

GOOD PRACTICE

The Participatory Planning Process of the Vuores Activity Park



City
Tampere

Country
Finland

Mission
Understand what citizens want to have in their backyards and integrate them into the planning process.

Target Group
All Citizens: families, children and youth, sports clubs and other social communities.

Highlight
A successful example of participatory democracy applied to the construction of new sport and physical activity infrastructure

Timeframe
Construction: 2012 – 2017; then on-going use.

Budget
Construction: € 5 million
Forecast yearly maintenance: 200 000



Objectives

The fundamental objective of the project is to give additional information to the city's decision making system by giving more room to citizens' voice. Additionally, it seeks to democratize the research, planning and decision-making processes of the city.

The ultimate objective of the Activity Park project is to strengthen citizens' ability to operate on their environment while enabling the progress of democracy in the area. The idea of active citizenship, as written in the city's development aims, is the one of the central principles.

The process of the Activity Park is a good way to learn how citizens can work together for their environment.

The Vuores Activity Park

The Vuores "green and sustainable" neighbourhood is currently being built in a forest area of Tampere. 2000 people have already settled and 13 000 more are expected to come by the end of the construction process in 2021.

The Vuores Activity Park will be an integral part of the Vuores neighbourhood. It will promote active citizenship with family leisure time, a healthy way of living and community-based activities.



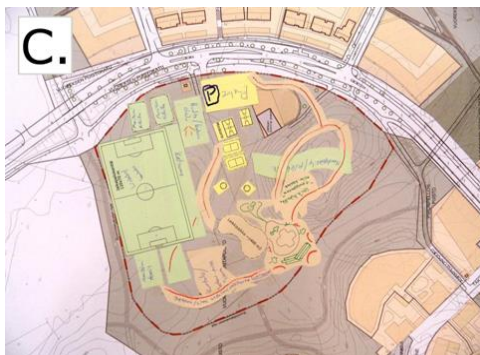
Its planning and building period is 2012 – 2017. While 90% of the costs are covered by the City of Tampere, sport clubs contribute about 10% of the budget.

A cross-sectorial participation process

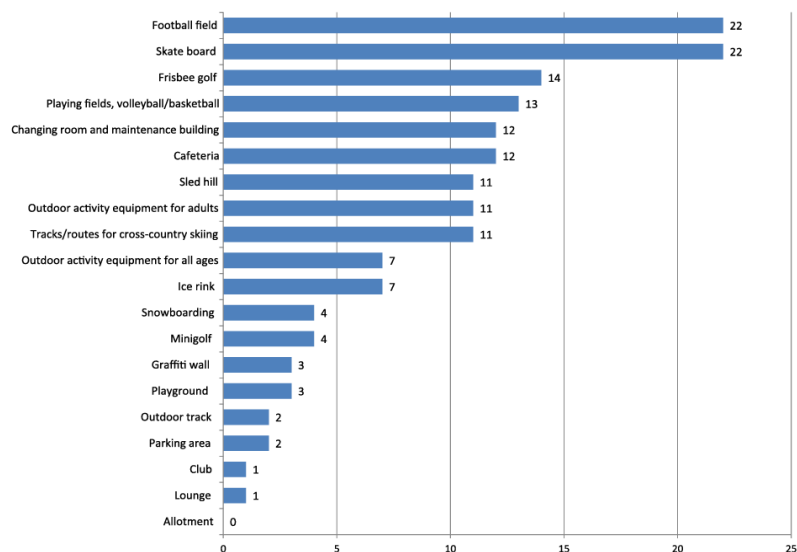
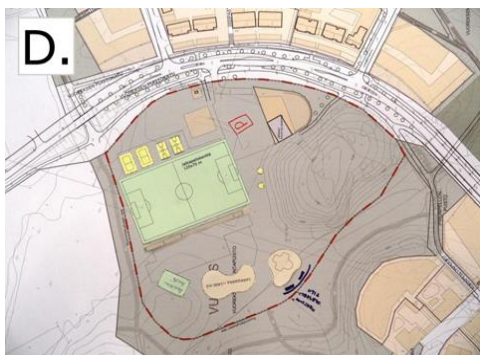
Actual planning proceedings with citizens, sports clubs’ representatives, planning experts, officials from the city administration (sports, project management,..) and consultants were performed with 80 - 100 participants, mainly coming from the sports clubs. The “voluntary” participants’ rate was 80 %. The biggest group was the Vuores neighbourhood inhabitants. Several other communities were also represented.



Workshops were organized with all the above mentioned stakeholders, which formed four different visions of the Activity Park: A, B, C and D (see pictures). A skate-park and football, Frisbee & golf fields appeared to be the infrastructure raising the highest interest.



An “All-party” strategy involved all political parties present in Tampere, in order to provide a guarantee to political decision makers.



Key Outcomes and Results

Active citizenship and participation in the decision-making process, as the crucial and politically emphasized objective of the city of Tampere, has provided to the city sports department a great opportunity to provide additional value to the Vuores Activity Park Challenge.

The final Activity Park planning was based on the results of the workshops. Actual planning process was made by listening to the voice of workshops participants.



More information:

www.tampere.fi

Email: pekka.p.paavola@tampere.fi