

Westphalian Ballet Center. For leisure activities, the park features numerous playgrounds, a miniature railway, a football field, the “Solar Sail” by architect Günter Behnisch, and a chairlift that has been operating since 1959 [1].

References:

1. Westfalenpark [Electronic resource] – Regime of access: <https://www.dortmund.de/dortmund-erleben/freizeit-und-kultur/westfalenpark/index-3.html>, free (date of the application: 10.03.2025). – Header from the screen.

THE ROLE OF SPRING EPHEMERALS IN MAINTAINING ECOLOGICAL BALANCE

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In early spring, natural ecosystems witness the emergence of small plants from beneath the snow cover. These plants are characterized by a short but intense flowering period. Their morphology reflects long-term evolutionary adaptations to the harsh conditions of early spring. The growth of these plants begins even before the leaves appear on the trees, allowing them to maximize light usage for photosynthesis. They play a vital role as a food source for insects that feed on nectar and pollen, particularly during a period when there are not many blooming plants.

This early blooming phenomenon is referred to as "spring ephemerals." Spring ephemerals are an ecological group of plants comprising around 500 species. As mentioned earlier, these plants are light-loving, which is why they bloom during the period when trees still lack leaves and there is ample natural light in the forest. Spring ephemerals have a compact rosette form of leaves, which helps retain moisture and reduce evaporation. The flowers of spring ephemerals are typically located on long stalks, ensuring their accessibility to pollinators. The interaction of pollinators with spring ephemerals contributes to the conservation of insect populations, which impacts ecological stability and biodiversity. Additionally, spring ephemerals prevent soil erosion and enrich it with beneficial nutrients. Therefore, in light of preserving biodiversity and maintaining ecological balance, it is crucial to avoid collecting spring ephemerals in the wild.

The use of alternative approaches, such as growing spring ephemerals in garden conditions, allows for the conservation of natural resources and promotes biodiversity conservation. Due to their decorative properties and low maintenance requirements, spring ephemerals have become popular plants in landscape design. Their early blooming, bright colors, and species diversity enable the creation of garden compositions that not only serve aesthetic pleasure but also support ecological sustainability. Thus, the importance of spring ephemerals is not limited

to their ecological function. Their decorative properties and low maintenance requirements have made them widely used in landscape design.

Spring ephemerals are characterized by high frost resistance, allowing them to be planted in alpine gardens and used in natural-style gardens, such as "Wild Gardens." Examples of spring ephemerals include the Common "Primrose Folium Primulae veris" and the Large-flowered Primrose "Primula macrocula Bunge", which exist in the wild. These ephemerals are best planted in the front of mixed borders. Their flowering period occurs in April-May, making them suitable for covering the stems of tulips with their blooms. It is also worth mentioning the Woodland Tulip "Tulipa sylvestris", which fits well into the main idea of a rock garden or overall garden design. In the wild, this plant grows in oak forests, shrubs, limestone, and chalk outcrops, as well as on sands in the southern forest steppe. This plant is well-adapted to harsh climatic conditions, making it an excellent choice for use in gardens of various styles and regions.

To sum up, the combination of aesthetic beauty and ecological benefits of spring ephemerals makes them an integral part of any garden. The older the garden, the more harmonious and beautiful it becomes, transforming into a source of tranquility and inspiration.

THE ORGANIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN THE CONTEXT OF PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS

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The organization of environmental policy within the activities of public associations is an important aspect of societal development that is becoming increasingly relevant. Public associations play a key role in shaping environmental awareness, implementing environmental protection initiatives, and introducing sustainable ecological practices. They not only respond to environmental challenges but also actively contribute to their prevention by utilizing their own resources and engaging international partners and state institutions.

One of the most vivid examples of public engagement in environmental policy is the work of volunteer organizations that implement comprehensive approaches to minimizing the negative impact of human activities on the environment. They conduct awareness campaigns among the population, educate young people about environmentally responsible behavior, and cultivate a culture of resource conservation. An important aspect of such associations' activities is their interaction with local authorities, which allows them to influence environmental policies at the regional level and introduce tangible societal changes.

Within the structure of public associations engaged in environmental policy, specialized divisions play a crucial role. These divisions are responsible for