



Re-imagining the Sports Shrine

The Sports Centre, Lahti

EUROPAN 18 - RE-SOURCING

3.3.-29.6.2025

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1. / Competition information

SITE LOCATION

Lahti Sports Centre

SITE FAMILY / THEME

Re-sourcing from social dynamics and inclusivity / Second life

SITE PROPOSED BY

City of Lahti, which organizes the competition together with European Suomi Finland

TEAM COMPOSITION

Expected skills: competitors are encouraged to form multidisciplinary teams of architects, landscape architects, urban planners and other professionals to find new perspectives and solutions to the challenges related to the site (architect non mandatory in the team by law.) See the rules: [europan-europe.eu](https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2024/20241026)

PRIZES

There will be a 1st prize of 12 000 € awarded to the winner and a 2nd prize prize of 6 000 € for the winner runner-up. The jury can also award special mentions when appropriate (no reward). According to a decree by the Finnish Ministry of Finance, the prizes for the Finnish European 18 competition paid in Finland are tax free (<https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2024/20241026>).

NATIONAL JURY

Miia-Liina Tommila (FI), Architect (SAFA), Tommila Architects Ltd (chair)

Frédéric Chartier (FR), Architect, ChartierDalix, France

Frank Martela (FI), Assistant Professor, Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, Aalto University

Andro Mänd (EE), City Architect, City of Tallinn, Estonia

Pekka Pakkanen (FI), Architect (SAFA), Planetary Architecture Ltd

Sofie Pelsmakers (BE), Prof., architect (ARB/RIBA), University of Tampere

Suvi Saastamoinen (FI), Landscape architect (MARK), Sitowise Ltd

Substitute members:

Emma Johansson (FI), architect SAFA, Studio Puisto

Sarianna Salminen (FI), Landscape Architect, LASS Landscape Architecture

The Site Representative:

Johanna Palomäki, the City Architect of Lahti, architect (SAFA), will participate in the jury meetings and has a voting right in the first meetings.

Competition secretary with professional secrecy:

Kirsti Rantanen, architect (SAFA), General Secretary of European Suomi Finland.

In addition the jury may consult any external experts they deem necessary. The experts may participate in the meetings of the jury at the request of the jury. The external specialists do not participate in the selection process.

CALENDAR OF THE COMPETITION

March 3rd, 2025: Launch of the competition and the opening date for registrations on the European Europe's website

March 6th, 2025: Kick-off Event in Helsinki (see europan.fi)

April 11th, 2025: Site visit, meeting in front of the Ski Museum at 13:00

May 16th, 2025: Deadline for submitting questions on the site and rules

May 30th, 2025: Deadline for answers to the questions on the site and rules

June 29th, 23:59 (Paris-FR summer time), 2025: Deadline of the digital submission of the projects

June 30th, 2025: Publication of the preliminary listing of the received proposals on the European Europe's website

July 4th, 2025: Publication of the definitive listing of the received proposals on the European Europe's website.

July 2025: All the proposals will be displayed on the European Finland's website

November 17th, 2025: Publication of the results on the European Europe's website

November, 2025: National prize-giving ceremony in Helsinki, and a kick-off seminar / workshop in Lahti

November, 2026: International E18/E19 Inter-Sessions Forum

COMPETITION RULES

The competition will follow this Site Brief and the Competition Rules found at europan-europe.eu.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / UPDATE OF MATERIAL

Competitors may ask questions regarding the competition and the site brief, please use and check the forum online:

europan-europe.eu

TYPE OF COMMUNICATION DURING THE COMPETITION

All the proposals will be displayed anonymously to the public for commenting after the first jury meeting in September on the website of European Suomi Finland (europan.fi). The feedback will be submitted to the jury before it decides on the result of the competition.

TYPE OF COMMUNICATION AFTER THE COMPETITION

Awarded teams will receive a travel grant to attend the prize ceremony in Helsinki and the kick-off seminar in Lahti. Additionally, at least the winning teams will receive travel grants to help cover expenses for the European International Forum of Results in autumn 2026 (dates and locations TBA).

FURTHER MEASURES AFTER THE COMPETITION

The intention of Lahti municipality is to commission the winner(s) to develop the winning project further at the level of detailed planning and / or landscape and construction design for the prompt measures for the major events in the coming years,

The competition is a design contest as specified in the Finnish Act of Public Procurement and Concession Contracts (1397/2016). When negotiating the follow-up commission, it must be noted that the working group has sufficient expertise and competence at its disposal for the implementation phase of the project and that the design costs remain reasonable.

USAGE RIGHTS OF THE COMPETITION PROPOSALS

All material submitted to the organisers becomes their property, including reproduction rights and research purposes. The intellectual property rights will remain the exclusive property of the author(s) of the proposals. The organisers reserve the right to publish all the projects submitted to them. Projects are exhibited or published under the names of their authors after the official announcement of results.

The commissioned designer and the City of Lahti have the right to use the themes and ideas of awarded or purchased proposals in accordance with the Finnish Copyright Act.

FURTHER INFORMATION

europan.fi, europan-europe.eu

ATTACHMENTS

MAPS

- Reflection site and the surroundings: street map and figure-ground map (pdf)
- Master Plan and the thematic maps of the Master Plan (cultural environment, natural and green environment, water protection and management, sustainable mobility) (jpg)
- Maps of recreational routes: Salpausselkä ski map and Salpausselkä summer map (pdf)
- Maps of nature and ecological connections, landscape structure, landscape types and topography (jpg)
- Base map of the reflection site (dwg, pdf)
- Maps of recreational routes: competition courses of Lahti Ski Games, preliminarily planned new alignments for roller skiing and season's first skiing trail (pdf)
- Maps of daily traffic volumes (pedestrian, bicycle and car traffic) and arrangements during events (pdf)

PHOTOS

- Orthophotos of the reflection site and project site (pdf)
- Semi-aerial photos of the reflection site and project site (jpg)
- Orthophoto with section markers, main uses and construction years of the buildings and two possible options for the location for the media during great events (dwg and pdf)
- Photos from the ground level (jpg)
- Photos from the events at the Sports Centre (jpg)

DRAWINGS

- 3D model of the project site (dwg and skp)
- Base drawing for the sections along Veikko Kankkosen raitti and Teivaankatu / Satamaradanpolku routes (dwg and pdf)
- Example of arrangements during major events (Lahti Ski Games) (pdf)
- Plans for the new bridge of Suurmäenkatu Street, replacing the existing tunnels (pdf)

VIDEOS

- Re-imagining the Sports Shrine, Lahti Sports Centre
- [Salpausselkä - Sports Destination Created by Water from VisitLahti](#)
- [Lahti Sports Center - a candidate venue for the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships 2029](#)

COMPETITION BRIEF

Composed by HELT Architects Ltd



2./ Introduction



Project site and reflection site from the west © City of Lahti

2.1 COMPETITION TASK

Lahti Sports Centre is an internationally renowned hub of Nordic skiing games and winter events in Finland. The Sports Centre is a popular year-round destination for tourism and outdoor recreation for people of all ages and the main gateway to the Salpausselkä Unesco Global Geopark. In addition, the diverse sports facilities make the site the most visited place for everyday recreation and exercise for Lahti residents.

The aim is to create an even more vibrant mix of competitive sporting events, leisure activities and other ways to bring people together, while taking advantage of the unique natural landscape, the interesting geomorphology of Salpausselkä, the cultural history, and sport and recreation in an urban context.

The projects shall consist of design and strategy in the scale of urban planning and an overall concept of improving landscape architecture to better integrate the built and natural environment. The overarching design ideas should be adaptable to various functional scenarios, as some large-scale functions have not yet been decided and the uses of existing and proposed new buildings may change during the lengthy timespan of planning and incremental implementation.

The City Council of Lahti approved a new City Centre Vision 2040 in June 2024, and the Sports Centre area is included in it. Through the competition, the City of Lahti is looking for an overall plan for the area that boldly combines different functional objectives

while respecting the existing values of the environment, as a next step for the City Centre Vision 2040. The plans should provide a pleasant environment for everyday activities and an ambitious image for a venue that will be seen on TV cameras around the world during major events. The focus of design is on the spaces between the buildings rather than the buildings themselves.

As part of the task, competitors should also indicate which parts of the concept or ideas could and should be implemented in a short timeframe to be ready for the Nordic World Ski Championships in Lahti in 2029. These rapid measures should focus in particular on improving visitor orientation, both during major events and on everyday use of the area.

2.2 RE-SOURCING FROM SOCIAL DYNAMICS AND INCLUSIVITY

The projects shall explore how to make the most efficient use of existing and future resources, so that they can best serve both major events and everyday use. How do the services needed for major events serve everyday activities and help to create a vibrant area for the people of Lahti, tourists, and other visitors? How can visitors be encouraged to spend longer periods of time in the Sports Centre and how can new user groups outside the conventional sports enthusiasts (e.g. the elderly, special groups and children) be best



Beyond sports, the area also serves as a venue for concerts and other cultural events. © City of Lahti

served in the area? What benefits can be achieved by diversifying and increasing human encounters in the area? How can the activities in the Sports Centre better support a sustainable and active way of life for all and how can sustainability of the implementation be ensured through circular economy?

In addition to the chosen theme, proposals should also come up with ideas under the theme of re-sourcing with the natural elements, as enhancing the natural elements and strengthening green and blue infrastructure are also important planning objectives. In general, competitors also encouraged to propose a new vision for new ways of living and co existing with nature and in planetary boundaries.

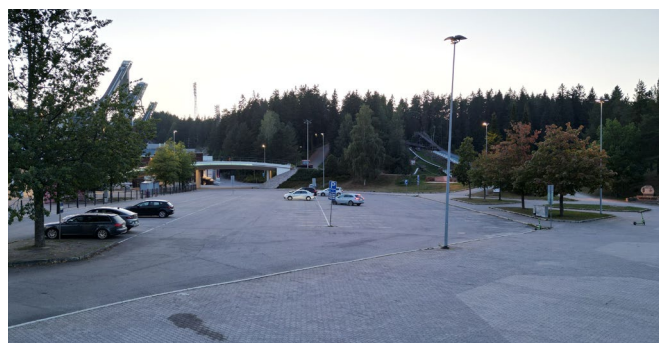
2.3 IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The competition is organized by the City of Lahti in collaboration with European Finland. The City of Lahti intends to commission the winner(s) at the level of detailed planning and / or landscape and construction design for the prompt measures for the major events in the coming years, such as the Nordic World Ski Championships in 2029. The commission will include further development of the winning proposal's ideas and collaboration with the city and local stakeholders to improve the character and potential of the area. The jury will provide recommendations on further actions based on the competition results, while the City of Lahti will make the final decisions regarding follow-up work and its content.



The entrance area and visitor orientation need improvement. © City of Lahti

The site's core is currently dominated by parking and should be transformed into a welcoming, pedestrian-friendly hub at the heart of the Sports Centre. © City of Lahti



3. / Landscape and urban context

3.1 SALPAUSSELKÄ RIDGE

The City of Lahti sits on and around the Salpausselkä ridge. The terminal moraine formation was laid down by continental ice and meltwater streams around 12 500 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age, when the edge of the retreating ice sheet stood still for a few hundred years. The edge of the ice sheet and deposited material pushed by it then formed the margin of the ancient freshwater Baltic Ice Lake. The resulting narrow ridge runs 500 km, reaching across the entirety of Southern Finland, and can be observed from space. Salpausselkä and its two smaller, parallel cousins capture the extensive lake and river system of Finnish Lakeland.

Salpausselkä has had significance as a sturdy foundation for buildings, as well as a natural transportation route, thus connecting a number of towns along its length. It has also provided a source of sand material and continues to be a source of clean groundwater.

The unique location and geomorphology of the ridge have had a significant impact on the environment, creating rich biodiversity and favorable conditions for the development of the cultural landscape.



The location of the Salpausselkä ridges and Lahti © City of Lahti

3.2 FROM PAST TO PRESENT

Lahti is located at the southern end of Lake Vesijärvi, circa 100 km from the capital Helsinki. Some of the surrounding areas have been inhabited since the Stone Age.

Lahti was a fairly small village until the construction of the Riihimäki-St. Petersburg railway and the lake Vesijärvi canal in

the end of 1860's. The new position in an intersection of roads, waterways and railways enabled Lahti to grow into a market town and eventually in 1905 to receive its city charter. Lahti offered a convenient location for industries such as sawmills and joinery, later also the metal, glass and textile industry flourished.

The Salpausselkä ridge, Lake Vesijärvi and the railroad to Helsinki. Alongside the ski jumps, the old radio masts dating back to the 1920s are the other dominating landmark in Lahti. © City of Lahti





Ski jumping crowds at World Ski Championships © City of Lahti

A grid plan which was drawn up after the town fire (1877) is still the backbone of the urban fabric of the city centre. The wealth brought by industry gave the wooden market town a more urban character in the early 1900's. The city grew rapidly during the decades before and after World War II. The built heritage of the post-war period is particularly prominent in Lahti. In the 1970s the focus of development shifted to building several suburbs further from the city centre and its business activities.

In recent decades the industrial city has been gradually transforming into a city of culture, sustainable development, and universities. The Sibelius concert hall and new lakeside housing areas by Lake Vesijärvi mark the renewed image of Lahti.

3.3 THE WINTER SPORTS TOWN

Following inspiration from Finnish skiing success at Holmenkollen, Norway, the first ski games in Lahti were held in 1923. New ski jumping hills and a cross-country skiing trail network were built in the Salpausselkä-Tiirismaa area. The topography provided excellent conditions for Nordic sports. The first jump hill was built along the slopes of natural ice age land formations in 1922.

Over the years, the facilities have been extended and renovated several times. Several ski jump hills have been built. The one built in 1937 for the World Ski Championships was later raised and then succeeded with a new one in 1955. The tallest concrete ski jump tower was built in 1971-1972 and has since been modernized. The facade of the tower is used for wall climbing. The Lahti Stadium was built in 1977.



The Skiing Stadium before the construction of the Skiing Museum. © Filmituotanto Veikko Laihanen Oy, City of Lahti, Lahti Museums



Saturday night fireworks at Lahti Ski Games © City of Lahti



Cross-country skiers approaching the Sports Centre © City of Lahti

The Sports Centre has a nearly 90-year history of annual three-day Lahti Ski Games with competition events in cross-country skiing, ski jumping and nordic combined. Saturday night's ski jump competition and fireworks display concluding the games is when the spirit of the Sports Centre is most palpable and has constituted shared childhood memories for many Lahti residents.

The Nordic World Ski Championships have been held in the area seven times starting in 1926 and most recently in 2017. Lahti will host the games again in 2029.

3.4 LAHTI TODAY IS A GREEN UNIVERSITY CITY

Lahti is an important logistical hub and trading center, as it is close to the capital Helsinki, airports and ports. The city of Lahti is the administrative, business and cultural center of the region. The City of Lahti is the ninth largest city in Finland with 121 000 inhabitants and the Lahti region has a population of around 200 000. Population growth in 2024 was around 700 inhabitants.

Present-day Lahti is a diverse and evolving city, nowadays not only renowned as a sports city, but increasingly also for its ambitious environmental development and varied culture scene. The city provides stunning lake views and lush nature. The city has bold environmental goals which translate into sustainable ways of life, clean technology, and circular economy. Ever since being elected European Green Capital in 2021 Lahti has been Finland's leading green city and a trailblazer among much larger European sustainable metropolises.

Lahti will be the first carbon neutral city in Finland. The aim was set for 2025 and the city has been actively working toward that goal. At the moment it is expected to be met by 2027. In addition to having already committed to carbon neutrality, the city has decided to follow a nature target to become nature positive by

2030, along the lines of UN's Biodiversity Agreement and its aim to halt biodiversity loss by 2030, followed by restoration. Lahti is embracing the goal to increase biodiversity with the support of the Sustainable Lahti Foundation and Sitra.

The city's economic structure is diversified. Formerly a relatively low-skilled industrial city is now the youngest university city in Finland, after the Lahti-Lappeenranta Technical University started operating in Lahti in 2018. In the field of culture and art Lahti has a strong tradition of education that dates to 1899, when an agricultural crafts college called Itä-Hämeen maamieskäsityökoulu was founded in Lahti. Today the Lahti Institute of Design is a part of LAB University of Applied Sciences.

The most important concentrations of commercial services are in the city center and in the area of large retail units south of the railway line.

There are a number of businesses in the region that excel in sports, fitness, major public events and tourism. There is a strong food industry cluster in Lahti and several wood and steel product industries, but the largest employers today are in the retail, services, and technology business sectors.

Lahti City Theatre and the renowned Lahti Symphony Orchestra provide a high standard of cultural experiences. Lahti has a long-standing music tradition as well as a wide range of live music clubs, jams and festivals which cater to amateurs of all genres of music. Lahti's museums offer interactive experiences, such as seeing the city from the top of a radio mast and ski jumping off of Lahti's largest ski jumping hill. A former brewery complex in the heart of the city, known as Malski, has been turned into a vibrant hub of art and culture and become a favorite spot for urban encounters. Among the attractions is the Lahti Museum of Visual Arts Malva, which boasts an impressive collection of both classical art and contemporary design.

3.5 TRAFFIC

Lahti is intersected by busy highways with a lot of long-distance traffic passing by the city. Highways 4 and 12 have been designated as nationally significant main roads. The main railroad to eastern Finland runs through Lahti along the southern edge of the reflection site.

Sustainable mobility - walking, cycling and public transport - are a priority in the city, and the year 2025 is a sustainable mobility theme year in the city. Lahti has good and varied public transport connections from both the Helsinki Metropolitan Area and the rest of Finland.

The city has two main local transport hubs: the Travel Centre and the Market Square, both within the reflection site. The local transport service consists of 20 bus routes with 10-to-20-minute intervals. The Travel Centre provides access to long-distance coaches, commuter trains and long-distance trains in addition to the local buses. Travel to Helsinki airport via Tikkurila takes about an hour.

An extensive network of cycle paths and short distances make cycling a convenient way to get around in Lahti. There are also 500 very popular city e-bikes around the city.



Lahti's location in Finland © City of Lahti

3.6 CLIMATE AND SEASONS

Lahti has a humid continental climate with four distinct seasons. Summers are warm and winters are cold, although climate change is making summers increasingly hotter and winters milder. The average daily temperature in Lahti is just over 23 Centigrade in July and the minimum daily temperature in February is about -10 °C. The average annual temperature is around 5 °C, and precipitation is typically 640 mm per year. Precipitation is fairly even, with spring being the driest. Climate change will increase the likelihood of extreme weather conditions and heavy rains. Stormwater management has been an important planning theme in Lahti since the early 2000's.

Permanent snow cover is usually obtained around the first weeks of December. The deepest snow cover is in March, around 30 cm. Snow stays on the ground longer than on the southern coast of Finland. Currently there are about 110 days with snow cover on average. The number of days with snow cover is in decline due to climate change.

There are large differences in daylight hours between summer and winter: in winter, darkness falls early (around 15.30), while in summer daylight lasts well into the night. The shortest day at winter solstice in December has about five and a half hours of daylight, whereas the longest day at summer solstice in June has about 19 and a half hours of daylight. Artificial lighting conditions are important from the perspective of urban life and activities, but light pollution has increasingly become a cause for concern.



Finnish cross country skiers start young © City of Lahti

Photos from Lahti



Market square © City of Lahti



The Sport Centre overlooks the city © City of Lahti



The main street, Aleksanterinkatu © City of Lahti



Cyclists near the Sports Centre © City of Lahti

The city centre with the Ski Jumps in the background © City of Lahti



4. / Site information



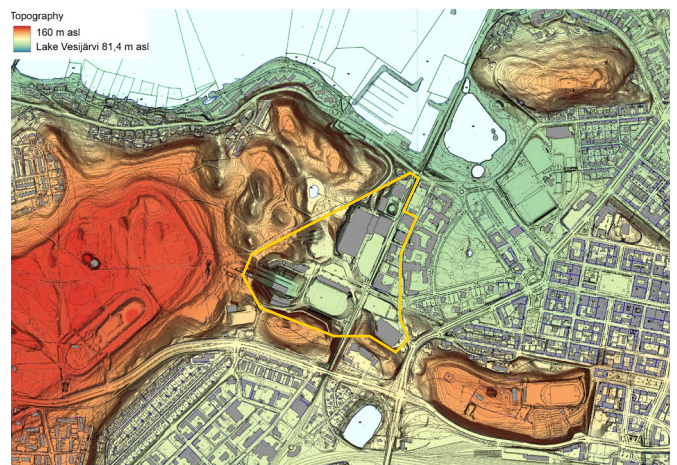
The reflection site and the main arrival routes to the project site © City of Lahti

4.1 REFLECTION SITE

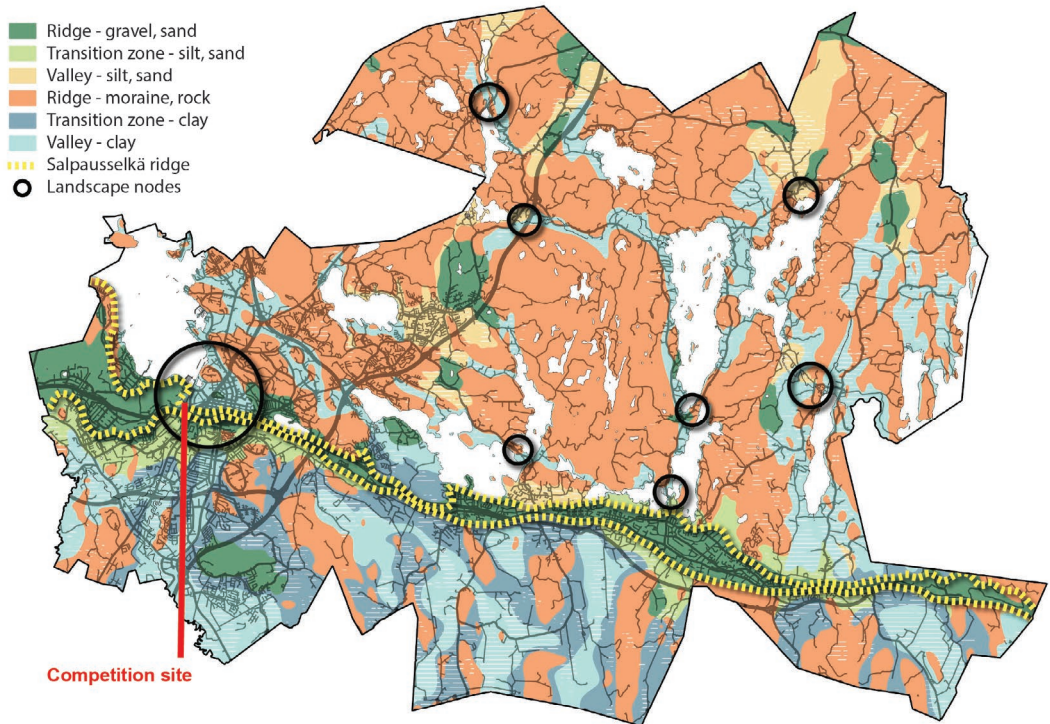
TOPOGRAPHY AND LANDSCAPE OF SALPAUSSELKÄ AND LAKE VESIJÄRVI

The **Salpausselkä** ridge is the highest point in Lahti, 174 meters above sea level and 93 meters above the surface of Lake Vesijärvi. On Salpausselkä, there is a diverse landscape of ridges, deep kettle holes, steep slopes and some longitudinal rock formations that are remnants of the ancient Baltic coastline. The ridgeline marks the difference of two different landscape types: the low and wide agricultural landscape of clay beds in the south of Finland and the landscape spotted by large and small lakes of Lakeland in central Finland.

Lake Vesijärvi (literally 'Water Lake') covers the northwest corner of the reflection site. The wedge-shaped valley where the 111 square kilometer lake lies, continues as a clay-covered plain into the center of the city. The lake was severely eutrophicated in the 1960's but later innovative restoration programs and concerted environmental protection measures have helped to improve the water quality and ecosystems. Water runs from Vesijärvi via the River Kymi to the Gulf of Finland.



Topography of the reflection site showing the ridge and the kettle hole landscape © City of Lahti



Landscape structure of the city © City of Lahti



Fellmannipuisto and the Salpaus Further Education Campus
© City of Lahti

THE CITY CENTRE AND THE TRAVEL CENTRE

The reflection site covers the western half of central Lahti where there is a mix of jobs, public and commercial services and housing. The **Market Square** is the focal point of the city center. The **Travel Centre** is in the south-eastern corner of the reflection area, next to the railway line. The main directions to enter the project site from west and south are along Paasikivenkatu street, from the Travel Centre following the rail tracks and from Helsingintie street.

Between the Market square and Sports Centre lies the **Fellmannipuisto Park** and the **Salpaus Further Education Campus**. The campus, the park, and its surroundings – including a group of tall 1950's residential buildings of high architectural quality – are an important entity of reconstruction period town planning, listed as a built cultural heritage site of national significance.

The 34 000 square meter campus-complex has grown in stages since the original vocational school was built in the first half of 1950's. The campus serves the Lahti region, offering basic vocational qualifications as well as further and specialist qualifications for people of all ages and backgrounds. It also offers a range of work-life coaching, continuing vocational training and integration training for immigrants. Nearly 4 000 students of all ages study on campus each year. The southernmost block of the facility has vacant space and the education institute is looking for new uses for the protected buildings (roughly 10 000 sqm). These include a public indoor swimming facility with a 25 m pool.



The Vesijärvi harbour, Satamaraitti and Sibelius Hall © City of Lahti

NORTHERN REFLECTION SITE

Rail tracks used to run along the present day **Satamaraitti** to the Vesijärvi train station and **harbour**, providing a connection to the lake shipping service and the industries in the shore areas. After the industrial activity ended in the 1980's the harbour has become a vivid leisure area surrounded by new residential development from the early 2000's. The harbour activities continue with summertime cruises and scheduled passenger traffic. The former wooden station building functions as a charming and popular café. The concert hall of Lahti, the **Sibelius Hall** from 2000, is located in the harbor. The hill behind the harbor is home to **Lanunpuisto** sculpture park.

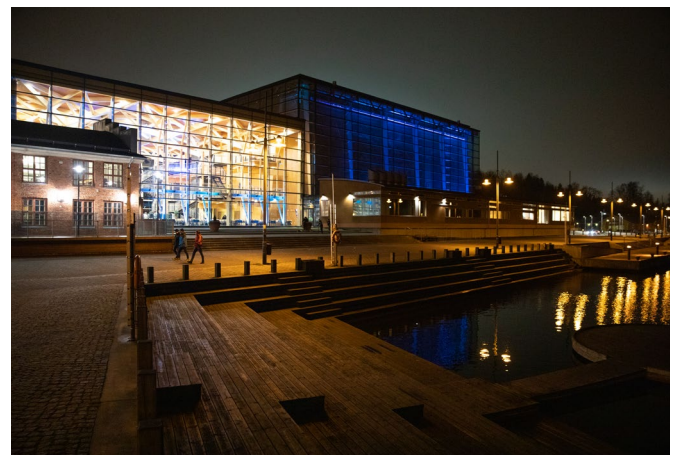
Pikku-Vesijärvi Park, as well as the **Fellmanninpuisto park**, is also a product of 1950s general planning with an emphasis on recreational areas. The small cove of Lake Vesijärvi was converted into a miniature lake surrounded by a landscape park with sculptures and a summer theatre.

Kisapuisto in the Rantakartano area is a sports park where the football stadium, constructed for the 1952 Olympics held in Helsinki, was accompanied by the first two tennis courts built during the same period. Today, the park hosts a variety of ball sports. There is an ongoing urban development and planning process of the Kisapuisto area with the aim of better connecting it to the surrounding urban fabric and to enable improving the football stadium.

Teivaan satama marina is located along Jalkarannantie road on the west side of the Pikku-Vesijärvi Park. The marina has 530 berths for motor and sailing boats, 72 berths for rowing boats, services for boats and a boat launch ramp. There is also a restaurant.

RADIOMÄKI HILL AND MYTÄJÄINEN

The next section of Salpausselkä ridge to the east of the Sports Centre is a park area called **Radiomäki**, the Radio Hill, also listed as a built cultural heritage site of national significance. The two 150-meter-tall steel lattice radio masts from the late 1920s dominate the landscape. There is a sports field on top of the hill.



The Sibelius Hall © City of Lahti



The Radio Hill © City of Lahti

The small Mytjärvä pond in the **Mytjäinen** area has a swimming beach and winter swimming facilities. The area is historically a part of the culturally significant Lahti railway depot where a number of buildings and structures have been preserved.

WESTERN REFLECTION SITE

The western part of the reflection site is dominated by the extensive and uniformly integrated forest-covered recreational areas of Salpausselkä. The most visited part of the forest covered moraine ridge is the diverse network of outdoor recreation trails, offering routes for nature sports in summer and winter, with options for fitness enthusiasts, hikers, cyclists and families according to their level of fitness and ability. There are jogging and Nordic skiing trails from the Lahti Sports Centre to places such as the Tapanila ski lodge (4.2 km), Messilä ski resort (7.2 km), Pirunpesä gorge (7.8 km) and Tiirismaa ski resort (13.2 km). The main trails are illuminated and offer easy access to smaller forest trails. The heavily used season's first Nordic skiing trail is located behind the jump hills but a new location for the season's first skiing trail is under planning, with the start and finish situated in the Sports Centre. The mountain biking trail starts at the Sports Centre. In winter, the trails are for skiers only, walking, cycling and dogs are not allowed. In winter, Lake Vesijärvi also offers opportunities for walking, skating, and skiing, ice conditions permitting.

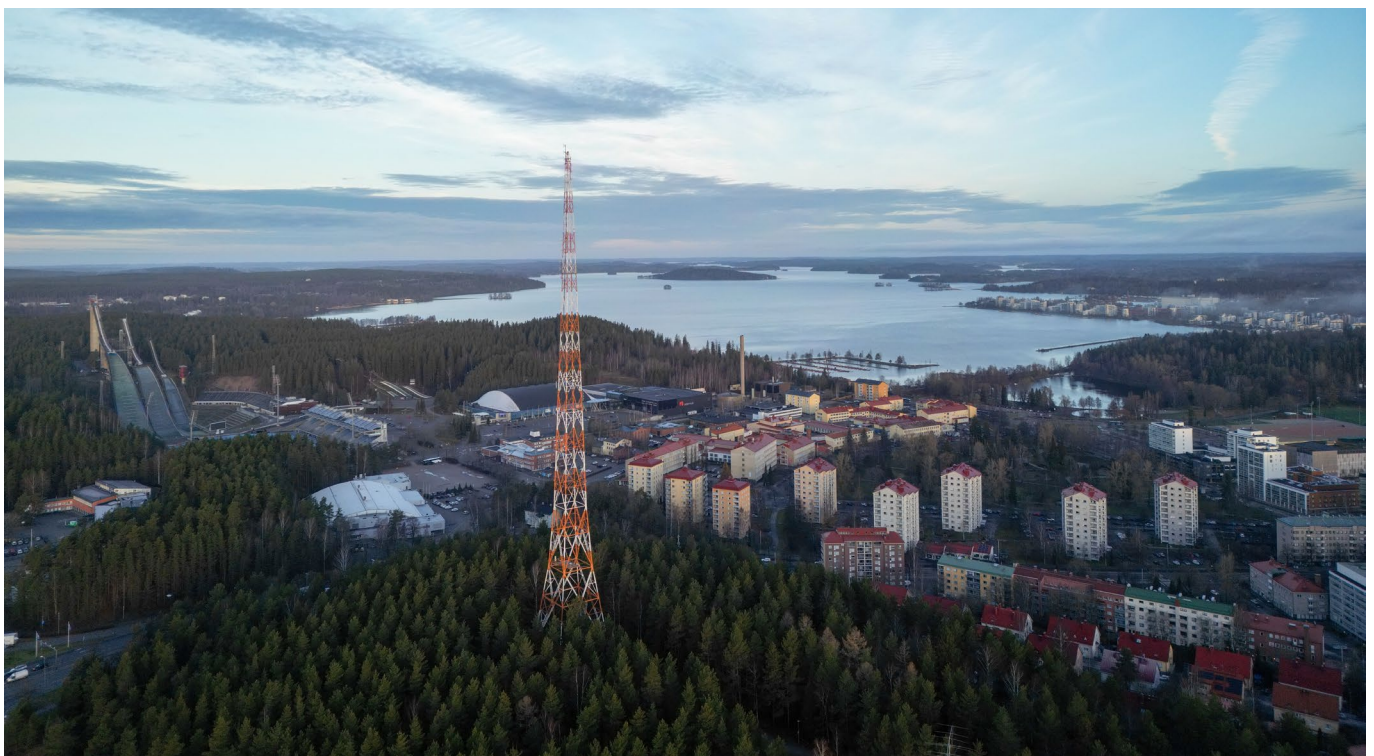
The hill on the south side of the skiing stadium is where the symbolic fire is lit during the games. The hill is also the place for the decisive moments of many Nordic skiing events as the winding trails lead the skiers down to the stadium. On top of the hill there are also a number of protected archeological remnants from the Finnish civil war (1918).



Entrance to the project site and to the lake from the southwest. Salpausselkä comprehensive school on the right. © City of Lahti

On the shoreline and the slopes towards Lake Vesijärvi is a housing area and a main road connection to the Jalkaranta neighbourhood. In the southwest corner of the reflection site, there is an old horse racing track area, nowadays mostly used for bmx cycling. Kampipuareena combat sports centre is located to the south of the great jump hill. To the south of Isku Areena is Salpausselkä comprehensive school, grades 1 to 9.

Salpausselkä ridges, Radiomäki hill on the foreground, Lake Vesijärvi in the background © City of Lahti



LANDSCAPE, NATURAL AND GEOLOGICAL VALUES

The project site is surrounded by forests from the west and south. On the sand and gravel moraine soils of the ridges, there are mostly coniferous pine-dominated forests, but in places of stratified fine-grained soils there are also lush deciduous forests. The landscape types can be divided into plateau area in the west, the surrounding steep slopes, the kettle hole landscape to the north of the ski jumps and the drier sandy south face of the ridges. The distinctive kettle hole landscape was formed after enormous ice blocks had split off from the continental ice sheet and buried in the sand and gravel deposited by the glacial meltwaters. As the ice melted, the land around the blocks collapsed forming the kettles.

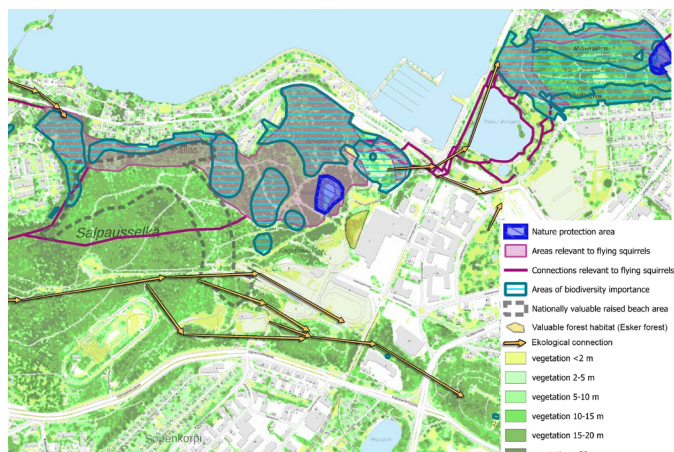
The Sports Centre is one of the most significant geosites within the UNESCO designated **Salpausselkä Geopark**, stretching over the Lahti region. The park tells the story of the best-known geological entity of Finland. The First and Second Salpausselkä are at their most spectacular in the area of Salpausselkä Geopark. Here they are joined to eskers of international value, such as the picturesque Kelvenne Island and Pulkilanharju Esker in Päijänne National Park.

Häränsilmä nature reserve is located close to the Sports Centre. The kettle hole pond has a walking jetty to admire the unique atmosphere, and an outdoor gym.

Due to its geology, the Salpausselkä ridge is one of the most valuable groundwater resources in Northern Europe, due to which the municipal water in Lahti is of excellent quality.

The fauna in the competition area is typical of forested areas close to built-up areas, consisting mainly of birds and small mammals. There is a widespread population of endangered flying squirrels in the Teivaanmäki area, on the north side of the Salpausselkä ridge. There are two important ecological connections for flying squirrels from the Salpausselkä forests; one toward north-east, crossing the former railroad embankment Satamaradanpolku to Pikku-Vesijärvi Park, and another running on the south side of the ski jumps toward Kisatulikukkula.

Vegetation and ecological connections © City of Lahti



The kettle pond at Häränsilmä nature reserve. © City of Lahti





Satamaradanpolku - Veikko Kankkosen raitti route axis © City of Lahti



Satamaradanpolku - Veikko Kankkosen raitti route axis © City of Lahti

PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLING PATHS

The former railroad embankment to the Vesijärvi station - nowadays Veikko Kankkosen raitti and Satamaradanpolku routes - function as important pedestrian and bicycle access to the area. Together they form an axis that is distinctive for the urban structure of the area. The axis connects different points of interests including the Sibelius Hall, Vesijärvi station and harbour, Lanunpuisto sculpture park, Pikku-Vesijärvi lake, marina and the sports centre. In the south the connection curves along the railway tracks eastwards making an unofficial pedestrian and cycling connection to the Lahti Travel Centre.

Other pedestrian and cycling connections in the area follow the street network and the Salpausselkä Geopark, Radiomäki Park and Fellmann Park. In Finland, parks are open 24 hours a day and most park paths are also open to cyclists. Parks are therefore an important part of the pedestrian and cycling network.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES AND THE ROAD NETWORK

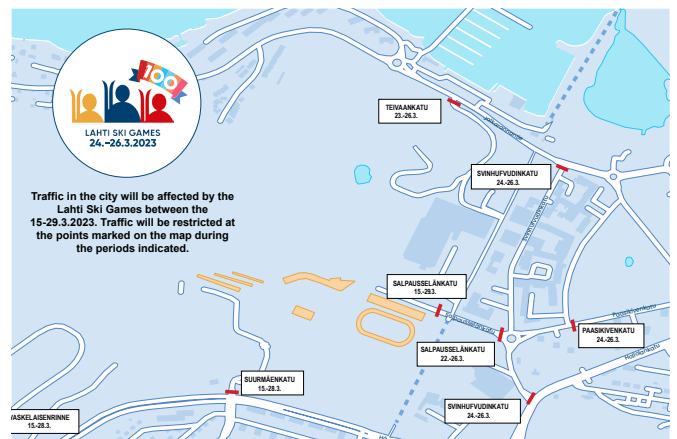
During regular operation times two bus routes connect the area to the city center and the Lahti travel centre as well as further north-west and south-east. The bus routes run through the project site via Paasikivenkatu, Svinhufvudinkatu and Jalkarannantie streets. At the moment the closest bus stops are on Jalkarannantie street, on the northern border of the project site. However, contestants are welcome to propose a new bus stop closer to the heart of the area. Other bus lines running along Hämeenlinnantie road and Hollolankatu street serve the sports centre, diversifying the available connections.

The main arteries for car traffic are Hämeenlinnantie road, Hollolankatu and Jalkarannantie streets. On the project site Svinhufvudinkatu, Teivaankatu, Salpausselänkatu, Paasikivenkatu and Ståhlberginkatu serve as smaller local streets.

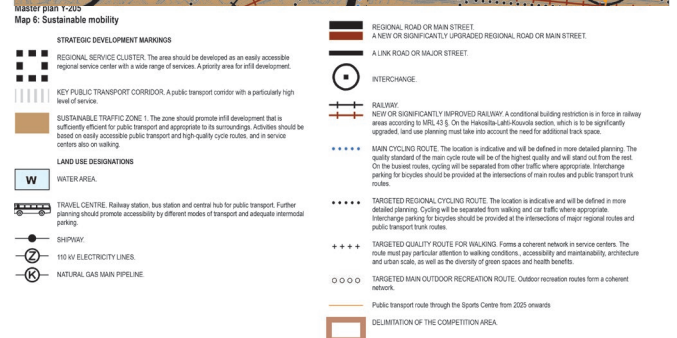
During major events the streets within the sports centre are closed to car traffic and public transport is organised specifically for the events. Occasionally the train tracks of the sports centre are used for event trains that serve the masses of spectators. This rail connection is not electrified.

Sustainable mobility in the Lahti master plan.

The new bus line is marked with an orange line. © City of Lahti



Traffic arrangements during events © Lahti Ski Games



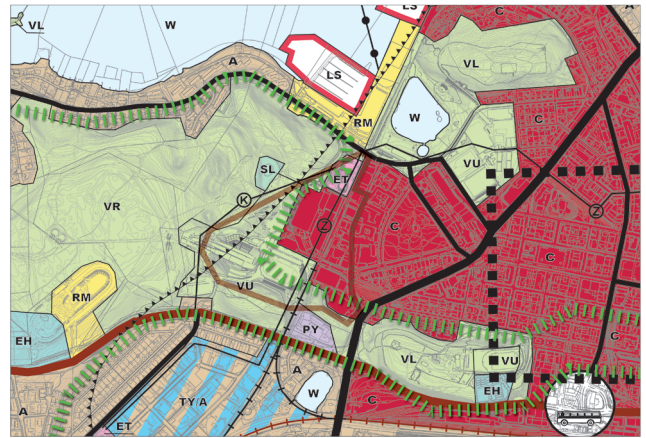
LAND USE PLANNING STATUS

In the current master plan of Lahti, the majority of the reflection site comprises of the central sports and event functions area and green areas. The project site is designated for the central functions area and the area reserved for sports and services for recreation. The area of the power plant is reserved for technical utilities. The master plan of Lahti is updated every council term so the results of this competition can be taken into account in the next iteration of the master plan. The regulations described on the thematic maps of the master plan (built cultural environment, traffic, nature, water etc) are to be taken into account in the competition proposals, whereas the designated land-use of the main master plan map can be more flexible, as the latter sets the strategic goals of urban development, and the competition is seen as a tool for strategic planning the area of the Sports Centre.

There are several legally binding detailed plans on the reflection and project sites representing the existing land use. In the sports centre, the detailed plans allow recreation and sport functions, but restrict commercial and residential development, as well as hospitality functions.

The Ranta-Kartano area is under development according to the detailed plans. Ranta-Kartano will consist of residential development with commercial spaces at street level. There is an elongated park between the blocks connecting the city center with the lakeside parks. On the north-eastern side of the park there is a vacant plot for a hotel, spa and water sport facility.

The aim is to renew the detailed plan of the Sports Centre according to the results of this competition and the follow-up designs, diversifying the development potential in the area. Therefore, the existing detailed plans do not restrain competition proposals.



Master plan Y-205
Map 1: Sustainable urban fabric

	STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT MARKERS	VR	CAMPING AND OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL AREA. This designation indicates the larger green spaces that structure the urban fabric and are intended for outdoor recreation, leisure and experiencing nature. Landscape and natural environment features should be preserved to maintain biodiversity and the area's special status as a large green space providing recreation services. Outdoor recreation trails form a coherent network. Felling in the vicinity of the outdoor recreation routes must be carried out in a measure appropriate to the specific nature of the site, taking into account the diversity of the forest, landscape values and the multiple uses of the forest. The area is subject to a measure restriction in accordance with MRL 128 § and a building restriction in accordance with MRL 43 §.
	SALHUSELÄIKÄ RIGIDE. THE FOUNDATION OF A SUSTAINABLE VIBRANT, PROSPEROUS AND REGENERATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CITY. Land use planning and development must take into account the importance of the periphery in terms of landscape, geology, groundcover, natural environment, climate, cultural history and recreation.	RM	TOURIST ACTIVITIES AREA. The area is reserved for tourist and holiday centers, educational and sports facilities, holiday villages and other similar tourist activities. The design and construction of the area must respect the landscape and ensure the preservation of important natural values.
	REGIONAL SERVICE CLUSTER. The area should be developed as an easily accessible regional service center with a wide range of services. A priority area for urban development.	LS	HARBOUR AREA. This designation indicates port and quay areas. The area may be used for maintenance buildings and services related to port activities. The design of the area will respect the characteristics of the water and coastal landscape.
	URBAN BUILDING ZONE. The urban building zone should promote low-rise and high-density buildings that are appropriate to their surroundings and diversify the building stock.	ET	PUBLIC UTILITY AREA. This area is reserved for utility facilities such as power plants, substations, heating plants and water treatment plants.
A	RESIDENTIAL AREA. The area is mainly reserved for residential use. Residential areas should be designed and built to provide a pleasant and safe living environment and a diverse urban landscape. More detailed planning in the area should allow for the development of local services in line with the needs of the area. The area includes service areas (public/commercial) and green areas, the location of which will take into account their quantity and accessibility by walking and cycling, and in the case of service areas also by public transport. The location and type of green spaces will be designed to complement the wider green network and ecological connectivity. Sites of cultural and historical value require a landscape permit (MRL 128§).	SL	NATURE PROTECTION AREA. The designation indicates nature conservation areas and protected habitats established or to be established under the Nature Conservation Act. No action may be taken in the area that would jeopardize the conservation values of the site.
C	CENTRAL BUSINESS AREA. The area is reserved for central functions, such as services, administration, commerce, non-disturbing employment and central housing. Priority for large-scale commercial sites and services. Landscape and the built environment features are to be preserved and development is to be of high quality. The design and finishing of sidewalks and public spaces will promote a diverse urban landscape, stormwater management and conditions for walking, cycling and public transport.	W	WATER AREA.
PY	PUBLIC SERVICES AND ADMINISTRATION AREA. The area is reserved for public services and administration. The urban character of the built environment should be safeguarded. The environment should be pleasant, safe and of high aesthetic quality for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. Accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport will be promoted.		TRAVEL CENTRE. Railway station, bus station and central hub for public transport. Further planning should promote accessibility by different modes of transport and adequate intermodal parking.
VL	LOCAL RECREATION AREA. This designation indicates green areas and large developed parks located in the vicinity of built-up areas, intended for outdoor recreation, leisure and experiencing nature. Landscape and natural environment features must be preserved when managing the forest and building recreational areas and trails. Recreational routes should be linked to each other and to the walking and cycling network. The area is subject to a measure restriction in accordance with MRL 128 § and a building restriction according to MRL §432.		SHIPWAY.
VU	SPORTS AND RECREATION AREA. This designation indicates important sports and recreational facilities. The built environment should be safely integrated with the surrounding landscape and nature. The area is subject to a restriction of measures in accordance with MRL 128 §.		10 kV ELECTRICITY LINES.
			NATURAL GAS MAIN PIPELINE.
			REGIONAL ROAD OR MAIN STREET A NEW OR SIGNIFICANTLY UPGRADED REGIONAL ROAD OR MAIN STREET
			A LINK ROAD OR MAJOR STREET
			INTERCHANGE
			RAILWAY NEW OR SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED RAILWAY. A conditional building restriction is in force in railway areas according to MRL 43 §. On the relevant L- and K-locations sections, which is to be significantly upgraded, land use planning must take into account the need for additional track space.
			DELIMITATION OF THE COMPETITION AREA.

Main map of the Lahti master plan © City of Lahti

Rantakartano area in the future, Tieno Architects © City of Lahti





Project site © City of Lahti

4.2 PROJECT SITE

THE LAHTI SPORTS CENTRE

The Lahti Sports Centre is an interesting combination of nature and distinct landscape, competitive sport and major events as well as everyday recreation. The Sports Centre is situated in immediate proximity to the city center marking the edge of the city structure to the west. Its location as the ending point for the vista from Vuorikatu street is unique for a sports facility. The area is listed as a built cultural heritage site of national significance.

The Sports Centre includes the landmark ski jumps, a stadium, the Lahti Sports and Exhibition Centre, the Ski Museum, and several restaurants. The summertime open air swimming pool in the ski jump pit is going to be permanently closed starting from summer 2025. The Combat Arena is located to the south, in the reflection site. Integrated in the main ski jumping stand there are sports facilities, on-demand sauna/cabinet, and a running track.

The Sports Centre offers facilities for competitive sports, events, and everyday recreation. The outdoor spaces are open all year round and access is free of charge, except for events. The Sports Centre attracts around 1-1.5 million visitors annually, most of whom are Lahti residents.

2025 EVENTS AT THE SPORT CENTRE

- 1.2.** Hiihtohaaste (cross country ski relay)
- 22.-23.2.** Finlandia Ski Marathon
- 7.-9.3.** Raksa renovating fair
- 14.-16.3.** FIS Continental Cup (ski jumping W&M, Nordic Combined M)
- 20.-23.3.** Salppurin kisat (Lahti Ski Games)
- 29.-30.3.** International Dog Show
- 18.-20.4.** Kempower Easter Tournament 2025 (basketball)
- 3.-4.5.** ClassicMotorShow
- 9.-10.5.** Chicago Drift
- 24.5.** Lahti Juoksu (half marathon, 10K, 5K)
- 24.-25.5.** UltraX Finland (ultra marathon)
- 28.5.** Viestikarnevaalit (track relay event)
- 1.6.** Fellmanin ajot (road cycling)
- 11.6.** Motonet GP (track and field)
- 11.-13.6.** Nastolan sporttipäivät (multiple sports)
- 14.-15.6.** Finns party convention
- 4.-5.7.** Endurance running and racewalking event
- 6.7.** Royal pyöräily (road cycling)
- 3.8.** Finlandia MTB (mountain bike)
- 8.-10.8.** SAUL SM-kisat (Finland Masters Athletics)
- 15.-16.8.** Vauhti kiihtyy festarit (Music festival)
- 22.-24.8.** Finland Spartan Race
- 6.-7.9.** Finnish Relay Championships
- 12.-14.9.** European Nordic Walking Championships
- 18.-21.9.** Caravan Fair 2025
- 3.-5.10.** Nordic Fitness Expo
- 8.-9.11.** World Ringette Championships

Salpausselän kesäulkoilukartta 2024 | Salpausselkä summer outdoor recreation map 2024

Salpausselkä Geopark

Lahti ja Hollola ovat osa UNESCO:n tunnustamaa Salpausselkä Geoparkia. Kartalla näkyvä Salpausselän-Tiirismaan alue on yksi Geoparkin edustavimmista kohteikkonaisuuksista. Täällä kansainvälisesti arvokkaimiin maastoihin voi tutustua monipuolisilla reiteillä ja kohteissa.

Lahti and Hollola are part of the UNESCO designated Salpausselkä Geopark. One of the most representative places in the Geopark is the Salpausselkä-Tiirismaa area, shown on the map. Here, internationally valuable landscapes can be explored on a variety of trails and sites.

Lähtöpaikka reitille | Trail starting point

1 Salpausselänkatu 8, Lahti	10 Koneharjunkatu 10, Lahti
2 Väskeläisenrinne 11, Lahti	11 Anni Hauvoventie 1, Hollola
3 Kasakkamäentie 1, Lahti	12 Tiilijärventie 34, Hollola
4 Mäkirinteenkatu 13, Lahti	13 Tiilijärventie 9, Hollola
5 Sykekatu 11, Lahti	14 Vähä-Tiilijärventie 1, Hollola
6 Hottajankatu 2, Lahti	15 Tiilikkaantie 3, Hollola

Lahden karttapalvelu

fi

Lahti Map Service

en

Yleinen hätänumero | Emergency number **112**

Lisätietoja | For more information

Lahti: lahti.fi
Hollola: hollola.fi
viisi@lahti.fi
salpausselkageopark.fi
maastoliikuntapolut.fi

Summertime outdoor recreation map © City of Lahti

Salpausselän latukartta 2024-25 | Salpausselkä ski map 2024-25

Salpausselkä Geopark

Lahti ja Hollola ovat osa UNESCO:n tunnustamaa Salpausselkä Geoparkia. Kartalla näkyvä Salpausselän-Tiirismaan alue on yksi Geoparkin edustavimmista kohteikkonaisuuksista. Täällä kansainvälisesti arvokkaimiin maastoihin voi tutustua monipuolisilla reiteillä ja kohteissa.

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Lähtöpaikka reitille | Trail starting point

1 Salpausselänkatu 8, Lahti	10 Anni Hauvoventie 1, Hollola
2 Väskeläisenrinne 11, Lahti	11 Tiilijärventie 34, Hollola
3 Opintie 3, Hollola	12 Tiilijärventie 9, Hollola
4 Mäkirinteenkatu 13, Lahti	13 Vähä-Tiilijärventie 1, Hollola
5 Sykekatu 11, Lahti	14 Tiilikkaantie 3, Hollola
6 Hottajankatu 2, Lahti	15 Messilänkatu 200, Hollola
7 Koneharjunkatu 10, Lahti	16 Messilänkatu 308, Hollola

Lahden karttapalvelu

fi

Lahti Map Service















en

Yleinen hätänumero | Emergency number **112**

Lisätietoja | For more information




















Lahti: lahti.fi
Hollola: hollola.fi
viisi@lahti.fi
salpausselkageopark.fi

Wintertime ski map © City of Lahti

-  Ruokaa Food
-  Kahvila Café
-  Tulipaikka Camp fire
-  Äänentoisto: kuulutukset
Sound system: announcements
-  Urheilijoiden tapaaminen
Meet & Greet
-  Selfie Tower *Jaloo Jaloo*
Maksuton Free of charge
-  Liput helikopteriin
Tickets to a helicopter ride 
-  Helikopterikenttä
Helicopter field
-  Info
-  Ensiapu First Aid
-  Invapaikat Wheelchair seating
-  Invapysäköinti Disabled parking
-  Tupakointi sallittu vain merkityillä alueilla
Smoking only allowed in designated areas



Services, entrances and activities during Lahti Ski Games
© Lahti Ski Games

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">  1 Lipunmyynti Ticket sale
Noudettavat liput Reserved tickets  2 Pääsisäänkäynti Main entrance  3 Sisäänkäynti Vikin Portti Entrance
Ei lipunmyyntiä No ticket sale  4 Fan Zone
K18 lauantaina iltämöen jälkeen
+18 Saturday evening  5 Lasten Karpalo Kids Area  6 Lasten Suurhalli Family indoor activity
 Sisäänkäynti Entrance
 Esteetön kulku Accessible route  7 Youth Corner  8 Hiihtomuseo Ski Museum
Maksuton Free of charge  9 Monttubaari - Bar & Café
K18 lauantaina iltämöen aikaan
+18 Saturday evening  10 Ski Bar & Café | <p>VIP-ALUEET VIP AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  11 Salpausselkä Lounge  12 Janne Ahonen VIP  13 Iivo Niskanen VIP  14 Klub <p>SISÄÄNKÄYNTI KATSOMOIHIIN
ENTRANCE TO THE AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  A-katsomo Grandstand A  Anniskelukatsomo K18 Bar area +18  VIP sisäänkäynti VIP area entrance |
|---|--|

Planned improvements to the spectator stands of the ski jumps.
© City of Lahti



Planned improvements to the southern spectator stands of the Stadium. © City of Lahti



LAHTI STADIUM

The multi-purpose stadium is used for cross-country skiing and biathlon in winter and mainly for football in summer. The stadium has a capacity of 14 000 spectators (7 465 seats). The main stand building is a concrete structure designed by architect Pekka Salminen in 1977. In the southeast corner of the area there is a listed traditional log-built sauna, the only original building from the 1920's Sports Center, although moved from its original location. The adjacent white building contains meeting and office spaces. It was built recently to resemble the former old clubhouse.

SKI JUMPS AND STANDS

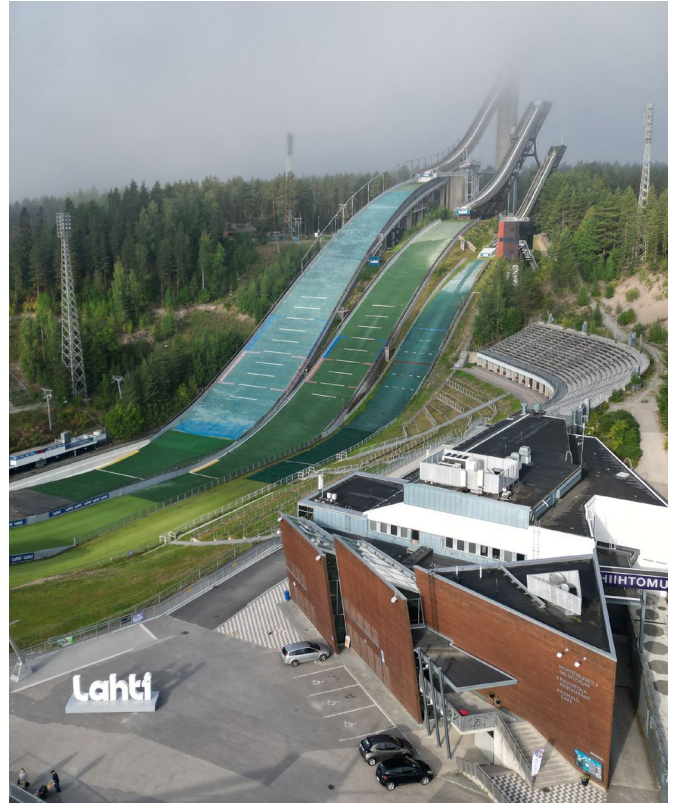
The group of three ski jumping hills is an iconic landmark, visible from far away in many directions. The hills (K116, K90 and K64) stand together with their landing pit in a natural kettle hole. All three are used for competitive events, and the plastic cover allows jumping in summer. The largest concrete structure ski jump was completed in 1972. In summer, the observation deck at the top of the tower is open to the public, offering spectacular views over the city, Salpausselkä and Lake Vesijärvi. The two smaller jumps were constructed in 1977 and 1978. The spectator stand area can accommodate 60 000 people, making the ski jump pit a major open-air venue in Finland, second to only the Olympic Stadium in Helsinki. Incorporated in the stands there are sports facilities, a gym, and a public sauna. There are also 5 smaller hills to the north, the Karpalo ski jumps, used for jump training.

Lahti Ski Museum is located in a building connected to the stands and support spaces of the ski jump pit. The museum specializing in skiing and other winter sports had its dedicated building in 1989, completed with a redesigned wooden facade in 2000, designed by Pekka Salminen. The museum and a restaurant serve visitors all year round.

CENTRAL AREA

The central open area between Sports Center and Lahti Energia Arena is used for parking and pedestrian connections under normal conditions. During most events the area is used for event and/or support functions and vehicle access and parking are restricted. There is free parking in the area. Disabled parking spaces are located next to the hill main stand building in front of the ski museum and restaurant Voitto.

The scoreboard display area © City of Lahti



Ski jumps and the Ski Museum © City of Lahti



Central area and parking © City of Lahti

Viewing platform at the top of the K116 hill © City of Lahti



THE INDOOR SPORTS AND EXPO HALL

Lahden Suurhalli is a multi-purpose indoor sports venue which was originally completed in 1981 and has been extended a couple of times since then. Together with the exhibition / fair hall extension (2013), the complex is called the Sports and Expo Hall and has a total of five halls connected by a common central lobby. The venues provide technical facilities that suit diverse uses: from indoor sports to exhibitions, concerts, conferences, corporate events, product launches and television productions. The premises host up to 10 000 people.

The original Suurhalli has two halls that can be connected (3 400 and 4 500 square meters). Adjacent to it in the newer buildings are Salpausselkä Hall (4 100 sqm), the smaller Vesijärvi Hall and the Lahti Hall (3 900 sqm) with underground meeting spaces. The most valuable of these buildings Suurhalli, which is listed as locally significant.

ISKU AREENA

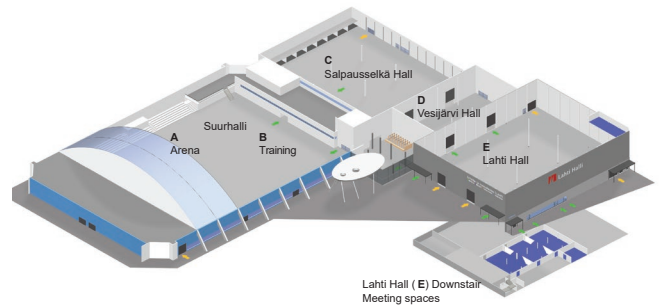
The home arena of Lahti Pelicans Finnish National League ice hockey team was opened in 1973. It's primarily used for ice hockey but also provides restaurant and meeting services. Isku Arena holds around 4 400 spectators in stands and stalls. The building has reached its technical service life and needs investments for renovation or replacement. Two alternatives are under planning and assessment: The complete refurbishment of Isku Arena at the current location, and development of a completely new multi-function arena at another location in the city. One possible new location is the Sports Centre, for example in place of the indoor sports and expo hall, in which case all or some of the halls would have to be demolished, depending on the size and functions of the arena.

SVINHUFVUDINKATU BLOCKS

The narrow blocks between Svinhufvudinkatu and Satamaradanpolku streets consists of offices, small industrial and warehouse buildings, the oldest of which date from the 1940's. The southernmost building houses a private kindergarden, a gym and a dance studio, among others. At the northern end is a group of recently built apartment buildings outside the project site.

TEIVANMÄKI POWER PLANT

The Teivaanmäki power plant has been in operation since 1965. The site has a heat accumulator used by Lahti Energia and backup boilers, which are used for district heat production during severe frosts. The main fuel is natural gas. Recently, possibilities for other land uses on this prominent plot near the lakefront have been explored, as in the long term the power plant is projected to be shut down.



Suurhalli and the other halls © Lahden messut



The southwest corner of site, Isku Arena © City of Lahti



© City of Lahti



© City of Lahti

Svinhufvudinkatu blocks and the power plant

SURROUNDING RECREATIONAL AREAS

The tree covered steep slopes of Salpausselkä surround the project site to the west and south. The Sports Centre is an important gateway to Salpausselkä Geopark and to the outdoor recreation trails all year round. An information board and map can be found in the area between the fair centre and the training ski jumps, where the mountain biking route also starts.

SUITABILITY FOR CONSTRUCTION

The soils in the area are mainly moraine and are well suited to construction. At least one underground floor can be built without the need for special measures for groundwater management. However, with the nature positive goal of Lahti in mind, new construction on previously unbuilt land and underground structures should be carefully considered.



Season's first skiing trail © City of Lahti

Stadium, central area and stands from the north © City of Lahti



Photos from the project site



Downhill from Kisatulikkukula to the Stadium © City of Lahti



Skiers' entrance to the Stadium © City of Lahti



Entrance to the Sports Centre © City of Lahti



Suurhali and the other halls © City of Lahti



Parking, the halls and Veikko Kankkosen raitti © City of Lahti



Adventure event in the Sports Centre © City of Lahti



Ironman Games © City of Lahti



Ski Games © City of Lahti

5. / Competition assignment



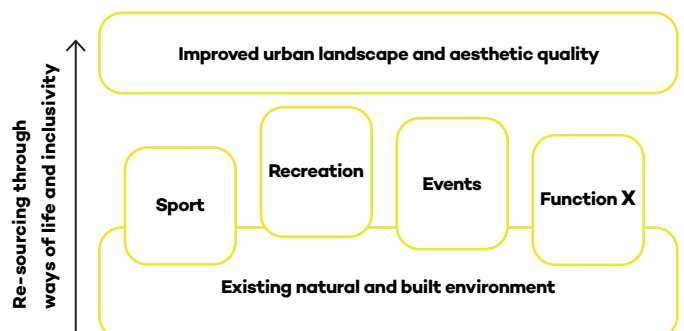
Aerial view of the entrance area © City of Lahti

5.1 DESIGN OBJECTIVES

The competition is the next step of the city centre vision 2040, and the target year of completion is the same. The aim of the competition is to find an overarching idea for improving the cityscape and spatial quality of the project site. The urban and landscape concept should take into account practical needs, as the activities in the project area are gradually diversified through political decision making and detailed planning. The concept should also take into account the various constraints set by the existing built environment, natural and cultural values and well-functioning sports infrastructure, as described in previous chapters.

URBAN AND LANDSCAPE OBJECTIVES, SPATIAL QUALITY

The City of Lahti seeks insightful proposals to improve the urban image and attractiveness of the area, to create a welcoming heart for the Sports Centre and to strengthen and clarify key access points and entry routes. Competitors should think how their urban and landscape concept functions year-round on a daily basis



Scheme of the general objectives of the competition assignment..

from the viewpoint of Lahti residents, as well as international event spectators or participants of major sports events. Improving accessibility is one of the key factors for strengthening the inclusivity of the Sports Centre for different user and visitor groups.

Mid-winter view of the ski jumps. The landscape concept and vegetation between the stalls and the forest needs improving. © City of Lahti



The overall concept should also enhance green spaces and strengthen the green infrastructure of the competition area. The vegetation concept of the built-up areas should be studied in relation to the surrounding steep slopes with natural forest cover.

FUNCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Integral solutions combining everyday recreational use with major events are desired. Furthermore, diversifying the functions in the project site should be explored, to complement the existing urban fabric and to better connect the project site to its surrounding areas.

The aim is to diversify the functions and activities of the Sports Centre. A range of new activities and commercial services can be explored but these should be thematically connected with the existing functions of the Sports Centre, and serve the recreation, sport, hospitality, travel and outdoor sectors in some way. These should not be detrimental to the commercial services of the city center, however.

The proposed solution should be adaptable to various different functional scenarios, as the city has yet to decide whether to refurbish Isku Arena or to develop a new multi-function arena, and if so, where such a large arena should be situated. The future of exhibition functions and the halls is unclear. Furthermore, political discussion is ongoing about a new indoor water sports facility with a 50 m swimming pool. One already planned location for it is in Ranta-Kartano area, but the Sports Centre could be a viable option.

The architecture of the new buildings should be seen as one of the means of enhancing the identity of the area. However, the competitors need not overly concern themselves with what functions and activities the large building masses contain, as these may

change over time. The most important objective of the competition is the overarching idea to improve the spatial quality and attractiveness of the area.

New ideas for traffic, parking, and access by sustainable modes of transport are welcome. Walking and cycling connections to the city center, the Travel Centre and the harbor should be enhanced.

Some existing buildings can be converted to new uses.

ECOLOGICAL OBJECTIVES

The objective of the competition is to facilitate the strategic sustainability goals of Lahti, carbon neutrality and nature positivity. In addition to improving the biodiversity of the site, the competition seeks sustainable proposals to promote circular economy.

The biodiversity of the open areas in the Sports Centre should be developed © City of Lahti





Aerial view to the most central part of the Sports Centre © City of Lahti

5.2 DESIGN GUIDELINES

PUBLIC SPACE AND TRAFFIC

The design should pay attention to improving the quality of public space between buildings. The most central area at the end of Salpausselänkatu street should be transformed into an accessible and welcoming heart of the Sports Centre. The central piazza should be inviting to everyday users and ambitious in appearance at major events, as seen on TV cameras around the world. There should be sufficient space for various tent canopies of different sizes and other contemporary structures needed during major events. It is considered desirable to decrease or completely remove parking spaces from the end of Salpausselänkatu to enable improvements for pedestrians. It is also possible to transform a section of Salpausselänkatu into a pedestrian street on the western side of Teivaankatu crossroad.

In addition to the central piazza, particular attention should be paid to further improving the Veikko Kankkosen raitti - Satamaradanpolku pedestrian and cycling axis. This axis has great potential as a public space, linking the Sports Centre to other attractions in the city.

A new bus stop should be proposed in the Svinhufvudinkatu street.

There should be at least 300 parking spaces for everyday use. Currently, the number of parking spaces is higher than needed, so the total number of parking spaces can be reduced from the current level. Parking can be provided in the form of surface parking or structural parking facilities. Parking spaces in the project area will not be available for the public during major events, as private cars will not be allowed in the area during these events. During

major events, parking is provided in several locations outside the project area, with shuttle bus services.

ARRIVAL TO THE SPORTS CENTRE

On Salpausselänkatu there is a wooden entry gate from the previous World Championship Nordic Ski Games in 2017. After passing the gate it is not clear where to head for specific activities and functions. The buildings are fairly far from each other, and their entrances are not clearly visible. There is no guidance and pedestrian pathways / sidewalks between the facilities are not very distinct. Veikko Kankkosen raitti route should be considered as an entry point from the south and Satamaraitinpolku route from the harbor area in the north.

GREEN AREAS AND BIODIVERSITY

The proposals should include a landscape concept to improve the spatial quality of the central pedestrian areas and to connect the built area of the Sports Centre better together with the natural landscape of Salpausselkä. Greenery has an important role in strengthening the green and blue infrastructure, increasing biodiversity and better adapting to climate change, but it should also play a major role in creating the overall character and identity for the area. Low-maintenance, natural vegetation and indigenous plants are preferred.

Improvements are expected especially for the areas with a significant amount of impermeable surfaces and for the areas

between the Salpausselkä forest and the stands of the ski jumps and the stadium. Blacktop and hard surfaces in open spaces are indispensable from the viewpoint of major events, which require heavy logistic and temporary structures, but innovative ways to develop these are encouraged.

The tree covered slopes of Salpausselkä are mostly to be preserved as forest, and therefore the competitors should focus on developing the transitional areas between built areas and the slopes.

The important ecological corridors and connections as described in map on page 16 and in attachments should be considered in the landscape design.

FUNCTIONALITY AND THE SPACE AND PLACE PROGRAM

The ski jumps, ski trails, ski museum, stadium and Suurhalla-hall are among the existing amenities that should be incorporated as part of the design. The indoor ice rink will stay in either in the present Isku Arena building that needs extensive refurbishment or in a new building on the project site. The buildings between Satamaradanpolku route and Svinhufvudinkatu street will mainly be preserved as many of them are privately owned. However, competitors may suggest their extension or modification if necessary for their overall proposal concept.

The desirable changes and additions for functionality and space and place programs are listed below divided into obligatory and indicative changes.

PROJECTED PLANS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT:

- A new start and finish area of the season's first and roller skiing trails in the heart of the Sports Centre
- Planned improvements to the spectator stands of the ski jumps and the stadium.
- New bridge of Suurmäenkatu street replacing the existing tunnels

LIST OF REQUIRED DESIGN AND PLANNING ELEMENTS THAT SHOULD BE INCORPORATED AS PART OF THE DESIGN:

- Permanent location of approximately 8000 m² for the media area during major events. This area can host other functions (e.g. parking space) during everyday use.
- The use of the Lahti Sports and Expo Centre should be diversified and better incorporated with the rest of the Sports Centre. The main entrance should be improved or even replaced. Competitors can also propose new land use (e.g. possible location for a water sport center or a multipurpose arena) for the plot of the Sports and Expo Centre in the long term.
- New land use for the Teivaanmäki power plant area in the long term.

POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO THE SPACE AND PLACE PROGRAM:

- The location of the new water sport centre can be proposed on the project site (instead of the Ranta-Kartano area). The size of the water sports centre should be approximately 9000 m² GFA, with a 50 m pool (surface area roughly 1300 m²). (There is an existing swimming hall on the Salpaus campus, on the reflection site, but it is too small for swimming sports events, and functions better as an amenity connected to the campus block.)
- The competitors may also propose the water sports centre to be combined with a multipurpose arena. The approximate size of the combination would be 80 x 200 metres / 16 000 m² GFA..
- A sports hotel or hostel
- Sport and wellness related retail spaces, various scales
- Different venues for sports and exercise provided by private operators.

Competitors are welcome to propose other activities and functions that suit the proposed overall concept. Existing building stock may creatively be used for some of the functions.

REFLECTION SITE

Competitors are welcome to propose ideas to the reflection site that support their solutions at the project site. This applies particularly to the access routes and arrival to the project site.

PHASED IMPLEMENTATION

Most of the changes sought in this competition depend on the renewal of the legal detailed plans, and the main aim of this competition and the follow-up design work is to provide ideas for the detailed planning and the following design. These changes are expected to take place in the 2030's and 2040's.

However, one of the objectives of this competition is to produce plans for immediate measures to improve the area for the Nordic World Ski Championships in 2029. It is a tradition that whenever a major event is held at the Sports Centre, some part of the competition facilities remains on the site as a permanent structure to commemorate the event. The wooden gate on Salpausselänkatu street is from the most recent games in 2017.

The immediate improvements should focus in particular on orientation in the area. These improvements may be of the nature of place-making but should be seen as permanent changes that constitute the first phase of the realization of the whole project.

6. / Evaluation criteria

In the assessment of the competition proposals, special attention will be paid to the overall concept and the identity it creates for the Sports Centre.

KEY EVALUATION CRITERIA ARE:

- The overall concept and its relationship with the surroundings natural conditions, and local identity. Especially important is that the cityscape suits together with the surrounding small-scale areas.
- Ability to create value to everyday use through event use
- The quality, accessibility and inclusivity of public spaces (central open space, routes, open areas, recreational areas, green areas)
- The quality of green areas and green network, the overall concept of landscape
- Sustainable concept / sustainable life style; social, cultural, ecological (incl. biodiversity) and lifecycle sustainability,
- Economic feasibility including circular economy
- The flexibility of the overall concept and its adaptability to various functional scenarios

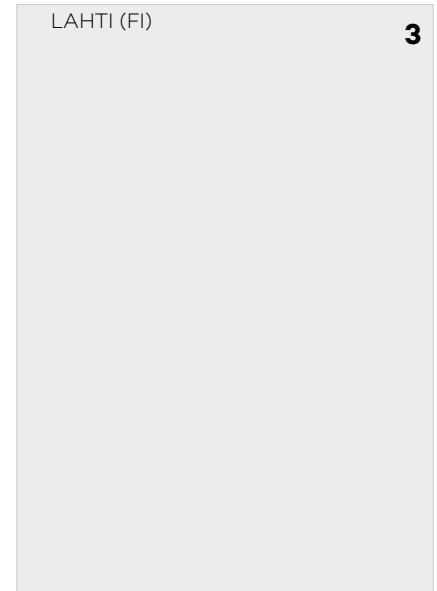
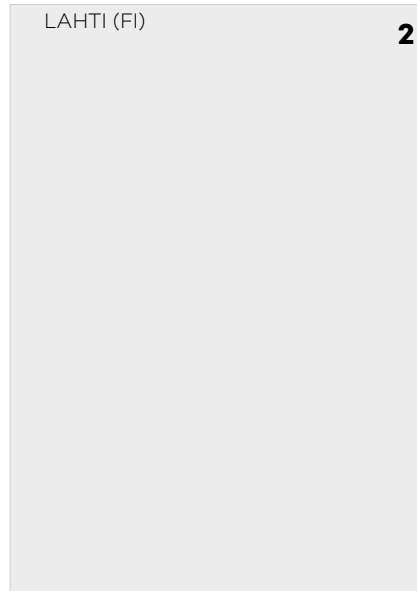
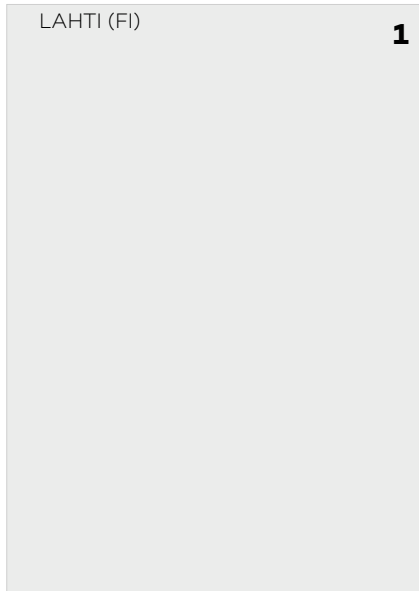
When evaluating the competition entries, the jury will prioritize a strong and consistent core idea over the flawlessness of individual details. The jury will also consider the potential for further development of each entry and how the solutions can be refined without compromising the core concept.

7. / Instructions for drafting the competition entries

7.1. COMPETITION SECRECY

All competitors enter the competition **anonymously**. All documents of the competition proposal shall feature only the digital code of the proposal, the material shall not contain any information of the author(s). The jury shall reject proposals which violate the competition secrecy. The competitors must also ensure, that the name of the author is not saved in the metadata of the files (check eg. Adobe Acrobat > File > Properties).

7.2. REQUIRED DRAWINGS



ON THREE VERTICAL A1-SIZED BOARDS (IN PDF FORMAT):

BOARD 1

1: 2 000 illustration of the area

- show the site and its relationship to the surrounding environment
- illustrate proposed buildings and the shadows casted by the sun in the south-west position 45 degrees above the horizon
- show traffic areas and connections, vegetation and the overall layout of the public space
- indicate quantities: number of storeys of the buildings, floor areas and number of parking places
- indicate ground height from the sea level (+ x.x) of the important public spaces
- indicate section locations

BOARD 1 AND 2 OR 2 AND 3

Section 1: 800 along Veikko Kankkosen raitti and Teivaankatu / Satamaradanpolku routes facing north-west

- the base file for the section is included in the initial data of the competition
- the drawing shall continue from the first board to the second one
- the drawing shall illustrate the character of the public space and especially the use of vegetation to connect the sports areas with the Salpausselkä landscape

BOARD 1, 2 OR 3

1: 10 000 plan of the project site and the reflection site

- show existing buildings, buildings that are already planned by the city of Lahti as well as the proposed buildings; differentiate the three with different colours
- show the connections between the project site and the reflection site
- the plan can also be used as a base for the diagrams listed below

Illustration of the central area 1: 800

- illustrate proposed buildings and the shadows casted by the sun in the south-west position 45 degrees above the horizon
- show traffic areas and connections, trees and different areas of vegetation and the overall layout of the public space
- indicate quantities: number of storeys of the buildings, floor areas and number of parking places
- indicate ground height from the sea level (+ x.x) of the public spaces

Section 1: 800 of the central area along Salpausselänkatu street facing north-east

Description of event use and everyday use

- show how the public spaces and the traffic connections are used in the great events and in the everyday use with selected material (you can also

use the plans and sections in the scales 1: 2 000 and 1: 800 for this purpose)

Proposal of the first phase of realisation

- illustrate prompt measures of the overall plan to enhance the appearance and to strengthen the identity of the area with selected material
- measures should be influential especially for the visitors and the spectators of the great events in the next few years e.g. nordic world ski championships in 2029 and they should concentrate especially on improving the orientation of the area

Diagrams (can be combined with the plan in scale 1: 10 000)

- green infrastructure and the principles of biodiversity
- traffic and movement

At least two perspective views

- 1 embedded aerial illustration or axonometric image
- 1 view from the central area from the eye level of a person standing on the ground

SHORT DESCRIPTION TEXT

- Description of the main ideas of the proposal and the overall concept.

These are the minimum requirements for the three panels. The contestants can present other goal goal material to illustrate and clarify their proposal.

In addition to the three panels, for communication purposes

the submission shall consist of the following documents from the same content:

- 1 illustrated description text, max. 6 x A4, pdf -format
- 2 images, jpeg -format / 2000px x 3000px
- a short text.

No extra panels may be presented; only the three panels will be subjected for evaluation. The jury may reject entries that are deficient or do not meet the requirements defined in this competition brief.

The competition proposals shall be presented in English.

All material shall be downloaded to Europans's server in digital format. See instructions at: www.europan-europe.eu

8. / Submission

The competition time will end on **Sunday 29 June 2025 at 23.59** (Paris-FR summer time), at which time each competition proposal must be returned in its entirety.

The competition proposal must be submitted electronically according to the instructions found on the European Europe's website. The competitors are responsible for submitting their proposals, using the correct file formats, and providing files that can be opened.

60 mm

40 mm

LAHTI (FI)

2

**A1, PDF
max. 20 Mb**

841 mm

594 mm

