



HYBRID PARKS PORI WORKSHOP 14.-15.6.2013 REPORT

The Seminar Day at the University Consortium of Pori started with welcome speeches given by Professor Maunu Häyrynen and Hybrid Parks Lead Partner Representative Christian Gruessen.

The first presentation was a General Introduction of National Urban Park (NUP) by Environment Councillor Jukka-Pekka Flander. The contents of the presentation were: 1) Background: intensification of urban structure, infill building, consolidative planning and building etc. 2) NUP in Land Use and Building Act (Management principals of a NUP) 3) The criterias for NUPs. (See the PDFs.)

Abstract: General Introduction of National Urban Park (NUP)

Urban sprawl was a global phenomenon during last two or three decades. Today city planners are very well aware of the negative impacts of urban sprawl on the sustainability of cities and towns. For this reason there is a global trend to build more compact cities in the name of sustainability. That is also the case in Finland. Densification of urban structure and infill building are today very commonly used in Finnish cities and towns to get more compact urban areas. There can be a risk that the valuable entireties formed together by urban nature, parkland, water areas and built environment, would be shattered by densification and infill building. The Finnish NUP Concept serves communes a tool to create more compact cities and town while preserving natural and cultural heritage in their physical environment. The NUP Concept is a part of Land Use and Building Act, which came into force in 1.1.2000. Today there is a network of six NUP Sites in Finland. Some more are under the preparation in the different parts of the country. The City of Turku celebrated recently its NUP decision in the World Environment Day of 5 June.

The second presentation was the planner's floor. Pori is one of the six NUPs in Finland, established year 2002. Director of Urban Planning Olavi Mäkelä presented the Pori NUP area. National Urban Park is a city planning tool to protect and manage valuable areas in the city center and around it. He also mentioned some of the ongoing projects, like the River Center. The Housing Fair 2018 will be arranged in Pori Hevosluoto, next to NUP Kirjurinluoto area.

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The Pori National Urban Park comprises three distinct entities:

The area of islands incorporates the Kokemäenjoki river estuary with its islands. The islands are part of Finland's prime river delta. The mouth of the river closer to the sea has become an area of high value of waterbirds. Current use of the area is mainly concentrated on recreation and leisure activities plus agriculture. The park on the island on Kirjurinluoto provides a large amount of space for events and swimming beach in a green setting.

The city centre comprises the areas of the north and south river banks respectively, the old part of the city built in stone, the intersecting boulevards and the surrounding historic buildings. The city centre also includes a new and old cemetery with heritage buildings, the school and railway station area.

The area of the sports centre and the Pori forest is made up of Isomäki, Pori forest, the sports centre, the open-air swimming pool and the stadium. These areas form a versatile concentration of sports and outdoor recreation facilities which people actively use in all seasons of the year.

The third presentation was "Delta, Natura, National Park – continuation of NUP". Director of Pori Environmental Agency Matti Lankiniemi showed us the unique estuary nature pictures of Pori.

NUP has the connection to Kokemäenjoki River Delta, Natura areas and Bothnian Sea National Park. Kokemäenjoki River delta is the largest in Nordic countries. "Natura 2000" is the nature protection area, which starts just on the border of the NUP. Restoration is used to protect endangered species. The Yyteri beach is one of the longest in Finland and all of Nordic countries, and has also many distinctive dunes. The dune area is unique in Europe because of its size.

The coordination of NUP in City of Pori through the City Planning Office in cooperation with 1) Environmental Agency 2) Park Office 3) Educational Agency 4) Communications unit 5) Cultural Office and 6) Recreational Agency.

Management and Utilization plan guides. This legal decision is confirmed by City Council and the Ministry of the Environment. It should be taken into account in all plans in the NUP area and in the immediate vicinity of it.

The most valuable parks are situated in the NUP. They are the most expensive and the most demanding to manage: NUP proportion of all parks about 10% / NUP proportion of resources about 20%.

The NUP-park as a part of people's everyday lives has an important role and gives a good living environment, which gives welfare. The utilization of NUP area is

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high, but the awareness is still weak. To increase the awareness of NUP there are different projects within environmental, educational and cultural aspects.

"Dreaming tree" – "What is your dream park?" – "Open your eyes, you are at the Pori national urban park" – Exhibitions, excursions, publications etc.

Fourth we heard about the "National Urban Park Process – Making of the Turku NUP". Environment Councillor Jukka-Pekka Flander gave us a presentation of the founding of the sixth NUP of Finland (written by Planner Samuli Saarinen).

Abstract: National Urban Park Process – Making of the Turku NUP

Turku National Urban Park was founded 5 June 2013. The key phases of the process so far has been the 1) opening discussion about the key values of the local urban environment and modern preservation options, 2) the decision by city authorities to start up the NUP process, 3) taking forward the park project involving local and regional authorities, organizations and citizens including interaction with Ministry of the Environment 4) the preparation of the application in cooperation between the Ministry and the city, and finally 5) the resolution of the Ministry to establish the park.

Consequently, in this summer we will celebrate the resolution to have the sixth NUP in Finland. The National Urban Park resolution emphasizes our distinctive cultural and natural urban landscape on the whole and strengthens the vision and ambition to preserve and develop the core of the urban green network. On one hand we are happy to already have the park and on the other hand we are in kind of a starting point. The next step in the process will be generating permanent practices to get the best of the park. In practical terms the relevance of the efforts and the approaches to produce the idea of the park – the local ongoing work – is far more essential than the resolution to establish the park.

NUP process, Key steps:

1. INITIAL SITUATION: public discussion about urban landscape values, NUP seen as one possible tool to preserve key values in urban environment.
2. The DECISION TO START up the NUP process in this city.

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3. PREPARATION Taking forward the park project involving local and regional authorities, organizations and citizens including interaction with Ministry of the Environment.

4. The CONCEPT CLOSURE and the preparation of the APPLICATION in cooperation between the Ministry and the city.

5) The resolution of the Ministry to establish the park.

x) The maintenance and usage plan (by the city) for the local National Urban Park.

Coming up next in the process...Information, products, making things together in the park to "produce" the park...

Every NUP has a story!

Next in the program was Lunch in the City Hall, hosted by Vice Mayor Kari Hannus.

The fifth presentation was "The Royal National Urban Park in Stockholm – lessons from a perspective of sustainable development" by Professor Peter Schantz.

Abstract: The Royal National Urban Park in Stockholm – lessons from a perspective of sustainable development

The Royal National Urban Park in Stockholm, Sweden, is an interesting study object in terms of problems and possibilities in modern city planning, and legal pathways in steering these processes. I will present some principal issues in this respect and also research dealing with a specific aspect of sustainable development, namely public health and the role of green environment in supporting physical activity.

The Swedish Government, Ministry of Environment, demanded a report from the involved municipalities on:

1. The values in the area in relation to:

- Nature (maps)

Fragments put together into a holistic wholeness

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Biological diversity
 Surrounding geographical context
 Cooperation between municipalities

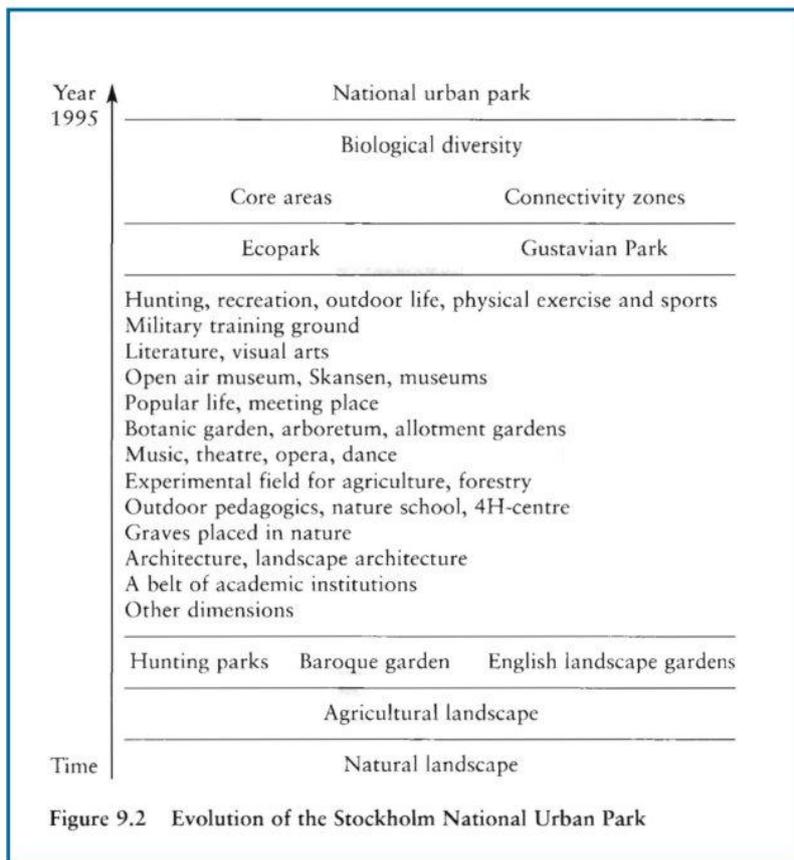
- Culture

Materially oriented
 Lack of context
 Fragmented
 No cooperation between municipalities

- Outdoor life

Nothing substantial at all
 In no way was the issue gripped, problematized or discussed

2. The exploitation plans



A central message in the bill for the national urban park was that: "The development in the national urban park should all together focus on strengthening the natural, cultural and recreational values and protect the biodiversity".

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The last three presentations were under title: "Cases of Finnish National Urban Parks".

Cultural heritage management in community processes (Conservation Aspect, yards and parks); Porvoo National Urban Park; Ms Anne Rihtniemi-Rauh, Planner

Hämeenlinna National Urban Park Concept: Management and Utilization Plan (& marketing); Hämeenlinna National Urban Park; Mr Timo Tuomola, Chief Executive, LinnanInfra

Hanko National Urban Park – History and Coastal Nature in Conversation with each other; Hanko National Urban Park; Mr Jukka-Pekka Halme, Head of Office
After these Cases presentations we had a discussion-workshop of NUP issues:

- 1) Nature and biodiversity
- 2) Conservation
- 3) Long term Management

The long seminar day ended to the dinner at Restaurant Suomalainen Klubi. As a surprise there were fireworks at the river during the dessert!

The Tour Day started at 8:30 from the Hotel Vaakuna with a promenade first to the intersecting boulevards. There we continued to the City Hall Park, where Professor Maunu Häyrynen told us about the history of the Chiewitz's town plan from 1852, the park and some of the historical buildings of the "Stone Pori".

From the park we walked over the Taavi-bridge to Kirjurinluoto; which has a history of storage area and a park island for picnics. Nowadays there are lots of recreation and leisure activities on the park. We had the opportunity to explore the delta area by walking through the Polsanluoto "miniature delta" using duckboards and hand-powered ferry. The City Garden Center showed us its floral splendor. In fencing the endearing alpacas were so sweet. The large Jazz Arena was now empty, but the biggest picnic concerts have an audience of 30.000 – 40.000 people. We had our picnic at the summer theatre café.

The bus took us to Noormarkku, nowadays part of Pori (from 2010). Noormarkku is the birthplace of the Ahlstrom Corporation. We visited the Villa Mairea, building by architect Alvar Aalto, designed as the private home for Maire and Harry Gullichsen (Ahlstrom family). Then we had a walking tour in Noormarkku Ahlstrom area, the area of the national significant cultural environment and industrial history (pergola, gardens, parks, sawmill).

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Our tour continued to the coast and Reposaari village via Ahlainen village. Reposaari is known of its extraordinary flora. It consists of many species that live outside their native distributional range. Exotic plants invaded the island during the sail ship era as the ships unloaded the sand used as sailing ballast. From the back stone beach we tried to see the coast of Sweden! At the Restaurant Merimesta we ate a buffet meal before the bus trip back to Pori. Because we were quick we had just the time to visit the magnificent Yyteri beach. It was a great end for the date!

Waiting for participants' feedbacks and replies to the questions of the Pori Workshop ☺

Anu Tuovinen

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