The author asks herself how the existing open spaces in the Jizni Mesto district can be made more attractive, more functional and also more ecologically effective. She focuses on the aspect of management and maintenance of green spaces - a topic that is of particular relevance in this district with its wide open areas and should have the effect of financial savings in addition to upgrading.

In the analysis, the author takes a very comprehensive and in-depth look at the history and current situation of the district and also takes a look at future planning projects. This is the basis for the overall strategic concept, which is first developed for the entire area and defines planning principles. Current, internationally used standards of open space planning are taken into account and applied to the specific location. For example, the concept shows how the elements of a green-blue infrastructure develop from the surrounding landscape into the area, thereby also contributing to an improvement of the spatial structure. The diagrams developed for this, as well as for other topics, are presented in a way that is easy to understand, but unfortunately this is not well visible in the strategic site plan. Here, as well as overall, it becomes clear that although the author has developed extensive and innovative content, it is not always easy to find in this complex project. Individual aspects are elaborated in very comprehensible hand sketches and diagrams, but there is a lack of adequate presentation of an integrated strategy.

In terms of content, the proposals suggesting changes in land management are very good and up-to-date. It is shown which design images will be produced as a “target state” in a changed maintenance of green spaces, drawing on international experience and innovative concepts. Particularly interesting are the proposals to partially unseal paved areas, thus creating a kind of ruderal vegetation (similar to brownfields) and increasing biodiversity in the entire area.

The author’s idea of introducing land categories in the management is very helpful. In this way, a large part of the area can be extensified, which makes sense both economically and ecologically. Another part, on the other hand, can be maintained intensively if it is used intensively. With this strategy, the open spaces will develop differently in terms of design and atmosphere, which will contribute to the attractiveness and diversity of the area.

The author correctly assumes that the proposed changes can only be implemented gradually. To this end, she develops a concept of staging, which shows a logical sequence of steps. This is especially helpful for the responsible city administration to implement the concept in the long term, e.g. also to conclude new contracts with companies that are charged with the maintenance of the areas. It would be helpful for understanding this aspect if there were more explanatory drawings or diagrams.

With this project, the author makes a number of good suggestions for a very current problem that is comparable in many municipalities. It also deserves credit for focusing on the very diverse Jizni Mesto district and developing a useful planning tool. However, it does not fully succeed in translating the complexity of the task into an appropriate methodology and in conveying the elaborated contents in a well-structured way. This is particularly evident in the structure of the work as well as in the site plans. The many explanatory sketches and diagrams, on the other hand, are presented very concisely and explain individual aspects well.

Mark: C

Questions:
1. Describe the main differences between management and maintenance in the current state and your design
2. How will the new strategy of maintenance infect the aesthetic quality of open spaces?