

05

THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF ROHAN AND LIBEŇ ISLANDS

Through the eyes
of children and students

“An abandoned area. I felt I had no business being there. It wasn’t peaceful there. The ground was covered in litter, although there are garbage cans a bit further on. I wouldn’t go there again. It felt like there was nothing to see. Only the remains of the tracks, the ramp and the ferry were interesting. And a hare.”

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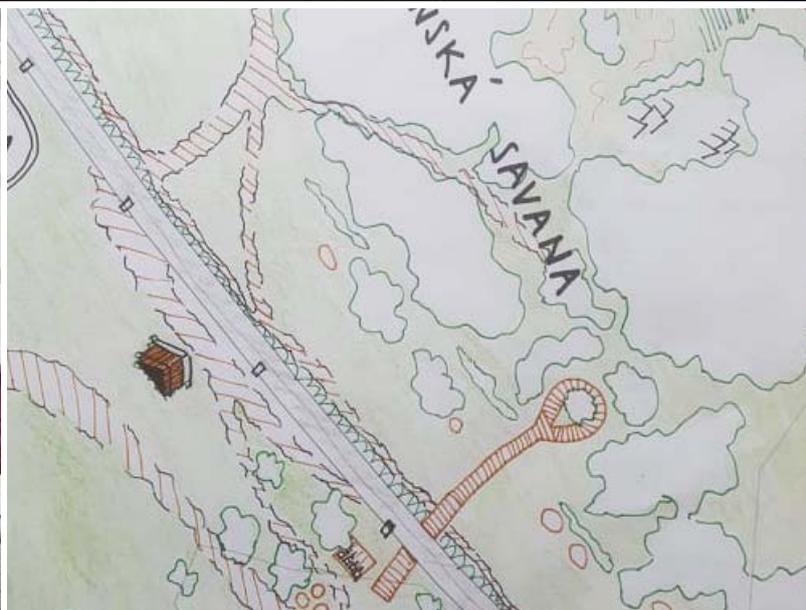
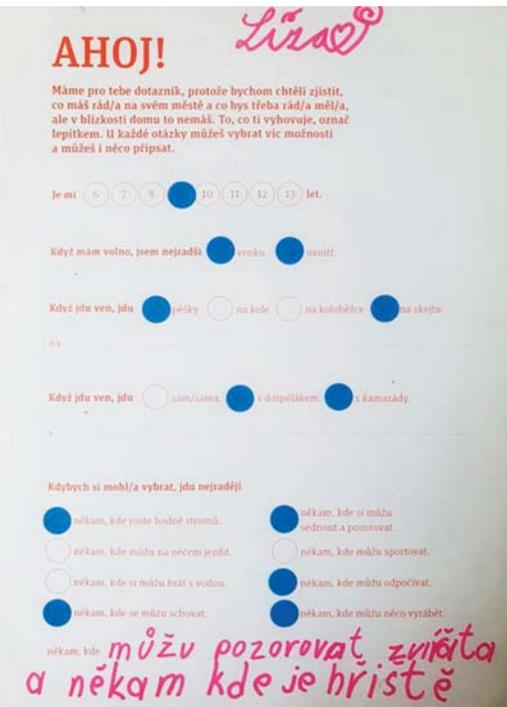
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Introduction and method

The goal of involving children and young people was to make sure these important current and future users of the environment participate in the Concept development. With the older ones, we were particularly careful to properly explain the principles of shared decision-making about the environment and to portray them as rights belonging to all groups in a democratic society. The task in this part of our work was therefore to describe the area through the eyes of children and teenagers, to include their suggestions in the specification and in this way contribute to the future quality of the environment. Last, but not least, we wanted to encourage children and young people to take an interest in their environment and strengthen their relationship to it. We managed to include 32 children (ages 6–13) and 115 students (ages 14–17). We met with children in the information container in the field and with students in their schools.

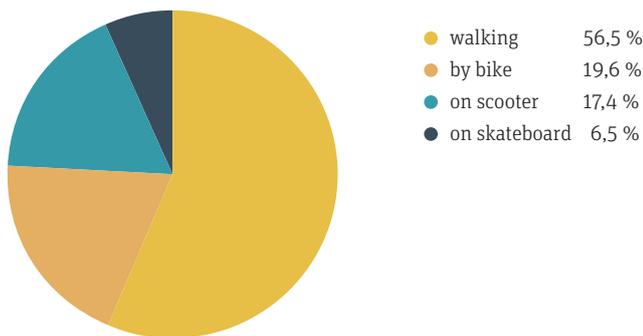


Children 6 – 13 years

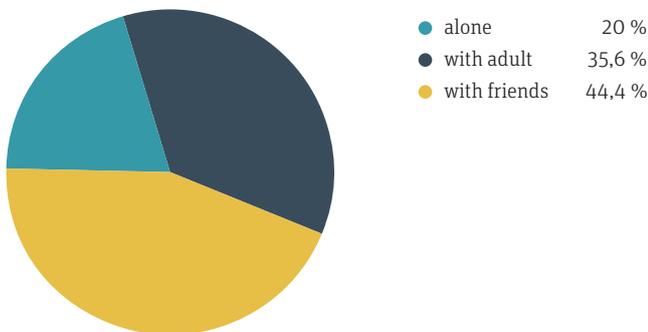
Children aged 6–13, most of whom live in adjacent localities, commented on the topic of Rohan Island at an information container that was placed in the area of Karlín Square and Invalidovna in May 2021. With the assistance of parents, teachers or on their own (most often) they filled in a short questionnaire called HELLO!. Its primary purpose was to ask about their preferred way of spending time outdoors and the activities that the children consider fun that it is possible to implement in the area in its current or future form. Because the information container was not located directly in the Rohan Island area and it was not unclear to what extent the children were familiar with the environment, the questions in the questionnaire were formulated more generally rather than referring to specific places in the area. We managed to get the responses of 32 children. There was no limit to the number of responses per question, so in some cases the total number of responses per question exceeded the number of child respondents. However, we were interested in the proportion of responses (expressed as fractions or percentages), not the total number.

¾ of children prefer to spend time outside rather than inside.

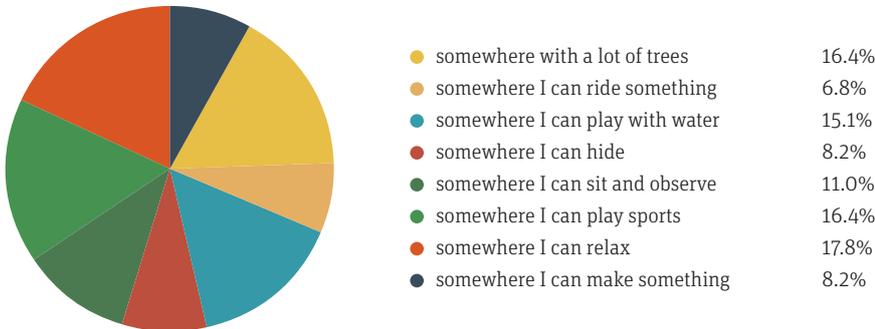
More than half of them go outside **on foot** and about a fifth of them go outside on their bike.



More often than not, the child will go out **in the company of either friends or adults**, something likely determined by age.



Where do children prefer to go? Every child is different and the range of favorite activities is therefore highly varied. The most popular places were **somewhere to relax (17.8%)**, **play sports (16.4%)**, where there are **a lot of trees (16.4%)** and where you can **play with water (15.1%)**.



Defining specific activities and **favorite park furniture** bring answers to the question of what outdoor elements children most often seek. The most fun elements are those that can be **climbed on (15.9%)**, **swung on (15.9%)**, **crawled through (13.6%)**, where you can **sit or stand and watch (11.4%)** and play **hide and seek (11.4%)**.



Kids like to be scared until it sends a shiver down their spine, but in the end they boasted of going on adventurous **expeditions to mysterious places (27.7%)**, **climbing trees (23.4%)** or even **riding very fast (21.3%)**.

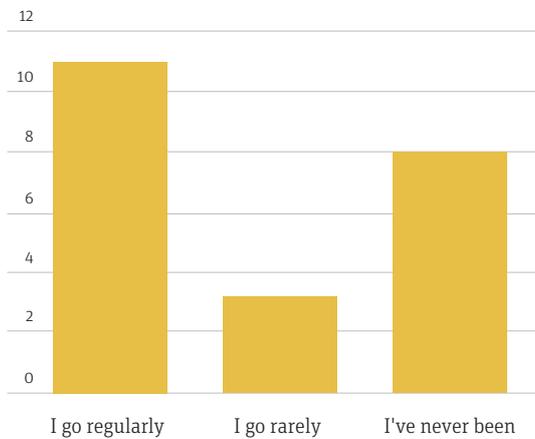


Young people 14–17 years old

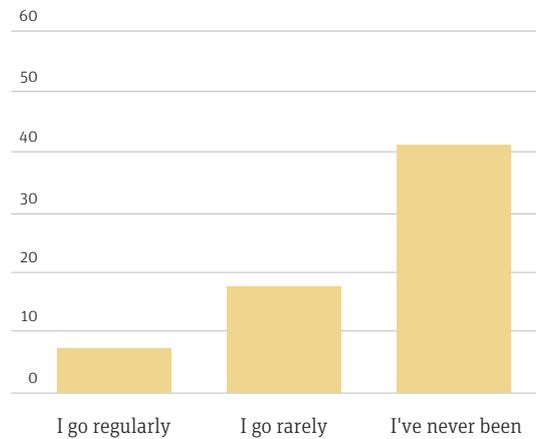
We involved **young people** in participation **through schools**. We worked with three schools in the area: PORG grammar school – a total of 45 students (fourth and sixth grade), U Libeňského zámku grammar school – a total of 45 students (1st year and 3rd year) and Bohumil Hrabal Elementary School – a total of 25 students (9th grade). The age range was 14–17 years. Their involvement was in two parts – **1: mapping the area and 2: follow-up workshops**. In the first section, students worked in the field, with each student described in detail and visually representing the assigned area (approximately 100×200m²). During the workshop, students pieced together a map model, explained legends and descriptions, presented their work and shared observations. These workshops were led by participation coordinators and aimed, among other things, at gathering feedback on the current state of the territory. Next, through moderated discussion and gameplay, we put together ideas about the future. The advantage of this two-stage effort was that the students had at least partial **knowledge of the site thanks to their fieldwork** and this allowed them to work creatively with the findings.

The following charts show how often students visit the area. The data is divided into two graphs according to the distance of residence from Rohan Island. However, all the schools are within walking distance and easily accessible. The data shows that **most young people don't know about and don't visit the area**.

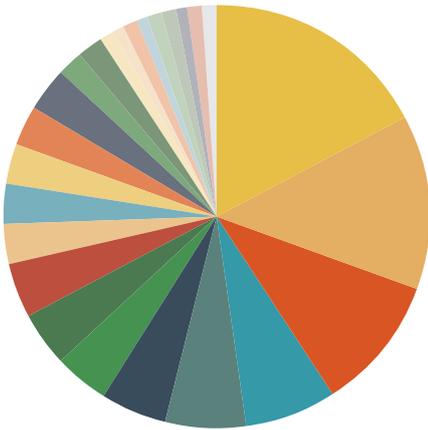
School and housing within 1 km of Rohan Island



School nearby, I live far away from Rohan Island



The following chart shows which **activities** young people **like to do outdoors**. These are various forms of active or more passive leisure activities that are popular and tend to be unorganized. This age group mostly seeks and welcomes an environment in which they can **sit undisturbed – “chill-out” (17.3%)**, go for walks and have a pleasant time **outdoors with friends, spend time in nature and greenery (10.2%)**, be able to get a **snack (7.1%)** and do a variety of other attractive activities, mostly however **on their own**.



● sitting on a bench, reading and observing (chill out, in the shade)	17.3%
● walking and being outside with friends (chill)	13.3%
● being in nature/green spaces (terrain, trees, trails)	10.2%
● café, snacks, mobile containers	7.1%
● at home (computer, something of your own)	6.1%
● running	5.1%
● swimming in the river, beach	4.1%
● free play and sports (frisbee, lacrosse, softball, soccer)	4.1%
● with the dog	4.1%
● outdoor gym	3.1%
● outdoor theatre / cinema	3.1%
● golf	3.1%
● pedal boats, kayaks, rafts, canoes	3.1%
● bicycle	3.1%
● ice skating	2.0 %
● painting and drawing outdoors	2.0%



We discussed their **ideas for the future form of the area** during a joint moderated discussion and group technique called the backwards problem solving. In this process, participants consider what they don't want the environment to look like in the future, which is the first step towards finding a positive solution. (The presented results are, of course, marked with a plus sign and tell us what young people think the future of the island should look like).

What should RI look like for you to go there?

- **Shade**
- **Access to the river**
- **Easy to navigate on foot, without fences and barriers**
- **No roads or cars**
- **No industrial zones, landfills or car dealerships**
- **No homeless camps**
- **Refreshments**
- **Places to sit down**
- **Playgrounds**
- Don't cut it all down
- Without flood barriers
- Don't let the whole thing get overgrown
- No tall buildings
- Land art/artwork, but no statues of bad politicians
- No ugly souvenir stalls and shops
- Events, yes, but not clubs or discos
- Wi-Fi
- Not overcrowded
- Greenery
- Clean air
- Clean water
- Peace and quiet
- Tidiness
- No litter or syringes
- No construction sites
- Lighting
- Sports facilities (outdoor gym, ping pong)

Zpracoval:

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