



13 Hajska Pools and Modlešovice Heaps

An area on the right-bank fluvial plain of the Otava River, east of the town in the cadastral territory of Hajska, which was significantly changed by the gold mining activity of humans during the Middle Ages. The system of smaller pools with valuable wetland and aqueous vegetation (most significantly the water violet) and many kinds of amphibians was declared a specifically protected area in 1985 (natural monument, 6.50 hectares). There are continuously executed revitalization works that include removal of mud from the grounded pools and foundation of new pools. These heaps (deposits after gold mining) with characteristic growth of heather are a protected archaeological locality.



12 Blind Channel of the Otava River

A significant ecological landscape and fishing locality behind the water treatment plant in Strakonice with almost undisturbed nature of the blind channel of the Otava River (yellow water-lily, amphibians, fish, birds...). There is a mouth of the underground gallery providing drainage of the Strakonice viaduct during torrential rains.



10 Mill-race on the Otava River

A mill-race leading from a non-existent mill known as “At the Five Wheels” through the centre of the town, creating locality Island (Ostrov). A part of the river arm around the Church of St. Margaret is led through piping. In 2005, the mill-race was revitalized and fitted with walking and recreational trails.



18 Srpska

A massive forested hill south-east of Strakonice between the settlements of Přední Ptákovice, Srpska and Nebřehovice. Highest peak: Velká Kakada (564 metres above sea level). Walking trails with several interesting springs.



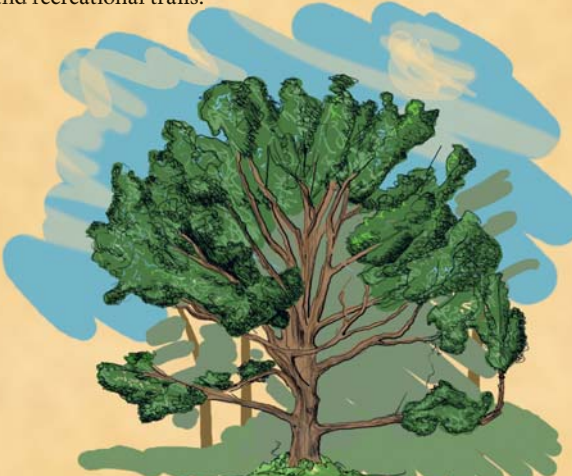
8 Renner's Park

The largest town park established in 1837 in the place of a former city moat at the edge of the town with a gloriette in the Empire style for promenade concerts. Expanded by the activity of the improvement society to the existing 2.50 hectares. In 1934, renamed to Renner's Park in honour of the local tanner, Antonín Renner (1816–1876), the greatest patron and sponsor of town greenery of that time. Today, it is the most significant green area in the town centre with a modern playground for children, playground for petanque, public toilets, maintained paths, trees and bushes and a memorial to Master Jan Hus from the original sculpture in the former park Na Dubovci.



21 Memorable Tree: Linden at Virt

A dominant, aesthetically distinct tree about 180 years old near the main road from Katoovice to Strakonice, healed after a direct impact by lightning. It is one of the mightiest trees in Strakonice with a circumference of more than 4 m and height of almost 3 m.



20 Memorable Tree: Otavský Oak

The mightiest solitary tree in the west part of Podskalí; circumference of the trunk: 340 cm, height: 22 m, age: 250 years. A relic of the bottomland growth of the left-bank fluvial plain of Otava. This dominant feature of the area also survived the blow of flooding in 2002.



16 Dobrá Voda in Podsrp

A spring with allegedly healing water below the Virgin Mary Chapel built at the end of the 18th century. A part of the pilgrim's destination – the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows in Podsrp. The complete analyses of the water in 2007 proved an increased content of radioactivity (420 Bq/l). Other indicators meet the limits for potable water. The content of nitrates (pod 1 mg/l) is far below the standard for infant water (15 mg/l). However, it is only possible to drink any water from a natural source at your own risk.



15 Memorable Trees: Lindens in Podsrp

The last preserved trees from an alley planted from Strakonice to the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows in Podsrp. Circumferences: 420 and 470 cm, heights: 26 and 29 m, age: about 200 years. They are negatively affected by the growing traffic load of the communication between Strakonice and České Budějovice.



17 Virgin Mary Spring in Podsrp

A romantic spring at a full-grown spruce with a picture of the Virgin Mary, sunk in the east part of the forested hillside of the Srpska Peak. It is regularly cleaned by pupils from elementary schools in Strakonice as part of the ecological project “At the springs of live water”.



2 Castle (Manor) Garden

The remainder of an originally extensive landscape park established in the mid-18th century west of the castle. Later a popular destination and promenade together with the Calvary and Zellerina hillside. In the 20th century, an outdoor cinema was built there. In 2005, the restoration and revitalization of the park within the reconstruction of the castle premises started. In the first phase, a flower rest parterre and a castle safari with Ouessant sheep, Dutch dwarf goats and Cameroon goats, ponies and a donkey were opened.



11 Kání vrch (Bizzard's Peak)

A distinct rocky outcrop with thermophilic vegetation in the west part of the town before the entrance to the town gardener's shop, dog shelter and water treatment plant. Legend has it that it used to be an execution hill, later used for the extraction of construction material. In older pictures described under the original name: Skalní vrch – Rocky Peak.



14 Memorable Tree: Wenceslas' Linden

The oldest and mightiest tree in Strakonice at the town cemetery with St. Wenceslas' Church, by the road from Strakonice to České Budějovice. According to the legend, it was planted at a place where in 1504 three Jews accused of a ritual murder of a small boy were burnt to death at the order of the authority in spite of the disapproval of Vladislav II of the Jagiellonian, the Czech king. Circumference of the trunk: 550 cm, height: 25 m, age: 350–400 years.



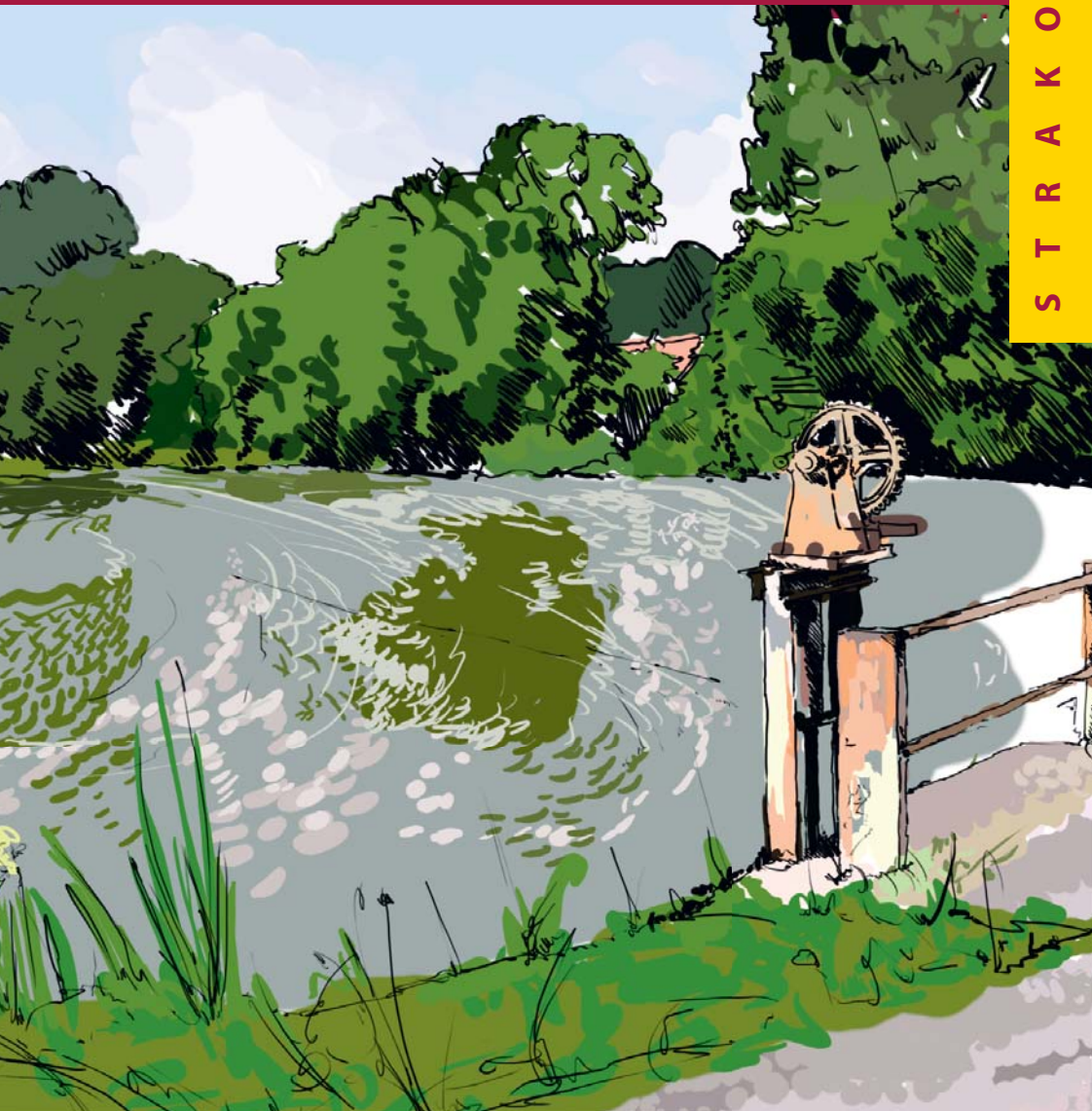
23 Nature Trail of Schwanda the Bagpiper

The nature trail was established in 2007-2008. It is 11 kilometres long and it goes through the places where the legendary Schwanda the Bagpiper spread joy. There are seven stops with information boards where you can learn some interesting facts from the history of Strakonice. Information is supplemented with period photographs, melodies of famous songs or legends and stories about bagpipes and bagpipers. The trail is marked by yellow tourist signs and it starts and ends at Strakonice Castle.

Town Strakonice

Natural Beauty

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Jihočeský kraj





① Castle Oak and Willow

A significant, aesthetically valuable trees together with the castle safari create the distinctive atmosphere of the moat in all seasons. The oak, which is more than a hundred years old and grows directly from the rocky foundation, is particularly unusual. It is depicted in a legend about Strakonice Castle.



② Kuřidlo (545 metres above sea level) and Ryšová (527 metres above sea level)

Forested hills north and north-west of Strakonice with limestone foundation. In 1985 and 1990, they were declared a specifically protected area (Natural Reserve of Kuřidlo, 9 hectares, and Natural Monument of Ryšová, 35 hectares) in order to preserve the remainders of natural linden and oak wood and acidic beech-wood growth with emphasis on preserving the rich limestone-preferring flora. It is well accessible from Strakonice and spring is the most beautiful time for a visit (liverwort, wood anemone, Martagon Lily, White Helleborine...).

⑬ Pheasant Reserve at Pracejovice

A specifically protected area, a nature preserve, in the area of the former pheasant reserve on the right bank of the Otava opposite Nový Dražejov. It was declared on an area of 22 hectares in 1985 for the purpose of preserving the growths of a bottomland forest, the so-called "hard" meadow (oak, ash) in the remainders of heaps from gold mining. There is a significant occurrence of amphibians in periodically flooded pools and protected bird species especially in spring (Spotted Flycatcher, Short-toed Treecreeper, Marsh Tit...).

⑦ Podskalí

A romantic valley of the Otava at the entrance to the town with isolated rocks. Used as a trip destination and resting place, now it is a town recreational zone with multilateral use (cycling path, playground for children, boating campsite). On the left bank, there was the former swimming pub and on the opposite bank there is a 4.5 m high copy of moai statue on the Zellerina Meadow at the Calvary Hill with thermophilic oak wood. There is a 3 km long education trail going through the entire area of Podskalí. It was opened in 1992 and reconstructed in 2005. It starts on the left bank of the river, goes along the municipal brewery upriver to the bridge over the blind channel of the river where it continues to the right bank of the river to "Calvary", which is a fo-rested hillside with valuable forest communities, to the bust of F. L. Čelakovský, and along the castle garden to the castle where it ends. There are fourteen boards with information about the history of Podskalí, the brewery, rafting on the Otava, Calvary and the fauna and flora in this area.



⑨ Poplar by the mill-race

A significant and aesthetically valuable tree by the mill-race; about 100 years old. With regard to being located on a busy road, it is under continuous monitoring and professional care as it is not a long-lasting species.

④ Volyňka River

A mountain river rising below Světlá hora near Vimperk in Šumava. Its upper stream is sometimes called Třeštilka (harum-scarum) due to the sudden and dangerous rises of water during torrential rains. In Strakonice, it flows into the Otava River after 46 km. In the past, it was a part of the defence system of Strakonice Castle (together with the Blatský Pond and the Otava River) and it was often used by fullers and hosiery makers, the predecessors of tarbush producers.



③ Blatský Pond

This pond covering more than six hectares at the gardening settlement in Stará Valcha supplied by the race gutter from the Volyňka River is used by the Czech Fishing Association. In the past, it was a part of a large manor owned by the order of the Johannites. Thanks to the marshy foundation, there have been long-term issues with mud filling, mainly in the south-west part, with the occurrence of protected plant species (Marsh Calla). In winter, it is often used as a natural ice rink.

⑥ Memorable Tree: Schwanda's Linden

A full-grown linden with the circumference of 350 cm in the gardeners' colony on the west edge of the town, in the area of the former cemetery at Calvary. Legend has it that it was planted next to the Chapel of the Holy Cross at the grave of the popular Schwanda the Bagpiper, whose stories were depicted in the works of Josef Kajetán Tyl – Strakonický dudák aneb Hody divých žen (The Bagpiper of Strakonice...).

