

Changing landscape values in Hungary

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Abstract: Surveying, inventarisation, and protection of landscape values started at our department at the end of the 1970-ies. In this period it was obvious that the sprawling settlements do endanger the existence of the valuable characteristic landscape elements of the past. The only region where landscape value survey and inventory was made in three different decades was the Zsámbéki Basin. These were made at the end of the 1970-ies, at the end of the 1980-ies and in 2010. Both natural and artificial landscape values were listed during these surveys. In the article we plan to overview the results of the three surveys. The value judgement has changed since the 70-ies, many of the formerly surveyed landscape values disappeared, many of them were replaced by new investments like industrial parks or hypermarkets. The survey and the inventarisation itself does not provide automatic protection for landscape values. In the long run the only choice for protection is the case when the society appreciates landscape elements and regards them as values. Presentation and awareness raising is one of the most important actions of value protection. The social publication of landscape values can simply be done by presentations, by an information board or by the rearrangement of the surroundings and giving a new function for the site. BudaSide Greenway is a good example for the last case. The pathways and roads of the greenway do present the landscape values and the traditional land use for its visitors.

Key words: landscape values, landscape planning

Introduction

The research of landscape values was started at the Department of Landscape Planning and Regional Development of Corvinus University of Budapest in the 1970's. Up till now our greatest project was the TÉKA (TájÉrték-KAtaszter -Landscape Value Cadastre) project financed by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism (Kollányi – Csemez 2011). In the frames of the project we elaborated the on-line database of landscape values–tajertekar.hu containing all the values registered during our surveys (Kollányi 2010). We carry on our researches in the frames of TÁMOP surveying the state of landscape values in Pest County. The lecture presents the results of the researches in projects of TÉKA and TÁMOP.

Listing the unique landscape values is the task of the National Park Directories according to the Act of Nature Protection in Hungary. As its financial background is missing in many cases, just for a few settlements were survey conducted: about 600 settlement unique landscape feature cadastre were elaborated mostly in paper form which were not available for the public nor the planners. The Faculty of Landscape Architecture of Corvinus University of Budapest with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Rural Development ((Kv)VM), Institute of Cultural Heritage Protection (KÖH), Institute of Cultural Heritage Service (KÖSz) and Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing (FÖMI) together have started the data collection of the Hungarian landscape values in the frames of TÉKA project in 2009. The aim of the project was to elaborate an on-line information system (<http://tajertekar.hu>) in which the landscape values are available for the public as well. Experience has shown that the scale and number of landscape values without legal protection exceeds the number of landscape values under protection however these are disappearing because of the changing economic environment, life styles and lack of protection.

Survey

In the frames of the research project of the Corvinus University of Budapest (CUB) the landscape values of about 431 settlements were uploaded in the database of TÉKA. In 431 settlements we registered 15014 landscape values (figure 1). This means 35 values per settlement. The researches of CUB focused mostly on the area of Budapest agglomeration (for the second agglomeration settlement ring as well) and Danube-bend and the region along river Ipeľ. Besides we have conducted detailed survey for one of the so called pilot areas: micro-region Marcali (in South Balaton region). Further surveys are related to other projects as the survey of landscape values is fundamental part of landscape planning projects.

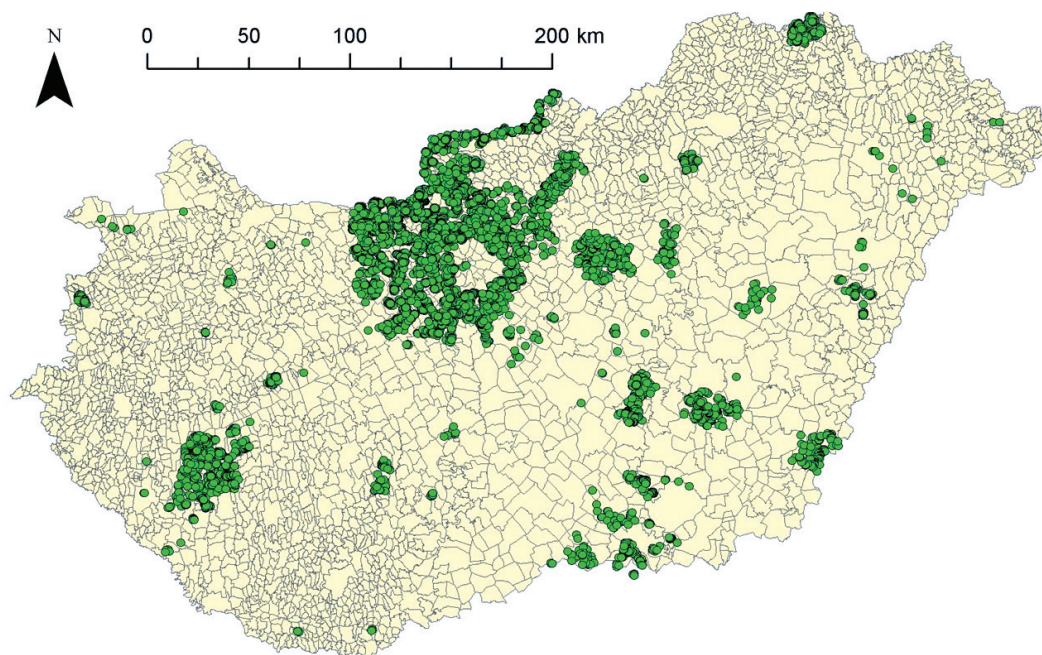


Fig. 1. Surveyed areas of CUB

Budapest Agglomeration

The Department of Landscape Planning and Regional Development of CUB has set the goal to elaborate the landscape value cadastre of all settlements of the agglomeration as this region is the most dynamic developing area of the country where the landscape values are threatened in particular because of the rural expansion.

The Budapest agglomeration (figure 2) is a concentration of urban areas around the core of Budapest creating an organic unit from the point of view of economy, infrastructure, labor market and services. 81 settlements belong to the agglomeration where a quarter of the population of Hungary 2 530 000 inhabitants lived in 2009. From this amount 808 000 lived outer Budapest (<http://www.proregio.hu/kozep-magyarorszagi-regio/demografiai-adatok>).

Results of the survey of landscape values

Our surveyors have registered more than 5000 (5138) landscape values in the agglomeration. The landscape values were grouped according to the standard (MSZ 20381): cultural-historical (red) (fig. 4), landscape scenery (green) (fig. 5) natural (blue) (fig.6). Figure 3 shows the distribution of the particular categories.

According to figure 3 the most of the values are of cultural-historical character. The hardest definable values proved to be the values of landscape scenery. Our surveyors indicated that it is difficult to determine what kind of

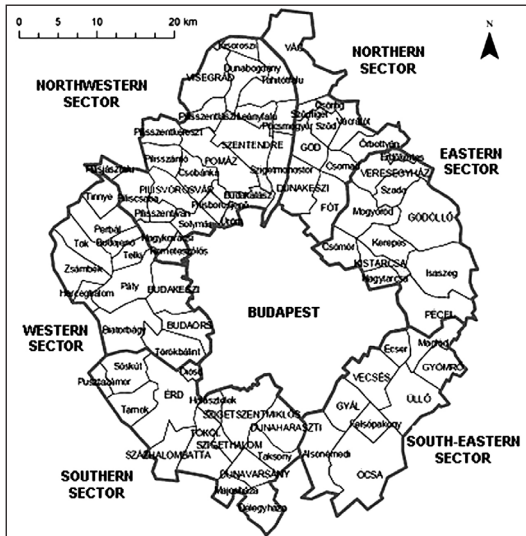


Fig. 2. Budapest agglomeration (Source: http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budapesti_agglomeráció)

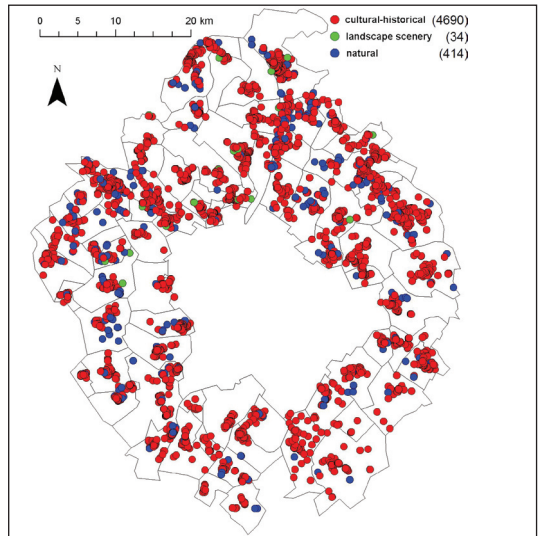


Fig. 3. Distribution of landscape values in the main categories



Fig. 4. Cemetery of Sósokút



Fig. 5. Creek-Benta in Tárnok



Fig. 6. View from Kő-hegy Budaörs

landscape feature is representing actually the value of landscape scenery and in many cases they have not designated landscape scenery values because of the poor accessibility of the lookout point.

Parallel to the surveys we processed the results of former projects of landscape value survey as well. The most complete project of this type was carried out in 1979, which registered the "significant environmental values" of several counties. In the frames of the TÉKA project we uploaded all data concerning Pest County. In the present area of the agglomeration during the survey of 1979 110 values were registered from which 97 are cultural values, 13 natural values according to the present categories (fig. 7), (Pestterv 1979).

If we compare the two periods we can see different distribution of the points: the survey in 2009 covered all settlements while in the 1970 just the settlements which were important from the point of view of tourism or

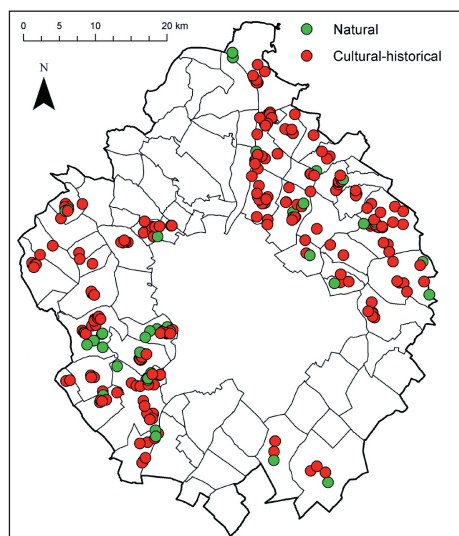


Fig. 7. Natural and cultural-historical values in the 1970's

other aspects. In the 70's the natural values appeared less important in the survey as the public has not recognized its significance that time. To follow up the changes of the values as project area we have chosen of Zsámbék-basin which was studied also in the 70's and whom significance was growing in the last decades.

Zsámbék-basin

Zsámbék-basin is situated 30 kilometers far from centre of Budapest among the ridges of Buda-mountains, Pilis, Gerecse and Etyek-hills. As a geographical landscape unit it consists of the settlements of the catchments area of creek - Békás: Biatorbágy, Budajenő, Herceghalom, Etyek, Páty, Perbál, Telki, Tinnye, Tök, Zsámbék.

The area was inhabited in the era of Romans as well: according to written records it was crossed by roads leading in direction of Szentendre, Aquincum, Csákvár and Tác which was used by the inhabitants up till the medieval ages. For a

long time the main economic sector was agriculture but since 20th century many inhabitants commuted to work in the capital. Mining, especially limestone was important in the region. "Prosperity" came in the second half of the 20th century when during the industrialization after the Second World War people went to look for work in the capital. Many (especially the poorer ones) could not afford to buy flat in the capital and settled in the settlements of the agglomeration. This initiated the first significant wave of urbanization in the traditional rural settlements. Second wave of population growth came in the 1980's when the people living in the capital started to move into the agglomeration because of better life quality. That time mostly intellectual families with small children moved to the settlements with outstanding natural conditions in the vicinity of the capital, which caused significant population growth in Zsámbék-basin. The growth of the number of inhabitants brought about the growth of the proportion of built up areas as well. The structure of the settlements loosened, former agricultural areas or natural areas become built up land. (Sallay – Kapovits 2011).

Landscape values of Zsámbék-basin

The first survey of the significant environmental values of Pest county was elaborated in the second half of 1970's by the team of the Planning Institute of the Council of Pest County. During the survey 37 values were registered mostly containing churches and other sacral objects, museums (museum of lamps, village museum) mines (quarry, marl-mine) and alley in the settlements of Zsámbék-basin (tab. 1).

During the survey of TÉKA project we registered 414 landscape values in Zsámbék-basin (fig. 8). Because of the regional characteristics we can find in largest number (354) cultural-historical landscape values. We have found 64 natural, 6 landscape scenery values (likewise the 70's the region is characterized by the dominance of cultural-historical values that is not surprising looking at the past). The dominance of the cultural-historical values comes from the centuries long inhabitation and agricultural practice.

Part of the registered values from the 70's can be found nowadays as well (fig. 9, 10, 11 and 12), but several perished and disappeared. We can see from the comparison of the two surveys that those values for which the settlement (authorities and inhabitants) bore responsibility were not only preserved but renewed and got new function.

32 values exist in the settlements from the environmental values registered in Zsámbék-basin in 1970's, 5 (mostly natural values) were destroyed. The state of the existing values is varied. In several cases the values were preserved some were completely renewed in the last years.

There is the intention in the region to preserve the traditions and values which lead to the protection of cultural-

Table 1. Significant environmental values in Zsámbék-basin

Value	Settlement
Former Sándor-Metternich castle (1979)	Biatorbágy
Roman Catholic church (1979)	Biatorbágy
Holy Trinity Statue (1979)	Biatorbágy
Poplar avenue (1979)	Biatorbágy
Reformed church (1979)	Biatorbágy
Former Szily-castle (1979)	Biatorbágy
Church ruins (1979)	Biatorbágy
Wayside cross and poplar avenue (1979)	Biatorbágy
Viaduct (1979)	Biatorbágy
Roman Catholic church and Holy Trinity Statue (1979)	Biatorbágy
Statue of Saint Vendel, chapel, polar avenue (1979)	Biatorbágy
Chapel of St. Florian (1979)	Biatorbágy
Roman Catholic cemetery, Chapel (1979)	Biatorbágy
Rosalia Chapel and cross (1979)	Biatorbágy
Sily's burial chapel (1979)	Biatorbágy
Nyakaskő and its surrounding (1979)	Biatorbágy
Cave of Dobogó-mountain (1979)	Biatorbágy
Horse chestnut forests and rock formations (1979)	Biatorbágy
Bolhahegy (1979)	Biatorbágy
Cemetery of Nemesi (1978)	Tinnye
Reformed church (1978)	Tinnye
Abandoned quarry (1978)	Tinnye
Abandoned quarry (1978)	Tinnye
Marl mine (1978)	Tinnye
Cemetery, funeral home and its surroundings (1979)	Tinnye
Lake Garancs (1979)	Tinnye
Varady mansion and its surroundings (1979)	Tinnye
Roman church and its surroundings (1979)	Tök
Cellars (1978)	Tök
13th century basilica and monastery ruins (1979)	Zsámbék
Castle and its surroundings (1979)	Zsámbék
Liberation Park (1979)	Zsámbék
Turkish Fountain (1979)	Zsámbék
Roman Catholic church and its surroundings (1979)	Zsámbék
Lamp Museum (1979)	Zsámbék
Village Museum (1979)	Zsámbék
Statue of Saint Vendel (1979)	Zsámbék

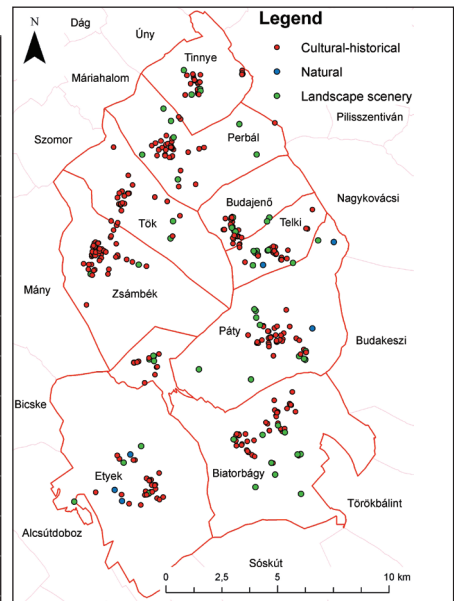


Fig. 8. Landscape values according to the main categories



Fig. 9. Lamp museum in 1979 and 2010 in Zsámbék (Source: tajertek.uni-corvinus.hu)



Fig. 10. Dwelling house with statue of Saint Vendel in Zsámbék in 1979 and 2010

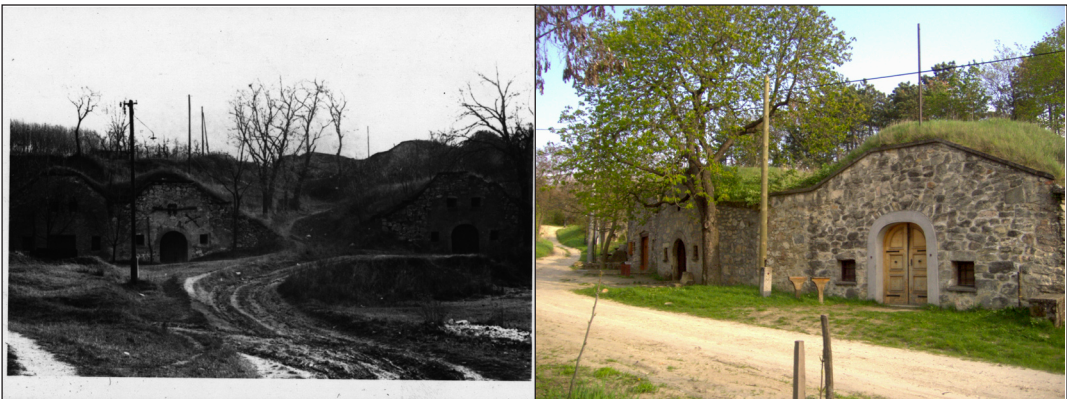


Fig. 11. Cellars of Páty (Source: tajertek.uni-corvinus.hu)



Fig. 12. Lake Garanci in Tinnye (Source: tajertek.uni-corvinus.hu)

historical values mostly. The situation is not so advantageous in the case of natural values: several formerly valuable natural values fall prey to the spread of urban areas regardless of whether its values were recognized. Mostly the settlements could not countervail the effects of the economic and urban pressure, so during the construction of roads, industrial parks and other investments several values were destroyed.

Conclusions

As a result of the landscape value survey of 2009–2010 we can state that the agglomeration including the Zsámbék-basin is rich in landscape values. Unfortunately the local population especially the residents moved in during the last decades are not aware of their landscape values so they are not protecting them. The lack of knowledge and unclear legal situation of the unique landscape values lead to the fact that several formerly registered values disappeared because of the rapid urban development so we set the goal in the TÉKA project to draw attention of the local population to the landscape elements of the settlements by launching two programs in the so called pilot settlements. In order to enhance local identity and protect local values we organized “Landscape walks” in the frames the programs of the Day of Cultural Heritage. We have demonstrated the values registered in TÉKA for the local people by professionals. The aim of the “landscape walks” was to familiarize the locals with the values of the settlements so to strengthen the need for the maintenance and protection of the landscape values. The program included exhibition as well. We have launched competition of fine arts in the topic of local values for preschool and elementary school children. The works after judging were exhibited in the settlements. We offered the exhibition material to the settlements. Local people were pleased by the landscape walks and exhibition and asked to organize similar events during the following years as well as many have become acquainted with the values of the settlement just on our events. Although these events were organized in the countryside, are really good examples for the settlements of the suburban region around Budapest, and prove that the recognition of values is the first step of protection.

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