Hermanni Waterfront Park



Open two-phase landscape architecture competition 2025–2027

Competition programme





The City of Helsinki is organising an international two-phase landscape architecture competition for the design of Hermanni Waterfront Park. The aim of the competition is to find nature-based solutions that build on the distinctive characteristics of the area, creating an engaging and attractive recreational space. The park supports the identity of North Kalasatama and forms a valuable part of the natural environment of Vanhankaupunginlahti.

Helsinki

Foreword

Hermanni Waterfront Park is a meeting place of the future, where urban nature, recreation and landscape intertwine to form an entity with unique characteristics. The park is located in the heart of maritime Helsinki, next to a new residential area. Creating a design for this area provides an great opportunity to forge a strong connection between future residents and the waterfront—both literally and through experience

The aim of the competition is to find a landscape architecture solution that is centered around nature-based solutions and the use of ecosystem services. The goal is to create a sustainable, climate-resilient and diverse environment where coastal ecosystems are strengthened and urban nature can flourish.

A key aspect of the park's design is its role as the neighbourhood's 'green living room'— a place that is easily accessible, inviting and multifunctional all year round. The waterfront park offers opportunities for both active recreation and peaceful relaxation in natural surroundings, whilst creating an ecological connection to the city's green spaces and

areas by the water. The park's routes connect Kalasatama to Arabianranta.

We would like to invite competitors to generate ideas to find a solution that combines quality landscape architecture, ecological sustainability and a strong urban context. Hermanni Waterfront Park can serve as a model of how a dense city and rich nature can sustainably complement one another—creating a place that endures overtime and offers experiences for generations to come.

Rikhard Manninen, Head of Urban Planning Division at City of Helsinki

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1. Competition invitation

1.1 Organiser, nature and purpose of the competition

The City of Helsinki is organising an open twophase competition for the design of Hermanni Waterfront Park. The competition is organised in cooperation with the Finnish Association of Landscape Architects (MARK). The competition follows the competition rules of the Finnish Association of Landscape Architects.

The competition assignment is to prepare a design for Hermanni Waterfront Park that will serve as the basis for detailed planning and the implementation of the area.

The competition area is marked on the map on page 10 and in Appendix 1.

The organiser responsible for the competition is the Urban Space and Landscape Planning service of the City of Helsinki's Urban Environment Division. The competition contributes to the designer selection process in accordance with the Act on Public Procurement and Concession Contracts.

1.2 Eligibility

The competition is an open ideas competition. It is open to individuals and working groups. At least one member of the working group must be qualified to practise landscape architecture in their country. It is recommended that an environmental specialist, such as an ecologist or biologist, to be included in the working group. The design assignment requires also the expertise of a geotechnical specialist. It is recommended that the working group includes a geotechnical engineer with knowledge of Finnish soil conditions. In the second phase of the competition, the working group must include a geotechnical engineer in exceptionally demanding geotechnical infrastructure design (FISE qualifications).

Members of the competition jury, the secretary and their business partners as well as close associates are not eligible to participate in the competition. Anyone who has been involved in the preparation or decision-making for the competition is also disqual-

ified. The organiser of the competition will make the final decision regarding eligibility.

1.3 Competition prizes and purchases

A total of EUR 189,000 will be distributed as prizes as follows:

 1st prize
 EUR 50,000

 2nd prize
 EUR 25,000

 3rd prize
 EUR 15,000

two purchases, each for EUR 12,000.

The prizes will be distributed among those selected for the second phase. After the first phase, the five working groups selected for the second phase will each receive a prize of EUR 15,000. The prize will be paid at the start of the second phase.

By unanimous decision, the jury may distribute the prize money in a different manner, as specified in the competition rules of the Finnish Association of Landscape Architects MARK. Additionally, the jury may also award honourable mentions.

The organiser has applied for tax exemption for the prize money. The Finnish Association of Landscape Architects MARK claims 7% of the prizes and purchase payments in accordance with the competition rules. The prize payments will be made through the Finnish Association of Landscape Architects.

1.4 Jury

The jury is composed of the following members:

Appointed by the City of Helsinki:

- Rikhard Manninen, Head of Urban Planning Division at City of Helsinki, Chairperson of the Jury
- Jussi Luomanen, Head of Urban Space and Landscape Planning at City of Helsinki
- Katriina Arrakoski, Head of Park Planning Unit at Urban Environment Division at City of Helsinki
- Tuomas Hakala, Project Director, Urban Development

- Paula Hurme, Landscape Aarchitect,
 Urban Space and Landscape Planning
- Janne Prokkola, Head of Unit at City of Helsinki, (Southern Unit, Detailed Planning)

International jury member appointed by the City of Helsinki:

 Stephen Venn, Professor of Ecology, University of Lodz

Appointed by the competition committee of the Finnish Association of Landscape Architects:

- Ria Ruokonen, Landscape Architect MARK
- Anna Levonmaa, Landscape Architect MARK

Members Luomanen, Arrakoski, Hurme, Venn, Ruokonen and Levonmaa are professional members within the meaning of MARK's competition rules. The jury may also consult other experts if necessary.

Other experts:

- Sanna Anttila, Geotechnical Engineering
- liris Lettojärvi, Vegetation
- Elina Kettunen, Stomwater and Floods
- Riikka Österlund, Traffic
- Matti Kaijansinkko, Land Use Planning
- Marjut Kauppinen, Lighting
- Tuula Pipinen, Cost Accounting, assisted by a consult in phase 2
- Mari Savela, Marine Biology
- Sonja Äärilä, Learning Space Design Services

Furthermore, the jury will have the opportunity to consult other experts from the City of Helsinki when evaluating the competition entries.

The secretary of the jury is Landscape Architect Aino Aspiala from Aino Landscaping Oy.

The experts and the secretary of the jury will not participate in the evaluation of the competition entries. The jury will strive to reach a unanimous decision. If the jury cannot reach a unanimous decision, the competition will be decided by a vote. If necessary, the chairperson will have the casting vote.

1.5 Communication and availability of competition documents

The competition complies with the provisions of the Act on Public Procurement and Concession Contracts. The procurement notice and call for tenders

were published on the HILMA public procurement service at www.hankintailmoitukset.fi.

The competition invitation will be published on MARK's website and in its member newsletter and on the City of Helsinki's website at https://www.hel.fi/en/urban-environment-and-traffic/urban-plan-ning-and-construction/plans-and-building-projects.

The contact person during the competition will be Aino Aspiala, aino.aspiala@ainolandscaping.fi.

Competition materials and information are available on the competition website at https://cc.tietoa.fi/ helsinki/hermannin-rantapuisto-en. Communication regarding the competition will primarily take place via the competition website.

In the second phase of the competition, the entries will be displayed on the Kerrokantasi service. Kerrokantasi is an online service where Helsinki residents can voice their opinions on matters that are in the planning phase.

Competition questions and answers, as well as any additions or corrections to the competition programme will be published on the competition website.

1.6 Course and schedule of the competition

First phase competition period 15 September 2025 – 15 December 2025



First phase of the competition begins 15 September 2025



Competition seminar 6 October 2025

The organiser will hold a competition seminar open to all competitors in Helsinki, 6 October 2025. This seminar will be organized as a recorded hybrid event. The seminar invitation will be posted on the competition website.

The competition seminar will be held in the auditorium of the Urban Environment House at Työpajankatu 8, 00580 Helsinki, on 6th of October 2025. The competition seminar will be held in English.

After the seminar the competitors will have an opportunity to explore the area of Hermanni Waterfront Park on their own. Hermanni Waterfront Park is located north of the Urban Environment House towards Arabianranta. Distance to the location is slightly over one kilometre.

Deadline for questions 15 October 2025 Competitors must submit their questions regarding the first phase of the competition by 15 October 2025 via the competition website, see section 2.3. Questions and answers regarding the competition.

Submission deadline 15 December 2025 Competitors must submit their entries by 15 December 2025 to the competition platform according to the instructions provided separately.

Competition evaluation, first phase, 15 December 2025 – 30 April 2026

The evaluation of the first phase of the competition will take place between 15 December 2025 and 30 April 2026.

The jury will select the best five entries that meet the objectives given for the second phase of the competition.

Notification for the ones selected for the second phase 30 April 2026

The organiser will provisionally notify those invited to the second phase by 30 April 2026.

Provisional period for the second phase of the competition May 2026—September 2026

Second phase of the competition begins May 2026

The schedule for the second phase of the competition will be confirmed at the start of this phase.

Deadline for questions May 2026
According to the provisional schedule,
competitors must submit their questions
regarding the second phase of the
competition via the competition website by
the end of May 2026. The exact date will be

Submission deadline September 2026 The estimated deadline for entry submissions for the second phase of the competition is the end of September 2026

updated as the competition progresses.

Competition entries published October 2026

Competition entries will provisionally be published on the Kerrokantasi service in October 2026.

Competition evaluation, second phase October 2025 – January 2026

The estimated timeframe for the secondphase evaluation is between October 2026 and January 2027.

January 2027, results given to the competitors

The organiser will immediately inform the winner and other entrants of the results of the competition.

Spring, 2027 announcement event and results

The organiser will announce the results of the competition at a separate announcement event.

1.7 Competition rules and language

This competition will follow the procedures for design contests set out in sections 54–55 of the Finnish Act on Public Procurement and Concession Contracts (1397/2016), the competition programme and the competition rules of the Finnish Association of Landscape Architects (MARK) in this order of priority. By participating in the competition, competitors indicate their acceptance of the competition programme and the competition rules of the Finnish Association of Landscape Architects. The competition programme has been approved by MARK's competition committee and the appointed competition jury.

Competition entries must be submitted in Finnish or English. The competition programme is published in Finnish and English, but the appendices are mainly in Finnish. The evaluation report will be published in Finnish and English. In the event of any discrepancies, the Finnish programme will take precedence.

2. Competition specifications

2.1 Competition documents for the first phase of the competition

The competition programme and its appendices will be available for download on the competition website from the date of the programme publication.

If there are any discrepancies between the appendices and the competition programme, the information in the competition programme takes precedence.

The programme documents consist of this competition programme and the following appendices:

APPENDICES:

- 1. Map and competition area boundaries
- Hermanninranta detailed plan and Kyläsaari initial plan
- 3. Sörnäistenranta and Hermanninranta partial master plan
- 4. 3D model of the area
- 5. Laser scanning data
- 6. Plans for Hermanninterassi: includes planned routes to the school's recess area and the vehicle connection to the boat launch site as well as the location for the planned stormwater channel
- General plan for public areas and their functions in the Hermanninranta and Kyläsaari detailed plan
- 8. Experimental green factor assessment of the Kyläsaari area
- 9. Vegetation survey
- 10. Bat survey
- 11. Aquatic nature survey
- 12. Flood survey
- Map of contaminated soil sampling points
- 14. Hermanni Waterfront Park elevation
- 15. Constructability of Hermanni Waterfront Park 2025
- 16. Stability analysis of the Hermanni Waterfront Park area in Kalasatama, Ramboll 2019, with appendices
- 17. Map of construction constraints
- 18. Pore water pressure, horizontal displacement and subsidence measurement points
- 19. Horizontal displacement measurement results
- 20. Pore pressure measurement results

- 21. Subsidence measurement results
- 22. Oblique aerial views of the area
- 23. Photographs of the area
- 24. Drone images of the area
- 25. Implementation design agreement template with appendices

The competition area can be explored in the Helsinki Map Service at https://kartta.hel.fi/ and smart information model of the city is available at https://kartta.hel.fi/3d.

Furthermore, Helsinki adheres to the principles of sustainable landscape construction: https://www.vyl.fi/kesy/mika-on-kesy/kesy-in-english/.

Competitors have the right to use the competition map and image material solely for the purpose of preparing their competition entries. Even partial use of the material for other purposes is prohibited.

2.2 Competition documents for the second phase of the competition

In addition to the documents listed in the previous section, the following information will be added to the background information in the second phase:

- The working groups selected for the second phase of the competition will receive further planning instructions prepared by the jury;
- The geotechnical experts of the competition groups participating in the design competition will be given codes that can be used to retrieve the soil investigation data from the database of the City of Helsinki's Soil and bedrock unit (the Soili service);
- The working groups will receive additional instructions on alignment of Baana (cycling route) and its connection point coordinates;
- The school's recess area guidelines will be supplemented with more detailed design instructions.
- If necessary, the background information for the competition may be supplemented with other additional material.

2.3 Questions and answers regarding the competition

Competitors have the opportunity to ask questions during the competition. The questions will be handled anonymously.

Competitors must submit any questions regarding the first phase of the competition and the planning area via the competition website by 15 October 2025. The organiser will publish the questions and answers on the competition website by the end of October 2025. Competitors can submit their questions in either Finnish or English. Questions in Finnish will be answered in Finnish as well as English. Questions in English will only be answered in English.

Competitors must submit their questions regarding the second phase of the competition via the competition website. The schedule for these questions will be confirmed at the beginning of the second phase.

2.4 Conclusion of the competition and publication of results

The aim is to conclude the competition in spring 2027. The organiser will immediately inform the winner and other entrants of the results and the final conclusion of the competition. The organiser will announce the results of the competition at a separate announcement event.

After the announcement event the competition results will be published on the competition website, via MARK's communication channels and in a press release issued by the City of Helsinki.

The organiser will draw up a report on the evaluation, which will include an overall evaluation of the competition and an evaluation of each entry. The report will be published on the competition website once the competition has been concluded.

2.5 Further actions after the competition

The jury will provide its recommendations for further actions based on the competition results. The competition organizer reserves the right to enter into a design assignment with the authors of the winning proposal, provided that the City of Helsinki makes the necessary decisions regarding the continuation of the project's design and implementation. If there are multiple winners, all winners will be invited to further negotiations. When negotiating the further

commission, the organiser will look at whether the working group has sufficient expertise and competence for the implementation phase of the project and whether the planning costs can be kept within reasonable limits. The project team may be supplemented as necessary for the follow-up assignment.

For the evaluation of subsequent work, the terms and conditions of Implementation design agreement template with appendices, shall apply. This is available on the competition website.

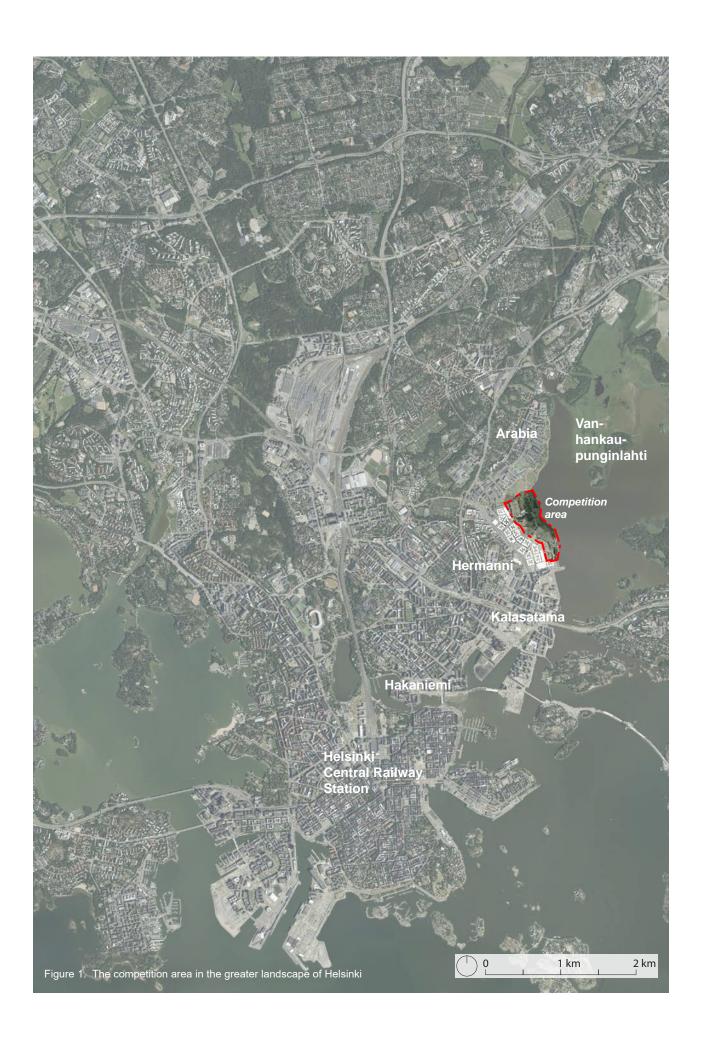
2.6 Ownership, the right to use, and the right to publish competition entries

Copyright of the competition entries remains with the authors. The competition organiser has the right to use and publish the subjects and materials of the competition entries free of charge. The organiser also reserves a right to use the concepts and ideas from the awarded and purchased entries.

MARK has the right to publish images of the competition entries in its own publications and on its website. In addition, MARK has the right to use and pass on the materials of awarded and purchased entries for research and publication purposes free of charge.

2.7 Insurance and return of entries

The materials submitted by the competitors will not be insured or returned.



3. Competition assignment

3.1 Competition objectives

The aim of the competition is, through landscape architecture, to develop Hermanni Waterfront Park into an attractive and enriching environment that complements the regional appeal of the Vanhankaupunginlahti nature area and supports the identity of Northern Kalasatama. The aim is to develop a concept based on local conditions and biodiversity that will endure and evolve over time. Much of the park's existing nature should be preserved to allow it to develop into an increasingly diverse environment. In addition, the sea and its floodwates should be regarded as area's unique character. The park should serve both current and future residents by providing well-being and recreational opportunities.

Competition entries should address challenges related to soil constructability and propose innovative design solutions addressing these. The aim is to develop a concept that utilises nature-based solutions for a park design that can be carried forward into the detailed design phase and the park's implementation documents. During the implementation design phase, potential phasing of the area will be examined.

3.2 Competition area and its surroundings

The competition area of the Hermanni Waterfront Park is located in the northeastern part of the central Helsinki along the shore of Vanhankaupunginlahti, in the northern part of Kalasatama. To the west of the area, a new district, Hermanninranta, is under development, and the Kyläsaari district is planned for future development. Hermanni Waterfront Park will serve as a local recreational area for these new neighborhoods.

The entire competition area is situated on reclaimed land. The reclamation was carried out mostly without a comprehensive plan, and some of the soil used for land filling was contaminated. Shoreline reclamation continued until the 1990s.

3.2.1 Description of the new districts of Hermanninranta and Kyläsaari

The competition area is located alongside the new Hermanninranta district which is currently under development and the future Kyläsaari district, bordering Vanhankaupunginlahti. The Hermanninranta district is not yet built, and construction is expected to begin during the competition period. Hermanninranta is planned as an ecologically sustainable





district, with particular importance and emphasis on green infrastructure. The Hermanninranta and Kyläsaari areas are being planned in two phases. The detailed plan for Hermanninranta is legally valid, while the Kyläsaari planning will commence at a later stage. Nevertheless, Hermanninranta and Kyläsaari are intended to form together a coherent and integrated urban entity.

The objective of the Hermanninranta and Kyläsaari detailed plans has been to develop these areas to have strong urban identities that are closely connected with rich, diverse urban nature. Design solutions in these areas should actively support biodiversity and highlight water as a central, enriching element in the environment. Green and recreational spaces are to be planned as diverse, engaging, and inclusive, offering residents and visitors opportunities for both everyday use and unique experiences.

Hermanninranta will be a dense and service-oriented district, providing housing and services for approximately 5,500 residents, as well as parks, a sports field, two day-care centers, and a school. A northern day-care center will have space for a sports field and playground. These are located within the competition area. Part of the waterfront park is currently intended to serve the Hermanninranta schools recess activities.

The aim of the Hermanninranta district is to develop a high-quality, ecologically sustainable, predominantly wooden, residential area with excellent public transport connections. The new buildings in Hermanninranta will primarily be 6–8 storeys high, with one block consisting of 12-storey residential towers.

The Kyläsaari district will be located north of Hermanninranta, extending the urban structure towards Arabianranta. Kyläsaari, like Hermanninranta, is planned as a dense, service-oriented, and green residential area for approximately 5,000 new residents. The design of Kyläsaari similarly emphasises ecological sustainability and wooden construction. Together, Hermanninranta and Kyläsaari will connect the northern part of Kalasatama to Arabianranta.

Popular music from the 1950s and 1960s, as well as music in general has inspired naming of the streets and other areas in Hermanninranta and Kyläsaari.

3.2.2 Hermanninterassi (Hermanni Terrace)

Hermanninterassi is a transitional area between the urban structure and the waterfront park, connecting the residential areas of Hermanninranta – and in the future, Kyläsaari – to the competition area. The terrace is designed to function both as a pleasant and practical recreational route and as an extension of residents' living spaces.

Along the route, designated spaces will host amenities such as table tennis, a pétanque court, and sun loungers. To the north of the 12-storey towers, a larger square on Hermanninterassi offers space for themed events, such as flea markets.

A diverse range of vegetation and trees, together with a planted slope descending towards the wa-

terfront park, creates a cohesive and green character for the terrace. The competition area borders Hermanninterassi, while the terrace itself and its descending slopes towards the park remain outside the competition area.

Further details on Hermanninterassi and the related design guidelines can be found in section *4.4*.

3.2.3 History and development of the area

The area of Hermanni Waterfront Park is former seabed and has been created entirely on reclaimed land. In the early 20th century, the shoreline ran along Hermannin rantatie, and the villa island of Kyläsaari was located in front of it. The island served as a recreational area and excursion destination, particularly for workers. The island was used for public celebrations and featured a dance pavilion and a swimming facility established in the 1910s.

As industry grew, the surroundings of the island changed. The area offered good conditions for port operations and industrial production. It was easy to find accommodation for the workers in Hermanni and Sörnäinen. In the 1930s, Kyläsaari was connected to the mainland by filling the sea area, and a municipal wastewater treatment plant was built there. The island also housed a test facility, and its aeration basins were built to be suitable for research purposes. In the 1960s, a waste incineration plant was established in Kyläsaari.

The filling of the shore continued until the 1990s. The filling was carried out partly without planning, and some of the soil material was contaminated

from the outset. The fill material in the area includes, among other things, mixed soil that contains waste as well as slag and ash from the former Kyläsaari incineration plant. Ash and slag were deposited in the area from the 1940s until the 1980s.

3.2.4 Hermanni Waterfront Park today

The competition area, or waterfront park, is a naturally developed shoreline that is periodically almost completely submerged. Since the last large-scale landfills in the 1980s, the ruderal vegetation of this former wasteland has grown and matured. The area has gained significant ecological value for urban biodiversity, making its preservation essential. Natural succession is clearly evident, despite the area's entirely artificial origins.

In addition to the naturally developed waterfront park, the competition area includes an approximately three-hectare winter boat storage facility managed by the City (marked as vep in the detailed plan). This function will be discontinued no later than the start of park construction. The site is not suitable for winter boat storage, as the activity causes soil emissions that would require, for example, paving and sewerage. For more information on the removal of the winter boat storage facility, see section 4.4.

The Kyläsaari concrete plant and the sand fields with storage containers currently located within the competition area will be removed before park construction begins.





4. Design instructions

4.1 General information

The boundaries of the competition area are shown in *Appendix 1* of the programme.

The planned Hermanni Waterfront Park must be functional, safe, and pleasant, taking into account the varying seasons, times of day, and climatic conditions. Due to challenges related to soil constructability, facilities such as sledding hills or skating rinks cannot be built within the competition area. However, the Vanhankaupunginselkä, bay area bordering the park, offers activities such as ice skating on natural ice during cold winters. In addition, recreational fishing is currently practised on the shores of the park area.

The design of the park must consider different user groups. The routes should be designed to be accessible. The aim is to have at least one accessible route across the park and a clear overall network of pathways. Furthermore, the Baana cycle route, which runs through the park, must be integrated into the design according to the given guidelines. The park should also reinforce the identity of the area.

4.2 Plans and boundary conditions to be followed

Planning status of the competition area:

- The Sörnäistenranta and Hermanninranta partial master plan from 2008 is in force in the area:
- The Hermanninranta local detailed plan from 2023 is in force in the southern part of the area:
- The detailed planning of Kyläsaari will begin after 2025;
- An experimental regional green factor analysis for the area was carried out in 2020
- Plans to be taken into account:
 - The general plan for public areas in the Hermanninranta and Kyläsaari detailed plan
 - The implementation plans for Hermanninterassi
 - The route from the school to recess area located in the park, designated as in accordance with the implementation plan
 - The vehicle connection to the boat launch site
 - The indicative alignment of the high-quality Baana cycle route through the park



• In phase 2, a more precise Baana route connection point will be defined in the northern part of the park.

The competition area is available for viewing in the Helsinki Map Service at https://kartta.hel.fi/ and the smart city information model at https://kartta.hel.fi/3d/.

4.3 Current partial master plan and detailed plan

The local master plan for Sörnäistenranta and Hermanninranta, which came into force on 14 March 2008, define Hermanninranta as an area for public services and administration, a residential area, an area for sports and recreational services, a recreational area, and a water area. An outdoor recreation route is indicated along the shoreline of Hermanni Waterfront Park. Furthermore, the local master plan identifies a special planning requirement (planning symbol m) due to soil contamination and poor ground conditions. The area is to be planned and built in sufficiently large entities to ensure soil stability and management of elevation levels.

In the Hermanninranta detailed plan, that came into force on 16 May 2023, the area is designated mainly as a residential area with commercial premises planned on the ground level. The waterfront area is designated as a park. Due to challenging soil conditions, the area designated for sports and recreation facilities is slightly smaller than those indicated in the local master plan.

The detailed plan sets the objective of creating a biodiversity park through a design that respects natural processes, allowing flooding and the ecosystems it generates to flourish. The intention is to preserve the existing nature while allowing it to evolve into an even more diverse environment, creating a setting where a wide variety of species can coexist within the same area.

The detailed planning of Kyläsaari will start at a later stage.

4.4 Planning notations and functions to be considered

Sports and recreation facilities (VU), playground (VK) and park routes: In the competition area, the sports and recreational services must be located next to the northern daycare centre, in the positions designated by the local detailed plan. The sports and recreation area as well as the playground are planned to be placed near the urban structure on

the western edge of the park, so that their elevation can be raised above the level of frequently recurring floods.

The main park routes are to be lit in a way that takes natural conditions, such as the presence bats, into account. The main route and new smaller routes are allowed to be flooded from time to time.

The sports and recreational facilities (VU) must include a full-size football pitch measuring 105×68 metres. The design of the playground (VK) must take into account the space and functions it requires as a part of the waterfront park.

Playgrounds offer experiential environments and a wide range of activities in Helsinki's green areas. In Helsinki, playgrounds are large and are used by the Education Division to organise activities. The playground equipment is designed to provide a play environment suitable for young children and meet the objectives of early childhood education. Older children and young adolescents are catered for with sufficiently challenging functional play equipment, climbing frames, climbing walls and opportunities for games, for example. At this stage, the playground functions are sufficient as preliminary spatial reservations, and no detailed plan is required in the competition.

In Helsinki, playgrounds typically feature a playground building, toilet facilities and organised activities. However, in this case there is no need to allocate space for a separate playground building within the playground area as the playground will make use of the facilities of the adjacent daycare centre.

The football pitch and the playground may utilise the full use of the areas allocated to them in the plan.

Dog park (vc): The competition entry must include a dog park (marked vc in the plan), the location of which is indicative on the plan map. Competitors can look for a location for the dog park that suits their competition plan, for example in the area freed up from the winter boat storage facility.

Dog parks are fenced areas intended for the free outdoor exercise of dogs. The dog park should provide a safe space for dogs to run around and play in. No training equipment will be placed in the enclosures, and park furniture and fixtures are kept to a minimum. A well-designed dog enclosure is discreet in appearance and well integrated into the urban landscape and structure.

The enclosure must be located at a sufficient distance from residential areas: minimum of 100 metres is recommended, and under no circumstances may the enclosure be located closer than 50 metres to housing. Separate enclosures for large and small dogs are recommended. If this is not possible, the enclosure may be divided into two sections, one for large dogs and one for small dogs.

The target size for a single enclosure is 1,500 m², with a minimum size of 600 m². The target size for a divided enclosure is 3,000 m², of which at least 600 m² allocated to small dogs.

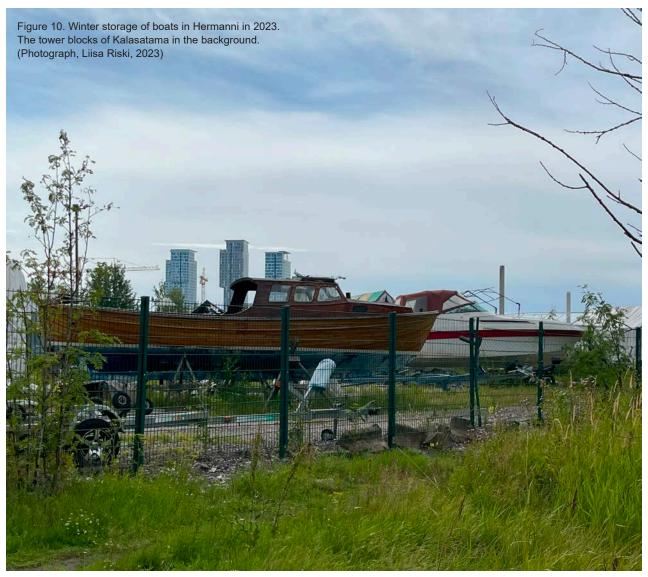
Winter storage of boats (vep): The winter storage facility for boats designated in the local detailed plan (marked vep) within the competition area will be discontinued due to the environmental risks it poses. Therefore, the boat storage does not need to be taken into account in the competition entry.

Boat winter storage cannot be implemented in the area, as the activity causes soil contamination and

would require, among other measures, paving and sewerage. In addition due to challenges related to the constructability of the soil, the area cannot be developed to meet the requirements set for winter storage of boats, and for this reason, the function will be removed.

Rowing and canoeing point: A lightweight rowing and canoeing point is recommended for the area, providing access to the water via the shoreline or a pier, as well as equipment storage, for example on racks. Competitors may determine the most suitable location for this facility within the waterfront park from the perspective of the competition design, making use of the marina's proximity where appropriate. Competitors may also propose alternative functions for the park.

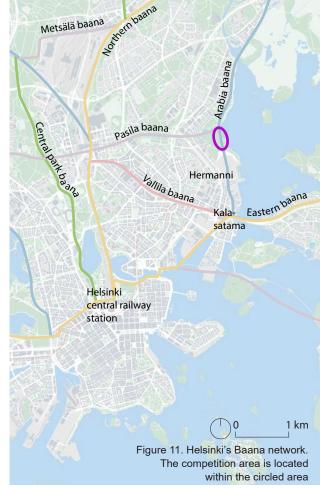
Baana (bicycle route): The local detailed plan designates a high-quality Baana, bicycle route, in the Hermanni Waterfront Park, which forms a part of Arabia Baana and the greater Helsinki's Baana network (Figure 11). Baanas are high-quality, direct

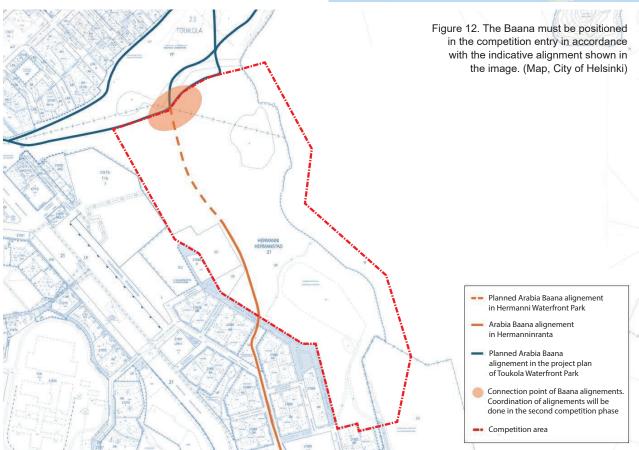


cycle routes that connect large residential areas and employment hubs. The aim of the Baana network is to establish a regional cycling infrastructure. The target width of the Baanas is 4 m, and they are generally paved with red asphalt.

The competition entry must include a Baana—a high-quality bicycle route—within the waterfront park. The Baana designated for the competition area diverges from Kyläsaarenkatu near the midpoint of Hermanninranta and passes through Kertosäkeenpuisto to the waterfront park. From the northern part of the park, the Baana continues toward Toukola Waterfront Park. Project planning for Arabia Baana north of the competition area is ongoing, and its alignment will be specified in the second phase of the competition. The connection point for the Baana alignements will be located in the Kumpulanpuro area. The coordination of the plans will take place in the second phase of the competition.

Figure 12 shows the indicative alignment of the Baana. The alignment must be designed to be smooth, taking into account the other functions of the park. Competitors must strive to position the Baana in such a way that it remains above flood level under normal conditions. Due to the soil conditions, the surface material of the Baana running through the competition area may differ from asphalt. Addition-







ally, because of the park's elevation, the Baana may be submerged during flood peaks. Nevertheless, solutions should be sought so that the Baana remains above water under normal conditions and is maintainable throughout the year.

The aim is to create, despite the challenging soil conditions, a high-quality and visually distinctive bicycle connection, separated from pedestrian traffic. The Baana's lighting and signage should be designed to a high standard.

Hermanninterassi (Hermanni Terrace): Hermanninterassi is a functional waterfront promenade planned for the interface between the waterfront park and the future urban structure. It is to serve both as an attractive and functional recreational route and as an extension of residents' homes.

Hermanninterassi will be built above the flood level, and the area between the terrace and the waterfront park will have to be designed as a sloping solution. The competition area borders the lower edge of the terrace slope.

The design of Hermanninterassi is not part of the competition brief; however, the competition entries must be adapted to align with the plans for the terrace.

Maintenance routes and vehicle connection to the boat launch site: Maintenance access to the football pitch (VU area on the map) located within the park is via Laila Kinnusen katu, across Hermanninterassi. Vehicle access to the boat launch in the small boat harbour (LV area on the map) next to the park is from the eastern end of Vanha talvitie. The location of this connection is indicative, and the exact alignment may be determined by the competitors. Vehicle access between the boat launch site and park plan (Appendix 6) must be presented in the competition entry.

Parking: No separate car parking spaces are allocated for the park's functions. The competition entry does not need to include bicycle parking in the park either.

Schoolyard: The competition entry must integrate the public park with the school's recess areas. The planned school site (marked YO on the map) in the Hermanninranta area will be large enough to accommodate half of the pupils on the school grounds during recess. Thus the park must provide a place for approximately 350 children to spend their recess breaks all year round. The size of this area should be around 2,800–3,500 m². The area may be larger than this, but in this case, competitors must consider how the area can be monitored.



The area must be visually demarcated, for example with vegetation, to help guide children to remain within their designated area. The users of the recess area will be pupils in grades 1–9 (ages 7-16). The recess area must offer opportunities for varied physical activity, climbing and playing. At the same time, the area should integrate naturally into the park so that it can be used by other users outside the school hours.

The route between the school and the recess area in the park is shown in *Appendix 6*. The competition entry must coordinated with the plan.

Stormwater channels: A 300-meter-long channel runs through the waterfront park, leading to Vanhankaupunginlahti Bay. The channel was not excavated. It was left unfilled when the area was filled in. The original purpose of the channel was to serve as a discharge channel for the wastewater treatment plant. Currently, stormwater is directed into the channel.

The plan designates a new stormwater channel to be built in the area, which will discharge stormwater generated in the Hermanninranta residential area into the sea. The stormwater channel included in the plan must be presented in the competition entry and its location must not be changed. However, character and design of the channel can freely be chosen by the competitors.

4.5 Soil contamination and stormwater management in the area

The soil in the planning area has been found to contain waste fractions and harmful substances, such as metals, PAH compounds and petroleum hydrocarbons, resulting soil contamination.

The plans must take this soil contamination into account. It is recommended that sensitive functions, such as any children's playgrounds, be located in areas where the contamination is less severe. Due to the contamination, a bathing beach cannot be established in the area.

Any additional absorption as well as the diversion of water collected elsewhere or on-site into contaminated soil, must be avoided. Excavating stormwater retention basins is not recommended in the area as any basins would need to be isolated from the contaminated soil. The stormwater channel to be built in the area will be isolated from the contaminated soil by means of special isolation solutions. However, there is no need to prevent flooding from the sea or the natural absorption of rainwater through permeable areas covered with vegetation.

Construction may require the removal or isolation of contaminated soil. The contamination limits the use of the excavated soil, which increases costs. Extensive soil cuttings should therefore be avoided. The need for soil remediation must be assessed before construction begins, and the contaminated soil must be remediated to the necessary extent, at the latest during construction.

A summary of the results of the soil contamination surveys and field observations and the locations of investigation points are presented in the *Appendix* 13.

4.6 The geotechnical conditions

The geotechnical conditions in the competition area are exceptionally demanding. The area is former soft, clayey seabed miscellaneous fill layers on top of it. In some places there is a thick layer of clay with high organic content under the thick layers of fill. Settlements and horizontal displacements have been observed in the area. Making new embankment fills not only speeds up the settlements but also influences the stability of the area and increases the risk for further horizontal displacements. Excavations and cuttings decrease the stability as well. Therefore, making excavations and fillings in the area is challenging. It is recommended that activities planned for the area should be designed taking into account the settlement and stability conditions in the area. Because the soil improvement measures required for filling and digging in the area are expensive and demanding to implement, it is recommended that the area should be designed minimizing the need for soil improvements. Low-emission or carbon-negative soil improvement methods are recommended.

In the eastern part of the competition area, near the shoreline, there is a so-called double embankment structure, which was built in the 1980s and is about 60 meters wide. The double embankment was built on the clay layers with high organic content using geosynthetics. The space between the two parallel embankments was then filled with frictional material. The area is unstable in the current situation, so additional fills or excavations in the area may pose a risk of soil failure or landslide. Hence, it is not recommended to excavate or fill on the double embankment area or in the sea area. The soil and the seabed sediments are contaminated, which also complicates excavations and dredging.

It is possible to do minor embankment fillings or terrain shaping in the competition area between the double embankment on the shore and the Hermanninranta and Kyläsaari areas. When designing



these, it is recommended to take into account the exceptionally demanding soil conditions in the area and check that excavations or fillings do not pose a risk of soil failure.

It is possible to build light, ground-based structures in the competition area, such as canopies, but it is not recommended to build structures that are susceptible to settlements or require heavy foundations, such as piled shoreline structures or buildings. In the competition area, the bedrock surface is deep and there are thick layers of fill. As a result, piling is difficult and expensive to implement. Due to the poor stability of the area, the construction of piled structures might also require supporting wall structures, especially in the shoreline area. Due to the pore

Figure 16. The competition area is located in the eastern green finger (Important green connection) in VISTRA's proposed green and recreational network of Helsinki. In the proposal, one of the main routes of the green fingers runs through the competition area.



Existing main shore route
 Existing green line route
 (East-west main green corridor)
 Shore route to be added to network
 Supplementary street connection of the recreational network
 Green finger (Important green connection of the city's green network)

Green finger water area (Important blue connection of the city's green network)

Nature reserve

Green area in the local detailed plan

water overpressure in the area, extensive pilings may also require lowering the pore water pressure before piling.

In the design of pipelines and in the selection of surface materials, it is recommended to take into account the characteristics of the soil settlement properties. More detailed guidance on Baana is given in Section 4.4.

4.7 Hermanni Waterfront Park as part of Helsinki's green structure

In the City of Helsinki's green and recreational area strategy, VISTRA, Hermanni Waterfront Park is designated as part of the so-called Helsinki Park, which is one of the "green fingers" forming the backbone of the green and recreational network. Helsinki Park will create a continuous green connection from the islands and shores of the coast of Helsinki to Vanhankaupunginkoski and along the Vantaa River to the northern parts of Helsinki, all the way to Tuomarinkylä and Haltiala.

Hermanni Waterfront Park is also closely linked to the Vanhankaupunginlahti water area, the northern part of which is a Natura 2000 site. A main route encircling Helsinki's shores is planned to pass through the park, coming from Kalasatama and continuing toward Arabianranta. The park offers views of Vanhankaupunginlahti Bay that are characteristic of Helsinki.

4.8 Natural conditions in Hermanni Waterfront Park

4.8.1 Climate and light conditions in Helsinki

In the Köppen climate classification, Finland belongs to the snow forest climate type with humid and cold winters (types Dfb and Dfc). Helsinki belongs to the temperate climate zone, more specifically to the cold maritime climate zone, and falls under type Dfb in the Köppen climate classification. Helsinki's climate is characterised by a clear contrast between the seasons.

In a more detailed classification, Finland's climate can be divided into five main categories, with Helsin-ki belonging to the hemiboreal vegetation zone. The average annual temperature is currently around +7 degrees Celsius and is projected to rise by an average of two degrees by 2050 as a result of climate change.

The Gulf of Finland is the main factor influencing Helsinki's climate. The Gulf cools the coastal areas in spring and early summer and warms them in autumn and early winter. Spring is usually the driest time of the year. The wettest month is often August, although October and November can also be rainy.

Thermal spring typically arrives in the last days of March. The cold sea water delays the arrival of summer, and the sea breeze that blows occasionally in early summer keeps the coastal areas cool. Thermal summer begins between 20 and 25 May.

Finland is divided into eight hardiness zones in terms of the success of fruit trees and woody ornamentals. Helsinki belongs to hardiness zone lb.

Snow conditions vary greatly from year to year. Snow depth depends in particular on winter temperatures and wind direction. Southwesterly winds bring in temperate air, causing the snow cover to remain thin and melt several times during the winter. Winds from the east and southeast, on the other hand, bring colder temperatures and allow for a thicker layer of snow. Permanent snow cover usually does not appear in the capital region until after Christmas. It melts on average at the turn of March and April. During mild winters, snowfall may be minimal, and the snow cover may be very short-lived.

In Helsinki, the amount of light varies greatly depending on the season. In winter, the shortest day is about six hours long, and the sun rises only low in the sky. In summer, daylight can last over 18 hours, with the sun reaching high above the horizon. The most hours of sunshine occur in June and July, nearly 10 hours per day, whereas in December there are on average only a few hours of daylight each day.

Tides have very little effect on water levels in Helsinki. Tides do not affect the Helsinki coastline in the same way as they do in the open sea or other sea areas. The detectable fluctuations in water levels are mainly due to climatic factors, such as wind and changes in air pressure. For more information on this topic, see section 4.9.

4.8.2 Vegetation and biodiversity in Hermanni Waterfront Park

Hermanni Waterfront Park has developed on reclaimed land, but it remains relatively natural, as human activity in the area has been limited. Natural succession is strongly evident. The park has developed significant ecological values from an urban ecology perspective, which are important to preserve.

Periodic flooding has also shaped the area's habitats. The area has developed significant natural

values, such as flood meadows, open sunlit environments, rocky areas and ruderal vegetation, which provide habitats for plants, insects and birds.

The Hermanninranta planning area contains areas of ruderal vegetation that have developed as a result of the area's industrial history and are unique, open and diverse urban biotopes. These open habitats, where sunlight is able to warm the ground, are rare in Finnish nature. Open sunlit areas are home to a rich variety of plant and insect species, especially pioneer species and pollinators. Insects are followed by birds, which use the open areas as hunting grounds and the shrubs along the shore for shelter. The ruderal areas are also important for birds in winter, as the plant species growing there provide seeds for food. Open sunlit environments are also home to endangered and protected species of plants and insects.

The most species-rich plant biotope in the waterfront park is the meadow to the south of the water channel. The second largest number of plants has been observed in the wooded area south of the water channel. Of the meadow-like areas, the large, open ruderal meadow in the northern part of the park is also significant in terms of biodiversity. As an open biotope, it connects Hermanninranta to the network of meadows in Toukola Waterfront Park.

The wooded areas are located in the northern parts of the waterfront park, along the water channel. Extensive meadow areas are found particularly in the northern and central parts of the waterfront park. The most significant areas in terms of coastal vegetation are located in the middle of the park.

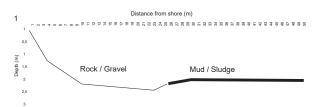
The competition area borders the open waters of Vanhankaupunginlahti to the east, located approximately one kilometre from the boundary of the valuable bird waters. This bird area, which is a reedrich coastal bay at the mouth of the Vantaa River, represents an extremely valuable natural site in the middle of Helsinki. The area contains several nature reserves and is part of the Natura 2000 network due to its important bird populations.

4.8.3 Aquatic nature

The seabed in the coastal area is mainly covered in rocks and mud. There are rocks and gravel in the shallow part of the coastal zone down to a depth of approximately 1.4 metres. The grain size of the rocks and gravel varies between 2 and 10 cm. Based on the appearance of the granules, the bottom is artificial. Deeper down, the bottom is black mud. In general, the muddy seabed begins about 20 metres from the shoreline.

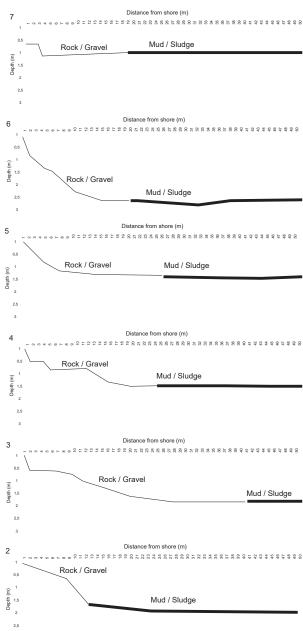






A variety of macroalgae and vascular plants occur in the coastal area. These are common species. Based on the low number of aquatic plant species, the area's natural values are relatively modest. A mud bottom begins at a depth of approximately 1.2 metres. The muddy bottom would be a favourable substrate for aquatic vegetation. However, the water is so murky that not enough sunlight reaches the bottom for plants to photosynthesise. Partly because of this, the deeper bottom is completely devoid of vegetation. The gravel left on the bottom, the murky nutrient-rich water brought by the Vantaa River and the previous discharge of wastewater into the water area, among other things, have made most of the area unfavourable for aquatic plants.

The shallow, semi-enclosed coastal lagoon like – Flada – is separated from the sea by an isthmus or



embankment of gravel. The seabed of this water body is muddy in places and gravelly in others. The average water depth is 1.2–2.2 metres, with the deepest measured point at 4.7 metres. In the northern part of the lagoon, there is a relatively narrow connection to the sea. The water in the Flada is so murky that light cannot reach the bottom to support plant growth. No aquatic plants were observed in the water body. Its shores are surrounded by reeds.

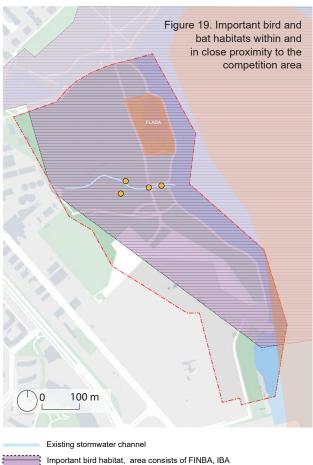
Vanhankaupunginselkä is a bird habitat and fish breeding ground. The extensive reed beds with ponds in the northern part are very valuable to animals. The mapped coastal area is located in a water area that includes reportable habitats. These reportable habitats are the following Natura 2000 habitats: Estuaries (1130), Large shallow inlets and bays (1160) and Coastal lagoons (1150). In addition

to this coastal zone is located within both PEMMA (Locally significant underwater marine nature areas) and EMMA (Ecologically significant underwater marine areas in Finland) areas. However, aquatic plant surveys conducted in the area found virtually no ecological values corresponding to these habitat types.

The waters of Hermanninranta are not particularly valuable in terms of nature in their current condition. The greatest natural values in the area are found in the middle, on the edges and in the delta area of the water channel. These areas are transition zones where the terrestrial ecosystem meets the aquatic ecosystem. Preserving these areas in their natural state supports biodiversity. In the transition zone, there is natural variation in vegetation and its abundance. The species vary depending on the season. Local variations occur based on water depth and substrate type. There is considerable variation in the channel when moving upstream from the delta towards the interior, where the channel narrows and becomes shallower. The nature around the channel is diverse. From a design development perspective, biodiversity would be preserved if the channel, delta area, flow and catchment area were left in as natural a state as possible.

The natural values of the coastal area are limited due to the type of seabed. The seabed is artificially rocky. A rocky bottom is not a favourable substrate. If the bottom of the coastal area were to be replaced with material more suitable for vegetation, such as sand, there is a risk that the sand would be washed away by the forces of the sea or that the bottom would become slimy.

The nature values of the lagoon-like water body Flada are minor, but in a geological sense it could be an interesting formation that stands out from its surroundings. At the moment, the Flada is difficult to reach. The isthmus separating the water body from the sea is relatively narrow and low. There is an opening at the northern edge of the lagoon through which water flows between the sea and the water body. Water circulation should be ensured to prevent deterioration of the Flada's condition, such as low oxygen levels near the bottom. Otherwise, the result may be a slimy and smelly puddle. The impacts of stormwater can be mitigated, for example, through wetlands. Wetlands act as filters and help preserve the natural state of the environment.



Existing stormwater channel Important bird habitat, area consists of FINBA, IBA and MAALI environments, approximate boundary Bat habitat (Value class III: Sites that support and protect biodiversity), approximate boundary Bat sightings near existing stormwater channel

4.8.4 Birds and bats

The coastal area is an important bird area that is classified as valuable both nationally (FINIBA) and internationally (IBA). It serves as a nesting and resting area for many birds, and the the seed-bearing vegetation supports wintering species.

The western area of Vanhankaupunginlahti is an important bat area. Hermanni Waterfront Park is also home to a large population of northern bats. Flada, the pond, and its surroundings are important feeding grounds for the species. Daubenton's bats and Nathusius's pipistrelles have been observed in the area. Bats can be taken into account in the park's design by preserving as many trees as possible, particularly around Flada, and by avoiding unnecessary artificial lighting in the area. Lighting has a significant impact on the occurrence of moths. By reducing artificial light, the living conditions for moths can be improved and an increased abundance of moths supports bat feeding.

The same recommendations apply to the area around the existing stormwater channel. At present it is not an important location for bats due to light pollution, but with reduced lighting it could become a suitable foraging site especially for Daubenton's bat.

4.8.5 Recommendations regarding natural values

Throughout Helsinki, natural shore areas are in decline and can be considered to be a valuable habitat type. While the shore of Hermanni Waterfront Park has been modified, peaceful and undisturbed shores like this are rare in Helsinki. They often serve as important breeding grounds for birds and fish, especially if they have protective coastal or aquatic vegetation. In the design of the waterfront park, it is recommended to take nature values into account and to maintain or actively enhance the quality of the shoreline environment, for example through the use of nesting rafts or wetlands. Small water bodies can be developed both as recreational assets and as valuable natural habitats. The coastal pond, Flada, can be utilised either as an extension of the bay or as a closed freshwater pond, both of which may have significant nature and aesthetic values.

The biodiversity of the coastal zone in the waterfront park could be enhanced by improving its water conditions. The banks of the water channels are also potential sites for the development of riparian vegetation. The trees currently growing on the shore have a good chance of developing into coastal forests, provided that they are not overly exposed to water. The trees currently growing in Hermanninranta are generally valuable because they form microhabitats for other species. The trees in Hermanni Waterfront Park are growing relatively well and have adapted to the soil conditions found in the area. Planting new trees may, however, prove challenging due to these specific soil conditions. North of the competition area, in Toukola Waterfront Park, many trees have remained small or even died, which is thought to result from soil-related problems and poor growing conditions.

All of the biotopes in Hermanni Waterfront Park are very young, and their ecological development, or succession, is still in the pioneer stage. In many areas, there is considerable potential for biodiversity. From the perspective of biodiversity, large contiguous areas provide better conditions for both the increase and diversification of species. However, there are widespread occurrences of invasive species in the area, particularly in the meadows, but also elsewhere in the park. The removal of invasive species will be extensive during the park's implementation phase and will affect all biotopes.

4.9 Sea floods

The range of water level variation (HW–LW) in the Helsinki region is approximately 2.5 m. In addition to this, the average water level relative to the ground is slowly changing due to the rise in sea level caused by climate change and the subsidence of the waterfront park. The water level along the shores of Helsinki varies due to a number of factors, such as wind, air pressure, the amount of water in the Baltic Sea and the internal oscillations (seiche) of the Baltic Sea. A flood occurs when all of these factors peak simultaneously. The water level is usually high in late autumn and early winter. Floods are rare in summer.

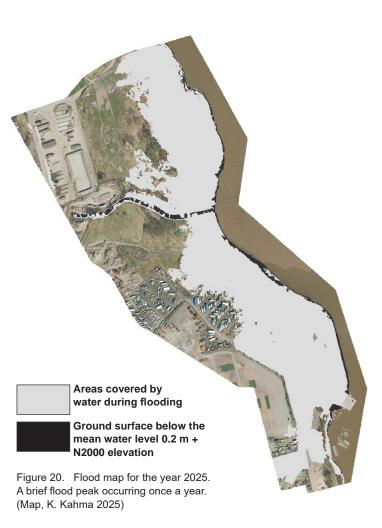
The flooding usually lasts only a short time, like tides – just a few hours. Twelve hours after the flood peak, there is usually a low point caused by the oscillations, after which the water rises again. Although the seiche period of the Baltic Sea is almost the same as that of tides, 24 hours, it does not occur at regular, predictable intervals; instead, it occurs randomly in response to weather conditions. The seiche begins after a high water level, for example, and subsides to insignificance after two or three oscillations. In the Baltic Sea, the range of oscillation can be as much as 70 cm.

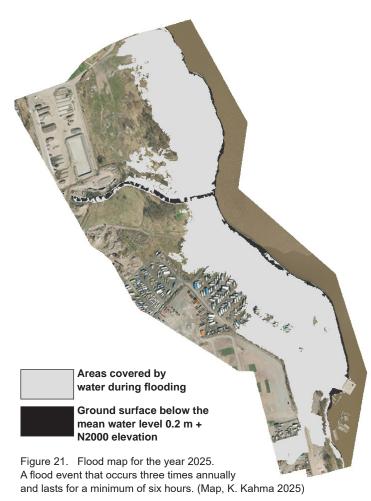
At Vanhankaupunginlahti, water levels rise higher during periods of high water than along the southern shores of Helsinki. In addition, a local oscillation occurs in Vanhankaupunginlahti with a period of approximately 10 minutes. For this reason, flood peaks are slightly higher in Vanhankaupunginlahti than at Kaivopuisto in Helsinki, where water levels are measured.

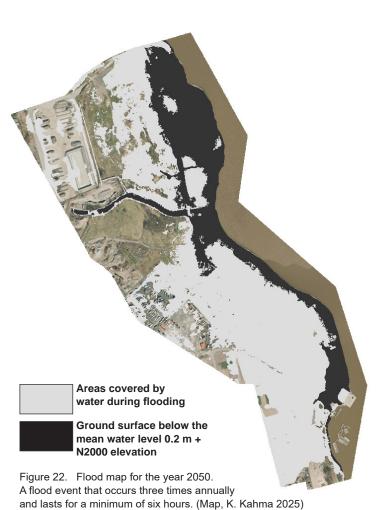
Actual tides affect water levels in Helsinki at most around 10 cm, and this is only clearly visible during calm periods in the summer when other fluctuations are absent. Therefore, significant changes in water levels do not follow the tidal cycle in Helsinki as they do on ocean coasts.

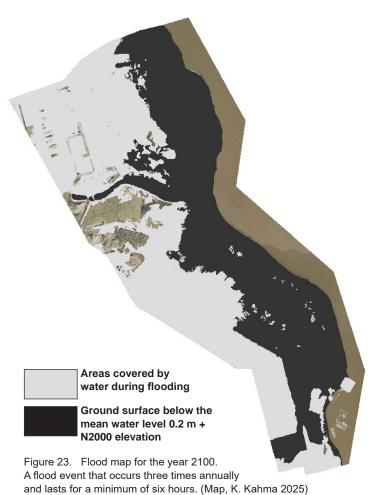
Some parts of Hermanni Waterfront Park are so low that they even get submerged during high water. This lasts longer, but still less than two days, and in most cases less than 12 hours. If the park subsides as predicted and is not raised, parts of it will fall below the average water level and remain submerged for several months of the year.

Hermanni Waterfront Park should be designed in such a way that all of its functions may be located below the safe construction height. If designed well, the shape and elevation of the terrain and the vegetation in the large waterfront park can help mitigate









the impact of waves on the block structure in the event of flooding. A wide floodplain along the shore also supports climate change adaptation. Flooding, in turn, creates distinctive ecosystems within the area.

The sports field and playground are to be located on the western edge of the park, at a higher elevation, to protect them from the most frequent floods. Elsewhere in the park, flooding is permitted.

4.10 Lighting

The lighting in Hermanni Waterfront Park should be designed with the aim of minimising its impact on the area's nature values while creating an environment that supports nature and serves human activities. Lighting solutions must be adaptable and subtle, with a particular emphasis on creating an atmospheric experience, taking urban nature into account and ensuring a smooth transition from brightly lit residential areas to the largely dark waterfront park.

Hermanni Waterfront Park must be left largely unlit, but functional areas such as the sports field, school recess area and park paths must be illuminated. When selecting and positioning lighting fixtures, care must be taken to avoid glare and scattered light. The lighting can be controlled based on use, in terms of both light intensity and colour temperature. The lighting of the Baana route follows the same principle as that of the park paths, and its brightness is adjusted according to its use.

In environmentally friendly lightning, the color temperature of the lights must be considered, as blue light attracts birds and insects and can disrupt their natural rhythms and navigation. In the park, the lighting color temperature is to be set at 2700K. Through lighting control, the lights can be dimmed and adjusted to an even warmer tone. For example, the colour temperature of the lighting can be programmed to become warmer as the evening progresses, creating a soft transition towards the dark waterfront park. During the summer months, the lights are switched off completely.

4.11 Noise

With the completion of the Sörnäistentunneli (tunnel), traffic volumes on Hermannin rantatie, the main street in the area, are expected to decrease significantly. This will also reduce traffic noise in the surrounding area. With the exception of the immediate vicinity of Hermannin rantatie, traffic noise in the park is exceptionally low compared to the guideline values, making the recreational areas soundscape pleasant.

4.12 Municipal infrastructure

The Hermanninranta area has an infrastructure maintenance network that serves the current functions. The existing networks cannot be utilised in the future situation and will be dismantled. The competition entry does not need to take existing municipal infrastructure into account.



5. Evaluation procedure

5.1 Evaluation procedure

In the first phase of the competition, the jury will rank the entries into top, middle and bottom tiers. The jury will select five entries for the second phase.

In the second phase of the competition, the City will review the geotechnical calculations and the feasibility of the proposed solutions after the submissions. This will affect the evaluation of the entries.

After the submissions of the second phase, the City will also commission a cost estimate of the entries, which will be considered in their evaluation. The completed Phase 2 proposals will also be published for public viewing on the Kerrokantasi website.

Once the second phase of the competition is over, the jury will draw up an evaluation report containing written assessments of at least the top-tier entries.

5.2 Evaluation criteria

The jury will emphasise the following aspects in its evaluation:

Quality of Landscape architecture:

- Overall artistic merit, the quality of the landscape architecture, and the strength of the ideas
- Sense of experience, appeal, and meeting the needs of residents
- Identification of the site's distinctive characteristics and their integration as part of the design solution.

Ecological solutions:

- Strengthening biodiversity and ecological values, and ensuring sustainable development within the design
- Innovation and effectiveness in flood management solutions
- Solutions that support underwater marine nature.

Technical solutions:

- Financial feasibility, including construction and maintenance costs
- Feasibility and innovativeness of geotechnical solution

Connection to the surroundings:

 Consideration of the surrounding urban structure and continuity and smoothness of route connections.

In the first phase, the competitors will draw up a draft plan in accordance with this competition programme. The presentation must show, through texts, diagrams, maps and illustrations, the overall landscape architecture idea and the ecological and functional concept for the development of Hermanni Waterfront Park. In the first phase, the jury will place particular emphasis on the landscape architecture and ecological ideas of the entry.

Competitors selected for the second phase of the competition will refine their plans in accordance with the further instructions provided. In the second phase of the competition, in addition to the criteria used in the first phase, the jury will pay particular attention to the feasibility of the geotechnical solutions and the construction and maintenance costs of the entry.

The merits of the overall solution are a higher priority than the flawlessness of the details.

6. Guidelines for entries

6.1 Documents required in the first phase

The material is to be presented as a single PDF file containing a maximum of six horizontal A0-size (841 x 1189 mm) image boards. The file size must not exceed 200 MB.

The first board must contain a layout plan drawn to a scale of 1:1000, placed horizontally with north to the left. One perspective view must be placed on the second board. These first two boards will be published on the competition website. Otherwise, the competitors may arrange the content on the boards as they desire. The plan drawings must include a scale bar and a north arrow.

The perspective view on the second board must also be submitted as a separate raster image (JPG file). The size of the image must not exceed 1 MB. The plan description must also be submitted as a separate PDF file.

Layout plan 1:1000

The layout plan shows the entire competition area and its connection to the surrounding environment. The layout plan must provide a clear representation of the design. The plan must show the routes and their hierarchy, existing and new vegetation areas, elevation data, flood solutions, functions, built elements, surface materials, furniture and other equipment. The sports area, playground, school recess area and dog park are to be designed at a conceptual level. The overall plan must also demonstrate how the competition area connects to the surrounding urban fabric and its green spaces. The drawing must be shaded, with shading from the southwest at a 45-degree angle.

• Two detailed layout plans 1:250–1:500

The working group should select two key areas of their choice for which they will produce more detailed layout plans. The detailed plans must show the same information as the 1:1000 layout plan, but with more precise and detailed information.

The drawing must be shaded, with shading from the southwest at a 45-degree angle.

Three cross sections

Cross-sections of vegetation areas, structures or other key ideas at a scale of the competitor's choosing.

Two perspective views

The proposal must include two perspective images illustrating two key ideas of the plan, at least one of which must be drawn from a pedestrian's eye level.

Vision

In addition to the aforementioned drawings and images, the competition entry must illustrate the working group's vision of a diverse and innovative Hermanni Waterfront Park that align with the objectives of the competition. Competitors may choose the presentation method they consider most appropriate.

Other material illustrating the design

An optional number of diagrams, crosssections, details, projections and perspective images that are relevant to the objectives of the competition. These may illustrate ideas related to sports, recreational, recess, and playground areas, as well as solutions concerning urban nature, biodiversity, soil, flooding, seasonal conditions, lighting, vegetation, and routes.

Plan description

The design description outlines the overall vision and main principles of the competition entry. The description explains and justifies the key design solutions and explains how the entry addresses the challenges presented in the competition assignment in terms of biodiversity, flood waters, soil challenges and serving the needs of residents. The description text may not exceed two pages in length and must be submitted as a separate A4-size PDF file. The description or a summary of it should also be included on the boards alongside the images.

6.2 Documents required in the second phase

At the start of the second phase, the material required for entries will be specified. The material is to be presented as a single PDF file containing a maximum of six horizontal A0-size (841 x 1189 mm) image boards. The file size must not exceed 200 MB.

Layout plan 1:1000

The layout plan shows the entire competition area and its connection to the surrounding environment. The layout plan must provide a clear representation of the design. The plan must show the routes and their hierarchy, existing and new vegetation areas, elevation data, flood solutions, functions, built elements, surface materials, furniture and other equipment. The sports area, playground, school recess area and dog park should be refined from the first phase. The overall plan must also demonstrate how the competition area connects to the surrounding urban fabric and its green spaces. The drawing must be shaded, with shading from the southwest at a 45-degree angle.

Two detailed layout plans 1:250–1:500 The jury may, if desired, request one or two

The jury may, if desired, request one or two detailed plans from certain predetermined areas. In this case, jury will make the request at the beginning of the second phase. Otherwise, the working group may select two key areas of their choice for which they will produce more detailed layout plans.

Three cross sections

The jury may, if desired, request 1-3 cross sections from specific predetermined areas. In this case, jury will make the request at the beginning of the second phase. Otherwise, the working group may select three key areas of their choice to present as cross sections at a scale of the competitor's choosing illustrating the design's vision.

Three perspective views

The entry must include at least three perspective images illustrating key ideas in the design. One of these images must also be submitted as a separate image file, which will be used on the Kerrokantasi website.

Diagrams

The necessary number of diagrams to illustrate the design principles and the vision of the competition entry.

Vision

In addition to the previously mentioned drawings and images, the competition entry must illustrate the working group's vision of a diverse and innovative Hermanni Waterfront Park that align with the objectives of the competition, for example with pictures and graphs. The working group may choose how to present its vision within the page limit.

Other material illustrating the design

An optional number of diagrams, crosssections, details, projections and perspective images that are relevant to the objectives of the competition. These may illustrate ideas related to sports, recreational, recess, and playground areas, as well as solutions concerning urban nature, biodiversity, soil, flooding, seasonal conditions, lighting, vegetation, and routes.

Design description

The design description outlines the overall vision and main principles of the competition entry. The description explains and justifies the key design solutions and explains how the entry addresses the challenges presented in the competition assignment in terms of biodiversity and species considerations, flood waters, soil challenges, serving the needs of residents, routes and paths, seasonal aspects, and lighting.

The description text may not exceed two pages in length and must be submitted as a separate A4-size PDF file. The description or a summary of it should also be included on the boards alongside the images.

The following material must be submitted for public presentation in the kerrokantasi.hel.fi online service and other communication purposes:

- a perspective view (JPG), recommended size 920 x 720 px, maximum file size 1 MB
- a presentation of the overall solution and functional concept of the area (length 500– 1,000 characters, including spaces) as a separate text file titled '[work title]_description.txt'.

Other material that may be requested In the second phase of the competition, additional material will be requested to support geotechnical design calculations and the cost estimate. The exact requirements will be specified at the beginning of the second phase.

6.3 Competition secrecy

Both phases of the competition are anonymous.

All identifiers related to the participant must be removed from the submitted files. Each document of the competition entry must be marked with a pseudonym chosen by the competitor, and no other author information may be included in the material. Competitors must also ensure that the author's name is not stored in the files' metadata (Adobe Acrobat, File > Properties).

When submitting their competition entries, competitors must also provide a separate PDF file containing the following information: the pseudonym of the entry, the names of the designers and any assistants, contact details (phone number and email), and a statement specifying who holds the copyright of the entry.

6.4 Submission of competition entries

Competition entries must be submitted via the competition website in both phases of the competition.

- Phase 1
 The first phase of the
 - The first phase of the competition will end 15th of December 2025 at 4 pm (Finnish time UTC+2).
- Phase 2

The second phase of the competition is tentatively scheduled to end in September 2026. The exact schedule will be confirmed at the start of the second phase. Kerrokantasi material must be submitted through the competition website using the designated upload boxes. The presenta tion text must be entered in the field reserved for it in the submission system. Competition entries must be submitted via the competition website by the stated dead line.

Competitors are advised to submit their entries well in advance of the system closing. The competitors are responsible for the submission of their entries. An entry will be disqualified if it is submitted after the deadline or in violation of the submission instructions. An entry may also be disqualified by the jury if it is incomplete or does not meet the requirements specified in the competition brief.

Competitors should take into account the time required for uploading files, as the submission system will close at the specified deadline. Entries submitted in any way other than electronically will not be accepted for evaluation.

Competitors may edit their submitted entries during the competition period using the access code provided upon submission. The competitor will receive a PDF confirmation of successful submission via their browser in their downloads folder. The receipt contains the access code. Competitors must save the code provided by the system, as it is the only way to access and edit the entries before the dead-line

Competitors must retain a file copy of their competition entries. Competition entries will not be returned. If artificial intelligence (AI) has been used in the preparation of the competition entry, this must be clearly stated in the submission, along with a description of the tasks for which AI was used.

6.5 Publishing of the Competition Entries

The pseudonyms of the submitted entries and the competition entries accepted for evaluation will be published on the competition website.

After the first phase, boards 1 and 2 of the submitted entries will be published on the competition platform and made publicly visible. Other submitted material will not be made publicly available. At the start of the second phase, the entries will be removed from public view.

After the second phase, the fully submitted entries will be published in their entirety on the competition website.

In the second phase, a separately requested perspective image and design description will be published on the Kerrokantasi platform. Feedback received through the Kerrokantasi platform will be forwarded to the jury.

Programme editing and layout Aino Landscaping Oy

Site images and mapsAino Landscaping Oy,
unless otherwise stated

Aerial photos City of Helsinki

Drone imagesLauri Lemmenlehti



Hermanni Waterfront Park

Open two-phase landscape architecture competition 2025–2027

Helsinki