Peri-urban area of the City of Prague

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How we forgot about residents in residential areas

Introduction

The research focuses on the peri-urban area, a zone of transition between urban and rural areas (Priorr et al. 2011), of the City of Prague. As a closest area surrounding the city (see map 1 below), it has the precondition of use for daily recreation.

Problem statement

There was built 14 450 new flats in the 2020, 15% of those flats were built in the outer ring of the city (Němec 2020). Predictions warn against dispersed urbanization - Forman calls this „urban tsunami“ (Forman 2008). According to the expected final approval dates, it can be assumed that up to 6 000 flats per year will be completed by 2022.

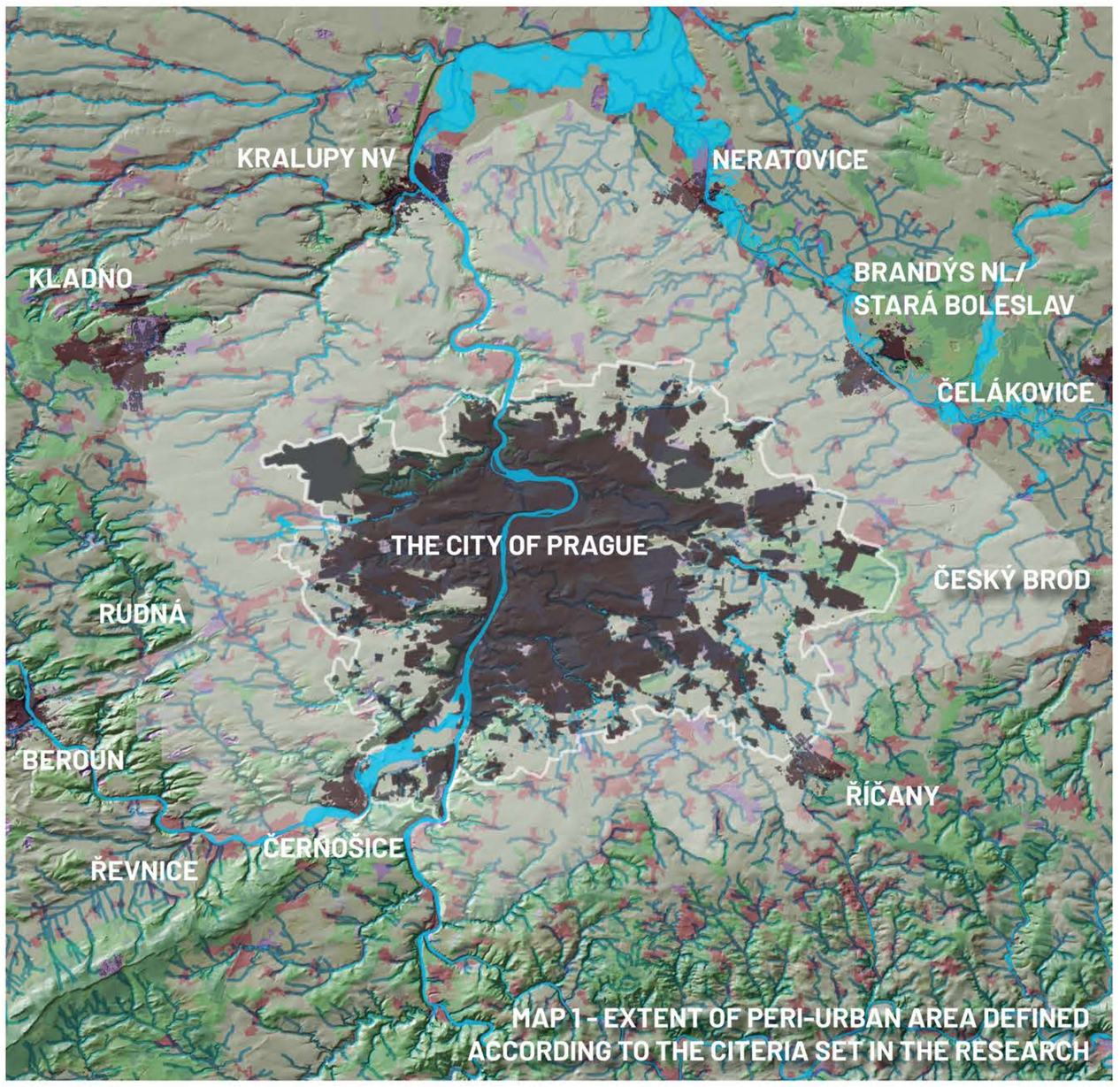
On one hand we like to follow the numbers from these statistics, but on the other hand we turn away from the landscape solutions around these residential complexes. What can be observed in the peri-urban area is that we are unable to plan for basic human needs.

Methodology

Based on the Kevin Lynch recognition of spatial elements – district, edge, path, node, and landmark (Lynch 1960) we can see interruptions in the matrix in which those areas are located. The path only fulfils its function when it is linked with other roads in a network (Bollnow 2011). People need to fill this unfinished matrix by themselves by beaten paths (example 1, 2 and 3 on the left).

Conclusion and discussion

One of the solutions to avoid these matrix failures is to consider implementation of the plan of the area in phases – first step is to prepare the green network, then to complete the matrix with connections and as last to fill the areas in the matrix. Unfortunately, nowadays we still forget that man is a living creature with the need to use the surroundings of his place of residence.



MAP 1 - EXTENT OF PERI-URBAN AREA DEFINED ACCORDING TO THE CITERIA SET IN THE RESEARCH

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The extent of the peri-urban area was determined by multiple layer overlapping in GIS.

Two main aspects were important for defining the area of study:
- character of the landscape distinguishable from the surrounding areas using geomorphological units (Balatka 1998) and land cover units (Corine Land Cover 2018)
- accesibility of the peri-urban area by transportation means

Most of the area is covered by agricultural land. The beaten paths can best be observed precisely in these open agricultural areas as footpaths connecting places of living and recreation.

LEGEND

LANDSCAPE MATRIX

PERI-URBAN AREA CCA 115 000 HA

BUILT-UP AREAS

0 1 5 10 km