



Photo: Valdis Skudre



# LANDSCAPE IN TOWN

Examples of good practice in Kuldīga

A photograph of a park landscape. In the foreground, a wooden bridge with a dark railing crosses a calm pond. The water reflects the surrounding greenery and the bright light from the sun, which is low in the sky, creating a lens flare effect. In the background, a stone wall runs along a path, and large, mature trees with dense foliage frame the scene. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.

# TOWN GARDEN

The Town Garden is located in the oldest part of Kuldīga, at the site of the former Livonian Order and later the residence of the Dukes of Courland. It has been important to the town at all times and is one of the oldest green areas in Kuldīga dating back to 1879.

In 2010, this park was transformed from an unattractive and abandoned area to unrecognizable park, emphasizing its historical sincerity and importance to public life. As a result of the reconstruction emphasis is placed on the historical values of the garden and the elements that have survived to the present day, making it accessible to mothers with prams and people in wheelchairs.

# THEN



# NOW



Photo: Edgars Tabaks, Sandris Kuzmickis, Kuldīga District Municipality and Kuldīga District Museum's archive

## TOWN GARDEN

A "flower river" about 100 meters long has been created in the park at a low and humid part of the ditch, damaged and withered trees were cut down in the park, opening to the most beautiful corners of the park. There are several recreation places with benches, as well as 22 sculptures by sculptor Līvija Rezevska placed there.

On the territory of the park, the Livonian Order Castle is marked with colorful concrete slabs of chessboard pattern, an accessible part of the castle's basement, a historic gazebo, walkways, a pond with illuminated fountain and romantic bridges, and on the firewall of auxiliary building of Villa Bangerts every summer open-air cinema is held, which attracts both local cinema lovers and tourists.

# THEN



# NOW



## TOWN GARDEN

The Town Garden has become one of the most visited sights in Kuldīga. Every spring, the park hosts a fair in honor of flying fish in the Venta waterfall, while in autumn artisans and merchants gather in the Town Garden, offering handmade treats and bounty. The park is also one of the stopping points for young couples to take beautiful wedding photos.

*Photo: Edgars Tabaks, Kuldīga District Municipality and Kuldīga District Museum's archive*

# MĀRTIŅSALA

Mārtiņsala bathing area is located in one of the most picturesque places of Kuldīga - the Venta ancient valley, which overlooks the pride of the city - the ancient Venta bridge and the waterfall Ventas Rumba.

Historically, there is a farmstead on the territory of Mārtiņsala, which has survived to this day. In its turn, the development of the bathing area started already in 1980, through thoughtful and purposeful work.

# THEN



# NOW



# MĀRTIŅSALA

In developing the area, it has been essential to preserve the authenticity and character that the presence of the farmstead. Landscaping elements and any amenities were designed to preserve the typical rural landscape while making it safe and family friendly. A serpentine path leads to the bathing area; it provides easy access for cyclists, wheelchair users, or families with prams. There is a wooden footbridge over the historic Jacob's Canal, but the path to the bathing area is illuminated by authentic lanterns made of round wooden supports that fit into the overall landscape.

*Photo: Signeta Lapiņa, Kuldīga District Municipality and Kuldīga District Museum's archive*

# THEN



# NOW



# MĀRTIŅSALA

The Blue Flag beach landscaping has a spacious recreation area to optimize visitor flow and preserve biodiversity. Leisure facilities for children and adults, information boards and health route with possibilities to exercise and improve health have been placed there. Visitors are supervised by rescuers from the restored rescue station during the summer season. There is a wooden footbridge from the beach to the waterfall.

The beach is located in a specially protected nature area and is therefore subject to the individual protection and use regulations of the Venta Valley Nature Reserve. The municipality regularly organizes educational and environmental protection and health promotion activities there.

Mārtiņsala bathing beach has received the Blue Flag since 2010.

*Photo: Eduards Dambergs, Kuldīga District Municipality and Kuldīga District Museum's archive*

# CULTURAL POTATO FIELD

On the right bank of the River Venta, near the ancient brick bridge, there is the territory of Pārventa Park, established during the Soviet times. The territory was an important place for open-air cultural events, where the theater performances from the whole Latvia and various dance events took place. Later a wooden observation tower with platform was built there. The area had been unused for a long time, so it was overgrown and untreated, but the observation tower was later demolished.

# THEN



# NOW



Photo: Ieva Benefelde, Rīdards Sotaks, Kuldīga District Municipality and Kuldīga District Museum's archive

## CULTURAL POTATO FIELD

In 2019 in order to bring this important part of the town to life the municipality created a special 0.2 ha cultivated potato field dedicated to the work of the popular poet Imants Ziedonis “Kurzemīte” (*Courland*). Potatoes are referred to as cultural because they grew up in the background of a specially created “Potato Field Radio”.

The idea of the Potato Field was carried out as the municipality is currently studying the life of Jacob Kettler, the Duke of Courland, during which Kuldīga and Kurzeme experienced the biggest boom in history. One of the legends says that it was Duke Jacob who brought potatoes as flowers to Kuldīga and only later began to use them for cooking.

The inhabitants collectively planted the potatoes together with well-known musicians in Latvia in a special Latvian pattern as a painting, reading the poetry of I. Ziedonis during planting. It is important to remember our potato planting traditions as well as the fact that the process of potatoes while they grow can be quite beautiful, as they bloom in different colors.

# THEN



# NOW



## CULTURAL POTATO FIELD

During the summer, a cultural and educational event was organized in Pārventa Park with creative workshops for children and adults, seminar for farmers and other interested people, and a song concert by the best Latvian composers took place there. Everyone was invited to listen, watch, participate and rejoice in the beautiful surroundings.

At the end of the season, the inhabitants jointly collected potatoes.

Access roads, parking lot, amenities, waste bins and benches have been established in the park where people could sit and listen to "Potato Field Radio". There is also a walking path in the park.



Photo: Ieva Benefelde, Alans Perševičs, Kuldīga District Municipality and Kuldīga District Museum's archive

## Project “UrbanLinks 2 Landscape” (UL2L, Nr. PGI04846)

The project’s main objective is to increase the knowledge base and skills and to deliver tools that allow the evaluation of urban gardening, health care and selected ecosystem services compared to other uses of open spaces and consequently the enhancement of policies that support action plans and measures to use the limited natural capital sustainably.

### Project partners:

Rhineland Regional Council (Germany), Umbria Regional Authority (Italy), Surrey County Council (UK), Kristianstad Municipality (Sweden), Silesia Park (Poland), Schloss Dyck Foundation (Germany), Kuldīga District Municipality.

### Project financing:

The total funding of the project is €1 193 175.00, incl., ERDF funding €1 004 903.75. EU Program funding available to Kuldīga District Municipality is €113 985.00, state budget grant – €6705.00 and municipal co-financing – €13 410.00.

### Project duration:

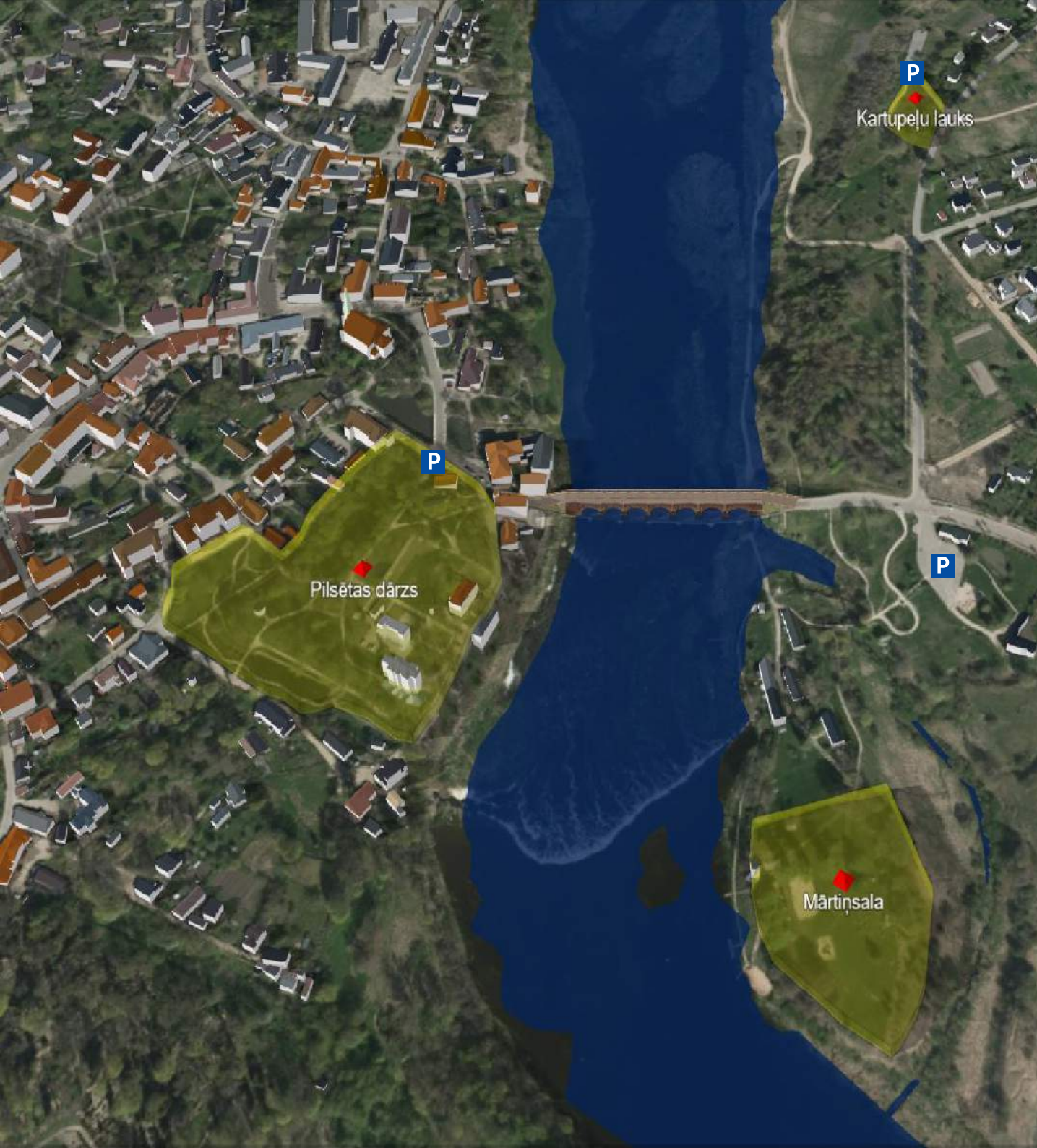
June 1, 2018 – May 31, 2022.



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

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More information about the project:  
[www.kuldiga.lv/pasvaldiba/projekti/uzsakti](http://www.kuldiga.lv/pasvaldiba/projekti/uzsakti)  
[www.interregeurope.eu/ul2l](http://www.interregeurope.eu/ul2l)



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### Cultural Potato Field (parking)

Lat: 56.974343, Lon: 21.976744  
LKS: X: 377017, Y: 316351

### Mārtiņsala (parking)

Lat: 56.970408, Lon: 21.980735  
LKS: X: 377247, Y: 315906

### Town Garden (parking)

Lat: 56.968645, Lon: 21.976669  
LKS: X: 376994, Y: 315717