

## **Abstract**

The main topic of this diploma thesis is the historical-sociological analysis of spa forests in the surroundings of Carlsbad. More and more people exploit the nature, especially near human settlements. Therefore, there is a question if suburban, or in our case spa forests, wouldn't have according to the law other rights and obligations than other types of forests. The subject of the research is the analysis of the development of Carlsbad spa forests (Lázeňské lesy Karlovy Vary) during their historical development and related social development, which was reflected on the form of the spa forests. The main research initiative is human access to forests in terms of sustainable forestry and ecological balance depending on the natural and social contexts of the area around the city of Carlsbad. The diploma thesis is divided into two main parts – theoretical and empirical. In the theoretical part, through a careful analysis of the literature and research of sources, there is a historical development of forests with respect to the spa area of the city of Carlsbad. Furthermore, the geomorphological and social description of the researched area with legal, ecological and forestry theory is described as well. The empirical part of the work is focuses on quality research, which was conducted on the basis of semi-structured interviews with spa forest workers and vacationers. The method of grounded theory was used for data analysis. The course of research is analyzed in the discussion and the results of research questions are evaluated. The result of the work is a description and answering the questions of what makes spa forests different, what are the other special categories that differ from different state types of forest. Already during the last century in the forests around Carlsbad were focused mainly on non-production functions and the team in the emerging environment a specific environment for recreational, aesthetic and health-hygiene functions. The principle of sustainable forestry is a basic priority of spa forests. The main goal of forests is to support and preserve the non-productive ecological functions of the forest from a long-term perspective, so that the social demand for rest and relaxation is fulfilled.

## **Key words**

spa forest, history of forests, ecosystem goods and services, forestry services, non-productive functions of forests, Carlsbad