



EKOLOŠKA UČNA POT / ECO LEARNING TRAIL

Poplavno območje ob Ložnici

Območje ob reki Ložnici je eno izmed redkih še ohranjenih območij v Spodnji Savinjski dolini, ki še ni povsem podvrženo intenzivnemu kmetijstvu. Ložnica tukaj vijuga in meandrira v svojem naravnem toku ter občasno poplavlja okoliške travnike. Za območje so značilne mejice, pasovi drevja in grmovja, ki še dandanes razmejujejo parcele med seboj. Vidni so še ostanki nižinskih gozdov z velikim deležem hrasta doba. Ob reki so večinoma prisotni bolj ali manj mokrotni travniki, nekoliko dlje od reke pa so na bolj suhih tleh prisotne tudi posamezne njive. Vasi so odmaknjene od vodotoka, nekako na meje visokih voda.

Ohranjenost območja prispeva tudi k veliki biotski raznovrstnosti. Pomembna je predvsem raznovrstnost rastlin, živali in habitatnih tipov vezanih na mokrotne travnike, reko in mejice.

Od leta 1998 je reka Ložnica s poplavnim območjem zavarovana z odlokom Občine Žalec kot naravni spomenik (Odlok, ULRS, št. 89/98). Velikost območja v OŽ je ca 90 ha. Zaradi značilnih vrst rib in metuljev je reka Ložnica s Trnavco opredeljena kot Natura 2000.

Reka Ložnica

Reka Ložnica se na prehodu z obrobja Ponikovskega krasa v ravninski del umiri. V ravnini strmec upade in moč vodotoka znatno oslabi. Ravnina je povečini iz ilovnate naplavine, ki je vlažna in mokrotna. Ložnica po njej teče v počasnem vijugavem toku in velikokrat še danes poplavlja ravno pokrajino. Značilnost ložnice je da vodotoka ne spremljajo terase. Aluvij prehaja brez vsakršne meje v mladodiluvij, zato ju ni mogoče razlikovati. Vodotok teče v mnogih vijugah v senci jelš in vrb. Ob samem potoku je značilen obrežni pas visoke zelenate in lesne vegetacije, ki členi kmetijski prostor ter nudi ustrezne pogoje za rastline in živali. Prostor je ekološko bogat, saj je človek v vodni in obvodni prostor najmanj posegal. Ložnica predstavlja tudi pomembna zatočišča za poljsko divjad in ptice ter stalen bivalni prostor, kjer žive ogrožene vrste ptic, dvoživk in rib..

V nižinah pri nas je vse manj rek in potokov, ki bi imele ohranjeni naravni tok. Ložnica je ena redkih izjem, ki se vijuga, meandrira in poplavlja, kljub temu, da je območje prepraženo z mrežo izsuševalnih kanalov. O ohranjenosti reke pričajo brežine, katere voda še vedno lahko spodjeda in odnaša ter na drugem koncu odlaga odneseni material. Na ta način nastajajo tolmeni, ki so vsi pomembni za živali v in ob reki. Ložnica je v celoti dolga 26 km in je pritok Savinje, v katero se izliva v Celju.

The Ložnica floodplain

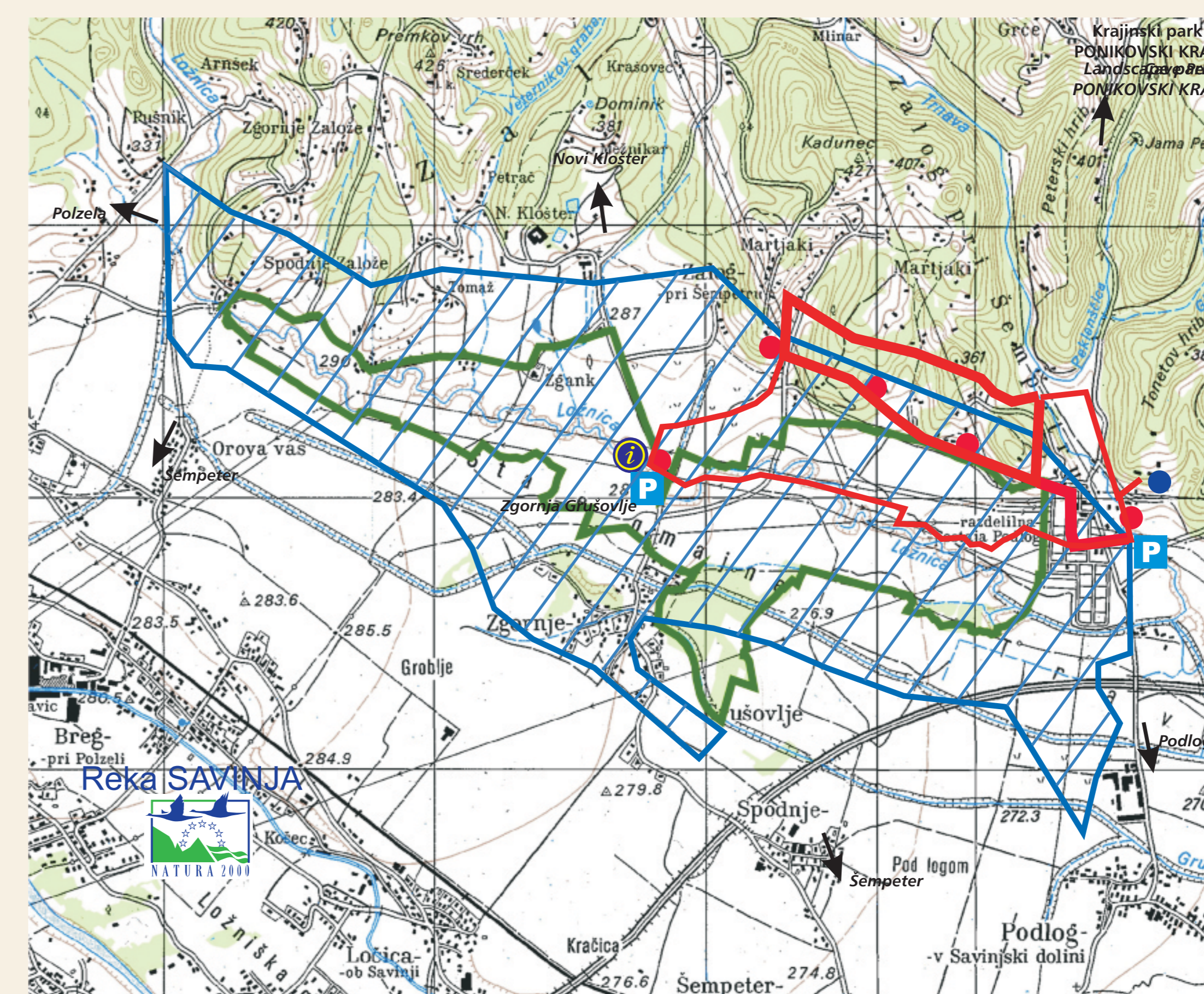
The area by the River Ložnica is one of the few still-preserved areas in the Lower Savinja Valley that are not yet completely subject to intensive agriculture. Here, the River Ložnica meanders in its natural current and occasionally floods the surrounding meadows. The area is characterised by hedgerows, lines of trees and shrubs that separate plots of land to this day. One can also see remains of lowland forests with a significant percentage of English oak. Along the river, there are mostly water-meadows, and on drier ground a little further from the river, some fields can also be found. Villages are further away from the waterway, at about the high water mark. The fact that the area is so well preserved also contributes to great biodiversity. The most essential is the diversity of plants, animals and habitat types related to water-meadows, the river and hedgerows.

Since 1998, the River Ložnica with its floodplain is protected as per the decree of the Municipality of Žalec as a national monument (Ordinance, Official Gazette of the RS, no. 89/98). The size of the area in OŽ is ca 90 ha. Due to the characteristic species of fish and butterflies, the Ložnica River with Trnavca is defined as Natura 2000.

River Ložnica

As it transitions from the edge of the Ponikovski kras (Ponikva karst) to the flatland, the River Ložnica becomes calmer. In the flatland, the stream gradient becomes flatter and the water flow weakens significantly. The flatland is mainly composed of loam deposits, which are moist and wet. The Ložnica runs through it in a slow, meandering stream and often floods the flat landscape. A feature of the Ložnica is that the water flow is not accompanied by terraces. The alluvium seamlessly transitions into younger diluvium, which makes it impossible to distinguish between the two. The meandering stream is shaded by alders and willows. The area around the stream is characterised by a riparian strip of tall herbaceous and woody vegetation, which divides the agricultural areas and provides suitable conditions for plants and animals. Thanks to minimal human intervention into the water and its surroundings, the area is ecologically diverse. Moreover, the Ložnica is an important refuge for field game and birds, as well as a permanent habitat for endangered species of birds and amphibians.

In our lowlands, the number of rivers and streams that have preserved their natural course is decreasing. The Ložnica is one of the few exceptions – it still meanders and floods, despite the area being riddled with a network of drainage ditches. The preservation of the river is evidenced by the banks that are still eroded by water, and the materials carried away are deposited elsewhere. This way pools are formed, which are important for the animals in and along the river. The Ložnica is 26 km long and is a tributary of the River Savinja, joining it in Celje.



- meja naravnega spomenika
Natural monument border
- ekološka učna pot
Eco learning trail
- pot
Trail
- informacije
Information
- parkirišče
Parking lot
- informacijska točka
Information point
- izvir tople vode
Hot water spring
- povezave
Connections
- poplave l. 1990, 1998
Floods (1990, 1998)



Reka Ložnica / River Ložnica



Poplavno območje / Floodland



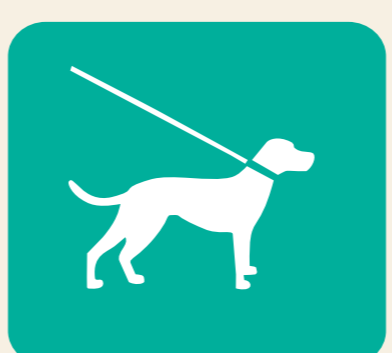
- meja območja NS v Občini Žalec
meja območja naravnega spomenika v Občini Žalec
- travnik / meadow
- pašnik / pasture
- njiva / field
- hmeljšče / hop field
- vinograd / vineyard
- sadovnjak / orchard
- močvirje / swamp
- vodotok / waterway
- stavbno zemljišče / building land
- cesta / road
- neplodno / unfertile



Divja grlica / European turtle dove / Streptopelia turtur



Vodna perunika / Yellow iris / Iris pseudacorus





EKOLOŠKA UČNA POT / ECO LEARNING TRAIL

Rastline

Na območju reke Ložnice je biotsko najzanimivejša in najpomembnejša vegetacija vezana na vlažna tla. Tod so se ohranile različne vlagoljubne rastlinske združbe kot so šašja, ločja in mokrotni travniki z modro stožko *Molinia caerulea*. V spomladanskem času nas na travnikih pričakajo preproge travniške penuše *Cardamine pratensis*. Ob vodnih jarkih naletimo na trstičje in rogoz, ki ga v maju z rumenimi cvetovi popestri vodna perunika *Iris pseudacorus*.

Na opuščeni mokrotni travnik uspeva zdravilna strašnica *Sanguisorba officinalis*, ki je pomembna za preživetje ogroženih vrst metuljev mravljiščarjev.

Mejice s črno jelšo *Alnus glutinosa*, vrbo *Salix sp.*, brogovito *Viburnum opulus*, krhliko *Frangula sp.* in trdolesko *Euonymus europaeus* nudijo zatočišče, prostor za gnezdenje in prehranjevanje številnim ogroženim vrstam ptic. Našo pozornost pritegne s svojo velikostjo in debelino hrast dob *Quercus robur* v poplavnih gozdovih. Tla the gozdov in mehkolesne loke prerašča bujna zeliščna plast. V spomladanskem času so tla na določenih mestih pokrita s čemažem *Allium ursinum* in pomladanskim velikim zvončkom *Leucojum vernum*, ki skupaj z dvolistno modro čebulico *Scilla bifolia* oznanjajo pomlad.

Plants

Around the River Ložnica, the most biologically important and interesting vegetation is tied to humid ground. Various moisture-loving plant systems such as sedges, water lilies and water-meadows with purple moor-grass, *Molinia caerulea*, have been preserved here. In springtime, meadows are carpeted with cuckoo flower, *Cardamine pratensis*. Along the canals, one can come across reed beds and bulrush, embellished in May by the yellow flowers of the yellow iris, *Iris pseudacorus*. Great burnet, *Sanguisorba officinalis*, which is important for the survival of endangered species of the scarce large blue butterfly, thrives on the abandoned water-meadows.

Hedges with *Alnus glutinosa*, black alder, *Salix sp.*, willow, *Viburnum opulus*, guelder-rose, *Frangula sp.*, alder buckthorn, and *Euonymus europaeus*, European spindle, provide refuge, a nesting ground and food to many endangered species of birds.

The size and thickness of English oak, *Quercus robur*, in the floodplain forests attracts attention. The ground of these forests and the softwood floodplain forests is overgrown with a lush herbaceous layer. In springtime, the ground is covered in certain places with *Allium ursinum*, ramsons, and *Leucojum vernum*, spring snowflake, announcing the arrival of spring together with the two-leaf squill, *Scilla bifolia*.

Živali

V vseh letnih časih lahko na območju Ložnice opazimo ptice, ki s svojo glasnostjo, številčnostjo in vrstno pestrostjo pritegnejo našo pozornost. Te uporabljajo travnike in mejice z grmovno vegetacijo za skrivališča počivališča, prehranjevališča in gnezdišča. Tu gnezdi prek 30 vrst ptic, v času jesenskega preleta ptic selivk pa se število ptic na območju še poveča. Najpogosteje opazimo kanjo *Buteo buteo*, sivo vrano *Corvus cornix* in ščinkavca *Fringilla coelebs*, bolj poredko pa lahko zasledimo prepelico *Coturnix coturnix*, ki domuje na travnikih prepreženih z mejicami. Tu gnezdi tudi prosnik *Saxicola torquata* in rjavi srakoper *Lanius collurio*, marsikje v Evropi ogroženi vsti. Med najpogostejšim grmovjem se rade smukajo rjava penica *Sylvia communis* in bičja trstnica *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.

Poleg petja prenekaterih ptic bomo na tem območju slišali tudi regljanje žab. Zaradi visoke vlažnosti in izobilja hrane so travniki in ostanki poplavnih gozdov pomembno življenjsko okolje za dvoživke. Najpogostejše so rjave in zelene žabe in navadna krastača *Bufo bufo*, redkeje pa bomo naleteli na navadnega pupka *Lissotriton vulgaris*, ki večino časa preživi v vodi. Ti travniki so tudi izjemnega pomena za preživetje nekaterih vragoljubnih vrst nevretenčarjev kot so metulji in kačji pastirji.

Animals

In all seasons, birds can be seen in the area of the River Ložnica, drawing attention with their loudness, number and diversity. They use meadows and hedges with shrub vegetation as hiding and resting places, as well as feeding and nesting grounds. Over 30 species of birds nest here, and the number of birds in the area increases even more during the autumn migration of migratory birds. Among the most commonly spotted species are the common buzzard, *Buteo buteo*, hooded crow, *Corvus cornix*, and Eurasian chaffinch, *Fringilla coelebs*, while the common quail, *Coturnix coturnix*, which lives on meadows divided by hedges, is much more elusive. The area is also home to the African stonechat, *Saxicola torquata*, and the red-backed shrike, *Lanius collurio*, which are endangered in many parts of Europe. In the thickest shrubs, one can find the common whitethroat, *Sylvia communis*, and the sedge warbler, *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. In addition to the song of many birds, the croaking of frogs can also be heard in this area. Thanks to the high humidity and the abundance of food, the meadows and the remains of floodplain forests are an important habitat for amphibians. The most common are brown and green frogs and the common toad, *Bufo bufo*, while the smooth newt, *Lissotriton vulgaris*, which spends most of its time in water, is harder to find. These meadows are also extremely important for the survival of some moisture-loving invertebrates, such as butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies.



Zdravilna strašnica / Great burnet / *Sanguisorba officinalis*



Črni trn / Blackthorn / *Streptopelia turtur*



Hrast dob / English oak / *Quercus robur*



Prosnik / African stonechat / *Saxicola torquata*



Navadna krastača / Common toad / *Bufo bufo*



Kanja / Common buzzard / *Buteo buteo*



Navadni pupek / Smooth newt / *Lissotriton vulgaris*





EKOLOŠKA UČNA POT / ECO LEARNING TRAIL

Mokrotni travniki ob Ložnici

Naravni spomenik Ložnica obsega mokrotne travnike ob potoku Ložnica. Domačini območje poimenujejo tudi "svet ob Ložnici" in "log", kar se odraža v imenih naselij Medlog, Podlog, Zalog. Ob potoku Ložnica, ki vijuga v senci jelš in vrb, se nahajajo mokrotni travniki z vlagoljubno vegetacijo. To so vlažnejši predeli, kjer se ne gnoji in le poredko kosi.

Reka z občasnimi poplavami prekrije travnike z vodo ter tako ohranja vlagoljubno vegetacijo, ki je življenjski prostor številnim živalskim vrstam.

Obrežja rek, kanalov in jarkov poraščajo predvsem grmovni sestoji. Izjemen krajinski videz območja dopolnjujejo mejice, ki predstavljajo ločnico med različnimi rabami prostora in skupaj s travniki in njivami prispevajo k večji biotski pestrosti. V prostoru mejice niso nikoli imele velikega gospodarskega pomena, imajo pa zato velik naravovarstveni in krajinski pomen. Tukaj najdemo zatočišče številne živalske in rastlinske vrste, ki bi drugače težko preživele.

Water-meadows along the River

The Ložnica natural monument includes water-meadows along the River Ložnica. The locals call the area "the world along the Ložnica" or "log", Slovenian for a wet meadow. The word "log" is also reflected in the names of settlements: Medlog, Podlog, Zalog. Along the River Ložnica, which meanders in the shadows of alders and willows, there are water-meadows with moisture-loving vegetation. These wet areas are never fertilised and only rarely mown.

Thanks to the periodic floods, the river covers the meadows with water, and thus preserves the moisture-loving vegetation, which is a habitat for many animal species.

The banks of rivers, canals and ditches are mainly covered with shrubs. The area's exceptional appearance is complemented by hedges, which represent a dividing line between different uses of the space and, together with meadows and fields, contribute to greater biodiversity. Hedges have never had a great economic significance; however, their impact on nature conservation and the landscape is immeasurable. They offer refuge to many animal and plant species that would otherwise have find it difficult to survive.

Ostanki poplavnih gozdov

Na obrobju travnikov se nahajajo ostanki nižinskih poplavnih gozdov, ki pričajo o nekdanji večji prisotnosti gozda v dolini. Od drevesnih vrst prevladujeta hrast dob *Quercus robur* in črna jelša *Alnus glutinosa*, ljubitelja vlažnih tal. V spomladanskem času občasno prihaja do poplav, ki so za obstoj tega gozda nujno potrebne. Tik ob naselju Grušovlje se nahaja čisti sestoj hrasta, kjer se je nekoč steljarilo in kosilo. Ta tradicionalni in značilni primer rabe prostora nižinskih hrastovih gozdov pušča za sabo tudi svojstven videz gozda kot mestnega parka.

V gozdičkih so doma številne živalske vrste, tudi takšne, ki so ogrožene. Najglasnejše so ptice, ki jih srečamo ob vsakem obisku in v vseh letnih časih, najštevilčnejše pa žuželke, predvsem hrošči.

Remains of floodplain forests

On the outskirts of the meadows, there are remains of lowland floodplain forests, which testify to a greater presence of forests in the valley in the past. The dominant tree species are the English oak, *Quercus robur*, and black alder, *Alnus glutinosa*, which both thrive in humid soil. In the spring, there are periodic floods, which are essential for the existence of this forest. Right next to the village of Grušovlje, there is a pure oak stand, where farmers used to gather animal bedding and mow grass. This traditional and typical example of the use of space of lowland oak forests also leaves behind the characteristic appearance of the forest as a city park.

These small forests are home to many animal species, including those that are endangered. The loudest are the birds, which one can see on every visit and throughout the seasons, and the most numerous are insects, especially beetles.

