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Establishment of the Kotka National Urban Park

City of Kotka

The Kotka National Urban Park, located along the Kymijoki River and on the coast of the Gulf of Finland, is made up of neighbourhoods built in vast green spaces, connected by ecological corridors. It covers an area of 2,675 hectares and connects the most important sites of the city of Kotka, to create a uniform network that is easy to navigate. It connects the most significant sites in the city of Kotka to make a network of paths which are easy to walk. It includes a complete set of landscapes – with both natural and cultural components –, and recreational areas that the city is committed to preserving. In 2014, the Ministry of the Environment approved the request of the city to create a national urban park. The status of national urban parks is specified in the Finnish Land Use and Building Act. The concept of a Finnish national urban park, a real tool for sustainable land-use design, was given the European Garden award in the category Large Scale Green Concepts by the European Garden Heritage Network in 2014.



The Committee of Ministers conferred a Special Mention of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention to the achievement, within the framework of the 6th Session of the Award 2018-2019.

The project has shown that landscape considerations have successfully guided the planning process, with public participation from the initial stages of the project. Pre-existing, sometimes degraded, landscape features have been rehabilitated and integrated into a coherent large-scale spatial network constituting a combination of green and blue spaces (rivers, marine and submarine areas), connected by ecological corridors. Housing blends harmoniously with the surrounding nature. The achievement has contributed positively to the quality of daily life and well-being of the population.

Recognised for its great value, and in accordance with Resolution CM/Res (2017)18 of the Committee of Ministers, the project is thus part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.

The specific status of National Urban Parks, defined by the Land Use and Building Act of Finland, is also a source of inspiration.