

WORLD CANALS
CONFERENCE
2022
LEIPZIG



Stadt Leipzig

Presentation of the city of Leipzig as host of the WCC 2022

Date: 31.05.2022

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City of Leipzig
Deputy mayor for Environment, Climate,
Public Order and Sports

The answer is Leipzig – The perfect destination

- [Leipzig passt \(fast\) immer | Imagefilm Leipzig](#)

Leipzig – an exciting, fun-loving city – host 2022 WCC

- Inhabitants: ~ 615 342 (31.03.2022)
- Area: 297,8 km²
- More than 20 million inhabitants within a radius of 200 km from Leipzig
- Excellent connections by train, car, airplane and IT infrastructure
- Important companies: BMW, Porsche, DHL, VNG, Leipziger Messe
- Cultural, creative and scientific centre of Central Germany

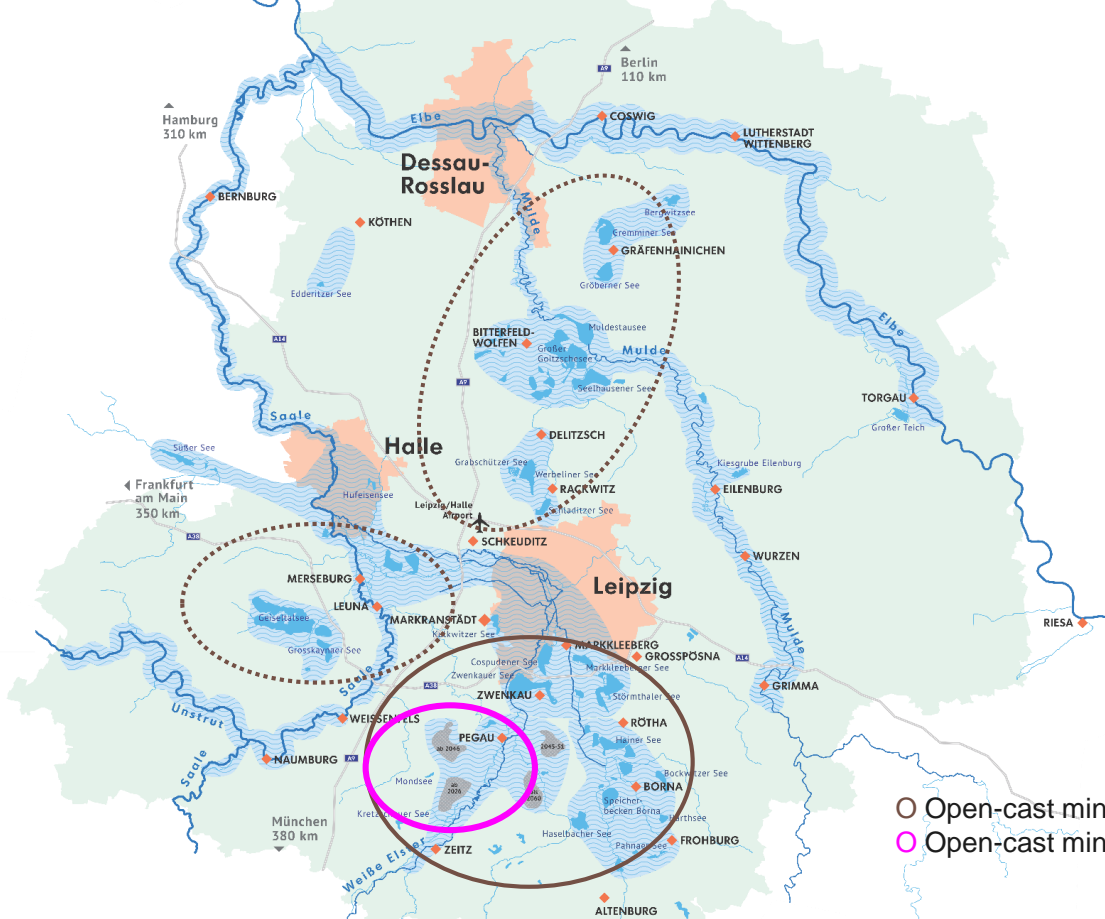


The Unique Selling Proposition of the Leipzig Region

... is the connection of the culture, music, sport and conventions city with the water bodies, which are a constant element in urban space (city/industry/architecture) and lead from a europe-wide unique alluvial forest to the post-mine landscape. This combination of the city/alluvial forest/post-mine landscape is unique in Germany. This diversity can be experienced within 4 hours by boat (motorboat).



Lignite mining landscape – Facts



South of Leipzig - until 1990

- 8 active mining sites
- 3 billion tons lignite were extracted
- 250 km² of land were dug up
- rivers were relocated and tubed (also in the city of Leipzig), floodplain forest was negatively affected

○ Open-cast mining areas before 1990
○ Open-cast mining areas today

Lignite mining landscape – Industry & hidden waterways



- Lignite mining: 1989 106 Mio. t – 2015 19 Mio.
- Employees: 1989 60.000 – 2015 2.800



Canal: Regionaler Planungsverband
West Sachsen

Lignite mining landscape – Lost places and sites



Until 1990 70 villages and towns in the south of Leipzig were devastated and 24.000 people resettled



Political Change in the GDR – Peaceful Revolution 1989



Source: Deutsches Fotomuseum

Source: A. Archiv

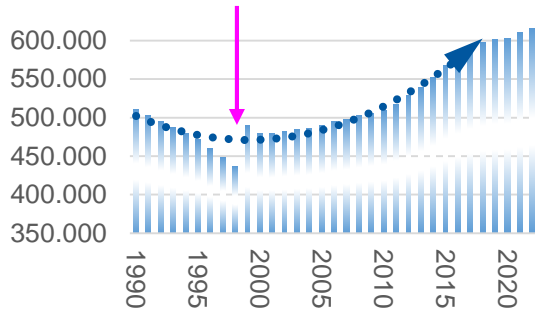
Network of historical and new waterways and lakes



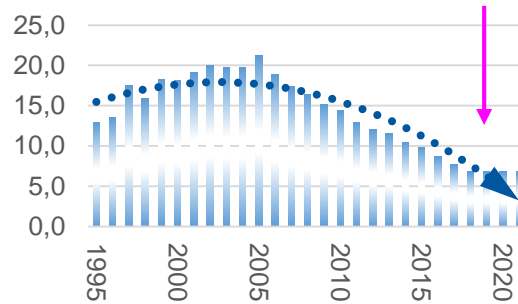
- Flooding of the open-cast mine pits starting after 1990
- Physical network → touristical water network
- „Icing on the cake“: using the new waterway network for eco-friendly water-based tourism

Facts after the political change

population trend of Leipzig
1990 - 2022



unemployment rate in %
1995 - 2022



Facts about the new water network



■ Mining history:

- 1989: 22 active open-cast mines in Central Germany
- 2019: 3 active open-cast mining areas (Schleenhain, Profen, Amdorf)

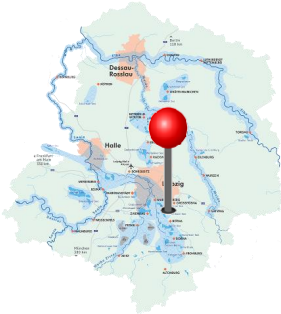
■ Water landscape

- approx. 261,9 km² lakeside landscape will develop in Central Germany until 2050 (currently approx. 221,4 km²)
- 197,1 km² as lakes in former open-cast mine pits
- distributed among a total of approx. 100 lakes
- 518 km of waterways potentially used for water-based tourism in Central Germany

Structural transformation



Devastated landscape during flooding



Harbour development after recultivation



Devastated landscape during active mining



Before & After filling up the pits



Connections between the new lakes



Water bodies connection Seelhausener Lake – Großer Goitzsche Lake, 2011
Source: LMBV mbH



Challenges:

- overcoming of different water levels
- restructuring of crossing waterways
- reorganisation of roads and paths

Effects of transformation

- After the structural break in 1990: Improvement of extremely poor environmental conditions by closing down of most of the lignite mines and the brown coal refining industry
- Opportunity to redesign a large region - largest "landscape construction site" worldwide; GREEN GROWTH
- Cooperation between different actors in the region; "Wrestling" to find the best solution for the new landscape → great variety of ideas → great design variety → huge network
- Settlement of modern technology for the use of the still mined coal (power plant Lippendorf)
- Multifunctional use of open-cast mining lakes (e. g. in case of high and low water)
- Restoration of the water tourism in the region after 100 years break



Störmthaler Canal between Markkleeberger and Störmthaler See and lock Kanupark (2014) in operation

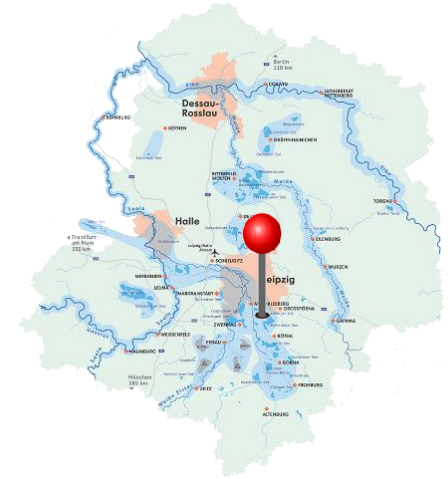


Source: LMBV

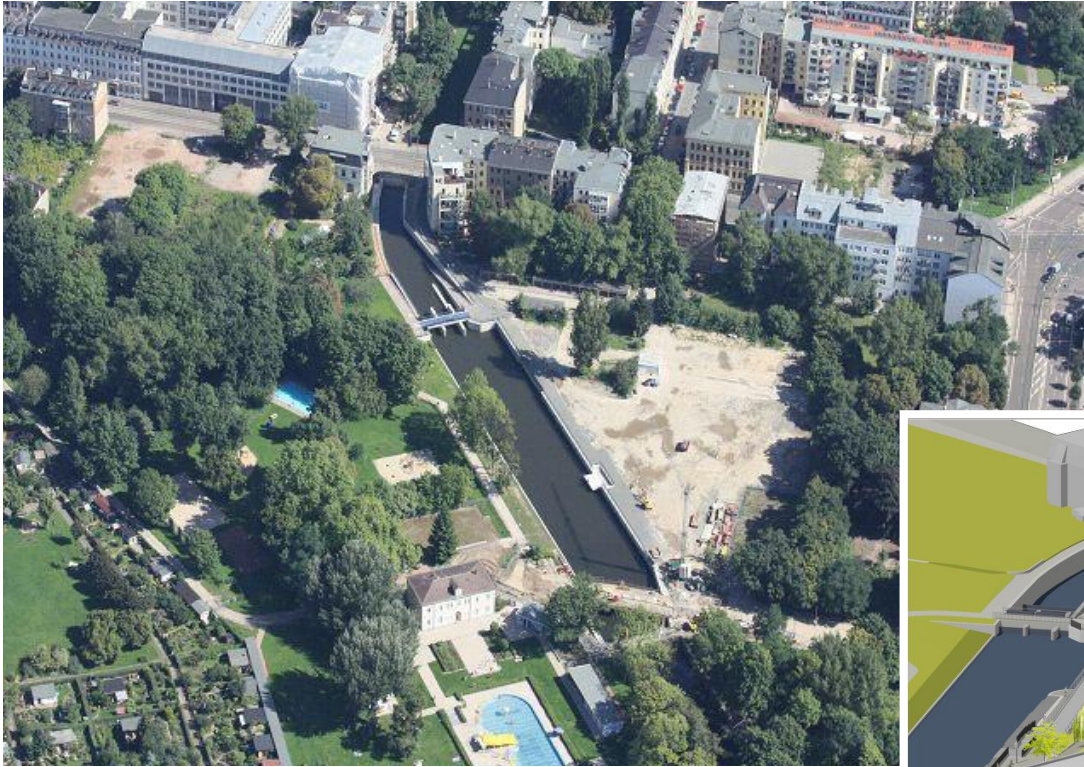
Transition and water tourism and sport Sports Area for Competitions and Leisure



Kanupark Markleeberg
Source: LTM



City Harbour Leipzig – development of urban quarter



City harbour Leipzig – Visualization of the execution plan 2021



Effects of water tourism

- Return to the water tourism in Leipzig in the 19th century = "change backwards"
- after the structural break in 1990: helping to stop emigration by creating new jobs
- Basis for start-ups and innovative business ideas related to water
- Creating a new destination in Germany with a nautical network of rivers and lakes = the connection to the inner-German water network is still pending
- Discover the alternative "face" of the city from the water
- New field of networking of the actors in Central Germany on issues of the green-blue infrastructure → valuable experience for use in the Leipzig New Lakeland



Historic water town in the 19th century



Investments/Living next to the water



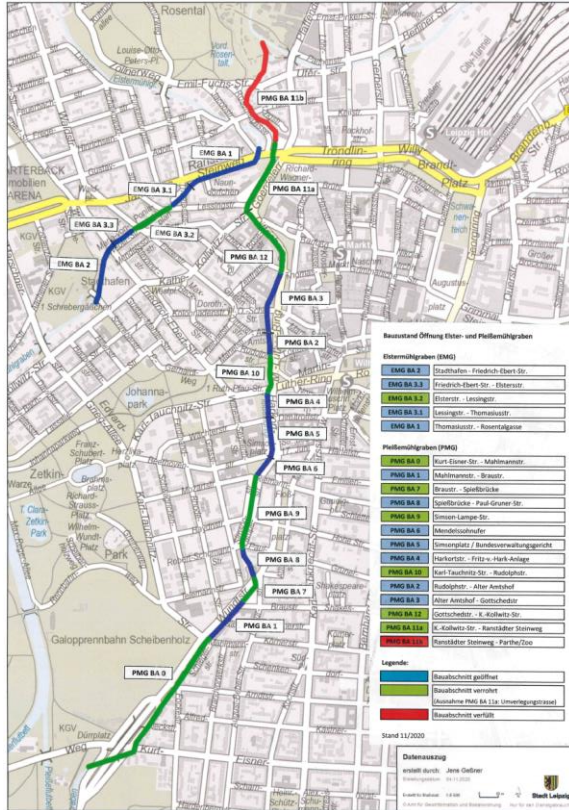
The Importance of waterways for urban development – Living in former industrial wasteland



The Importance of waterways for urban development – Living in former industrial wasteland



The Importance of waterways for urban development – reopening of the mill races



Pleißemühlgraben today – artificial waterbody looks natural



Reopening Pleißemühlgraben near town hall

- The Pleißemühlgraben was vaulted in 1951 due to its poor water quality.



... and a look in the 19th century ...



... and today ...



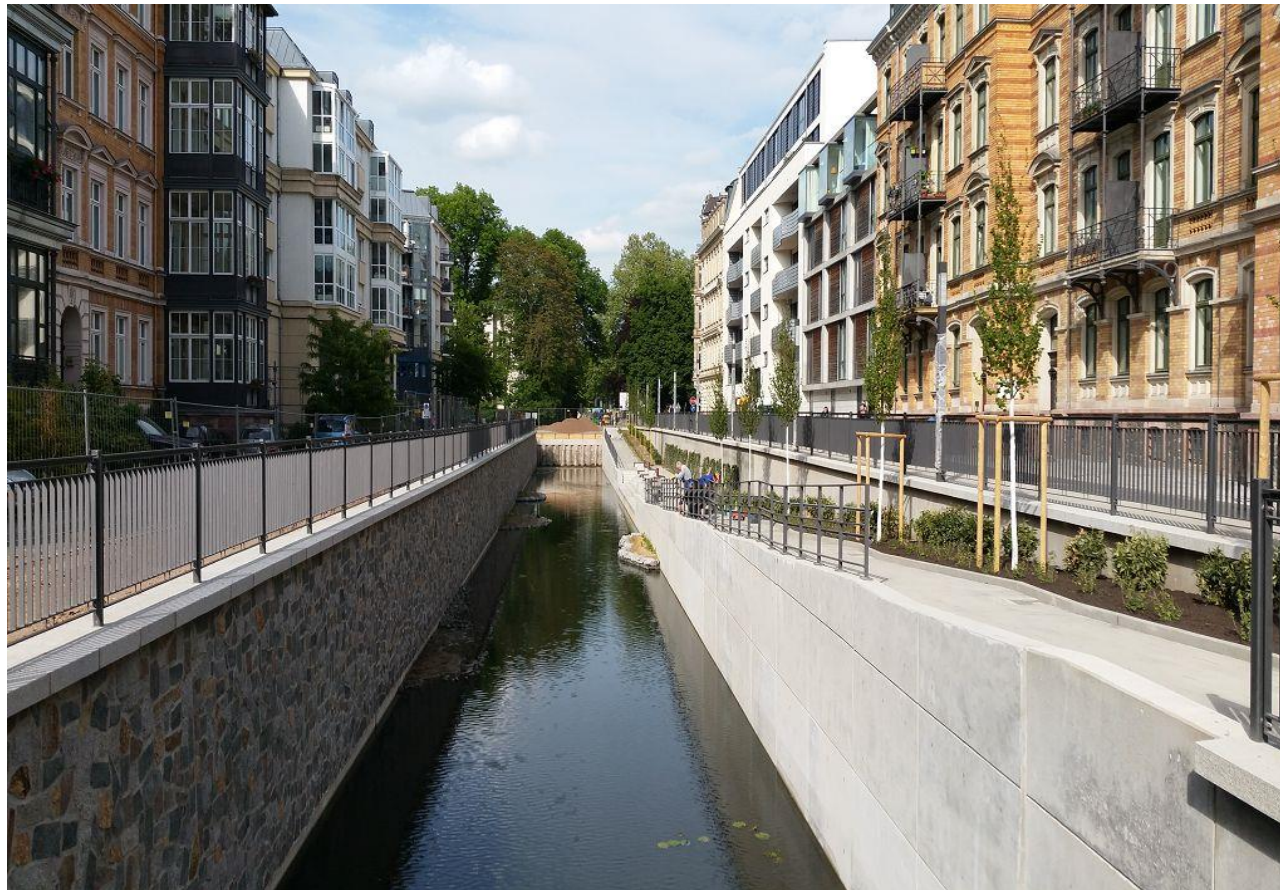
Impressions of the Elstermühlgraben



Elster innercity waterway before the reopening



Elster innercity waterway after the reopening



A Small neighborhood square at the Elstermühlgraben for the citizens

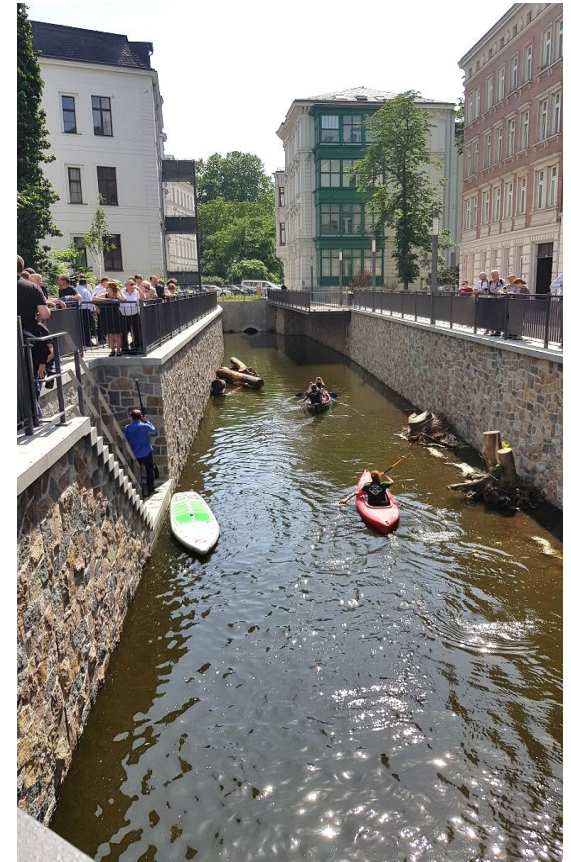


Confluence of Elster- and Pleißemill race (2007)



Effects of water in the city

- Restoration of historically valuable cityscape by reopening innercity waterways
- urban climatic effects in the district due to urban watercourses (climate aspect)
- Increasing the quality of life in the city - using the green-blue axes for leisure, sport, recreation
- Impact on the health of people through places for mental relaxation and exercise
- clearly measurable increase in the value of real estate along the water courses after their revitalization
- Basis for private investments on the water



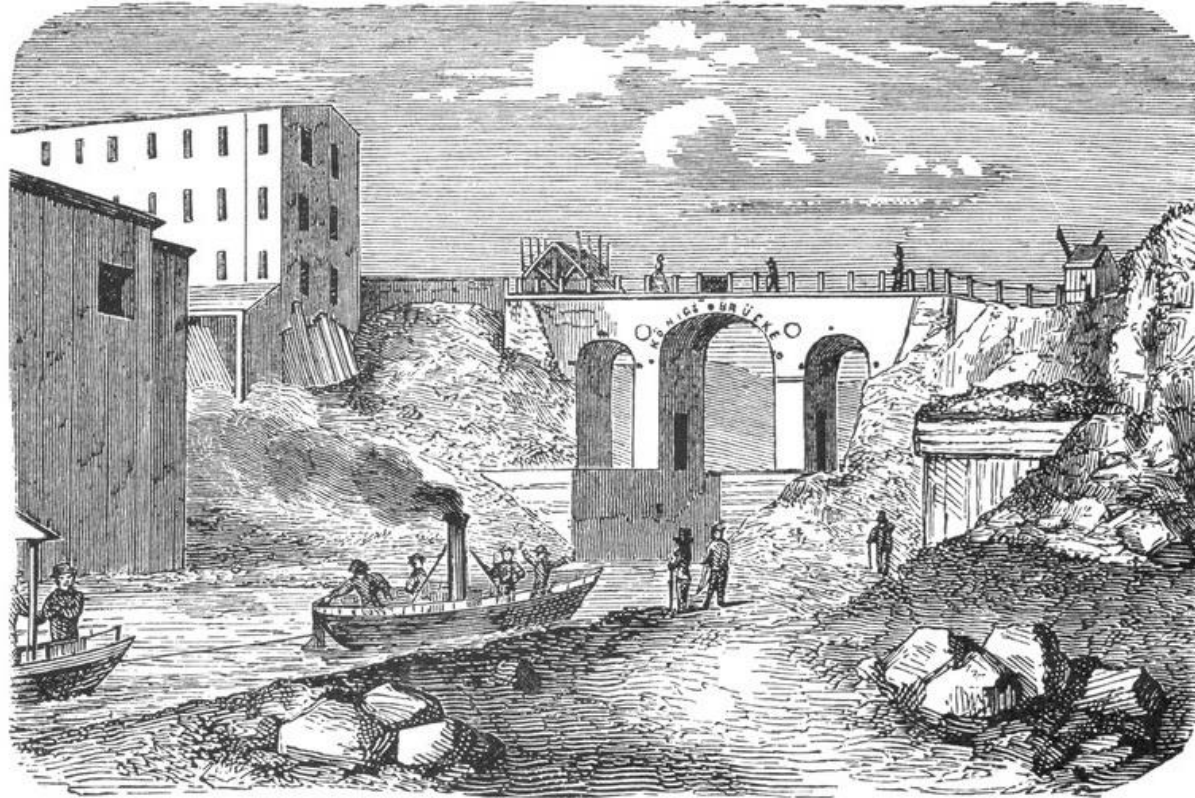
Connection to the sea



Vision:

„From the Elster till the Alster“
(Karl Heine 1850)

Review to the construction of the Karl-Heine Canal in the 19th century



Die König-Johann-Brücke in der 3schocherschen Straße

Connection to the sea – Karl-Heine Canal (1856 - 1893)



Connection to the sea – Luisenbrücke (2014)



Source: Falk2, Wikimedia Commons

- Built in 1898
- Never seen water until 2015

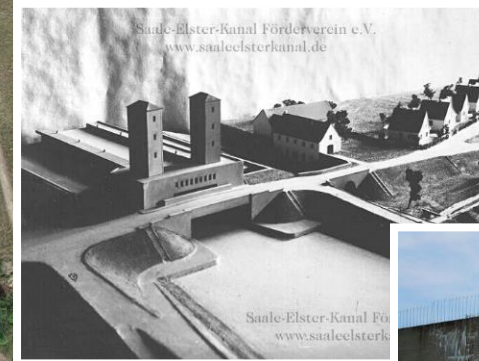
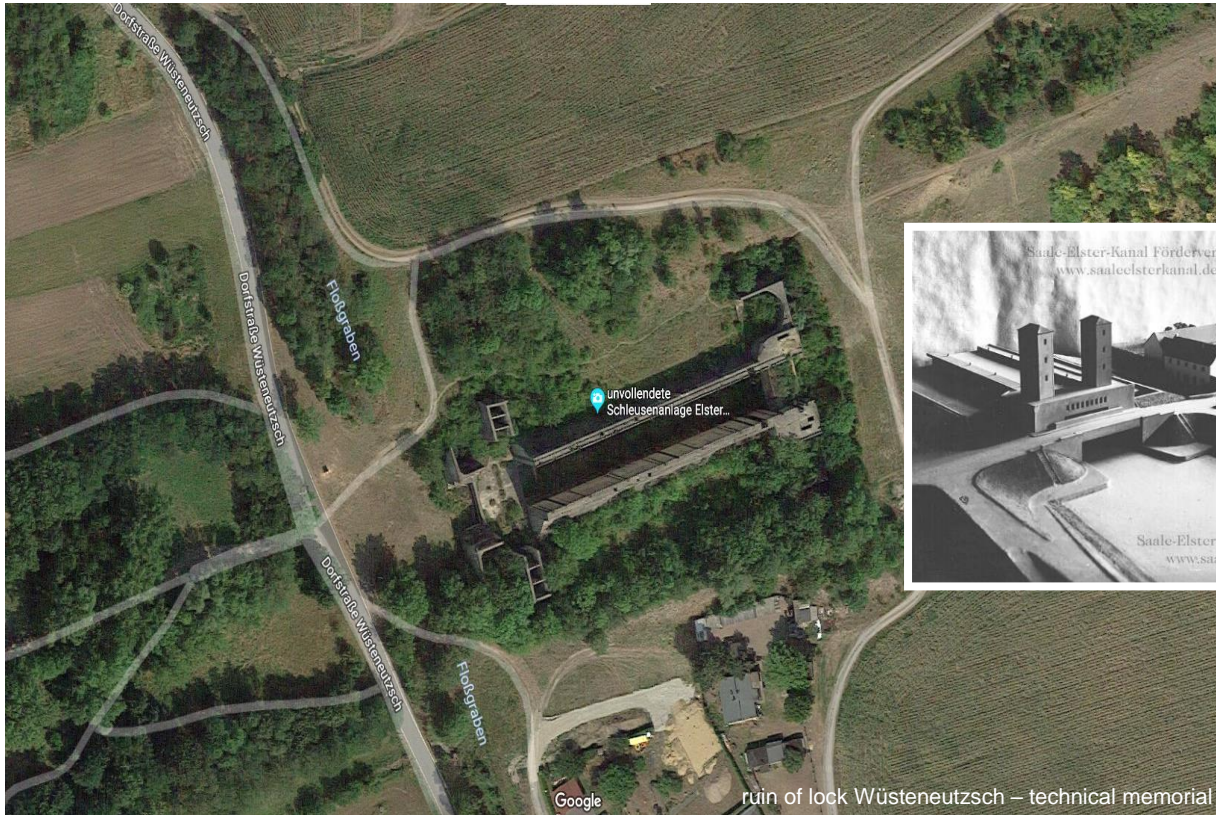
Connection to the sea – Luisenbrücke (2015)



Connection to the sea - the unfinished Saale-Leipzig Canal



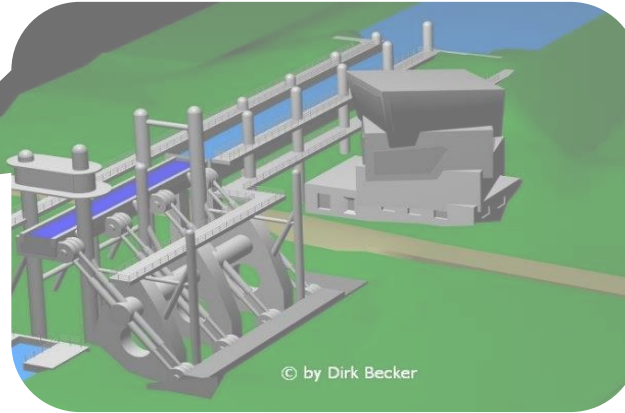
Connection to the sea - replacement of the lock ruin Wüsteneutzsch



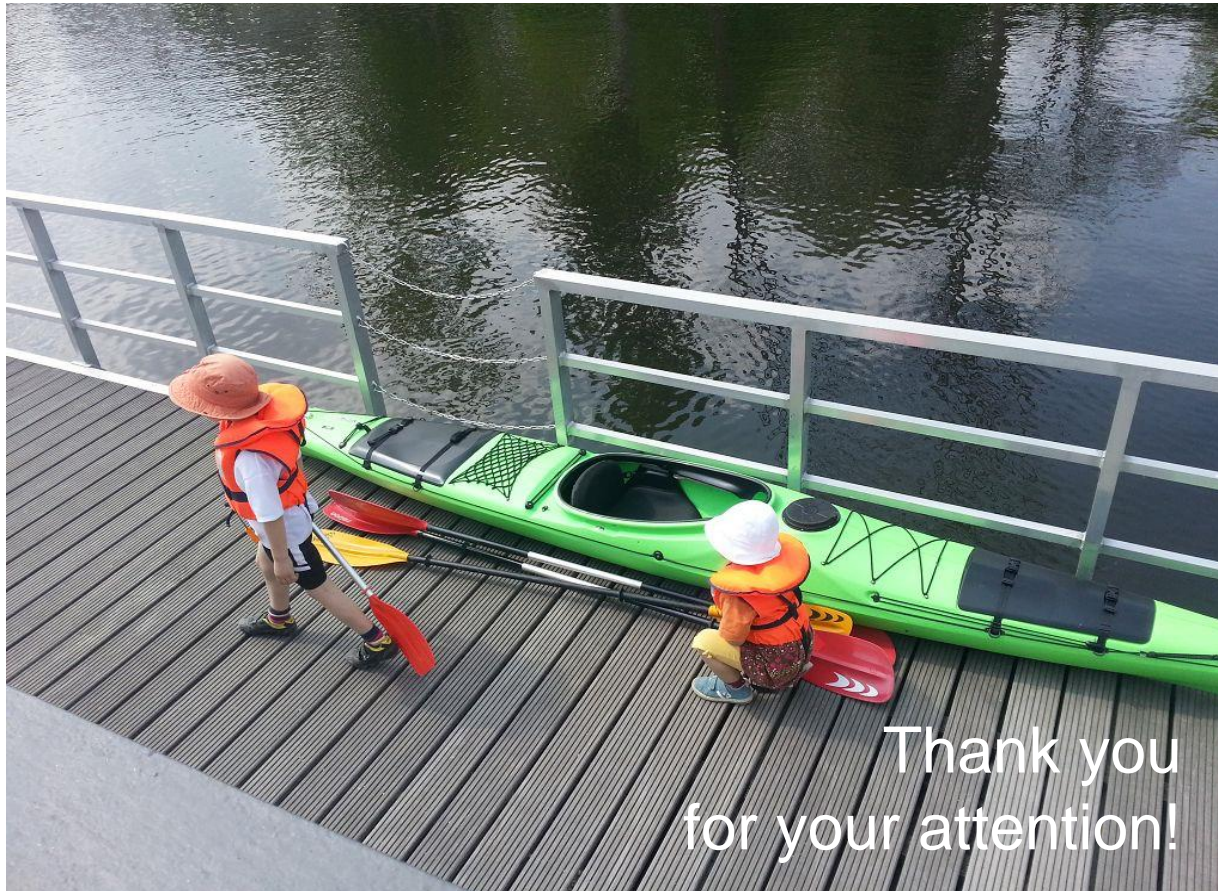
Connection to the sea - vision boat lift



to bridge the height difference of 22 meters
between Saale und Saale-Elster Canal



We prepare the landscape for the next generation





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