



BROCHÓW neighbourhood map

Brochów, about 7 kilometres from the centre of Wrocław, is idyllic and peaceful. Before the World War II it was called Brockau. Its urban layout shows that between 1939 and 1951 the settlement remained a separate town.

The history of this area is inextricably linked to the railways – Brochów is today the second largest freight station in Poland and is ranked as one of the largest in Europe. Many railwaymen lived and still live here, for whom dedicated red brick buildings were erected. To this day they form a unique landscape.

The estate was once advertised as a garden city, but not because of the reference to Ebenezer Howard's concept of green cities, but because of the gardening companies located there. There is, of course, plenty of greenery in Brochów – vast areas of allotments are supplemented by numerous squares and home green areas, and above all Brochów Park – the oldest park within the current borders of Wrocław.

In the communist era, the "Signal" cinema was a very important place for the local community – it hosted not only film screenings, but also dances, nativity plays, weddings and other special events.

Today, the landscape of Brochów is subject to change due to the emergence of new housing estates consisting of both multi-family buildings and single family houses. However, it still remains an exceptionally peaceful and quiet housing estate, full of interesting places and stories.

Sąsiadujemy^W

Neighbourhood is a programme of animation and cultural activities in Wrocław's housing estates run by the Strefa Kultury Wrocław (Wrocław Cultural Zone). For several years we have encouraged the residents of Kleczków, Brochów, Ołbin and Oławskie Przedmieście to get to know each other and build neighbourly relations. Since 2021 we have also included Huby, Różanka and Gajowice in our backyard activities. We continue to walk around the nooks of the housing estates with the city guide, Szymon Maraszewski, who plays the lead role in two seasons of the series "Tales from the housing estates". You can watch all the episodes on the website, Facebook and YouTube of Strefa Kultury Wrocław.

In 2021 we also invited the residents of Oławskie Przedmieście, Ołbin, Kleczków, Brochów, Księży, Nadodrże, Świdnickie Przedmieście and Grunwaldzki Square to co-create with us neighbourhood maps of these housing estates. No one knows as many stories about the neighbourhood as our male and female neighbours, so we spent several months collecting various stories about the most interesting, beautiful and peculiar places in the neighbourhood. Thanks to our joint efforts, you can now look at eight Wrocław housing estates through the eyes of their inhabitants – get to know their memories and present-day stories, as well as discover spaces that no longer exist.

Take the map in your hand and follow the trail of your male and female neighbours! Remember that each map is available in three languages: Polish, English and Ukrainian.

We wish you successful neighbourhood journeys!

1

In the 90s there was a railway canteen here. Then a youth club, and then the "Kolorowa" restaurant. Holy Communion and wedding receptions were held here. I remember that they served delicious and cheap dishes. When I did not have time to cook a dinner, I used to come here to buy something quickly. **Teresa**

3

I belonged to the local **Railway Theatre** run by Mr. Sawicki. He was a railway worker and founded the theatre club next to the station. I was a young girl, he came to my parents and offered my participation. We showed dances and performances. I performed until I got married and I had no time for this anymore. **female neighbour**

4

When my parents were passing by this building at the time when it housed the **Registry Office**, they were talking, and my dad suddenly asked my mum: "Ziutka, what would happen if we got married?" The mother said: "Nothing." And so they got married offhand, after a few months of acquaintance. They were married for over 50 years. **Teresa**

5

When I was little, St. Nicholas' Day was organised annually in the "Sygnał" cinema in December. **Teresa**

When we staged a **nativity play** in the "Sygnał" cinema for the first time, the room was packed, all the tables were taken out, people were bringing chairs from their homes. I remember that there were live animals at these nativity plays – ducks, chickens. There was also a live ram. As a child, I remembered that this poor animal peed on the stage from stress. **female neighbour**

Rollled-up **Racławice Panorama** was stored here. It was a secret until the day it was taken out and then moved for conservation works. I think it must have been in view all the time – in the auditorium, as there was no basement in the cinema to fully hide it. **Irena**

Some of the visual materials come from the collections of the National Digital Archives

6

Above the **church** altar there is a **statue of a dragon** – with its belly up. It covers the entire width of the church nave. Saint George stands atop the statue, but he does not stab the dragon with his sword, just rests its tip. This dragon should be named Brochuś! There is a fairy tale about how the dragon fended up in the church. Apparently he lived in a tower where it was too cold for him. Therefore he wanted to look for a new, warmer shelter. He found the church. However, there was a renovation there, so it was not comfortable, therefore he placed himself behind the altar. In the morning, the workers began the renovation, and the dragon hid from them out of fear. The workers came in and said that today they had to paint St. George, as the dragon is already on the wall. **Teresa**

7

There was a **garden** at **Mościckiego Street**, which my mother took care of. It was a block of flats, but everyone had their own separate green area. Vegetables, fruits, delicious pears. It was necessary – my father was a railwayman, he did not earn much, he was constantly on the road and one needed to cope somehow. **female neighbour**

8

In the past there were winters so harsh that the entire road was covered in ice. We put on our **skates** then, grabbed onto the bus, and it dragged us down the street. Almost like a kulig ride. **Teresa**

9

The area of Brochów has been inhabited for a very long time. (...) A small group of Silesians settled in the area of our housing estate, in the park. The area was wet and prone to flooding. The area was called *Broczysko* or *Brochowsko*. It was not a convenient area for development, but good for defence. (...) When everything was developed and built, the residents noticed that they were not alone in these area. They noticed a green creature in the marshes. Similar to a large lizard, but more decorated, like a small dog. He was young but not aggressive specimen – he was rather afraid of people. He run away quickly (...) He was herbivorous. People did not try to kill or eat him because they feared the wrath of unfamiliar forces which the little creature might have belonged to. Because he was found at *Brochowsko*, they named it **Brochuś**. Over time, it turned out that *Brochuś* had useful abilities: he was able to notice an impending threat in time, and then notify the resident about it – with a loud squeak. He grew fast. After 100 years, a special kennel was built for him. People began to call the area *Brochów*. **Teresa**

10

On Sundays, we took walks and chose the most beautiful (flower) garden. We also always organised the **Allotment Gardener's Day**, but first we controlled the condition of the **allotment gardens** for two or three weeks. Then we went to town and bought gifts. The owners of the most well-kept allotment gardens received valuable prizes: mowers, strimmers, trimmers, rakes, landing nets for collecting apples with a basket, flower bulbs, because you can plant tulips and lilies in the fall. On this occasion we organised a barbecue, we roasted sausages, took the tables out, sang together. It was nice. **Teresa**

11

The Wrocław Brochów **railway junction** was the second in Europe in terms of the number of transports. Transports carrying goods across the entire continent departed from here. **Teresa**

12

The **swimming pool** in Brochów was at **Polna Street**, behind the school. It was still in operation in 2000. Then it was closed. It was beautiful before. A shallow pool for children and a deep pool for adults. It was 3 metres deep near the diving board. **female neighbour**

13

People used to integrate here. There is a park at the end of **Koreańska Street**. Now there are benches and sandboxes. Polish State Railways organised parties there. There were **dances**. During the party, there was a pillar standing in the middle, and on it – vodka and a ring of sausage. There was a competition, whoever managed to climb the pole won the prize from the top. Bonfires were organised. People were having fun and singing. That is how the railway management organised everyday life. Only railwaymen lived here. It was wonderful. **Teresa**

14

Pre-war **railway tenement houses** at **Koreańska Street**. It seems my parents were the first tenants here after the war. When they moved in, railway workers lived on the other side of the wall. It was a company-owned flat. My mum lived here with her parents and siblings. Then my parents got married and my grandparents managed to move to another flat. My parents stayed in their grandparents' flat, they lived here all their lives. I have been living here for 66 years. When my grandparents came to Wrocław, they seized a villa at Koreańska Street. All the villas were empty at the time. People were coming and seizing vacant houses. Unfortunately, my grandfather was an engine-driver, the only man in the family, and in the house there were only women. When my grandfather was away at work, looters were prowling around, trying to rob houses. Out of fear for her family, my grandma took the children one day and moved to an apartment in a block of flats. She did not care for the villa, but rather for a safe life among people. Houses were being seized by the brave. However, the villas there are like palaces – beautiful! **Teresa**

16

You could bring kneaded dough for bread to the „**U Romana**” **bakery**. At our mum's request, we took the prepared bread dough there. For two zlotys the baker baked it in his oven. **Irena**

17

"**Bacht**" means "luck" in Romani. It was the first band in Brochów, still only an amateur one. I was eight years old when I joined the band. It was virtually only the family – the band was led by my cousin, there were also uncles, in-laws and cousins. We performed all over Lower Silesia, everyone knew us here. Children are not taught music. Among the Romani, children are dancing as soon as they are born. **female neighbour**

After the amateur band there was the professional one: first "**Roma**", and then "**Nowa Roma**". This was already a real work, we travelled all over the world, toured Poland, we appeared in films. *Devils, Devils* – it is a film about how the Romani people did not want to settle down, wanted to have their own life, not to adapt. We played in it also. It was already a serious activity. We sing old songs from generation to generation, but we also compose new songs, remake the old ones. Accordion, guitar, violin, double bass. We only use live instruments. **female neighbour**



BROCHÓW

neighbourhood map

N

MEETING PLACES

- 1 Rada Osiedla
Koreańska 1
- 2 Miejska Biblioteka Publiczna
– Filia nr 47
Polna 4
- 3 Fabryka wdzięczności
Chińska 1A

GASTRONOMY

- A Pizza Farina Brochów
Mościckiego 37
- B Bułka Tarta
Mościckiego 32
- C Chlebownia
Mościckiego 30
- D Ale Kocioł Bistro
Wileńska 24/3
- E Lody naturalne z Krzyckiej
Semaforowa 10-6
- F Klawo kawiarnia
Afgańska 4A
- G Cukiernia Zalewski i Synowie
Centralna 3A
- H Hotel Brochów
Centralna 32
- I Beach Bar Polna
Semaforowa 65

Green areas

100 m