The Finnish National Urban Park (NUP) concept

By Senior Adviser Jukka-Pekka Flander, Ministry of the Environment

Forest Recreation & Turism Serving Urbanised Societes International Conference, 28-31 May 2008, Hämeenlinna FINLAND
The World Heritage Convention 1972

The Kvarken Natural World Heritage Site,
2006
Ulriksdal-Haga-Brunnsviken/"Ekoparken" in Sweden – the first NUP in the world

Established in 1995
In the municipalities of Stockholm, Solna and Lidingö

It is still the only one in Sweden
The Fact 1:
"We favour infill building when trying to build more compact cities/towns in the name of sustainability"
The Fact 2: More compact - means more effective land use
The Fact 3: All the green and "urban nature" is man-made in effectively built areas
The Finnish National Urban Park Concept is a tool for promoting a sustainable urban planning.

The Finnish NUP Concept is a tool for preserving and managing mixed natural and cultural values in the urban structure or in proximity to them while there is a trend to create more compact and sustainable cities/towns.

Billions of years old cliff formations in the hearth of Helsinki, the capital of Finland.
Islands in Helsinki Park in the heart of the capital of Finland have high potential for recreation, tourism, and preservation of BD-values.
The Finnish NUP Concept is part of Land Use and Building Act, which came into force 1.1. 2000

LuBA

§§

The thickest tree in Finland in the NUP of Heinola
WHAT IS A NATIONAL URBAN PARK?

LuBA 68 § (1)
National urban park

A national urban park may be established to protect and maintain the beauty of the cultural and natural landscape, historical characteristics or related values concerning the townscaping, social, recreational or other special values of an area in an urban environment.

The Castle landscape in the NUP of Hämeenlinna
Who owns a NUP area?

LuB 68 § (2)

The ownership of a NUP area

Areas designed as parks shall primarily be owned by the State, local authority or other public body. Other areas may be so designated with the owner’s consent.

The lake landscape of Aulanko Lake in the NUP of Hämeenlinna
The land ownership of the NUP of Hämeenlinna
LuBA 68 §

The planning of the park. Areas designed in a plan for the use appropriate for the purpose of NUPs, may be designated to form a part of a national urban park.

LINNA YMPÄРИSTÖINEEN

Hämeen keskialkainen linna muodostaa yhdessä ympäristönsä kanssa ainutlaatuisen kulttuuri- ja rakennushistoriallisen kokonaisuuden.

Linnan ympäristöön kuuluvat Linnanpuisto ja Eino Leinon puisto sekä Tampereen länkipuolella Karnaalinpuisto ja Ojoisten kartano puistoineen. Lisäksi kokonaisuuteen kuuluvat Kaupunginpuisto ja Puistolan koulu sekä pohjoiseen jatkuva rantavyöhyke rautatiesillalle.

Establishing a national urban park

The decision to establish a national urban park is made by the Ministry of the Environment. The park may be established at the local authority’s request or if the local authority recommends its establishment.
HOW ARE THE VALUES OF A NUP MANAGED?

LuBA 70 §

Regulations concerning the park

"a Management Plan"

Most regulations needed for the maintenance and usage of the area are issued in a maintenance and usage scheme drawn up by the local authority in cooperation with the regional environment centre.

"The management plan" is approved by the Ministry of the Environment.
The criteria for NUPs

I BREADTH AND CONTENT

A NUP should contain natural areas important for the preservation of urban biodiversity, cultural milieus - including buildings – important for an understanding of national history or of that of the city itself, and parks and green areas of architectural or aesthetic significance.
The criteria for NUPs

II URBAN CENTRALITY

A national urban park is part of urban structure. It should begin in the core centre of the city or its immediate vicinity.

A Town Hall and the beginning of the cross-boulevard system in The NUP, Pori
The criteria for NUPs

III EXTENT AND CONTIGUOUSNESS

The parkland or green areas in a NUP should be extensive and contiguous enough to allow one to walk through them from one part of town to another.

The NUP of Hämeenlinna
IV ECOLOGY AND CONTINUITY

A NUP should facilitate an ecological corridor overlay process that will contribute to species movement and interaction and create direct links with natural areas outside the city and surrounding countryside.

The criteria for NUPs

- A planned new national park
- A Natura 2000 Site
- A Ramsar Site

The Pori Forest
The growing network of the Finnish NUPs

Existing

Hämeenlinna 2001
Heinola, Pori 2002
Hanko  2008
.
.
.
In process

Porvoo  2009
Kotka  2010
Turku  2011

The maximum Number of NUPs will be round ten (10)

The opening ceremony of NUP of Hämeenlinna in 2001
THE GROWING NETWORK OF THE FINNISH NATIONAL URBAN PARKS 2008

The location of the NUPs

- Existing NUP site
- NUP under preparation by the decision of the municipality
- Ministry of the Environment has been consulted by the municipality

Norway

Finland

Sweden

Russia
The growing network of the Finnish NUPs
The NUP of Hämeenlinna

Recreational fishing happenings in the historical landscape of the Castle of Häme are very popular – also among youngsters and children
The growing network of the Finnish NUPs The NUP of Hämeenlinna

The construction of a connecting route from Aulanko to the railway station and the city centre.
The growing network of the Finnish NUPs
The NUP of Pori

Pori is famous for the summer time jazz happening and the theatre festivals for independent groups.
The growing network of the Finnish NUPs

The NUP of Pori

The crossing boulverds form a green corridor from Suears to The Pori Forest
The cultivated landscape of the Pori Scears

The growing network of the Finnish NUPs

The NUP of Pori

The BD-values of the Pori Forest

The River mouth of Kokemaenjoki

The cultivated landscape of the Pori Scears
The rivermouth of Kokemäenjoki River is part of EU:s Natura 2000 –network. It is a popular environment for recreational fishing.
The growing network of the Finnish NUPs

The area of the NUP of Heinola
The growing network of the Finnish NUPs
The NUP of Heinola

Aerial view of the NUP of Heinola
A part of Rheumatism foundation hospital In the NUP of Heinola has recently been changed into a hotel.
The boundaries of the NUP of Hanko, established 15.5.2008

The growing network of the Finnish NUPs

The NUP of Hanko/Hangö
The growing network of the Finnish NUPs
The NUP of Hanko/Hangö

The Eastern harbour of Hanko/Hangö is one of the most used recreational and turistic harbours in summer time in Finland.
The growing network of the Finnish NUPs

The NUP of Hanko/Hangö

The sandy beaches in NUP site are important for both recreation, tourism and preservation of biodiversity.
The growing network of the Finnish NUPs
The NUP of Hanko/Hangö

The Puistovuori Park with its “bonsay pines” looking at Balthic Sea.
Analysis of the natural heritage of the NUP of Porvoo in preparation
Analysis of the cultural heritage of the NUP of Porvoo
in preparation
The growing network of the Finnish NUPs

The main elements of the NUP of Porvoo in preparation

Historical urban landscape

Areas with high BD-values
Natura 2000 Sites

The Manor of Haikko with a romantic park
The growing network of the Finnish NUPs

The NUP of Kotka in preparation

The urban structure of Kotka is well known for the combination of historical and modern parks, The Sapokka Water Park
The growing network of the Finnish NUPs
The NUP of Kotka

The Kymijoki River with the rapids and Natura 2000–forest sites forms an ecological and turistic corridor between two national parks.
The growing network of the Finnish NUPs

The NUP of Turku – the oldest city in Finland

Cultural heritage
The growing network of the Finnish NUPs

Natural heritage of the NUP of Turku

... and management of values
Thank you for your patient!

You are welcome to visit our NUPs!