



Green spaces born in the city edge of all times 3rd district of Budapest (Óbuda–Békásmegyer)

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Abstract: The dynamically developing settlements sprawl continuously. After the breakdown of city walls of roman era and of the middle ages the sprawl was continuous and unimpeded. The arable land, meadows, forests became built up land. The only exceptions are cemeteries, mines, and lowlands. The valuable tree coverage of closed cemeteries can become city parks afterwards. Green space of various use appears in abandoned clay mines, which are not allowed to be built up since the mines are refilled. The use of the more hundred hectares large abandoned mines is diverse today. The most intensive use appeared in the former Újlaki I. Brick Factory, where the nine-hole Academy Golf Course was established.

Keywords: city edge, green space, Óbuda, garden, cemetery, clay mine, stone mine, beach, spa, castle garden

1. Introduction

Óbuda–Békásmegyer is the 3rd district of Budapest. It is situated on the northern part of the capital city on the right side of the Danube. The area is 39,69 km² since 1950. The length of the Danube is 8 km in the district. The most important green area is the Hajógyári Island (108 ha) and the Kiscelli Park Forest (15 ha).

Table 1. Population change in Óbuda

Year	Population
1732	1 562
1945	50 000
1960	60 000
2010	130 000

Highlights from the history of the 3rd district:

- Aquincum, the capital of the province of Pannonia inferior was founded in Óbuda 2000 years ago,
- The city was a royal centre since 1148
- Óbuda was Queens's city in the 14th-16th century.
- The city was completely destroyed in the Turkish time.
- After the Turkish time Óbuda became the possession of Zichy family
- The city was the “pilot site” of silk industry in the age of II. József.
- The wine culture was destroyed by phylloxera in the 1870-ies and 80-ies,
- In 1871 Buda became a council ordered city.
- Building of factories in the 19th century (Goldberger, shipyard, brick factory).
- Dynamic development since the middle of the 20th century (*Table 1.*).

Aquincum gardens

The excavation area in Aquincum Museum is the complex of the ruinfield and old tree groups. The center of Aquincum Civilian City serves as museum (*Figure 1.*).



Figure 1: Amphitheatre of the castrum and the Military City

The amphitheatre was built in the middle of the 2nd century. The fifteen meter wide auditorium was made for 6-7000 persons. The arena is 53,5 by 45,5 m large. The amphitheatre of the Civilian City is next to the busy Szentendrei road today (*Figure 2/a.*). The soil dug out during the excavations was taken around the amphitheatre and Celtis allee was designed on it (*Figure 2/b.*).

The governor's palace in Aquincum Military City was built on the Danube's island (*Figure 3.*) Shipyard hall was built on the territory of the former governor's palace in the 1950-ies. The mosaics were removed. The installation of the governor's palace was planned in the beginning of 1990-ies, but the base walls could not be defended against the fluctuations of the Danube's water level. A golf course is working on one part of the archeological site (*Figure 4.*).



Figure 2/a: Amphitheatre of the Civilian City, 2/b: Celtis allee (Source: the author's photograph)

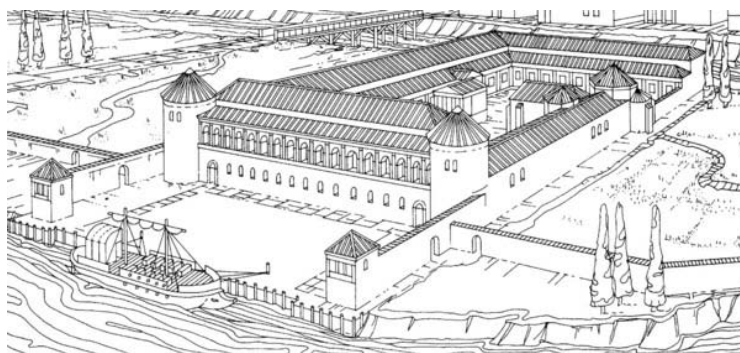


Figure 3: The reconstructed image of the governor's palace (Hajnóczi, 1987)



Figure 4: The former location of Governor's Palace (Source: Google Earth, 2009)

Gardens of the Middle Ages

The Klarissa Cloister was built in the 14th century (Figure 5.). The founder was Elisabeth, the wife of the king Károly Róbert. On the western side of the cloister's church was a cloistress gallery of 20 by 20 meters. The ruins of the former Klarissa Cloister is situated in the school's yard today (Figure 6.).

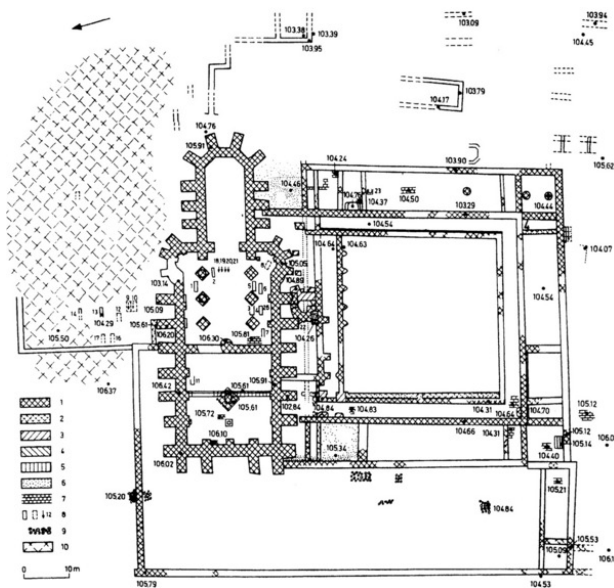


Figure 5: The Klarissa Cloister and the base of the church (Bertalan, 1995)



Figure 6: The schoolyard (Source: The author's photograph)

Garden of the Kiscelli Castle

The first chapel was built by Péter Zichy in 1723 on the hillside, to place the copy of the grace-statue from Mariacell. The Trinitarian Cloister and Church started to be built thanks to Miklós Zichy on the Kiscelli-hill in 1744 (Figure 7.). The former garden is a park forest of extensive maintenance and use of recreational purposes today (Figure 8.).



Figure 7: Vineyards covered the surroundings of the Kiscelli Castle till the end of the 19th century



Figure 8: Kiscelli Park Forest (Nr.1.) (Source: GoogleEarth 2006)

Cemeteries

In the Roman era the sarcophaguses were placed along the road leading out of the city, and later on the burial place was next to the hillside. The gardens of the churches and cloisters or their surroundings were used as cemeteries in the middle ages. In the 18th century the cemeteries were situated next to city centre. The cemeteries of the 19th century were opened at the side of Tábor Hill, along the Aranyhegyi creek and on the side of the József Hill. In all case the cemeteries were located on the city edge. Those which were large and remained are significant elements of the green network. The Jewish cemetery was build next to the Danube. In this site marine barracks were constructed (Figure 9.)



Figure 9: Jewish cemetery in the Laktanya street. (1908. and 2000.)
Sources: Budapest és környékének áttekintő topográfiai várostérképe
(Kogutowitz Manó), orthophotograph FÖMI2000

The cemetery at the Tábor Hill was opened in 1890. The double horse chestnut line along the former allee is healthy even today. Recreational park, planetarium and housing do exist at the former cemetery site, which was closed in 1950. (Figure 10.).



Figure 10: Friendship Family and Recreational Park on the abandoned cemetery of Tábor Hill.

Source: <http://www.nonprofitobuda.hu/telephelyek/baratsag-csaladi-es-szabadido-park/>

Clay mine-pits

There was a huge change after the clay mine was opened:

- The water flow direction changed
- The sand walls slipped and skidded
- The waste material dunes were not stable
- The noise of the mine was significant,
- New areas were used for mining purpose.

Clay mines and brick factories were on the seven percent of the 3rd District (Figure 11.). The former factories are built up and the mine areas are filled and covered by green vegetation today.

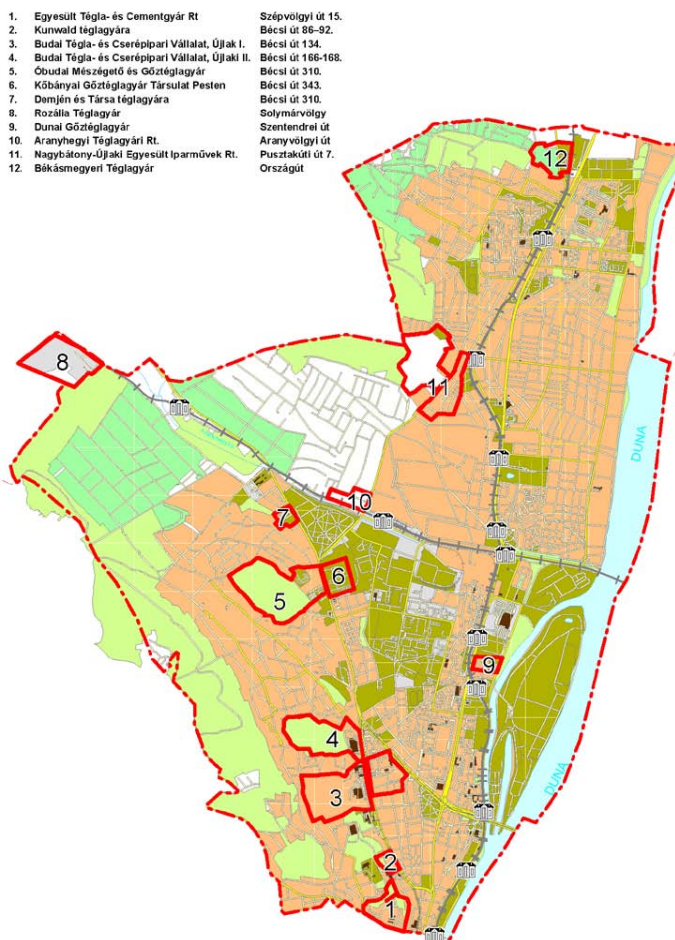


Figure 11: Clay mines and brick factories in the 3rd district
Data source: FÖMI, HM Térképészeti Kft, GeoX Kft, 2008

Housing estates, secondary school, shopping centre and golf course was built at the former site of the Újlaki Brick Factory (Figure 12.).



Figure 12: Újlaki Brick Factory (Source: Utca Rendje, 1943; Very high resolution satellite image, GoogleEarth, 2006)

Stone mines

The citizens usually mined stone at the closest location to the construction site. The Romans did already use the Ezüst Hill stone mine. Even today the remains of stone mining activity are visible at Mátyás Hill and Péter Hill too. The limestone mine was closed in the beginning of the 1940-ies. Views opening from the mine yards, which are at five different levels, are special and diverse. The largest green space is a former mining site in the densely built up family house area (Figure 13.).



Figure 13: The former mining site (source: topographic map, FÖMI 1998, very high resolution satellite image, Google Earth 2009)

Gőtés Lake

The swampy meadow came to its end in 1977. The former wells and sources were filled up and covered by concrete. The Gőtés Lake (Newt Lake) is a result of a mismanaged landfill. The water breaking up could not be blocked. After the dredging, the lake became the most popular green space of the housing area (Figure 14. and 15).

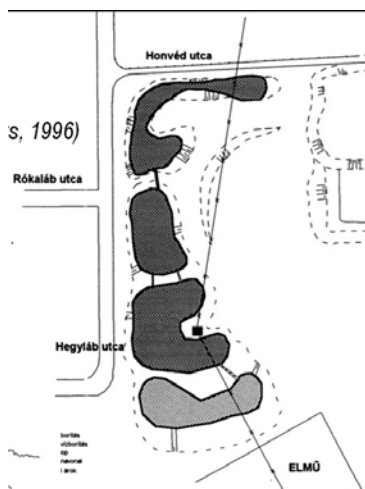


Figure 14: The rehabilitation of Gőtés Lake (Zacskó Balázs, 1996)



Figure 15: The shape of the lake and the plantation has natural visual effects.

Óbudai Island

The history of Óbudai Island is definitely linked to the life of the city. The heydays of the island were in the 2nd century, when the governor's palace was located there. It became well known again when the first Hungarian shipyard was built with István Széchenyi's support. "9th of May" park was opened in former arable lands in

1975. The first phase of 34 hectares was followed by further 40 hectares of park. The park serves primarily weekend recreational needs (Figure 16).



*Figure 16: II. Military Survey (1861) and very high resolution satellite images (2009)
Source: Google Earth*

Beaches

Budapest is one of the richest capitals of healing water on the world. Even the Romans did utilise the sources. The Csillag Hill Beach, the Római Beach and the Pünkösd Beach were all built on these sources. The Ringer family started to build the spa in 1895 on these Roman sources. In 1949 it became part of the capital city, and was reconstructed and renovated many times (Figure 17). Today's Római Beach was developed on an arable land. (Figure 18).

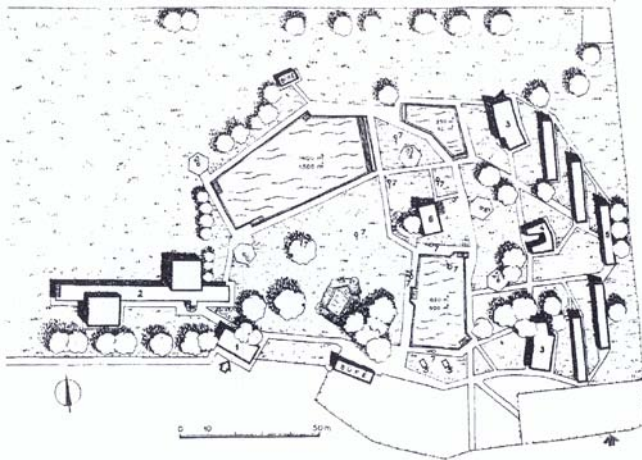


Figure 17: The garden of Római Beach (Budapest fürdői, 1971)

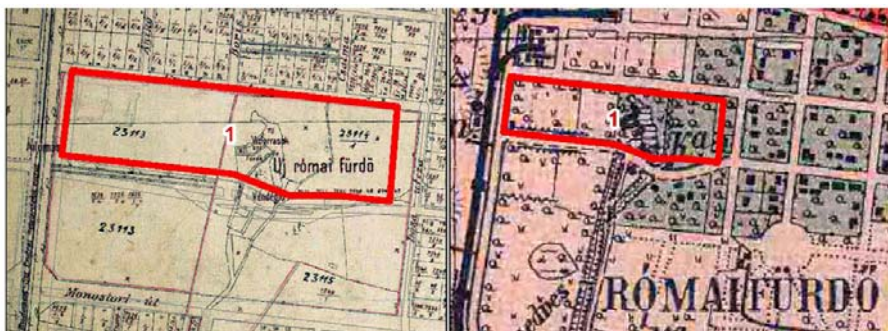


Figure 18: The built up land was continuously increasing from the beginning of the 20th century till 1926. (Source: Budapest közigazgatási térképsorozata 1908-1948)

2. Conclusions

The city edge is such a battlefield that is represented by constructions and increase of built up area. Built up land appears mostly on arable land and in forests. The battle is provoked definitely by the settlement with activities sprawling outside of the city. The traditional landscape providing agricultural support is not competitive. The city edge is such a revolving stage, where the use of the land is continuously changing. Sometimes even rearrangement of a former function is possible. The rearrangement is influenced by recreational use, environmental aspects, and the displacement or disappearance of factories. The land use change can be beneficial, in case it increases the biologically active area and decreases the effects of ecologically improper activities.

The city edge is unfortunately such a “no one’s land” that attracts all kinds of illegal activities. It is possible to put down your waste, to cause environmental damage, to live illegally, to grow animals, and make crime. The dynamically developing settlements sprawl continuously. Cemeteries, gardens, mines, beaches at the city edge, do become part of the green space system. The support of built up land or green space development in closed cemeteries, mines etc. reflects the aspects of the actual city government. In all case today’s green spaces were born at the former city edge.

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