

# RE:CONNECTING RIMBO

NATURE / RECREATION / CULTURAL HERITAGE

**THE PROPOSAL SHOWS THREE STRATEGIES OF RECONNECTION; RECONNECTING FRAGMENTED NATURAL LAND, RECONNECTING SOCIAL MEETING POINTS AND RECONNECTING TO RIMBO'S HISTORICAL PAST.**

## **RECONNECTING NATURE**

Rimbo is surrounded by different types of nature - from agricultural fields and pasture land to woods, wetlands, lakes, and streams. In addition to these, existing nature have been identified and, together with planned new parks, these will be joined in a coherent recreational green loop for people, plants and animals. Reconnecting fragmented landscape areas into a continuous loop is a way for urbanity and nature to coexist, creating a dispersal route for animals and plants.

This proposal is designed in different phases, with each phase being independent of the others.

### **Phase One: The Green Loop**

For a green area to be utilized often, it should be located within 300 meters of residences, workplaces, or schools, and at the same time be perceived as safe and accessible. The Green Loop enables Rimbo's residents easy access to nature on a daily basis.

The ecological corridors illustrated below forms, together with a final new portion one continuous loop. This last section extends from the southern entrance to Rimbo towards Köpmannagatan and Järnvägsparken.

Walking paths from the Green Loop will link the central green area to the surrounding agricultural landscape, woodlands, and lakes. Visually and physically connecting natural areas inside and outside the site, will allow residents to easily access the natural surroundings by foot or bicycle.

The Green Loop creates an overall biological and recreational framework. When the heavy traffic on routes 280 and 77 is rerouted, there will be an opportunity to rebuild those roads as urban streets with reduced speed limits, sidewalks, bicycle paths, more overpasses, and a green character. The present routes that curve through central Rimbo will be straightened, helping to reduce speed and create a better layout for proposed housing blocks.

One large continuous planting bed will dominate the new urban streets. Sunken basins will provide space for planting and rainwater collection. Rising above the sunken rainwater garden, a steel grid will provide parking for bicycles and cars.

Köpmannagatan will also be part of the Green Loop. A pocket park and space for planting and rainwater collection will be added along Köpmannagatan, bringing more green value into the city center.

## **RECONNECTING SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

In addition to existing natural values, social meeting points, activities, culture, sports and services have been identified. Most of these are situated along the Green Loop or along one of the smaller paths that connect to the Loop, making them easily accessible. New meeting points will be added, strengthening the importance of the Loop as a biological and recreational framework. Adding to and restoring services back to the town center will create vibrant spaces and promote more sustainable everyday transportation choices by foot or bicycle along the Loop.

A mix of activities along the Loop and in the city center will create a safe, inviting, and lively environment for people of all ages. Easy access to the Loop also facilitates access to attractive non-commercial and commercial social activities, which promote greater social sustainability.

## **RECONNECTING TO RIMBO'S HISTORICAL PAST**

Rimbo has a strong identity connected to its history as an agricultural and industrial area. The Green Loop provides easy access to both agricultural land and Rimbo's industrial buildings, such as Galten and the railway roundhouse. Local resources, including natural values, social meeting places and activities, local enterprise, and the heritage of "Rimbo spirit", as well as the city's industrial past, constitute the catalyst for new forms and activities on the site. Our aim is to preserve and renew at the same time by assuring that new additions preserve and strengthen existing values. The Green Loop is part of the first phase and the key framework, but can also be seen as a link between Rimbo's past, present, and future.

The pedestrian zone along Köpmannagatan will be extended from Järnvägsparken to Galten. At the crossing of route 77/Köpmannagatan and Köpmannagatan/route 280 pedestrians will have priority, and the ground will be paved like the rest of the pedestrian street. Central Rimbo will extend between two landmarks; the water tower to the west and the industrial chimney of Galten to the east.

### **Phase Two: Transportation and Activity Hub**

Galten represents the industrial era that developed around the railway junction and the connection to the rich surrounding agricultural lands. Adjacent to Galten lies the old railway embankment that is reserved for the future development of Roslagsbanan. Galten's central location, its strong connection to Rimbo's industrial past and the railway, and its iconic tall chimney render the building the perfect location for the new Transportation and Activity Hub.

While the Green Loop allows citizens to easily access all of Rimbo by foot or bicycle, the Transportation and Activity Hub will enable sustainable transportation outside Rimbo. From Galten, there is easy access to six bus lines and the train platform, allowing quick changes between bus and train. Bus traffic is separated from the pedestrian and bicycle zone. One can also easily bring a bicycle onto the train by using the ramp just south of the building.

The footpath along the old railway embankment will be retained and strengthened. It will be connected to footpaths in the agricultural landscape and pedestrian and bicycle paths in the southwest and the new housing blocks south of the center.

### **Phase Three: Central Rimbo**

In the city center a generic grid of streets will link to existing streets and sight lines to an area for six new housing blocks. The simplicity of the grid creates a framework allowing expansion to be carried out in even smaller phases.

To reduce land consumption and create a mix of housing types, no villas will be added in the new area. Instead, those city blocks will have row houses and apartment buildings that complement the existing housing stock. A mix of different types of housing will attract diverse groups to move to Rimbo or remain living there.

Housing in Rimbo was developed with the garden city concept in mind, where nature and outdoor living comprise part of its identity. Four principles characterize a garden city: moderate density, low building heights, gardens for all housing units, and traditional streets and squares with public services. It is an ideal mix between city and country living. Large houses are often situated along main roads, while lower houses face smaller local streets. The proposal is interpreting these principles into a new city block called "The Garden Block".

The Garden Block consists of owners- and rental apartments, as well as row houses and public services. The block has open corners allowing pedestrians to view or pass through the green courtyards. Urban farming is included as a way of promoting food growing by everyone in the community. Apartment buildings share the courtyard with a greenhouse and a sunken rainwater garden, roof terrace and a community house. The row houses have private gardens. The different green areas create a microclimate for people, plants, and insects.

The southwest housing blocks are linked to "Centrumhuset" by placing the courtyard directly adjacent to the existing house. The existing passages through Centrumhuset provides sight lines from the shopping street to the green urban courtyards.

Apartment buildings have an approximate height of four stories, and row houses of two or three. Some strategically chosen buildings have a somewhat taller building height. The ground floor of the buildings is designed for flexibility with a generous ceiling height that makes the units suitable for various occupancies.

Central Rimbo is characterized by brick buildings. Similarly, new structures in the Garden Block fronting more trafficked streets or the square are to be built in brick. Smaller buildings that face smaller local streets will be built in wood.

Every block will have spaces for communal living such as car and bicycle pools, workshops, laundry facilities, shared roof garden, etc. Solar panels and charging stations for electric vehicles will be visible to encourage more sustainable living.

#### **Phase Four: Roslagsbanan and the Extension of the Town Center**

The new area south of Galten has the potential to become an extension of the town centre and form a new entrance to Rimbo from the south. Roslagsbanan's extension to Rimbo would be transformative in offering attractive housing including gardens close to Stockholm. This will make Rimbo an attractive choice, especially for families with children.

The development of additional Garden Blocks would mean the need for more kindergartens, schools, senior citizen housing, and other public services. The blocks will be developed from north to south and to be prepared with public services already when new citizens move in, the first block south of Galten will be the site of a kindergarten, a school, and an athletic center. The block currently has four buildings of high architectural value. They will be kept, renovated, and repurposed. The school building will be expanded by a new addition.

New housing blocks will be treated the same way as the other city blocks by applying Garden City principles. Since these housing units will be located further from the city center, fewer ground floors will be designed for public services. The buildings will be slightly lower, but still be tall enough to form an urban environment. The area will serve as a new entrance to Rimbo from the south.