

Basic information about botanical park Hrádocké Arboretum

The arboretum in Liptovský Hrádok is situated in a built up area in Lipt. Hrádok. It is on the border of the temperate climatic area, of the humid subarea, of the temperate and humid area with cool or cold winter and of the cold area 643 m above the sea level.

From the climatic point of view, between the years 2005 and 2014, the average temperature in the location of Liptovský Hrádok is 8,1 and the average rainfall is 734,7 mm. The foundation of the arboretum is closely connected with the name Rudolf Benkooy and with the formation of the forestry school in Liptovský Hrádok in 1886. The botany park with the area of 27,12 ha had an educational function for would be foresters together with a nursery for growing of woody ornamentals, the area of which was 10 ha and with an ornamental lake with water from the river Belá.

Gradually the interest in the botany park started to decline and priorities of the citizens of Liptovský Hrádok overweighed its priorities. In 1928, as a result of the building of the Bee Scientific Institution, its area decreased to 23,21 ha.

At that time when Bohuslav Procházka was a director, its short renaissance started – new exotic tree species were planted / the red oak, blue spruce, Serbian spruce, balsam fir, Arborvitae, Canadian Hemlock, Japanese larch, Balkan pine, etc /. After the year 1933 and after Bohuslav Procházka had left his office, the loss development started again and its area decreased to 7,24 ha.

A new stage in the development started after the year 1958, when Mr Daniel Kovalovský, who worked for Arboretum Mlyňany, elaborated the botany park project and this project changed its orientation and since then we have spoken about the arboretum. In 1959, the arboretum was fenced and its new area was 7,03 ha. And under the conduct of Ing. Pavol Rusko and Mr. Jozef Švanda, collections of the arboretum started growing gradually. In 1974, 173 taxons were noticed and in 1984 320 taxons.

Between the years 1983 and 1985, on request of then administrator, a new project of the reconstruction of the arboretum was elaborated by a team of authors of the VŠZ of Brno under the conduct of Prof. Ing. Ivar Otruba, PhD. In this project, an Alpine garden with two small lakes, new excursion paths and resting areas for visitors were designed. This intention is being implemented. According to the project, the arboretum is divided into the following zones: A – North America, B- Euroasia, C – collections of rhododendrons, D – collections of evergreen trees, E – East Asia, F - heath and Alpine garden, G – collections of willows.

Nowadays, the arboretum is provided by the management of Secondary Vocational School of Forestry and Wood of Joseph Decret Matejovie in Liptovský Hrádok. Thanks to this school, Arboretum acquires of new meaning as evidenced by the declaration of the town – Arboretum as a protected area under the Act of nature and landscape protection parliament.

To increase the protection of rare species taxa realized Secondary School of Forestry and Wood of Joseph Decret Matejovie in Liptovský Hrádok in the years 2010 – 2016 the most detailed digital inventory of all collections of taxa technology GNSS and total station, that wants beauty the town arboretum brings not only professional, but also the wider public. The result is a digital inventory arboretum detailed planimetric digital map of the arboretum and 3D digital terrain model. The result of the digital inventory is a comprehensive overview of all taxons, whose number currently stands at „746“. The aim was to create a digital inventory of applications and for common user GPS, which would give a significant learning tool for teaching vocational subject Forest Dendrology for students of forestry schools.

Arboretum in Liptovský Hrádok is unique of its kind in Europe despite its small area of 7,03 ha, it is the highest elevation arboretum in Central Europe and contains the third largest collection of three species in Slovakia, therefore the law should be given our attention.