Espoo is Europe’s most sustainable city. It wants to show the world that good urban life can also be possible in the future.
The Laaksolahti ice rink is already bustling with activity at eight o’clock on a Sunday morning. Some skaters are speeding around with hockey sticks, while others are practicing technique with support. Everyone is excited: this is EKS Special.

“We want to maintain a low threshold for participation. You don’t have to come every Sunday, and you can be on the ice for as long as you feel like.”

So what’s the best thing about Sunday skating?

“This is one of the nicest days of the week. I’ve got loads of friends here. We can pass the puck back and forth, and score goals,” says Mats.

Espoon Kiekkoseura gave her the green light, and the group started up last year. Thanks to funding from the city, participation is free. The only equipment you need is skates and a helmet.

IN ADDITION TO ARTIFICIAL ICE RINKS, ENTHUSIASTIC SKATERS CAN FIND MORE THAN 90 OTHER RINKS AROUND ESPOO. ULKOLIIKUNTA.FI

Espoo offers plenty of places to skate

› Espoonlahti artificial ice rink, Espoonlahdentie 2
› Keski-Espoo artificial ice rink, Keski-Espoo Sports Park, Kylävainiontie 18
› Juvanpisto artificial ice rink, Juvanpiston koulu, Juvanpuro 2
› Leppävaara artificial ice rink, Leppävaara Sports Park, Veräjäpellonkatu 17
› Tapiola Ice Garden, Kirkkopolku

SPECIAL JOY ON ICE

Jaana Vainio

The joy of exercise. Everyone needs hobbies and to experience success.
Carbon handprints can be big

COLLABORATION BETWEEN Fortum, Neste, ST1 and HSY received the “Nobel Prize” for sustainable development – the Energy Globe World award – at an international award ceremony held in Espoo in November. The City of Espoo has previously received awards for its sustainable development.

However, the city cannot build a sustainable future alone – it requires cooperation between companies, research institutes and residents. We want Espoo’s carbon handprint to be larger than its carbon footprint. That’s why we’re not focusing solely on our own activities. Instead, we’re actively engaging in work that may even benefit future sustainability on a global scale.

Awards are a way to create awareness of new technologies and innovations. The most important climate action in Espoo was Fortum’s decision to stop using coal and make its district heating carbon neutral. Gasum, Neste and ST1 have also made considerable investments in renewable energy in Espoo. Other important partners in the capital city region include the Smart & Clean Foundation and Climate Leadership Coalition ry.

As a UN pioneer city, Espoo has a special obligation to seek out new sustainable solutions. We have committed to achieving sustainable development objectives by 2025. Espoo is well prepared for this, and also has an obligation to promote the spread of good solutions through collaboration between companies, cities, universities and nations.

JUKKA MÄKELÄ
Mayor
A predicted approximately 4,300 new homes will have been built in Espoo over the course of 2019. 3,372 homes were built between January and September, which is almost 800 more than the corresponding period last year. In the years ahead, about 85% of new homes will be in apartment blocks.

Young people present Espoo to international visitors

UPPER SECONDARY students in Espoo attended a course in Global Communications this autumn. The course included visits to the US Embassy, Finland’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international businesses. The students’ final project was a presentation of the City of Espoo through the eyes of young people for foreign visitors. It featured the city’s core messages, such as sustainable development and participation.

“The international visitors that the City receives are usually experts in various fields, local government managers and government representatives who are interested in Espoo’s best practice. The young Espoo ambassadors will add a valuable viewpoint on their home city to our international relations,” says Senior Planning Officer Annika Forsten.

Vaccination vital

IN FINLAND the typical seasonal flu period is between November and April with the epidemic peaking in February-March. Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself from flu. Getting the flu jab protects you and it protects those around you. The vaccine reduces the spread of flu and the illnesses that often follow on from a case of flu such as pneumonia and ear infections.

“We sent out the letter for the first time in 2015. It improved the vaccination cover among seniors considerably,” says Matti Lyytikäinen, Director of Services for the Elderly. Besides the over 65s, children from six months to age six, pregnant women and people who are at risk due to a health condition or treatment are also entitled to free flu vaccinations. People not in these categories can request a vaccine prescription from their health centre or apply for the vaccine at a pharmacy and then book a vaccination appointment. Flu jabs can also be provided without an appointment. Check the times on the back cover.

Read more at: espoo.fi/influenssa

SUURPELTO LIBRARY IMPROVED

ON 12 August 2019 the name of Opinmäki library in Suurpelto changed to Suurpelto Library. The change was part of the redevelopment work that began in spring 2019 to improve the library premises and its services in line with the wishes of local residents.

The library underwent many changes during the summer. It now has quiet reading corners and a more diverse range of books, and the acoustics have been improved. There are also new computers and children’s and adults’ sections.

Work is continuing through the autumn so that the library will be able to serve local residents even better, especially in the evenings.

“We want to include residents in planning and listen to their views. Our residents’ forum gives us valuable information to support our decision making.”

– DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES SANNA SVÄHN

PYLÄMÖNTIE 15, 01740 ESPOO
77% of the people who responded to the residents’ survey said that it is very important that the City of Espoo offers cultural activities. Libraries, theatres, concerts and exhibitions are particularly important to local residents. The respondents also requested activities such as outdoor movie screenings, food events, recreational opportunities in residential areas, band activities and low-threshold activities where they could meet other people. (A total of 232 people responded to the survey between 4 June and 27 October 2019.)

**Radio tracking flying squirrels**

In Espoo, research is being conducted into whether it is possible to develop land use in areas covered by the city plan while simultaneously preserving areas that are important to flying squirrels. In addition, radio tracking of flying squirrels has been launched in the Suurtapiola area. A total of five flying squirrels were fitted with radio trackers in September and October. The aim is to provide data about the environment and the routes of flying squirrels, e.g. when crossing the Länsiväylä motorway.

**A gift could be brunch, time spent together or teaching someone else an everyday skill.**

A gift with a difference

**What if** instead of a present to open, you gave experiences and time together for Christmas? It would reduce waste and last-minute shopping panic. On its Anna jotain muuta (A gift with a difference) website, Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority HSY has put together gift ideas - experiences to suit all tastes and all ages. You could give an extreme experience, concert tickets, a pampering treatment or a gym membership.

Gift ideas that aren’t just more stuff can be found at annajotainmuuta.fi

**ESPoo is part of the nationwide LIFE flying squirrel project which is studying the protection of flying squirrels and harmonisation of land use. The project started last year and will run until 2025.**

“We want to increase the discussion and provide people with reliable research data about flying squirrels, what protecting them really involves and how it affects planning, for example,” explains environment expert and project coordinator Laura Ahopelto.

**On-demand ride sharing service**

ESPoo’s new on-demand ride sharing service launched in September 2019 and the six-month pilot scheme is set to run until halfway through March 2020. The extension of the service in October means it now covers Matinkylä-Olari and northern Leppävaara.

The journey from the starting point to your destination – e.g. to one of the five metro stations or four railways stations in the area covered – is booked directly using the app. Once you have made your booking, the app shows where you can pick up your lift. Pick-up and drop-off points are “virtual stops” typically on street corners.

The system underneath works out the route automatically and puts people travelling in the same direction together.

The service runs on weekdays from 7:00 to 21:00 and on Saturdays from 9:00 to 23:00 and it is accessible for wheelchair users.

Download the app: hsl.fi/viavan-e

**PEDESTRIAN RIGHT OF WAY ON CROSSINGS DOES NOT APPLY TO CYCLISTS**

THE PIECE on safety (Safety is a feeling) in Espoo magazine 3/19 featured a highlight urging cyclists to push their bikes across pedestrian crossings unless a designated cycle lane indicated with a broken line continues over the crossing. A strict interpretation of the Road Traffic Act says that pedestrian crossings are intended for pedestrians. However, the Supreme Court has interpreted the Act as meaning that it is permitted to cross pedestrian crossings while riding a bike.

This contradiction between interpretations will be resolved when the new Road Traffic Act enters into force next June, which states that it is clearly permitted to cross pedestrian crossings while riding a bike.

However, it is essential to remember that pedestrian right of way on pedestrian crossings does not apply to cyclists unless they have dismounted. When riding a bicycle, the cyclist must give way to vehicles on the road unless there are traffic lights indicating otherwise.

**CurPore.FI/Tutkimus Espoo.FI/EsppoCult Espoo.FI/EsppoStory**
Behind the Screen

Video appointments are part of my work, as they are for all on-call nurses. The only difference between a video appointment and an appointment at a health centre is that you can’t touch the patient. However, patients that need sick leave are usually suffering from colds or stomach problems, and their ill-health is usually clearly visible.

I’ve been involved in this project since the pilot phase in 2016. Here at Samaria Health Centre, we’ve been offering online appointments since the beginning of the year and have had about 600 video meetings to date. The service has been gradually introduced at other health centres, too.

In the early stages in particular, we asked customers for their opinions of the service and the feedback has been nothing but positive. The service has been praised for being easy to use, and because it means that people don’t have to leave home when they’re sick.

Video appointments are just one of the digital health services that we are continually developing. The next one will be the Omaolo service — a questionnaire that will help you determine which kind of treatment you should seek. In the future, you may even be able to have a doctor’s appointment online.

I also man the phone service and work as a wound dresser. And I’ve just graduated as an advanced practice nurse, that is, I also have the right to prescribe medication.”
THEME

2030
BY 2030, ALL ENERGY PRODUCED IN ESPOO WILL BE FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES.

5G
THE 5G BASE STATION IN KERA HAS ENABLED THE FIRST TEST DRIVES OF ROBOT BUSES.

AT THE SPEARHEAD OF SUSTAINABILITY

Text: Tiina Parikka
Illustration: Susanna Tuononen
Being a pioneer in sustainable development, becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and retaining our title as Europe’s most sustainable city will require expertise, connections and a strong will. Espoo has all of these.

Espoo has committed to achieving the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals by 2025. Espoo has twice been proven to be Europe’s most sustainable city and wants to retain its position. Espoo intends to be a completely carbon-neutral city by 2030.

“We want Espoo’s carbon handprint to be many times that of its residents’ carbon footprints. This means that we’re working with our partners to develop solutions that will act as concrete examples of how carbon-neutral urban life is in fact possible,” says Pasi Laitala, Director of Sustainable Development.

These major objectives have not surfaced by chance. Espoo is well prepared for this development work: technological expertise, research, education, and actors who want this and will make it possible.

“The city’s Sustainable Espoo programme crosses traditional local government borders. We have a mandate to collaborate with companies and other organisations in a brand-new way. We’re developing new solutions with companies, who...
will also launch them in other markets in which they operate. This will increase the impact of our work and support the development of urban solutions. This model also interests investors, and we have received a good amount of external funding for our development work,” says Laitala.

Espoo seeks to be a pioneer in smart urban development, climate work, circular economy, and the digitalisation required to support them. The city has begun working towards these objectives through five key development areas. These are smart urban solutions, low-emission and smart transport, carbon-neutral energy, responsibility, and the local environment.

**LIFE IN A 5G NETWORK.**
Kera has been selected as a test laboratory for smart urban solutions. The idea is to develop smart and clean urban solutions based on 5G network technology, such as automatic bus traffic, smart energy solutions, and smooth-running commercial services.

The first 5G base station has been erected and residents have been able to test the world’s first robot bus that can cope with winter conditions. The bus was built in Otaniemi and has been tested on a route that runs between Kera railway station and Nokia Campus. In accordance with the goals set for the Sustainable Espoo programme, the robot bus should become a permanent feature in Espoo by the end of the current council term.

**ROBOT BUSES** are just one solution for lower-emission transport. An on-demand ride service has already been tested as part of public transport.

“With HSL’s tendered app, you can order a ride from, for example, home to the metro station or from the station to your workplace. The app will tell you when your ride will arrive and how long the journey will take. A minibus will collect passengers travelling along the same route and take them to the end of the connecting route,” says Laitala, describing the pilot that has been launched in Matinkylä, Tapiola, Kera and Leppävaara.

Bus rides in Leppävaara are already emission-free, as the area uses quiet, emission-free electric buses. Laitala encourages all Espoo residents to do their bit for emission-free transport.

“We’re working towards greater use of locally produced and emission-free solutions for transport, that is, a sufficient number of electric car charging stations, gas filling stations and renewable diesel. There are many alternatives to fossil fuels. Many of us already have the chance to decide what kind of energy choices we’ll make with regard to driving cars,” says Laitala.

**CLIMATE EMISSIONS.**
The majority of Espoo’s climate emissions stem from heat production and electricity consumption.
The goal is for Espoo’s energy production to be completely carbon neutral by 2030.

New energy solutions are being developed and introduced, particularly in collaboration with Fortum as part of the Espoo Clean Heat project, which seeks to make district heating carbon neutral during the 2020s. One of Fortum’s two coal-burning units in Espoo will be closed next summer – and a new bio-heating facility will start up in Kivenlahti. Otaniemi’s geothermal heat plant is expected to start up next autumn. It will be the geothermal heat plant with the deepest borehole in the world. A new heat pump unit that will utilise waste heat from wastewater will be opened at the Suomenoja power plant in 2021. These measures will enable Espoo to make its district heating production fifty per cent carbon neutral in 2022. The aim is to stop using coal completely in 2025.

Fortum also collaborated on the Smart Living project implemented by Espoon Asunnostalo. Almost all of Espoon Asunnostalo’s 15,000 apartments now have smart energy control and are heated using Eco Heat.

“Eco Heat is generated by recovering the heat from wastewater at the Suomenoja power plant, and it produces enough energy to cover 15 per cent of Espoo’s district heating requirements. Espoo residents are very interested in the environmental impact of energy solutions. Innovations such as smart heating control have been used to improve indoor air conditions in apartments and to reduce indoor temperature variations,” says Laitala.

PARTICIPATION.
An interim report submitted during the summer shows that one of the programme’s challenges is to get Espoo residents to participate and take responsibility. Cooperation with schools has been developed, and sustainable development will be a theme in Espoo schools this year.

“We’ve started collaborating with three upper secondary schools. As part of their coursework, students will come up with concrete suggestions for things such as low-carbon transport and circular economy-based food production,” says Project Manager Helena Kyrki.

“There is also a need for improvement in waste sorting. "Hopefully, all Espoo residents will be able to sort their waste better in the future, thereby enabling materials to be processed and reused."

“Small housing companies with more than five apartments will have improved opportunities to sort waste from the beginning of 2021, but when it comes to detached homes, waste sorting still rests on the homeowner’s level of enthusiasm and and the sorting stations we develop for them,” says Laitala.

LOCAL NATURE.
All surveys have indicated that, for Espoo residents, local nature is one of the most important things about their hometown. We want to keep nurturing this attitude, and to offer opportunities for outdoor pursuits and relaxation in the local environment.

“It’s an affordable and ecological way to relax, and forests also act as carbon sinks for the city.”

Local nature is considered during zoning, but Espoo also wants to encourage its residents to take care of their local environment.

“Last summer, the city tested fixed volunteer stations where volunteers could collect equipment to clean up the environment. Associations have also been offered the chance to collect funds during trials chargeable volunteer work,” says Kyrki, giving a few examples. “We became a UN sustainable development pioneer by working together to improve everyday sustainability: each person’s own actions coupled with the city’s proactive efforts with partners in areas that individuals cannot influence, such as energy production solutions or public transport,” says Laitala.
INDEPENDENCE DAY CONCERT LIVE

THE TRADITIONAL Independence Day party for all Espoo residents will take place on 6 December at Espoo Metro Areena. The performers will be Tapiolan nuoret sinfonikoti conducted by Erkki Lasonpalo and soloists Ilkka Alanko, Krista Siegftrids, Tami Pohjola, violin and Aurora Marthens, soprano.

Tickets for the concert usually go very quickly. Admission is free. You can check whether tickets are still available when this magazine is published at lippu.fi.

The City also offers the opportunity to take part in the celebrations to people who have not managed to get a ticket or watch the concert in person. The concert will be broadcast live and you can watch online at espoo.fi/livetapahtumat. After the party is over, the recording can be watched online until 5 January.

> Independence Day concert Friday 6 December, 14:00. Espoo Metro Areena.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS SONGS

THE MOST Beautiful Christmas songs fill Tapiolasali on 11 December when conductor and singer Pasi Hyökkä and the Tapiola Sinfonietta lead the audience in celebrating Christmas. The concert is part of the Most Beautiful Christmas Songs campaign which helps children with difficult lives around the world. At the concert, you will be able to make a voluntary donation to the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission or to Tapiola church to help with its work for children in developing countries.

> The Most Beautiful Christmas Songs Wed 11 December 18:00–19:00, Espoo Cultural Centre, Tapiolasali. Free entry.

PRAM MEET-UP FOR ALL THE FAMILY

ON THE first Thursday of the month Espoo City Museum KAMU runs a meet-up for parents with babies. Explore history with other parents in a hands-on experience using all the senses. At the last meet-up of the year, we will be singing familiar Christmas cons and tasting traditional Christmas foods. Big brothers and sisters are also welcome.

> Pram meet-ups at KAMU: A century of Christmas Thurs 5 December 12:00–13:00. Exhibition Centre WeeGee. Free entry.

JOULU SE TULLA JOLLOTTAA

THIS FASCINATING Christmas puppet show has been filling auditoriums and getting everyone into the Christmas spirit for almost 20 years. Get ready for Christmas with the endearing dog Duppaduluk, the Christmas elves and musicians. The concert is suitable for friends of music and puppetry of all ages.


MOST BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS SONGS

THE MOST Beautiful Christmas songs fill Tapiolasali on 11 December when conductor and singer Pasi Hyökkä and the Tapiola Sinfonietta lead the audience in celebrating Christmas. The concert is part of the Most Beautiful Christmas Songs campaign which helps children with difficult lives around the world. At the concert, you will be able to make a voluntary donation to the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission or to Tapiola church to help with its work for children in developing countries.

> The Most Beautiful Christmas Songs Wed 11 December 18:00–19:00, Espoo Cultural Centre, Tapiolasali. Free entry.

UNSUITABLE FOR CHILDREN

STORIES WITH a difference (certificate 18) is a guided tour for adults only taking a rather different approach to stories from history from the Stone Age to urbanisation. Illicit indulgence and violent acts, scandals and ghost stories are on the cards in the A thousand stories with a difference exhibition.

> Stories with a difference (certificate 18) Fri 13 December, 20:12 and 22:12 18:00–19:00, Espoo City Museum KAMU, Exhibition Centre WeeGee. Free entry.

GIVE A SONG FOR CHRISTMAS – CHRISTMAS CONCERT OF THE YEAR

THIS YEAR, Arja Sajjonmaa, Paula Kovuniemi, Antti Ketonen, Aste, Kyösti Mäkimattila, Mira Luoti and Irina give Finland a Christmas present with a difference. In its second year, this concert features completely new songs and familiar beloved Christmas classics. Give a song for Christmas is performed live at Espoo Cultural Centre’s Tapiolasali and broadcast live on Radio Suomi. The concert will also be recorded and Yle TVI will broadcast it on Christmas Day 2019.

> Give a song for Christmas concert 14.12 7 p.m. Espoo Cultural Centre Tapiolasali. Tickets €29 + delivery (from €1), lippu.fi.
**January**

**Teatteri Röntgensali Presents**

**A Friendship** between three people, formed in childhood, has been on a long hiatus. Different stages in life bring the trio back together. Each of them have taken a different path and there is no guarantee that the sense of togetherness created when they were children will still be there. The play Kuka oon, joko arvaan sen? (Who am I? Can you guess?) tells a little bit about the lives of Pippi, Tommy and Annika. The themes span ageing, death, happiness and love.


**Kibecom Takes Over Sello Library**

A free event is being run at Sello library on the Epiphany weekend. Jointly organised by Espoo town library and fans, Kibecom brings friends of anime, manga and gaming together at the library. The event features talks, workshops, cosplay contests, dance performances, an art corner, sales and plenty to play, try out and experience for all ages. There will also be a free programme of evening events in Sello at Kibecom. This year’s theme at Kibecom is magic.

- Kibecom 4–5 January 11:00–17:00. Sello library.

**Get into the Christmas Spirit at Glims**

**It’s Time** for an old-fashioned Christmas again at Glims Farmstead Museum. The farmhouse will be decorated for Christmas from the start of Advent to 13th January. At weekends Glims Farmstead Museum welcomes visitors keen to get into the Christmas spirit with a Christmas programme including story time, making traditional decorations, learning how Christmas was celebrated in the past and musical performances. Tikkivihti cottage is also open and decorated for Christmas.

- Vihtori cottage is also open and decorated for Christmas again at Glims Farmstead Museum. The farmhouse will be decorated for Christmas from the start of Advent to 13th January. At weekends Glims Farmstead Museum welcomes visitors keen to get into the Christmas spirit with a Christmas programme including story time, making traditional decorations, learning how Christmas was celebrated in the past and musical performances. Tikkivihti cottage is also open and decorated for Christmas.

**Comedy and Sharp Observation**

**Ulla Tapaninen’s Lava-ammuntaa VI (Six Pack)** is the sixth independent part in the actress’ popular series of performances and has its premiere at Ryhmäteatteri in autumn 2019. In the show, which tours Finland in spring 2020, Tapaninen, who has been entertaining Finland for more than 40 years, tackles everyday phenomena in her own inimitable style.

- Lava-ammuntaa VI Friday 31 January 19:00, Sellosaloi. Tickets: lippu.fi

**February**

**Rare Pieces in Tapiolasali**

**Tapiola Sinfinietta** launches a collaboration with one of the most famous academies for string players in the world, the Kronberg Academy. The stunning soloists are winner of the Seoul International Music Competition Fumika Mohri and winner of the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition Timothy Ridout. The programme of rare gems is conducted by British conductor Jonathan Bloxham.

- Tapiola Sinfinietta: Kronberg Academy Fri 14 February 20:00–21:00, Espoo Cultural Centre, Tapiolasali. Tickets: lippu.fi

**Emma’s 2020 Exhibition Programme**

**Emma**’s 2020 exhibition programme opens with one of today’s most internationally renowned modern artists, Tacita Dean. The exhibition is her first extensive one-person show in the Nordic countries. Dean is especially known for 16 mm films and her work to preserve the tradition of analogue film but also for large-scale chalk drawings that command the space. The exhibition comprises key works from the artist’s career.

- Tacita Dean 26 February–3 May, Exhibition Centre WeeGee.
Last year, Espoo launched a trial that is aiming to activate upper comprehensive school children through sports and cultural hobbies. There are dozens of different hobbies on offer. All upper comprehensive school timetables have been drawn up so that school ends by 2:30 pm at the latest on Wednesdays. This gives young people free time for hobbies.

“We’ve received a lot of positive feedback. The number of participants has grown on the previous year. About 800 upper comprehensive school children take part on a weekly basis," says sports coordinator Camilo Miettinen.

SPORTS AND EXERCISE-RELATED HOBBIES are organised by Espoo Sports Services and 33 sports clubs. The majority of these provide activities that are open to everyone. Some of the clubs offer practice sessions to upper comprehensive school members with particular sporting goals. Fencing, athletics, rhythmic gymnastics and ice skating have all grown in popularity. A number of more exotic disciplines were also introduced this autumn, such as rugby, Krav Maga, cricket and futsal.

Espoo’s youth services also offer plenty of opportunities for hobbies, such as digital gaming, cooking, baking, sports and multi-activity clubs.

The best way to find out about the range of free hobbies on offer is to search online at harrastushaku.fi using the search term ‘yläkoululaisille’.

“Espoo offers all citizens a broad spectrum of opportunities for free hobbies. Its Wednesday-afternoon hobby sessions for upper comprehensive school children have been well received. We’ve created a service path that offers free activities for everyone from babies to grandparents,” says Martti Merra, Director of Sports and Youth Activities.

Espoo Figure Skating Club has been actively offering opportunities to upper comprehensive school children in Espoo. This autumn, 7-9 students have attended their Wednesday-afternoon training every week.

Espoo Figure Skating Club has been actively offering opportunities to upper comprehensive school children in Espoo. This autumn, 7-9 students have attended their Wednesday-afternoon training every week.

YOU CAN, FOR EXAMPLE, TRY OUT FIGURE SKATING ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS.

Free Hobbies for UPPER COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL CHILDREN

Esposo Figure Skating Club has been actively offering opportunities to upper comprehensive school children in Espoo. This autumn, 7-9 students have attended their Wednesday-afternoon training every week.

You can find out more about the sport and exercise opportunities on offer at www.espooliikkuu.fi.
Espoo – an innovative City

Espoo was one of the six finalists in the European Commission’s European Capital of Innovation (iCapital) Award. This success follows Espoo’s win at the Intelligent Community Awards 2018. Espoo earned it thanks to its innovative development projects.

THE ISO Omena Service Centre is a concept for public services that seeks to make everyday services easier to use. The Service Centre includes a library, youth services, a maternity and child health clinic, a health centre, mental health and substance abuse services, the Social Insurance Institution (KELA), a HUSLAB laboratory and HUS medical imaging services. The personnel know which other services are available and can preemptively steer customers towards the right type of assistance.

THE BUSINESS Espoo corporate service network supports commercial vitality by providing a range of continually developing services. Business Espoo makes it quicker and easier to get things done, as all the services are available under one roof. Business Espoo also organises corporate events at which entrepreneurs can easily network and access useful information.

THE MAKE with Espoo collaboration model develops and pilots digital services for a variety of purposes, such as collaborative support for education between children, teachers and companies. This co-creation springs from citizens’ needs. Make with Espoo helps all of the city’s actors to work together to create a better living environment and better services.

UPPER SECONDARY school students learn ethical hacking on the Hack with Espoo course. The students are taught about new trends in information security, hacking, and its ethics and tools. Towards the end of the course, they get to test the City of Espoo’s IT security. The security firm Second Nature Security (2NS) is one of the city’s main partners for both implementation and organisation.

INVESTMENT BRINGS EUR 100,000 FOR DEVELOPING INNOVATIONS.
UPPER SECONDARY STUDENTS WANTED A LIBRARY FOR EVERYONE

THE CITY library’s newest branch in Otaniemi was born when upper secondary students asked for a proper library in their school.

“The students also planned how the library would work for other customer groups from preschoolers to seniors. They thought it was great to get a space on school premises where all age groups could meet. And a library really is a natural place for that,” says Chief Library Pedagogue Marjukka Peltonen.

The students give reading tips to preschoolers, and from now on will also provide seniors with advice on digital issues. “As requested by the students, there is space for both quiet study and working together.”

Otaniemi’s new upper secondary school and library are housed in a renovated commercial building (Tietotie 6). In addition to a school for 800 students, the building also provides office space for 700 civil servants. There is also a conference centre and sports facilities for Espoo residents to use.

The library opened in August and was empty when school started. “The idea was to see how the space would fill up. Books drifted in from other libraries and we also made some new acquisitions.” The library has its own door next to the school’s main entrance. You can get into the library using your Helmet library card from 7:00 to 22:00. In addition to the self-service hours, library staff will be present during service hours, that is, 14:00 to 20:00 on Mondays, and 9:00 to 16:00 from Tuesday to Friday.

JUHA PELTONEN

Upper secondary school students Frida Korvenoja, Ella Liukkonen and Amanda Järvinen wanted a school library open for everyone. Marjukka Peltonen says that events at the library are even run for library dogs.
Espoo is a continually growing city. Space for growth is also being sought in Finnoo. During the 2020s and 2030s, this now sparsely populated industrial and warehousing district will become a major residential area dominated by apartment blocks.

“We need to find places to which we can steer Espoo’s population growth. The number of residents in the Finnoo-Kaitaa area is expected to grow by no less than 20–25,000 people,” says Finnoo Project Manager Kimmo Leivo.

Construction of Finnoo’s new residential area was launched this autumn, and it is largely scheduled for completion during the 2030s. The idea was to build an urban neighbourhood of apartment buildings alongside the metro.

“The apartments will have sea views, which is quite rare in Espoo. Finnoo’s coastline is mainly owned by the city, so we can design a shared seaside living room for everyone,’ says Leivo.

**NEW RESIDENTIAL AREA DESIGNED WITH THE LANDSCAPE IN MIND**

“This won’t be a traditional grid – the zoning is very spacious. Very little untouched nature will have to be destroyed, as we have located housing in areas that have previously been used for other purposes,” says Leivo.

He cites two examples: the industrial area around the water treatment plant and the city-owned coastal region that has mainly been used for warehousing. The history of each area is also being taken into consideration: the old spirit of the industrial area will be visible in its new buildings and in the “monuments” that will be left in each area.

**THE METRO STATION WILL LIE AT THE HEART OF THE ENTIRE AREA.**

Grocery stores and other services have been designed around it. Healthcare and other municipal services can be found at Iso Omena, which is only a one-and-a-half-minute metro ride away.

An average of 1,000 new residents per year are expected during the 2020s. Daycare services are expected to open relatively quickly, and the first school during the 2020s.

Finnoo will also act as a role model for sustainable development. Energy efficiency has been considered in both transport and construction.

“The metro and its easy accessibility will play a key role in this. Safe light traffic routes will encourage people to walk and cycle. Criteria for energy efficiency have also been placed on the area’s developers,” says Leivo, listing the indicators for sustainable development.

**GROWTH FIGURES**

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<th>AREA TO BE DEVELOPED (HA)</th>
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<tr>
<td>NEW APARTMENTS</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW RESIDENTS</td>
<td>17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARKING SPACES</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FINNOO’S DEVELOPMENT**

- **2019**: Construction of the first residential buildings begins
- **2020s**: First daycare centres and schools
- **2023**: Metro traffic launched
- **2030s**: Construction at its peak
FLYING SQUIRRELS ALWAYS CONSIDERED

FINNOO is home to bird wetlands, and their preservation has been one of the top planning priorities. The area’s birdlife includes 20 slavonian grebes.

The Siberian flying squirrel, which is an endangered species in Finland, lives in old, spruce-dominated mixed forests. It spends its entire life within a single territory. The six flying squirrels in the Finnoo area have therefore partially determined the location of the green areas that will be preserved.

The bottom of Espoonlahti bay has the most robust distribution of the endangered Macroplea pubipennis leaf beetle in Finland. Two have been sighted in the Nuottalahti area of Finnoo. Planning has paid attention to protecting these individuals.
Espoo is focusing on developing cooperation between the Nordic countries. The aim is for all Espoo’s Swedish-speaking schools and day-care centres to have a friendship school in another Nordic country.

Text: Jenni von Frenckell
SINCE THE START of the year, Swedish-language education services in Espoo have been focusing on the Nordic countries and pan-Nordic cooperation. This is all part of the programme for internationalisation and global education, which highlights Nordic cooperation.

“I hope that the work will broaden the way the children and students think about the Nordic region. We want children and young people to feel that they are part of a broader context and to get to know other cultures as well,” explains Ida Stolt-Haglund, Development Manager at the City of Espoo. Stolt-Haglund estimates that about a fifth of Espoo’s schools and day-care centres have a Nordic contact. The target for 2020 is for this figure to reach 30 percent.

“Our long-term goal is for all Swedish-speaking schools and day-care centres in Espoo to have a friendship school or a friendship day-care centre in another Nordic country. There is great interest in the Nordic region and we hope that the initiative will lead to systematic cooperation between the Nordic countries.”

NEW CONTACTS AND JOINT PROJECTS.

This autumn, the city ran a themed day on Nordic cooperation for education sector staff. The purpose of the day was to provide schools and day-care centres with practical tips and tools.

Cooperation with a school or day-care centre can take different forms. Staff often get in touch and get to know each other. They might run a joint project and sometimes the group might receive visits or visit a school in another Nordic country themselves.

“But travelling isn’t the main thing. The ideal is for all units to find a form of cooperation that works for them. Of course, a group of day-care centre children can’t travel abroad but they might be able to contact children in other countries over Skype,” says Stolt-Haglund.

FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL VIA THE NORDEN I SKOLAN PLATFORM. Mattliden is one of the schools that already has a friendship school. Homeroom teacher and mother tongue and literature teacher Susann Etzell first set up the contact with Stavnholtskolen in Denmark. Etzell got in touch with the school through the Nordic education platform Norden i Skolan.

“I wrote that we are interested in literature and culture and were looking for a friendship school in Denmark. One of the teachers there replied and that’s how our partnership started. We started exchanging e-mails and the end result was class 9D’s project trip to Copenhagen this autumn,” says Etzell.

The students had been fundraising for the trip since they started year seven when they were 13 and they were aged 15 to 16 when they went to Denmark. Actively involved parents are essential on top of the students’ own efforts.

“We wouldn’t have been able to run the trip without excellent collaboration with Denmark and committed parents on board,” Etzell points out.

TIVOLI AND SHOPPING BEST. Students Jessica Ronimus, Hanna Branders, Nicole Thesleff, Rebecca Friman, Lene Murtomäki, Nicole Aarnio, Ellen Partinen and Rebecka Kaseva took part in the four-day trip. With the rest of the group, the girls sold calendars that they made themselves, biscuits and theatre tickets and found sponsorship.

“We worked really hard. Sometimes it was tough selling the products but it was worth the effort, the trip was brilliant” the girls explain.

The Espoo students got to know students in the friendship school in Copenhagen in advance via e-mail and social media. They learned about each other’s schools and local areas and also read a Danish book.

They had a packed programme on their four days in Denmark. One day was spent in Stavnholtskolen with students in the partner school. The group also managed to see lots of sights, including a tour of the Folketing, the Danish parliament.

When asked to sum up the trip, the students say that the Tivoli and shopping were the best parts and that the trip to Denmark made team spirit in the class loads better and they got to know each other better too.

The ideal is for all units to find a form of cooperation that works for them.
Art at the mall

Espoo artists will be displaying their work at the Sello shopping centre. You can also borrow artworks before deciding to buy.

Espoo Artotheque and Galleria Aarni have moved into the Sello shopping centre in Leppävaara.

“This is a great location. Customers come in every day, and people are finding their way to our new location. We’re very satisfied,” says Vera Koura, the art lending service’s coordinator.

Borrowing an artwork is a great way to experience how an intriguing piece would look in your home.

The art lending service has works by about a hundred Espoo artists. Galleria Aarni also operates out of the same premises, and the artworks on display here can also be borrowed.

Customers can borrow an artwork for a month at a time. The fee is five per cent of the piece’s total price, with a minimum payment of 20€. The piece can be returned whenever during the loan period, or the loan can be extended by paying a new monthly fee.

“If the customer becomes attached to the piece, they can buy it for themselves. And that’s what usually happens. You can buy an artwork by paying the remaining amount of its total price. And you can of course buy pieces in one lump payment,” says Koura.

Espoo Visual Artists, whose membership includes about 140 professional artists from Espoo. The association’s chairperson, Tatu Vuorio, is happy with the new premises.

“Galleria Aarni was previously located in the Heikintori shopping centre in Tapiola. We got stuck there amidst all the construction work, and art enthusiasts couldn’t really find us. Now we’re in a place that is full of people. The new gallery is also much bigger.”

Vuorio is particularly pleased that Sello’s managers and owners had confidence in a new kind of operating model, in which art can be brought into a shopping centre.

Espoo Visual Artists will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. This autumn, Galleria Aarni will be displaying several new gems of Espoo art. Entrance to the exhibitions is free.

Timo Hämäläinen
BE SMART
- GET VACCINATED

Make an appointment online
espoo.fi/e-healthcentre

Make an appointment by telephone
Health Centres:
› Espoonlahden, Iso Omena, Kalajärvi, Kilo, Kivenlahti, Leppävaara, Samaria, Tapiola, Kivenlahti tel. 09 816 34500
› Oma Lääkärisi Espoon kaupungin tel. 09 855 4303
› Oma Lääkärisi Matinkylä tel. 09 855 4100

Maternity and child health clinic
› tel. 09 816 22800

Vaccinations without appointment
› At main health centres on Saturdays
30 November, 14, 21 December 2019, 11 November 2020 from 9 to 16:
  • Espoonlahden Health Centre, Merikansantie 4
  • Iso Omenan Health Centre, Palvelutori, kauppakeskuksen 3rd floor, Suomenlahdentie 1
  • Leppävaaran Health Centre, Kostaapelinkatu 2
  • Samarian Health Centre, Terveyskuja 2
  • Tapiolan Health Centre, Ahertajantie 2

At service centres for senior citizens
› Wed 27 November from 10 to 15 Soukka Life and Living Centre for Senior Citizens, Soukankaari 7
› Mon 2 December from 10 to 15 Kauklahti Life and Living Centre for Senior Citizens, Hansakartano 4
› Thu 12 December 2019 and Thu 9 January 2020 from 10 to 15 Tapiolan Service Centre for Senior Citizens, Länsituulenkuja 1 A
› Tue 17 December 2019 and Fri 17 January 2020 from 10 to 15 Leppävaara Life and Living Centre for Senior Citizens, Säterinkatu 3

When you get vaccinated, you also protect your loved ones, because the influenza virus does not spread when enough people get vaccinated.

More information:
espoo.fi/influenza