

## RECREATIONAL OASIS

Located centrally, the recreational zone is designed with accessibility, inclusivity, and openness as key principles, becoming an urban nature retreat for all residents. The goal is to create open, inviting and accessible natural landscapes.

The area accommodates both structured and spontaneous activities that adapt to the seasons and weather, serving schoolchildren marveling at the ever-changing nature, fitness enthusiasts, and birdwatchers alike.

Central to this phase is enhancing biodiversity in the urban environment and providing diverse stormwater management solutions, while supporting community activities and promoting the health benefits of outdoor exercise and immersion in nature—contributing to mental health, rehabilitation, and general well-being.

The design highlights plant types typical of Turku's natural identity through various miniature landscapes—such as meadows, wetlands, and coastal vegetation—enhancing biodiversity and enabling the presence of various biomes. These miniature landscapes also support education and tourism by encouraging exploration and learning about nature.

Existing trees are preserved wherever possible, and new trees are planted throughout the site.

A noise barrier rising on the northern edge of the recreational area shields it from the busy Vähäheikkiläntie road, offers a habitat for sunny meadow species, and creates interesting year-round exploration and play opportunities. Terraced green spaces protect pedestrians and children from traffic, while blocking views to the busy road. This transforms Vähäheikkilä into a unique urban green oasis.









