

UrbanLinks 2 Landscape

Situation Report: Kristianstad

- The Region
- Policies
- Stakeholders
- Good Practice





Partner 4

Kristianstad

Background

Kristianstad is a medium-sized city in the south of Sweden with 90 000 inhabitants in the municipality and around 40 000 in the city. The city was founded on an island in a vast wetland by the river Helge å in 1614 by the Danish king Kristian IV. In 1658 it became part of Sweden and early developed into an important military and residence city with the regional authorities for the province. In the 1860s the northern bay of the lake Hammarsjön was walled and drained and the city could expand on the old lake bottom. The lowest place in Sweden is situated in this area, 2,7 meter under sea level at the lowest point. The wetlands have made the city expand along four "arms" on higher ground. The risk of flooding from both the river and from the sea (0,5 meter below the lake Hammarsjön) is the main threat to the area. Walls have already been established on the east side of the city and new walls are planned to be built to protect the city on the west side from flooding as a safety measure.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the economic growth in Sweden made the city expand rapidly and the wetlands were seen as a problem. The wetlands were drained and the main waste dump was located in the wetlands close to the city center. In the 1980s and '90s with the rising concern of the environment, the view of the wetlands changed from "water sick" to "water rich", in other words, from an issue to a resource, and the work to create the "water kingdom" started. In conjunction with this, several nature reserves were created to protect the birdlife and sensitive ecosystems in the area. In 2005, Kristianstad Water Kingdom was designed as a UNESCO Man and biosphere reserve, the first modern MAB reserve in Sweden. Half the municipality is part of the reserve and the city Kristianstad is situated in the middle.

Today the main economy in Kristianstad is the food industry, tourism, and public institutions. The university was founded in 1997 the same year the last military institution closed. Krinova is an incubator and a science park that works as a meeting space for companies, people and ideas. They have a close cooperation with Kristianstad municipality in several projects.

Kristianstads role in the UL2L project

The urban planning in Sweden is regulated by the Planning and Building Law (PBL). The law gives municipalities' immense influence on the planning process which also is called the municipality planning monopoly. The regional planning has a low profile in Sweden and the state only interferes in the local planning when it comes to national interests, inter-municipal issues, risks, or security.

All Swedish municipalities are including planning of green structure in the comprehensive plans. Some municipalities have also presented a special green plan, among them Kristianstad. The green plan shows how the green and blue structure should develop in a sustainable way and what important measures are needed to reach the goals for a sustainable development. The green structure is one of the three main structures handled in the comprehensive planning together with infrastructure and building structure. The green plan includes the issues of climate mitigation, health, and urban farming together with other ecosystem services which are targeted in the UL2L project. This local plan will be ratified in the spring of 2019.

In the UL2L project, Kristianstad will mainly focus on developing a regional strategy, handling the planning issues connected to the comprehensive planning and the planning and building law. The regional strategy will target the comprehensive plan for the city that will be updated during 2019 and will also create a guide for sustainable planning to address all municipalities in Sweden. The strategy will also include indicators for sustainability and how to monitor progress in the work for sustainability connected to physical planning. This work will be done by staff at the municipality in close cooperation with the stakeholder group. The new comprehensive plan for Kristianstad City will be presented during spring 2019 and finally decided in spring 2020.

Kristianstad will host the second international workshop in spring 2019 with a focus on the theme planning. The workshop will have an international section the first day, giving a broader perspective of sustainable planning and the second day a local focus on Kristianstad with excursions to interesting sites in and around the city connected to the discussed issues. The third day will consist of an excursion to the stakeholders in Lund and Malmö to see good examples in the southwest of the province.

During the project, Kristianstad will also conduct one study with two topics. One topic will handle compensations of negative effects on ecosystem services and one on the business models in public spaces. External expertise will be contracted to

conduct the studies and the results will present ways to integrate and develop these two topics in municipalities.

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A project group with representatives from the different departments in the municipality will support the project and implementation of the results. The political steering group for the comprehensive planning in the municipality will be the steering group for the UL2L project as well. This gives the project the highest political and administrative attention. For the international steering group, the municipality will be represented by the chairperson and the vice chairperson in the planning and building board.

The working group in Kristianstad has representatives from the Planning and Building department, the Environmental Department, the Technical department, The Man and Biosphere office and the Municipal management office. The political representatives are also involved with the chairman of the Planning and Building board as chairman in the stakeholder group and participant in the international steering group. With the broad knowledge base in the working group and with the inclusion of the political representation, the group has a great opportunity to include many different perspectives in the project.

The stakeholder group

The stakeholder group has a wide representation with the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket) as the most important stakeholder. Them, together with the regional association of the municipality (Kommunförbundet Skåne), the center of sustainable urban development (Movium), the Kristianstad incubator and science park (Krinova) and the two municipalities Lund and Linköping create the stakeholder group. The stakeholder group will meet every semester, providing and exchanging knowledge from the whole country, and spread the results from the project.

Boverket

The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, Boverket, is a central government authority assorted under the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation. They review developments within the fields of housing, building and planning. Boverket gathers relevant facts and statistics in Sweden and



internationally to describe, understand, forecast and make policy suggestions. They undertake evaluations and impact assessments of policy initiatives at national and regional levels. Boverket supervises town and country planning in Sweden from legislative, procedural and architectural perspectives. Development of sustainable regions and communities as well as the quality of life is always in focus in various parts of the work. Examples are infrastructure and transport, the importance of the urban environment and social issues, and the development of the planning process and its instruments. The circulation of best practice is an important part of our work.

Kommunförbundet Skåne

The Regional Association of the municipalities (Kommunförbundet Skåne) is the association that cares for the interests of the municipalities in the province. The headquarter is situated in Lund and they arrange seminars, networks and other activities to support the municipalities.

Movium

Movium is a think tank at the Agricultural University for sustainable urban development. Movium arranges meetings, conferences, research cooperation and influences the public debate about sustainable urban development.

Krinova

Krinova is an incubator and Science park in Kristianstad, close to the University campus, working with and supporting 200 companies in the city. The profile is food, environment and health which are all focus areas in UL2L. Krinova will give the project important input on innovation and how to use public areas for business models.

Lund municipality

Lund municipality is one of the oldest cities in Sweden, founded in the 10th century and today has 110 000 inhabitants. The university is the biggest in Scandinavia with more than 35 000 students and attracts a lot of companies and startups in high tech. The city has a high profile in environmental and green issues and has previously been working in the Hybrid parks project.

Linköping municipality

Linköping is one of Sweden's fastest growing cities. The population is now 157 000 inhabitants which makes it Sweden's fifth largest city. The highly ranked university is situated next to the Science Park Mjärdevi and holds more than 27 000 students. The city is represented by the city gardener Liselotte Johansson and her colleagues

at the City Environmental office. Linköping has previous been working in the Hybrid Parks project.

Urban Links 2 Landscape in Sweden (good examples)

Mainly good examples from Kristianstad are presented in this section but good examples from the involved stakeholders, as well as examples from Malmö and Stockholm, are also included.

The Man and Biosphere Reserve (Kristianstad)

Kristianstad was the first municipality in Sweden to propose a modern Man and Biosphere reserve in the Water Kingdom covering half the municipality surface. In 2005 the MAB was accepted by UNESCO and has been further developed since then. The core area has been protected and a buffer zone around those areas gives added protection. Outside these two categories, there are development areas where man and biosphere should develop in a sustainable way. Kristianstad municipality together with the state has invested 10 million Euro in a visitor's center in the middle of the MAB area located close to the city center. It is a big tourist attraction and increases both the accessibility and interest to the area. There is a special office to run the MAB area with 10 staff with knowledge in nature conservation, education, marketing and management.

The previous dumping ground (Kristianstad)

During the 60s and 70s, the municipality did not pay any attention to the values of the wetlands in and around the city of Kristianstad and put the local waste dumping in the middle of the wetlands, close to the city. Today the waste dump is dismantled and covered by a clay carpet to protect the waste from rainwater that could be polluted. The plan is that the old dumping area of 60 hectares will be developed into an attractive nature and recreation area with high biodiversity by planting vegetation, development of paths and tracks and by improving the already diverse landscape further.

Nosabyviken (Kristianstad)

In the east of the city on the former bay of Nosabyviken (2 meters below sea level), the city planted a mixed broadleaved forest in 2000. Today, the forest has become an attractive area for recreation, but with limited accessibility. A new project will improve the area with new paths, picnic areas, information, and increased biodiversity.

The previous military areas (Kristianstad)

From 1614 until 1997 Kristianstad was dominated by military activity. Three



different military training camps were situated in the Kristianstad with training ground outside the city. At Näsby, the training camp has been converted to a University and the training ground outside the city is a very important recreational area for the city. In the comprehensive plan, the city is planning to expand the city and create a defined meeting between the city and the green area creating high values for both the city district and the green area. This dense meeting is sometimes called "green docks" inspired by the housing areas by the docks in coastal areas. The idea is that the green areas should be valued for the people living in the areas and not as an obstacle for further development in the area.

Health issues and urban farming (Kristianstad)

Kristianstad has been working with health issues and urban farming in two different projects. At the Näsby field (green area) inhabitants in the socially vulnerable area Gamlegården has been involved in a gardening project and an area with allotments have been created. In the city park (Tivoliparken) the city has created a health garden where several special needs groups are training and maintaining the garden. The idea is to incorporate the social aspects into the work with green spaces in the city and has this far been very successful.

Green areas in the city - Norra björket and Prästaskogen (Kristianstad)

During 2019 Kristianstad will work with a project to increase the public green spaces in the city center. In the west of the city, located only 1,5 km from the central square, there are two areas, Norra Björket, and Prästaskogen that today are forested areas with limited accessibility and limited chance for recreational purposes. The purpose of the project is to increase the social and environmental values of the area. This is made by making the areas available for the local citizens and enhances the experience for the visitors by raising the quality of the green areas. By connecting the areas, develop a pathway system and increase the variability of local habitats with several actions the hope is to make it more welcoming for both citizens, plants, and animals. The area is located on ground that is not suitable for building due to its foundation and there is hence no conflict of interest by making it into a green space.

Brunnshög (Lund)

Lund has the biggest university in Scandinavia with around 35 000 students in a city with just above 100 000 inhabitants. It is one of the oldest cities in Scandinavia founded in the late 8th century. In the northeast of Lund, a new city district is formed around the new science park Max lab IV and ESS, both European collaborations for research on materials. The new fringe of the city will meet an open agricultural landscape with new parks, urban farming and green structure.

The intention is to minimize the environmental impact and create multifunctional green spaces.

Kolböra bog (Staffanstorp)

The municipality Staffanstorp located in the south west of the southern province Scania is one of the municipalities with the least green areas in Sweden. The area is dominated by an open flat agricultural landscape. Outside the village, the private landowner has initiated an ambitious project in the 1990s to build a vast network of paths and riding tracks in the borders of fields. The name was “beträdor” which means the opportunity to access the landscape at strings with permanent vegetation.

Augustenborg roof garden (Malmö)

The Augustenborg Botanical Roof Garden is a place for inspiration, research and education. The green roofs were installed in 1999 with support from the EU-LIFE fund, the Swedish Ministry of the Environment and the City of Malmö. The guided tours and the development-, educational- and project activities at the roof garden is managed by Scandinavian Green Roof Institute in collaboration with the City of Malmö, VA SYD, E.ON, MKB, and several of the members within the Scandinavian Green Roof Association.

Eco-City Augustenborg (Malmö)

The Eco-city Augustenborg is a successful project in transforming a run-down neighborhood into an environmentally sustainable and attractive place to live. Aspects of the Eco-city Augustenborg that may be highlighted in particular include the energy-efficient renovation work carried out on 1,600 rental apartments (89% of the housing stock in the area); the development of an integrated open stormwater management system to solve local flooding problems and the use of green roofs. Also important was the active engagement of residents throughout the planning processes, especially in respect of waste management, car-pooling, recycling and composting.

Västra Hamnen (Malmö)

Västra Hamnen, the West Harbour is a new - and very chic - district of Malmö, situated by the sea, and build on the former port and industrial land.

First, it was the place where Bo01 - a huge housing exhibition - took place in 2001. Soon its silhouette changed distinctively when a masterpiece of modern architecture – Turning Torso was built. Designed by Santiago Calatrava and both an art piece and an apartment block, the 190-meter high tower became the new landmark of Malmö.



All development is driven by the idea of The West Harbour becoming an internationally leading example of sustainable, environmental adaptation of a densely built urban environment. And already now – and the district is still growing - it is a fascinating place where this human- and nature-friendly modern architecture truly brings quality into people's lives. The pleasure of living, working, getting an education, and having fun is palpable here. A row of tremendous restaurants with an excellent view, parks and recreation areas, great places for sunbathing or windsurfing, a skatepark (in Stappelbäddsparken) in world-class, and of course the great sunsets over the Öresund Bridge.

Urban farming (Malmö)

In Malmö, several projects work with urban farming on different scales. There are bigger commercial farms for the market and community farming for social interaction and traditional allotment plots for the residents in the city. A network has started to develop the concept of urban farming in Sweden and especially in southern Sweden.

Green docks (Stockholm)

Green docks is a project in the municipality Järfälla in Stockholm which got support from the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning. The focus was the meeting between the city and the landscape in the city fringe and how to develop the qualities for both urban and nature qualities. The work was a part of the comprehensive plan for the municipality in influenced the results. A lot of researchers and consultants were involved in the project and the result is presented at seminars and in a report.