

IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN THE DRAWSKO LANDSCAPE PARK (POLAND)

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Abstract: Landscape parks are one of the large-scale forms of nature protection in Poland. They are created mainly due to the need to protect valuable, and often unique elements of the natural environment, but also equally valuable landscape, historical, cultural, and anthropogenic features of a given area. Drawsko Landscape Park is one of 122 landscape parks in Poland. This paper presents the main natural values of the park and the way to use them for tourism purposes.

Key words: natural values, tourism, Drawsko Landscape Park

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PURPOSE AND METHODOLOGY

The main objective of the research was to present the most important natural values of Drawsko Landscape Park and the possibility of using these conditions in a tourism. The first stage of the work included in-depth familiarization with the area of Drawsko Landscape Park, mainly based on the principles of self-exploration area. Then available literature, containing possibly many examples in which similar issues as those contained in the study were raised, was collected. The last stage of the study concerned the analysis of collected publications and cartographic materials, which in conjunction with the information collected in the field, has allowed to make a thorough assessment of natural values and to draw appropriate conclusions. Currently in the scientific literature there are publications describing the problems of tourism development in landscape parks (Puciato, 2009; Marek, 2011; Szydłowska et al., 2010; Zawilińska, 2010) and the use of natural assets for tourism development (Akama, 1996; Cavuta, Di Matteo, 2016; Felencka-Jabłońska, 2012; Ilię et al., 2014; Tucki, 2003 Warszzyńska, 1974;). This article is one of the first attempts to describe the importance of environmental conditions for the development of tourism in the Drawsko Landscape Park. This elaboration about use of natural values in tourism can be used by the management of other landscape parks, local governments and institutions associated with the development of tourism.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESEARCH AREA

Drawsko Landscape Park is one of 122 parks in Poland (*Ochrona środowiska*, 2015). It was created on April 24, 1979. It has an area of 41 430 ha. The buffer zone of the

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park occupies 22 212 hectares and acts as an area that protects park against harmful external factors. The park was established to protect the most attractive part of Drawsko Lake District characterized by unique natural, cultural, historical and landscape values. Agricultural lands, forests and other properties located within the park were left for further economic use (Szwichtenberg, 1999). The Park is situated in north-western Poland (Figure 1), in the administrative borders of the West Pomeranian Province, in its eastern part (Figure 2). In the case of division into districts, the park covers an area belonging to three administrative units: Świdwin county, Drawsko county, and Szczecinek district. It is also a land belonging to six municipalities: Połczyn Zdrój, Ostrowice, Drawsko, Złocieniec, Czaplinek, and Borne Sulinowo. These municipalities belong to the Association of Municipalities and Districts of Drawsko Lake District.

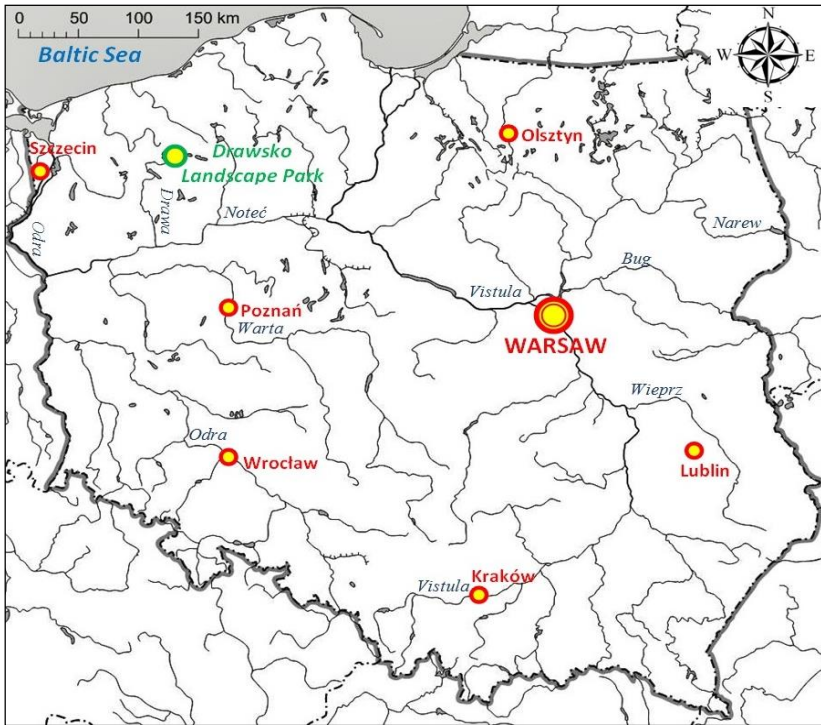


Figure 1. Location of Drawsko Landscape Park in Poland
(Source: Poland contour map 1:5 000 000)

Taking into account the regionalization by Kondracki (2002), the area of Drawsko Landscape Park and its buffer zone as a whole are located in the Drawsko Lake District mesoregion. This mesoregion is part of the West Pomeranian Lake District macroregion. In turn, the area of West Pomeranian Lake District macroregion belongs to the subprovince of South-Baltic Lake District. The surface relief and landscape wealth, Drawsko Landscape Park owes the sculpture-forming activity of Scandinavian glacier. The West Pomeranian Lake District, where the park is located, lies entirely within the last glaciation range. Regional variation of the macroregion results, among others, from varying intensity degrees of post-glacial sculptures in different marginal zones and genetic forms arrangements. It is also a result of the land fragmentation by the valleys into separated plateaus as well as the position differences and the resulting differences in a mesoclimate (Kondracki, 1978).

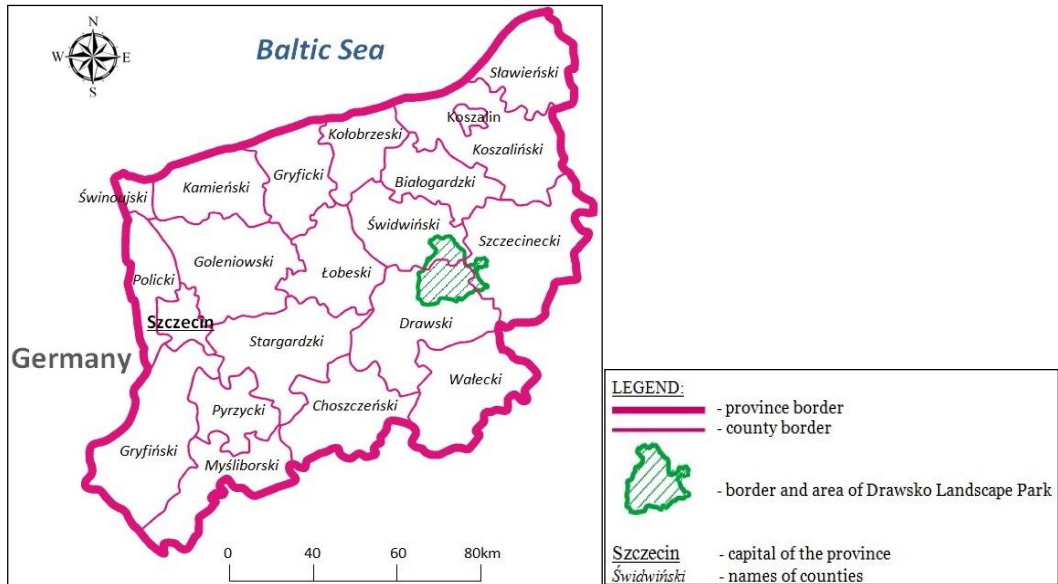


Figure 2. Location of Drawsko Landscape Park in West Pomeranian Province
(Source: West Pomeranian Province, Tourist map 1:230 000)

In the geomorphological structure of Drawsko Landscape Park, forms of glacial and river-glacial accumulation from the Baltic glacial period, shafts of accumulation moraines, and subglacial (lakeside) gutters, can be observed. These are forms of glacial and river-glacial erosion. The southern part of the park is the most geomorphologically diverse. The system of gutters crossing between moraine shafts includes the largest lake in this area - Lake Drawsko. In this part, in the gutter recesses, there are also following lakes: Komorze, Żerdno, Prosino, Dolgie Wielkie, Wilczkowo, and Krosino. There are also accumulation forms, which are sandy plains occurring in the area of Złocieniec and south of Czaplinek, as well as corrugated moraine area in the southeastern part of the Drawsko Landscape Park. Lakes Debno and Kolbackie situated in the eastern part of the area and Lake Siecino located in the western part, are the ribbon lakes, the gutters of which are surrounded by hilly marginal zone. In hypsometric terms, the area of Drawsko Landscape Park is very patchy. In the northern part of the park, there are the greatest height differences. This section includes the highest hill in the park – 222.8 m a.s.l. (Wola Góra near Czarnkowo) and the lowest area – 63.9 m a.s.l. (Ogartowo, 4 km east of Połczyn). Given the general division of Poland into 28 climatic regions, the area of Drawsko Landscape Park is located within the Middle-Pomeranian region. Its range covers the central part of the Pomeranian Lake District. The Middle-Pomeranian region is mainly characterized by higher than in many other areas, number of days with moderately warm weather and high cloudiness. On average, there are about 50 such days within the whole year. However, there are 26 days with cold and rainy weather. Days with moderately warm weather with high cloudiness and precipitation, counting to more than 36, are also specific. The main difference between other regions is less number of days with very hot, sunny, no precipitation weather, reaching 11 (Woś, 1996).

NATURAL VALUES OF DRAWSKO LANDSCAPE PARK

The vegetation in the area of Drawsko Landscape Park is very diverse. One of the main reasons for this is the form of the surface. It is also the result of a high diversity of habitats, among which the most important are those associated with water, banks of water

reservoirs, swamps, and bogs. Vegetation currently present in the park is a result of natural processes, among which the dominant role was played by the Pleistocene glaciation, as well as human activity. Peculiarity of the flora within this area consist of relict plant species. They are traces of the following transformation of the natural environment ranging from the glacial, by tundra conditions, forest phase of the Holocene, until the present, where human activity has a pronounced effect on vegetation. The largest number of glacial relics occurs in the eastern and south-eastern part of the park. These include the following species: slim-stem small reed grass (*Calamagrostis epigejos*), wild rosemary (*Ledum palustre*), and black crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*). Examples of postglacial relics in the park are: lake quillwort (*Isoëtes lacustris*), water lobelia (*Lobelia dortmanna*), least water-lily (*Nuphar pumila*), alternate water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum alternifolium*), and yellow pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*). Drawsko Landscape Park as a whole is located in the zone of marine climate influence. This is the reason of occurrence of several plant species characteristic of this climate type in this area. These are the following species: little white bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*), smooth cat's ear (*Hypochoeris glabra*), grey hair-grass (*Corynephorus canescens*), Merlin's grass (*Isoëtes lacustris*), alternate flower water milfoil (*Myriophyllum alternifolium*), cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*), common broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Belgian gagea (*Gagea spathacea*), Dortmann's cardinal flower (*Lobelia dortmanna*), marsh pennywort (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*). Areas where these plants are usually met are wetlands, peats, sandy shores, standing water, as well as wet meadows. In general, these are areas inaccessible to man, which undoubtedly affects the relict character of vegetation (Izydorek, 1993). In the area of the park, there are also species of boreal vegetation. They are represented by: wood small-reed (*Calamagrostis epigejos*), grey alder (*Alnus incana*), swamp cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccus*), chickweed-wintergreen (*Trientalis europaea*), crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), Marsh Labrador tea (*Ledum palustre*), bog blueberry (*Vaccinium uliginosum*), dwarf waterlily (*Nymphaea candida*). Characteristic positions of these plants are peaty and water-associated habitats. The peculiarity of the Drawsko Landscape Park are mountain plants species, which include: yellow pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), heath speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*), grey alder (*Alnus incana*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*). They occur mainly on the slopes, bottoms of ravines, undulating slopes falling towards the edge of water reservoirs overgrown by beech and deciduous forests with an admixture of beech, and with microclimate similar to the mountain one.

The park flora also includes species of plants that are rare on Polish territory. These are: Merlin's grass (*Isoëtes lacustris*), Dortmann's cardinal flower (*Lobelia dortmanna*), shore-weed (*Littorella uniflora*), and dwarf waterlily (*Nymphaea candida*). In addition to the plant formation of a natural character, also plant groups closely linked to human activity can be found here. They have developed mainly on fresh and wet meadows as well as pastures, roadsides. and in the vicinity of human habitats (Izydorek, 1993).

Currently, in the area of Drawsko Landscape Park, there are about 750 species of vascular plants. Of these, 42 species are legally protected, including 28 species are fully protected, while 14 species are covered by partial protection (Szwichtenberg, 1999).

Fauna of Drawsko Landscape Park is very diverse and species-rich. It has been divided into four main groups: herpetofauna (amphibians and reptiles), ichthyofauna (fish), avifauna (birds), and teriofauna (mammals). The variety of habitats in the area affects the fact that animals have particularly good living conditions here. Fish composing the ichthyofauna in the park are undoubtedly considered as the natural and economic wealth of this area. Within the limits of Drawsko Landscape Park, there are 36 fish species and 1 species of *Cyclostomata*. Of these, species such as spined loach (*Cobitis taenia*), brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*), Eurasian minnow (*Phoxinus phoxinus*), and

European weather fish (*Misgurnus fossilis*) are under legal protection. Clean river water and 47 lakes located in the area create a friendly living environment for ichthyofauna. The best purity of waters distinguishes lakes defined as sielawa-fishing ones. They are inhabited by the following fish species: vendace (*Coregonus albula*), bleak (*Alburnus alburnus*), European smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus*), European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*), Eurasian ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernua*), European white fish (*Coregonus lavaretus*), common bream (*Abramis brama*), roach (*Rutilus rutilus*), European carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), and northern pike (*Esox lucius*). Large lakes of this type are: Drawsko, Siecino, Wilczkowo, Żerdno, and Komorze. Considering rivers flowing through Drawsko Landscape Park, Drawa river is the most abundant in ichthyofauna (Górski, 1993).

Herpetofauna of the park is represented by 12 species of amphibians and 5 species of reptiles. Amphibians belong to 6 families. A representative of the tailed amphibians order (*Caudata*) is *Salamandridae* family, while frog order (*Anura*), *Alytidae*, *Pelobatidae*, *Bufo*nidae, *Hylidae*, and *Ranidae* families (the most numerous).

When describing the Drawsko Landscape Park, the most valuable fragments for herpetofauna life is an area located in the north of the park in the triangle Ostrowice – Chłopowo – Polczyn Zdrój, and vicinity of lakes: Dłusko, Wilczkowo, Pasiecznik Mały, Pasiecznik Wielki, Okole. A large variety of habitats and water reservoirs is a characteristic feature of these regions. Avifauna occurring within the park represents the largest group of vertebrates in the area - 148 species of breeding birds. Such a large species diversity makes a high ornithological attraction of the park. Therefore, Drawsko Landscape Park is a refuge for birds of a national importance. Among the endangered species, following ones can be found here: 4 pairs of white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), 3 pairs of lesser spotted eagle (*Clanga pomarina*), 2 pairs of red kite (*Milvus milvus*), 6 pairs of black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), and over 100 pairs of white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) (Górski, 1993). Teriofauna within Drawsko Landscape Park is represented by more than 40 species of mammals. The largest group consists of rodents (*Rodentia*). Within the park limits there are 8 species of bats (*Chiroptera*). Among the insectivorous mammals in the area of the park, there are 5 species. Among the carnivores (*Carnivora*) living in the area, 10 species can be distinguished. These are: raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes*), true foxes (*Vulpes*), European badger (*Meles meles*), European polecat (*Mustela putorius*), least weasel (*Mustela nivalis*), European pine marten (*Martes martes*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), stoat (*Mustela erminea*), European otter (*Lutra lutra*), and gray wolf (*Canis lupus*). The latter two ones – European otter and periodically occurring wolf – are listed in Polish Red Book of Animals. This area is also a habitat for species of ungulate mammals (*Ungulata*), including: wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), roe deer (*Capreolus*), and Deer (*Cervus*). The park is also periodically place of stay for the largest representative of deer - elk (*Alces alces*) (Górski, 1993).

Forests in Drawsko Landscape Park cover 10.3 thousand ha, which represents about 25% of the area. In the buffer zone, it is the acreage of about 10.1 thousand ha. The forest communities include: Central European alder forest, currant-alder forest, peat-alder forest, lowland ash-alder riparian forest, sub-Atlantic hardwood deciduous forest, fertile lowland beech forest, acidic lowland beech forest, sub-Atlantic acidic beech-oak forest, mixed forest, boggy birch forest, and also boggy forest (Szwichtenberg, 1997). One of the natural conditions for tourism development in the area of Drawsko Landscape Park are undoubtedly monuments and nature reserves. At present, 247 natural monuments are created in Drawsko Landscape Park. For the most part, these are distinguished by age and conformation: oaks, lindens, beeches, hornbeams, and maples. A principal form of environmental protection in the area of Drawsko Landscape Park are nature reserves. Nature reserve, besides national park, is the highest form of nature conservation. It differs from the national park in that it has different organizational nature, and has no

specific lower limit size. Currently, 7 such objects are created here. Each reserve is characterized by homogeneity of the ecosystem. Among them, there are reserves: landscape, peat and forest, peat, flora, water and flora, soil, and bird sanctuary. The largest is the nature reserve "Valley of the Five Lakes" of the area of 228.78 hectares, while the smallest is the soil reserve "Brown Soil" occupying an area of 1.10 ha (Szwichtenberg, 1999). The first order watershed runs through the Drawsko Landscape Park. It separates the catchment of Parsęta river that drains water from the region directly to the sea, from the Odra river catchment. North and north-western part of the park is located within the catchment of Parsęta river. It covers approximately 15% of its area. Mainly, this area is drained by Dębica river, which is a tributary of Parsęta river. Only to a little extent, water from this area is also discharged by another tributary of Parsęta river, i.e. Gęsia Rzeka river. The largest area representing about 85% of the park is the river Drava catchment, from which the water through the Noteć, Warta, and Oder rivers flows into the Baltic Sea. The smallest catchment in Drawsko Landscape Park is represented by Gwda river, which is a tributary of Noteć river. Within this catchment, there is located the south-western part of the park, which is drained by Piława river (Florek, 1993).

The largest river in the park is Drava. It reaches a length of 199 km, while its catchment area is 3 198 km². Drava river in its course passes through most major reservoirs in the area of the park. These include lakes: Prosino, Żerdno, Drawsko, Rzepowskie, and also Krosino. The main tributaries of Drawa river in this area are: MiedzNIK, Kokna with Rakon, Wąsawa, and Mąkowarka (Szwichtenberg, 1998).

Drawsko Landscape Park is a protected area characterized by a unique richness of surface water. In this area, there are 77 lakes, 47 of which are situated within the boundaries of the park, while the remaining 30 are located within the buffer zone. The area occupied by lakes in the park is 4 043.8 ha. Therefore, the jeziorność in this region is equal to 10.5%, meanwhile in the buffer zone, the total area of lakes is 795 ha, which gives the jeziorność of 3.5%. The lakes are also an essential element of the Drawsko Landscape Park landscape. A special role is played here by ribbon lakes distinguished above all by large areas, considerable depths, and varied coastline. Examples of these lakes are: Drawsko, Siecino, Komorze, Żerdno, and Krosino. The lobelia lakes located in the park and its buffer zone are undoubtedly valuable in the landscape and nature terms. These include, among others, lakes: Czarnówek (nature reserve protection), Kapka, Leśniówek, and Kaleńskie. The lake Drawsko is the largest and also the deepest lake not only in Drawsko Landscape Park, but also the entire Drawskoe Lake District. It occupies an area of 1 781.5 hectares. In terms of depth (79.7 m), it is the second lake in the whole country. In addition, the Drawsko lake is characterized by well-developed coastline, which reaches a length of 76 km. It is very diverse. Hence, some sections of the coastline are cliffs, the height of which reaches up to 40 m. Due to its origins, specific elements are numerous, deeply indented bays and several peninsulas. Additionally, there are also 14 islands, including the largest island of the lake - Bielawa (Szwichtenberg, 1998).

Drawsko Landscape Park is also the deposit of mineral waters. It was estimated that a layer of water containing more than 2 g of mineral salts in 1dm³ is probably at a depth of 300-400 m, mainly in the upper Cretaceous and Jurassic formations. However, in the Upper Triassic and Jurassic formations at depths from 700 m to 1100 m, the occurrence of water with mineralization above 35g/dm³ has been found (Florek, 1993). The largest layers of mineral waters are located in the northern part of the park near Połczyn Zdroj.

IMPORTANCE OF NATURAL VALUES FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

One of the primary roles in the economic activity in the area of Drawsko Landscape Park is tourism. The abundance of natural values occurring in Drawsko Landscape Park

offers excellent conditions for resting and practicing different forms of sport. It is evidenced by undoubtedly well-organized network of hiking trails within the park. These routes have been created in order to provide the best valuable natural and cultural assets of the region for leisure, tourism, as well as research and teaching purposes. Here we can distinguish the following types of routes: walking, cycling, horse riding, water, and nature trails.

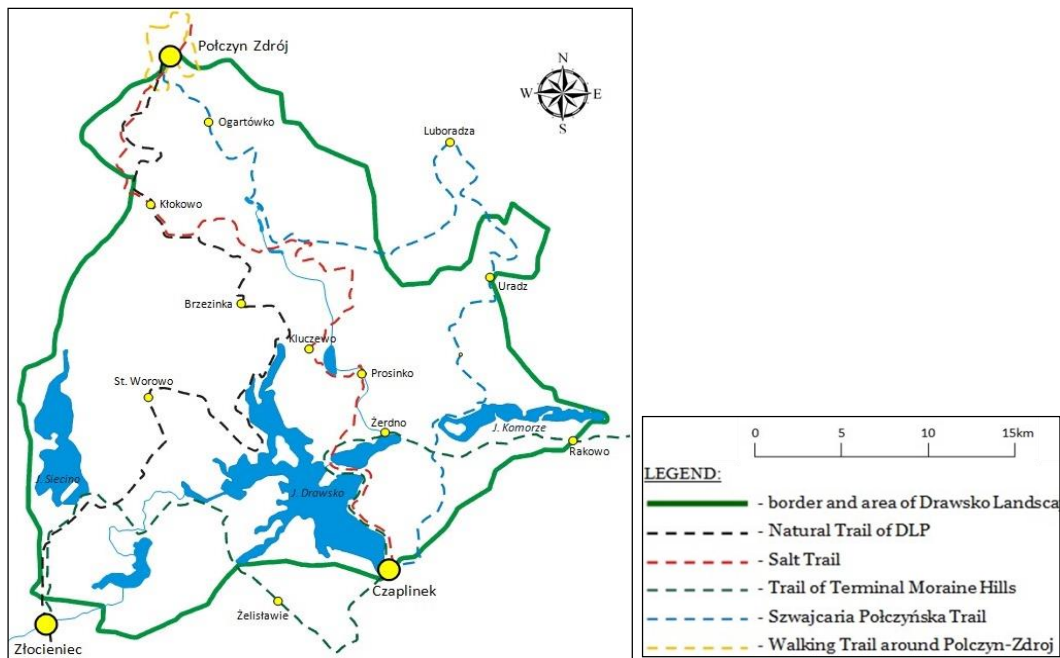


Figure 3. Hiking trails in Drawsko Landscape Park (Source: Drawa Lake District. Tourist map 1:150000)

Currently, within the limits of the park, 5 trails for hiking are designated (Figure 3). Their total length ranges around 227.7 kilometers. Most of the stages on the trails can be overcome with the help of the bike. As for professional cyclists, they have a choice of 6 routes specially adapted for cycling in this area (Figure 4). The water sports enthusiasts have the opportunity to discover the beauty of Drawsko Landscape Park from the perspective of the river course. Two kayak routes were created for this purpose. Unfortunately, only their initial fragments are situated within the limits of the area. One of the interesting elements of this infrastructure type are 4 nature trails designed by the park authorities. In addition to typical tourist function, they are also very valuable in terms of research and teaching, mainly due to the presented values closely associated with the local environment and specific landscape (Nowicki, 1995). Tourism in Drawsko Landscape Park is also related to the abundance of surface waters. Availability of many water bodies rich in various fish species promotes fishing enthusiasts. There are also plenty of water sports enthusiasts. To meet the needs of this group of tourists, water equipment rentals and marinas were organized at several points in the lakes, especially on Lake Drawsko. In Zlocieniec and Czaplunek, the water sports centers also operate. Tourism and leisure on the water is also a necessity to ensure the holidaymakers the access to beaches and the ability to take a bath. For this purpose, a number of bathing areas are organized, which during the holiday season are guarded by lifeguards.

The above-mentioned mineral deposits located in the vicinity of Polczyn-Zdroj are also important for tourism in Drawsko Landscape Park. They found a particular use in spa treatment in this city. Primarily brine is currently used here. Mineralized drinking

water is also an attraction for the spa. It has no medicinal properties, while has the beneficial effect on digestion processes. It is exploited and bottled within the city (Szwichtenberg, 1998). It is also worth mentioning about riding tourism. Lovers of this kind of qualified tourism will also find something for everyone in this area. Six stables have been organized within the park. In addition, special routes for convenient horse-riding were also prepared. Elements of the tourist auxiliary base are presented in Figure 5. Varied terrain affects the rich landscapes virtues of the area. Numerous occurring hills made it possible to locate the viewpoints, from where the beauty of the surrounding nature can be admired. At present, there are 24 such points here.

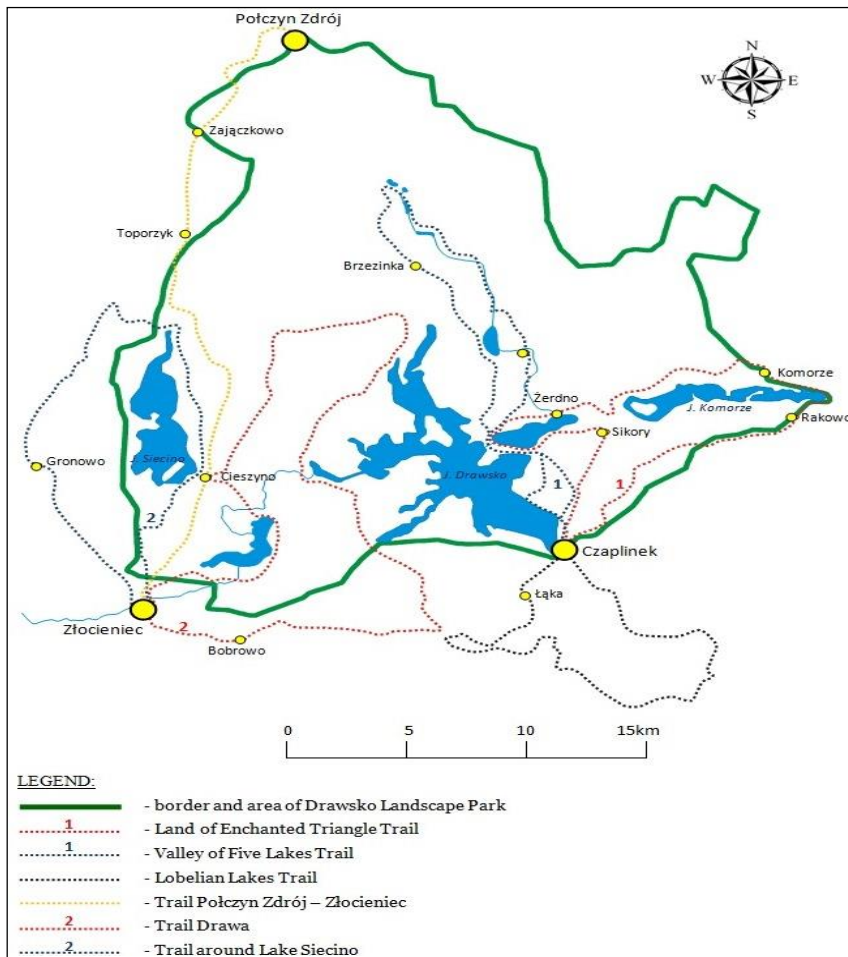


Figure 4. Bike trails in Drawsko Landscape Park (Source: Drawa Lake District. Tourist map 1:150000)

CONCLUSIONS

After careful analysis, it can be concluded that the natural values of Drawsko Landscape Park are the dominant group of conditions posing opportunities for tourism and its further development. It is influenced by the fact that the developed unit is one of the basic forms of nature conservation. However, a unique microclimate prevailed in the park, the undoubted benefit of which is clean air, is also important. Among other things, it has a beneficial effect on the regeneration of physical and mental features of a man. Understanding

the tourism development in this area as well as existing accompanying infrastructure during the course of studies, it can be deduced that elements of the natural environment discussed in this publication are fully used for the purposes of tourism.

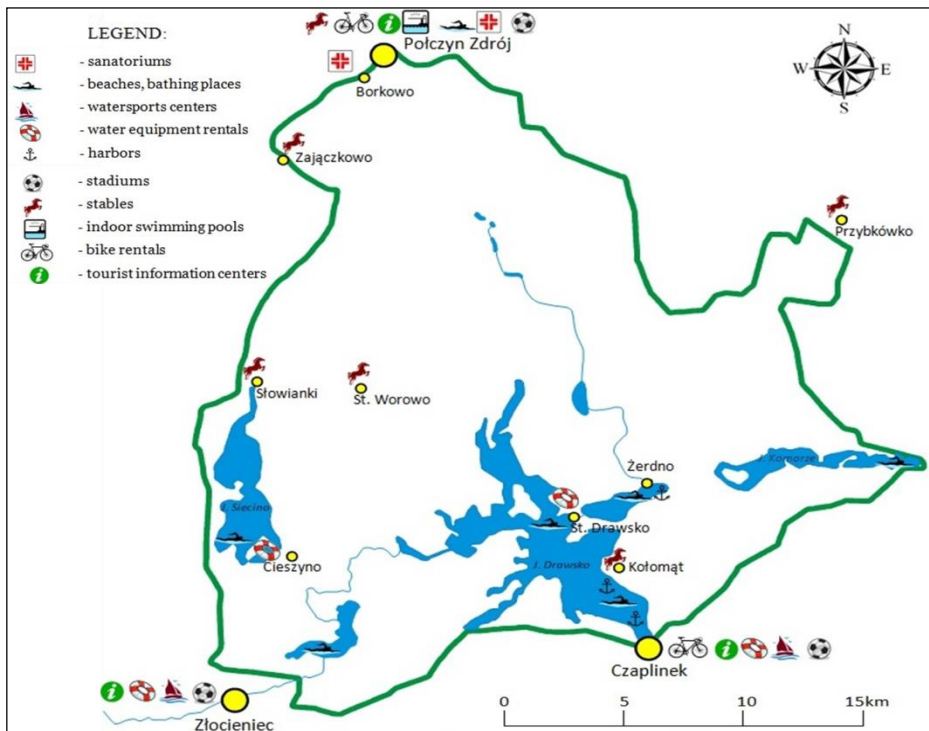


Figure 5. Selected elements of auxiliary infrastructure in Drawsko Landscape Park
(Source: Drawa Lake District. Tourist map 1:150000; Pojezierze Drawskie..., 2015)

The tourism sector becomes the main department of the local economy, guarding the proper functioning of the natural resources and cultural heritage. The increase in tourism can have negative consequences for the environment such as: landscape transformation, deterioration of air quality, water pollution, partial degradation of the geographical environment (Wendt, 2011; Ilię & Wendt, 2015). So the park authorities take care to increase the tourist attractiveness of the region within conditions of rational management with respect for the environment. In this regard, a number of measures have been undertaken, which aimed at: conservation of biodiversity of the area, preserving the conditions of ecosystems functioning, protection of specific characteristics of young glacial post-lake landscape, restoration of natural assets lost or disturbed as a result of human activity, if there are theoretical and practical possibilities of such action, protection against development, including against excessive tourist development of areas with the highest natural values, education of the local community to protect nature, landscape and cultural values of the park.

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