

## Chopin Park

The first information on the municipal park located between the river Kłodnica and Gliwice Canal dates back to the mid 19-th century. It covered the area of about 8 hectares and was situated in the very centre of the town. The landscaping of Gliwice park encompassed the ideas and concepts of the British man J.C. Loudon and the expertise of a more commonly known on the continent Frenchman G.E. Haussmann who designed Paris parks and boulevards after the famous redevelopment of the French capital city in the 19-th century. In the vast majority of the park space the designers took advantage of the existing natural surroundings and picturesque untamed greenery of the local trees and bushes. Walking down the alleys you could reach the areas dominated by the geometry and fancifully cut hedges. In such spots, in the summer season, exotic plants used to be exhibited, which became more and more popular with the public. Along the main promenade and further down the park there grew coniferous trees, mainly spruces and larches, as well as broadleaf trees, such as maples, chestnut trees, lindens, oak and ash trees as well as robinias. The bush plants were dominated by rhododendrons. In the northern part of the park complex, just next to the glass houses there has been the Gardener's House having a picturesque rural look, reminding us of the idea of Goethe's House in Weimar Park. Nowadays, the surface of Chopin Park covers 5 hectares. The alleys have been resurfaced and block paved, nice-looking benches and litter bins have been installed and in the northern part of the park a children's playground has been arranged. The whole premises have been fenced to increase security. In September 2001 on the site of the former mausoleum commemorating the Uhlan soldiers of the 22-nd regiment fallen in the First World War, a new obelisk was unveiled. It is dedicated 'To Gliwice dwellers – those who fell victim to wars and totalitarian systems'. This is a special place where you can honour the victims and ponder upon history.

In the eastern part of the park, on the chief axis of the pool extending in the northern direction there is a monument of the patron of the park – Frederic Chopin. In the years 1995-1996 a detailed inventory of the park trees and bushes was conducted. Next, self-sown plants were removed and sick trees were cut down, while the most precious specimens have been carefully looked after ever since.