

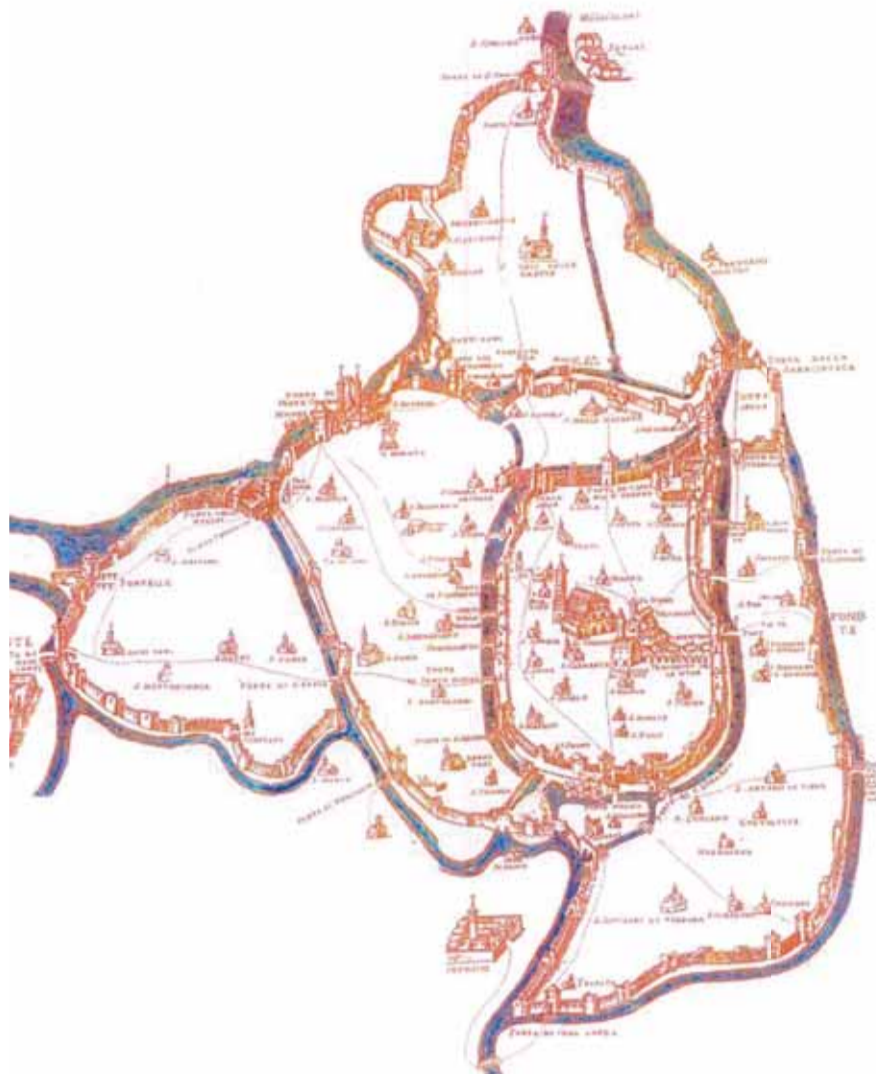
PADOVA

It is estimated that the city was founded circa 1200 BC in a bend of the Brenta River. Padova grew to become one of the most important cities in Northern Italy, developing a vibrant cultural, artistic, agricultural and industrial history.

The University of Padova was founded in 1222.

CITY WALLS

Built in the 13th and 14th centuries as a measure of security, the city walls remain a recognizable linear landmark within Padova today.



ancient city walls 1623



CITY WALLS TODAY

CANALS & RIVERS

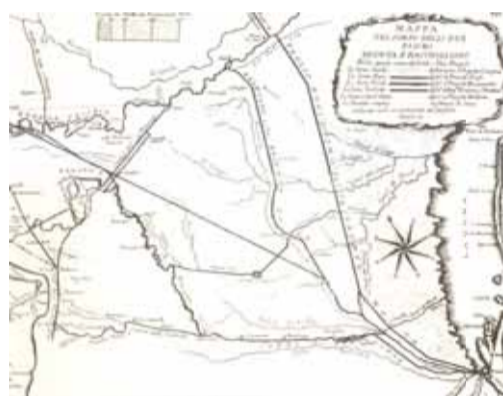
Beginning in the 12th and 13th centuries, numerous hydraulic works were implemented. The historic canal system conveyed both clean water and wastewater through the city and outlying agricultural areas, while simultaneously protecting the city from floods and improving navigation.

The combination of increased population density and intensity of land uses in Padova (and in other towns that share its waterways) has put enormous pressure on the canal system to deal with recurrent flooding in the region. The fact that much of the development of the last century has occurred at low elevations has exacerbated the situation.

In addition, as discussed in "RICERCHE PRELIMINARI," water quality has been greatly compromised in the region. Nonetheless, water remains an indisputable signifier in the Padova landscape.



canal map 1599



regional hydrologic map 1786



canals today



towns connected by water



canal construction



historic usage of the canal



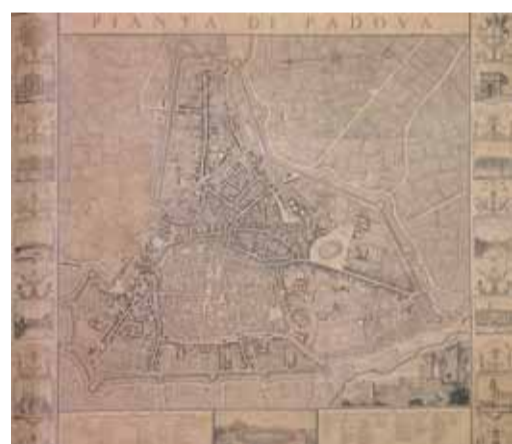
canal in use today

AGRICULTURE

Padova's proximity to the Brenta River and Roncajette Canal, as well as its extensive system of irrigation canals, has contributed to agriculture's importance in the history of the city.

Agriculture will continue to be influenced by changes in European Union subsidy policies and other economic and social changes. Its future as a major component of the Padovan landscape cannot be assumed.

In 1985 the first national law concerning agrotourism in Italy was implemented. Its success has led to further policies promoting agrotourism as a way to revitalize rural areas and diversify tourism through agriculturally-related recreational and educational opportunities.



padova 1784



historic mills of the Roncajette river



character of agriculture today



character of agriculture today

PARKS & GARDENS

Padova is home to several historic parks and gardens, many of which are hundreds of years old, yet still function as important civic and recreational spaces today. The western world's oldest botanical garden was established in central Padova in 1545. The Orto Botanico hosts a vast collection of trees and plants from around the world.



giardini dell'arena early 1900s



giardini dell'arena 2005



prato della valle 1740



prato della valle 2005

INDUSTRY & ZIP

With the dawn of rail transportation in Italy in the late 1800s, new opportunities for both commerce and travel became available. Over the next one hundred years, the city grew in both population and extent, ultimately spreading well beyond the original city walls.

Industrial activities began to expand in the area in the 1950s. The Zona Industriale di Padova (ZIP) was formed in 1956. Today the Municipality of Padova, the Province, and the Chamber of Commerce all have shares in the ZIP consortium, which is a government office.

It is estimated that 25,000 people are employed by commercial and industrial businesses within ZIP.



1960



2005



pre-construction



ZIP TODAY