Natural Areas under the number 116. In terms of Nature Protection Act (NN n. 70/05) it has been given the title of a monument of garden architecture and recorded in the Register of Specially Protected Natural Areas under the number 135. According to the decision of the Conservation Department in Zagreb, the Castle and its immediate surroundings have been given the status of a cultural monument. According to the decision of Regional Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Zagreb it was identified that the Park has features of cultural heritage and it was therefore included in the Register of Immobile Cultural Monuments of the same Institute. The Ministry of Culture has decided based on the Protection and Conservation of Cultural Heritage Act (NN n. 69/99) that Erdödy Castle in Jastrebarsko will be protected as cultural heritage.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

**At this same place the citizens of Jastrebarsko have enjoyed peace, relaxation and natural environment since the 17<sup>th</sup> century – the mentioning of the fish-pond near the town was recorded as early as in 1691, and in this area there used to be a menagerie as well. Its today's appearance the park took on at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.**



## About the Renovation Project

Based on the principles of conservation and protection of natural, ecological and landscape heritage, the Town of Jastrebarsko has decided to renovate and revitalize its own natural treasure – Erdödy Castle Park. This renovation and revitalization is seen as a continuation in the development of urban green infrastructure of Jastrebarsko, which, apart from the cultural, has a unique ecological and biological value.

Since the park with its size, its landscape elements and their interrelation, as well as with the number of plant and animal species, represents a unique phenomenon in the morphology and green infrastructure of the town, special care is taken of planning, conservation and managing biological diversity, which is in this case viewed as an important part of the evaluation, planning and landscape shaping. Also, detection and localization were made of the valuable elements of biological diversity during the process of conceptualization connected to the renovation of the Park. Even though over years there was a decrease in the species diversity of dendroflora, there are still 40 different species with about 1000 specimens. Because of the biological diversity and richness, a great number of insects, fish, birds and mammals live in the Park.

The Park's renovation concept by creating a synergetic/compositional relationship between cultural and natural phenomena, tries not only to preserve the existing wildlife, but also to encourage the development of the new plant and animal communities. With the new planting proposal, using individual tree or shrub species, as well as planting them linearly or in smaller or bigger groups and positioning appropriately on strategically important locations, a new possibility was created for attracting many insects, birds and mammals. The aim of using this approach for the Park's renovation project was on the one hand to show that it was possible to achieve a dynamic balance and coexistence between public facilities and biological diversity, and on the other hand to focus more attention on the ways in which the reduction of biological diversity in dynamic urban conditions (destruction, degradation and fragmentation of ecosystems) can be re-directed towards the increase in biological diversity, as well as towards the protection of endangered plant and animal species by using an appropriate approach to landscape as an entity. This involves improving and typological defining of the relations between the remaining fragments of the ecosystem.



# The Basis of Erdödy Park Renovation

The renovation of Erdödy Park is based on implemental landscape-architectural renovation project which resulted after the acceptance of the Protection and Renovation Study for Erdödy Park, offering the guidelines for the renovation plan and its realization programme, as well as for regular maintenance of the Park.

The Park's renovation was divided into six stages, relating to six spatial units which were renovated according to the provided financial resources.

The Park's renovation is carried out in cooperation and coordination with the Town of Jastrebarsko, the Ministry of Environment and Nature, the Croatian Ministry of Culture, the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund and other main partners.



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## DID YOU KNOW?

**Erdödy Castle Park in Jastrebarsko is an English type of a park. This type of park originates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century as a reaction to geometrically visualised styles of exterior design, and their main characteristic is perfect imitation of nature. The main function of such English parks is the relaxation and recreation of the citizens, which is the main function of our Park as well.**

# Previous Investments in Erdödy Castle Park and the Importance of Investment for Jastrebarsko



Renovation and revitalization is a serious and complex project whose importance and comprehensiveness have a far greater impact. This can be seen from the fact that Jastrebarsko invested more than 3,5 million Croatian Kuna into the preparation of project documentation, work and services on the territory of Erdödy Castle and Park not only from its own and from the state budget, but also from pre-accession funds of European Union.

Although Erdödy Castle has not yet been put into use, for several years the Town of Jastrebarsko has been preparing required documents and looking for partners in order for the Castle to finally be functional, but above that to be sustainable.

The outbuilding as part of the Erdödy Castle complex, Žitnica building and spatial unit B of Erdödy Park, which apart from other things covers the plateau for manifestations, have been renovated from the IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Slovenia – Croatia 2007 – 2013, i.e. with funding provided by the budget of the project called *Awakened Cultural Heritage*.

The Town of Jastrebarsko in cooperation with Croatian Waters conducted work on the renovation of the lake, but also of the Gović stream in the Erdödy Castle Park which enabled supplementing and closing the watercourse and refilling the water level of the lake itself. The lake was desilted, and the lake's shore and promenade were renovated as well.

Apart from the children's playground, a place for the youngest inhabitants of our Town, since 2014 the Park and the lake have been decorated with wooden bridges and wooden platforms, ending the story of the Erdödy Castle Park, a peaceful oasis in the heart of Jastrebarsko, in the best possible way. Their construction would not have been possible without the help from Croatian Forests Ltd, who donated all the required material.

*Ljuba Kraljević* Bridge is one of the last investments built by Jastrebarsko in 2014 in partnership with Lidl Company, connecting in a very special way the central Town road with the historical Town centre, and with street lightning along the two main promenades of Erdödy Park making it a perfect place for romantic walks in the evening, as well as making the centuries-old trees look magnificent.

Erdödy Park is being renovated depending on available fundings, and so far five out of six spatial units have been renovated. The area surrounding Erdödy Castle, the biggest and most interesting part of the Park, or spatial unit F, represents one of the last stages of renovation which was started and finished in 2015.

Due to the renovation of spatial units A, C, D, E and F, Erdödy Castle Park became one of the most beautiful parks in Croatia, and with its restoration it took on a completely new look, therefore undoubtedly becoming a perfect place for organizing events, relaxation or recreation.



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## DID YOU KNOW?

**Erdödy Castle Park, without the doubt the favourite place for walking and dreaming of all citizens of Jastrebarsko, conceals numerous valuable plant species, like for example indigenous specimens of common oak, maple, copper beech and hornbeam, as well as imposing groups of old hanging Norway spruce, larch and pine.**

# The Importance of the Renovation of Erdödy Castle and Park



Jastrebarsko's project *The Renovation of Erdödy Park, a protected monument of landscape architecture* is also extremely important for the touristic development of Jastrebarsko and its surrounding area. Jastrebarsko region and the surrounding municipalities are full of natural and cultural heritage which is unfortunately not always properly valorised and used. With regard to this fact Jastrebarsko has for several years been investing its maximum resources and effort into bringing back to life our most valuable treasure, our heritage.

This way Erdödy Castle Park represents a starting point for the tourist resorts on the territory of Jastrebarsko, and also in other areas, such as in Žumberak and other. With its characteristics, Jastrebarsko is situated on the traffic intersection of road and railroad routes, making it very attractive for tourists.

Due to the renovation project, the Park will entirely become a place where numerous events connected to the cultural, artistic and economic values of Jastrebarsko and its surrounding area

will be held regularly or occasionally. Apart from its programmatic and thematic orientation, the park offers playing and recreational facilities, as well as different possibilities of heritage education (culture, arts, nature and science).

Renovating Erdödy Castle Park and putting it into full use contributed to natural and environmental protection, sustainable growth and economical viability, as well as to the development of local community and the strengthening of the identity and authenticity, which will result in the transferring of valuable past events and local characteristics into future. After being completely renovated, Erdödy Castle Park will become the main open space of Jastrebarsko, respecting and accentuating its historical importance, and being a part of the Town's green infrastructure and the touristic strategy, it will strengthen its position on the world map of cultural, historical, economical and especially touristic destinations.

After the renovation and revitalization project for Erdödy Castle Park, Jastrebarsko will continue with activities concerning touristic development in order to improve the promotion of Jastrebarsko's tourist offer, further document preparations for Erdödy Castle renovation, and investments and protection of all parts of the Park.

Complete renovation and revitalization will not only enable the development of tourism in Jastrebarsko's region, but also the establishment of the central touristic point in Jastrebarsko which will serve as a starting point for other destinations, as well as a place for various touristic events in Jastrebarsko.

The renovation project for Erdödy Castle Park is done in accordance with the Development Strategy of Jastrebarsko, the Green Strategy of Jastrebarsko, the Development Strategy of Zagreb County and the Tourism Development Strategy of Croatia by 2020. The project is also in accordance with the plan of the distribution of tourist products since the project itself refers to the tourism of culture and heritage, while connecting gastronomical, oenological, bike tourism and rural tourism of Jastrebarsko.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

**From this park in 1593 Toma Erdödy, the leader of the troop of courageous Uskok people from Žumberak, rode off towards Sisak where he won a crucial battle against the superior Turkish army on 22th June 1593. Before the battle, he took a vow to the Mother of God that he will renovate Jastrebarsko's monastery and its church. He renovated it in 1602 and gave it to the Franciscans who are still in charge of it today.**

# Theodor Storm

On 11 November 2013, the Town of Jastrebarsko was hit by *Theodor* storm, which caused considerable damage. After the field survey of the Park, as well as analysis of documentation of the inventory before and after the storm, the inspection record of the Nature Protection Inspection Office in Zagreb, from 14 November 2013 recorded 86 fallen and 45 damaged trees.

In the report that is part of the record it was outlined that after the detailed damage assessment the restoration will include extracting all the felled and damaged trees with impaired stability. The Decision of Zagreb County, Administrative office for spatial planning, building and environment protection, Department for environment protection from 19 November 2013 has given permission for intervention in the protected area of monument of garden architecture of the Public institution for the management of protected areas and other protected natural values in Zagreb County.

Keeping in mind the cultural, ecological and biological value of Erdödy Park, right after 11 November 2013 Jastrebarsko started to restore the considerable material damage caused by *Theodor* storm. On 20 November 2013 Jastrebarsko therefore

organized a public forum in which, apart from the citizens of Jastrebarsko, many eminent experts participated as well.

Among other things, the experts stated that Jastrebarsko will start extraction of fallen and damaged trees as soon as the weather conditions allow it, but also that most of the fallen trees were healthy, while those which had to be removed according to the official plan were left undamaged. Therefore the material damage turned out to be much bigger than it had previously been estimated.

Felling and extraction of the trees from Erdödy Castle Park was entirely finished by the end of January 2014, and since in the process of removing the trees heavy equipment had to be used, it also caused the devastation of green areas and paths in the Park, which was then restored by the Town of Jastrebarsko.

The restoration of the Park, the removal of fallen trees, the replacement and planting of new trees, as well as the renovation of spatial unit F, the biggest spatial unit which also underwent the biggest damage during *Theodor* storm, was possible due to the Landscape Architecture Implementation Project. Jastrebarsko initiated this project in March 2010 and based on it and on the revised planting costs for new trees, the renovation and revitalization of the entire Erdödy Castle Park was made possible.





# ***Jaska beech* from Erdödy Castle Park in Jastrebarsko**

## **Common beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.)**

Beautiful, broad crown, lush green foliage and magnificent dimensions make common beech an essential element of parks and gardens. One such special specimen is centuries old tree in Erdödy Castle Park in Jastrebarsko. *Jaska beech* has been listed as a monument of garden architecture since 1964. As a tree growing in urban conditions, this beech had much more unfavourable conditions when compared to trees grown in natural, forest environment. The air in the Park is dryer, temperatures are higher, direct sunlight is stronger and anthropogenic influence is significant.

Negative influences like damage, salt spray, dog urine, unprofessional pruning or digging in the root zone contribute to the weakening of tree health and stability over the years. All this leads to the attack of wood decay fungi which have strong influence on tree stability and tree safety. Under such influences starts the process of changes in wood structures, so the fractures of branches, whole tree parts and whole crowns under normal weather conditions without strong wind are not uncommon.

First symptoms of the changes in wood structure and of the possible fractures are wood decay fungi fruiting bodies. They are visible in different months of the year and on different tree parts, depending on the tree species. On the *Jaska beech* fruiting bodies of two dangerous white rot fungi were seen even before the fracture: tinder fungus (*Fomes fomentarius*) and artist's fungus (*Ganoderma applanatum*). Today, after the fracture, some other less dangerous species can be seen on the trunk and root collar: split gill fungus (*Shyzyphyllum commune*) and hairy bracket (*Trametes hirsuta*). →



*Ganoderma applanatum*



*Fomes fomentarius*



*Shyrophylum commune*



*Trametes hirsuta*

With declining tree vitality and decay fungi attack, *Jaska beech* faced the date of 11th November 2013, the day that the Town of Jastrebarsko will remember for a long time. On this day, a big part of the Park was heavily damaged by *Theodor* storm. *Jaska beech* has been changed forever.

After very strong wind gusts, the major part of the crown broke down, and evidence of white rot decay fungi was visible on the fracture point. The fungi have caused wood decay so the wood did not have any resistance to strong wind. The problems with fractures of tree parts or whole trees very often occur on old trees in urban environments. It is estimated that the vitality of *Jaska beech* has started to decline rapidly in the last ten years. After the storm, from the big and magnificent *Jaska beech* only a small part of the trunk was left, but the branches growing from this part of the trunk are still full of leaves. This represents the strength and fight for survival.

Since *Jaska beech* has special traditional and emotional value for the citizens of Jastrebarsko, the Town of Jastrebarsko has therefore with the first neighbour of the Erdödy Castle Park, Croatian Forest Research Institute, implemented a Project for Genome Conservation of Common Beech-Central Tree in Erdödy Castle Park in Jastrebarsko. With this project, the future of *Jaska beech* is protected. The beech has been successfully cloned and its genes have been preserved for the future generations. The project includes the production of clones (preparation of rootstocks, collection of scions and vegetative propagation), cultivation of produced clones, nursing and protection of plants in clone bank of the Institute and issuing the certificate of origin.



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