

"I must have been inspired" Joseph Conrad

Warsaw city centre to transform into a sprawling six-km-long 'cultural park'

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STUART DOWELL DECEMBER 20, 2023



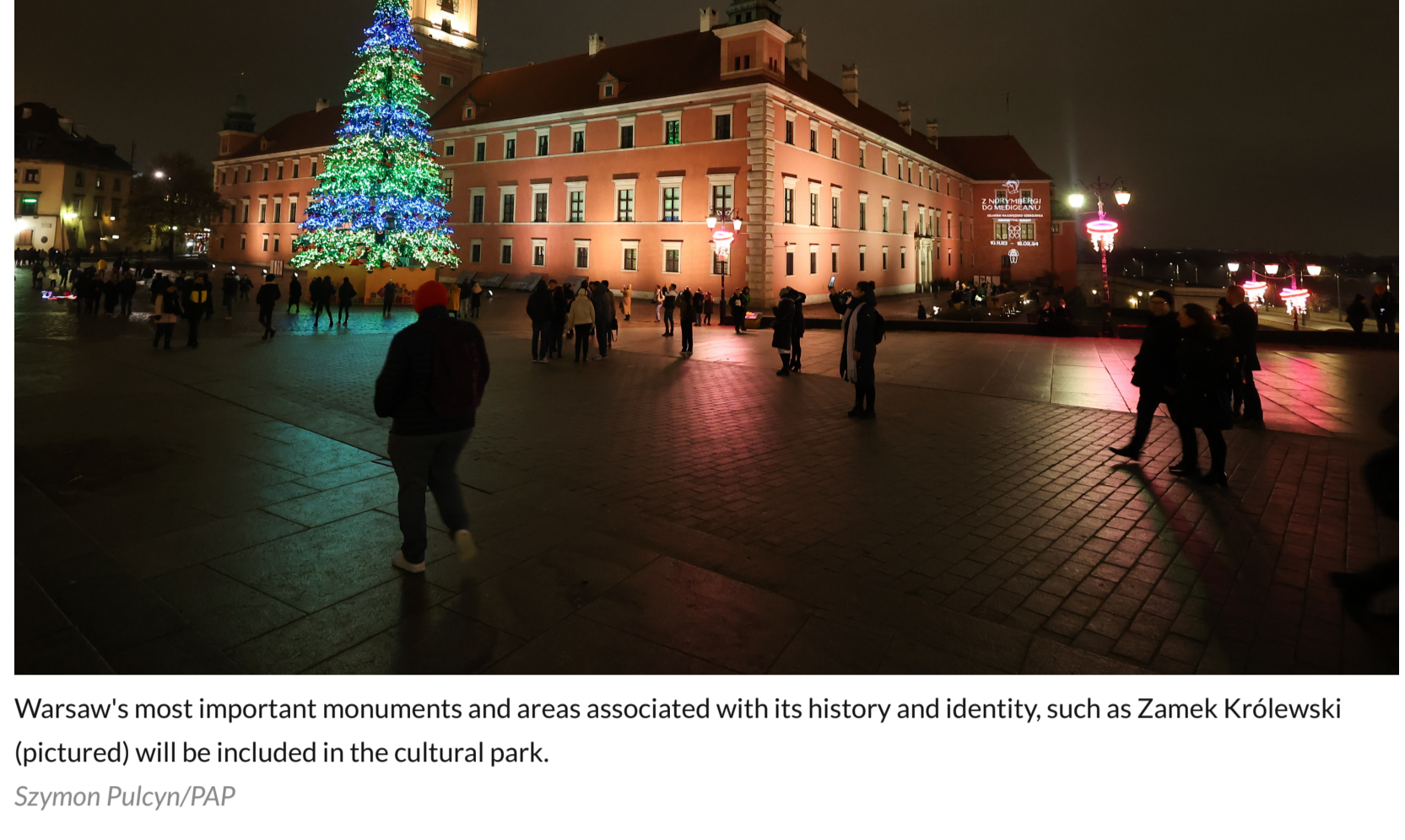
The park stretches in a sprawling 6-kilometre-long strip along the Vistula escarpment from the Old and New Towns in the north to Royal Łazienki Park at Gagarina Street in the south.

UM Warszawa

Warsaw's city council has given the green light to the creation of a "culture park" that promises to shield a substantial portion of the city's historic core from the blight of advertising and unregulated street commerce.

The recently-passed resolution is poised to bring an end to the long-standing presence of oversized plastic waffles and ice-cream cones that have marred the historical ambiance of the Old Town for decades.

Warsaw's most important monuments and areas associated with its history and identity will be included in the cultural park.



Warsaw's most important monuments and areas associated with its history and identity, such as Zamek Królewski (pictured) will be included in the cultural park.

Szymon Pulcyn/PAP

The resolution will ensure that the historic core of the city is not littered with too unsightly advertising and that café gardens and market stalls are kept to a visual standard.

The initiative aims to combat what Poles call "szyldoza", a tongue-in-cheek word meaning the cramming of public places with all kinds of advertising.

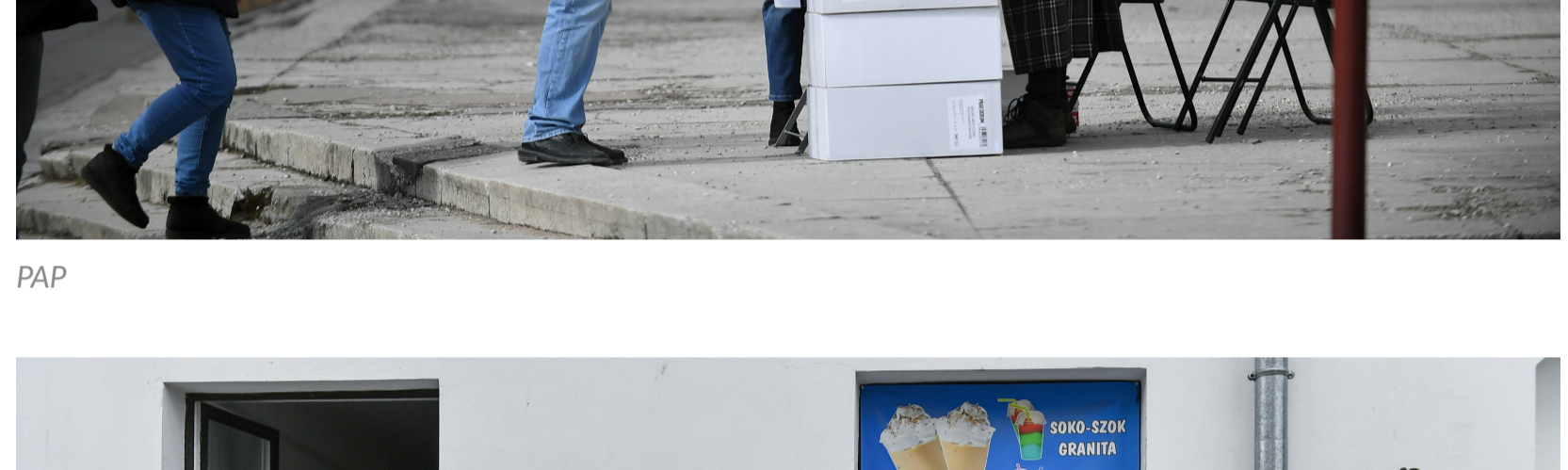
The park stretches in a sprawling 6-kilometre-long strip along the Vistula escarpment from the Old and New Towns in the north to Royal Łazienki Park at Gagarina Street in the south.

The park's boundaries include the Old and New Town, the Royal Route along Krakowskie Przedmieście, Nowy Świat and Ujazdowskie avenue, Krasinski and Saski gardens with the area between them, and the green areas below the Vistula escarpment including the Royal Baths Park.



The purpose is to protect the centre from 'tacky adverts', meaning shop windows will not be able to be covered with advertisements, and stores will be prohibited from spilling out freely onto pavements.

PAP



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PAP

Under the resolution, stringent regulations will govern the installation of technical equipment on buildings, ensuring that items such as air conditioners and cabling remain invisible to the public eye.

Shop windows will not be able to be covered with advertisements, and stores will be prohibited from spilling out freely onto pavements.

There will also be a ban on huge plastic waffles and ice-creams outside cafes and bars and clubs will not be able to solicit customers on the street.

The resolution also protects original architectural details and historic woodwork around windows and doors and regulates how buildings and public spaces can be illuminated.

Renata Kaznowska @RKaznowska

Park Kulturowy Historyczne Centrum Warszawy- co dalej ?

Park Kulturowy Historycznego Centrum Warszawy rozciąga się od Nowego i Starego Miasta do Łazienek. Biegnie przez blisko 6 km Traktem Królewskim. Na 500 hektarach znajdują się najsłynniejsze warszawskie zabytki, ważne instytucje państwowe, liczne kościoły, a także historyczne ogrody i układy urbanistyczne.

Uchwała rady miasta ustanawiająca Park Kulturowy Historyczne Centrum Warszawy ma wpłynąć na poprawę estetyki budynków i przestrzeni publicznej, ma chronić detal architektoniczny oraz pomóc uporządkować lokalizację reklam i urządzeń technicznych. To pierwszy w Polsce park kulturowy, który zajmie się również ochroną istniejących drzew (a dokładniej ich systemów korzeniowych). Uchwała określa też, jak powinien wyglądać sztyki, uliczne stoisko handlowe i ogródek gastronomiczny.

Nie zostawiliśmy przedsiębiorców samych z przepisami uchwały. Cały nadchodzący rok 2024 będziemy im pomagać i doradzać. Będziemy podpowiadać rozwiązania, jakie powinni zastosować, aby chronić krajobraz kulturowy, ale także, w wielu wypadkach, aby uatrakcyjnić ofertę swoich restauracji czy sklepów.

Mam nadzieję, że już wkrótce sami warszawiacy, warszawianki, jak i turyści, dostrzegą i docenią tę pozytywną metamorfozę.

@warszawa @KrasuckiMichal
Translacja post

Warsaw's Deputy Mayor Renata Kaznowska said: "I hope that soon Warsaw residents, as well as tourists, will notice and appreciate this positive metamorphosis."

Renata Kaznowska/X

Warsaw's Deputy Mayor Renata Kaznowska said: "This is the first cultural park in Poland that will also protect existing trees (specifically their root systems).

"The resolution also specifies what the signboard, street trade stand and catering garden should look like.

"I hope that soon Warsaw residents, as well as tourists, will notice and appreciate this positive metamorphosis."

Culture parks are envisaged as a tool to strike a delicate balance between the interests of tourists, residents, and the imperative to preserve historical sites.



The park's boundaries include the Old and New Town, the Royal Route along Krakowskie Przedmieście, Nowy Świat and Ujazdowskie avenue, Krasinski and Saski gardens with the area between them, and the green areas below the Vistula escarpment including the Royal Baths Park.

Marcin Obara/PAP

Introduced in 2003, the solution has been used so far mainly in old towns, such as in Poznań, Krakow and Wrocław.

Head of Warsaw's historic preservation office Michał Krasucki said that in these places "after a few years they started to produce very concrete effects."

The parks aim to balance the needs of tourists, residents and the protection of the historical places. The rules define what an advertising sign, a street trading stall and a food garden should look like.

The resolution will take effect in a year's time, while 2024 will be a year in which shops and restaurants can adapt to the new regulations.

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