

Landscape Forum 2025 Budapest & Danube Bend: Foodscapes

Imagining a **zero-km** local food system transition for Vác

Group Members :

Arati Uttur

Dr. Erdei Tímea Katalin

Jannatun Nayeem

Tahsin Ahmad



Research Question

How might a future local food system in and around Vác help cultivating community and nature connections?

Local dynamics

Historic vineyards which were then allotment gardens and now turning into residential areas

Former Military Base

Munkácsy park 1

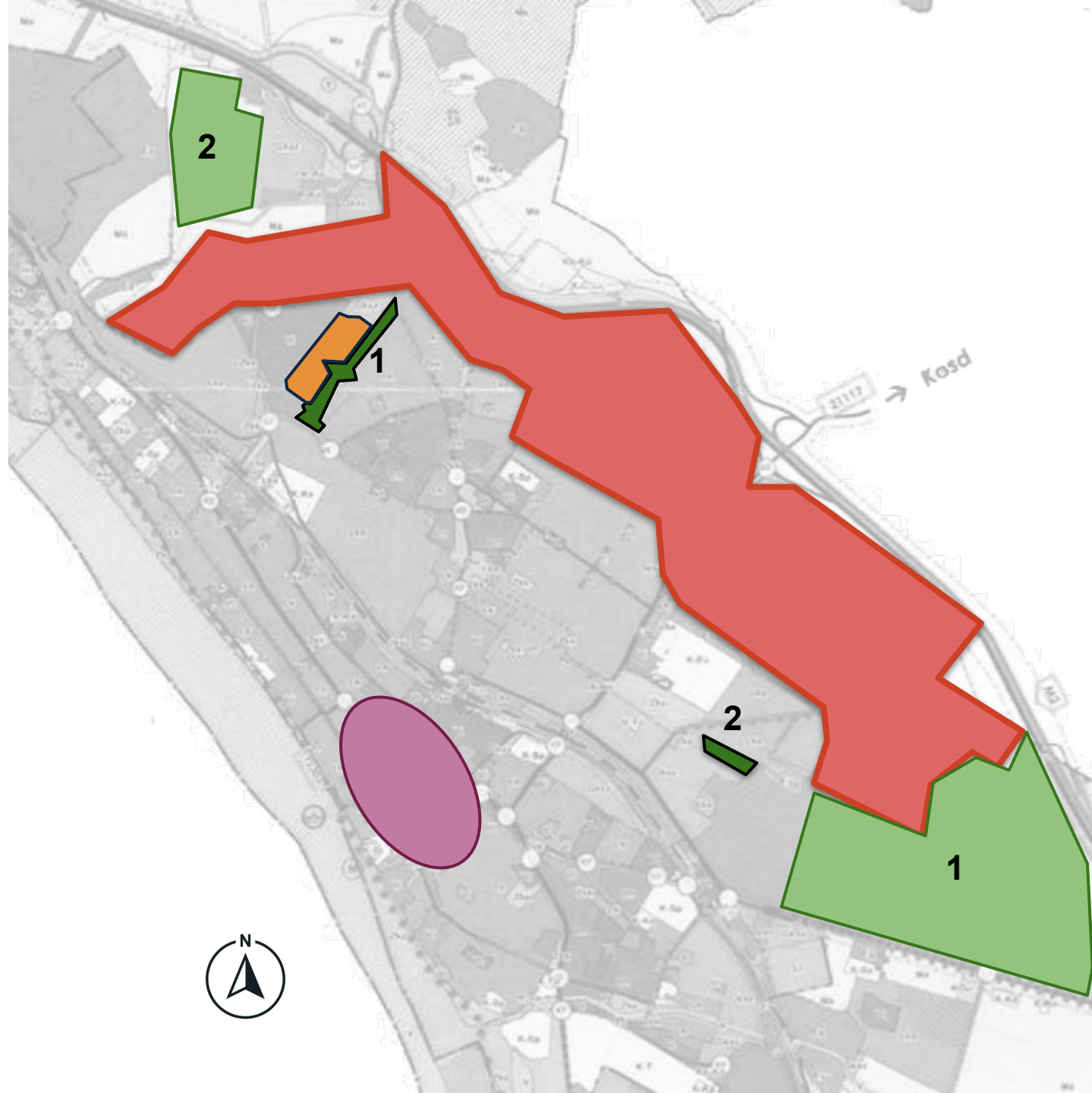
Törökhegy Forest 2

Lingvay Winery 1

Olive orchard 2

Vác Historic City Centre

The rest of Vác



Local dynamics

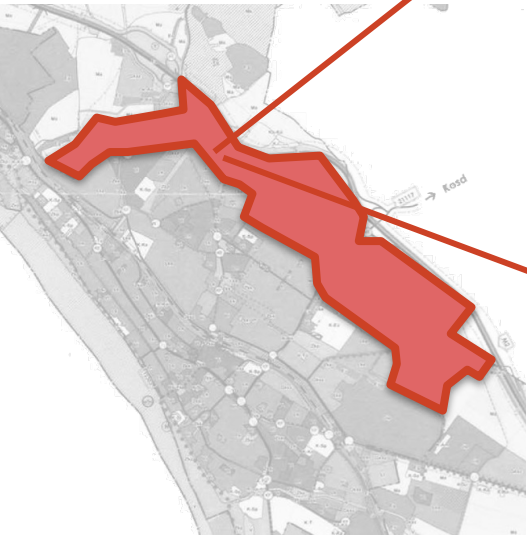


Changing functions:

Landowners have started building on allotment garden areas. Various forms of residential use, like private villas or gated communities have mushroomed over the hillside

Local dynamics

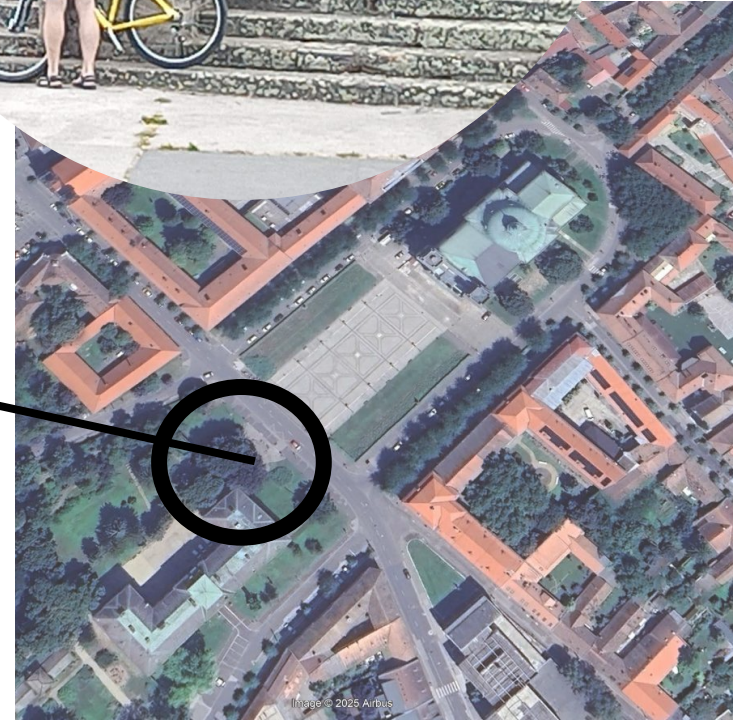
New Development in the areas are now privately owned housing areas. Landowners tend to encroach into public green spaces.



Local dynamics

Historic city center:

Producers from nearby areas **Kosd**, **Nógrád**, **Érsekvadkert**, **Szentendre** come to Vác Cathedral square to sell home produce. Permitted by the previous Priest, this has grown popular among locals. However, this is not an ideal location for the local farmers to sell their wares and they doubt if this will be allowed for a longer period.



Local dynamics

Example of some of the products:
Mostly home grown Vegetables and
fruit are sold here.



Variety of small and medium produce around Vác



Small scale production from home backyards



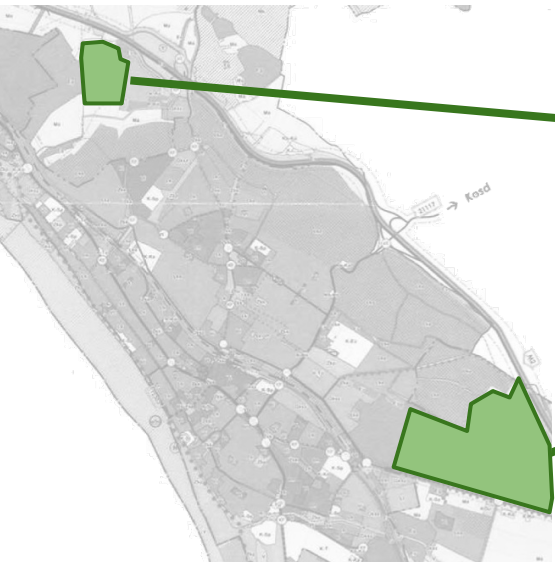
Medium scale producer of dairy products pulled by the popularity of the market space



Medium scale farmers with fruits and vegetables from nearby towns

Local dynamics

Trend setters of
the zero-km
local food
system
transition:
Lingvay
Wineyard



Local dynamics

**Local Wine grower,
Lingvay in Vác sells
his products on his
property and to the
hospitality sector of
Vác and Budapest**



**The property is also a place
for community engagement
several times a month**

Local dynamics

What about the rest of Vác?

A few observations made during the field visit by the Foodscapes team:

- Tendency to encroach public and semi-public areas seems to come from general public ignorance, lack of social responsibility as well as loopholes in norms and regulations
- The waste segregation is very poor. Biodegradable waste goes in the “rest” bin. Some residents who own gardens try to compost home-generated bio-waste, but the majority of all types of waste are not strictly segregated



Local dynamics

What about the rest of Vác?

A few observations made during the field visit by the Foodscapes team:

- There is a lot of potential in public and semi-public open spaces to introduce kitchen gardens as well as community gardens along with other green infrastructure that can enhance community bonds, improve biodiversity while educating people and children about the same, create revenue and improve circular economy, as well as improvement of strong, democratic governance with the attitude of stewardship



Local dynamics

What about the rest of Vác?

A few observations made during the field visit by the Foodscapes team:

- There is a lot of potential for **strengthening existing district-level community bonds as well as economic chains**



The need for a new food system in Vác

Connection with Nature, establishment of a sustainable food system, community bonding and generation enhancement, with quality education and economic stability begins by putting your hands in the earth, in your backyard!

The need for a new food system in Vác

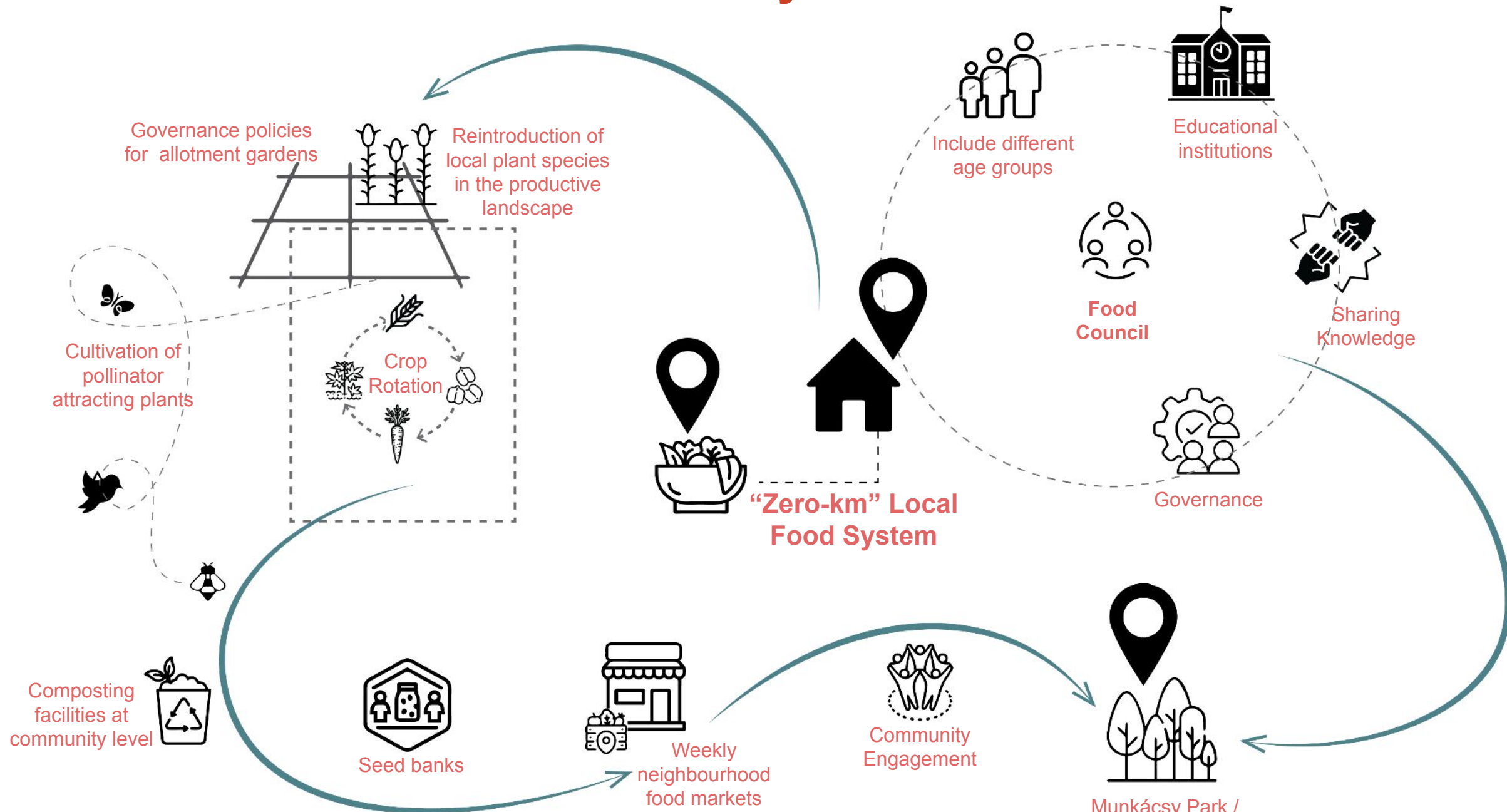
For the future generations to understand sustainability, they need to live sustainability.

Starting from age zero.

The need for a new food system in Vác

A zero-Km food culture means environmental stewardship, social cohesion, better governance, strong socio-economic networks and inculcating a lifelong sustainability-mindset across generations.

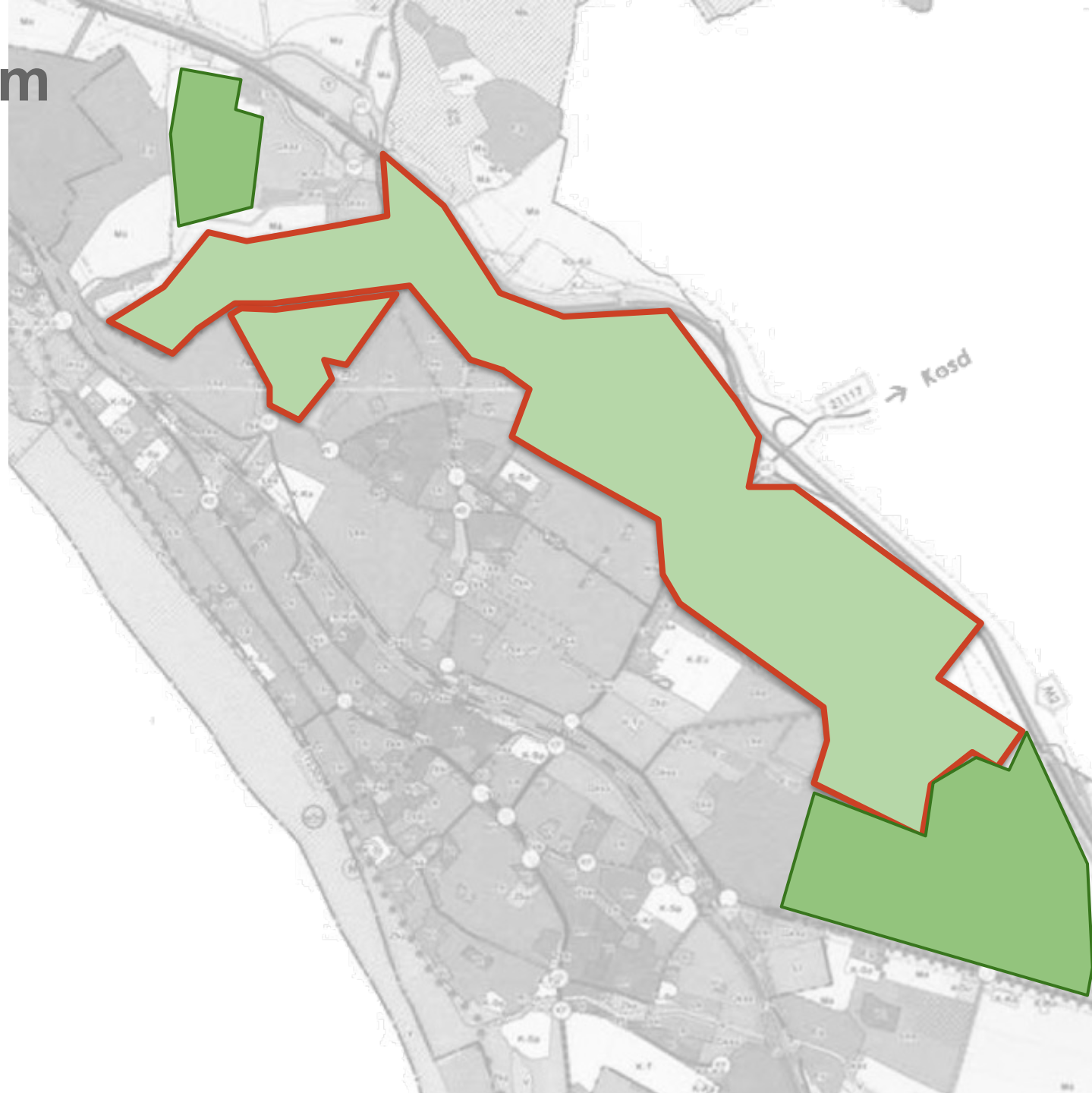
Framework of an effective food system for Vác



A new zero-Km food system

A policy that protects allotment garden land from becoming a jungle of uncontrolled, built-up residential sprawl :

- Restriction of ground-cover and built-area.
- Obligatory maintenance with incentives, of open spaces in the zone as productive land-use as per the permitted list of plants for biodiversity, fruit, herbs and vegetables or crops that support the local heritage.
- Regular interactive events for education and for community bonding in such zones.



A new zero-Km food system

Active promotion of Nature-Bonding activities

- Törökhegy Forest and the Munkácsy Park carry a huge potential for linking nature-based experiences to food and education.
- Weekly markets in or near such spaces highlight the importance of stewardship of Nature and strengthen social bonds. Immediate neighbourhoods as well as “neighbouring locals” could use these hubs as catalysts for various aspects of the food system framework

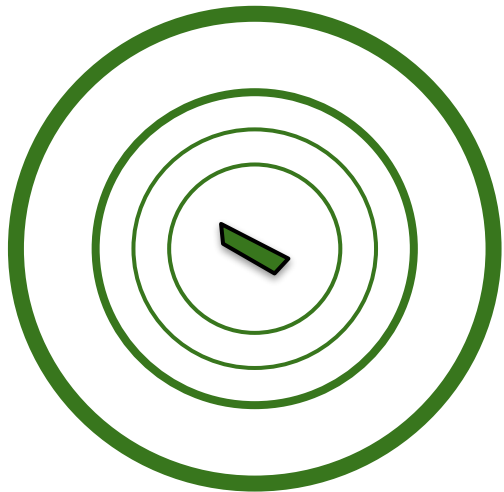


Impression of Munkácsy Park acting as weekly market



Education & Stewardship:

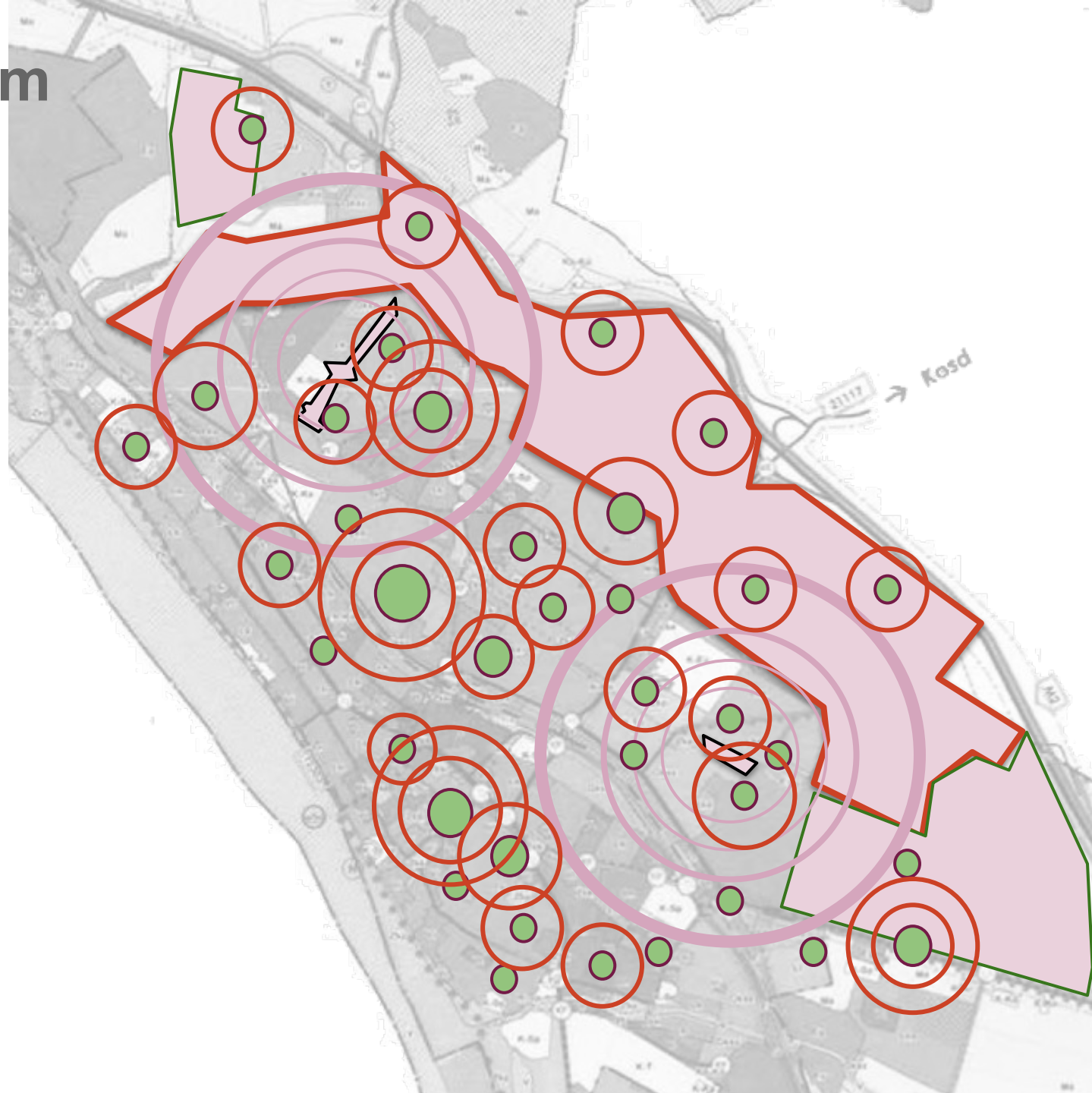
Törökhegy Forest is an important source of education, to understand that food is not only for humans.



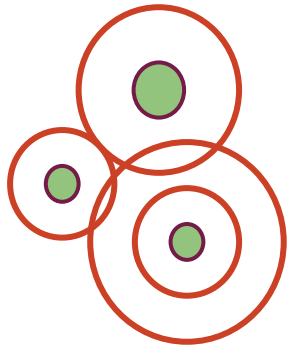
A new zero-Km food system

Activation of other public and semi-public open spaces close to residential and educational areas

- Aim to cut down to distance to locally grown food by activating food-growing to form an acupuncture effect
- Negate the impression that “food comes from far away” and that “somebody” grows food for “us”
- Bring food growing in to the basic educational structure of the land - children of all ages and young adults learn in a food based multi-disciplinary environment where nature based learning forms the core of education.



When food is
something we
grow up around,
and eat right out
of our backyards



Food for thought:

Survey Question : “Which country do you belong to?”
Answer from a 4-year old : “Earth”

(Survey in 2021 for the Masterthesis “#homegrown” A.Uttur)