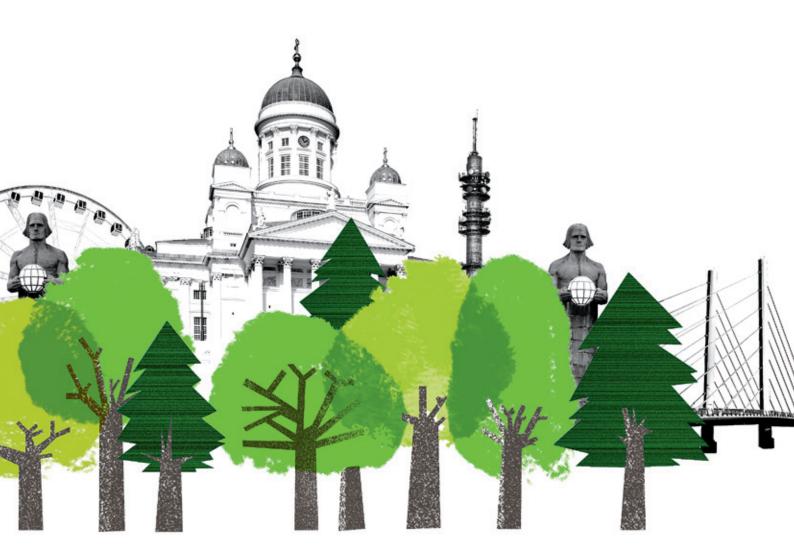
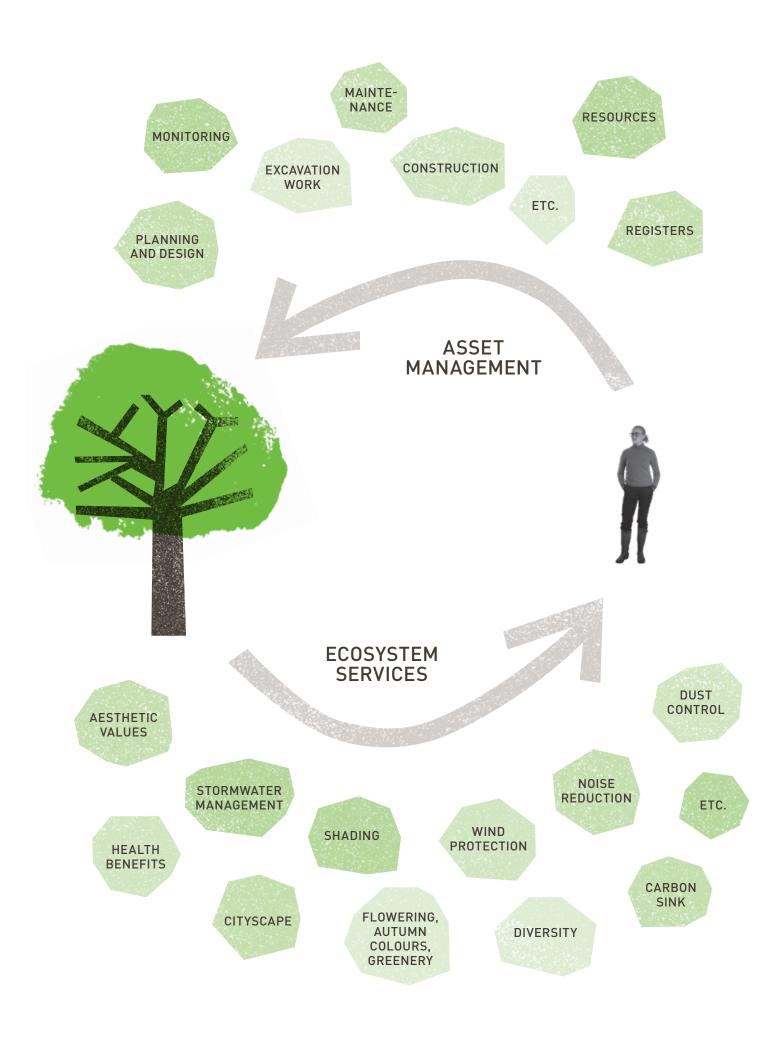


Urban Tree Policy





Urban Tree Policy



CONTENTS

- 1 INTRODUCTION 6
- 2 STRUCTURE OF THE URBAN TREE POLICY 8
- 3 URBAN TREE POLICY IN BRIEF 10
- 4 STRATEGIES 12
 - 4.1 Increase awareness and appreciation of urban trees 12
 - 4.2 Preserve the value of urban trees in terms of cultural heritage and cityscape 13
 - 4.3 Promote the diversity of urban nature through urban trees 14
 - 4.4 Maintain selection of urban tree species sustainably 15
 - 4.5 Secure the long-term vitality of urban trees 16
 - 4.6 Maintain urban trees in a professional, long-term and uniform manner throughout the city 17
 - 4.7 Regenerate tree rows and alleys and plant new trees as needed to secure their future 18
 - 4.8 Ensure the management of Helsinki's urban tree assets through sufficient resources and effective processes 19

1 INTRODUCTION

he Urban Tree Policy is a declaration of intent by the Public Works
Department regarding urban trees.
The main objective of the policy is to secure the vitality of Helsinki's urban trees, the values attached to them, and the ecosystem services provided by them through co-operation between the divisions within the Public Works Department.

The Urban Tree Policy is a document by means of which the Public Works Department defines and publishes its principles and methods regarding urban trees for the information of those who work with the trees and city residents. The policy consists of eight strategies to fulfil the main objective. The vision for each of these strategies is defined in writing along with the methods to achieve this vision. The Urban Tree Policy is intended primarily for employees of the Public Works Department and decision-makers, while some of its contents are intended also for residents. The Public Works Committee has approved the Urban Tree Policy to serve as guidelines on 13 May 2014.

The Urban Tree Policy applies to trees planted in the built environment that are owned by the City of Helsinki and that are the responsibility of the Public Works Department, i.e. street trees and park trees. Trees growing in forest areas are not included in the policy. In this policy, urban trees are evaluated in terms of the monetary value of the tree assets, the cityscape, cultural heritage, the selection of tree species, the intangible benefits provided by the trees (ecosystem services) and natural diversity.

The Public Works Department has primary responsibility for the city's tree assets, so the perspective of this policy is the development of the Public Works Department's activities in connection with urban trees. This policy does not apply to urban trees in yards, gardens, cemeteries and plots owned or managed by other parties. Nevertheless, securing the vitality of trees belongs equally to all of the city's administrative bodies and actors within the city. The methods presented in this policy

are applicable to other administrative bodies of the City of Helsinki, since the guidelines emphasise the necessity of co-operation and joint aims to secure the vitality of urban trees. The Urban Tree Policy is based on the assumption that thriving and healthy urban trees are in the interest of everyone.

Need for a Urban Tree Policy

The need for an Urban Tree Policy has arisen for many different reasons. A major inventory of Helsinki's street trees in 2010-2011 highlighted the need for better planning and forecasting for maintaining and regenerating the rows of street trees and tree-lined alleys in the city. Following the structural reorganisation of the Public Works Department, the status of urban trees and the responsibilities for taking care of them were left unclear. With the increase in subcontracting, Helsinki's trees will most likely be tended to by subcontractors, who may change frequently. For such contractors, clear contract documents and guidelines for maintaining urban trees must be drawn up. In addition, the threats and opportunities of climate change should also be considered when selecting tree species.

Trees are a living asset in the built urban environment that should be taken into consideration in all actions throughout the long life span of the trees. Efforts must also be made to help residents understand the needs of urban trees. In recent decades, the regeneration of certain tree-lined alleys in Helsinki that are important for both the cityscape and for residents has become topical. The regeneration of these alleys has created a lot of feedback for the Public Works Department, and these projects have taken a long time and a lot of work. Nevertheless, our generation must take responsibility for programming the regeneration of these alleys and create policies for such a major programme. The Urban Tree Policy has been drawn up proactively so that the regeneration of Helsinki's oldest alleys can be properly initiated and so that the high quality of the cityscape can be retained also for future generations.

Development needs of the Public Works Department regarding urban trees

Helsinki possesses a lot of strengths and expertise related to urban trees. Retaining these strengths also in the future, however, requires a review of the operating methods of the Public Works Department regarding urban trees. The Public Works Department should have common targets regarding urban trees. Operations affecting urban trees should be clarified and responsibilities assigned, while the processes related to urban trees should also be identified.

The further actions required to implement the Urban Tree Policy have been compiled in a draft action plan for internal use within the Public Works Department. The actions presented in this draft promote co-operation regarding urban trees and taking urban trees into consideration in decision making and processes. The actions propose, for example, improving processes, aspects of asset management, communications and expertise in order to secure the vitality of urban trees and increase awareness of the importance and value of urban trees.

Preparation of the Urban Tree Policy

Before the Urban Tree Policy was drafted, a preliminary report was made in 2010. The preliminary report examined five "urban tree strategies" that have been made in other European cities with similar climates and social structures as Helsinki.

The policy work was kicked off at a seminar on 30 November 2011 where 50 employees



of the Public Works Department worked in groups to consider issues related to the maintenance and administration of urban trees, as well as the objectives and contents of the strategy work. The eight main themes of the policy are based on the results of this group work.

When drafting the Urban Tree Policy, a large amount of written material regarding the importance of urban trees and their vitality was referred to. At the same time, the appreciation towards urban trees and the state of administration for urban tree assets within the Public Works Department were examined in many different ways. This material is compiled in the section *Taustaselvitys ja nykytilan kuvaus* ("Preparatory study and current status"), which describes the background for the Urban Tree Policy. The summary of the current status justifies the need for the Urban Tree Policy.

Over 20 employees representing different divisions within the Public Works Department were interviewed for the description of the current status and analysis. During this time various meetings on this theme were also held within the Public Works Department, as well as with the City Planning Department, the Building Control Department and Stara, the service provider of the City of Helsinki. In April 2013 a draft of the Urban Tree Report and Strategy was circulated for commenting within the Public Works Department and among those at the City Planning Department, the Building Control Department and Stara who had participated in the work and interviews.

The drafting of the Urban Tree Policy has been the responsibility of a working group that has included from the Street and Park Division landscape architect Pentti Peurasuo and from the Architectural Division landscape architect Jere Saarikko, PhD Minna Terho (forester), MSc Tuuli Ylikotila (biologist) and MSc Satu Tegel (horticulturist), who has served as the chairperson of the working group. In addition, landscape architects Matti Liski and Tiina Perälä from the company Näkymä Oy participated in drawing up the preparatory study and description of the current status.

2 STRUCTURE OF THE URBAN TREE POLICY

The second second

he main objective of Helsinki's
Urban Tree Policy is to secure
the vitality of Helsinki's urban trees,
the values attached to them, and
the ecosystem services provided by
them through co-operation between the divisions within the Public Works Department. To
achieve this objective, eight principles or strategies are presented in the Urban Tree Policy.

The administration of urban trees has been divided into eight sub-sections within this policy: 1) awareness and appreciation, 2) cultural heritage and cityscape, 3) diversity, 4) the selection of tree species, 5) planning and design, construction and permits, 6) maintenance of the trees, 7) tree rows and alleys and 8) asset management. A strategy has been defined for each of these sub-sections to help achieve the main objective.

A long-term vision has been defined for each of the eight strategies. In connection with these visions, a catalogue of methods is listed by which, if systematically followed within the Public Works Department, the vision can be achieved or maintained.



Strategies to achieve the main objective:



For each strategy there is a vision and specific methods that aim at securing the vitality of Helsinki's urban trees and the values attached to them.



Main Objective:

To secure the vitality of Helsinki's urban trees, the values attached to them, and the ecosystem services provided by them through co-operation between the divisions within the public works department



- 1 Increase awareness and appreciation of urban trees
- 2 Preserve the value of urban trees in terms of cultural heritage and cityscape
- 3 Promote the diversity of urban nature through urban trees
- 4 Maintain selection of urban tree species sustainably
- 5 Secure the long-term vitality of urban trees
- 6 Maintain urban trees in a professional, long-term and uniform manner throughout the city
- 7 Regenerate tree rows and alleys and plant new trees as needed to secure their future
- 8 Ensure the management of Helsinki's urban tree assets through sufficient resources and effective processes

4 STRATEGIES

Awareness and appreciation

Increase awareness and appreciation of urban trees

Vision

Urban trees are appreciated in Helsinki. There is a general awareness and appreciation of the numerous values of urban trees, such as social, economic, cityscape, cultural historic, architectonic, biological and ecological. Employees of the Public Works Department are aware of the ecosystem services provided by urban trees and their importance for public health and the aesthetic values of the city.

The requirements for the vitality of urban trees are understood within the Public Works Department and the city's other administrative bodies, as well as among other actors. This appreciation is manifested as an investment in urban trees. Awareness of urban trees and their importance is also increasing among residents.

- /// Decision-making about urban trees is guided by legislation, the city's own strategies and guidelines, and expertise in trees.
- /// When making decisions about urban trees, the effects of the decisions on the longterm vitality of the urban trees and the ecosystem services they produce are taken into consideration.
- /// Communications about urban trees are transparent and based on expertise, and they are directed diversely at different target groups.
- /// Know-how about trees, their properties, their history and the conditions for their vitality is shared among different professional groups within the Public Works Department in order to increase expertise in trees.
- /// Seminars about urban trees are organised on a regular basis for the city's different administrative bodies and other actors.
- /// Park walks focusing on trees are included in the guided park walks for residents.

Preserve the value of urban trees in terms of cultural heritage and cityscape



Urban trees and tree-lined alleys are a central part of Helsinki's cityscape and cultural heritage. They are one of the attractive features of the city. Vital new and old planted trees create a strong cityscape and appealing living environment together with other elements.

Special status is given to the trees in areas that are considered valuable in terms of cultural heritage and the cityscape. The planning and design, maintenance and construction of these areas is carried out on the terms of the valuable trees and in such a way that the valuable characteristics of the area are maintained.

The original planting compositions of trees are respected and maintained where possible, and additional trees are planted to replace old ones in a systematic manner. In the city there are also valuable open spaces without trees. Tree rows in particular are preserved as entities in terms of the cityscape. No other interfering elements are placed among the rows to interrupt the impression they make. In order to ensure the continuity of the trees, those in parks have a wide age distribution.

Reports and guidelines governing this strategy:

Arvoympäristöselvitys ("Report on places of cultural and historical significance") by the Public Works Department

Valtakunnallisesti merkittävät rakennetut kulttuuriympäristöt ("Inventory of nationally important built cultural environments") by the National Board of Antiquities (www.rky.fi) Historiallisten puutarhojen suojelu, hoito ja kunnostus ("The protection, maintenance and restoration of historical gardens"), RT 99-11119

- /// When initiating projects, the value of the area in terms of cultural heritage and cityscape is checked and taken into consideration, as is its protection status.
- /// Protected and other valuable tree environments are maintained in a way that protects their cultural historic values.
- /// Existing compositions, planting methods and tree species and varieties are changed only for justified reasons.
- /// Park and street compositions and vistas that are designed to be open are kept open and no new trees are planted there.
- /// Vital urban trees may be removed if their removal is justified in terms of cultural heritage or cityscape.
- /// Individual park trees that are important for the cityscape are maintained as long as possible, but their condition is monitored regularly to ensure safety.
- /// The placement of elements that undermine the impression made by tree rows or the cityscape, such as parking signs, advertising boards and distribution cable boxes, in tree rows or among other groups of trees that are valuable in terms of the cityscape is avoided where possible.

Diversity

Promote the diversity of urban nature through urban trees



Vision

Helsinki has a diverse stock of urban trees. Many long-living hardwood trees that are valuable in terms of diversity grow in Helsinki's parks. Planting urban trees does not cause invasive species to spread to the nature. Dangerous pests are not brought to Helsinki together with the plants.

Rare and endangered biota that are created by old and decaying urban trees and that are valuable in terms of diversity have habitats in Helsinki. The supply of decaying wood is ensured for the habitats of biota dependent on decaying wood in appropriate places.

Reports and guidelines governing this strategy:

Helsingin rakennettujen viheralueiden kasvien käytön linjaus ("Guidelines for the use of plants in Helsinki's built green areas"), 2009

Helsingin kaupunkikasviopas ("Helsinki City Plant Guide"), 2010

Helsingin luonnon monimuotoisuuden turvaamisen toimintaohjelma ("Action plan for securing natural diversity in Helsinki"), LUMO, 2010

Suomen kansallinen vieraslajistrategia ("Strategy for invasive species in Finland"), 2012, and Helsingin vieraslajien linjaus ("Guidelines for invasive species in Helsinki"), in progress

Rakennusviraston Ympäristöohjelma 2013–2017 ("Environmental programme of the Public Works Department 2013–2017")

- /// Park trees are allowed to grow as old as possible. Individual hollow park trees in particular are maintained as long as possible. The condition of old trees is monitored to ensure safety.
- /// Decisions to cut down individual trees that are valuable in terms of the cityscape, scenery, species or diversity are made in co-operation with landscape, tree and species experts.
- /// Decaying cut trunks are left as ground wood in appropriate places but not on lawns, which require mowing.
- /// When planting exotic invasive tree species, the guidelines of Helsingin kaupunkikasviopas ("Helsinki City Plant Guide") must be followed.
- /// The situation regarding invasive tree species shall be monitored on both the international and international levels.

Maintain the selection of urban tree species sustainably



Vision

Helsinki has a rich selection of urban trees that is unique to Helsinki. Rare, old, traditional and new tree species and varieties grow in the city. Different tree species and varieties highlight the unique characteristics of different city districts. A well thought-out selection of trees helps adapt to climate change.

- /// The selection of tree species in streets and parks is diversified.
- /// In order to maintain and develop the selection of tree species and varieties, the recommendations in Helsingin rakennettujen viheralueiden kasvien käytön linjaus ("Guidelines for the use of plants in Helsinki's built green areas") and Helsingin Kaupunkikasviopas ("Helsinki City Plant Guide") are followed regarding areas from different era.
- /// The planting of common lime trees (Tilia x europaea) is reduced in new areas compared to other tree species and other types of lime trees.
- /// To avoid the risks of diseases and pests, the planting of single tree species in large quantities is avoided in new plantings (so-called Santamour Rule).
- /// The number of tree species, varieties, provenances and seed sources is increased to ensure the adaptability of urban trees.
- /// The climate change expertise in the Public Works Department regarding the selection of suitable tree species is maintained through networking and research co-operation.
- /// The Public Works Department helps develop the selection of tree species at domestic nurseries together with the nurseries and researchers.
- /// In built areas representing different era, urban tree species from the same era are favoured.
- /// When drawing up project programmes, the selection of street tree species is made in co-operation with planners and experts on species and trees.
- /// In new city development areas, a local master plan of the street tree species to be used is drawn up in co-operation with the City Planning Department.

¹ Santamour Rule: To prevent the spread of dangerous diseases and pests in large green areas, a maximum of 10% of the trees can belong to the same species, 20% to the same genus and 30% to the same family (Santamour 1990)

Planning and design, construction and permits

Secure the long-term vitality of urban trees



Vision

The living conditions of Helsinki's urban trees enable them to thrive and grow for a long time so that they are able to produce the ecosystem services characteristic of trees. In city planning and design projects, sufficient space is reserved for the trees both above and below ground.

Municipal infrastructure is located at an appropriate distance from the trees in accordance with guidelines to ensure that the vitality of the trees is not threatened and that the utilities can be repaired and maintained later without damaging the trees. Ploughing and excavation work near trees does not damage the trees or their roots.

The plant purchase process ensures superior plant quality and the appropriateness of the provenances. Trees are planted using the best available expertise and equipment. To ensure that the trees establish, the measures and responsibilities after the trees have been planted and within the warranty period are clearly defined and monitored.

- /// Street and park trees are not planted in places that cannot accommodate their roots or crowns.
- /// Guidelines for the street space required for trees are followed.
- /// The Public Works Department takes the initiative in city planning co-operation with the City Planning Department regarding the space requirements of urban trees.
- /// The plant material co-ordinator at the Public Works Department is responsible for sourcing the plants of urban trees and ensuring their quality in projects.
- /// Compliance with the quality requirements for deciduous tree plants (*Lehtipuiden taimilaatuvaatimukset*, Viherympäristöliitto 2001) is included in tendering documents for seedling purchases.
- /// Only professionals with horticultural qualifications may grant excavation and event permits and monitor urban trees and growing areas.
- /// Contract documents and monitoring help ensure that ploughing and excavation work near trees is carried out without damaging the trees or their roots.
- # Excavation permit terms and conditions regarding trees are complied with in all municipal work on utilities.
- /// In new areas, tree stem protectors shall be used for street trees in areas covered by winter maintenance and close to parking areas.

Maintain urban trees in a professional, long-term and uniform manner throughout the city

Vision

Helsinki's urban trees are expertly maintained to ensure their vitality, safety and long life. Uniform methods are used to maintain trees in all city districts. The Public Works Department is active in communications related to trees and in sharing expertise between the Public Works Department and other actors.

When procuring the maintenance of Helsinki's urban trees, the main objective is to secure the vitality of the trees and the values attached to them. The maintenance of the trees is ordered from professional contractors by means of orders that ensure the long-term maintenance of the trees. The supervision of maintenance contracts is complete and professional, as well as uniform in terms of quality and content throughout the city.

- /// The maintenance of Helsinki's trees is procured only from contractors who are able to guarantee the long-term and professional maintenance of the trees.
- /// Contractors who maintain trees are required to have the professional qualifications demanded by the maintenance product cards (Ylläpidon tuotekortit).
- /// The maintenance of trees is ordered from all contractors using standardised contract documents.
- /// Maintenance contract documents (including maintenance product cards) are developed continuously from the perspective of the vitality of the trees.

Tree rows and alleys

Regenerate tree rows and alleys and plant new trees as needed to secure their future



Vision

Tree rows and alleys are healthy and live as long as possible. They form valuable and uniform entities for Helsinki and its residents.

Alleys are regenerated so that future generations too can enjoy uniform tree rows and alleys. Once their regeneration becomes essential, it is planned and implemented for each area in the most appropriate, pluralistic, well grounded and transparent manner.

Long-term financial planning enables sufficiently large plants as required for the regeneration and replenishment of long tree-lined alleys.

- /// The most appropriate regeneration method is selected for each area on a case-by-case basis in regeneration projects for tree-lined alleys: a total regeneration, a gradual regeneration in phases, or a regeneration one tree or tree group at a time.
- /// Groups of experts within the Public Works Department with local responsibilities prioritise tree-lined alley regeneration projects within the framework of the investment programme's funds according to the 10-year plan. This is done by balancing the regeneration needs of the tree-lined alleys with other infrastructure projects.
- /// The regeneration plans for tree-lined alleys that are highly significant in terms of the cityscape and historically are approved by the City Board or City Council.
- /// Supplementary planting for tree rows and alleys is carried out systematically in order to maintain their uniform appearance.
- /// The assistance of an expert in interaction is used in major tree-lined alley regeneration projects.
- /// The permit requirements for the regeneration of tree-lined alleys of major significance in terms of the cityscape and history are evaluated by a board ("katselmusryhmä") convened by the Building Control Department.

Ensure the management of Helsinki's city tree assets through sufficient resources and effective processes



Vision

The Public Works Department is active in reserving sufficient financial resources for maintaining the city's tree assets. The resourcing of the city's tree assets is managed as part of the financial planning of the Public Works Department.

The tasks and related responsibilities regarding urban trees are clearly defined for the different divisions, offices and individual employees. The professional skills and tasks of employees cover all areas of managing tree assets. There is a clear division of responsibilities between the client and subcontractors in the management of trees.

Information about trees is maintained comprehensively in a tree database that is functional and easy to use. Information about the condition and number of trees in the database is systematically kept up to date. Helsinki's tree assets are managed with the help of the tree database and good administrative practices in such a way that their value is maintained and increased.

- /// In the annual budget proposal and economic plan presented to the Economic and Planning Centre, the Public Works Department presents its views regarding the funding required for regenerating tree-lined alleys based on their condition.
- /// Funds are allocated for supplementary plantings and the regeneration of tree-lined alleys on the basis of a 10-year plan.
- /// Both investment and operational funds are allocated annually to the budget of the Public Works Department for urban trees.
- In the budgeting phase, the Public Works Department uses the opportunity to propose operational objectives related to urban trees
- /// The expertise of employees in terms of urban trees is ensured by updating education and training.

AUTHORS

Pentti Peurasuo, Jere Saarikko, Satu Tegel, Minna Terho, Tuuli Ylikotila

TITEL OF PUBLICATION

Urban Tree Policy

SERIES

Helsingin kaupungin rakennusviraston julkaisut 2014:8

NUMBER

2014:8

PUBLICATION TIME

December 2014

ISBN

978-952-272-824-2 (PDF)

ISSN

1238-9579

LANGUAGE, THE WORK IN FULL English

SUMMARY

The Urban Tree Policy is a declaration of intent by the Public Works Department regarding urban trees. The main objective of the policy is to secure the vitality of Helsinki's urban trees, the values attached to them, and the ecosystem services provided by them through co-operation between the divisions within the Public Works Department.

The Urban Tree Policy is a document by means of which the Public Works Department defines and publishes its principles and methods regarding urban trees for the information of those who work with the trees and city residents. The Urban Tree Policy applies to trees planted in the built environment that are owned by the City of Helsinki and that are the responsibility of the Public Works Department, i.e. street trees and park trees.

The policy consists of eight strategies to fulfil the main objective. The vision for each of these strategies is defined in writing along with the methods to achieve this vision. The Public Works Committee has approved the Urban Tree Policy to serve as guidelines on 13 May 2014.

Suomenkielisen julkaisun ISBN-numero on 978-952-272-811-1.

Trädpolicyn finns publicerad på svenska som en webbversion (ISBN 978-952-272-823-4).

KEYWORDS

Urban trees, street trees, park trees, trees in City of Helsinki, guidelines

Helsingin kaunungin rakennusviraston julkaisut 2017/1

Viljellään kaupungissa. Opas yhteisö- ja pienpalstaviljelmien perustamiseen Helsingissä

ISBN 978-952-272-648-3 (vain verkkoversio

Helsingin kaupungin rakennusviraston julkaisut 2014:2

Mätäjoen hoito- ja kehittämissuunnitelma

SBN 978-952-272-686-5 (vain verkkoversio)

Helsingin kaupungin rakennusviraston julkaisut 2014:

Mätäjoen valuma-alueen hulevesiselvitys ja suunnitelma

ISBN 978-952-272-687-2 (vain verkkoversio

Helsingin kaupungin rakennusviraston julkaisut 2014:4

Rakennusviraston kaupunkipuuselvitys / Taustaselvitys ja nykytilan kuv<u>aus</u>

ISBN 978-952-272-711-4 (painoversio), ISBN 978-952-272-712-1 (verkkoversio)

Helsingin kaupungin rakennusviraston julkaisut 2014:5

Harakan saaren hoito- ja kehittämissuunnitelma 2015–2029

ISBN 978-952-272-726-8 (painoversio), ISBN 978-952-272-727-5 (verkkoversio)

Helsingin kaupungin rakennusviraston julkaisut 2014:6

Valmistuneet katu- ja puistokohteet 2013

ISBN 978-952-272-732-9 (painettu versio), ISBN 978-952-272-733-6 (verkkoversio)

Helsingin kaupungin rakennusviraston julkaisut 2014:7

Keskuspuisto tutuksi pala palalta

ISBN 978-952-272-743-5 (painoversio), ISBN 978-952-272-744-2 (verkkoversio

Helsinki Streets of Food -kirja

Yhteishanke Tukkutorin kanssa

ISBN 978-952-272-779-4 (painettu versio), ISBN 978-952-272-780-0 (verkkoversio)

Helsingin kaupungin rakennusviraston julkaisut 2014:8

Kaupunkipuulinjaus

ISBN 978-952-272-811-1 (painoversio), ISBN 978-952-272-812-8 (verkkoversio)

Melua vaimentavat päällysteet -selvitys

ISBN 978-952-272-808-1 (painettu versio), ISBN 978-952-272-809-8 (verkkoversio)

Helsingin kaupungin rakennusviraston julkaisut 2014:10 / arkkitehtuuriosasto

Koirien kaupunki – raportti koirapalvelukyselyn tuloksista

ISBN 978-952-272-815-9 (painettu versio), ISBN 978-952-272-816-6 (verkkoversio)

