

## Bauska Nature Park

A good practice example for the motivation of the environmentally friendly activities by the local authority.

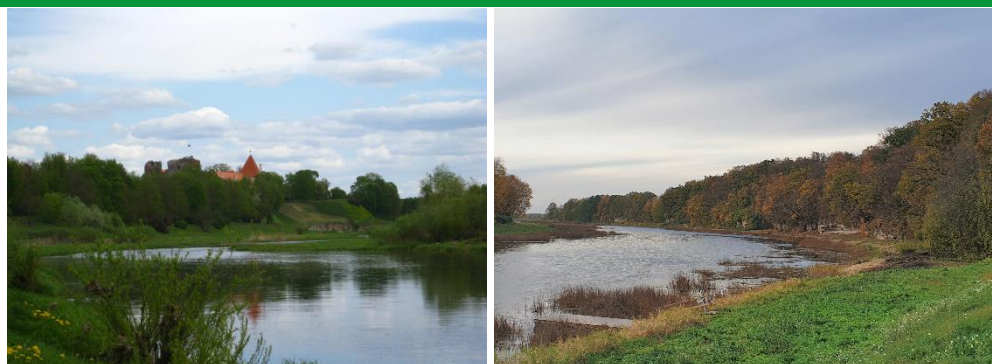


### Summary

Investment in public property of Bauska local municipality adjacent to private person's property is promoted by Regulations On real estate tax rebate. The landowners can apply for a reduction of the real estate tax in order to tidy up the bordering territories, to improve sidewalks, construction or reconstruction of streets, children's and sports grounds, water parks, sewerage systems etc. The Bauska County's natural environment is a resource of active recreation and tourism. The Bauska County has several particularly protected areas, and the nature park „Bauska” (NATURA 2000 – EU protected natural area of 892.9 ha) is the most important of them, and there are also several natural monuments and natural restricted areas.

### Objectives

1. To bring new ideas and insights to the development of the area, improve the landscape and the environment valuable experience.
2. To promote the formation of the landscape of the local authority and the maintenance of the territory.
3. To stimulate the active participation of landowners in the maintenance of clean and tidy local authority territory and creation of good environment.



### Problem description

Unfortunately, there are several landscape degradation objects in Bauska - abandoned buildings, ruins, overhead transmission lines. It is desirable to remove environmentally degraded objects and plant rows of trees to cover building and environmentally degradable objects. Potentially landscaped areas where serious work is still needed to improve the landscape and the environment. In this area it is necessary to cut bushes, where it is necessary to level the terrain by removing scraps, preserving and creating ponds. In many places, the landscape is ruined by old ruins of agricultural or industrial structures, as is the case on the right bank of the Ceplis and Jumpravmuiza manor, as well as shrubs.

## Data and Facts – Contract

**Participation:** The Bauska local authority is located in the central part of Latvia and Zemgale region, bordering the Republic of Lithuania, Iecava, Vecumnieki, Rundāle and, Ozolnieki. The area of the county is 786.7 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 6.14 km<sup>2</sup> is occupied by the city of Bauska. Forest areas occupy 17837.7 ha, agriculture utilized land - 52970.5 ha

**Involved parties:** Local authority - tidy up territory  
Landowner - reimbursement for the tidy up territory adjusted to the local authority territory

### RESULT-BASED



Eligibility is a practice - based payment by the result based scheme.

### PUBLIC GOODS



Landscape and scenery

### INDIRECT EFFECTS

Encourage entrepreneur activities: enlarge agriculture land, promote tourism. Social effects - the neighbors', when they see the adjacent area being tidied up, are also beginning to pay more attention to the improvement of their area.

### LOCATION

### COUNTRY



Bauska Nature Park located near the boarder with Lithuania.

# CONTRACT

It is a public-private contract between local authority and the landowners.

**Contract conclusion:**  
Written agreement



**Payment mechanism:**  
Incentive payments

The financing party is the local authority.



**Funding/Payments:**  
The payment is coming from the local authority. When somebody wants to perform tidy up activities on the territory of the local authority, firstly need to agree with their staff, then prove the expenses (eg. fuel, excavator costs, etc.) then is coming the delivery- acceptance document and the costs are recovered.



**Length of contract:**  
1 year

**Start of the program:**  
2013

**End:** ongoing

**Management requirements for farmers:** The landowners should follow the binding regulations of the Bauska local authority and Nature Protection plan of Nature Park Bauska.

**Controls/monitoring:** The results are monitored by Bauska local authority.

**Risk/uncertainties of participant:** Managerial risk- the landowner did not get reimbursement if they have not followed the binding regulations: applied for reimbursement, presented the works justified documents etc.

Environmental – Nature Protection Plan of Bauska Nature park defines the territories in which the work could be done without asking alignment with Nature Conservation Agency and in which territories the activities should have approval from Nature Conservation Agency.



## Context features

**Landscape and climate:** In the junction of Mūsa river and Mēmele river, where the great Lielupe River forms, there are many beautiful castles, and the Nature Park “Bauska” has been established for the protection of natural and cultural and historical heritage. It unites the most important outcrops of calcareous earth in Latvia in a single protection complex, preserves wilderness of parts of Mūsa river, Mēmele river, and Lielupe River, includes important spawning grounds of river lampreys and vimba fish and habitats of bats and hermit beetles of deciduous trees. In other words, many unique values can be met here, in the area of a little bit more than 1,000 hectares!

The Nature Park “Bauska” forms not only a natural value, but it also is a very rich territory in terms of cultural and historical value. One of the most beautiful castles near Bauska is Mežotne Castle, which is proud of its special castle mound. It has been made on the left bank of Lielupe River, opposite to Mežotne Castle, and just like in movies, it is protected by an 8-metre tall rampart and a moat. It is believed to be one of the biggest Ancient Semigallians’ fortifications where nowadays Mežotne Castle Mound Festival takes place on the third Saturday of May. A legend says that a Semigallians’ port had been here. Mežotne castle mound and Vine hill are connected by a wooden footbridge going along the bank of the old valley of Lielupe River. From May to October, Mežotne castle mound and Mežotne Castle are connected by a small pontoon bridge across Lielupe River allowing the easier reach of objects in both banks of the river.

The rich world of the Nature Park “Bauska” can be discovered also during a cycle route that leads cyclists from Bauska along Lielupe River and allows seeing the nearby castles, Bauska Castle, Rundāle Castle, and Mežotne Castle, as well as other objects. When going on the trip in the late autumn, winter, or early spring, make sure that the pontoon bridge can be crossed as it is a part of your trip to discover castles nearby Bauska.

**Farm structure:** In the area of entrepreneurship, Bauska County is most associated with agriculture for local residents and guests. It must be accepted that the development of the agricultural sector in the region is an essential precondition for the sustainable growth of the territory, however, alongside traditional agriculture, the production, construction, transport, and service, as well as retail companies are successful in the region.

The current business situation in our region is largely characterized by publicly available Lursoft statistics and facts for 2018.

In total, there are 2,004 economically active companies currently registered in Bauska local authority, of which 41% are limited liability companies, 38% are farms, 9% are associations, 6% are sole proprietorships and 4% are sole proprietorships.

## Estimation of success

Last but not least we are looking at the success of the contract solution. A contract solution is successful, if the case reported (long-term) environmental improvements. The small SWOT-analysis provided, gives an insight about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the case study.

## SUCCESS OR FAILURE?



It can be classified as a successful contract solution.

Practically local landowners do not take advantage of this opportunity as they need to prepare a large number of documents before the starting work. The municipality, through EU projects, concludes contracts with local businesses (farmers/landowners) to clean up the area. Also, the Hunters' and fishermen's association of Bauska announces tenders for entrepreneurs to clean the Lielupe river bed.

## Reasons for success:

- It is innovative support for the territory recultivation – stimulation of active participation of landowners in the maintenance of clean and tidy local authority territory and creation of clean environment.
- The landowners can apply for a reduction of the real estate tax.
- The allowed/restriction activities are clearly defined in nature protection regulations.

## SWOT analysis

