XB221

TURKU (FI)

TURKU STORMWATER PARK

This proposal transforms an underutilized area into a climate-adapted, nature-rich neighborhood, organized into three distinct parts — eastern, central, and western. Housing density gradually increases from east to west, creating a varied and lively urban fabric. A new pedestrian route weaves through the site, connecting public spaces, green areas, and residential zones, while the water stream runs through the landscape, managing stormwater and linking the three areas both visually and ecologically. The plan integrates diverse housing types, recreational facilities, and public programs, combining new development with preserved green spaces to support biodiversity, resilience, and vibrant everyday life.

EXISTING AND PROPOSED BUILDINGS

The layout of building plots is arranged to preserve and enhance green spaces. Meaning that the chosen building sites are based on existing plots for brownfield and parking areas. The project propose everyday amenities and housing for both existing and new residents. This includes offices, creative spaces, cafés, community areas and housing. The development of the area can be done in several stages, and existing buildings can be used in the meantime.

Following the project brief, the sum of built new area within the project area constitutes slightly more than 20 000 m² GFA housing area in total infill. The new buildings play a part in multiple ways:

- Supplies everyday amenities and housing
- Helps towards a critical mass for the use of sports, recreation and culture
- Real estate development is a vital source for mitigating building costs for public spaces
- Brings a diverse range of housing types. From two-family units, to townhouses and apartments.
- The proposed building plots are laid out to easily develop the area one plot at a time.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

In the context of global warming adaptation and mitigation, dealing with storm water is increasingly getting more important. In this project, there is a great opportunity to make neighborhoods resilient to future cloudbursts.

The project presents a range of tactics for dealing with storm water, while also developing a vibrant area for current and future residents:

- Open water streams, with the capacity to carry a 20-year cloudburst without flooding surrounding areas. The stream also provides the primary stormwater way through the project area
- Bioswales and meadows for retention and infiltration of water, which also go hand in hand with biodiversity
- Ponds and floodable public spaces for larger cloudbursts
- Leads stormwater towards the sea

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE PRINCIPLES OF BIODIVERSITY

There is already a great potential for green infrastructure in the current situation. The project aim to restore the ecological milieus to improve quality of life, health and joy of every day. Using these as a starting point is a great way to enhance the site, both for everyday human life and wildlife. The project presents a great opportunity to create an area resilient to storm water in a way that go hand in hand with green and recreational urban spaces that enhance biodiversity and reduce traffic, air pollution, and the urban heat island effect.

Project actions:

- Rewilding, using local species to create lush, attractive public spaces
- Connecting the site with surrounding green infrastructure and green corridors
- Bee hives on the roof of office buildings, parking hubs and the community center
- Preserve large, dead trees for insects to inhabit
- Preserving and enhancing green corridors for wildlife such as birds, flying squirrel and insects

TRAFFIC AND MOVEMENT

The project provides safe and stimulating mobility for all by optimizing parking, adding new bicycle and pedestrians routes through the nature-rich spaces.

Project actions:

- New main bicycle and pedestrian lane along the south side of Vähäheikkiläntie road, and new pedestrian lane along the north side of Puistomäenkatu road
- Creating a few, centralized parking hubs and areas
- Closing off the eastern part of Puistomäenkatu road, in line with the competition brief.
- A network of pathways has been laid out along the project area in between planted trees, inviting everyone to explore the spaces beneath the treetops.
- The project srengthens soft mobility by creating a fine masked network both along the east-west and across the area by connecting to the surrounding infrastructure

DEVELOPMENT OVER TIME

The first area to be developed, between Uittamontie and Ispoisten Puistotie roads, is characterised by leftover areas that once was set aside to create a highway. There is also a gas station, and a parking lot. This makes for an area ripe for improvement!

We propose that a large part of the area is set aside for public space, stormwater park and biodiversity. Some new mixed use development and housing is added to the area to mitigate costs of building the park. The chosen building sites are based on existing brownfield and parking areas. The layout of the park is carefully designed in order to connect surrounding areas.

We propose a large public park for climate change adaptation for the entire surrounding area. This will improve stormwater management, biodiversity, reduce the urban heat island effect, and improve everyday life in the area by including activities for leisure and education. While the activities for public spaces in the 1:800 plan are proposed to give a diversified use for all ages, we propose that the actual activities to be built is done in collaboration with the local municipality, neighbours, schools and kindergartens.