



## City of Turku

City profile downloaded from CitiesWithNature

15 June 2025

Chapter 1

# Profile overview



## About

Turku is a fascinating and boldly renewing European city of universities and culture that provides the conditions for a good life and shared successes. Part of the attraction is based on the coexistence of urban life and a breathtakingly beautiful archipelago. The 200,000 inhabitants city is surrounded by 40,000 islands and the national park of the Archipelago Sea. In housing, business life and leisure alike, Turku draws from its maritime location on the shores of the Baltic Sea.

### Overview

202000

Population size

Finland

Country

Europe and the Middle East

Region



### Minna Arve, Mayor of City of Turku

Head of government

Turku is taking a “Nature Leap” to become one of the leading nature cities. By investing in the conservation and restoration of local ecosystems, the city enhances well-being of all its residents, both human and other species

## Platform engagement statistics



8

Actions made on the Action Platform

## Achievements

### Profile awards

The city has updated their profile and achieved the following:



Starter profile  
100% complete



Frontrunner profile  
100% complete



Star profile  
0% complete

### The Nature Pathway

The city has engaged with the Nature Pathway to integrate nature throughout their city’s plans, policies and operations.



Starter profile  
0% complete



Frontrunner profile  
0% complete



Star profile  
0% complete

Tools & resources hub

The city has made uploads to the CitiesWithNature tools & resources hub, which provides a knowledge-sharing platform for cities to share information and inspire one another.



Starter profile  
0% complete



Frontrunner profile  
0% complete



Star profile  
0% complete

Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.



Starter profile  
100% complete



Frontrunner profile  
100% complete



Star profile  
50% complete


Chapter 2

# The Action Platform



# The Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.

Action area 1

## Protect and restore nature

Commitment Made:  
**Protect, connect and restore ecosystems**



### Control or eradicate invasive alien species and prevent their introduction

Description of how city is taking action

The City of Turku has taken action against invasive species for nearly two decades. All known hogweed occurrences are under management, and the situation is under control. Occurrences of Himalayan balsam, garden lupine, and Spanish slug are scattered around the city, and the management of these occurrences prioritizes the most valuable parts of the nature of our city. Currently, 0.305 square kilometers of Himalayan balsam infestations are under control, with a target increase of 0.157 square kilometers. For the garden lupine, 0.019 square kilometers are under control, with a target increase of 0.035 square kilometers.

### Increase protected areas

Description of how city is taking action

The City of Turku aims to increase the quantity of protected areas by 25% before 2029 in order to reach the target of 30%, which is included in both the Biodiversity Strategy of the European Union and the Turku Biodiversity Action plan.

### Increase protected areas

Description of how city is taking action

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### Increase connectivity between natural areas

Description of how city is taking action

In 2022, the city of Turku conducted a forest network survey, which described the forests and wooded areas as well as the forest ecological network that runs throughout the Turku area. The survey identified gaps and weaknesses in the connections that need to be restored by planting trees and other types of vegetation.

Commitment Made:  
**Conserve and restore fauna and flora**



### Restore habitat for threatened and locally valued species

Description of how city is taking action

We are creating suitable habitats for native plants and pollinators in different open areas within the urban structure. Our next goal is to ensure

that all green construction in the city uses native wild plants as much as possible, instead of foreign plants. When a novel habitat is created using the seeds of local wild plants, it can develop into excellent habitats for certain endangered insect species. Species included in the Turku Biodiversity Action Plan are e.g. the six-belted clearwing (*Bembecia ichneumoniformis*) and the hermit beetle (*Osmoderma eremita*) as well as species that live on the bitter vetch (*Lathyrus linifolius*). The bitter vetch provides habitat for two specially protected and critically endangered species: the bee *Andrena lathyri* and the moth *Micrurapteryx gradatella*. In Turku, a protected area has been established specifically for the moth *Micrurapteryx gradatella*. The bitter vetch also supports other endangered insect species. Groves of hazel and other deciduous trees are also included in the plan, as they are rare and endangered habitats in Finland and an important habitat for many locally threatened species in the Turku region.

Commitment Made:  
**Manage invasive alien species**

Commitment Made:  
**Control Pollution**

Commitment Made:  
**Climate change adaptation and mitigation**

Other commitments under this action area

- Manage invasive alien species
- Control Pollution
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation



Action area 2

Use nature sustainably

Commitment Made:  
**Promote people’s access to green and blue spaces**

Other commitments under this action area

- Equitable benefits through sustainable use of wild species
- Biodiversity in urban agriculture, aquaculture and forestry
- Promote people’s access to green and blue spaces



Action area 3

Develop tools and solutions

Commitment Made:  
**Mainstreaming biodiversity values**

Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into local policies, strategies, environmental assessments, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies and accounts

Description of how city is taking action

The Skanssi park in Turku is a mosaic of semi-natural and urban biotopes harbouring many rare, endemic and endangered species. In the development project, urban biodiversity is fostered through unique measures and collaboration with universities, companies, NGO’s and citizen

science. As part of the Urban Biodiversity Parks project, Europe's first biodiversity park will be established in Skanssi, Turku. The focus is not only on conserving nature, but also on actively increasing biodiversity and improving the urban environment by testing different methods. The protection of local species is central to our efforts. Biodiversity parks are developed both as recreational areas and as experiential learning environments that help raise awareness about biodiversity conservation. European cities can replicate the model developed for this park in their own urban areas. Residents, associations, students, and the private sector will be involved in the planning and implementation to ensure that promoting biodiversity becomes an integral part of urban planning and daily life.

Commitment Made:

**Sustainable production and consumption**



**Other commitments under this action area**

**Sustainable production and consumption**

Use relevant knowledge, including traditional knowledge, for effective biodiversity management

Equitable and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity-related decision-making

Mobilize resources for biodiversity actions

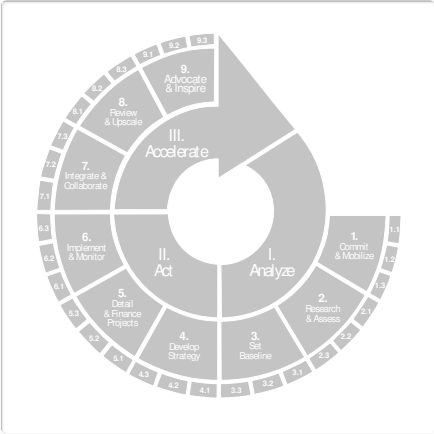
Chapter 3

# Nature Pathway



# Nature Pathway

The Nature Pathway assists cities with integrating nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



## I. Analyze

### 1. Commit & mobilize

No uploads or resources have been linked

### 2. Research & assess

No uploads or resources have been linked

### 3. Set Baseline

No uploads or resources have been linked

## II. Act

### 4. Develop strategy

No uploads or resources have been linked

### 5. Detail & finance projects

No uploads or resources have been linked

### 6. Implement & monitor

No uploads or resources have been linked

## III. Accelerate

### 7. Integrate & collaborate

No uploads or resources have been linked

### 8. Review & upscale

No uploads or resources have been linked

### 9. Advocate & inspire



Chapter 4

# City Biodiversity Index



# City Biodiversity Index

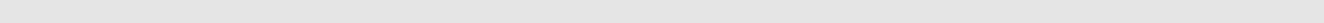
The City Biodiversity Index (CBI) is a self-assessment tool for cities to evaluate and monitor the progress of their biodiversity conservation efforts against their own individual baselines.

This city has measured the following total CBI score out of 112 points:

0 Points

## Native biodiversity in the city

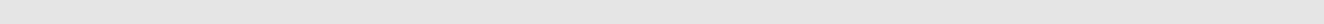
Core Component Total Score: 0 of 36 points



City of Turku has not started on this biodiversity index section

## Ecosystem services provided by biodiversity

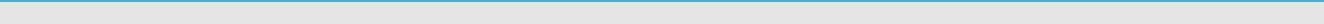
Core Component Total Score: 0 of 20 points



City of Turku has not started on this biodiversity index section

## Governance and management of biodiversity

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 56 points



City of Turku has not started on this biodiversity index section

Chapter 5

# Tools & resources



## Tools & resources

All tools & resources the city has uploaded to the CitiesWithNature Tools & resources hub.

City of Turku has not yet posted any tools and resources



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