

International competition to Prepare a Conceptual Framework for the Development of Sokolniki Park Territory

Call for Entries



Invitation to participate in a competition aimed at preparing a conceptual framework for the development of Sokolniki Park

Organiser: ANPO (autonomous Not-for-profit Organization) Support center for architects, designers, artists and representatives of the performing arts Archpolis

Official website for the competition: www.conceptsokolniki.com

Document prepared by ANPO (autonomous Not-for-profit Organization) Support center for architects, designers, artists and representatives of the performing arts Archpolis

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To participants of international competition to prepare a conceptual framework for the development of the park territory

Dear participants,

Moscow's parks of culture and recreation play a very important role in the life of the capital and its citizens. Due to the successful implementation of Moscow's programme for the development of recreation and tourist industry, the attractiveness of city parks has increased significantly.

It is no exaggeration to say that Sokolniki Park is already one of the city's best parks. However, our ambition is to bring Sokolniki Park on a par with the world's leading parks.

We are constantly working to improve the landscaping and increase the level of comfort, service, and quality of events held in the park. We aim to upgrade the park, while retaining its unique features.

The park is developing dynamically, but like every large territory it has issues requiring a comprehensive approach to their resolution. In particular, this entails that the implementation of any project in the park is required to take into account the existing restrictions on the use of the park imposed by its status.

In order to give a new impetus to the development of the park, we have decided to use the tool of an open international competition, which will allow a wide range of specialists to be involved in the search for new directions for development.

We expect the competition's participants to contribute fresh ideas that demonstrate creative thinking and a practical approach.

Let's surprise the park's visitors together! I wish you inspiration and fruitful work!

Sincerely,
Director of the recreation park Sokolniki
Andrey Lapshin

General Information





Competition¹

Objective

The purpose of the Competition is to select an optimal Conceptual Framework for the Development of the Park of Culture and Recreation Sokolniki Territory, defining a strategy for the park over the next 15 years.

The main purpose of the Conceptual Framework is to provide a sustainable model for the park's development, creatively responding to present conditions while cultivating ecological and cultural-historical heritage.

Participants

Architects, landscape architects, designers and planners from Russia and abroad are invited to participate in collaboration with specialists in engineering, public space management, entertainment, cultural programming, economics and finance, sociology, ecology and natural resources management.

Languages

Russian and English

Focus

Generating the conceptual framework for the development of Sokolniki Park Territory that includes solutions on urban planning, landscape design, park program content and economic feasibility.

Competition Stages

Stage 1

Qualifications screening. Result: Selection of finalists for participation in the second round.

Stage 2

Conceptual frameworks contest. Result: Ranking of proposed conceptual frameworks.

Information on the Organiser

ANPO (autonomous Not-for-profit Organization)
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1. See "Competition Specifications" for details.

The logo for Schedule² features two green upward-pointing chevrons above the word "Schedule" in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by a superscripted "2".

Schedule²

Stage 1

Competition announcement and initial call for entries	19 May 2014
Deadline for accepting applications	17 June 2014
Review of all entries by the competition organiser, assembly of the catalogue of registered applications	18 June-26 June 2014
Meeting of the jury, selection of finalists, announcement of results on the competition website	27 June 2014

Stage 2

Establishment of agreements with finalists	30 June-10 July 2014
Orientation seminar	1 July 2014
Development of competition proposals	1 July-25 August 2014
Reception of proposals begins	25 August 2014
Reception of proposals ends	31 August 2014
Technical examination of proposals	1-15 September 2014
Meeting of the jury to assign rankings to competition proposals	16 September 2014
Announcement of the results	17 September 2014



Chair person

Sergei Kapkov

Moscow Government Minister, Head of the Moscow Department of Culture

Deputy chairperson

Marina Lyulchuk

Director of GKU United Directorate «Mosgorpark»

Olga Gritsan

Head of the Department for the Development of Parkland, GKU United Directorate «Mosgorpark»

Jury

Eugene Asse

Dean of Moscow school of architecture

Muriel Rousseau-Ovchinnikov

Founder and art director of Lieu Commun agency, artist, designer, illustrator

Natalia Danilina

Director of the "Zapovedniki» Eco-Education Centre

Julia Shakhnovskaya

Director of the Polytechnical Museum

Gabrielle Filippini

Italian architect, Head of Studio Arch Gabriele Filippini, professor

Elena Solovyova

Head of Scientific Research Association «Regulation of urban development on the historical areas and areas of protection zones of cultural heritage» of the State Unitary Enterprise (GUP) «Research and Design Institute General Plan of Moscow»

Evgenia Galetka

Managing Partner and CEO of the Journey event agency

Taisia Volftrub

President of the Association of Landscape Architects of Russia, Chief Landscape Architect for Empire Architects & Interior Designers

Elena Gonzalez

Curator, architecture critic

Alexander Kibovsky

Moscow Government Minister, Department Head

Digby Whyte

CEO, International federation of parks and recreation administration

Julia Kudryashova

Deputy chief of the Moscow city department of natural resources management and environmental protection

Guillermo Penalosa

Expert on urban green spaces, mobility and citizen engagement, Executive Director of 8-80 Cities



Park on the City Map

Distance from the park's main entrance:

Sokoliki metro station — 0.4 km

Third Ring Road — 1.2 km

Central Administrative Okrug (city centre,
Krasnoselsky district) — 1.2 km

Kremlin — 5.65 km

Largest park in Russia's capital city, with an area of 515.7 ha

Object of cultural heritage (piece of landscape architecture and park-and-garden art) of the city of Moscow

Specially protected natural area (229,2 ha)

Drawing a wide range of visitors based on its location in a densely populated residential district less than 6 km from the Kremlin

On the map are indicated the Moscow parks of culture and recreation

Surrounding Area

Urban Environment and Transportation

Sokolniki Park is located in the Sokolniki District (Eastern Administrative Okrug) in northeast Moscow. Sokolniki Val Street marks the southern border of the park, separating it from the residential area of Sokolniki district.

The Preobrazhenskoye and Bogorodskoye districts are located to the east and northeast of the park, respectively. North of the park, Rostokinsky Drive divides Sokolniki Park from Losiny Ostrov (Elk Island)

National Park. The western edge of the park is bounded by the Yaroslavsky Railway.

The Church of the Resurrection in Sokolniki, constructed between 1909 and 1913, is the most culturally significant historic building in the vicinity.





Park Territory

Total area of Sokolniki (Falconer) Park of Culture and Rest — 515.7 ha

Area of Sokolniki Natural-Historical Park (protected landscape of regional significance) — 229.2 ha

Area of green space — 460 ra

Area of pavement — 41,6 ra

Asfalt — 38,1 ra

Crushed stone — 2,9 ra

Gravel — 0,6 ra

Cascade of Putyaevsky Ponds — 6,1 ra

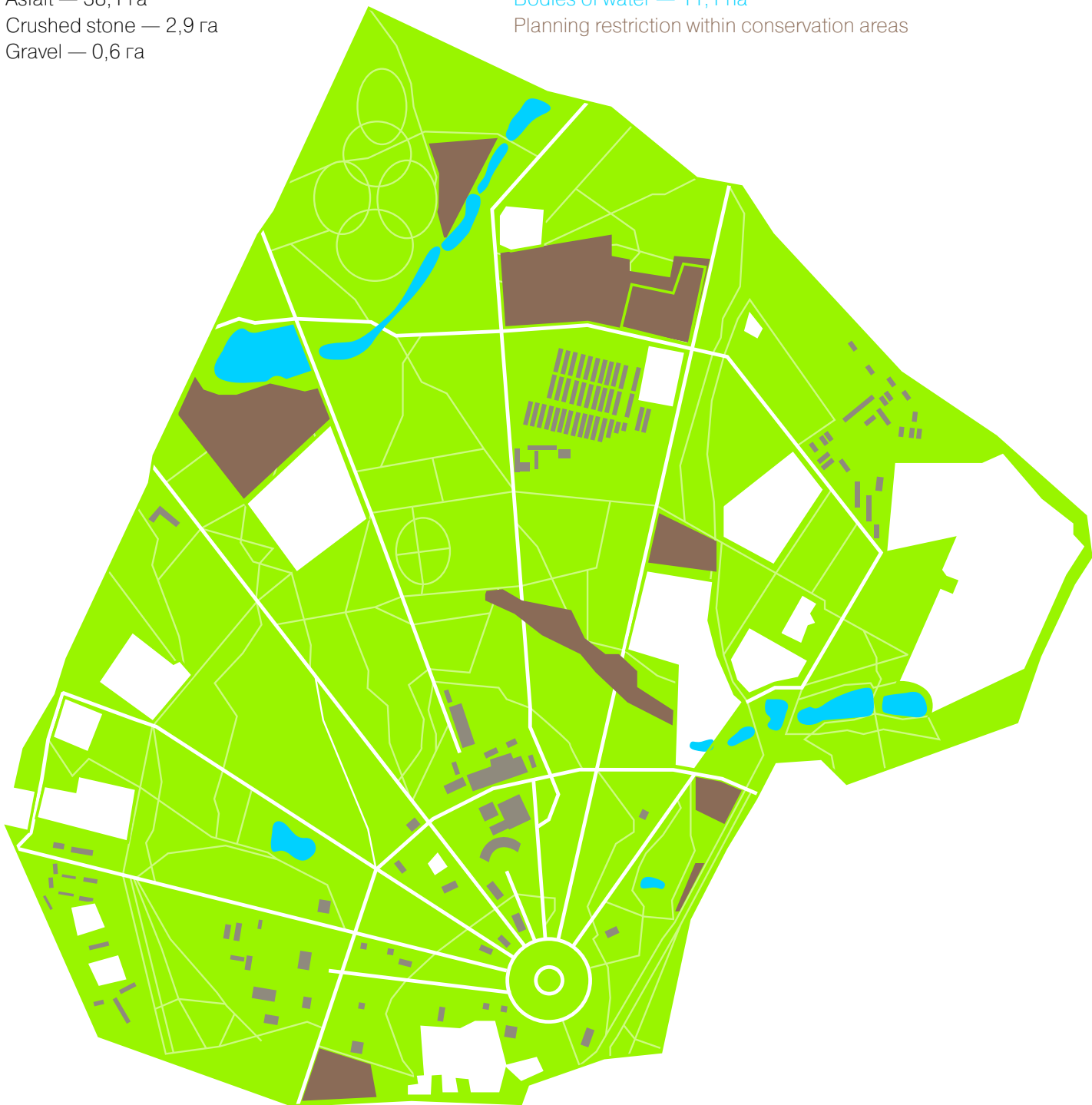
Total area of Oleny (Deer) Ponds — 3,7 ra, including the Upper and Lower Maysky (May) Ponds, Lebyazhy (Swan) Pond and Large and Small Oleny Ponds.

Zolotoy (Golden) Pond — 1,0 ra

CSobachy (Dog) Pond — 0,3 ra

Bodies of water — 11,1 ha

Planning restriction within conservation areas



Retrospective

Sokolniki is one of the oldest recreational zones in Russia. However, it would be incorrect to view it as just another place of leisure. This territory has played an important role in the history of Moscow and of Russia. Distinct periods of its evolution are marked by unique identities of epochal significance.

Falcon Hunting

During the 15th through 17th centuries, the Sokolniki territory hosted the grand falcon hunt. It was known for its falconry courtyard, falcon grove and settlement for falcon hunters. Russian **Tsars Ivan the Terrible** and **Aleksey Mikhailovich Romanov** hunted on the grounds of the current park.



Tsar Aleksey Mikhailovich Romanov with boyars on a falcon hunt near Moscow" by N. E. Sverchkov, 1873

The Festivities and Mock Battles of Peter the Great

During the reign of Peter the Great, falcon hunting lost its former importance. Mock battles were held instead on Sokolniki Field. Peter ordered the establishment of Maysky Allee, the territory's first landscaped glade. For many years, Sokolnichesky (Falconers') Grove was called "German Table" because Peter enjoyed hosting feasts there for foreign designers and artisans.

According to custom established under Peter the Great, Sokolniki became a site of traditional festivals for nobles and commoners alike. The largest festivals took place on May Day (1 May).

One of the park's glades emerged during the War of 1812: The Fourth Radial Glade was paved to establish the shortest road from the city to the forest of Losiny Ostrov. Townspeople hid from Napoleon's invaders in Sokolnichesky Grove. After the expulsion of French troops, much of this grove was cut down to restore Moscow's wooden homes that burned during the occupation.

"Wonderful Park"

By the mid-19th century, the grove had already acquired most of its characteristic features: seven radial glades extending from the "Circle" to a curved glade that connects their endpoints. The bodies of water were organised into several clusters of ponds.

"Sokolnichesky Grove, behind Sokolnichesky Outpost, is home to the newly established Sokolniki Park" ("Moscow" reference book, 1848)

From a guidebook published in 1855: "at Sokolniki a wonderful park is divided by roads and paths."



K. Savitsky Feast in Sokolniki

In the 19th century, the park's glades were lined with trees of distinct species: birch along the first and third, elms along the second and sixth, maples along the fourth, ash along the fifth, and larch along Maysky Allee. This landscape of glades has been preserved to the present day.

From 1900 to 1950 there was a "Labyrinth" in the park's northwest section, beyond Putyaevski Ponds. It consisted of five intersecting circular allees that resembled the Olympic rings. Today this landmark no longer exists.

Sokolniki Park became a unique setting for creativity, where many literary works took shape.

P. Ya. Chaadaev wrote the third and most famous of his "Philosophical Letters" at Sokolniki in 1830.

Moscow Dachas

In the 1860s, Sokolniki became a popular dacha settlement: personal dachas were supplemented with rental dacha complexes by the end of the 19th century. The writer N. S. Leskov, poet V. V. Mayakovsky and musician N. G. Rubinshteyn each lived for a time in Sokolniki dachas. One of the park's main attractions was the Burkin dacha, which had an illuminated garden and orchestra pit. Some of the dachas have survived and become protected heritage sites.



Architect V.P. Zagorsky
Azanchevsky dacha in Sokolniki

A modest wooden church named after Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk was built at the end of a Sokolniki glade in 1863.

People's Park and Site of Inspiration

In the 1880s, the City of Moscow acquired the extensive Sokolnichesky Grove and adjacent Oleny Grove. Moscow philanthropist **S. M. Tretyakov** — brother of **P. M. Tretyakov**, founder of the **Tretyakov Gallery** — played an important role in completing this transaction. As a result, the grove became a public park for recreation.

The beauty of Sokolniki Park brought delight to Moscovites. People from all levels of society attended its May Day festivities. Workers brought their own samovars to make tea, and open-air teahouses began to appear.



Tea-party in Sokolniki 1910-1917

Memories of Sokolniki May Day festivities, by the famous chronicler of daily life I. A. Belousov:

There were carousels and swings, organ grinders and choruses strolled through the grove, tea vendors invited people to stop for a drink at their tables. There were steaming samovars beside the tea stands, peddlers circulated with assorted snacks. Groups of revellers sat down on the grass, setting out bottles and snacks, singing along with harmonicas — the whole grove was filled with the sound of harmonicas, songs, cries of peddlers, calls of tea vendors.

The park's unique atmosphere was not only a product of spatial structure and landscape design but also of music by distinguished composers.

On 7 August 1912, **S. S. Prokofiev** gave the first performance of his Piano Concerto No. 1 at Sokolniki Circle. He once reminisced: "That was the first time it was performed, and also my first performance with an orchestra as a pianist." The famous opera singer F. I. Chaliapin also performed at concerts in the park.



Autumn Day. Sokolniki" by I. I. Levitan,
1879

Great works of visual art were created at Sokolniki: the sketch and painting "Elk Island in Sokolniki" (1869) and "Landscape with a View of Sokolniki" (1882) by **A. K. Savrasov**, "Autumn Day. Sokolniki" (1879) by **I. I. Levitan**, even the preeminent Russian landscape painter **I. I. Shishkin** worked in the park. **A. K. Savrasov** constantly urged his friends to visit this landscape where "nightingales sing, cherry trees blossom."

Park of Culture and Recreation

In 1931 the Presidium of Moscow's Executive Committee and City Council adopted a resolution "On the organisation of a base for cultural recreation on the territory of Sokolnichesky Grove."

The municipal government built new public spaces in the allees of the Large and Small Circles and Radial Glades. These included the Circle Concert Hall, Sokolniki Restaurant, a cafe, buffets, a veranda for dance, concert stages, libraries with reading rooms, and an area for chess playing. Visitors could also rent hammocks and lawn chairs. A Town for Scouts and Schoolchildren, the Green and Summer Dramatic Theatres, athletic fields, Shiryaevo Field Stadium, a boathouse and other facilities opened in the park during this period.



Sokolniki Park closed briefly from 1941 to 1942 due to World War II. However, by summer of 1942 the symphony stage, veranda for dance, and Green Theatre were open to the public.



The 1950s

From 1953 to 1957, large and small rose gardens were added to the park. In addition to aesthetic appeal, they offered quiet resting places for visitors. The Large Rose Garden acquired cosy spaces lined with conifers, and each of these settings had a unique character.

An international exhibition centre was built at Sokolniki in 1959 to host the American National Exhibition "Industrial Production of the U.S.A.."

The legendary "Kitchen Debates" between **R. M. Nixon** and **N. S. Khrushchev** were held in Pavilion No. 2.



Nixon offered Khrushchev Pepsi from the U.S.A., asking him to compare it with beverages from Moscow. Khrushchev tried both and declared: "Moscow Pepsi-cola is much better than the one made in New York." He then offered Moscow Pepsi to everyone around him, encouraging them to: "Have some good Pepsi-cola."

Monument of Garden-Park Design

In 1979, Sokolniki Park became an official protected monument of garden-park design, which substantially limited further transformation.



<http://www.klimda.ru/index-32.htm>

Rebirth of the Park

The 2000s brought significant changes to Sokolniki Park. After the 1990s, when it was left without effective support from the municipal government, a new era began to emerge. As one of the most important cultural landmarks in Moscow, it became an important part of Mosgorpark (Moscow City Department of Parks and Recreation) efforts to foster sites for recreation and tourism. Thanks to this initiative, Sokolniki is now benefiting from renewed attention.



Development of the park



A Park that Corresponds with Today's Realities

A public space that responds to user requirements and requests, possesses a sustainable financial model, connects with other parks, integrates a variety of landscapes and involves citizens in its transformation





Vision

Preservation of Identity

Landscape is an essential part of Sokolniki Park's development. It has a unique design that has been granted the status of a garden-park work of art. The concept for its transformation should define an integrated approach to landscape design, preserving current features, creating new ones, selecting vegetation and arranging gardens.

Compliance with Regulations Concerning the Sokolniki Park's Special Status

The entire territory within the park's boundaries is a cultural heritage site of regional significance — Sokolniki Park (landmark of garden-park design)

Part of the park's area (229 ha) is a protected landscape of regional significance — Sokolniki Natural-Historical Park.

Creating a Comfortable Environment for all Visitors

Sokolniki Park is located beside an area with over 320,000 residents, most whom use the park on a regular basis. The most frequent visitors are senior citizens and young mothers with children. They are the park's main denizens on weekday mornings and afternoons.

On the other hand, the park's central location, transit accessibility, unique atmosphere and active programming attract visitors from throughout the city and other parts of the world.

This diverse mix of visitors must be taken into account in satisfying user interests.



Development Trajectories

Achieving Balanced Use

Current use is heavily concentrated in the parterre section of the park, closest to the main entrance. Volume and intensity of use in this section is extremely high while much of the park remains unknown to most visitors. These less-active areas hold great potential for developing new recreational settings; for example, Putyaevsky or Oleny ponds could become popular sites for summer activities. “Opening” the territory deep within the park is one of the most important development objectives.

Integrating the Park with its Surroundings

At present, with the exception of Sokolniki’s main entrance, access points are not easily identified and do not contain much information about the park. In 2014, major repairs to the main entrance will be carried out based on a plan drafted in 1950. It will be necessary to develop an overall design solution for all entrances and make the territory accessible to people of limited mobility.

At the same time, it is important to establish a system of pathways and navigational assistance throughout the park. Given Sokolniki’s status as a protected area, all transportation must be ecologically responsible.

The location of parking areas should also facilitate even distribution of movement throughout the park.

Railroad tracks run alongside Sokolniki, but links to this transit artery are presently inactive.

Infrastructural Versatility

Many of Sokolniki's attractions operate only during certain times of year — especially winter or summer. Creating mobile, easily adaptable leisure facilities will help optimise the use of infrastructure in all seasons.

Programming

Programming for Sokolniki should be based on the needs of target populations as well as economic efficiency. The principle of “edutainment” (education and entertainment) is an important element of the park's redevelopment. The InnoPark children's innovation centre and People's Observatory have already opened, providing a range of activities that are both enjoyable and enlightening.

A Museum Quarter is currently under development at Sokolniki, with one of its components dedicated to contemporary calligraphy.

Special emphasis should be placed on unique, historically established entertainment programming such as dance evenings.

Economic Sustainability

As a non-profit resource, the park is not aimed at extracting profits. However, it can generate enough income to meet its own needs. A comprehensive and sustainable economic model is essential: fully covering the maintenance and development of Sokolniki Park without relying on funds from the municipal budget.

Still, the park must remain accessible to all visitors: its economic model should offer a balanced system of free and paid services.



Location of the park leisure facilities

Photographs

1. Arch Alley

Educational and cultural attractions

- 2. Museum of Calligraphy
- 3. Veterinary Centre for Birds
- 4. People's Observatory
- 5. Church of Tikhon of Zadonsk
- 6. Hyde-Park
- 7. Convention-Exhibition Centre

Children's attractions

- 8. House of Creativity
- 9. Emerald City
- 10. Rides
- 11. InnoPark
- 12. "The Bench" Children's Centre

Platforms

- 13. Rotunda Stage
- 14. Symphony Stage
- 15. Central Stage

Landscape attractions

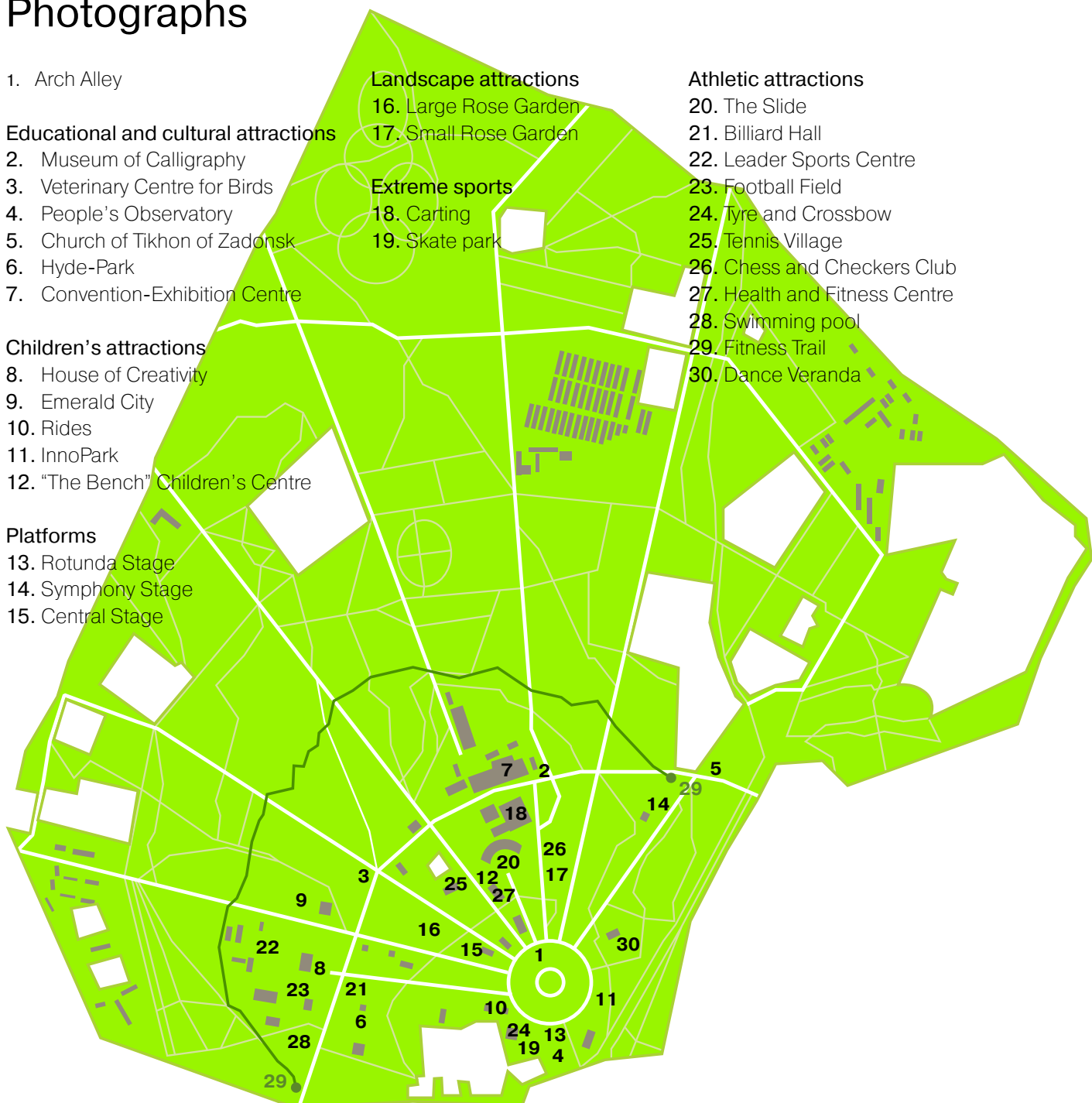
- 16. Large Rose Garden
- 17. Small Rose Garden

Extreme sports

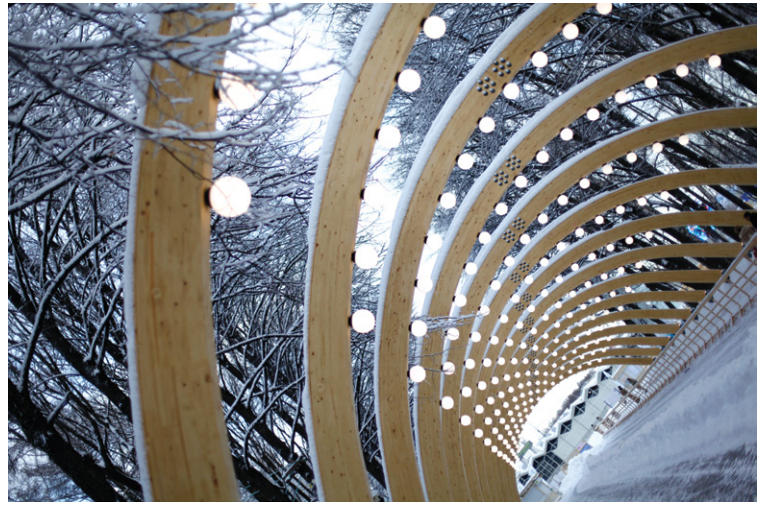
- 18. Carting
- 19. Skate park

Athletic attractions

- 20. The Slide
- 21. Billiard Hall
- 22. Leader Sports Centre
- 23. Football Field
- 24. Tyre and Crossbow
- 25. Tennis Village
- 26. Chess and Checkers Club
- 27. Health and Fitness Centre
- 28. Swimming pool
- 29. Fitness Trail
- 30. Dance Veranda



1. Arch Alley



2. Museum of Calligraphy



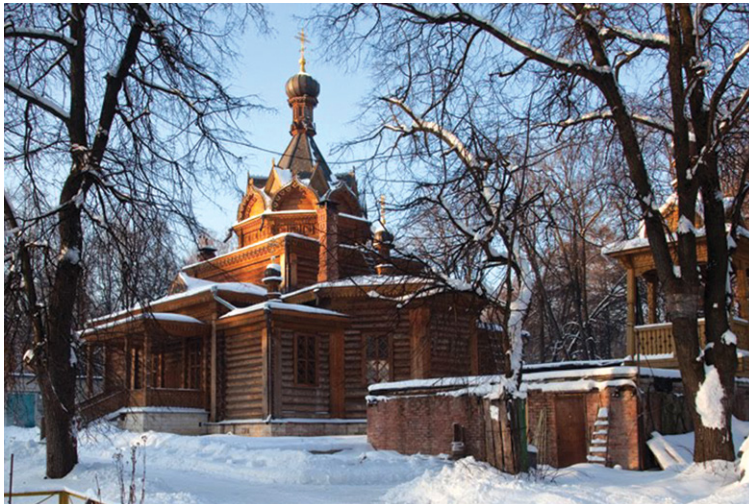
3. Veterinary Centre for Birds



4. People's Observatory



5. Church of Tikhon of Zadonsk



6. Hyde-Park



7. Convention-Exhibition Centre



8. House of Creativity



9. Emerald City



10. Rides



11. InnoPark



12. "The Bench" Children's Centre



13. Rotunda Stage



14. Symphony Stage



15. Central Stage



16. Large Rose Garden



17. Small Rose Garden



18. Carting



19. Scate park



20. The Slide



21. Billiard Hall



22. Leader Sports Centre



23. Football Field



24. Tyre and Crossbow



25. Tennis Village



26. Chess and Checkers Club



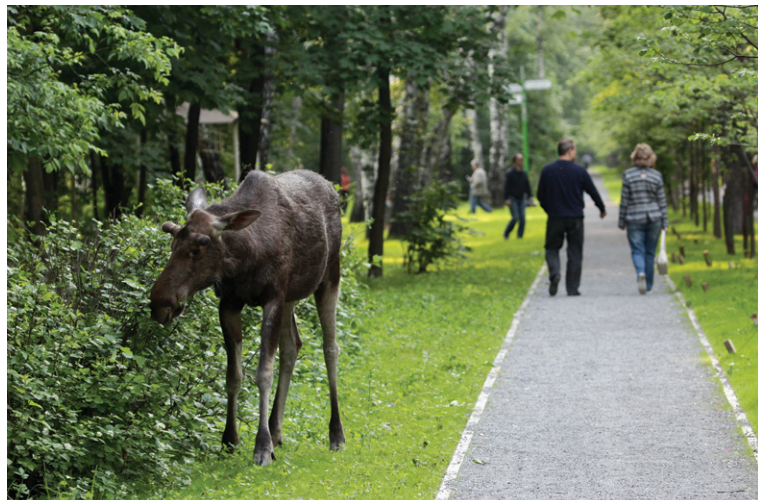
27. Health and Fitness Centre



28. Swimming pool



29. Fitness Trail



30. Dance Veranda





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