



# Pocket parks



(PL)

**KRAKÓW**



**779,966**



A more sustainable cultural heritage to face the climate crisis



## Challenge

A large and populous urban environment, Krakow suffers from a lack of easily accessible green spaces. As well as ecological and climate concerns, this means a lack of places for community to meet and engage spontaneously. Developing large-scale green areas is costly and takes time. Meanwhile, disused back-alleys and other hidden pockets of the city were breeding-grounds for anti-social behaviour.



## Solution

Krakow is solving all these problems at once by building pocket parks. These miniature parks are built in cooperation with local people in formerly neglected outdoor public spaces. They promote serendipitous community encounters and socialising, and provide a healthful space that encourages residents to leave their homes. They also have ecological benefits, helping bees and wildlife, absorbing excess rainwater and fighting air pollution.



## How ?

- 1 The city created a development strategy, 'This is where I want to live. Krakow 2030,' with culture as one of six strategic priorities.
- 2 Two reports on local development mapped current heritage, culture and green spaces, and opportunities to shape these in the future.
- 3 Discussions began between the city and residents, including elderly and vulnerable people, about the idea of replacing neglected spaces with miniature parks, and what those parks should contain.
- 4 In 2016, the city built the first pocket park. It was accessible and elderly-friendly with distinctive and fun furniture as well as plants chosen to encourage bees.
- 5 In 2017, Krakow built two more pocket parks. The idea was so popular that more budget was assigned to the project and 23 more parks were built in the following years.
- 6 The city adopted the aim of bringing one pocket park within 500 metres (less than a 10-minute walk) of every Krakow resident.

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## Budget/Financing

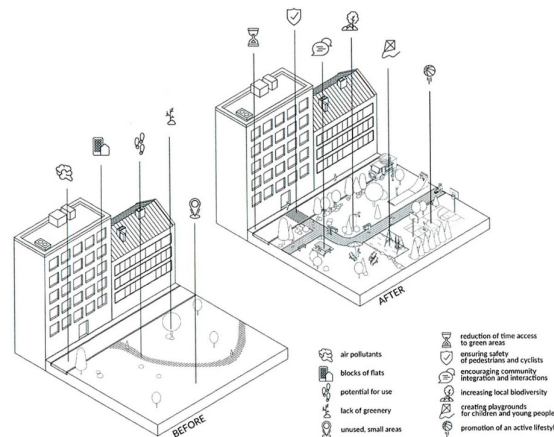
€3,332,800

- Each pocket park costs around €120,000, and the city has spent €3,332,800 on them so far, entirely funded by the municipality.



## Management

- The project is managed by the Krakow Municipal Greenspace Authority. Seven staff are dedicated to maintaining the project, and local people are brought in to the design and implementation of the parks.



## Transferability

- The pocket parks (Ogrody Krakowian) are 'urban acupuncture,' simple, quick actions that have a disproportionately large impact on the city in relation to the costs.
- Any city can introduce this simple, versatile and affordable idea.
- Every place in the city matters, no matter how small. Use every square meter to increase social, green and biodiverse spaces with trees and flowers for bees.
- Show people that they have an impact on the designs.



## Impact

- The pocket parks have reduced anti-social behaviour, made more green spaces available for people, and fostered a sense of community in Krakow's neighbourhoods. They have also increased local biodiversity and climate resilience. The project has been very popular with residents and was recognised internationally as a finalist in the European Urban Green Infrastructure Awards.



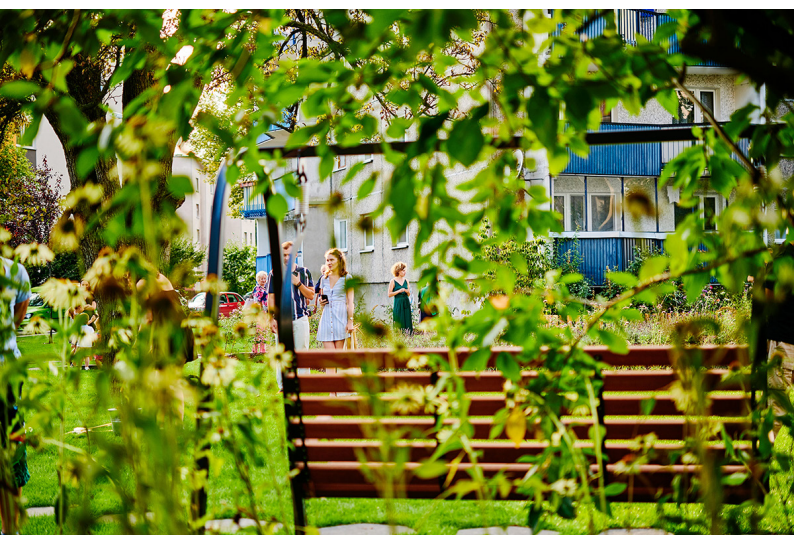
## Links

Map of pocket parks: <https://bit.ly/3IXGw8A>



## Contact

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