

## Landscapes and Monuments in Moscow and their Use

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The overall plan for the development and reconstruction of Moscow envisaged an expansion based on greenery. The planting of a greenery system in a city is characterised by continuity and radial development from the center to the suburbs, from squares and boulevards to gardens, parks, forest-parks and forests.

The lay-out of the general planting of the greenery system in Moscow is founded on principles real and created anew which are of importance to city dwellers, and covers an area of more than 6 hectares. It includes, 26 urban parks, 9 of them specialised, 58 district parks, 21 of them children's parks, 11 forest parks, 27 gardens, 700 squares and 100 boulevards approximately.

Every park, every garden, has its own inimitable characteristic and each of them is an unique phenomenon in an urban setting. The characteristics of the functional use of these parks is very varied. But historical parks play a special part in the general greenery system. Their importance goes beyond the bounds of urban requirement and conditions.

There are 51 landscape objects in the city at present which are considered to be monuments of national importance with an average extent of about 4849 hectares. Their protection is ensured by legislation (resolution of the Council of

Ministers of RSFSR).

The list of landscape objects to be maintained is sent to the districts' government bodies so that they may exercise control over them through District Soviet exclusive committees. All the items which are included in the list of protected historical gardens are looked after by the centre.

Systematic work is being done on them: an organization measures, plans, builds, and extrapolates. Maintenance lists for all items have been worked out and a protection zone for the monuments demarcated. The different aspects of functional use and construction as well as plans for them are strictly regulated within these limits.

The gardens are categorized according to the degree of protection required and the value of the town-building. The most valuable of them are Kuskovo, Ostankino, Kolomenskoe and Kuzminki. The gardens of the Kremlin complex take a special place which is integral to and bound up with the architectural ensemble of world importance.

There are many methods of integrating the task of protection with the categories of functional use in each of the historical gardens or park ensembles. But in addition to these methods there are obligatory criteria for solving these questions:

- the degree of artistic, historical or other value;
- the degree of protection;
- urban building conditions in which the object is located.

The most valuable instances of architectural planning in relation to aspects of gardens were the suburban country-seats of an earlier period. Most of them have come within city limits and are surrounded by large modern housing areas today. This is why their protection requires them to be incooperated in the creation of new gardens and parks. The presence of "buffer" parks allows the maintenance of walks, lanes and structures of the historical park.

Let us consider the questions which arise in the protection and use of historical gardens: for example Kuskovo park, Moscow's suburban country seat in cooperates the following features.

- a palace, 1770, arch. Mironov;
- Hermitage, 1765-67, arch. Blanc;
- Dutch house, 1749;
- Italian house, 1761-63, arch Argunov;
- a church;
- a wooden church-tower, 1792, arch. Mironov;
- a cook-house, 1755-56, arch. Argunov;
- Swiss house, 1870, arch. Benua;
- an obelisk, 18th century;
- a park with, sculptures, canals, ponds and a fence.

The landscape ensemble consists of three zones. Each of these zones has its own degree of protection and different functional uses.

The main palace zone (about 30 hectares) is enclosed with a fence on three sides. The fourth side has a natural water obstacle-the Great Count Pond. The site has a museum with regulated visits. The management regulates visits

in this part of the landscape ensemble even in the winter when the water in the pond is frozen.

The guard zone of the park (about 120 hectares) has no fences. Its limits are regulated by a reconstruction project. Any buildings, organization of activities or recreation have been prohibited in this part of the territory. The planting of greenery, and the accompanying flower designs have been planned with the aim of creating an atmosphere of calm and restfulness, with facilities to contemplate the ensemble from different spots. Cycling has been prohibited but there are no limits on skating in the winter.

The third zone (about 200 hectares) is the most free of restrictions related to its protection and use. This zone is situated on the perimeter of the protected territory. There are structures for rest and active sport in most of the visiting areas, and in those areas that are beyond the palace. The inhabitants of the adjoining housing areas can skate and cycle on the networks which are located on the perimeter of the protected territory.

The "buffer" park (about 50 hectares) is situated near Kuskovo and adjacent to it. It is the park which ensures active kinds of recreation, a Cascade " Rainbow", a football stadium, hockey and rugby playgrounds with stands, and a complex of other created conditions for those interested in sports.

The Kuskovo park is one of the examples of a most successful solution to the question of protection and the use of a historical country-seat. The success in the method of creation of a regime of protection for the zone, and the planning of "buffer" parks gives us a model for the future.

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