PUBLIC OPEN SPACE REVITALIZATION IN CITIES OF LATVIA

Una ĪLE
Faculty of rural Engineering, Latvia University of Agriculture
Akademijas street 19, Jelgava, Latvia
Email: una.ile@llu.lv

Abstract. *The vast changes in the past several years in Latvia and the other Baltic Sea region states have significantly affected the public open space. This type of situation is typical not only in Latvia, but occurs also in other cities of the Baltic Sea region states. These public open spaces structures with several thousands of residents take over vast city territories.*

Functional, aesthetically harmonious, and organised public open spaces can be achieved with a successful spatial composition. With the change of the lifestyle, there has also changed the understanding of the necessity of the public outdoor territory. In the European Union there are multiple examples of rational public open space revitalization, and their experience could be applied in the Latvia cities. For example, Jelgava is the largest city in the centre of Latvia, which is able to raise interest with its continuous transformations in the city landscape.

The waterfront of the Driksa river, which is located in the centre of Jelgava, and its beautiful landscape enriches the visual image of the city. The changes and transformation of the natural substrate are continuing all the time; it is one of the most significant places in the city of Jelgava. From the historical point of view, the analysed section of the Driksa river waterfront has experienced multiple significant transformations. Consequently, the research analyses the visual spatial transformations from the urban construction composition perspective which presently indicates the positive and negative aspects of the analysed territory, where a significant factor is also the present society's perception and opinions towards the analysed territory.

Based on the research materials and analysis of the modern cases, the aim of the research is – to analyse positive and negative aspects of public open space in cities of Latvia. To establish the current situation, in the process of research, the comparative method was applied. The method was used in order to obtain clear visual examples that would establish the positive and the negative aspects of the public open space.