

Vasbyhave, Copenhagen

Jernbanebyen, 55.658371, 12.551879

In Copenhagen, a former rail yard area is being transformed into a green and thriving neighborhood with 9,000 residents and 4,000 jobs over the next 15 years. The area, Jernbanebyen, is a world-leading example of how to promote health for people & planet through urban planning and design. The project takes an evidence-based approach to healthy neighborhood development, focusing on urban interventions for diverse ages, incomes and backgrounds that promote health through easy to access healthy and affordable food, widely accessible invitation to physical activity, and social infrastructure to deepen social connections and support overall mental health.

One of the most powerful tools for public health intervention is green, public space. One of the integral green, public spaces in the first area to be developed is Vasbyhave – a one-hectare park

in the first phase of the development. The park represents an incredible opportunity to test health interventions at the neighborhood scale.

Through this competition, we invite you to provide your best ideas on how the park can prevent and promote health for the residents and visitors of the area. We are seeking ideas on how the park can promote healthier living for the diverse groups of people who will be using the park and living in the surrounding area with a special focus on intergenerational uses.

Our focus is not only on people but also on the planet, which is why we are also seeking inputs that focus on creating the foundation for promoting planetary health through measures such as climate adaptation and the development of biodiverse ecosystems.

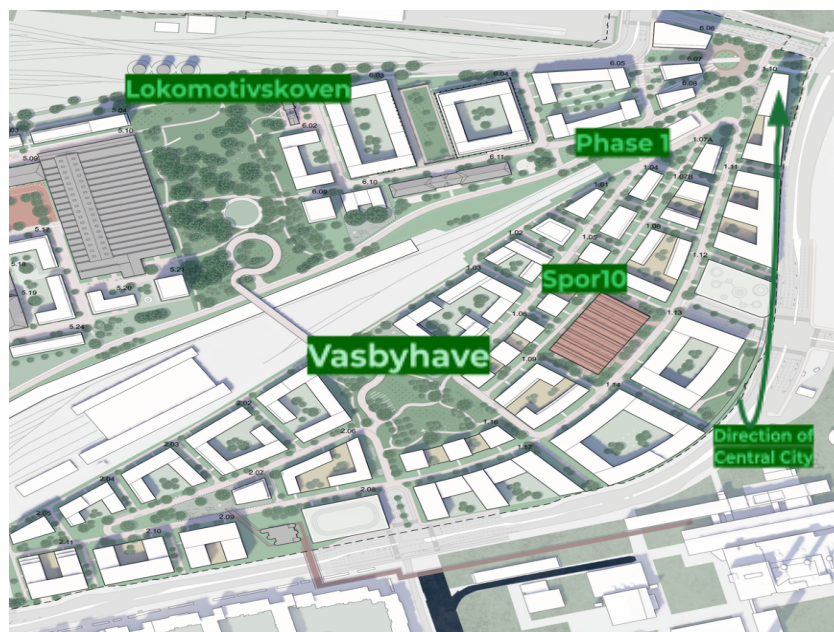


Figure 1) Vasbyhave & its surroundings

Approx. size of area: The park itself is one hectare but is a part of the 9-hectare first phase of the development. The park connects to a two-hectare park, Lokomotivskoven, on the other side of a bridge that connects the North and South of the area.

Key Information: The park is located within the first phase of the development, a mixed, community-oriented neighborhood with diverse housing options and integrated education, play, work and healthy food options.

Priority areas & main expectations:

Three specific priorities apply to the design of the park, but overall, it is expected that the park be programmed in a way that promotes the health of both people and the planet.

The design should furthermore focus on the diverse user groups, creating intergenerational meeting points, and enhancing inclusivity. Additionally, the park should boost climate resilience through adaptation measures and biodiversity while also taking its connection to the wider city into account.

Presentation of the site and development expectations

In Jernbanebyen, a network of public spaces will define the area, alongside residential housing, municipal functions, retail spaces, and offices. Jernbanebyen is a C40 pilot for [Green & Thriving Neighborhoods Programme](#), with a special focus on developing knowledge about healthy neighborhood planning and innovative involvement processes.

This network of public spaces is being intentionally planned to cater to the varied needs of the future residents, workers, and visitors of the area. The initial phase of the Jernbanebyen development focuses on the southern part, where existing natural features are currently limited. The development of Vasbyhave is an integral component of this phase and presents a significant opportunity to introduce a vital green public space early in the establishment of this new neighborhood.

The park is strategically located at a crossroads, linking crucial connections throughout the broader Jernbanebyen. Within the park itself, a bridge connecting the southern and northern parts is essential for the overall cohesion of the neighborhood and offers an interesting opportunity for creating synergies between Vasbyhave and Lokotivmotivskoven, the park in the northern part of Jernbanebyen.

Moreover, the park connects to a pathway with a signalized crossing across Vasbygade, linking the neighborhood to the harborfront in Sydhavn. Finally, the park establishes a connection between the east and west in the southern part of Jernbanebyen with its connection to the main street of the first phase of the development. The main street connects the park to the central city, passes along Spor10, the community hub of Jernbanebyen, and extends down to the second phase of the development, the neighborhood in the southwestern part of Jernbanebyen, that is primarily characterized by housing and offices.

The groups that access the park are seniors at the care home, children in the day care facilities, workers in the office complexes, young families in the residential buildings, and visitors from neighboring areas such as Sydhavn and Vesterbro.



Figure 2) Jernbanebyen Aerial Image

In the immediate surrounding area of Vasbyhave multiple uses characterize the area. In close proximity to the park, there is a wide range of housing options, from social housing to market rental and ownership housing. Some of these buildings feature ground floors spaces designated for smaller retail units offering diverse services, such as food & beverage, communal or cultural functions. Additionally, the surrounding area encompasses municipal functions, including a day-care facility and a social housing care home for elderly people.

This mix of uses in the immediate surrounding area presents an exceptional opportunity to design the park as a green public space focusing on intergenerational health promotion. This entails not only providing opportunities for some level of physical activity but also creating spaces for calmness and tranquility within the bustling city to nurture people's mental health & well-being. Furthermore, the park should aim to invite people of all ages, backgrounds and incomes who use the area to socially connect and strengthen communal bonds. The challenge, therefore, lies in balancing these elements with the needs of the various user groups in the area while considering the flow of the park and how it relates to the broader Jernbanebyen as well as in its broader Copenhagen context.

The park, however, is not solely crucial for the well-being of people but also for the health of the planet. Vasbyhave serves as a critical green public space, providing an opportunity to implement climate adaptation measures through nature-based solutions and fostering the development of a diverse and thriving ecosystem. Vasbyhave should be central to a nurturing biodiversity that builds upon the existing nature qualities in the broader Jernbanebyen and is strongly connected to the green streets of Jernbanebyen, where nature and greenery are weaved into its urban structure.

The park represents an incredible opportunity to promote the well-being of both people and the planet, and we invite you to share your best ideas on how Vasbyhave can be programmed to seize this opportunity.

City climate priorities and specific environmental challenges

With the City of Copenhagen's ambitious goal of becoming climate neutral by 2025, a range of initiatives is necessary across Jernbanebyen and the city as a whole. The development of Vasbyhave addresses multiple aspects of these initiatives.

Firstly, the nature and extensive green spaces in Jernbanebyen will contribute to carbon storage, helping reduce carbon levels in the atmosphere. Given the projected increase in severe weather events, including heavy rainfall and rising sea levels over the next century, parks like Vasbyhave furthermore provide an opportunity to implement nature-based solutions that can help cities adapt to these extreme weather conditions.

Moreover, Vasbyhave has the potential to reduce the heat island effect and provide shade during hot summers, enhancing the comfort of Copenhageners. Lastly, Vasbyhave contributed to the overall quality of life in Copenhagen by creating green spaces for relaxation and at the same time promoting the active use of the city's public areas.

In the broader context of Jernbanebyen, several other climate priorities of the City of Copenhagen are also being addressed, including mobility and energy production. The green streets of Jernbanebyen will prioritize pedestrians over traffic. Removing cars from the streets creates more space for people and allows for the planting of more trees than typical Copenhagen streets, resulting in green and vibrant streets for both people and nature to thrive.

The project also takes a holistic approach to sustainability, focusing on reusing materials and buildings, preserving the character of the area, and reducing both CO2 emissions and improving well-being. Energy production in Jernbanebyen is expected to be tackled through an ambitious, integrated approach to energy, heating, and cooling. The project furthermore goes beyond lowering embodied carbon and explores ways to reduce emissions during construction and further mitigate embodied emissions.

Specific planning rules and regulations

Jernbanebyen is currently in its final stages of its zoning process, so the overall lines for the development of Jernbanebyen are set. This means that the land use of the area, incl. streets and open spaces are determined, the plot ratio and the use of the buildings are set and overall design guidelines for the buildings are outlined. This also means that the proposed ideas must comply with the current state of the zoning, meaning that the proposals must comply with the site's area including taking determined trails, streets, bridges into account. It also means that the uses of the buildings in the surrounding areas can not be affected.

These regulations ensure that the proposals are realistic, and the inputs provided through the competition are feasible.

Of specific regulations regarding the park itself, please find below example regulations that the proposal must comply with. The regulations are currently in draft and will be updated with the valid rules and regulations by the end of January.

Number of trees

- Min. 42 pcs, with minimum trunk circumference at 1 meter height at planting
- 40% in min. 16-18 cm
- 20% in min. size 20-25 cm

Planting and landscaping

- The garden is laid out as recreational green areas with grass, perennials, tree planting, plant beds and seating areas, etc.
The existing nature qualities in the area are limited. Therefore, the biodiversity is cultivated by establishing new habitats based on the existing ecological qualities found in the area, which will over time lead to enhanced biodiversity across the entire Jernbanebyen.

Pavements

- Paving can be established in connection with access roads, paths and seating pockets, e.g. materials: brick / gravel / granite / concrete / steel.
- Paving can be recycled materials from Jernbanebyen.

Benches

- Min. number of benches: 6 freestanding benches or perches with a length of 1.8 meters.

Bicycle parking

- Preferably in small groups, at access points and on the periphery of the park.

Additional regulations

- The fence at the daycare center could be planted with greenery and thus contributes to a green experience in the park
- The playground of the daycare is part of the park's function and is publicly accessible outside the institution's opening hours
- Good accessibility/safety is ensured through bridge landscaping. On the 'Priorities and layers' page of the material, the principle location of the bridge is illustrated
- The programme and design of the park should take the edge zones facing Vasbyhave into account. For inspiration, please refer to the 'Priorities and layers' page in the material.
- It will be possible to construct fire escapes along the building facades in Vasbyhave.
- Cloudburst management for heavy weather phenomena can be incorporated in the park.

Language requirements

Proposals must be submitted in English.

City-specific awards

This site is actively planned to be redeveloped. The winning project will be reviewed by the development team and may contribute to the next steps in developing the area.