In modern landscape research, a special place is occupied by the study of spatial organization of landscapes and creating, on their basis, medium- and large-scale landscape maps. Such studies are fundamental in nature, and help give a comprehensive description of the territory and understand the problems that are caused by human activities and their impact on the landscape. Small-scale’s landscape division studies in the Dnipropetrovsk region have been conducted over 60 years. However, the study of larger-scale’s landscape mapping is not yet complete and therefore needs the attention of landscape scholars and scientists. That is why the problem of studying the landscapes of Dnipropetrovsk region in this context is actual and relevant.

The first scientifically substantiated map scheme of Dnipropetrovsk region physiographic division to the rank of "physiographic area" (фізико-географічний район) (which is comparable to the size of the landscape) was covered in the Popov's research [1]. According to it, Dnipropetrovsk region is located in 14 physiographic areas, selected in accordance with the landscape-typological principle. The latest scheme of the physiographic zoning of Dnipropetrovsk region provides a more detailed division and contains 3 more areas [2]. In this scheme, Mezhivsky area is divided into three ones, and Kryvyi Rig and Synel'nikove districts have different configuration.

According to the results of the first landscape division in the Dnipropetrovsk region, 9 types of landscapes have been identified [3]. According to the latest landscape map of Ukraine, 16 types of landscapes have been identified [2] due to the division of the Orel' river valley into two landscapes that are different from other river valleys in this region, as well as the division of the loess plains landscape into uplands and lowlands. Both maps are based on a typological classification of landscapes. The landscape division of Dnipropetrovsk region created on the basis of individual-typological interpretation of landscapes, to which this work is devoted, is offered for the first time.
The spatial organization of landscapes of Dnipropetrovsk region consists of eighteen landscapes in their individual interpretation (Fig.1). The boundaries between the landscapes are drawn taking into account the similarity of the terrain's height, soil cover and the dominance of the landscape inherent, the largest river’s landscapes (Oril', Samara, Bazavluk , Saksagan') being the separate types of landscapes.

The northern steppe lowland landscape is divided into six individual landscapes (№№1-6, Fig. 1). The National Atlas in this area presents four terrain landscape types. Behind them, the largest area (north of the valley of the Samara River) is occupied by landscapes of loess lowlands. They were divided into Magdalinovka and Ternivka landscapes according to the dominance of low- and medium- humus chernozems on their territory. The territory of the Synelnykovsky landscape in the National Atlas belongs to the type of landscapes of loess uplands, but according to the average height of the relief (120-150 m) they can be attributed to lowland.

The northern steppe upland landscapes include seven individual landscapes (№№7-13, Fig. 1). In the National Atlas in this area there are three types of landscapes, one of which (loess lowlands, with gullies and draws) occupies most of the right-bank part of the Dnipropetrovsk region. Individual landscapes on the author’s map are selected according to the height of the relief (for example, in Lykhovsky landscape the average height is 180-200 m, and in Tomakivsky - 70-100 m), different types of soils (chernozems are shallow, simple and deep), different distribution of gullies and draws (in the Pyatihatki landscape their area is about 50%, and in the Nikopol' one - 15-20%).

Fig. 1. Landscapes of the Dnepropetrovsk region

The main difference between the map we suggest and the map from the National Atlas is the differences between the northern and middle steppe landscapes in the Dnipropetrovsk region. Thus, the author identified the boundaries of the middle steppe landscapes (№14, Fig. 1), based on the boundaries of the distribution of southern chernozems on the map of soils of the Dnipropetrovsk
Comparing these limits with ones of the National Atlas, it can see that the middle steppe landscapes on the author’s map stretches about 30 km east and 20 km to the north.

The difference of concepts to the landscape division of the Dnipropetrovsk region gives rise to different views on the allocation of their boundaries. The individual-typological approach is only one of the approaches to landscape zoning, but it is the concept that allows the most complete understanding of the spatial organization of landscapes and their reflection on medium and large-scale maps. The establishment of the boundary between the northern and middle steppe landscapes within the Dnipropetrovsk region should be accompanied by field research of this area to establish more unambiguous boundaries between the steppe subzones.

References: