

Moscow Parks: Redefining Soviet-era parks for the 21st century

The post-war housing crisis in Moscow led to rapid densification. Thirteen thousand prefabricated high-rise apartment blocks were constructed, surrounded by public space some of which was formalised as public parkland. Years of under-investment had seen these parks increasingly fail to meet the needs of local communities.

If the parks were to appeal to a new generation, they needed to become welcoming, high-quality spaces. Moscow Parks commissioned LDA Design to lead the restoration of nine parks across the city. The project has set new standards for park design in Russia.

While the parks varied dramatically in scale and context, they shared common challenges. They each needed lively programming to become destinations. Movement needed to be rationalised so that paths were located where people wanted to walk or cycle, and each park needed to be distinctive to engender a sense of community pride.

We proposed the smallest park, Lilac Gardens, be developed as a centre of horticultural training and display. For the largest, Borisovsky Lakes, we concentrated on developing a range of leisure activities that would appeal to modern Muscovites. Sadovniki - The Garden Park - was to celebrate the Russian love of ornamental planting.



Client
Moscow City Government, Department of Culture

Location
Moscow, Russia

Partners
Alphabet City, Moxon Architects,
Michael Grubb Studio, Studio DRA

Services Used
Landscape Architecture

Area
Various: 9-10 ha

1-3 Moscow Olympic Park Photos
© Mikhail Loskutov



1,2 Sadovniki Park
image 2 © Moxon Architects

3 Lilac Gardens