

## **Abstract**

Green structure and its multiple benefits are widely recognized, but at the same time its position is questioned in accelerating urban densification process. This research analyses the conflicts between green structure and urbanism in the new master plan 2016 of Helsinki (Finland). The study is based on master planning documents and an analysis of the development of the green structure planning in Helsinki.

Helsinki, as many other metropolitan areas, is rapidly expanding. The current focus on infill development has a major effect on green structure network and leads to new planning strategies of urban green. This new approach indicates a clear paradigm shift in planning and poses several challenges to existing green structure. Examples of these growth-oriented strategies are objectives stressing coherent city instead of coherent green structure, quality instead of quantity, development instead of preservation and urban character instead of nature-based values. The strategies reveal a detrimental polarisation between urban and green and a one-sided concept of urbanism where the values of green areas are not fully recognized.

This research paper discusses the described paradigm shift and values attached to it. It presents two topical case studies in the master plan 2016 for deeper narrative analysis: the infill development plans of Central Park of Helsinki and an infill project of a protected cultural landscape in northern Helsinki. As a background, the historical development of green structure planning in Helsinki is reviewed, in addition to the design objectives of the previous master plans.

The paper emphasizes that the role of the green structure needs to be redefined in the urban densification context and new tools must be developed to promote sustainable development. Concurrently, the multiple values of green areas need to be cherished as an integral part of the urban environment and the concept of urbanism.

*green structure, master plan 2016 of Helsinki, urbanism*