

CITY OF VANTAA'S  
EXPERIENCES WITH  
ECOLOGICAL  
COMPENSATION

# INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT



# CITY OF VANTAA'S EXPERIENCES WITH ECOLOGICAL COMPENSATION

## **Practical Application in Urban Planning**

*Vantaa integrates ecological compensation into statutory land-use planning without hindering urban development progress.*

## **Legal Framework and Cooperation**

*Implementation follows Finland's Nature Conservation Act, emphasizing institutional cooperation and transparent decision-making.*

## **Measurable Ecological Benefits**

*Compensation efforts are grounded in quantifiable ecological impacts, enhancing credibility and accountability of projects.*

## **Balancing Development and Environment**

*Ecological compensation balances land-use pressures with biodiversity conservation in growing urban environments.*

# STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



# NATURE-POSITIVE VANTAA 2030

## Strategic Framework

*Nature-Positive Vantaa 2030 aims to enhance biodiversity and improve ecological status beyond no net loss.*

## Shared Responsibility

*The strategy involves residents, businesses, and the city collaborating to achieve ecological gains.*

## Ecosystem Services

*Urban nature provides climate regulation, health benefits, recreation, and resilience to environmental risks.*

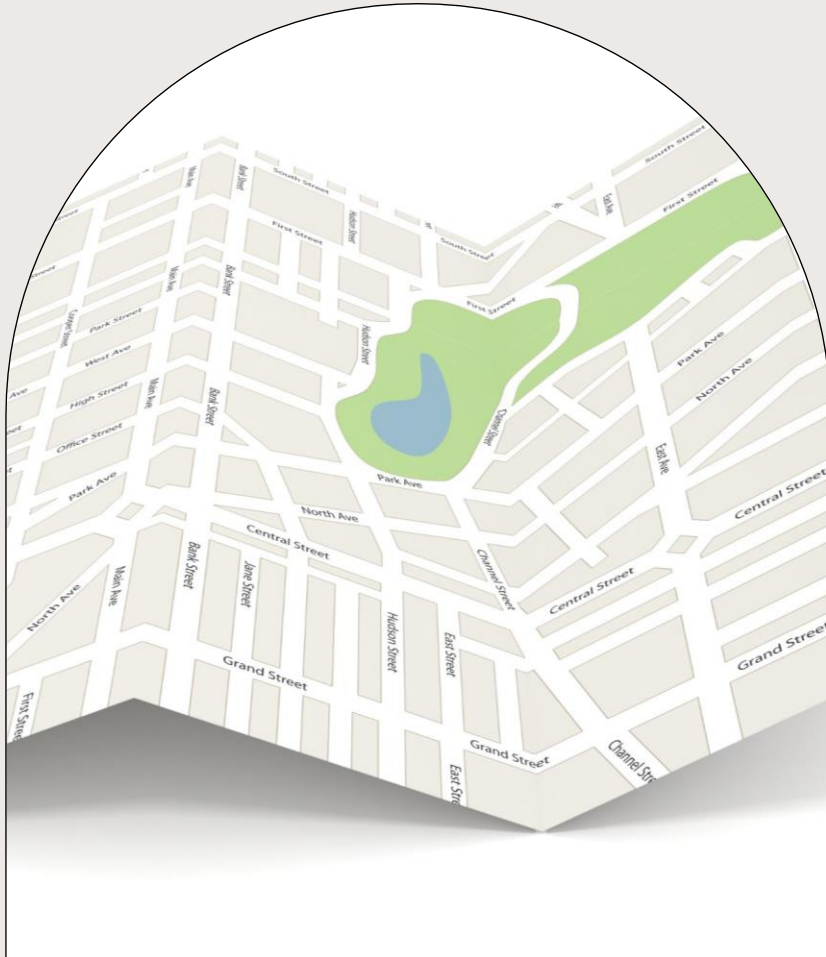
## Operationalizing Biodiversity

*Ecological compensation is integrated into planning decisions as a core part of sustainability transition.*

# PRINCIPLES OF ECOLOGICAL COMPENSATION

---

# NO NET LOSS THROUGH ECOLOGICAL COMPENSATION



## **Mandatory Ecological Compensation**

*Vantaa enforces ecological compensation for all local plans to balance biodiversity losses with gains.*

## **Systematic Impact Assessment**

*Projects undergo thorough biodiversity impact assessments to identify and quantify ecological losses.*

## **Early Integration Benefits**

*Integrating compensation early in planning prevents delays and improves transparency for stakeholders.*

## **Supporting Long-term Ecology**

*Explicitly addressing each impact ensures sustainable urban growth and preserves biodiversity integrity.*

# IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS



# STEPS OF ECOLOGICAL COMPENSATION

## **Impact Assessment**

*Identifying ecological baseline and quantifying anticipated losses at the start of the compensation process.*

## **Compensation Planning**

*Selecting compensation areas, defining measures, and calculating expected ecological gains for effective restoration.*

## **Implementation**

*Executing planned ecological measures considering seasonal and ecological constraints for successful compensation.*

## **Verification and Approval**

*Ensuring compensation meets legal standards through verification and official approval by authorities.*

# CASE STUDY OVERVIEW



# IMMIGRATION DETENTION UNIT: PROJECT BACKGROUND

## **Early Project Discussions**

*Discussions started in late 2023 identifying the project as a pilot for ecological compensation application.*

## **Collaboration with Senate Properties**

*Early cooperation allowed integration of ecological compensation into the project timeline effectively.*

## **Selection of Compensation Area**

*Palokallio was chosen in March 2024 as the compensation area after a thorough search process.*

## **Comprehensive Nature Surveys**

*Surveys in 2024 assessed baseline ecological conditions to design effective compensation measures.*

# PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING

---



# PLANNING TIMELINE AND LEGAL PROCESS

## **Project Planning Stages**

*The project followed statutory stages from participation to City Council approval over 2024-2025.*

## **Legal Validation**

*Legal validity of the plan was expected in early 2026, finalizing the project's approval process.*

## **Ecological Compensation Parallelism**

*Ecological compensation planning ran in parallel, ensuring environmental considerations supported timely decisions.*

## **Integrated Governance Approach**

*Integrating environmental processes into governance enhances coherence without delaying decision-making.*

# COMPENSATION AREA AND MEASURES



# COMPENSATION AREA, MEASURES, AND OUTCOMES

## Designation and Planning

*Palokallio was designated as compensation area after surveys and consultations in late 2024, with a plan approved in early 2025.*

## Ecological Measures Implemented

*Measures included improving forest structure, increasing dead wood, and blocking drainage ditches in peatlands during two phases in 2025.*

## Outcomes and Validation

*The project produced Finland's first recognized nature value hectares, showing measurable biodiversity gains and importance of monitoring.*

# CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

# KEY LESSONS FROM VANTAA

## **Ecological Compensation Effectiveness**

*Ecological compensation effectively addresses biodiversity loss within urban planning without excessive bureaucracy.*

## **Importance of Official Verification**

*Official verification ensures credibility and makes ecological compensation processes clearer and more efficient.*

## **Barriers to Adoption**

*The main barrier to wider ecological compensation adoption is the lack of well-functioning biodiversity credit markets.*

## **Framework and Future Potential**

*The Nature Conservation Act provides a transparent and science-based framework enabling nature-positive development.*

