

# Grójec Free School

Wolna Szkoła Grójec

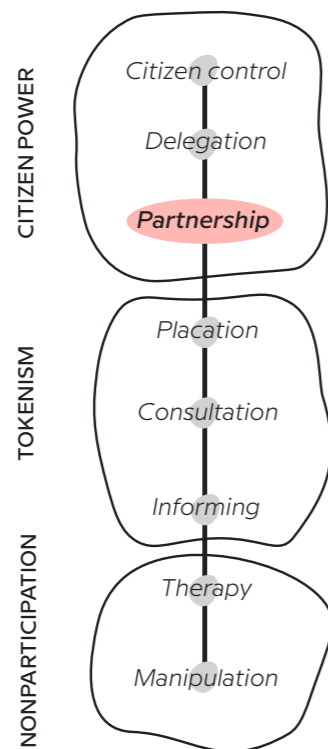
LOCATION  
**Grójec, Poland**

TIME PERIOD  
**Since 2013**



## THE PROJECT

A group of people who cared about their nearest environment and ecological education established a private school called Grójec Free School. The initiative was launched by Fundacja Tropy Przyrody (Nature Trail Foundation), which organized Earth Day events in Grójec since 2013. The project tackled several challenges: introducing alternative education methods, supporting the development of local communities, creating forms of recreation, and running an educational workshop centre for the community.



foundation, who owned a plot of land in Nowe Grobice. She invested her time and finances to develop the space for users and make it more friendly and available.

## RESULT

Earth Day, a bottom-up initiative of local activists, turned out to be a success. It had an interesting family-oriented programme and it was the first event of this kind to place a strong emphasis on environmental issues. The local community became more environmentally aware. The next step was to create the Grójec Free School as an alternative to the traditional school system. The children at the school learn how to take care of the environment and build their social competences; how to develop their interests and enhance their self-esteem. They learn through experience – they spend a lot of time outdoors rather than sitting in classrooms like in a traditional school. The forest surroundings of the town are great for organising a variety of outdoor activities, camps, workshops, expeditions, and field games. They are attended by both the town inhabitants and visitors.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SPACE

Grójec is a remote place which suffers from geographical barriers and poor transportation links. Despite its location near the capital of Poland, there are still areas that require improvement. Moreover, the number of services offered in the city does not meet the expectations of the inhabitants and it does not allow them to be fully independent. Grójec has a few public spaces, but they are not all well-equipped. The local population also pointed out the shortage of places where people could spend their free time and relax with friends.

support the development of the local community through joint development activities, culture and environmental protection, as well as promoting a lifestyle that respects the environment.

## ROLE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY & METHODS USED

Earth Day was a cyclical event which included concerts, theatre performances, fairs, and workshops on environmental issues. It was the first initiative of this kind in Grójec, where the residents could be involved in educational stalls and learn about the local issues. Thanks to this experience, Fundacja Tropy Przyrody established the Grójec Free School for children, which offers alternative learning methods. Besides, it continues organizing workshops for the local community. The project was initiated by Anna Makowska, the founder of the

## INITIATION AND ACTORS

The project was created and coordinated by Fundacja Tropy Przyrody (Nature Trail Foundation). This organization wanted to



The Earth Day in Grójec ©Tropy Przyrody



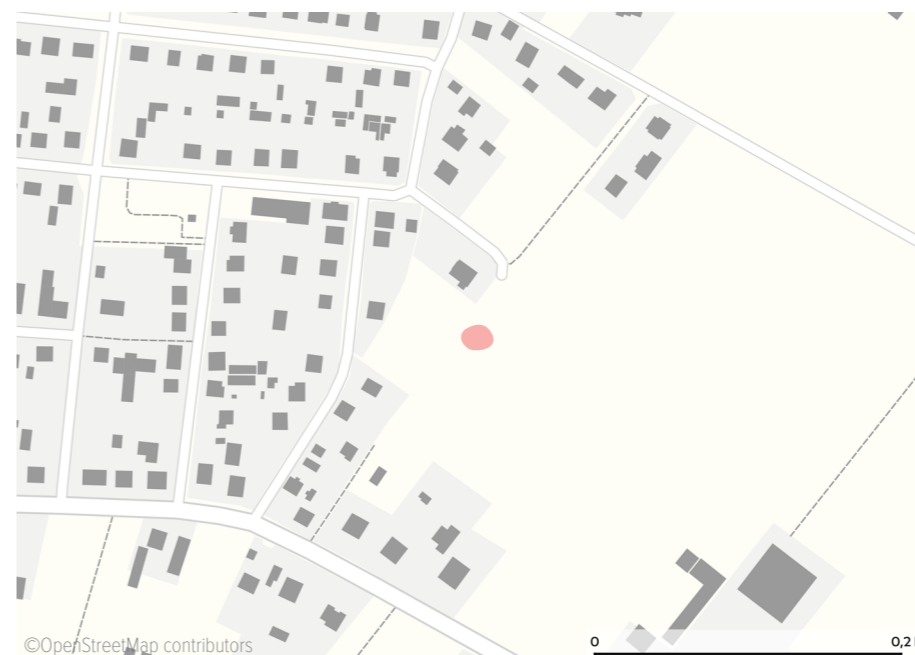
Grójec Free School - cleaning the forest ©Tropy Przyrody



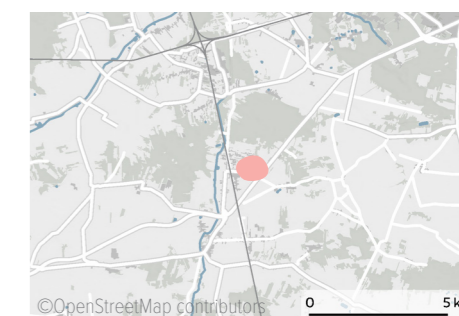
Grójec Free School - Summer Camp ©Agnieszka Mocarska



Grójec Free School - outdoor learning ©Tropy Przyrody



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Grójec, Mazovia, Poland

more about this project

