

Contents

Preface by Michal Šarafín	5
Preface by Richard Stiles.	7
Introduction.	9
State of the art	11
Definition, significance and benefits of green infrastructure	11
Green infrastructure in rural cultural landscapes	14
Greenways and green infrastructure	17
The European Landscape Convention and green infrastructure.	19
The EU Strategy on Green Infrastructure	21
Natura 2000 and green infrastructure	24
The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and green infrastructure	25
The Slovak landscape policy and green infrastructure.	26
Aim, goals, objectives	31
Materials and methods.	33
Natural characteristics of the Nitra Region	33
Cultural characteristics of the Nitra Region	37
Case study areas as research samples	41
Maps and planning documents used for analyses	42
Research methodology	43
Results and discussion	45
Structural changes in the rural landscape and its green infrastructure since the 18th century	45
Green Infrastructure in the countryside: Results of a SWOT analysis	51
Green infrastructure in open rural landscapes	56
Visual and spatial impact of green infrastructure on perceived open landscapes	59
Green infrastructure in rural settlements	61
Green infrastructure typology of rural settlements in the Nitra Region	62
Green infrastructure as a rural development strategy of the Nitra Region	84
The role of education and awareness raising for green infrastructure implementation and development in the Nitra Region.	84
Outlooks.	85
Discussion	85
Conclusions	89
References.	91
Figures	99