

RECAPTURE THE FORTRESS CITIES

Sustainable revitalisation of fortified heritage



LOCAL ACTION PLAN City of Magdeburg

2022 – 2023

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Part I – General information

Project	Recapture the Fortress Cities (RFC)
Partner Organisation	Project Partner 7 – City of Magdeburg
Country	Germany
NUTS2 region	Saxony-Anhalt
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Recapture the Fortress Cities

RFC aims at the sustainable revitalisation of fortified heritage buildings by improving the coexistence of fortified cities and neighbouring forts in urban regions. There is a high number of former fortresses and fortified sites of big historical value in Europe, established at different times. This fortified heritage defines the image of today's landscape and the struggle and war around these cities define the current borders of municipalities, regions, countries and Europe. But in many cases these special constructions are neglected, some derelict, some presented as historical monuments, or only partly utilised. In the majority of cases they are fragmented and there is a problem to maintain them as this requires big financial investments, strong cooperation and civic participation.

Part II – The Fortress City – Unique Cultural and Natural Heritage

The urban landscape of today's state capital Magdeburg was significantly shaped by fortifications: early modern and modern fortifications from the time the city was founded in the Middle Ages until the abolition of the fortress obligation at the beginning of the 20th century. In the 18th century Magdeburg was considered the strongest fortress in Prussia. The fortifications had a formative influence on the structure of the city and the effects on the cityscape extend to the present day. During the 19th century and the height of industrialisation, the fortress works had a 'corset effect' on the quickly expanding city and the housing situation became very tight. In the late 19th century Magdeburg's core fortress was expanded with a new western and southern front and an external belt of up to 19 individual forts and intermediate works. This fort belt has a length of approx. 24,5 km.

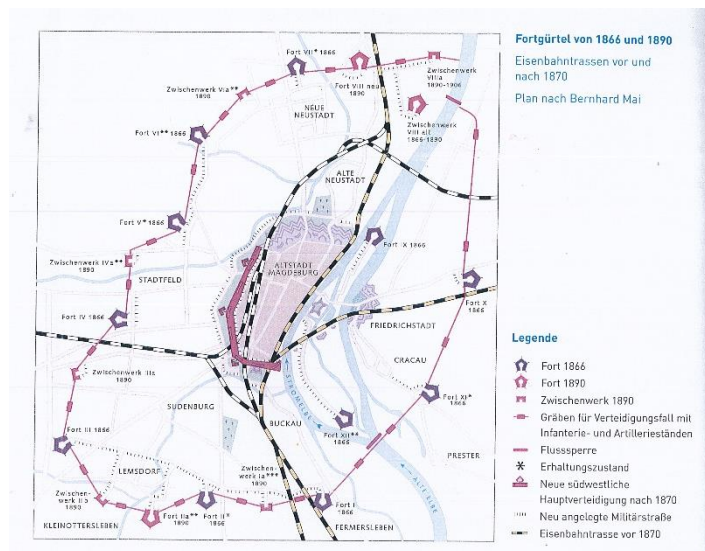


Figure 1: Illustration taken from Asmus, Helmut: Elbbahnhof. Geschichte und Leben an und mit der Elbe, 2010

Fortress works of the 19th and 20th centuries constitute a comparatively young group of monuments, not only for their origins in the not-so-distant past, but also because their full significance has only been acknowledged by heritage preservation authorities in more recent years.

Most fortifications of the city of Magdeburg still existing today date back to the 19th century. The special monument value of the city's fortifications of the late 19th century lies in the fact that it is the last example of a Prussian major fortress in the eastern federal states.

The history of the demolition, decay, and conversion of the fortress works of Magdeburg extends over a period of 120 years. Today, the city counts around 100 fortifications of various types and sizes which are preserved in 48 architectural monuments recorded and analysed in the heritage preservation plan 'fortifications of the city of Magdeburg'. The heritage preservation plan is an important instrument to facilitate the professional assessment of heritage objects and to properly guide the consideration of changes to the corresponding protected assets. It can serve as a working aid for involved parties committed to this heritage

asset. Dr Ulrike Wendland as State Conservator and Deputy Director at the State Office for Heritage Management and Archaeology in Saxony-Anhalt explained in her contribution to Magdeburg’s heritage preservation plan how conversion projects of these special monuments will only succeed where they integrate communal politics, urban planning, the promotion of trade and industry, heritage preservation, and civic commitment.

However, the fortifications have not found their place in the *overall urban development planning* of the city of Magdeburg so far. In contrast to some good practices in the old federal states, the awareness and understanding of the potential of fortifications in the new federal states is still in its early stages due to political and remembrance-cultural transformations. An ambitious task for a fortress city today is to overcome the connotation of wars, conflicts and eyesores from the past and to give these monuments and nature reserves a sensible function in a modern and European context.

Fortifications are a niche topic only about to be recognised as a cross-sectional theme and thus a promising feature of cities with wide-ranging potential. Usage possibilities are reaching from sustainable and environmentally friendly infrastructure, smart connectivity of urban districts, regional and international sustainable tourism, social centres and places of recreation, to places of innovation and economic growth. The previous coherent system is fragmented today with different individual fortress pieces across the cityscape. Some fortifications have found uses such as museums, parks or cultural centres. However, an overall concept is missing, combining the potentials of cultural and natural heritage. This overall vision we want to initiate through this Action Plan.

Part III – Policy Context

<p>The Action Plan aims to impact:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Investment for Growth and Jobs programme</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> European Territorial Cooperation programme</p> <p>X Other regional development policy instrument</p>
<p>Name of the policy instrument addressed</p>	<p>Integrated Urban Development Concept (IUDC) / Integriertes Stadtentwicklungskonzept (ISEK)</p>

The beforehand mentioned heritage preservation plan is an important basis to build up upon. However, what this plan cannot achieve is to assign this cultural heritage to a specific and suitable use.

The current Integrated Urban Development Concept compiles strategic objectives for the state capital Magdeburg as a basis for the actions of the administration and politics up to the year 2030+. The previous update was funded by the Urban Redevelopment Programme (Städtebauförderprogramm) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The objective of this RFC Action Plan is to integrate the former fortification system through a ‘Master Plan Fortifications of the City of Magdeburg’ into the current urban development planning of the state capital of

Magdeburg. This policy improvement is to be implemented through updating the ***Integrated Urban Development Concept (IUDC) 2030+***. The ‘guiding principle module L22’ about the ‘green city from tradition’ inside the IUDC is to include the production of the Master Plan. Previously, the IUDC has not addressed in detail the role and importance of the fortifications for future sustainable urban planning.

Part IV - Details of the actions envisaged

The objective of this Action Plan is to initiate the creation of an overall vision that includes as many of Magdeburg’s fortress sites as possible.

The main good practice this Action Plan is following is the Fortengordels project of PP2 Antwerp which was based on the policy instrument of a ‘Kaderplan’ (framework plan / master plan).

The main action of this action plan will be updating the IUDC through a Masterplan fortifications with the Green Fortress Belt as sub-action. Magdeburg’s Good Practice “Fortress Advisory Board” will be improved and aligned to our overall objective and renamed into “Future Fortress Forum”. It will serve as regional advisory board contributing expertise on the subject of fortifications for future vision planning.

The Masterplan on Magdeburg’s fortifications should also be an instrument to prevent the loss of further fortress monument substance. In the past years certain construction projects ignored the specific characteristics of these monuments, to the disappointment of the general population and some experts

Magdeburg needs a Masterplan which captures a global vision for the fortifications, taking into consideration the city’s urban development planning and building up upon the city’s heritage preservation plan ‘fortifications of the city of Magdeburg’.

This action plan is to be presented to Magdeburg’s City Council for signature and approval in the 4th quarter of 2022.

ACTION 1: An Overall Vision for Magdeburg’s Fortifications (Masterplan)

1. The interregional learning background

The Idea derives from the interregional RFC project learning experience. The special feature of Magdeburg’s fortifications of the 19th century is the composition of a polygonal core fortress mostly around the city centre and a ‘belt’ of forts around it. Today, similar fortress (belt) cities or regions face similar problems. Due to similar constructional conditions, there are a lot of parallels to the fortress city of Antwerp (PP 2) as they also have a city wall and belts of forts around it. Therefore, a very important inspiration is a Good Practice called “Fortengordels” (Fort Belt) coming from PP 2 Antwerp. Fortengordels is a network of the fortress belts around Antwerp (35 fortresses, 12 ramparts spread over 26 municipalities) and a cross-

border partnership bringing together all involved public and private stakeholders. The Good Practice was introduced in the first RFC Study Visit in November 2019 and then presented again during our virtual partner meeting in Terezín. The participation in a Peer Review on this Fort Belt project in Antwerp held in November 2021 was also a fruitful input for our planning in Magdeburg. The “Kaderplan Fortengordels rond Antwerpen” (master plan fortress belts around Antwerp) was an important basis for the realisation of the Fortengordels project. It created an overall vision for this fortified region. This approach we need to apply to the fortress belt city of Magdeburg. The Master Plan fortifications will be a project organised by the city of Magdeburg including the participation of regional experts and stakeholders in the field but also through an ongoing exchange with PP2 Antwerp. The city of Magdeburg wants to use this Good Practice as an inspiration to bring the local stakeholders and actors in the field together in forming a global vision on the city’s fortifications.

2. The regional background

Magdeburg’s previous fortress system is fragmented today. However, from a bird’s eye perspective it is still recognisable how the fortress works affected the shape of the city and its overall development. It is our mission to bring the fortress back into the collective consciousness of the citizens as a cohesive entity and to activate the former fortification system from today’s viewpoints of modern urban development. There is no network or cooperation yet between the different stakeholders/ actors in the field. This means that most owners, institutions and companies currently fight for themselves alone. Similar to Antwerp’s Fortengordels project, an overall concept (master plan) is needed. Through active participation of relevant stakeholders in the field (bottom-up-approach; owners, institutions, associations) in the process of the master plan, a functioning cooperation network can be created for the future.

3. Action(s)

This policy improvement is to be implemented through updating the ***Integrated Urban Development Concept (IUDC) 2030+***. Part A of the IUDC defines the city-wide strategies and development goals. It is preceded by the guiding principle of urban development through which the state capital Magdeburg provides itself with a long-term, valid and consensus-oriented framework for its development. In a first step, the ‘guiding principle module L22’ about the ‘green city from tradition’ inside part A of the IUDC is to include the production of the master plan. Previously, the IUDC has not addressed in detail the role and importance of the fortifications for future sustainable urban planning. In Part B of the IUDC, reference is made to the city district level. Therefore, in a second step, the fortification’s potential will be analysed further at city district level. Here, the objectives and guidelines of subject-specific or sub-area concepts are combined into an overall strategy.

The actual production of the master plan will also be starting in project phase 2. The master plan will be concerned about finding suitable uses of the fortified sites whereas the Green Fortress Belt (sub-action of this Action Plan) is concerned with connecting the single fortified sites throughout the city by green infrastructure measures.

Since it is expected that the time to produce the master plan will exceed the project phase 2 duration, the state capital of Magdeburg seeks to obtain an agreement with the policy responsible on the intermediary steps of the action by the end of phase 2.

4. Players involved

The involved players are the city of Magdeburg (Department for Environment and Urban Development, Department of Economy, Tourism and Regional Cooperation), the new Future Fortress Forum (see Action 2 below), State Chancellery and Ministry of Culture, (landscape)architects, local politicians, selected players and stakeholders of the individual fortified sites across the city.

5. Timeframe

The policy improvement takes place in the second phase of the RFC project (August 2022 – July 2023). The actual production of the Master Plan will exceed this timeframe. The estimated duration of producing the Master Plan are at least 1,5 years. This depends on how many fortified sites can be included in the Master Plan and how well the dialogue between the involved parties proceeds. For a common vision there needs to be a good communication between the stakeholders. Responsibilities will be clarified to achieve the goal.

6. Costs (estimation)

The actual policy improvement of updating the ISEK will include costs of around 54,000 €.

The costs of the production of the Masterplan are still being determined also depending on the number of fortified sites included.

7. Funding sources:

- City Budget (staff)
- Urban Development Funding (Städtebauförderung; for ISEK)

SUB ACTION 1.1 The Green Fortress Belt

The Green Fortress Belt project is to be understood as a crucial part of the master plan. So far, the great potential of the fortifications in the field of green and smart infrastructure has not been exploited. While the master plan focuses on finding uses for the individual fragmented fortress sites, this subproject is to provide for the *green connections* of the individual fortress parts in the sense of a green and sustainable infrastructure and a better connectedness of city districts. Connection means in this sense not only the core fortress around the city centre, where a 'Green Belt' project had been started before but including the external belt of forts which has not been included in any greenery concepts yet. The core fortress and external fort belt shall also be connected along watercourses and green spaces.

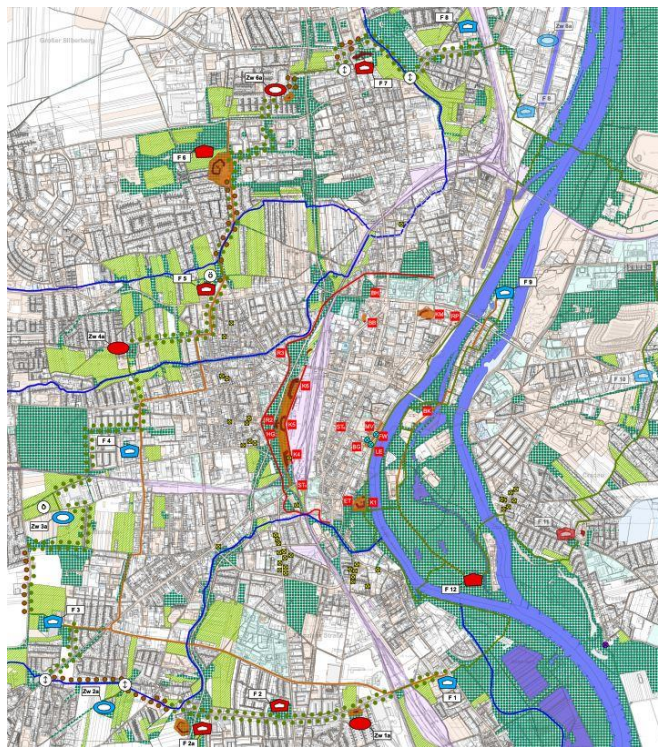


Figure 2: Magdeburg's new planning of the extended green fort belt, Urban Planning Office, City of Magdeburg.

1. The inter-regional background

The inter-regional background of this sub-action derives from an RFC Good Practice presented by PP2 Antwerp called "Singelpark, Leiden – image quality plan and citizen participation". The special feature presented through this Good Practice is that it created a continuous band of interconnected green spaces along the former military fortifications. The former fortress belt around the city of Leiden used to be split up as the situation is now in Magdeburg. Through their image quality plan, the previous fortifications

contributed to a now important green lung and connected park. This green interconnectedness of previously fragmented fortress parts we would like to transfer to our city of Magdeburg.

2. The regional background

The previous fortress city of Magdeburg consisted of a core fortress (inner fortress ring) around the city centre and an external fort belt. The Green Fortress Belt project is supposed to create connections between the core fortress and the fort belt and also between the individual forts (see depiction above). Parts of the inner circle of the fortress (core fortress) are already part of an outdated concept called “Green Belt”. However, this project left out essential parts of the former fortress, especially the fort belt. Through this Action Plan we want to include the Green Fortress Belt into the overall concept (master plan) and achieve the green interconnectedness as exemplified in the Good Practice of the Singelpark Leiden between the inner core fortress and the external fort belt.

3. Action

The Green Fortress Belt is to be understood as sub-action and part of the Master Plan fortifications. It provides sustainable green connections between the cultural and natural heritage sites. Simultaneously, the Green Fortress Belt creates sensible connections between city districts but also contributes as a new possibility for tourists to explore the city from new perspectives.

As sub-action this measure will be part of the policy improvement of the IUDC. Through including the new Green Fortress Belt into the IUDC, the policy instrument will be improved.

4. Players involved

This measure corresponds to the main action above. Associations e.g. in the field of nature conservation and green maintenance can be added in the execution of the planning.

5. Timeframe

The timeframe corresponds to the main action above as the same policy improvement is concerned. The Green Fortress Belt is a sub-action and part of the master plan.

6. Costs and Funding Sources

The costs and funding sources correspond to the above-mentioned main action 1. Investment costs and realisation costs are not included in this action plan.

ACTION 2: The Future Fortress Forum

1. The inter-regional background

The inter-regional background of this action attributes to the Fortengordels project which was also based on the development of a 'Kaderplan' (framework plan/ master plan). In the Interreg Europe Peer Review on "Reviving the network of fortress belts", the organisational structure behind the project was presented and analysed. Inside this organisational structure a Fortress Belt Advisory Group advises the responsible project office. It is an expert committee on fortress heritage. The special feature the city of Magdeburg wants to follow here is how this expert board is directly involved in the creation of the overall vision which is future-driven. The Future Fortress Forum is a regional expert board which will be directly involved in the strategic planning of the fortification's master plan and therefore assigned to a concrete project as exemplified in PP2's Fortengordels project.

2. The regional background

Until only recently, Magdeburg's Fortress Advisory Board advised the Councillor for Urban Development, Construction and Transport when fortifications were involved in construction projects. The task of the advisory board was to give expert advice especially on the documentation and publication of fortifications within the state capital Magdeburg as well as the assessment of monument preservation concerns. This approach followed a rather random principle and no clear objective. Until recently the board was not directly involved in future planning processes.

3. Action

Through this Action Plan the city of Magdeburg wants to improve the governance of the master plan project by assigning to the Future Fortress Forum the clear task of advising the urban planning office in matters of the master plan development. Inspired by the Fortengordels project, Magdeburg wants to renew this board according to the overall objective of finding a sensible future for the city's fortifications. The newly named "Future Fortress Forum" is going to advise in the Masterplan development process through their expertise on regional fortifications. When needed, relevant stakeholders and neighbouring residents will be incorporated in the consultations.

4. Players involved

The Future Fortress Forum is composed of 8 to 10 members from the following professional groups: construction engineers, architects, urban planners, landscape architects, archaeologists, historians, art

historians, experts with proven competence and experience in the field of fortifications and relevant project work.

5. Timeframe

The first constitutional meeting is planned in the fourth quarter of 2022. The period of appeal is 5 years. After the completion of the Masterplan the Forum will accompany the implementation at the individual fortress locations.

6. Costs and Funding Sources

The members of the Forum shall be granted an expense allowance. In accordance with §8 of the compensation statutes for honorary activities of the state capital Magdeburg of December 6, 2001, the honorary members of the Future Fortress Forum receive an expense allowance of €13 per hour and reimbursement of their necessary expenses in a proven amount. About 2.800 € of the city's resources are allocated for this purpose.

V. Policy Endorsement

Action: Integrating a fortifications master plan in the Integrated Urban Development Concept and initiating the development of an overall vision for Magdeburg’s fortified cultural heritage. The Green Fortress Belt as part of the master plan provides green connections between the fortress locations. The expert committee ‘Future Fortress Forum’ accompanies and supports the development of the master plan.

I / we hereby confirm my/ our intention to participate in the implementation of the measures indicated in the above-mentioned action plan, in which the respective institution is involved, in accordance with the respective applicable rules of competence.