
Muskauer Park/Park Mużakowski (Germany, Poland) No 1127bis

1 Basic information

States Parties

Germany
Poland

Name of property

Muskauer Park/Park Mużakowski

Location

Saxony
Neiderschlesien Bezirk Oberlausitz
Bad Muskau Town
Germany

Lubskie County
Żary Region
Łęknica Town
Poland

Inscription

2004

Brief description

A landscaped park astride the Neisse River and the border between Poland and Germany was created by Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau from 1815 to 1844. Blending seamlessly with the surrounding farmed landscape, the park pioneered new approaches to landscape design and influenced the development of landscape architecture in Europe and America. Designed as a *"painting with plants"*, it did not seek to evoke classical landscapes, paradise, or some lost perfection, instead using local plants to enhance the inherent qualities of the existing landscape. This integrated landscape extends into the town of Muskau with green passages that formed urban parks framing areas for development. The town thus became a design component in a utopian landscape. The site also features a reconstructed castle, bridges and an arboretum.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

13 March 2024

2 Issues raised

Background

The property was inscribed in 2004 on the basis of criteria (i) and (iv) as *"an exceptional example of a European landscape park that broke new ground in terms of development towards an ideal human-made landscape"*

and *"the forerunner for new approaches to landscape design in cities, and influenced the development of landscape architecture as a discipline"*.

A retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was approved in 2014 (Decision 38 COM 8E).

The extensive site includes the Neisse River, other water features, human-made and natural, bridges, buildings, forested areas, and paths. It is an example of a cultural landscape in which the site's natural attributes have been harnessed with the utmost skill. The core zone of this extensive landscape includes, in their entirety, all of the most important features from the original concepts devised by Prince von Pückler and continued by Eduard Petzold. The remaining park has been included in the buffer zone. Within Germany, the estate comprises the Castle Park, Spa Park, and Upper Mountain Park including the Upper Walk. On the Polish side of the property, the Park on Terraces and Petzold's Arboretum can be found.

The property encompasses the central portion of this large landscape composition measuring 348 ha (136.10 ha in Germany and 211.9 ha in Poland). The remaining part of the composition falls within the surrounding buffer zone of 1,204.65 ha.

In the framework of the Third Cycle of Periodic reporting and as a follow-up to the Retrospective Inventory project launched in 2004, the World Heritage Centre has reviewed the geographic and cartographic information of World Heritage properties in Europe and North America Region. In 2022, upon identifying the absence of maps clearly showing the delimitation of the property, the World Heritage Centre requested the two States Parties to submit adequate quality maps and geographic information for the property.

Modification

The proposed minor boundary modification concerns adjustments to the boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone.

At the time of inscription, the nomination dossier included a general topographic map, which was not always respecting the plot boundaries but following the significant topographic features such as line of trees, roads, terrain and alike. In 2022, a letter from the World Heritage Centre to the States Parties asked for adequate quality maps clearly showing the boundaries of the property as inscribed by the World Heritage Committee.

Responding to the request of the World Heritage Centre, and in an effort to improve the accuracy in terms of scale and resolution, the boundaries of the property were reworked with the aid of a modern GIS software. The revision of the boundaries is limited to aligning with the plot boundaries of the Muskauer Park/Park Mużakowski as per the cadastral data.

The proposed minor boundary modification aims to consolidate the efforts of comprehensive management and protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The changes presented are furthermore in line with the legal and regulatory frameworks for the property management and conservation.

Following the submitted changes, the area of the property increases from 348 ha to 352.14 ha. In addition, the buffer zone is expanded by approximately 9 ha, from 1,204.65 ha to 1,213.62 ha.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed minor boundary modification will contribute to the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and will reinforce its management.

3 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of Muskauer Park/Park Mużakowski, Germany, Poland, be **approved**.

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the buffer zone of Muskauer Park/Park Mużakowski, Germany, Poland, be **approved**.

