

Nature-positive cities, plural values, and urban development: Cultural niche construction in urban environments

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Municipals' nature targets

Turku is on its way towards nature positivity

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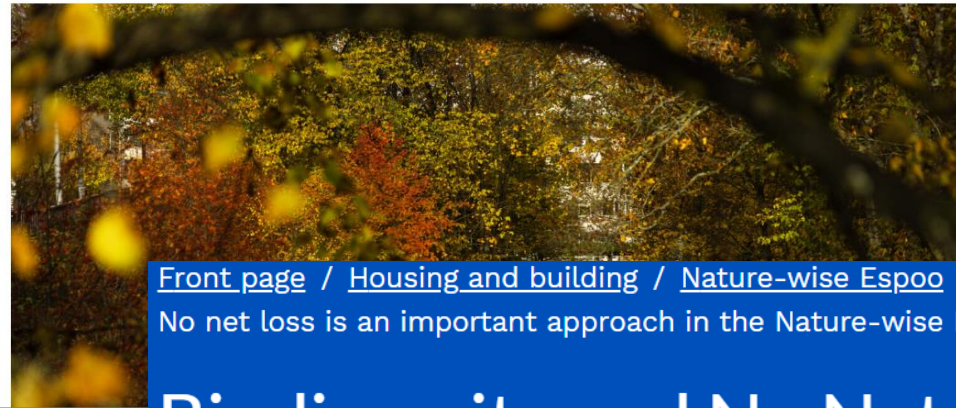
The Turku City Board approved the Nature Positive Turku 2030 goal at its meeting on Monday, March 24th, in line with the Mayor's Program. Nature positivity by 2030 means that the activities of the City of Turku and all other activities in the Turku area as a whole will not degrade or reduce biodiversity, but rather strengthen it.

[Turku is on its way towards nature positivity | Turku.fi](#)

LAHTI WILL BE NATURE POSITIVE BY 2030

On October 7, Lahti's City Council made an important decision: Lahti will aim for nature positivity by 2030. But what does this mean for the city, its residents, and local businesses?

[Lahti will be nature positive by 2030 - Lahti](#)



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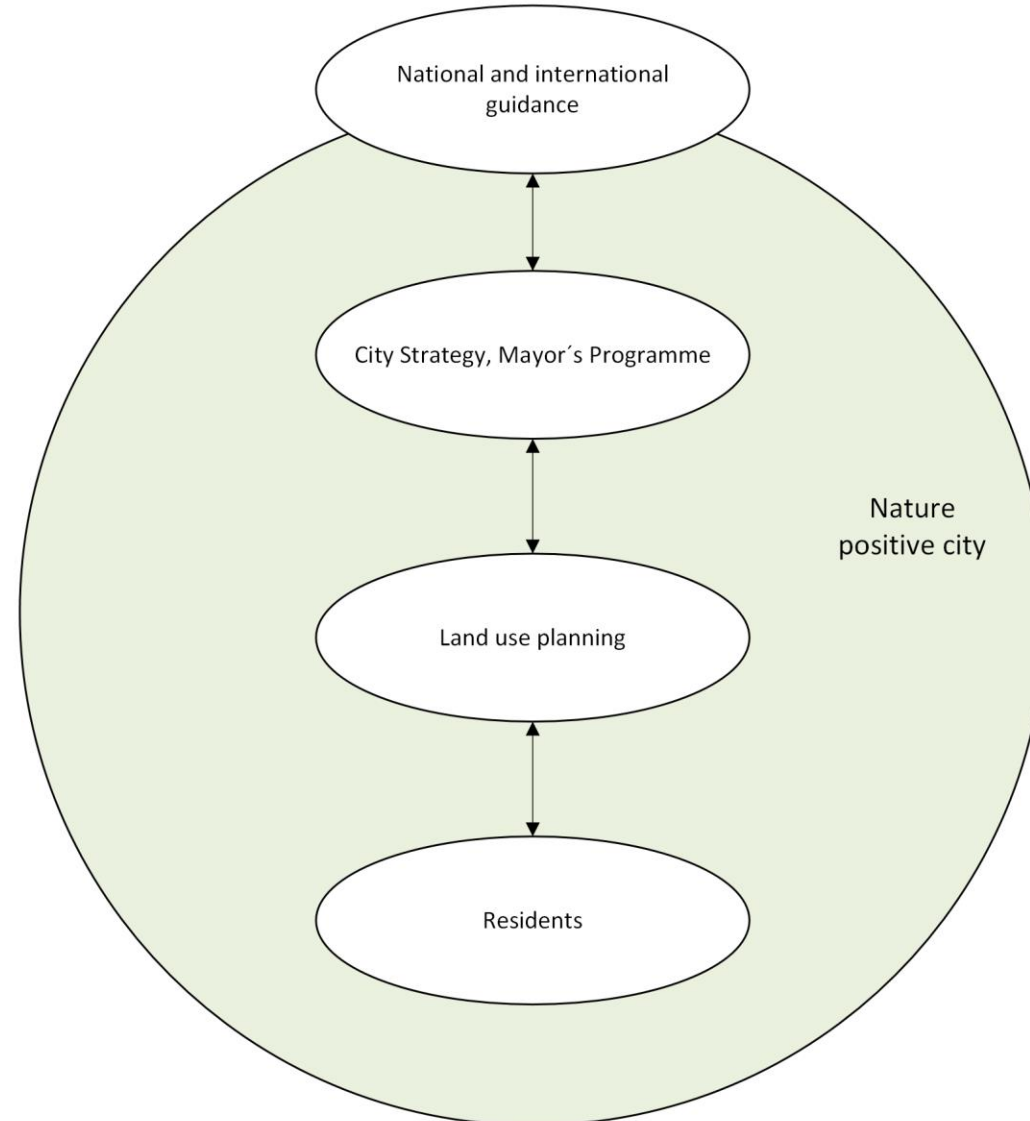
No net loss is an important approach in the Nature-wise Espoo project

Biodiversity and No Net Loss

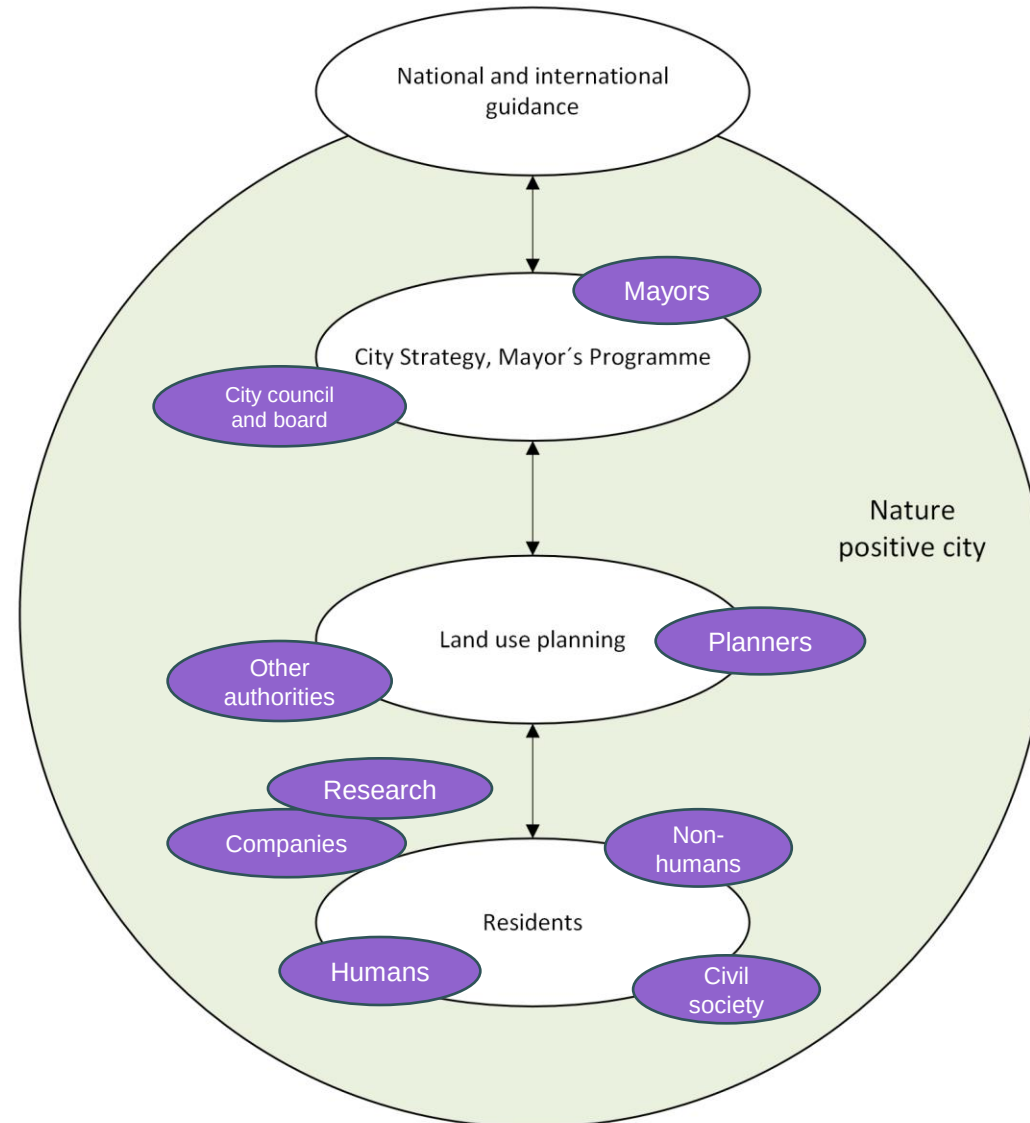
The goals of the City of Espoo council term of 2021–2025 include a proposal that Espoo creates a roadmap to biodiversity recovery and the achievement of no net loss by 2035. But what does no net loss mean? And what does it have to do with biodiversity?

[Biodiversity and No Net Loss | City of Espoo](#)

Nature positivity through city structure



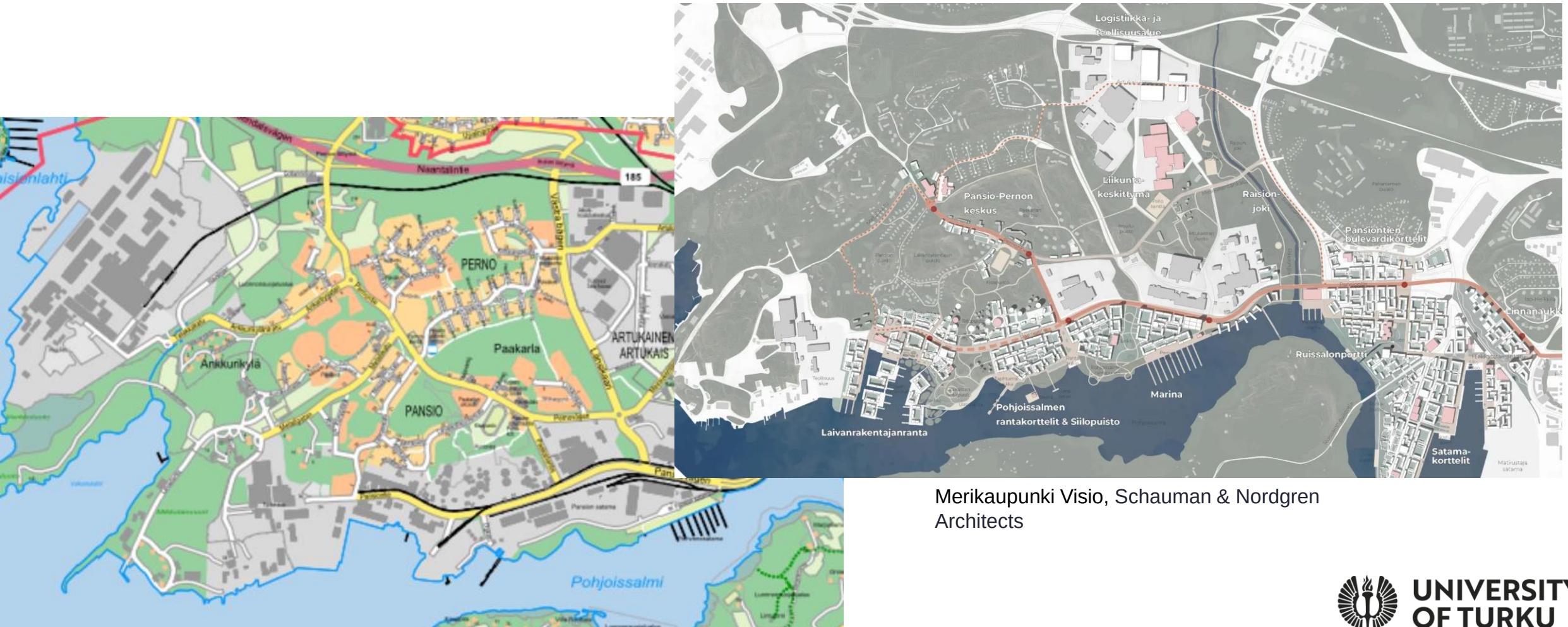
Nature positivity through city structure



Case Pansio-Perno LL – Ecosocial compensation/recovery

- Pansio-Perno neighbourhood in Western Turku will face radical changes in the future, as there is expected to move a lot of new residents in the future
- This development will cause a huge pressure to the area. However, it is also possible to increase green spaces as the city can use the old harbour/industrial area for the construction.
- In Coevolvers, the goal is to co-develop a governance model that safeguards nature-based values in a densifying city and strengthens multispecies participation in the planning and implementation of nature-based solutions.

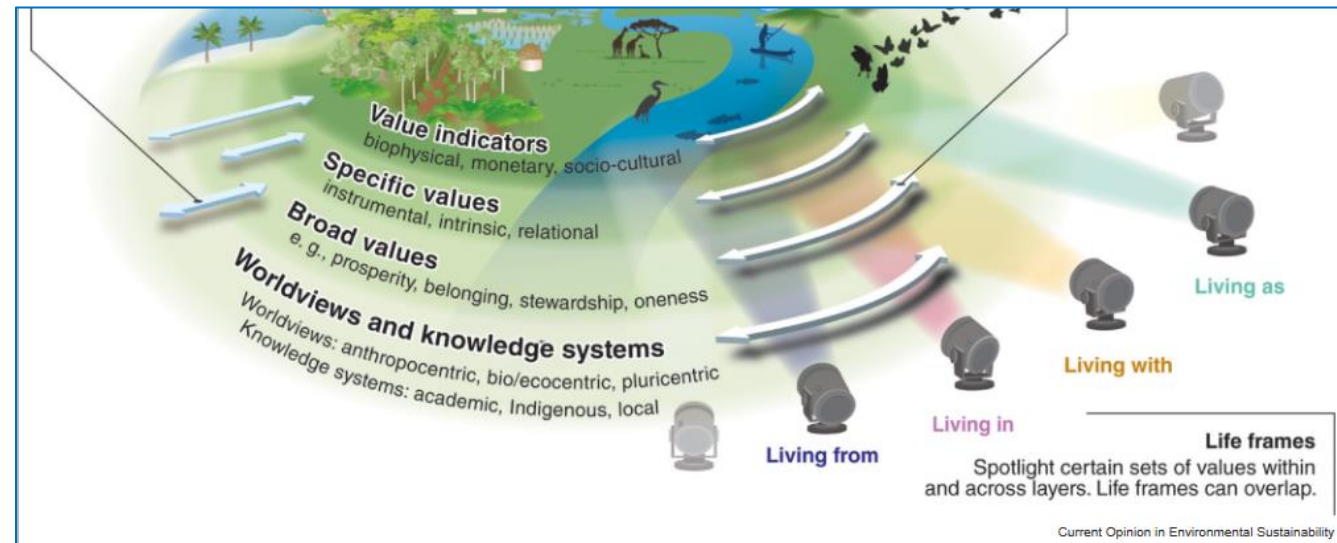
Development of Western Turku



Merikaupunki Visio, Schauman & Nordgren Architects

Residents' life frames in urban areas

- During the year 2024, we carried out three focus group discussions for the residents
- The discussion framework was created for the basis of the original Life Framework of Values (O'Neill et al. 2008; O'Connor & Kenter 2019) and its mirrored version (nature living from/in/with/as people; Willemen et al. 2023)



Ecosocial values and niche

- Residents have many values associated with local nature
- During the discussion, they were eager to share their experiences, observations and practices, and learn more from others
- Individual values but also shared social values too
- Compensation of the ecosocial niche? → Aiming to save the functions and values of the niche by replacing it
- Different values guide the niche construction; it is important to recognize the values of different niche-constructive actors; Ecosocial niche is constructed by multiple values and actors



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Thank you!

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