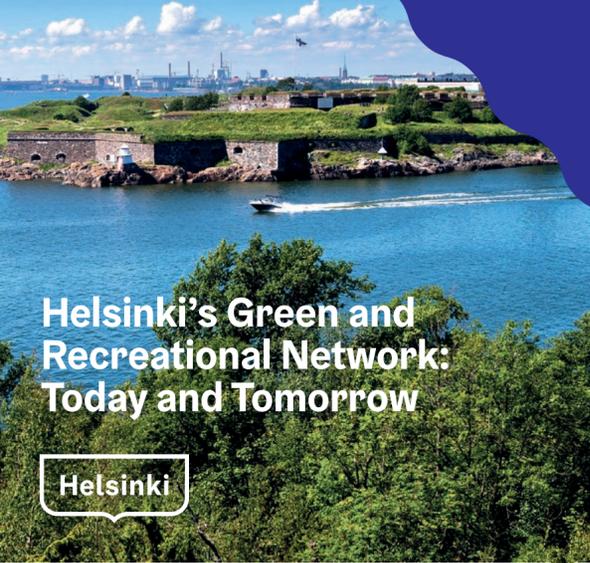


Green and Maritime Helsinki



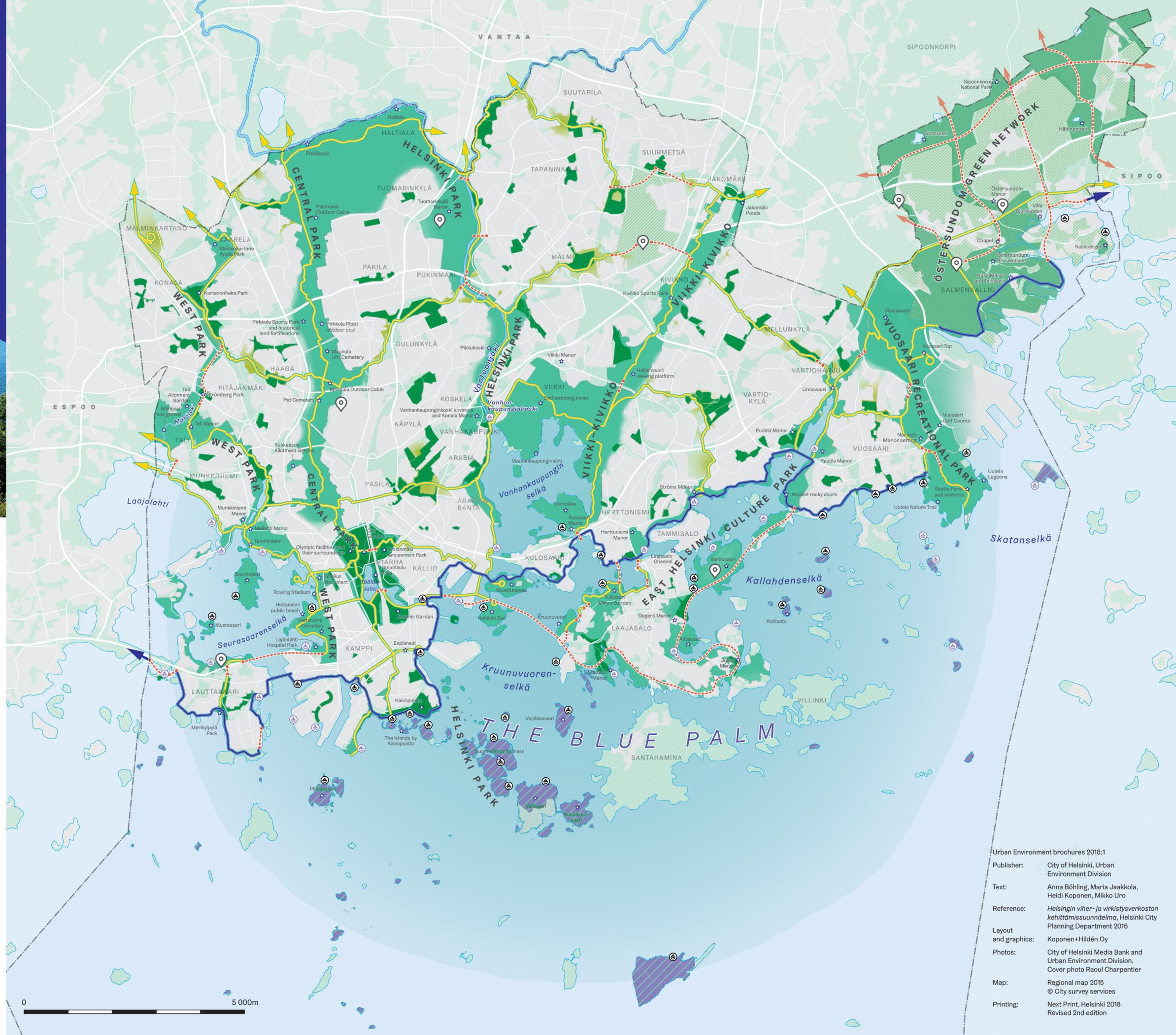
Helsinki's Green and Recreational Network: Today and Tomorrow

Helsinki

The prospective green and recreational network of Helsinki

Legend

-  **Green Finger**
-  **Östersundom Green Network**
Planning situation in spring 2018
-  **Main route of the green finger or a green line, i.e. a transverse (east-west) green route, prospective connection**
-  **Park connected to the green line**
-  **Neighbourhood park**
-  **Area to be developed in the future**
Planning situation in 2018
-  **Recreational islands**
The archipelago will be increasingly opened to the public in the future
-  **New prospective neighbourhood park**
-  **Port or pier / vision**
-  **Main attractions of the green fingers**
-  **Main shore route / targeted connection**
-  **Need for a recreational connection**



Green and Maritime Helsinki



Helsinki is a green city, close to the sea. Green areas offer recreational opportunities for residents, sustain biodiversity in the urban setting and preserve the cultural environments of different eras. However, green areas do not remain attractive without support. The green network of the growing city of Helsinki must be developed systematically. This brochure sets out the goals for the development of the green network and a strategy to reach these goals.

The body of the green network in Helsinki is formed by the green fingers, the sea with its islands and shores, and the and east-west green connections, i.e. green lines. The green fingers are formed by six large green wedges extending from the sea shore to the edges of Helsinki and further on into the neighbouring cities. The sea and islands form the blue palm. There are also several community and neighbourhood parks and other green city areas such as trees and vegetation along streets and in yards.

Nowadays, green areas cover approximately 40% of the city's surface area. The objective of the new city plan in Helsinki is to densify the city structure. With the implementation of the new city plan, the green areas will cover over 30% of the surface area.

Towards accessible, comfortable and sustainable green areas

Helsinki's objective is for green and recreational areas to be easily accessible by land and sea. Green environment offers landscape experiences, exercise facilities, interesting nature sites and pleasant resting areas. Green and recreational areas help to maintain the city's ecological, social and financial sustainability, and they are being utilised actively in the adaptation to climate change.

The achievement of the objective is supported by refurbishing existing parks and by increasing the volume of recreational services. Furthermore, guidance is upgraded, and walking, cycling and water transportation opportunities are improved by building new bridges, underpasses and docks.

Green areas must also be substantial enough and as connected as possible in order to ensure the role of the green fingers as the centre of the ecological network. Additionally, valuable buildings that are located centrally from the point of view of recreation, and their environments, must be renovated so that their value is passed on to future generations.

The Green Fingers



West Park

– A string of pearls following the Mätäjoki river and the shores of Seurasaarenselkä bay

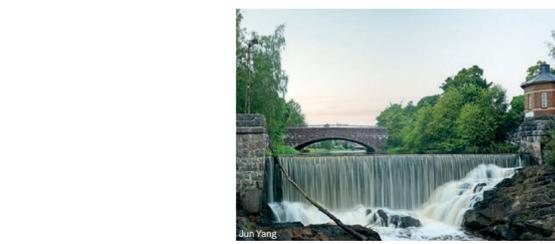
The westernmost green finger stretches from Malminkartano to the Lauttasaari district. The main attractions along the route of the Mätäjoki river, such as Strömberg Park and Tali Manor, form a 'string of pearls' that is connected to Seurasaarenselkä bay. The shores are to be developed so that they better serve the needs of all users of the waterways.



Jyri Hirsimäki



Seppo Leekso



Aun Yang



Helsinki Park

– The birth scenery of Helsinki from Haltiala to Harmaja

Helsinki Park stretches from the shores of the Vantaanjoki river to Vanhankaupunginlahti and Kruunuvuorenselkä and further to the open sea and outer islands. Helsinki Park brings together the most common recreational sceneries in Helsinki, from the fields and forests to the open sea. The goal is to form an inviting Helsinki Park central area and gateway from Vanhankaupunginkoski. A further objective is to improve the water traffic conditions in all water areas, including between recreational islands.



Each Green Finger has its own character. They complement each other and form an entity.



Matti Hiltunen, Rhinoceros Oy

Vuosaari Recreational Park

– From the shores of Uutela to the top of Vuosaari

Vuosaari Recreational Park offers different kinds of environments for recreational activities – rocks by the sea shore, forests in their natural state, manor parks and sports facilities. Vuosaari hill offers beautiful views over Vuosaari. It is possible to increase the recreational opportunities and incorporate the harbour scenery as part of the recreational experience. Vuosaari Recreational Park is connected to the Östersundom green network via Mustavuori.



Petri Laitinen

Central Park

– The forested spine of Helsinki from the stone core of the city to the deep forests

Helsinki's Central Park stretches from Töölönlahti to Haltiala. It has combined nature and culture for over a hundred years. Most importantly, the unity of the area and its forested nature must be ensured, and connections and guidance must be developed. The parklike silhouette of Töölönlahti is treasured. The objective is to diminish the impact of the railway in the Töölönlahti and Eläintarha areas.



Tuukka Holopainen



Mervi Nickén

Viikki-Kivikko Green Finger

– From reed bed shores to Helsinki's highest heights

The Viikki-Kivikko Green Finger stretches from the shores of Vanhankaupunginselkä to the neighbourhood of Jakomäki. The reed beds and open fields in Viikki meet rugged rocky slopes in the east and north. The accessibility of the spectacular scenery will be improved by new routes and a viewing platform that is planned for Hallainvuori. Options for increasing recreational opportunities are being explored in the north of the area, by the ponds of Jakomäki. Recreational and tourism opportunities in Kivinokka will also be diversified.



East Helsinki Culture Park

– A route around manors and narrow sea bays

East Helsinki Culture Park portrays the history of the manor culture in Helsinki from Kruunuvuori to Vartiolarju. The objective is for the manor and villa settings and the nature sites to be both united by a route that follows the shore of the sea bays in East Helsinki and to offer recreational services. In order to improve accessibility, boat connections are needed. The planned bridge to Vartiolaari will connect the shores of Vartiolaari to the culture park.



The Blue Palm



Matti Jaakkola

In Helsinki, the maritime entity of shores and islands creates the "Blue Palm"

The blue palm is formed by the coastal shore zone and the inner bays, open waters, outer islands and islands bordering the open sea.

Recreational services are being developed according to the nature and openness of the different zones. The areas of Laajalahti and Seurasaarenselkä are suitable for water sports like kayaking. In Vanhankaupunginlahti natural values are prominent, and in Vartiokylänlahti cultural values stand out. The Kallahdenselkä area is good for island hopping by boat. Kruunuvuorenselkä and the open sea in front of the Suomenlinna fortress offer the first lookout in Helsinki.

The shore route following the shores of Helsinki will be developed to become a united and pleasant walking and cycling route that covers the whole city. The main route is suitable for fast cycling, but some parts of the shore route are better suitable for relaxation and enjoyment of the atmosphere.

One of the goals is to improve water transport connections and to enable island hopping. The valuable architectural heritage is being conserved as part of the recreational and tourism network, and the natural shores help to adapt to climate change and offer experiences of nature.

Green areas in city neighbourhoods

In city neighbourhoods the goal is to improve parks and central squares according to each area's own nature. In suburbs the connection to the city forests becomes important. In the city centre, history, tourism and sea-side promenades are the most prominent. The vision is to create a united, easily accessible and comfortable network of green areas and connections that can be accessed during all seasons.



Launi Rokka