

The Touristic Water Network Leipziger Neuseenland



From vision to reality

**LEIPZIGER
NEUSEENLAND**





Port Zöbiger,
Lake Cospuden

Editors:



Stadt Leipzig

Grüner Ring Leipzig
c/o Stadt Leipzig, Dezernat Umwelt, Ordnung, Sport
Bürgermeister Heiko Rosenthal
Martin-Luther-Ring 4 - 6/Neues Rathaus
04109 Leipzig



**Kommunales Forum
Südraum Leipzig**

Zweckverband Kommunales Forum Südraum Leipzig
Rathausplatz 1
04416 Markkleeberg

In cooperation with:

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Seen Nordraum Leipzig
August-Bebel-Str. 2
04509 Delitzsch



ZV Bergbaufolgelandschaft Goitzsche
Poucher Dorfplatz 3
OT Pouch, 06774 Muldestausee

With the assistance of:



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Lausitzer und Mitteldeutsche
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verwaltungsgesellschaft mbH

Production and editing:

Management: Stadt Leipzig, Amt für Stadtgrün
und Gewässer – Angela Zábojník



Leipzig – Berlin
leipzig@bgmr.de
www.bgmr.de

Dr. Carlo W. Becker, Jörg Putkunz, Henrike Hahmann

Grüner Ring Leipzig – Karen Weinert, Heike König

Kommunales Forum Südraum Leipzig – Dr. Steffi Raatzsch

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Seen Nordraum Leipzig – Eckhard Müller

Layout – Max Falley

Translation – Kathleen Stuhr

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The journey is the reward

It's all relative. What might seem slow to someone who deals with water every day, is rapid when measured against thousands of years of ice ages and hundreds of years of mining. First nature and then humans and technology have dramatically changed our landscape up until the year 1990 and beyond.

But since the early 1990s, a consensus on the future design of our brown coal area has been reached, which is unprecedented in our region. An exciting cooperation of miners, local communities, regional planners, tourism experts, conservationists, hydrologists and many other specialists began. The cooperation laid the foundations for the Leipziger Neuseenland. Grüner Ring Leipzig and Kommunales Forum Südraum Leipzig are the platform for and the engine of the project.

The challenge of this project and especially its potential for the region of Central Germany, must be borne in mind, as mining is developed into tourism and existing rivers are cleaned up, remodelled and connected with mining lakes. And the cultural metropolis of Leipzig is located right in the middle of it all.

A particular challenge in developing the Leipziger Neuseenland is the coordination of a multitude of individual projects and the management of the numerous players involved. The master plan „Water tourism usage concept“ by order of the Grüner Ring Leipzig, the Zweckverband Kommunales Forum Südraum Leipzig and the Lausitzer und Mitteldeutsche Bergbauverwaltungs-gesellschaft mbH was elaborated in an extensive inter-municipal cooperative process in 2008 and has been further developed since then. The tours and river sections between Great Lake Goitzsche in the North and Lake Haselbach in the South on the rivers Pleiße, Weiße Elster, Luppe, etc., which can now be used, are a visible result of this process.

The Touristic Water Network with about 200km of navigable waterways is still growing and developing. Lakes, swimming beaches, sail boat marinas, locks, jetties, bridges and water connections – their numbers have been increasing constantly since 2000. The changes can

be seen everywhere. 2011 was a special highlight: for the first time it was possible to canoe from the City Harbour to Lake Cospuden without interruption. The citizens of the region have already taken possession of the waters and take advantage of the numerous tourist activities. They navigate the water with joy and pride and spread their enthusiasm by showing their guests around. Visitors from other regions in Germany or Europe admire our accomplishments appreciatively and sometimes even with envy.

But the road will not be easy. No sooner is one goal reached than new challenges arise from it. With the intense use of the waters, the monitoring program starts: over several years, the effects of this intense water tourism on the water system will be observed. This may lead to additional measures in order to carefully and gently integrate the water network and its water and land-based use for tourism into the landscape.

We know that if a common regional identity should arise from numerous individual local activities, it takes a good flow of information and extensive communication in the region. With the discussion about the guidelines for the design and future use of the Leipziger Neuseenland, we hope to promote a broad and continuous engagement in the development of our region. We are constantly in conversation and we continue to include the numerous different interests of all regional players in the process of development. This includes constant communication with, and information and participation of the citizens.

This brochure is intended to be a contribution to extensive information. It provides a summary of the current status of planning for the implementation of the Touristic Water Network. Citizens and guests of the Leipziger Neuseenland can be informed about which offers already exist and which are planned for the future. At the same time, the necessary requirements and rules for tourism development in harmony with the attractive and likewise sensitive natural environment are illustrated. In addition, the initial results from the monitoring



On the way from Lake Lauer
to Lake Cospuden

and many useful and practical tips are given.

Good ideas and active support will be needed
to realize the upcoming projects together.

We appreciate your interest and your active sup-
port of this exciting and unique development!

Heiko Rosenthal
Speaker of Grüner Ring Leipzig and
Mayor of the City of Leipzig

Dr. Bernd Klose
Chairman of the Zweckverband
Kommunales Forum Südraum Leipzig

Leipzig, January 2012



Very popular:
Connewitz Lock
in summer 2011

The Touristic Water Network Leipziger Neuseenland – from vision to reality

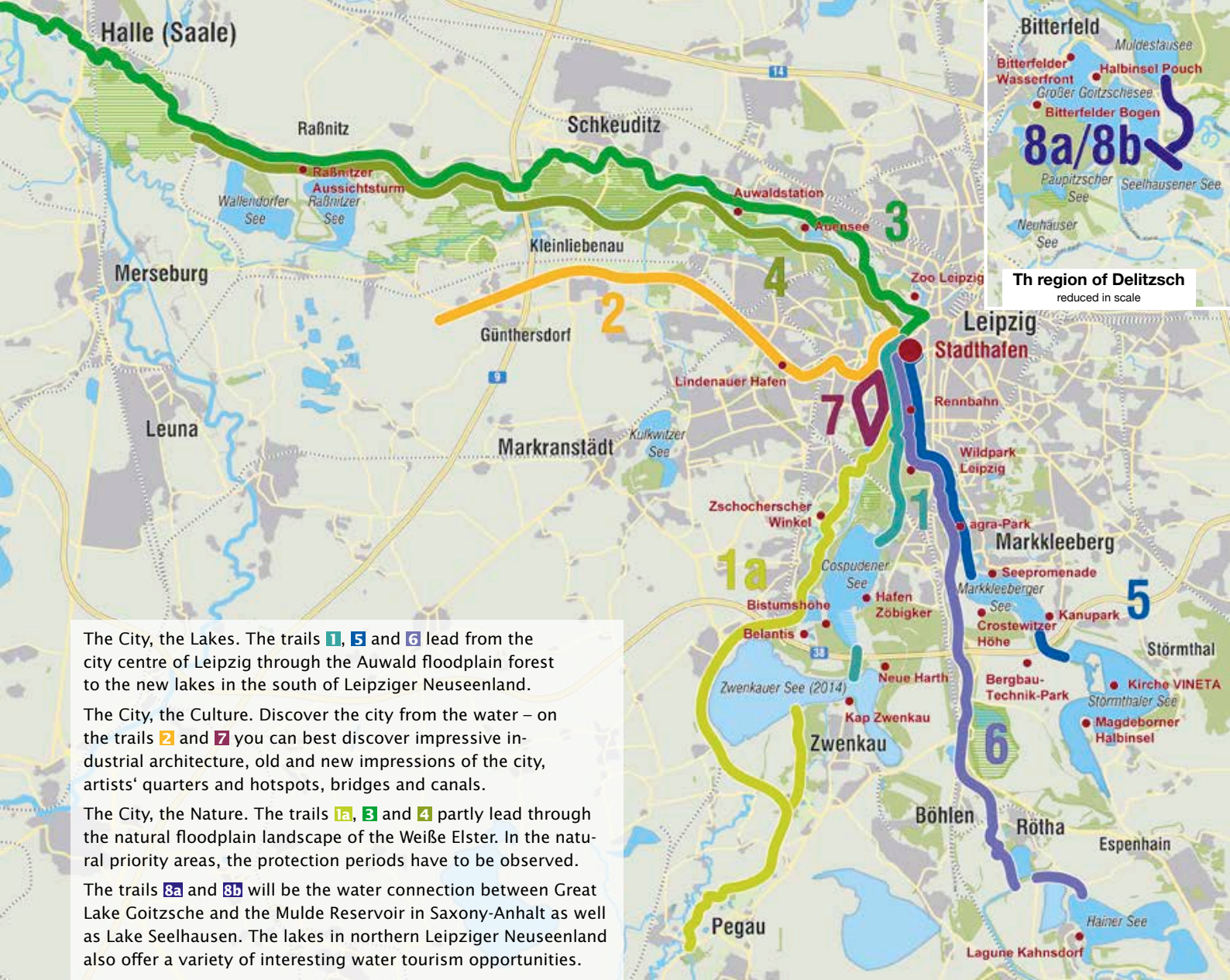
Who would have imagined this 20 years ago? An industrial landscape formed by mining has been transformed into a varied seascape – the Leipziger Neuseenland. The citizens of the Leipziger Neuseenland and the entire region discover the charm and the economic importance of waterfront locations and develop a new interest in water.

At first, the Touristic Water Network was only a vision. The plan was to connect the new lakes of the mining landscape to the rivers and canals of the city of Leipzig, so that a network of waterways that stretched over 200km would be created. Old and cased millraces would be reopened and accessible. Opencast mines would be flooded to create new recreational spaces on the water. This required the construction of harbours, locks and water connections. That is how the vision would become reality.

Today – 20 years later – that vision has become a real experience. Step by step, projects have been implemented in recent years. A water network has emerged. The first mining lake is permanently connected to the city's river system. This means that since 2011, trail 1 from the city harbour in the centre of Leipzig to the Lake Cospuden in the south of Leipzig, can be navigated by boat without having to portage. Also, trail 7, the city trail, as well as several sections of the eight trails, are completely usable for boating today. Many interesting places have been

created close to the water. Attractive places near the rivers, canals and millraces invite you to linger. Whether you are boating, sailing, kite surfing, swimming, strolling, cycling or enjoying the sun with coffee and cake – the possibilities in, on and close to the water are numerous and provide the region with a new quality of life.

A lot has been planned and also achieved already. With a few more key projects, gaps can be closed, different sections can be linked and more new lakes in the south can be connected to the overall network. This is how eight trails with a length of 7 to 41 kilometres will be created, which invite you to discover the diversity and the special quality of the Leipziger Neuseenland. With the implementation of key measures, all waters of trails 1 to 7 will be connected with each other and will be accessible by canoe and partially even by passenger ships. Motorboats can navigate several rivers and the five lakes in southern Leipziger Neuseenland if they meet certain environmental requirements and have an access permit. Trail 8 will connect the sea landscape in northern Leipziger Neuseenland. Today the whole world already meets on the waters of Leipzig. The waters of the city are very popular. The citizens of Leipzig proudly show their guests the unique corners of their city. A trip on the Karl Heine Canal is an inside tip for tourists, as Leipzig can be discovered from a previously unknown perspective. If the weather is fine, more than



500 boats can be seen on the city trail (trail 7) and the Karl Heine Canal (trail 2) at the weekends.

Whether urban, nature-related or sports-related – the water landscape of Leipzig is particularly diverse and provides special offers for every taste and sometimes even a surprise or two.



Natural landscape



Urban city



New lakes

The ideal

Yes, that's your dream:

*A villa in the countryside with a large terrace,
at the front the Baltic Sea, at the back the Friedrichstraße;
with a beautiful view, rural and classy,
you can see the Zugspitze from the bathroom window –,
and in the evening the cinema is not far.*

Kurt Tucholsky (1927)

Everyone is aware of the fact that only a sound natural environment and good water conditions are the basis for sustainable and long-lasting tourist development. Adhering to the „10 rules for the protection of nature and man“ guarantees a balance between the different interests and concerns on the water. Furthermore, with the LeipzigBoot a new type of boat was developed, which is especially adapted to the particular environmental requirements of the waters of Leipzig.

A joint project

In his poem “The ideal” from 1927, Kurt Tucholsky described an ideal of life that is still valid today. The Leipziger Neuseenland offers these diverse poles – the urban city, the natural areas of the floodplain forest and the recreational offers at the lakes.

Locations near the water are very popular and the interests are varied and overlapping. One person may seek a friendly get-together on a pleasant day trip on the waters of Leipzig. Therefore it should be possible that the waters are fully accessible and can be easily experienced. Others may prefer to relax, sunbathe and enjoy their leisure time. Those with sporting ambitions use the water as a place to exercise, to sail or surf or to get fit for the next championship in their canoe or rowing boat.

Environmentalists on the other hand are concerned about rare animals and plants in the delicate natural region of the Riverside Forest. Water tourism in protected areas must be environmentally friendly and cautious. For many entrepreneurs, water tourism is increasingly a stable foundation of their economic activity. For the city and the region, the water is a new image-forming location factor, which represents a strong argument in the competition between the cities and regions. And for many citizens of the city and the region the old and new waters are a valuable contribution to their quality of life.

The different, partly even conflicting interests have to be gathered, balanced against each other and integrated in a sustainable and long-lasting overall concept. This requires good planning and cooperation between the numerous parties involved.

That is why already at an early stage the water tourism usage concept underwent an extensive impact study, although there was no legal obligation to do so.

In this concept for water tourism usage, the effect of the Touristic Water Network with its construction measures and the planned use for boats on nature and water was investigated in 2005/2006. As a result, a differentiated network system was elaborated, which allows the use for boats on one hand and maintains and creates undisturbed hiding areas for rare animal and plant species. In order to protect the valuable environment of the natural priority areas, seasonal protection periods were established. For individual projects such as lock constructions or new water connections, detailed environmental impact studies and Natura-2000 impact assessments are performed and the particular biodiversity issues are recorded in good time. This way, the planning is optimized in terms of its ecological impact. A monitoring over several years will oversee to what extent the predicted impact of the water use is congruent with the actual impact on the waters and on delicate animal and plant species.

The players of the Leipziger Neuseenland are in a continuous dialogue about the future and the development of the region. A common strategy has been for the first time formulated in the Charta Leipziger Neuseenland 2030 – a concept of voluntary commitment and a common quality agreement. As an informal instrument, the charter is ratified during a comprehensive discussion and voting process and constitutes the basis for the implementation of the jointly adopted strategy.



Popular waters – TAG BLAU in 2011

Some statements in the course of the annual boat counts

“When the weather is fine, we are out and about with our boats every weekend.”

“Once or twice a year, we have a family trip with the boat. Our children are always very excited.”

“This is the first time that I have reached the Cospuden Lake by boat and I am very glad that someone is on site and helps.”

“For our class reunion, we invited everyone to Leipzig and surprised our guests with a boat trip. That’s something that doesn’t exist in other cities. Today our friends still talk about the Buntgarnwerke (former spinning factories) and the Karl Heine Canal. It’s a pity that it’s so little known.”

“The Leipzig riparian Forest is a very valuable natural landscape. It is not to be disturbed by motorboats with loud and smelly engines.”

“When I was a child, I went fishing at the abandoned ruins at Lindenau Harbour. Who would have thought that this might change some day and that there would be promenades instead?”

“Sometimes it’s really difficult to spontaneously go on a canoe trip. All the boats are borrowed and it seems as if the whole of Leipzig is on the water.”

“I love the peace on the waters of Leipzig, which is why I’m very sceptical about motorboats.”

“What fascinates me about the waters of Leipzig is the variety. I start in the middle of the city, pass through the romantic Riverside Forest and then I look forward to the vastness of the Lake Cospuden.”



Above: Providing assistance: the lock attendant from the Leipzig civil service.

Middle: Explore interests and protect the nature.

Below: Entirely in their element. Provide space for sports



Opening of the outer breakwater of the City Harbour in 2010 – a public event

What has been achieved so far?

More than 100 individual measures are to be implemented to make the water network with its eight trails usable and attractive for different boat types. The spectrum ranges from the erection of a central city harbour and eight other marinas in Leipzig, particularly at the new lakes, to the construction and the development of river sections, the construction of a total of eight locks and simple jetties up to portage facilities for canoeists. Much has already been implemented, sections are passable and only a few key measures are missing to complete the connection of the eight trails.

The Lake Cospuden on trail 1 is the first mining lake of the Leipziger Neuseenland that can be reached from the city centre without having to portage.

Many steps were necessary until the opening of trail 1. The first measures were the desilting of the Floßgraben and the construction of the Cospuden Lock in 2004/2006. The S 46 Bridge, the jetty at the racecourse, the outer breakwater of Leipzig City Harbour, the Schreiberbrücke and the Probsteisteg followed these. The last step was the Connewitz Lock as the gateway to the South. In the time between June and October 2011 alone more than 5,500 boats used the lock. With great enthusiasm, over 3,000 canoeists slipped over the fish-canoe-pass.

Leipzig City Harbour

The heart of the water network is the Leipzig City Harbour near the city centre. Since 2010, canoeists can get in and out via a jetty and excursion boats can berth or depart at the jetties of the outer breakwater. In the years to come, the former industrial wasteland in the Friedrich-Ebert-Straße will become a lively place with an urban harbour atmosphere. The City Harbour will provide berths for more than 30 commercial multi-person boats and charter boats as well as jetties for canoeists and kayakers. Promenades, restaurants and cafés as well as hotels will fill the harbour as well as the surrounding neighbourhoods with activity. The development and design concept for the harbour already exists and the formal planning steps for the implementation of the project are almost complete.



Construction area outer breakwater of the City Harbour and Schreiberbrücke (2010)

New bridges on trail 1
From left to right: Schreiberbrücke,
Heilige Brücke, Probsteisteg and
pedestrian bridge Lake Lauer



Trail 1 (TriPolis GbR – Open-Street-Map and Contributors CC-BY-SA)



Cospuden Lock



Elstermühlgraben

In 2020, when the Elstermühlgraben will be open at the full length, there will be a continuous link to the Weiße Elster in the direction of Halle (Saale) for canoeists and the City Harbour will fully assume its role as a hub in the water network. No matter what kind of boat trip, the Leipzig City Harbour will then be the ideal starting or destination point.



Connwitz Lock

With the opening of the Connwitz Lock, the last step was taken to make the trail section between the city centre and the Port Zöbiger fully accessible. It is not only an attraction for boaters, but is becoming a meeting point for walkers and cyclists, technology enthusiasts and onlookers who rest here and watch the hustle and bustle. While at the moment all boats are travelling through the Floßgraben to get to Lake Cospuden, the boat traffic will be split with the opening of the water connection between the river Pleiße and Lake Markkleeberg. In addition to Lake Cospuden and Lake Zwenkau, the landscape around Lake Markkleeberg and Lake Störmthal will then also be a popular destination.

Cospuden Lock

The Cospuden Lock was opened in 2006 and was therefore the first lock of the Leipziger Neuseenland. It connects Lake Cospuden and its recreational offerings with the natural region of the floodplain forest Leipziger Auwald.





Grasslands at the Möncherei

The Markkleeberg Water Snake

On the so-called “Water Snake” from the Pleiße to Lake Markkleeberg – the next leg – 18 kilometres on trail 5

Not only Lake Cospuden, but also Lake Markkleeberg with its sea promenade, beaches and canoeing park is a popular leisure destination in the south of Leipzig. Lake Störmthal will also increase its appeal after being completely flooded. Today the VINETA floating church is already a very popular destination. More attractions such as the Mining Machinery Park are being planned. The Störmthal Canal with the canoe park lock, which is the water connection between Lake Markkleeberg and Lake Störmthal, has been in operation since 2013.

berg Water Snake”, a new water connection of 1.4 kilometres. It meanders from the new Möncherei Lock in the agra-Park through old groups of oaks and the meadows of the cultivated landscape around the Möncherei. After each bend of the river, an open view over this unique landscape is revealed. The Möncherei Lock at the mouth to the Pleiße River overcomes a height difference of 3.87 m between Pleiße and Lake Markkleeberg.

There are already concrete plans for the Möncherei Lock and the Markkleeberg Water Snake. If the timetable can be met, these plans will be realized from 2018 onwards. Then the canoeists and kayakers will be spoilt for choice between Lake Cospuden and Lake Markkleeberg.



In the future, Lake Markkleeberg will also be reachable by boat from the centre of Leipzig. And there is more: a very special experience and very popular among boat enthusiasts will be trail 5, as it leads directly through the recreation area of the agra-Park. The connection between Lake Markkleeberg and the river Pleiße (and therefore also with the waters of Leipzig) will be the “Markklee-



At the Pleiße in the direction of the agra-Park



Lindenau Harbour

Lindenau Harbour / Leipzig Lindenau MARINA

The construction work on the Lindenau Harbour started in 1938 and stopped in 1943 as a result of World War II, which is why the harbour remained unfinished without connection to the regional and supra-regional network of water. Now this is going to change.

More than 70 years after its initial construction, the plans for the development of the harbour were resumed under new conditions for an integrated urban and touristic/commercial development and will soon be realized.

With the construction of a new water connection 665m in length, the existing harbour basin will be linked to Leipzig's waterways and Leipziger Neuseenland via Karl Heine Canal in 2015.

A new city quarter with a view over the harbour basin is planned in the central area of the Lindenau Harbour, which, along with hotels, industry and services as well as residential areas, will benefit from the proximity to water. Planning for this new development is currently underway. Lined by promenades along the shoreline as well as walking and biking trails, the water can be experienced not only by boat, but also on land.

The Leipzig Lindenau MARINA is planned to be in the area of the old storehouse on the northern edge of the basin. It will not only provide berths, technical equipment, boat repair and services, but also many other tourist and recreation-related services like restaurants and

cafés, beach bars and beach volleyball. This way, the development of water tourism also leads to urban and economic development.

The harbour itself will become even more important when in addition to the new water connection to the Karl Heine Canal there will be another way to get here: the 75m long water connection near the Lyoner Straße will link the harbour with the Saale Elster Canal. As a consequence, another 11 kilometres of water will be part of the Leipziger Neuseenland and will significantly increase the appeal of trail 2.

The longer-term vision is to create a connection between the Saale Elster Canal and the national and international water network via the Saale River. As a port of transit, the Leipzig Lindenau MARINA could become a regionally important harbour for water tourism in Leipziger Neuseenland.



View from the warehouse – visualization by Häfner Jimenez Büro für Landschaftsarchitektur



Saale Elster Canal

Vision of a water sports region in Central Germany

With the rapid development of the Leipziger Neuseenland, the vision was resumed to connect Leipzig's waterways to the river Saale and with it to the Nature Park Saale-Unstrut-Triasland in Saxony-Anhalt. The focus of this project was and is on the 7.8km long section between the Saale Elster Canal and the Saale, which is missing due to the interruption of work during wartime. In the rural area between central Germany's metropolises Leipzig and Halle, the project sank into oblivion for several years. Only the predominantly pre-modelled trail, which has already been partly reclaimed by nature, and the impressive concrete giants of the partially constructed double lock Wüsteneutzsch are evidence of the pre-war project.

The development of water tourism in the region between Leipziger Neuseenland in Saxony and Saale-Unstrut-Triasland in Saxony-Anhalt was investigated in a cross-regional potential analysis in 2011. The linking of the Saale Elster Canal to the Saale was thoroughly quantified and qualified, potentials and possible synergy effects for the region were evaluated and costs and benefits of different route alternatives were compared.

This showed that the ideal canal route was almost parallel to the old route that was initially planned and joined it in the north and the south with a connection to the Saale River near Kreypau. A possible solution to overcome the height difference of 22m between the Saale Elster Canal and the Saale, for which the double lock Wüsteneutzsch was originally intended, could be a boatlift in the immediate vicinity. The lift would be advantageous both in terms of hydraulic engineering and tourism. As a landmark with a national reputation, it would be another attractive draw for visitors to Central Germany.

The completion of the Saale Elster Canal would therefore be a tremendous asset for the development of the region and for tourism. Leipziger Neuseenland and Saale-Unstrut-Triasland could be connected and enhance their status as tourism regions for canoeists, kayakers, boat tourists and, with the appropriate infrastructure such as the expansion of the cycling network, other tourists. Market potentials such as living on or near the water, which are increasingly sought after but still not given sufficient consideration, would have a chance here as well. With the Saale Elster Canal, both tourism regions would gain a uniting element, which would represent one further step towards the vision of a common water sports region in Central Germany.



Water infrastructure

- River cruise ship
Large passenger ship (up to 45 m)
- Passenger ship (up to 30m)
- Houseboat/LeipzigBoot/cabin cruiser/
motorboat (up to 15m, sometimes less)
- Canoe/Canoe with use regulation (nature conservation)
- Option of usage intensification
(after detailed examination)

- Canal lift (objective for 2020)
- Lock inventory (objective for 2020)
- Lock - option new construction
- ⚓ Marina primary location (objective for 2020)
- ⚓ Marina secondary location
- Water connection with lock (vision)

Infrastructure on land

- Cycle path connection, inventory
- - - Cycle path connection, in planning
- - - Railway line, inventory/
objective – use as rail trolley



Beyond the tourism potential, the completed Saale Elster Canal could act as a lasting stimulus for further integration of Leipzig and Halle and serve as a key project for the region in terms of regional planning. With the connection to the Saale River, the old dream of a link between Leipzig and the European waterways would come true.



Lock staircase
Wüsteneutzsch



Zwenkau Harbour – home of the St. Barbara and attractive destination of trail 1 from 2015 onwards

1

5

6

The City, the Lakes. From Leipzig to the South: Trails 1, 5 and 6

Trails 1, 5 and 6 lead from the city centre through natural landscape to the new lakes in southern Leipziger Neuseenland. Known and unknown views of the city and the landscape as well as popular tourist attractions can be rediscovered from the water.

All three trails have their starting point or destination at Leipzig City Harbour. They all follow the Elstermühlgraben and pass the villas of the Bachviertel before they reach the Elsterflutbett and the Pleiße River. Parks are on both sides of the river. About 1.5 kilometres upstream after passing the Connewitz Lock, the trails go separate ways to the three different lake landscapes. Today the entire boat traffic still concentrates on trail 1 to Lake Cospuden. Trail 6 in the direction of Lake Hain will follow in 2017 and trail 5 towards Lake Markkleeberg in 2018.

Trail 1: Going to Lake Cospuden and Lake Zwenkau

After passing the Connewitz Lock, the boat user follows the Pleiße River and the Floßgraben to get to the Leipzig Auwald, where the unique nature of the riparian forest of Leipzig can be admired. In order to permanently protect this valuable natural environment it is essential to observe the rules of conduct, as every nature lover will surely understand. After one hour, the water opens up to the Lauer, a small forest lake. Behind the second lock the Lake Cospuden with its recreational offerings is waiting.
















After complete flooding of Lake Zwenkau and completion of the Harth Canal and the Harth Lock, the trail to Port Zwenkau will be passable in 2019. Then the north shore of the lake and Cape Zwenkau with their tourist facilities will invite the visitor for a stay.

Trail 5: Going to Lake Markkleeberg and Lake Störmthal

Another possible route is to pass the agra-Park and to go to Lake Markkleeberg and Lake Störmthal by canoe or by LeipzigBoot. To make this trail accessible, the Möncherei Lock and the "Markkleeberg Water Snake", a 1.4 km long canal, will have to be completed. This is planned for 2018 and the following years.

The Störmthal Canal between Lake Markkleeberg and Lake Störmthal, and the newly built Canoe Park Lock have been open since 2012.

The main attraction of Lake Markkleeberg is the Canoe Park with facilities for rafting, canoe polo and river boarding. The VINETA floating church at Lake Störmthal is a memorial to the lost villages and places that had to give way to open-cast mining. With an eaves height of 15 metres, it is currently the tallest building on a German lake. In the Mining Machinery Park at Lake Störmthal visitors can admire impressive equipment such as stackers and bucket wheel excavators used in the former coalmines of the region.

	Title of the trails	Starting point	Destination	km	Locks/Portaging	Entirely accessible for	Partly accessible for
Trail 1 Family-friendly	From Leipzig to Lake Cospuden and Lake Zwenkau	Leipzig City Harbour	Port Zöbiger Port Zwenkau on 2019	15	3 locks, no portaging	 Canoe (upstream and downstream)  Leipzig-Boot/specially adapted boat	 Rowing boat – Elsterflutbett and Pleiße, lakes  Sail boat – lakes  Passenger ship – Elstermühlgraben, Elsterflutbett and Pleiße, lakes
Trail 5 Family-friendly	From Leipzig to Lake Markkleeberg and Lake Störmthal	Leipzig City Harbour	agra-Park, future sea promenade Lake Markkleeberg and Canoe Park, since 2012 from Lake Markkleeberg to church VI-NETA and Gruna Harbour	18	3 locks, no portaging	 Canoe (upstream and downstream)  Leipzig-Boot/specially adapted boat	 Rowing boat – Elsterflutbett and Pleiße, lakes  Sail boat – lakes  Passenger ship – Elstermühlgraben, Elsterflutbett and Pleiße, lakes
Trail 6	From Lake Hain at the Pleiße in direction to Leipzig	Rötha, plan for Kahnsdorf Lagoon	Leipzig City Harbour	22	1 lock, 4x portaging	 Canoe (downstream)	 Rowing boat – Elsterflutbett and Pleiße, lakes  Sail boat – lakes  Leipzig-Boot/specially adapted boat – Trail 5 and Lake Hain to Rötha Reservoir  Passenger ship – trail 5, lakes

Trail 6: On the Pleiße River from Lake Hain to Leipzig

Those who prefer the energy-saving version of this day trip should start at Lake Hain and travel downstream with the flow of the Pleiße River to get to the Leipzig City Harbour. There are also plans for a shortened trail with a starting point in Rötha. Portaging facilities at the weir Großdeuben and the Agra Weir are planned to help pass these obstacles with a boat. There are no plans to construct locks here.

On this water trail you can see the different faces of the Pleiße River from the natural section of the (Rötha reservoir) to the faster flowing section between Böhlen and Markkleeberg.

The Lake Hain was flooded in 2010. Maritime life emerges in Kahnsdorf on the edge of the lake. At the Kahnsdorf lagoon the first jetties as well as boathouses and cottages are in use. There are plans for the further extension of Lake Hain towards the Pleiße River, which include a short canal connection and the construction of a lock at the Rötha Reservoir. This way there would be a local water connection between Lake Hain and the Rötha Reservoir, which would even be accessible by LeipzigBoot.



Boat slide at the Connewitz Lock



Boathouse at the Wildpark



Kahnsdorf lagoon



VINETA floating church, permission to berth



Former spinning factories
Buntgarnwerke in Plagwitz



Venetian gondola at
the Karl Heine Canal



Restaurants near the water

2

The City, the Culture.

7

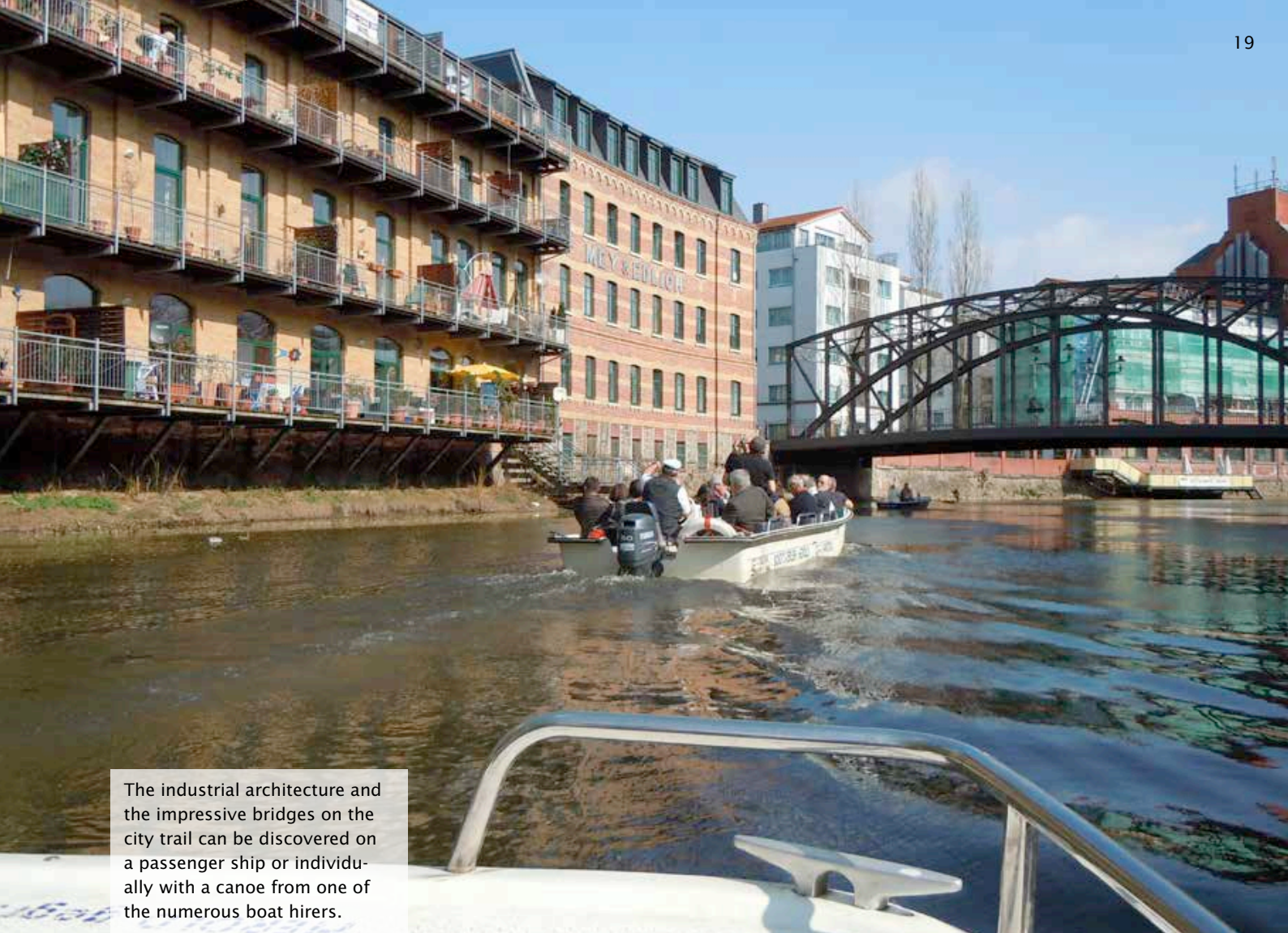
Water city Leipzig: Trails 2 & 7

The urban flair of the water city Leipzig is best discovered on the Stadtelerster and the Karl Heine Canal on trails 2 and 7. Renovated industrial architecture, artists' quarters and hotspots, numerous pubs and restaurants with direct water access provide insights into old and new places of the city and invite you to linger. There are plans for water connections to the Lindenau Harbour (2015) with the Leipzig Lindenau MARINA (2017) and to the Elster Saale Canal (2018 onwards). And maybe one day, the dream of a boat connection of the Touristic Water Network with the Saale River in Saxony-Anhalt and with that the European inland waterway network will come true.

A boat trip in the city

The ideal starting point for a boat trip in the city is the Leipzig City Harbour. Following the Elstermühlgraben and passing by the occasional villas, the trail goes past the Palmengarten Weir to the Stadtelerster. At first the view is dominated by the Klingerhain, with its old trees and sports club, but then renovated industrial architecture surrounded by water and greenery comes into view. A little further upstream the Karl Heine Canal branches off westwards in the direction of Plagwitz. There is a colourful and joyous hustle and bustle on the water here, as inflatable boats, canoes, passenger ships, rafts and even Venetian gondolas share the space with practising junior athletes and Olympia aspirants. The canal,

	Title of the trails	Starting point	Destination	km	locks/ portages	entirely accessible to	partly accessible to
Trail 2 Family-friendly	Industrial architecture near the water	Leipzig City Harbour	MARINA Leipzig-Lindenau, Lindenauer Hafen, Elster-Saale-Kanal	4.8	no locks, no portaging	Canoe (upstream and downstream) Rowing boat LeipzigBoot/ specially adapted boat Passenger boat	
Trail 7 Family-friendly	Travelling through the water city Leipzig	Leipzig City Harbour	Stadthafen Leipzig	8.9	no locks, 1x portaging	Canoe (Stadtelerster downstream)	LeipzigBoot/specially adapted boat Rowing boat Passenger ship – Elstermühlgraben, Stadtelerster near Hüfferstraße Elsterflutbett



The industrial architecture and the impressive bridges on the city trail can be discovered on a passenger ship or individually with a canoe from one of the numerous boat hirers.

which is 2.6 km long and runs through Plagwitz and Lindenau, was instigated by Carl Heine back in the middle of the 19th century. Impressive bridges arch over the canal and restaurants and bars in unique locations and buildings with notable architecture such as the Stelzenhaus and the Riverboat are just as extraordinary destinations as the trendy artists' quarter at the Spinnereistraße. The home of modern painting, the New Leipzig School with Neo Rauch as its outstanding representative is the cultural highlight of this tour through the water city of Leipzig.

At present, trail 2 ends in Lindenau at the end of the Karl Heine Canal, but the connection to the Lindenau Harbour is in the pipeline. And there are plans to realize the vision of connecting Leipziger Neuseenland to the national network of waterways. When returning to the Stadteler on the way back, motorboats can drive two more kilometres upstream (trail 7). Due to its natural course (natural priority area) and several flat passages, the subsequent section of trail 7 through the Leipzig Riverside Forest can only be passed by experienced canoeists.

For them it is possible to do the city trail as a circular route. When you start from the city harbour and follow the Elstermühlgraben southwards through the Elsterflutbett, you get to the Großzschocher Weir. Here, the Weiße Elster forks into the Stadteler and the Elsterflutbecken. The portaging at the weir to get to the Stadteler is rewarded with a magnificent tour upriver through the floodplain forest.



At the Elsterflutbett



Experience nature at the Weiße Elster, beware of the protection periods in the natural priority areas

1a

3

4

The City, the Nature. Cruising along the Weiße Elster: nature trails 1a, 3 & 4

Trails 1a, 3 and 4 are devoted to the natural, largely unspoiled floodplain landscape of the Weiße Elster on the outskirts of Leipzig. Canoeists have the opportunity travel along the unique natural sections of the Weiße Elster if they comply with certain rules of conduct and respect the special protection periods.

The Weiße Elster between Pegau and Leipzig

There are also interesting tours for canoeists in southern Leipziger Neuseenland on trail 1a. One possible starting point is the Schützenplatz in Pegau. The first 6 km of the trail lead through an eventful environment close to nature on the natural course of the Weiße Elster. Further downstream the trail proceeds to the bed-load trap near Großdolz, which is the entry to the new riverbed of the Weiße Elster. At the shallow entrance point of the Hartmannsdorf Weir, the half-day tour begins. About 2km after the weir, the appearance of the river changes significantly until the Großschocher Weir. Back on its old course, the river winds in several meanders over 4 km through the floodplain landscape in the Zschochersche Winkel. Since this section of the river runs through a natural priority area, special regulations must be respected. This means, for example, that it is forbidden to boat here during the bird-breeding season from mid-February to mid-May. After two more kilometres and two portages, the tour ends gently at the Leipzig City Harbour after a total of 27.5 km.









The Weiße Elster between Leipzig and Halle

Those who wish to canoe on the Weiße Elster as part of tour 3 in northern Leipziger Neuseenland along the river section between Leipzig and Schkeuditz or even up to Halle, have to be really fit. The trail between Lake Aue and Halle (Saale) is more than 40 km long and the natural priority areas are only passable outside certain periods of protection.

At the new jetty at the Museum of Natural History in Leipzig the first stage of the journey begins. Following the Elstermühlgraben through the Waldstraßenviertel, passing the Rosental Park with the Leipzig Zoo and the possible exit point at the restaurant, Mückenschlösschen, the trip leads to the Weiße Elster. Surrounded by small gardens it continues through the district of Möckern. After almost 6 km the first leg of the trip is completed upon reaching Lake Aue. Here you can linger for a snack and relax in the park or take a ride on the miniature railway.

After the opening of the entire Elstermühlgraben in 2020, the tour section coming from the Leipzig City Harbour will be fully integrated in the water network and will even be accessible by LeipzigBoot on the first section to Lake Aue.

At the second leg, the appearance of the river changes and the challenges for canoeists begin. Before finally arriving in Schkeuditz after 11 km, they have to portage at six weirs and cope with

	Title of the trails	Starting point	Destination	km	Locks/Portages	Entirely accessible for	Partly accessible for
Trail 1a	The Weiße Elster between Pegau and Leipzig	Pegau Schützenplatz	Leipzig City Harbour	27.5	No lock, 3x portage after Pegau, 2x portage after Hartmannsdorf	 Canoe (downstream)	 LeipzigBoot/ specially adapted boat  rowing boat – Elsterflutbett, Elstermühlgraben
Trail 3	The Weiße Elster between Leipzig and Halle	Leipzig, Museum of Natural History, from 2018 on, City Harbour Leipzig	Halle/ Ammendorf Street bridge	41.5	No lock, portage: 6x to Schkeuditz, 9x to Halle	 Canoe (downstream)	 Rowing boat – Weiße Elster from mouth New Luppe to Döllnitz Weir  Passenger ship – to Bauernbrücke (Am Hirtenhaus), level of Lake Aue
K Trails 4	The New Luppe River as an alternative	Leipzig, bridge Gustav-Esche-Str., City Harbour Leipzig in 2018	Halle/ Ammendorf Street bridge	22.5	No lock, 3x portaging after City Harbour	 Canoe (downstream)	 Rowing boat – Weiße Elster from mouth New Luppe to Döllnitz Weir

several small rapids. The reward is one of the most beautiful river floodplain landscapes in the region. Along the way the park of the Lützschen Castle and the Auwaldstation invite you to visit and rest. In Schkeuditz it is possible to finish the trail, dock the boats and rest or to strengthen yourself in a restaurant for the third leg.

This last leg leads a further 20 km downstream through the mainly unspoiled floodplain of the Weiße Elster up to Halle (Saale). However, this section is also attached to certain rules of conduct. Below the landing point of the sports club, TSV 1893 Leipzig-Wahren, the Weiße Elster is a natural priority area and in order to protect its valuable animals and plants, it is only passable from the first of August every year and under the guidance of an expert. In addition, in Saxony-Anhalt the Weiße Elster is not passable during May, June and September for reasons of nature conservation. During the rest of the year the passage is regulated and requires a reservation in advance with the Regional Administration of Halle.

The New Luppe River as an alternative

After the portage at Lake Aue, canoeists arrive at the New Luppe River (trail 4). Alternatively they start their trip at the Luppe Bridge at Gustav-Esche-Straße. The New Luppe flows canalised and diked in large arcs almost parallel to the Weiße Elster. Depending on the water level, several sections can have lively currents. After more or less 6 km it is possible to stop at the Luppe Bridge along the Gundorfer Linie on the left side and walk to the restaurant, Domholzschenke. At the weir in Kleinliebenau the canoes have to be portaged. About 500 m after the bridge of the A9 motorway the New Luppe flows into the Weiße Elster. There is an exit point and a car park at the Raßnitz road bridge. The observation tower provides a beautiful view over Lake Raßnitz and Lake Wallendorf. The trip continues by passing the villages Lochau, Burgliebenau and Döllnitz and another nature priority area with portages at two weirs on the way to Halle-Ammendorf. At the road bridge there you have access to public transport.



Jetty at the Museum of Natural History



Weiße Elster



Saale River in Halle with view of Giebichenstein Castle



Beach at Great Lake Goitzsche



Kite surfing at Lake Schladitz



Bitterfeld Arch

8a
8b

The Lakes in the North. Leisure facilities on and near the water: the trails 8a and 8b






Trails 8a and 8b will be situated at the long-planned water connections between Great Lake Goitzsche, the Mulde Reservoir in Saxony-Anhalt and Lake Seelhausen. However, the lakes in northern Leipziger Neuseenland already attract visitors with a variety of interesting offers of water activities.

Great Lake Goitzsche and Lake Seelhausen

At the Great Lake Goitzsche, which has been completely flooded since 2002, the offers range from bathing at the Bitterfeld beach and water sports activities such as canoeing or powerboat championship races to cycling trips on well-maintained bike paths and experiencing nature in the Goitzsche Wilderness. Creative accents are set by the Gauge Tower, dating from the World's Fair "Expo 2000", with the floating pier, the Bitterfeld Arch lookout platform, the Bitterfeld Waterfront with the gastronomic 'Villa am Bernsteinsee', as well as probably the world's largest land art project with the agora-

Park at the Pouch Peninsula. The array of products on the water is completed by passenger boats and two sailing bases. The two passenger boats are the MS Reudnitz and the MS Vineta.

Although it might seem like the little brother of Great Lake Goitzsche, the smaller Lake Seelhausen in the South is no less attractive with its prominent Sausedlitz shores. It also stands out due to its well-developed network of paths for cycling, skating and Nordic walking. The villages of Löbnitz and Sausedlitz invite you for a rest. While Löbnitz is already well known for its equestrian sports, Sausedlitz has excellent water sports prospects in the medium to long term. Beaches, cottages, camping sites and the expansion of boat traffic on the lake are in planning. Starting from a marina in Löbnitz, sailing and especially surfing and kiting will be promoted. Tours on the LeipzigBoot are also in planning. In addition, the Roitzschjora airfield has been a port of call for gliders and small powered aircraft for many years now.

	Title of the trails	Experience	Attractions and route	km	Boat types
Trail 8a 8b	The lakes of northern Leipziger Neuseenland	Sea landscape in the region of Bitterfeld and south of Delitzsch.	8a short connection: Lake Seelhausen, Great Lake Goitzsche 8b: Lake Seelhausen, Great Lake Goitzsche, Lober Leine Canal, Mulde Reservoir	8b: 8 km	8a  LeipzigBoot/ specially adapted boat 8b  canoe  sailing boat – lakes  rowing boat  passenger ship – lakes



Great Lake Goitzsche

Mulde Reservoir and water network

The Mulde Reservoir was designed as a dam for flood control and water supply. After its flooding in 1976, it quickly developed into a popular recreation area at the edge of the Düben Heath. It is a centre for sailors and canoeists. With the “Haus am See”, the Mulde Reservoir has a well-developed information centre for environmental protection that provides many opportunities to experience nature. In addition to a permanent exhibition and nature trails, there has been a live camera there for the observation of fish eagles since 2006. Mühlbeck-Friedersdorf, the first “book village” of Germany, is also worth a visit.

For the stimulation of further water tourism development, new connections for boat traffic between the lakes are planned. On a medium- to long-term basis, a connection between Lake Seelhausen and Great Lake Goitzsche is planned for passenger ships (tour 8a). Tour 8b will be a connection for canoeists between Lake Seelhausen, Great Lake Goitzsche and the Mulde Reservoir – via Lober Leine Canal and the Mulde River, which is already partly passable until Pouch.

Lake Schladitz and Lake Werbelin

On the relatively dry land between Leipzig and Delitzsch, the former coal mining area Delitzsch-Südwest-Breitenfeld has turned into two large lakes: Lake Schladitz and Lake Werbelin. Lake Schladitz, which has been used for tourism since 2003 and which has an excellent water quality, has already two bathing areas and with the Biedermeier beach in Hayna, a third one is in planning. The latter is already used for cultural and theatre events at the

lake. For water sports enthusiasts, Lake Schladitz is the perfect place to do wind or kite surfing, catamaran sailing or dinghy sailing. As part of the child and youth association “youngsters e.V.”, the young generation can already familiarise themselves with new water sports. The shores of the lake also provide interesting offers. At Schladitz Bay, four beach volleyball courts invite you to play. Every summer they attract many spectators to beach volleyball, beach handball and beach soccer tournaments. In addition, a well-developed in-line skating and cycle path network provides for active recreation. From the Schaafhöhe, which is situated on a former spoil tip, you have a wonderful view over the entire lake.

Lake Werbelin is the largest and most varied lake in the area between Leipzig and Delitzsch. Additionally, it has a special importance in terms of environmental protection, as it is situated in the middle of a bird sanctuary. The western part of the lake is characterized by shallow water areas with dense vegetation and a unique island structure due to stockpile ridges of the mine. Situated at the west of the lake is Lake Grabschütz, which is surrounded by a nature trail. A variety of rare birds can be watched here. On the north side of Lake Werbelin, the area of the former mining works is examined and prepared for nature-friendly tourist usage. A largely completed cycling and hiking trail network makes many discoveries such as the SRs 6300 bucket wheel excavator possible.



Monitoring – Readjustment

The realization of the Touristic Water Network Leipziger Neuseenland must be environmentally friendly. For this reason a monitoring program is carried out accompanying the development of water tourism.

The monitoring consists of three parts:

- Usage monitoring
- Monitoring of the species and habitats of the Natura 2000 conservation area
- hydro-ecological monitoring

As a result of the monitoring, the accuracy of forecasts for the development of water tourism on the different trails is verified. Within this framework, useful information about the development of flora, fauna and water quality under the influence of water tourism can be obtained. In the case of occurring conflicts, readjustments can be made and the conservation regulations can be tightened. On the other hand, the monitoring can also lead to certain restrictions being loosened, which facilitates the boat traffic.

Usage monitoring

The boat traffic on the individual trails of the Touristic Water Network on different sections of the rivers has been recorded according to the different boat types (e.g. canoe, rowing boat, motorboat, passenger ship). The mappings are carried out in the course of a day between 9am and 6pm at 10 locations spread over the river network of Leipzig. The aim is to capture maximum load. Therefore the mappings take place at weekends with fine weather conditions.

In the first stages, the water use was documented before the opening of trail 1 (assessment of status quo). To this end, traffic counts were compiled in autumn 2009 and spring and summer 2010. In the summer and autumn of 2011, the situation after the opening of trail 1 (construction of Leipzig City Harbour and Connewitz Lock) was documented. Further mappings are planned in a regular rhythm in response to

the implementations of other key measures.

A permanent user mapping has been carried out by employees of the civil service at the locks in Connewitz and Cospuden since summer 2001. From June to October around 6,200 boats were counted at the Connewitz Lock and 3,700 boats at the Cospuden Lock from July to October.

The analysis of this data showed a high traffic level on city trail 7 with peak figures for the Stadtelsster of over 500 boats per day including 50 to 100 motorboats. The highest numbers were recorded in the midday and afternoon hours. Boat traffic can be recorded every minute. Here the assumptions (inventory assessment and forecasts) of the concept of water tourism usage were confirmed.

The least frequented were the untouched sections of the lower Weiße Elster downstream of Wahren. There is no regular boat traffic here. Only a few muscle-powered boats were counted. Motorboat access is generally not possible here. A small increase could be seen at the upper Weiße Elster since summer 2011. Also on this river section only muscle-powered boats are allowed.

At the sections Pleiße River and Floßgraben, however, the water tourism usage has been increasing considerably since summer 2011. Here the number of counted boats changed from 30 in autumn 2009 to over 300 in autumn 2011. The proportion of motorboats stayed the same.

In this way, the monitoring shows the improved quality of use since the opening of trail 1. Between the Connewitz Lock and Lake Cospuden, trail 1 is already used at an intensity that equals the use that was assumed to be the maximum for reasons of environmental compatibility in the planning of the Touristic Water Network.

The traffic could be reduced by trail 5, which was mainly for the aforementioned reasons of environmental sustainability, designed as a second key trail for the connection between southern Leipziger Neuseenland and the waters of the city of Leipzig. After the implementation, the boat traf-

River section	Initial situation (2005)*	Forecast after implementation WTNC*	1st Census 09/2009	2nd Census 05/2010	3rd Census 07/2010	4th Census 06/2011	5th Census 09/2011
Stadelster	ca. 500	ca. 500 (200)	180 - 463 (43 - 97)	294 - 482 (50 - 92)	367 - 581 (58 - 86)	235 - 383 (56 - 98)	372 - 626 (49 - 60)
Floßgraben	ca. 10	ca. 300 (100)	33 (3)	117 - 133 (2 - 6)	85 - 89 (2)	60 - 109 (0 - 3)	310 - 367 (3 - 8)
Pleiße River	ca. 10	ca. 200	34 - 37 (3 - 4)	98 - 101 (6 - 8)	54 - 81 (2)	23 - 102 (0 - 3)	185 - 295 (13 - 15)
Upper Weiße Elster	< 10	< 10	6 - 8	3 - 8	3 - 5	14 - 39	5 - 24
Lower Weiße Elster	< 10	< 10	2	3	0	0	0

* ... Water tourism usage concept in the region of Leipzig, impact studies – implementation strategies, bgmr Landschaftsarchitekten, Ecosystem Saxonia, 2005

(...) motorized boats

fic coming through the Connewitz Lock will be divided between several destinations: Lake Cospuden and Lake Zwenkau, as well as Lake Markkleeberg and Lake Störmthal. The usage monitoring clearly showed that the realization of trail 5 is of prime importance for a sustainable overall development of the Touristic Water Network.

Monitoring of the species and habitats at the Natura 2000 conservation areas

Since the trails of the Touristic Water Network are mainly situated in the Natura 2000 conservation areas of the Leipzig floodplains, regular mappings of selected species and habitats are carried out on four river sections: upper and lower Weiße Elster, Stadelster at the level of Pistorissteg, Floßgraben and Pleiße. For these river sections, particular vulnerabilities were determined within the framework of an impact study for the planning of the Touristic Water Network.

An initial mapping is available from 2006. At the aforementioned river sections, aquatic bird species such as the kingfisher or raptors breeding near the waters were observed. Several sections were also found to be the habitat of a special underwater vegetation or rare dragonfly species. An initial repeat mapping was carried out in 2011 and analysed in spring 2012 to examine the effects of the use for touristic purposes on these species and habitats.

The readjusting monitoring might show necessary modifications to the current proposed general or special usage regulations for reasons of nature conservation.

Hydro-ecological monitoring

Hydro-ecological monitoring includes both the rivers and mining lakes that are part of the trails of the Touristic Water Network. The core task is to record the contamination of the waters and to compare this data with the figures that were assumed as theoretical starting values within the framework of the impact study of the planning of the Touristic Water Network. Major pollutants are unburned fuel and combustion products that are emitted by motorboats. The accumulation of pollutants in sediments and the pollutant conversion in the ecosystem are evaluated.

As with the rivers, the intensity of usage at the lakes is also recorded. The hydro-ecological monitoring has been carried out between the years of 2011 to 2014. In 2011 methodological preliminary studies began that were completed in 2012.

The results of the hydro-ecological monitoring may also show necessary modifications to the current general or special regulations of use.



Consideration: Karl Heine Canal and Stadteler

Useful information

Which tours can already be used?

The Touristic Waterway is being realized in stages. Tour 1 and the city tour 7 as well as the Karl Heine Canal as a section of tour 2 are passable by canoes and motorboats, the Weiße Elster only by canoes. Lake Cospuden and Lake Markkleeberg in the south and Great Lake Goitzsche and Lake Seelhausen in northern Leipziger Neuseenland are also available for a variety of water activities.

With what kind of boat can I travel the trails?

All trails can be navigated by canoes and kayaks. However, you should pay attention to the special provisions for the protection of nature at several sections of the Weiße Elster (trails 1a and 3). Motorboat and raft traffic is only possible with

permission and in accordance with certain parameters. Motorboats can travel along the Weiße Elster in the city of Leipzig between Hüfferstraße and Palmengarten Weir, at the Elsterflutbett and the Pleißflutbett as well as on the river section Elstermühlgraben – Weiße Elster – Lake Aue.

Where can I enter and exit?

You should use the specially designated and marked places. In order to protect the nature, you should avoid the sensitive riparian zones with reed, shore shrubs, wet meadows and dense riparian woodland.

Will my boat fit under all bridges?

Depending on the water level, some bridges can be particularly low, for canoes and kayaks the passage under the bridges is usually no problem. At the Marschner Bridge (Elstermühlgraben) and the Plagwitz Bridge, you will find tide gauges and information signs indicating the low clearance height.

Are there signposts throughout the trails?

At the currently accessible trail 1 there are signposts all the way from the Leipzig City Harbour to Lake Cospuden. In addition, information boards provide tourist information on the water network. From the water you can see bridges, jetties, marinas, berths and boathouses as well as portages and places to get in and out of the boat. The signs for trails 2 and 7 are in preparation.

Attention at training tracks: Driving direction on the right side

Leipzig offers excellent conditions for rowing and canoeing. Already 12 water sports clubs are located at the city waters. Professional and recreational athletes exercise in their rowing boats and canoes on the waters of Leipzig, some with high speeds and often in groups. In order to avoid conflicts and accidents, it is particularly important to pay attention and to drive on the right side at training tracks. The tracks are located at the Elsterflutbecken between Palmengarten Weir and Leipziger Eck and between Leipziger Eck and Teilungwehr, as well as at the Stadteler downstream from the Karl Heine Canal and at the Elstermühlgraben. Special attention is to be paid at bridges, mouths of the river and at entrances and exits of canals.



Permission for motorboats

A motorized boat and raft trip is only possible with special permission. This permission can be obtained at the appropriate lower water authorities of the City of Leipzig and the district administrations. The application form is available at www.gewaesserverbund.de.

City of Leipzig, Amt für Umweltschutz

Prager Straße 118 - 136 (Haus A),
04317 Leipzig, (0341) 123 34 09

Landratsamt Landkreis Leipzig, Umweltamt,

Official residence: Karl-Marx-Str. 22 (Haus 3),
04668 Grimma, (03437) 98 41 91

Landratsamt Landkreis Nordsachsen, Umweltamt,

Official residence: Dr.-Belian-Str. 4,
04838 Eilenburg, (03423) 70974101

As part of the approval procedure related to water law, in particular the principle concern in accordance with article 1 Wasserhaushaltsgesetz is to be observed, which states that the waters as a part of the ecosystem and as a habitat for animals and plants are to be conserved. This means that the operation of motorboats on relatively small and sensitive waters, which are often located in conservation areas, is subject to limitations.

For the protection of the fragile ecosystems of the rivers and lakes, the eco-friendly LeipzigBoot was developed into two boat types. After a successful test phase and with transitional regulation for existing boats, future permission related to water law will only be granted to motorboats meeting the criteria of the LeipzigBoot.

How do I operate the locks?

As of 2012, there are three locks (Cospuden, Connewitz, Canoe Park Lock) in operation. The handling of the locks is mainly simplified, but not always identical. Please follow the signs at the locks and the instructions on the electronic display panels. Passenger ships have priority in the locks.

Are there any seasonal limitations for the use of the trails?

There are protection periods for the protection of the valuable nature in natural priority areas. To guarantee the use of the Weiße Elster in harmony with nature, these areas must not be entered during these periods.

Nature priority area Zschocherscher Winkel – section between Knauthain and Großzschocher Weir: no access from 15 February until 15 May; Nature priority area Wahren Weir until the confluence of the Luppe River: access only as organized tour, no access between 1 January and 31 July; Döllnitz Weir until Halle/Ammendorf: only with special permission, no passage in May, June and September

At which water levels can I use the trails?

For your own safety, you should not go on a boat trip or cancel it immediately in the case of flood warnings, poor visibility or storms. The locks are not in operation when there are flood warnings. Do not go on the water at low water levels (for muscle-powered boats < 30 cm, for motor boats < 60 cm).

You can get information on flood warnings and water levels on the Internet at www.hochwasserzentrum.sachsen.de and www.gewaesserverbund.de. The Amt für Umweltschutz (Environment Protection Office) of the City of Leipzig and the boat hirers will be happy to help you. At the Palmengarten Weir a special warning in the form of a red ball on the building above the middle pillar is given in the case of an elevated water level.



Trail 7 – Elsterflutbett

Useful information Part II

Should I expect other dangers?

Please note that the direction of travel is on the right side. For your own safety, you should always keep enough distance to weirs and bar-rages and pay attention to the flow conditions.

The use of the water is generally at your own risk. In areas of natural river sections, e.g. on the Weiße Elster, you should always look out for usual dangers found along a river such as low-hanging tree branches and obstacles in the water.

How fast can I go?

The general speed limit for motorboats on the rivers, canals and millraces is 5 km/h. On the Stadtelster between Hüfferstraße and Palmengarten Weir as well as at the Elsterflutbett and the Pleißflutbett, the speed limit is 10 km/h.

Where can I get further information?

For additional information on the water network, the lakes and the trails see:

www.gewaesserverbund.de
www.leipzigerneuseenland.de

Before starting a boat trip, please inform yourself on the conditions on the waters:

www.hochwasserzentrum.sachsen.de
www.gewaesserverbund.de

For the trails **1** **1a** **2** **5** and **7**, leaflets with route descriptions (in German) are available. Trail **3** is only available on the Internet. They provide information on the routes, useful advice for boat trips (safety, nature conservation, operation of the locks etc.), hiring possibilities of boats, entry and portaging places for canoeists, jetties of passenger ships as well as specific destinations. The leaflets are constantly updated and supplemented as soon as new trails are available.

The brochures can be downloaded at www.gewaesserverbund.de and www.leipzigerneuseenland.de. They are also provided by boat hirers before departure.



Signposting of trail 1



Trail 3 only available online: www.gewaesserverbund.de

10 Rules for the protection of nature and people

① Plan your boat trip carefully

Please note that not all boat types have permission to drive on the waters. Marked and closed backwaters must not be used.

② Inform yourself on dangers

The use of the water is at your own risk. Please put on a life jacket for your own safety. You should keep in mind that direction of travel is on the right side. Please also follow the instructions for operating the locks. Pay special attention to the flow conditions near weirs and barrages and always keep enough distance for your own safety.

③ Get information on the water

Before starting a boat trip, please inform yourself on the water conditions. Information on flood warnings and water levels can be found at www.hochwasserzentrum.sachsen.de and www.gewaesserverbund.de as well as at the Amt für Umweltschutz of the City of Leipzig, the district administrations and the boat hirers. In the event of high water levels, poor weather conditions or storms you should not go on boat trips or cancel them immediately for your own safety. At the Palmengarten Weir a special warning in the form of a red ball on the building above the middle pillar is installed in the case of an elevated water level. You should also refrain from boat trips in the case of low water levels (< 30 cm for muscle powered boats and < 60 cm for motor boats) for reasons of nature conservation and aquatic ecology as well as for your own safety.

④ What canoeists should know

All tours of the touristic water network are open for canoeists. However, please note that there are special regulations for the protection of nature at several sections of the Weiße Elster.

⑤ What motorboat users should know

Motorboat traffic is possible at sections of the Weiße Elster and the Pleiße River, the Elsterflutbett and the Pleißeßflutbett, the Karl Heine Canal, in the Lindenau Harbour and on several connecting canals between the lakes. The motorized boat and raft traffic is only possible with permission. The latter can be obtained at the local water authorities of the City of Leipzig and the district administrations. Please make sure not to interfere with the exercises of the numerous organised rowers and canoeists and with the relaxation-seeking citizens.

⑥ Using the jetties

You should use the specially designated and marked areas. Avoid the sensitive riparian zones with reed, shore shrubs, wet meadows and dense riparian woodland so as not to penetrate the habitat of birds, small animals and plants.

⑦ Protect animals and plants

Especially in natural river sections you should keep enough distance to the shore in order to avoid disturbing the flora and fauna.

⑧ Comply with the seasonal restrictions on the Weiße Elster

To make use of the Weiße Elster in harmony with nature possible, the section between Knauthain and Großzschocher Weir cannot be used in the period from 15 February to 15 May. Below the jetty of the TSV 1893 Leipzig Wahren sports club, the regulation for navigation in guided groups from the 1st of August of every year must be observed.

⑨ Comply with the speed limits

On your boat trip you should be aware of the speed limit on the rivers, canals and millraces, which is 5 km/h. On the Weiße Elster between Pistorissteig and Palmengarten Weir as well as on the Elsterflutbett, the Pleißeßflutbett and on the lakes, the speed limit is 10 km/h.

⑩ Show consideration for nature and other people

Please show consideration for the nature and other people: especially in the natural sections of the rivers you should avoid unnecessary noise and not travel in large groups. Sailing in bathing areas of the lakes and other areas marked by buoys (e.g. in the southern area of Lake Cospuden) is also not allowed.

Please note:

The regulations for seasonal driving restrictions in the natural priority areas and the request to refrain from boat trips in the case of low water levels are voluntary agreements for the protection of nature and landscape. As a part of a monitoring program, which is carried out in accordance with the development of water tourism in the protection areas, the efficiency of all regulations is verified. In the case of changing conditions, these regulations can be readjusted. With regard to the previous voluntary agreements, this may lead to formal recognitions (signature of a book of rules by clubs, commercial providers, local authorities) or even legal establishments in nature conservation or water law regulations.

Important addresses/sources

The central website for the Touristic Water Network and in particular for information about operational details of water tourism facilities (e.g. lock times and operation), water levels, flood hazards, Dos and Don'ts when traveling on the water etc. is: www.gewaesserverbund.de

You can get a good overview of water tourism and other offers in the region at:

Leipzig Tourismus und Marketing GmbH

Richard-Wagner-Straße 1, 04109 Leipzig
Phone: (+49) 0341 71 04-260 oder -265
Mail: info@ltm-leipzig.de
Web: www.ltm-leipzig.de, www.leipzig.de

Special information on canoe tourism or possibilities to sail at the lakes are provided at:

Sächsischer Kanu-Verband e. V.

Goyastr. 2d, 04105 Leipzig
Phone: (+49) 0341 98 39-121 oder -122
Mail: info@kanu-sachsen.de
Web: www.kanu-sachsen.de

Segler-Verband Sachsen e. V.

Moschelesstr. 17, 04109 Leipzig
Phone: (+49) 0341 983 11 40
Mail: seglerverband.sachsen.gs@t-online.de
Web: www.segel.de/svs

Landesruderverband Sachsen e. V.

Hamburger Straße 74, 01157 Dresden
Phone: (+49) 0351 310 52 02
Fax: (+49) 0351 336 04 11
Mail: info@sachsen-rudern.de
Web: www.sachsen-rudern.de

For further information about the organisation and the planning of the Touristic Water Network and the implementation of individual measures, please contact:

Zweckverband Kommunales Forum

Südraum Leipzig

Rathausplatz 1, 04416 Markkleeberg
Phone: (+49) 0341 353 32 10
Mail: info@gewaesserverbund.de
Web: www.kommunalesforum.de

Stadt Leipzig - Amt für Stadtgrün und Gewässer

Abt. Wasserwirtschaft/Flächenmanagement
Prager Str. 118-136 (Haus A), 04317 Leipzig
Phone: (+49) 0341 123 16 11
Mail: angela.zabojnik@leipzig.de
Web: www.leipzig.de

Geschäftsstelle Grüner Ring Leipzig

c/o Gemeinde Borsdorf
Leipziger Straße 6, 04451 Borsdorf
Phone: (+49) 034291 2 04 12
Mail: geschaeftsstelle@gruenerring-leipzig.de
Web: www.gruenerring-leipzig.de

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Seen Nordraum Leipzig

August-Bebel-Str. 2, 04509 Delitzsch
Phone: (+49) 034202 348 89
Mail: eckhard.mueller@wfg-nordsachsen.de

For remarks on signage along the trails (in case of damage etc.), please contact us at:

Geschäftsstelle Grüner Ring Leipzig

c/o Gemeinde Borsdorf
Leipziger Straße 6, 04451 Borsdorf
Phone: (+49) 034291 20412
Mail: geschaeftsstelle@gruenerring-leipzig.de
Web: www.gruenerring-leipzig.de

References:

Cover picture: bgmr Landschaftsarchitekten

Amt für Stadtgrün und Gewässer: Pictures p. 9 r. M., p. 11 l. m., p. 11 b. l., p. 11 b. m. r., p. 14 a., p. 17 r. a., p. 17 r. m. o., p. 19 a., p. 21 b. l., p. 21 b. m., p. 22 a. r.

bgmr Landschaftsarchitekten: Pictures p. 4, S. 7 b. l., p. 7 b. m., p. 7 b. r., p. 9 a., p. 9 r. b., p. 11 r. a., p. 11 r. m., p. 11 b. r., p. 12 a., p. 18 a. m., p. 18 a. r., p. 19 b., p. 22 a. l., p. 24 a., p. 26/27, p. 28 a., Images and maps p. 7, p.12

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H. Mai: Pictures p. 10 r. m., p. 15 a.

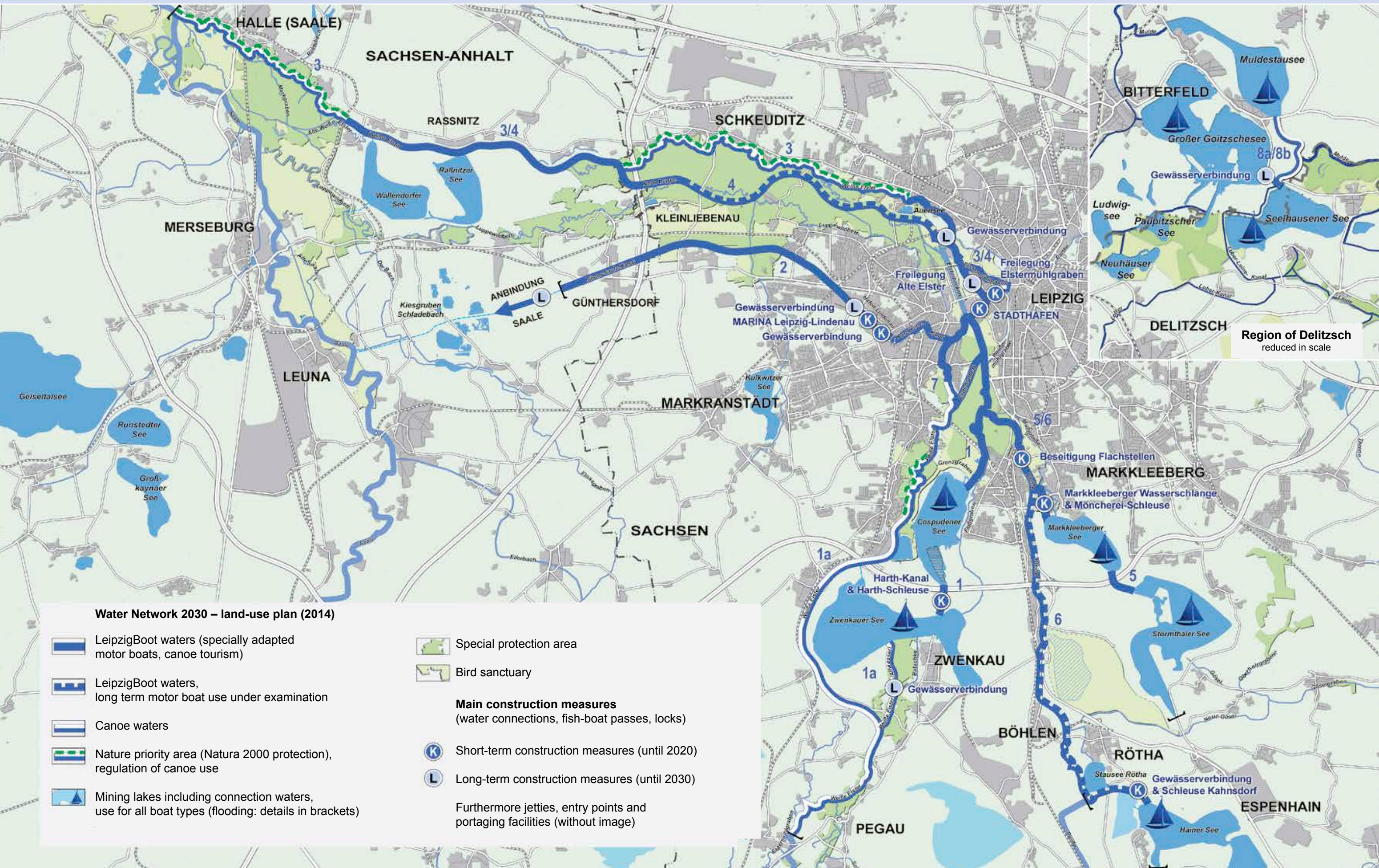
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A. Schmidt: Picture p. 18

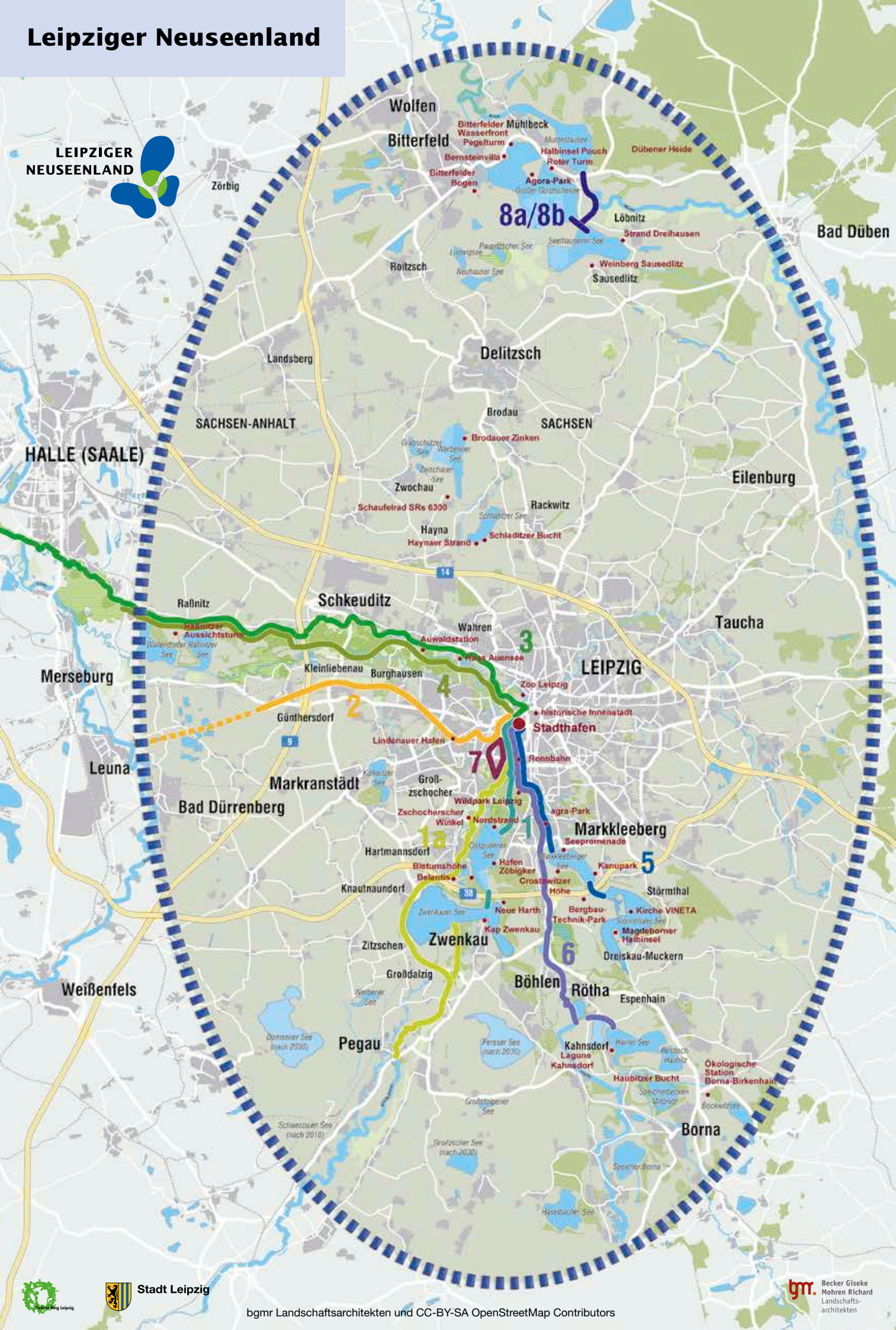
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Tripolis GbR: Map p. 11 (TriPolis GbR - Open-Street-Map and Contributors CC-BY-SA)

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www.gewaesserverbund.de
www.gruener-ring-leipzig.de
www.leipzigerneuseenland.de