GREEN PLAN FOR MALMÖ 2003
has been developed in partnership between the parks and highways
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under housing and building

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The City of Parks
Malmö is often referred to as the City of Parks, an accolade with it’s roots in the start of the 20th century when Malmö became known for its grand parks. Slottsparken, Kungsparken and Pildammsparken are now so important to the character of the city and, together with the coastal Ribbersborgsstranden and the canals they give Malmö a very green feel.

Small amount of park and natural land
Despite this green reputation, the total area of park and natural land in Malmö is actually very limited and Malmö has far less green space than other Swedish cities. Malmö is in an area with a long agricultural tradition without “free” nature in the form of hills, forests or lakes. All park and natural land within the city boundaries is created by man in one way or other.

The city is growing
Malmö is currently in an expansive period with rapid growth and high development pressure. Formulating targets and guidelines for work with green issues and implementing a targeted, long-term and strategic green space plan is important in order to put the planned development in the context of the existing green structure and the desirable future scenario. New legislation is also increasing the pressure on the city to plan a functional green structure and be responsible with its green space.

What is a Green Plan?
Malmö’s Green Plan is a city wide planning document which, based on audits and analyses, presents development proposals for green space in the city from a recreational and biological perspective. The development proposals are presented in two parts:
• A proposal that describes the size, positioning and links between the green areas (A green network)
• A proposal that describes the green areas’ habitat content and structure (Landscape types and characteristic areas)
The Green Plan does not go into detail of design of the green spaces proposed.

The role of the Green Plan
The Green Plan is a support for physical planning and will provide guidance in decisions regarding general maintenance and nature conservation issues and in development and renewal work. The Green Plan is like other sectoral programmes in that it is not an independently regulating landuse plan but provides a baseline for spatial planning purposes etc in which different considerations must be balanced.

Malmö’s Green Plan 2003 was adopted by Malmö City Council, 15th May 2003.
**The importance of green space**

**Health and quality of life**
Green areas have a great importance for public health. Strengthened immune system, improved fitness and mobility, increased creativity, improved concentration and learning capacity and decreased stress are some of the positive effects of spending time in parks and natural land. Areas for play, walks, encounters with nature, sport, sunbathing, cultural events, parties and relaxation in an urban environment are important for well-being.

**Natural heritage**
The green land in the city and countryside is essential for a large and diverse variety of plants, animals and habitats. The importance of the city as a living environment for animals and plants is often undervalued. Nature in and around cities can develop a rich plant and animal life that compliments the natural environments of the countryside.

**Play and education**
Green areas are unbeatable for children when it comes to play, exercise and learning. Access to nature-like play areas has been shown to influence children’s physical and movement skills in a positive way. Children need space to play, run and move freely. Spending time in parks and nature offers an increased understanding of and knowledge about plants and animals, ecological systems, environmental issues and natural cycles.

**Climate and natural cycles**
The city’s parks and nature contribute to a healthier and more comfortable urban climate by cleaning air from pollutants, evening changes in temperature, decreasing wind, increasing humidity and filtering dust and particles from the air. Vegetation is also important as a wind-break and particle collector in the countryside.

**Urban environment and character**
Green environments, together with buildings, streets and water, are the building blocks of the city. Parks, canals, allotments, gardens, cemeteries and avenues give identity and character to the city and make it pleasant and attractive to live and work in. Green districts are often popular to live in and businesses often locate in areas in which they can illustrate their environmental credentials and attract employees with a pleasant work environment.

**Cultural heritage**
Many green environments have a historical and cultural importance as bearers of our history; historical parks, ancient roads, willow embankments, boundaries, settlement areas, old farms and ancient remains are a few examples. The character of the cultural landscape has been relatively constant for centuries and is therefore an important part of our cultural heritage that mirrors the specific nature of the region.
Green policy
The City of Malmö will provide a good living environment with a variety of accessible high quality green spaces. The city, the urban area and countryside will be characterised by a rich and varied natural and cultural heritage with high recreational and ecological qualities.

General targets
• to increase the total area green land in Malmö
• to secure valuable green space to protect it from development

Recreational targets
• to create a variety of park, natural and recreation areas that together with specific recreation areas and green gardens provide for the “green needs” of Malmö’s population
• to create a cohesive green network throughout the whole of Malmö with high accessibility

Ecological targets
• to create a richer and more varied range of species and habitats within the city limits
• to reinforce the different landscape types in the city limits and develop different characteristic areas within each landscape type

Strategy (a selection of points)
• to secure existing valuable green environments
• to create new green space in areas with low levels of greenery
• to avoid, where possible, development on green land
• to develop existing green spaces to increase their recreational and ecological qualities
• to reduce the barrier effect of roads and other barriers
• to improve accessibility to green space
• to build up a green network around a system of green corridors
• to extend, reinforce and link existing green corridors
• to create new green corridors where there is great development potential
• to base new habitat development and creation on defined landscape types
• to develop several cohesive characteristic areas in each landscape type
• to work with regional and historical types of natural environments

The green policy, targets and strategy are the basis for the Green Plan’s proposals. The aim is to establish them within the council’s activity and provide a basis for all work with green issues in the city.
Deficiency analysis

Green model
The green model is the Green Plan’s tool to analyse the range of recreational environments in the city. Guidelines for access to parks and nature and recreational areas of different sizes are included in the green model. The guidelines address distance from home to each area and traffic barriers on the way there, measured in traffic density and speed. The guidelines are based on an assessment of acceptable accessibility to parks and nature with consideration to the needs of people and the potential to satisfy these in Malmö.

Guidelines
Greenery: 0.2-1 hectare, max 300 metres from home, max 3000 cars/day, max 30 kmph
Neighbourhood parks: 1-5 hectares, max 500 metres from home, max 3000 cars/day, max 50 kmph
District parks: 5-10 hectares, max 1 kilometre from home, max 8000 cars/day, max 50 kmph
City parks: >10 hectares, max 2 kilometres from home, max 8000 cars/day, max 50 kmph
Larger natural and recreational areas: >35 hectares, max 3 km from home, max 8000 cars/day, max 50 kmph

Deficiency analysis
The range of different types of parks, natural and recreational areas in the city has been analysed using the green model’s guidelines. The analysis shows which areas have a good range of general green space and where there is a lack of the target categories.

Deficiency areas
The analysis shows the largest areas of need are in the central parts of the city, in Tygelsjö and in parts of Limhamn and Husie. There is also a significant need in the harbour area and in the villages outside the city.

Areas without protection
The deficiency analysis shows that large natural areas such as the coastal meadows, Klagshamn Peninsula, the “Robotfältet”, Gyllins Garden and Husie Marsh have all a significance for recreation in the city. These areas currently lack protection in the form of a local plan or reserve status.

Areas outside of the city limits
Larger natural and recreational areas outside of the city limits, such as Risebjär, Alnarpsparken and the beech forest in Torup are extremely important for Malmö’s overall recreational use.
Deficiency analysis

- No deficiency
- Deficiency in 1 sub-category
- Deficiency in 2 sub-categories
- Deficiency in 3 sub-categories
- Deficiency in 4 sub-categories
- Deficiency in 5 sub-categories

100 people
Urban audit

The urban natural heritage
The natural heritage in conurbations within the city limits – Malmö, Oxie, Tygelsjö and Bunkeflostrand have been analysed through habitat audits and mapping. The mapping exercise has identified which habitat (nature) types there are in the urban area and the proportion of green space (degree of cover).

Habitat distribution
An analysis of the mapped results shows a highly varied distribution of habitat types. Certain areas of the conurbation are characterised by one dominating habitat, eg western Malmö which is dominated by garden habitat. Other parts consist of a mosaic of different habitats, eg peripheral eastern Malmö. The proportion of green space (degree of cover) also varies significantly.

Large proportion of sealed land
Some typical characterisics of Malmö are that a relatively large proportion of the conurbation is made up of industrial land with a high degree of sealed land (buildings and asphalt) and ruderal land. The central parts of Malmö are dominated by sealed land and various park habitats with a relatively low degree of cover and the eastern and western parts of the urban area have a large amount of garden habitat with a relatively high degree of cover. The sealed land constitutes 50% of the urban area.
Urban audit

Mown grass

Park – grass type

Park – shrub-type

Park – mixed type

Shrubbery

Copse

Wetland

Water

Lagoon

Beach

Ruderal land

Open grassland
Degree of cover

- > 90% green space
- 90-50% green space
- 50-20% green space
- 20-5% green space
- Grey space (<5% green space)
Countryside audit

The natural heritage of the countryside
The natural heritage of the countryside has been analysed through a habitat audit and mapping. The mapping exercise shows the habitat (nature) types in the countryside.

Arable land dominates
The analysis of the mapped result shows that the habitats arable land and improved grassland constitute about 70% of the countryside area and rough pasture covers about 10%.

Large and small areas
An analysis of the distribution of different habitats in the countryside show that the grassland habitats are represented in both small and large units, allotment / holiday home areas and golf courses make up larger areas, whilst tree and bush stands, open water, watercourses and ruderal areas are generally smaller and more spread out. Almost half of the countryside’s watercourses, principally in the southern flats, are culverted.

Interconnected landscape areas
It is possible to identify four major landscape areas with differing character and structure: the coastal area, the flats, the area around Oxie and the upland landscape.
Countryside audit

Countryside habitat

- Copse and shrubs
- Semi-open grassland
- Open grassland
- Allotments
- Ruderal areas
- Grey space
- Golf courses
- Arable and improved grassland
- Farmyard / village
- Conurbation
- Water
- Watercourse / culverted
A green network

The Green Plan’s structure proposal shows how it is possible to establish a cohesive green network in Malmö with a basic framework of green corridors and sites. The network covers the whole city, both the urban and countryside areas, and links the majority of the existing green space in the city. The proposal includes a total of 16 green corridors. In addition there is a proposal for 33 new areas and a number of special recreational sites, of which the majority are part of the green corridors.

Improved recreational opportunities
Creating a green network is a way of improving recreational opportunities in the city. By creating different kinds of linkages between green areas it is possible to utilise the green space as larger cohesive areas for walking and recreation, thereby increasing the overall total recreational potential.

Green corridors in the countryside
The majority of the proposed new corridors are in the countryside where it is possible with relatively simple means, to develop new corridors by water courses, ponds, copses and other habitats. Many of the existing corridors have a natural extension into the surrounding landscape and several of the green corridors continue into the surrounding local authorities of Burlöv, Staffanstorp, Svedala and Vellinge. Extending the corridors into the landscape and thereby making the countryside more accessible and attractive for recreation, is a target which is included in the city’s Comprehensive Plan.

A greener city
In the compact urban environment it is difficult to create new corridors and green areas, but instead it is increasingly important to develop (strengthen, extend and link) existing corridors and increase the proportion of greenery by creating new parks, planting trees on squares or along roads and creating green school yards and gardens in multi-family housing areas.

A basic framework to build on
The proposal provides a basic framework which does not include smaller areas. The more detailed structure of greenery within the built-up area will be dealt with in more detail in the continued work at a district or area level. It is also important that the proposed framework’s exact extent and boundaries are studied in more detail in future more detailed plans for different areas.
A green network

Map of proposal

A green network

- Proposed green corridors
- Proposed larger areas
- Area in which larger green areas are proposed (and sports facilities in certain cases)
Characteristic areas

Landscape types
The Green Plan’s habitat content proposal in the proposed green spaces would lead to the creation of a number of areas with similar habitat structure in the city. The proposal splits the city into five different landscape types: open coastal landscape, tree and shrub-rich landscape, open and semi-open urban landscape, small habitat-rich flat landscape and habitat-rich hill landscape.

Characteristic areas
The proposal is to establish a number of characteristic areas in each landscape type in which one or a couple of dominant habitats are developed. The city is separated into a total of 18 characteristic areas. There is a habitat change proposal for each habitat that needs to increase and for that which should decrease in order to reach the desired structure. Open habitats such as meadow, pasture and wetlands are generally proposed for the characteristic areas in the countryside and along the coast, semi-open habitats on the urban fringe and closed habitats with larger trees and shrubs in the city. In the characteristic areas with an industrial setting there is a general proposal to protect valuable ruderal land.

Existing characteristics are strengthened
The proposal is to minimise barriers and create a more homogenous habitat structure within each characteristic area, thereby improving the potential for plants and animals to establish, spread and maintain viable populations. At the same time a large variety of different characteristic areas will be created which provides an overall broad biological diversity in the city. One important principle in the proposal is to strengthen and improve the existing characteristics and qualities within the city and countryside. In order for the species diversity in the city to increase, however, it is necessary for the proportion of green space to increase significantly.

Basis for change and development
The proposals for change will provide the basis for all work with green space within the city, both with regards to maintenance and development of existing green areas and the creation of new green areas – everything from small pockets as refuges to larger parks and natural areas.
A similar habitat structure will be worked towards in each characteristic area.
Implementation and time perspective

Increased share green space
12% of the city’s area is currently secured (by planning statute or otherwise protected as park or natural land). The Green Plan proposes that an additional 19% of the city’s land is secured and converted to green space. This would mean an increase of green space per inhabitant from 33m² to 48m² in the urban area and the area of accessible green space in the countryside would increase from 2% to 33%.

A long term proposal
The Green Plan’s proposal is based both on current needs to make the city greener and on future needs in the growth of the conurbation. When the city expands it is important to make early decisions as to which land to use for the development of green infrastructure so that there is a preparedness to meet future green space demand.

The role of the local authority
The proposals in the Green Plan are long-term and can be implemented successively over a longer period of time by different partners. Planning, creation of reserves and habitat protection or agreements with landowners are ways in which the local authority can ensure that land is secured for green uses and is given long term protection from development. The city can also manage and maintain its land to develop recreational and ecological qualities as proposed in the Green Plan.

Other players
There is a large potential for landowners to find inspiration in the Green Plan and contribute to the implementation of parts of the Green Plan by making changes to their land. This can take place for example by converting parts of arable land to meadow or pasture, to leave unfarmed land along ditches and field boundaries, creating wetlands, opening culverted water courses etc. There are currently several financial support systems for this kind of activity. Such changes can, in addition to increasing recreational and ecological qualities, also provide added value for landowners such as improved hunting and fishing potential.

Implementation in partnership
The Green Plan’s proposals can function as a source of inspiration and guidelines for private landowners’ voluntary actions. Contact and co-operation with landowners, residents and other partners will be very important in the future work to plan in detail and implement the Green Plan’s proposed corridors and areas.

Converting, creating and securing
It is desirable for changes in land use in the proposed green areas to be commenced as soon as possible. Large areas of the Green Plan’s proposed green spaces will be on land that is currently used as fields. This
land has, in the best cases, a limited value on which to build, so the development of green habitats will take a long time. Good planning means that changes must be started early. It is also important that green space is secured and protected in planning and through the creation of reserves. Large parts of the new areas proposed in the Green Plan have a natural character, which will generally have lower maintenance costs than traditional park management but that places special demands on purchasers and maintenance companies.

**A support for planning**
The Green Plan is not an independent regulating land use plan but is, in part, a technical support document to the Comprehensive Plan 2000 regarding green issues, and in part a planning support document for coming work with local plans and comprehensive planning in which different interests must be weighed up against each other. In the case that the Green Plan’s proposals differ from decisions on land use taken in other plans, then the Green Plan will be used as a factual and planning support that shows where existing and potential qualities exist so that it becomes possible to consider if it is possible to implement these or change the plans, develop in a different way or change the land use.