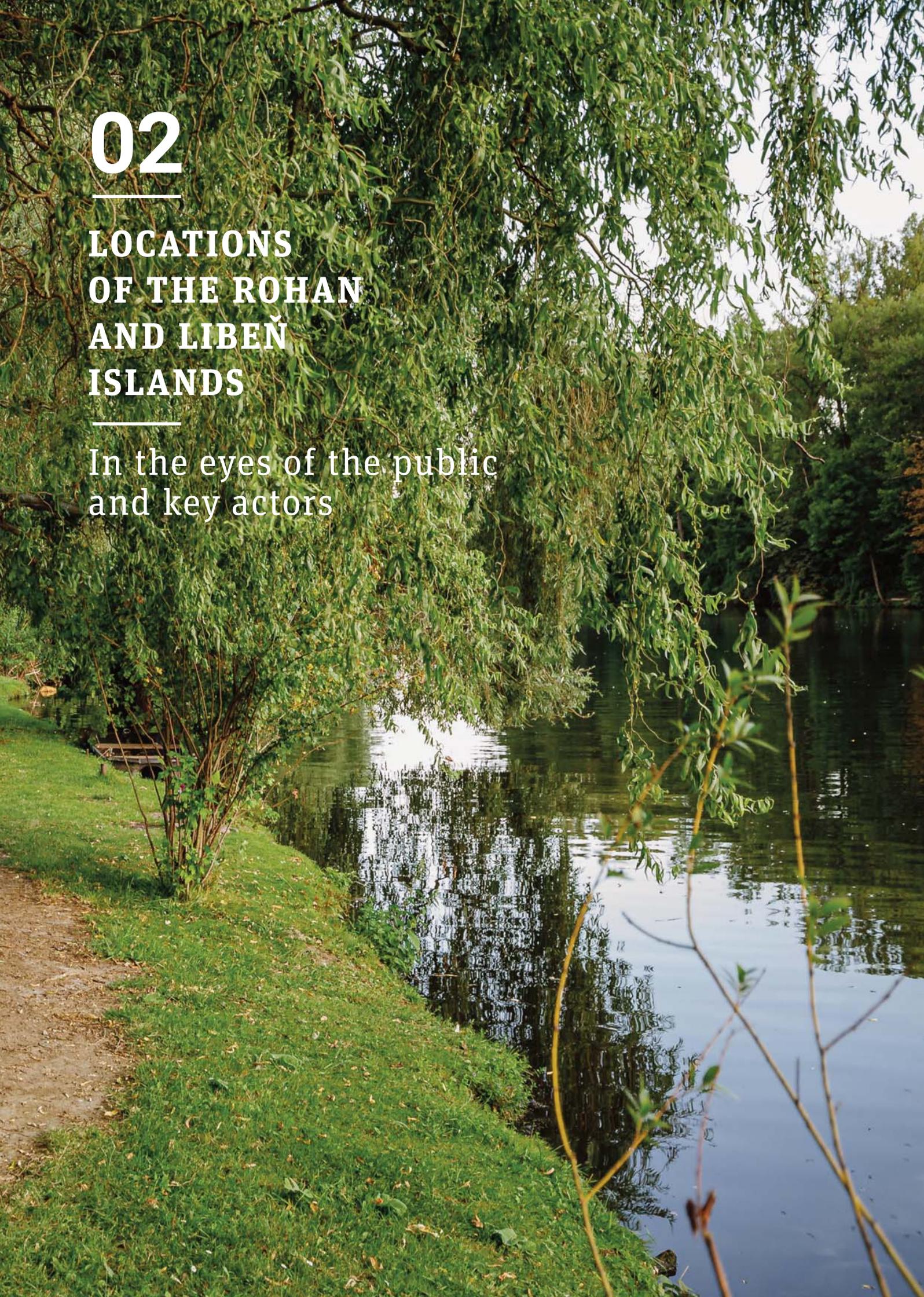


02

LOCATIONS OF THE ROHAN AND LIBEŇ ISLANDS

In the eyes of the public
and key actors



02

OBSAH

Summary

Rohan and Libeň Island Concept / Summary of public involvement

Area description

01 / The Territory of the Rohan and Libeň islands / In the eyes of the public and key actors

02 / **Locations of the Rohan and Libeň islands**

/ In the eyes of the public and key actors

- **Introduction and method**
 - **Suggestions map**
 - **Locations 1 – 9**
 - **Summary**
-

User's Perspective

03 / Involvement of Key Players of the Rohan and Libeň Island

04 / Users of Rohan and Libeň islands / Field interviews

05 / The Present and Future of Rohan and Libeň islands
/ Through the eyes of children and students

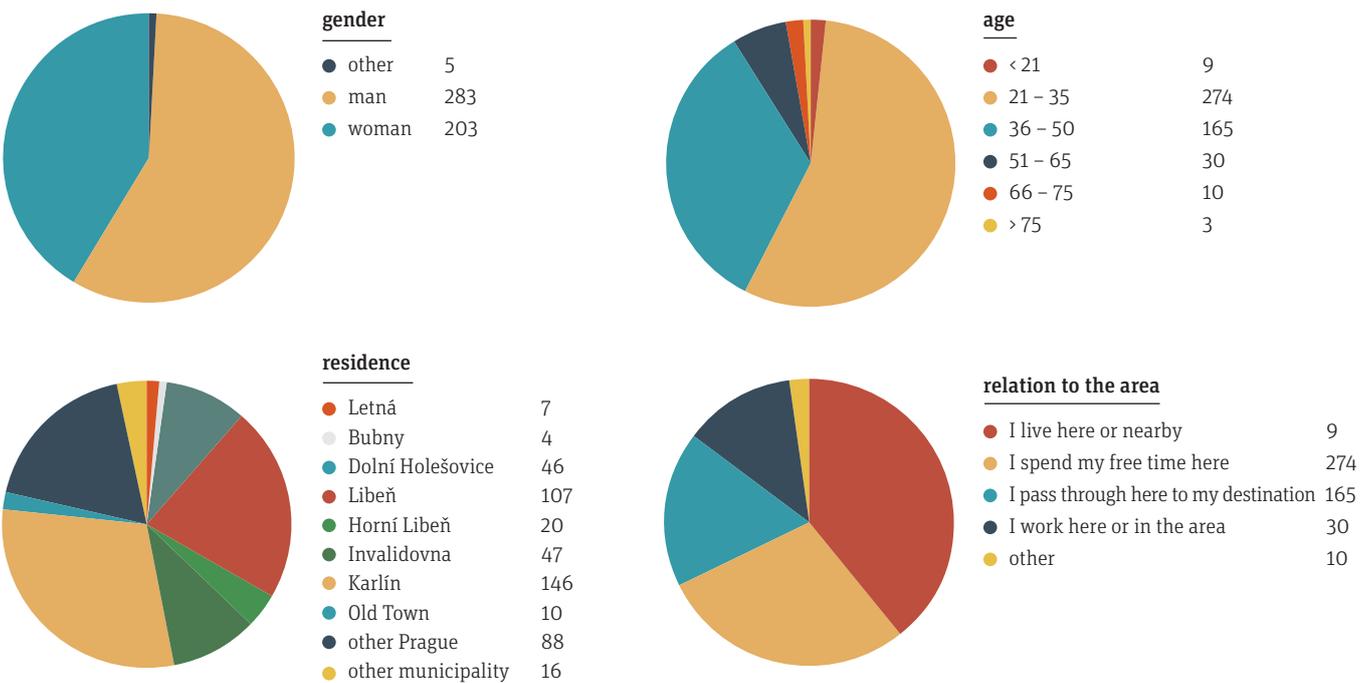
Additional topics

06 / Rohan and Libeň Island Territory / Homeless people

Introduction and method



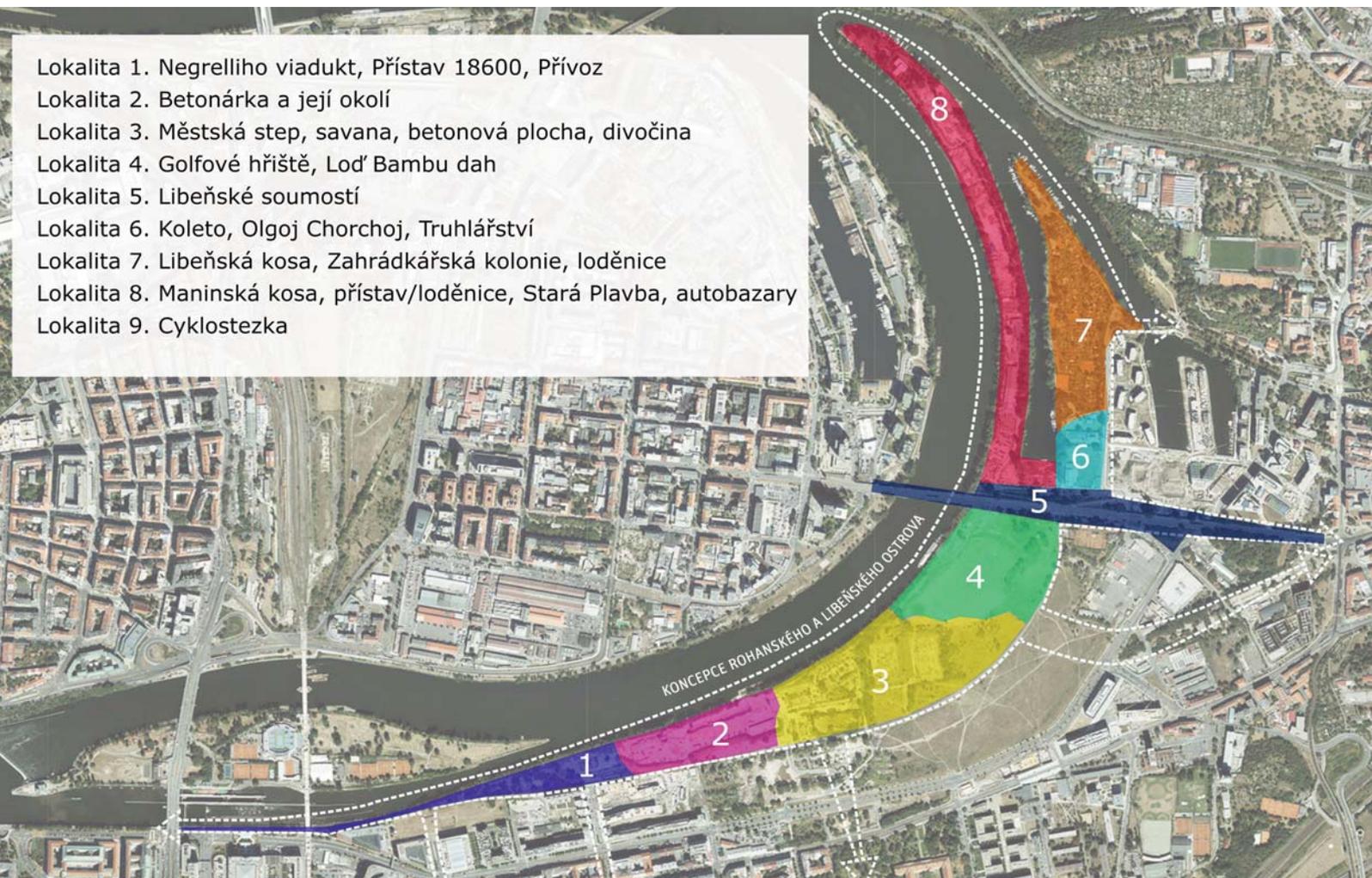
This chapter is an analysis of the individual localities of Rohan and Libeň islands that we have deliberately divided the whole area into when processing the participation data. The aim of this step was a detailed examination of each of the sites, often starkly different in their form, character and function, and often even with physical boundaries between them (for example: an unmaintained area adjacent to a golf course, the concrete plant wall, the fenced gardens, the river). The results are a summary of the data from the general public. Concerning these localities, we were interested to hear about what people valued, saw as problems or potential for the future. The data collection was primarily through an online survey (conducted between April and June 2021, with 491 respondents). Other sources, such as consultations in the information container, in-depth interviews with users in the area and dedicated workshops with students from schools in the vicinity, also provided context for our interpretation and overall understanding of the topic. (For topics relevant to the area as a whole, see Section O1: The Territory of the Rohan and Libeň islands).



More than half of the survey respondents are from Karlín and Libeň. Three quarters live in the close vicinity of the area, the rest are from Prague. The majority of respondents are under 35 years old. There is a noticeable lack of users from older age-groups. This may also be a result of the chosen (electronic) form of the questionnaire. And the general worse situation surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. Almost all of the responses from people over the age of 66 were from container participants, which once more shows the meaningfulness of this activity.

Suggestions map

- Lokalita 1. Negrelliho viadukt, Přístav 18600, Přívoz
- Lokalita 2. Betonárka a její okolí
- Lokalita 3. Městská step, savana, betonová plocha, divočina
- Lokalita 4. Golfové hřiště, Lod' Bambu dah
- Lokalita 5. Libeňské soumostí
- Lokalita 6. Koleto, Olgoj Chorchoj, Truhlářství
- Lokalita 7. Libeňská kosa, Zahrádkářská kolonie, loděnice
- Lokalita 8. Maninská kosa, přístav/loděnice, Stará Plavba, autobazary
- Lokalita 9. Cyklostezka



At this link (www.iprpraha.cz/rohansky-ostrov) there is an online map which provides an overview of all the suggestions gathered through the online questionnaire. Respondents were able to enter up to 5 suggestions for each of the four pre-established categories. In total, the respondent was able to fill in as many as 20 entries with locations. An explanatory comment was required for each entry.

In the online map, you can view the details and read the comments for each entry. The points are colored according to the category in which they were entered by respondents.

- | | |
|--|------------|
| What places are valuable to you? Where do you like it and why? | ● (green) |
| What places are problematic for you? Where do you not like and why? | ● (red) |
| Where do you feel less secure, fearful or uncomfortable? | ● (black) |
| Where do you see potential for change or development? | ● (orange) |

The base map can be switched to satellite in the upper left corner and zoomed in at the bottom corner. In the top bar it is then possible to filter the content in the map either by visible respondent attributes, by response categories or directly by full-text searches (make sure to use the correct inflection).

Location 1

Negrelli Viaduct, Přístav 18600, Ferry



Where you like it

The positive evaluation of the area between the Negrelli viaduct and the Karlín ferry stop is very strong. People speak positively about the business Přístav 18600, which has been operating at the site since 2014. Respondents praise the combined functions of refreshments with seating, a cultural program, leisure time in nature, the original children's playground, sports facilities (beach volleyball) and barbecue. As far as physical attributes are concerned, people most often mention the proximity of water and mature trees, the connection to the ferry, but also the nice view of Štvanice or the Negrelli Viaduct. A recurring value of the space is its perceived openness to all groups of visitors and its informal to wild (punk) character.

The second most strongly represented value in the area is the HolKa ferry. People appreciate both the connection with Holešovice and Štvanice as well as its unconventional and attractive form.

“The atmosphere by the water and the seating are good. The seating was dirty, but we liked it, as well as the barbecue spots.”

(3rd year students, U Libeňského zámku grammar school)



Where you don't like it

The theme that resonated the strongest was **lack of access to the river**. The problem is viewed from two perspectives – the poor design and visual appearance of the area between the concrete plant and Přístav 18600, which serves as access to the ferry station. There's litter, obstructions in the area, homeless people. None of the lighting works here and cars have no business parking here in the respondents' view. The second dimension of limited access to the water relates to the path that runs alongside the riverbank. It is quite difficult to navigate and too adventurous for many visitors. "The path is there, but it's overgrown – with broken glass bottles, no trash cans." But the main problem is that you can't walk pass through the concrete plant, so you have to go around it.

**"Somewhere there's sand, some grass, very well-trodden.
The unmarked stairs – rocky, broken, weren't very visible – could have
been better marked."**

(student, gymnázium PORG)

However, Přístav 18600 was also negatively evaluated. Respondents are bothered by the fact that it is sometimes a bit too busy, that the space has a "chaotic design" or is functionally undersized (toilets, trash cans). "Přístav 18600 could be made nicer looking and, although it's already a place of culture, more cultured." Operation after 10 pm is problematic for some residents from houses in the area. "The whole concept feels more like a punk festival than a beer garden in a modern urban neighborhood."

A recurring theme is the cycle path and its inadequate maintenance – especially the clay surfaces, which allow large puddles to form, making the path impossible to navigate "cleanly" in bad weather. Then there's the lack of lighting and "fast and reckless cyclists". Specifically, problematic locations include: the underpass at Hlávka Bridge, the passage around the terraces at the Hilton Hotel and the bend and intersection in the road under the Negrelli Viaduct. A sense of insecurity or discomfort was also reported by respondents due to the increased number of drunk people in the evenings. Separately, there are concerns about homeless people in the area of the ferry platform and under Hlávka Bridge.



Návrhy a nápady

- people are generally looking forward to the Holka footbridge.
- access to the shore, barrier-free access to the water or ferry
- maintain public boat transport (ferry, water tram, boats, etc.)
- workout playground, sports complex,
- moorings for private boats

Location 2 The cement plant and its surroundings



Where you like it

The riverbank and the path along the river, which offers “adventurous journeys beside the water and a walk where no one goes”, are viewed positively. People also mentioned parked barges, which can be visually appealing in the area.

“A narrow path by the river. If we could, we’d enjoy walking further along the river.”
(student, PORG grammar school)

A quite oft-repeated evaluation was that the concrete plant is a necessary evil, based on the belief that without the concrete plant, the ongoing and planned construction would be a significantly worse burden for the whole of Karlín. The concrete plant is also however seen as one of the few sources of systematic care and maintenance in the area between Přístav 18600 and the golf course.



Where you don't like it

Here, the negative evaluation of the premises of the concrete plant is unsurprising, primarily due to noise, dust and high traffic also for the wider area. There have been loud complaints that the concrete plant complicates access to the river and currently even completely prevents movement along the bank. People are convinced this function is unsuitable for the area, that “the concrete plant does not belong in the city center”, and that it is also an aesthetically unappealing building. This is particularly inconsistent with the housing function. “It’s clearly not okay for people to look out their windows at a concrete plant.” The downside is that the concrete plant blocks use of the space and prevents it from being a public space.

“The place had a touch of industrialization, but not enough fresh air for our taste and too busy. On our walk we had a view of the concrete plant and construction site. I don't feel good about the concrete plant.”

(3rd year students, U Libeňského zámku grammar school)



Návrhy a nápady

- Demolish it, plant grass, reforest
- Preserve it as an industrial monument
- Restrict operation on weekdays after 6 pm



Location 3

Urban steppe, savannah, concrete surface, wilderness



Where you like it

There is an ambivalent evaluation of how unmaintained this locality is. The undeniable neglect of the place signifies its wild character, the unfettered presence of a “wilderness in the city”. People particularly appreciate the opportunity to encounter interesting fauna (pheasants, hares) and flora (they refer to it as a steppe, forest park or savannah), collect various fruits (e.g. rosehips or elderberries), walk dogs without restrictions or go fishing. The evaluation of the area as an open space that allows wide-reaching views of the city, the river, and the sky resonates strongly. “I walk here regularly and feel like I have a bit of space in the city. There aren’t many places like this in Prague anymore.” People also rate the proximity to the water and the riverbank positively here. An unexpected benefit of this location is that it is possible to reach the shore here with a baby carriage (this is otherwise quite complicated in the whole surrounding area). A number of people highlighted the unobtrusive nature of the bike park, which is appreciated for its informal and nature-friendly character and its convenient location in the city center. It is a nice place to spend time with children and for youth.



Where you don't like it

The flip side of neglect manifests itself as **litter, overgrowth, impermeability, feelings of danger**, etc. The unmaintained area sometimes resembles an overgrown landfill more than an urban wilderness. People frequently mention homeless people in the area (the tent city or colony), litter, fear of loose dogs or discarded syringes. A relatively common opinion is reflected in this quote "I have never got in any conflicts with them, I understand they need to live somewhere, but it doesn't increase the attractiveness of the space." **The presence of homeless people** contrasts with the proximity of the golf course and the busy cycle path and exposes the contradictions between the worlds of the rich and the poor.

Respondents are also bothered by the poor accessibility of the water's edge (the steep bank) and the dangerous pieces of concrete and holes in the area of the former warehouses and sports complex.

"The journey to the water was unpleasant. We only met a few people. We saw homeless people, tents and bonfires, as well as rabbits, pheasants and a dead bird. Pants. The feelings were gloomy and sometimes we even felt afraid. The strange sound of a trumpet."

(3rd year students, U Libeňského zámku grammar school)



Návrhy a nápady

- Something like the deregulated Rokytka in Hrdlořezy.
- In the future I would like to keep or even expand the bike park.
- More informal playgrounds for children, like you can see in Berlin, for example.
- Multifunctional playgrounds, cafés / snack bars, a roller skating path.
- A stall, restaurant with refreshments.
- Clean up the mess that the homeless make.
- Leave it. I like it the way it is.
- Outdoor natural area for cultural events, concerts.
- Outdoor workout playground.
- Outdoor barbecue options.
- Children's playground.
- Don't run another bridge across when the Libeň Bridge is right next door.
- Remove the concrete surfaces and replace with greenery.
- Eliminate the homeless colony.

"We would like to have a recreation area with lots of greenery and flowers, a sports field, a playground, a pier by the river and the option to rent boats."

(Riško, Akingemi, U Libeňského zámku grammar school, 3rd year students)

Location 4 Golf course, Bam bu dah boat



Where you like it

The golf course plays the primary role in this locality (the driving range to be exact). The well-maintained greenery, including mature trees and the opportunity for play, are especially appreciated. “I like going to the driving range. Because it’s here in the center, I can train during the day without having to drive out by car – it’s close to public transport.” The visual qualities of the area are clear from many evaluations, including the attractive sunsets, the ability to watch the players or the vibrant traffic in the area. The green area in the eastern part of the course serves this purpose well. “I like to ride my bike around the golf course, it’s fun to watch the golfers tee off.”

The Bam bu dah boat is relatively new in the area, so it hasn’t resonated among people very much yet. It is mentioned as a cultural center and a place blasting overly loud music. The riverbanks here are also a popular fishing ground.



Where you don't like it

The negative evaluation of the golf course is based on two primary aspects. First of all, it is an inaccessible, non-public area that does not serve **the public, only a small segment of society**. The second aspect is the sense of danger resulting from the location of the course nearby the trail. "I'm afraid of getting hit by a golf ball. These golfers are dangerous." The course is completely parched in the summer. The poor condition of the car park and access road to the golf course are also recurring themes.

"It's just golf, nothing grows there. A clean grassy area – so boring"
(student, PORG grammar school)



Návrhy a nápady

- Conserve the Rohan Island Driving Range!! (frequent)
- I'd get rid of the golf tee and replace it with a publicly accessible green space.
- Building another embankment would not be a bad idea at all (next to the Bam bu dah boat).
- I'd like to see facilities for a public swimming pool.

Location 5 Libeň Bridge system



Where you like it

This area is clearly dominated by the Libeň Bridge, not only because of its function – i.e. the connection to Holešovice and public transport, but also because of its cultural significance. Respondents often have an emotional relationship towards the bridge. “I love Libeň Bridge and I am glad it will be repaired.” Libeň Bridge provides interesting views of the river, the Rohan and Libeň islands territory, but it’s also a landmark in its own right. It is “unique, interesting, novel and complements its surroundings”.



Where you don't like it

The main problem with the bridge is its dismal condition associated with its long-delayed renovation. Leaving that aside, the problem is primarily the feelings it creates in its immediate environment. The bridge acts as a barrier and even the pathways leading through it often end up nowhere. The problematic places are: the barrier connection to the Holešovice riverbank, the lack of lighting in the A2 cycle path tunnel, the ever-present puddles and the dangerous intersection with Štorchová Street. Respondents negatively evaluated the surroundings of the arch above the former branch of the river and the park between Kaufland and the bridge. Both of these places are highly neglected, homeless people live here and others are afraid to walk through them (partly because these spaces don't offer an "escape option"). A telling comment on the immediate surroundings of the bridge was given in English "The area doesn't feel safe enough to be able to enjoy it fully."



Návrhy a nápady

- Repair the bridge
- The renovation should not restrict north-to-south permeability.
- Restoration of park by Kaufland would refresh the area.
- Build pseudo-industrial looking restaurants/café's etc. (by the bridge).
- Turn the collection yard into a kind of campus where cultural events could be held.



Location 6

Koleto, Olgoj Chorchoj, carpenter's shop



Where you like it

The positive evaluation of Zdeněk Němeček's sculpture studio and the adjacent areas was the most significant. Respondents notice the sculptures and art in a public space as something that adds to the peaceful atmosphere of the place. This can act as a rest point when travelling along the cycle path. Children play games here and sitting on the Prague chairs is popular. The second important point is the relatively newly opened Koleto refreshment stand, which is located in a historic building together next to a dance studio. The positive thing about Koleto is that it serves as a focal point of the locality, with its informal and folksy atmosphere. The building in which the company is housed is of historical value, carrying a touch of the old Libeň and remnants of the original architecture in the area.



Where you don't like it

The place received almost no negative evaluations. There is criticism that the space is not utilized sufficiently. "A totally pointless unused grassy area. There could easily be apartments or offices here." Criticism was also expressed about the poorly designed cycle path – with a narrow profile along its entire length, poor connection to Měnclova Street, where cyclists come in contact with cars.



Návrhy a nápady

- Barbecue and picnic area.
- Build a kindergarten here.
- A public park.
- The empty green areas could be built up with new flats.



Location 7

Libeň spit, Gardening colony, docks



Where you like it

The strongest aspect of the Libeň spit is the gardening colony, which harks back to its long tradition, the functioning community of gardeners, and a safe and protected environment. This contrasts with the otherwise relatively wild and unmaintained state of the Manin spit or the rest of Rohan Island. The gardens offer an atmosphere “lost in time” with a series of “places between places”. In addition, the greenery and tranquility of the place create a habitat for a number of animal species rarely seen in the city (lizards, toads, snakes, birds, etc.). The “U Budyho Sanctuary” is very a popular, remarkable spot with its football tennis field. “A bit of a faded glory, but it belongs to Libeň.” The scouts’ facilities, the DDM (youth center) and the docks leave a strong imprint on the area. The positive common denominator of these functions is the offer of activities for children and youth. There are also suitable fishing spots and ice skating during hard winters. For the whole Libeň spit, this is one of the few places in the whole area where the river is within easy reach.

“We felt quite comfortable in this spot. The place was calm, but also feels a bit closed in due to the fence lining all the gardens in the vicinity. We missed better access to the water and also some facilities.”
(student, PORG grammar school)



Where you don't like it

Although outside the investigated area, the strongest negative voices were expressed concerning the enclosed Dock housing complex. People are bothered by the fences and barriers to access the former dock area. Similar criticisms were directed at the gardening colony, which is inaccessible to the general public and so some respondents see it as a “closed area ruined by a few dozen people’s hobby”. Another thing viewed negatively about the gardening colony, is when cottages are transformed into permanent housing heated with poor quality fuel. “Sometimes there’s an unpleasant smell over the winter of people burning shoe leather or who knows what else.” Another problem people see is the mess around the river and in the water, probably brought in by the Rokytká rivulet. People are bothered that the road running through the area goes nowhere and the area (near the tip of the island) generally offers little for ordinary people.

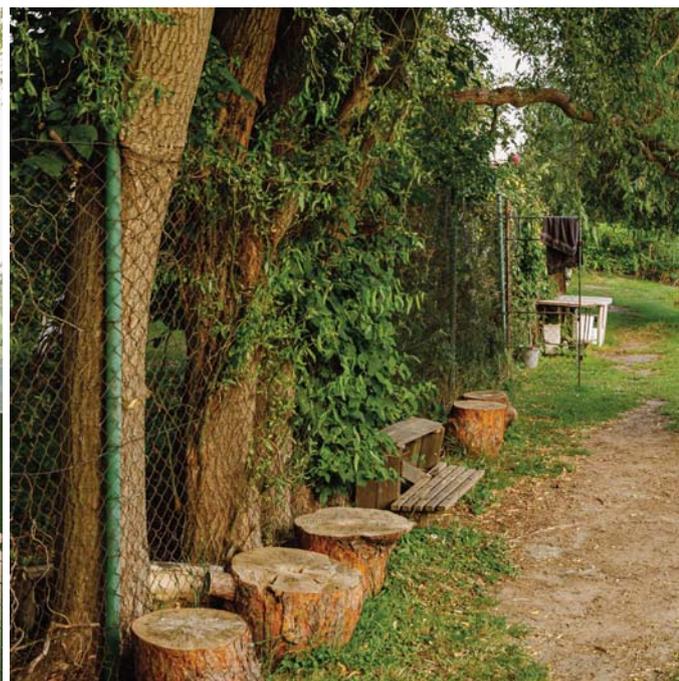
“It’s nice, but we couldn’t see anywhere and we didn’t get anywhere”.

(student, PORG grammar school)



Návrhy a nápady

- Any intervention (in the colony), such as allowing through passage, would be devastating, just look at the mouth of the Rokytká and the mess that is there.
- The need to fight back the knotweed.
- It should stay out of the hands of developers at any cost.
- The gardening colony should be demolished, a park would be suitable instead
- I would add a path for tourists in the garden colony, at least around the perimeter. Otherwise non-gardeners can’t get there.
- The U Budyho pub, together with the surrounding garden colony, should be declared a national cultural monument and protected as such in its current form.



Location 8

Manin spit, harbor/docks, Stará Plavba, car dealerships



Where you like it

People value the Manin spit above all for its potential for the future. It is a large area, surrounded by water on both sides, providing beautiful views and leisure opportunities. The public has a positive perception of the **informality of the environment**, the wildly growing trees, the fishing possibilities and views of Bílá skála (White Rock) and the river. The dead-end branch – Stará Plavba is valuable, a unique spot, both peaceful and wild at the same time. Rare species such as the night heron and the river kingfisher can be found here. The docks at the end of the island are also viewed positively as an example of a suitable use.



Where you don't like it

The public primarily dislike the inaccessibility of the area (fenced-off areas, car dealerships, parking lots or warehouses). They also has a negative perception of industrial operations, associated with dust, dirt and a high frequency of freight vehicle traffic. The place lacks any concept and as a consequence the roads, buildings and greenery are significantly neglected. The evaluation of the car dealerships is mostly negative, but another evaluation exists, which emphasizes “a certain charm, from the 90s, almost circus-like” atmosphere associated with the place to a certain extent. Respondents are bothered that the area is inaccessible and only offers the same path there and back. This relates to proposals for future connections to the riverbank – to the Povltavská cycle path, the Libeň spit or directly to Holešovice.

“I have no idea what's on this piece of land. Is it even possible to get there?”
 “Híc sunt leones.”



Návrhy a nápady

- Footbridge from the end of Manin spit to Povltavská Street.
- Connection to the Libeň spit (footbridge, boat).
- Reduce the industrial use and make it more for the public.
- A beach, restaurant, small boat harbor with marina.
- Beach with purified river water (like in Vienna).
- Potential for a water sports center.
- Community gardens supported by the city.
- Potential for beautiful residential development, cafés and restaurants.
- Many opportunities for cafés and social activities.
- The peninsula deserves some care, but not development projects.
- Leave as much of the area as possible a wilderness.
- A well-maintained natural park with paths, barbecues, water access, beaches, swimming pools and sports activities.
- Climbing wall, rope center, workout equipment.
- A dog meadow.
- An industrial cultural space.
- A wild piece of nature. If you make it accessible, do so very carefully, on foot and maybe not even everywhere.
- Leave nature to run its course, the suspicious buildings and the like, but allow its use for swimming and recreation.



Location 9 Cycle path



Hlávka Bridge – Negrelli viaduct

The problematic places are mostly under Hlávka Bridge, where the trail leads through a dark and narrow tunnel. Homeless people sleep in the tunnel, it stinks, water drips from the ceiling and it is dark even on sunny days. Moreover, for cyclists, the shock of the transition from light to dark means momentary blindness, which can end badly. In addition, the trail in this whole segment is confusing, too narrow and excessively winding (at the Hilton terrace and under the Negrelli viaduct). Most regular cyclists know this place and ride carefully, but collisions still occur. “As a cyclist, I’m careful, but pedestrians don’t know how to react quickly.” A barrier-free connection from the Florence area to the cycle path is missing – “a cyclist who starts in Florence cannot get to the cycle path. The Rohan embankment gets in the way, you often can’t get through (e.g. Záborská Street is blocked). Pedestrians have a bridge to the Danube House, but Karlín cyclists don’t.”

Negrelli Viaduct – U Mlýnského kanálu Street (Thámová)

In this section of the cycle path, people most often report problems with the existing surface (in wet and snowy conditions) and the lack of lighting. The surface is fine for some users (mainly runners and cyclists looking for a more adventurous ride), but for the majority it becomes an issue.

“The poor quality surface of the cycle path, in the rain or after a thaw, turns into a quagmire”.

A beaten path winds alongside the trail where pedestrians or cyclists retreat when there are puddles on the surface. The separation of pedestrians and cyclists with a strip of cobble is not functional. There is an issue at the entrance from U Mlýnského kanálu / Thámová streets, where there are no viewing angles and the situation is often complicated by parked cars.

Cement plant – Libeň Bridge (new surface)

For the most part, the new surface and extension of the cycle path is welcome. However, the new situation brings certain concerns – mainly about further increases in the number of users (and their possible collisions) as well as the arrival of new types of users – especially skaters, who are (presumed) to have greater space requirements. The new lighting is welcome, as its lack was felt very strongly. There have been suggestions for routing the trail further away from the facades of houses and closer to the river to give the trail better views. The new trail surface is an issue for runners who were better off running on a surface closer to a natural one.

The intersection with the road that leads to the concrete plant is a problematic place, although collisions don't actually occur here. The second place is at the Libeň Bridge, where the steep approach to the bridge and the location of the intersection of two roads in an inappropriate place has the potential for collisions. The recent tunnel modifications were very welcome.

Interestingly, the trail in this section serves as a shortcut: “Overall, we use the area to shorten our journey to Holešovice. It's faster for me to walk across the meadow to the bus stop. Libeň Bridge would mean I take a tram and transfer at god-awful Palmovka.”

“I run on the cycle path, but I prefer to walk to one side of it.”

(student, PORG grammar school)

“We were sitting on the ground because the benches have just disappeared. But even that wasn't unpleasant.”

(1st year students, U Libeňského zámku grammar school)

Libeň Bridge – Thomayerovy sady park

There are two main problems in this locality – once again, the trail profile is too narrow, leading to concerns about collisions. The cycle path also intersects with car traffic, which is the most frequently mentioned complication – a) the intersection with Štorchova Street, b) the intersection and route of the path along Menclova Street. Other problem areas are the dangerous exit from the gardening colony car park. “The only way for a driver to get off the property is to stick their “nose” onto the trail and hope they don't hit anyone. “The bend just before the on-ramp through the flood gates is also confusing. “Giant puddles form here.”

“Není moc kde se zastavit, jen tu projíždím.”

(žák 9. tř., ZŠ Bohumila Hrabala)



Návrhy a nápady

- Fast (commuting) and slow (strolling) lanes would make sense.
- Full-length lighting.
- Benches for resting along the way.
- A runner's path / nature trail.



Summary

The evaluation of the individual localities of the Rohan and Libeň islands leads to diametrically different conclusions. From places to go for culture and to hang out with friends, to solid sports venues, functional and non-functional industrial zones, adventure spots, fishing spots, impermeable green spaces, fenced-off gardening colonies and settlements of houseless people. A cycle path winding through the entire area, following the flood wall, is a must for all user groups. In some parts, however, it is not advisable to step off the path. We are left with a mosaic and highly varied territory, which transforms from moment to moment before its visitors' eyes. The changes in the nature of the spaces are intense and surprising, bringing a certain strength. However, some places are essentially off-limits ("hic sunt leones"), something people have grown accustomed to. Those who aren't used to it yet are children and young people, who have mapped out such places very precisely.

Zpracoval:

Ateliér pro veřejnou debatu

07/2021

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