

City of Helsinki City Planning Department





Hernesaari transforms into pleasant city centre with views to the open sea

As the dockyard activities come to a halt, Hernesaari will become a residential area that emphasises leisure by the sea. A water sports centre, a boat harbour and passenger cruisers will vitalise the area. The seaside park will attract city residents to exercise and enjoy various activities. With 5,000 residents and 3,000 jobs, the area will become a new pleasant part of Helsinki city centre.

In due course, trams will run along the Hernesaari main street. Residential complexes, a water sports centre, a marine commercial hub and a helipad will all be built east of the main street. The western side will retain the existing grain silos, the Munkkisaari industrial building and the Ford factory building. The existing buildings will be supplemented by cruise ship wharfs, a passenger terminal and a boat harbour with its accompanying services.

The residential complexes will form three urban villages, each of which will have a water pool with boat docking spaces. The pools will be connected to the open sea through water canals, and the green areas between the villages will provide room for playgrounds and playing fields. The complexes will be tightly built and urban in nature. The buildings will range from 6-7-storey buildings in the south to towering blocks of flats in the north. Most car parking will be located underground and in parking garages. Most streets in Hernesaari will be built some three metres above sea level. New landfill will be needed to cover at least 11 hectares. In total, the completed Hernesaari area will be approx. 44 hectares in size.

Rejuvenating seaside park and water sports centre

A high-quality seaside park, 750 metres long and 70 metres wide, will be located next to the residential villages along the eastern shoreline. The park will offer diverse refreshment activities for locals, Helsinki residents and cruise passengers. An accessible light traffic route will wind between the park and the villages, some seven metres above the ground. When approaching the shoreline, the park will gently descend to sea level.

Water sports centre visitors will be able to try out various water sports and take part in trainings and competitions. According to current plans, the centre will also host a marine hub for commerce and activities. The small boat harbour will provide facilities for a water bus and some 500 boats.

The helipad, located at the tip of Hernesaari, will be surrounded by a light traffic route with magnificent views towards the city centre and the open sea. People enjoying their time in the cafés and restaurants along the seaside boulevard on the western shore will be able to observe sailing yachts and the hundreds of cruise ships visiting Helsinki every summer.

Activities launch before actual construction work

The first new residents will move to Hernesaari in 2020 at the earliest. Before this, the area will be developed as a cruise harbour and a tourist attraction. Every year, some 300,000 cruise passengers and 300 international cruise ships will land in Hernesaari. A water bus wharf, an event market, guidance signs and walkways will be built for tourists and residents. Hernesaari is fully prepared to take in new leisure and tourism services.



Hernesaari in figures

current surface area	33 ha
additional landfill	11 ha
seaside park area	5 ha
residential floor area	220,000 floor m ²





other floor area	170,000 floor
residents	5,400
jobs	3,400
construction period	2020–2030

A partial master plan will be drawn up for Hernesaari. Town planning for the area will begin after approval of the proposed partial master plan by the City Planning Board.

Residential villages

In addition to blocks of flats and terraced houses, the three residential areas in Hernesaari will seek new and personal solutions for urban dwelling. These may include small urban houses, tall-rise towering buildings, combinations of blocks of flats and small houses or flats with larger exterior areas or terraces.

2 Public services

New public service buildings will be located along the main street, between the street and the residential villages. The buildings may host a school, a day care centre or service flats, for example.

3 Seaside park

A seaside park, some five hectares in size, will be located on the eastern shore of Hernesaari. The southern part of the park will be insular in nature, while the northern part will be more like a traditional park. The park will complement the walkway winding along the shores of Eira and Kaivopuisto.

Water sports centre and marine hub of commerce

A water sports centre will be located on the eastern shore. The centre will also act as a training and competition venue. A service and commerce hub for yachting and leisure will be located next to the centre.

6 Helipad

m²

A helipad and its accompanying terminal and hall facilities will be located at the southeastern tip of Hernesaari. The helipad will serve charter, route and official traffic.

6 Grain silos

The concrete-built, state-owned grain silos will hold grain also in the future.

🕖 Munkkisaari industrial building

The Munkkisaari industrial building, which currently hosts several companies, will be retained in the new plan.

8 Ford factory

The possible cultural applications of the Ford factory building are currently being investigated.

9 Cruise ship harbour

Two cruise ship wharfs will be located on the western shore of Hernesaari. The partial master plan includes a reservation for a third wharf, and there is the possibility to build a hotel and congress centre next to the passenger terminal.

🛈 Boat harbour

A boat harbour has been planned for the western shoreline. Parking facilities, offices for yachting clubs and restaurants will be located under the elevated street running next to the harbour. Space for ship building, maintenance and storage has been reserved in the northern section of the harbour. The buildings may also host exercise facilities.

Turning pastures into urban city

The Hernesaari area is built up mostly of landfill that now covers Hernesaari Island, located in the middle of the cape, and Hernematalankari Islet at the southern tip. Maps dating back to as early as 1696 show an island called Ertholmen. In the beginning of the 1900s, Hernesaari was confirmed as the Finnish name for the island. During summer, the island was used as an animal pasture and an operational base for fishermen. In 1941, Munkkisaari and Hernesaari were connected after approval of the decision to fill the dividing inlet. Five years later, the rocky island rising from the sea was flattened for the use of the newly built Ford car factory.



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