

# GROWING HJO

Together for Food



# SUMMARY

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# INTRODUCTION

Today we have a planet in imbalance. What can we predict for the future? Climate change and pollution, dried out forests and died out reefs?

The circumstances will change, billions of people will struggle to find water and food. Billions might have to migrate for these reasons and also due to rise of sea level and extreme weather. Where will people go and who will feed them? HJO.

The global footprint per person in Sweden is over seven (Global Footprint Network, 2016). It means that if everyone lived like us, there would have to be around four planets. In Hjo there is progress in developing in a more sustainable way, but there is still a lot to be done.

The biocapacity of Hjo can provide for a lot more people than those who live in Hjo today. With its rich natural resources Hjo can be a provider for itself and other municipalities, it can be a role model for a sustainable society and sustainable production of one of our most basic needs; FOOD.

## Aim

Growing Hjo aims for a new way of thinking about agriculture. The project enlightens possibilities to develop the municipality in a way that gives benefit for the environment and for people.

The social aspect is key in the project and we see the social interactions both as a goal in itself and as a strategy to achieve awareness of the natural systems that agriculture depend on.

We want to show an example of how to create platforms for these social interactions, which has a strong connection to the overall aim of reconsidering the possibilities of agriculture. We also want to show how the local food can be more present in the town and how the connection between people and food can be strengthened.

# BACKGROUND

## Context

According to research made on planetary boundaries we are reaching alarming levels of disturbance in different systems. Both *Biochemical Flows* and *Biosphere Integrity* are at high risk of tipping and are already beyond the point of uncertain future (Rockström, Johan 2015).

Agriculture is a big contributor to the overfertilization of water and land, (Jordbruksverket, 2016) and agriculture and forestry are also limiting natural environments for animal and plant species (Naturvårdsverket, 2016). This means that agriculture has a key role to play in both cases of overexposed planetary boundaries. Our conclusion is that implementing more sustainable agricultural methods is one of the most urgent means of change that we need to take on today.

Recently there was a debate article on the lack of connection between farming and people in Göteborgs Posten. Gunnar Rundgren who is a farmer and writer, claimed that this disconnection reduces

people's understanding of the food production and its context. This in its turn makes it easy to hide effects of the unsustainable food industry from people and it also leaves the responsibility for it hanging in the air (GP, 2016). We too believe that the connection between people and food is one of the keys to achieve a sustainable society and sustainable food production.

A study published by SLU implies that the question of external dependencies and transports in farming are not only a question for the climate, but also for national security. Today many farmers are dependent on imported fuels, transports or crops that are not produced in the area, to be able to keep the production going. Many lack means and knowledge to change their way of production (SLU, 2016). The subject of national and local resilience is an increasingly large part of the agenda and we see this as another important reason to change perspective on food production.

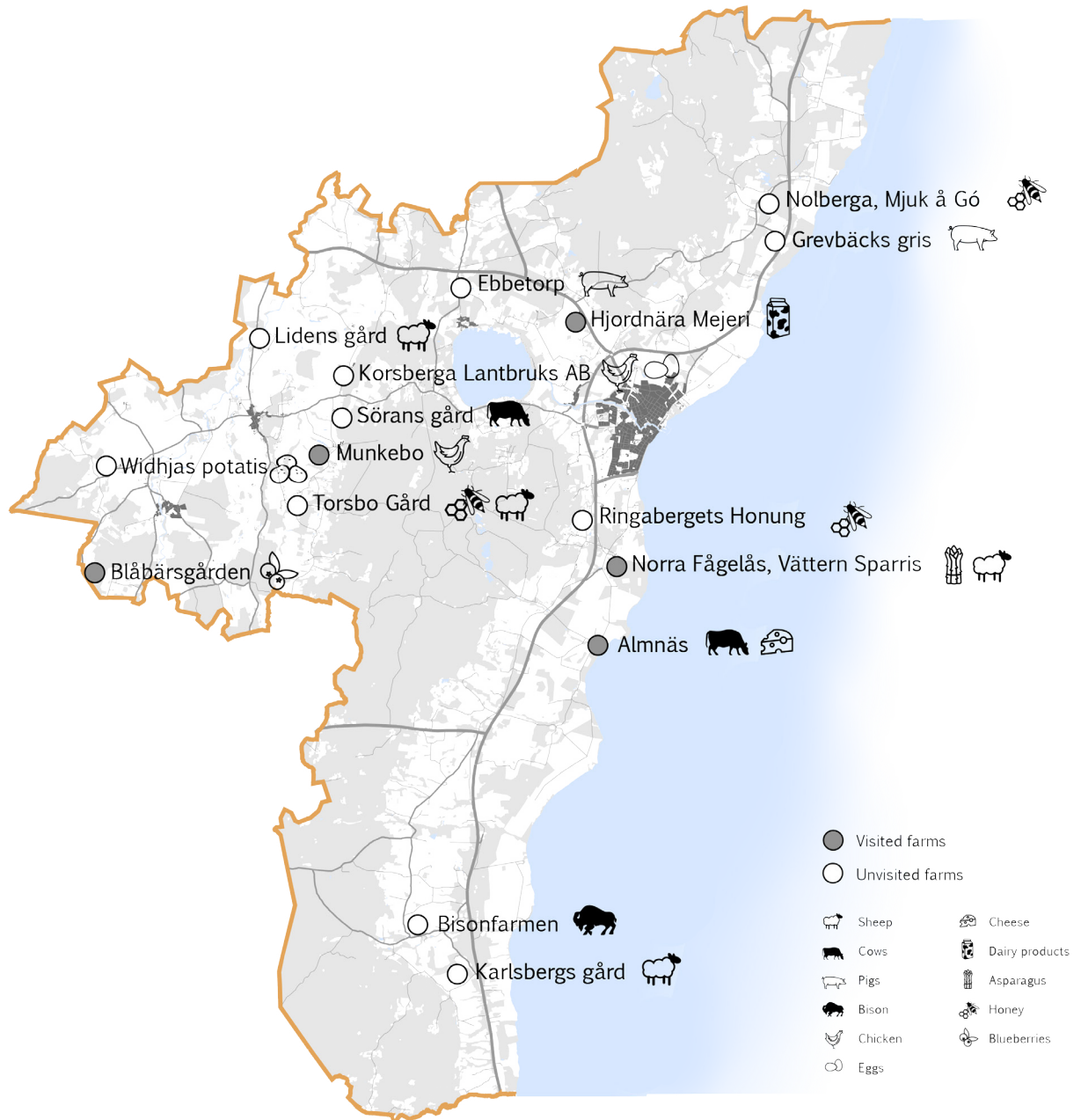
# Research

## Producers

In Hjo there are a number of different farms. There is a range of different kinds of farming and agriculture but in general, most is focused on the farming of cattle, such as cows, pigs, chicken, sheep and bison. Our impression is that the cattle farming most commonly is combined with production of wheat or other cereals, or forestry if not the both.

During our stay in Hjo we went to visit some of the farmers at their farms, and also Hjordnära dairy factory. The overall impression is that they are very passionate and happy to share the practises of their work. In the map to the right you see the visited farms marked in grey. They are:

- Hjordnära
- Almnäs
- Munkebo
- Norra Fågelås, Vättern Sparris
- Blåbärgården



## Hjordnära

Hjordnära is a dairy company established and located in Hjo. Their own products are mainly organic and locally produced. The factory also produces for Skånemejerier and other private labels.

When we talked to Marcus Nyström at Hjordnära we got a good insight in the way the processing and distribution of dairy products work. Most of their suppliers, farms, are in Hjo. The distribution on the other hand, is managed through Malmö since Hjordnära is owned by Skånemejerier, who in their turn is owned by Lactalis. Even the products that are sold locally, go to Malmö and back.

The discussion led us to asking why more is not sold locally and more directly to the customer. And although Marcus saw many benefits in belonging to a larger company, we asked if they would like to be independent instead.

*“It is not possible to be independent today, the consumers are not aware of their choices.”*

He explained that they produce too much milk in relation to the market, that they either would need to produce less or cheaper to make full use of everything and to be able to make a profit. Another alternative would be if consumers wanted to pay more for local products, especially the swedish cheese.

## Almnäs

Almnäs farm is one of the oldest cheese farms in Sweden. It was established in 1225, and has been running since but with a pause at the later half of the 21st century. 2008 the production started again.

At Almnäs we met with Thomas Berglund, who is running the farm. Two thirds of their production is forestry and the rest is farming of cows and crops for their feed. The milk they sell, to for example Hjordnära, and of some of it they make cheese, which is their main branding product. They export around 50% , to mainly scandinavian countries and the US, and the major part of their national sell goes to the Stockholm area.

*“Many things can be produced locally, but we produce more than we need. A farm the size of Almnäs could provide for all of Hjo”*

Thomas also pointed to a trend that people are taking more interest in quality of food and that in the future ethical responsibility will be required.

They invite people to the farm occasionally, for example they have an Open Farm event the 14th of August every year. He said that there is a lot to be learnt for visitors, and it is also a way for the workers to get recognition.

## Munkebo

Munkebo is a Chicken farm close to Korsberga in Hjo. There we met with Malin and Calle Indebetou in Munkebo farm. They run the farm together, where they house 300 000 chickens at a time. They collaborate with Kronfågel and all their chickens go to the same slaughterery in Katrineholm.

When we asked about their interest in sharing their work and knowledge it came forth that they were both positive to having visitors at the farm. In the most recently built chicken house they have constructed a window so that you can come in and see the chicken through it. It is not possible to have visitors inside because of hygiene and disease regulations. We talked about regulations and the fact that there are different conditions for farmers in different countries, in Sweden, where the rules are strict, it is harder to compete on the global market. The regulations also make it impossible for them to sell on a local market, since it requires for them to have their own slaughter industry.

*“Different rules of quality and an open competition makes it difficult for swedish producers”*

Malin talked about the uneven competition which makes swedish farmers depend on large companies. She promoted the fact that the municipality should serve the elderly and school children swedish food to support the farmers and to provide people with good and healthy food.

## Vättern Sparris

Bernhard Reckermann is running the label Vättern Sparris at his farm in Norra Fågelås, Hjo. At the farm he grows asparagus and strawberries. He also farms sheep and grows grass for their feed. From the sheep he sells the meat to a slaughterhouse and the asparagus he sells fresh directly at the farm and to restaurants in the west of Sweden, but the major part goes through vegetable grossists. In the asparagus harvest season he takes help from a team of workers who come from other countries in Europe.

With Bernhard we discussed the potential of education situations on the countryside and related to farming. He explained how he likes to talk about his work and that he receives many visitors in the summer. But he also stated that the way of living on the countryside means a lot of responsibility for oneself and the surroundings, which can not be taught.

*“Living on the countryside you have more freedom and more responsibility. The responsibility gives a better understanding of how things work”*

## Blåbärgården

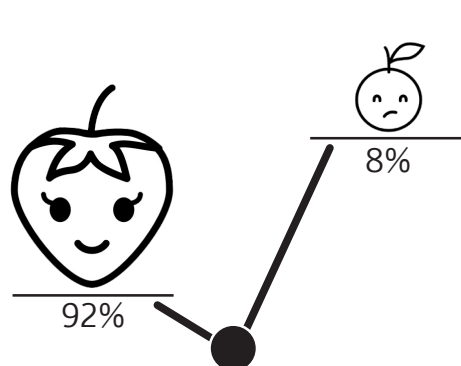
In the outskirts of Hjo, there are some smaller farms, among them the blueberry farm in Kaggestorp. Alexander Tervasmäki currently runs the farm, and we met him while working with pruning of the blueberry bushes. The concept of the farm is that they give an experience by letting people come and pick their own berries, and paying by the kg when leaving. According to Alexander this is much appreciated by the visitors and that it is the only way to be able to run the farm with profit today, because selling to stores would mean competing in price with polish blueberry producers, which does add up when having this kind of small scale production.

In the summer Alexander hires teenagers from Hjo to help out with maintaining the bushes. At the end of the season all the blueberries have been picked every year, and most of the people who come to pick are from Skaraborg.

*“It is about selling a nice experience. Many people come to pick the blueberries so there is never any waste or surplus at the end of the season”*

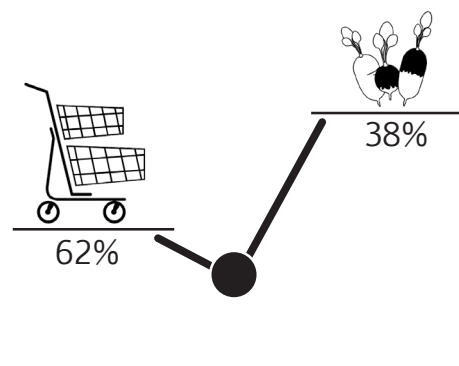
## People

As a common background material for our projects, we developed a survey together with the other project group working with food. The survey was published in the HJO facebook group in november and by the time of conclusion we had 74 answers. Most of the questions were related to food; habits, culture, production and consumption.



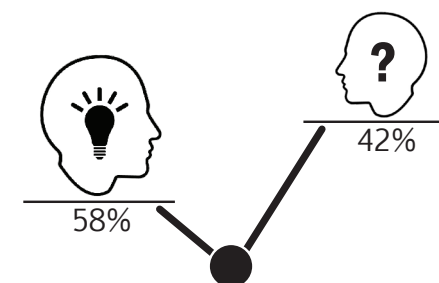
Are you interested in food production in Hjo?

There is much interest in food production, as shown in the graphic above. The positive answers scale varies from much to little interest and the 8% have not reflected over whether they are or not.



Do you produce food?

38% of the answering are currently growing some kind of food. Most of them only grow one or two different kinds. For example they mention growing fruit, berries, herbs, tomatoes and other vegetables.



Do you have knowledge in food production?

42% claims to have some sort of experience or knowledge about food production.

### Relation to food

In the survey we asked about knowledge and interest in food production, and also about food consumption habits. The result shows that there is much interest in food production and consumption among the answering.

There is also an indication that many engage in different associations, although most related to sports or culture, none evidently about growing food. This shows a possible need and good potential for a social platform which connects people by food.



## Future visions

In the survey we also asked about how the answering see Hjo in the future. The conclusion is that most of them are optimistic about the future, with a few exceptions, and that many are ambitious in making Hjo more sustainable. Some of the answers are seen here (quotes translated from swedish):

“Increase of population, caring for the environment and nature. More stores in Hjo”

“Vivid countryside and town in a sustainable way!”

“Like a thriving city”

“Like a continuously vivid and engaged city, preferably with more local production and a vivid winter season.”

“That the people get more power in voting for issues of matter”

“The municipality takes its responsibility and serve sustainable, organic food and less meat. Hopefully this could also influence the population.”



## Conclusion

In Hjo there is rich agriculture & forestry surrounding the city. But the food production and the productive landscape is concealed within the town. There is no connection between people and the food production, or the management of the natural resources, despite of the close physical distance.

The agriculture and farming is in different scales in Hjo, and the large scale farming often relies on large global or national companies for processing and distribution. This leads to many transports around in the country and back, which is not reasonable or sustainable. It is not only the relation to the food companies but also strict national regulations and a limited economy, due to price competition, that makes it difficult for some farmers to sell on a local market and to have a truly sustainable production.

In our interviews with farmers we got an indication of the fact that few consumers are aware of their choices when buying food. Although the survey result shows that many people in Hjo are interested in food production, and some of them grow something of their own.

The interest and knowledge of the people, along with the high level of engagement in local associations and activities, contains much potential. In combination with the skills and understanding of the farmers, it gives Hjo a good basepoint for leading a sustainable development in food.



## References

### Incredible Edible

Todmorden, England  
Volunteer initiative



A group of citizen decide to grow food in the streets. They aim is “to provide access to good local food for all”. Now, there are gardens everywhere in the city, and everyone can pick up. Every years they organize a food festival to discover the production and to cook together.

### REKO

Finland  
Private initiative



REKO is about using social media to sell locally produced food. The concept has been a success to distribute locally produced food to local people in many places in Finland. Using “REKO-rings” through social media is a way to go around the fact that the global market does not meet the requests for more locally produced food. It is also a good tool for small scale producers who are not connected to the large scale distribution companies.

### Rosendals Trädgård

Stockholm, Sweden  
Stiftelsen Rosendals Trädgård



The Garden of Rosendal in Stockholm is a project which aims to include sustainability, growing and pleasure in a garden with complimentary buildings. The buildings consists of a number of greenhouses and one bakery. The core of the bakery is a large masoned stone oven and except for bakery this building also includes a small shop where they sell products from the garden and the bakery. The greenhouses include plantations, flower shop, gardening and design services and a café.

## Urbana Vångar

project,

Kronetorp, Sweden

URBIO landscape architects and others



This project is addressing the challenge of loss of biodiversity. Because of the monocultural landscape of the countryside, they see an opportunity for biodiversity in the growing city landscapes. They integrate meadows and varying vegetation in parks and ditches. They design a park area to connect two forests surrounding the city, providing habitat and connection for different species, including the stork.

## Ananas New Community

project,

Silang, Philippines

SASAKI



Ananas represents a bold approach to urban development that celebrates the agricultural, social, and ecological heritage of the Philippines. This new vision cultivates—within the context of an evolving urban district—an ecosystem that actively supports a more sustainable regional food network. By preserving the local region's role and identity as Manila's Food Basket, and drawing from the essential elements of Filipino culture, Ananas represents a wholly new paradigm of urban living.

## Agrarpark

concept,

Nytorpsgårde, Sweden

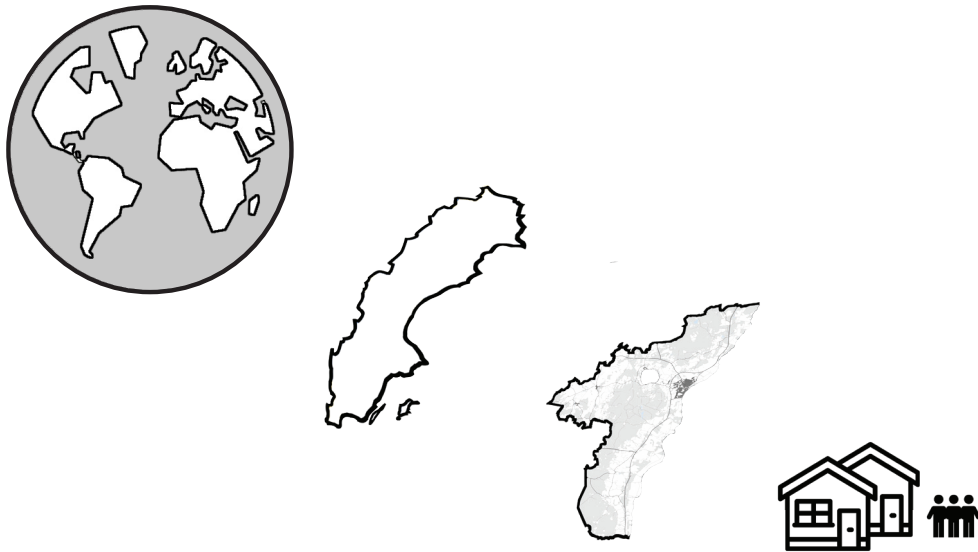
URBIO



The idea in this project is to bring the agricultural landscape into the city. It combines different kinds of urban farming connected to a variety of activities. It includes a café connected to a forest garden, fruit groves and community plantations. There is also greenhouses, housing and wind power plants in this park. The idea is that this park will active and connect the district.

# CONCEPT

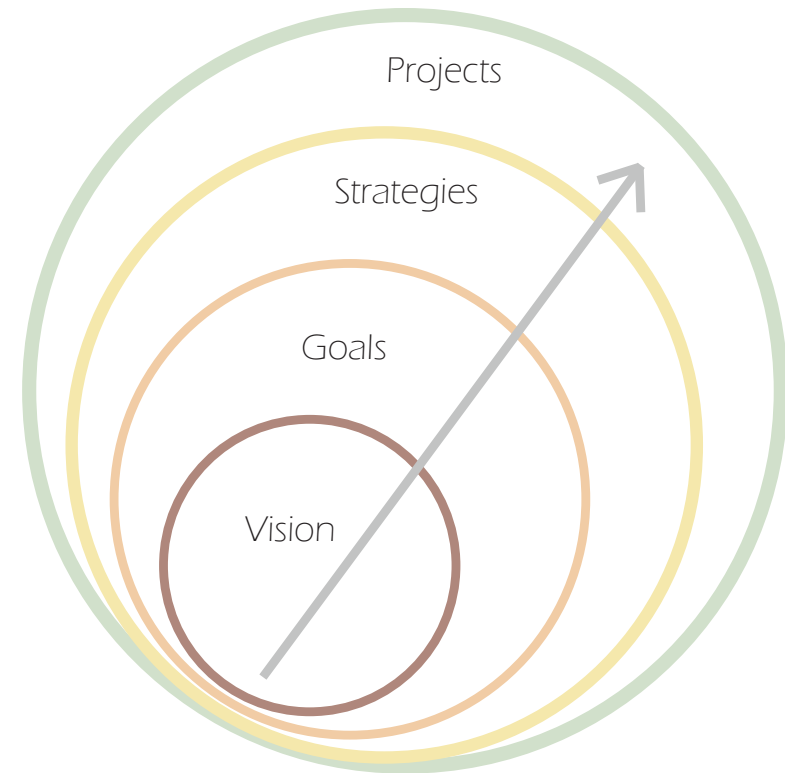
## Methods



### Multi-Scale Perspective

One of our methods for working with the project in Hjo has been to keep in mind the different scales of context in which Hjo is placed. The analysis from previous parts of the course has helped us to be aware of this context. In our work we have the global perspective present, since many of

the challenges Hjo faces either come from or influence the global situation, in many cases both. The program for the project aims to be focused at a very local scale, while addressing national and global issues.



### Scenario Planning

We have used the method of scenario planning in this process. We have been planning from a vision of the future that we see as desirable and utopian but also realistic. We started out from this vision that we narrated, to develop concrete goals to be fulfilled in order to reach the

vision. The strategies are means to take in order to reach those goals. We are suggesting several different strategies, among which two became our in-depth design projects.

## Future Vision of Hjo

In the future we see a sustainable Hjo that is an asset to the world and that is an example of a new way of thinking. That people are aware of the systems that surrounds them, and especially the very key systems of food. We imagine a future where these systems are simplified and more sustainable and where everyone has the power and right to know and affect their food provision. We imagine a society where neighborhoods and communities come together and where different people and stakeholders learn from each other to lead a sustainable development.

An important step in making the food production more sustainable is to raise awareness in food systems among people. If people know what the extra price they pay for buying good quality local food



represents, in relation to cheaper food from the global market, they will be more likely to make the more sustainable choice.

Since we see an interest growing in both engagement in local association and in food, we want to nourish it and push it further.

Hjo can be a role model for other cities by integrating local food loops, sustainable consumption, where other types of consumption are minimized and the food consumption is rich and sustainable, and an awareness of these by interest and engagement in food activities.

The solution for us is to create the preconditions for raising awareness in food production and consumption.

## Network

Today there is no connection between farmers and community. The dependency of the global market is stronger than the interest of the local food production. There is not much interaction between schools and the food production.

The goal of the project is to create a link between all the actors around a common food strategy. We believe that it can help strengthening the connections. The connection between the farmers and the community for example. The global dependency will also be reduced and Hjo can have a rich local food market.



Present connections →

Future connections →

Physical link (space, buildings) →

Mental link (meeting, contract) →



# Goals

Connecting people to the nature, the farmers and the food. Mainly addressing the connection between people and food by making it a part of the everyday life, and also addressing the connection between people and farmers by integrating a collaboration between farmers, schools, elderly care and also neighborhoods.

Give a new image, or feeling of Hjo as a rich and diverse food city, where food activities are visible and represented in all of Hjo, including the urban areas such as in neighborhoods, parks and streets. Where nature and biodiversity is appreciated and supported in the urban areas as well as the rural.

Strengthen communities by creating platforms for social activities in the neighborhoods. A place where people can grow food for themselves together. If the production in the neighborhood is large, they can extend the consumption to the municipality or the region.

## Implementation

Working towards the vision of a new vivid and sustainable food municipality. Starting small scale with strengthening communities and raising awareness of sustainability and food, and thereby starting a snowball effect.

## Motive

There is a need for more platforms for education and participation in food because there is a lack of knowledge and connection today and food is such a basic and important issue. Politicians, engineers and other professionals need to learn more about food systems. There is also a desire among people to be more connected to their food. More local consumption is important to make the municipality more sustainable, as well as having a more sustainable production.

## Connection to the SWOT

### STRENGTHS

Proximity (physical)  
Community  
Local resources

### WEAKNESSES

Disconnection  
Low resilience  
High ecological footprint

### OPPORTUNITIES

Growing interest in local resources  
Increased environmental awareness  
Slow city trend and Ruralisation

### THREATS

Individualization:  
Globalization  
Unsustainable lifestyles  
Unsustainable agricultural practises

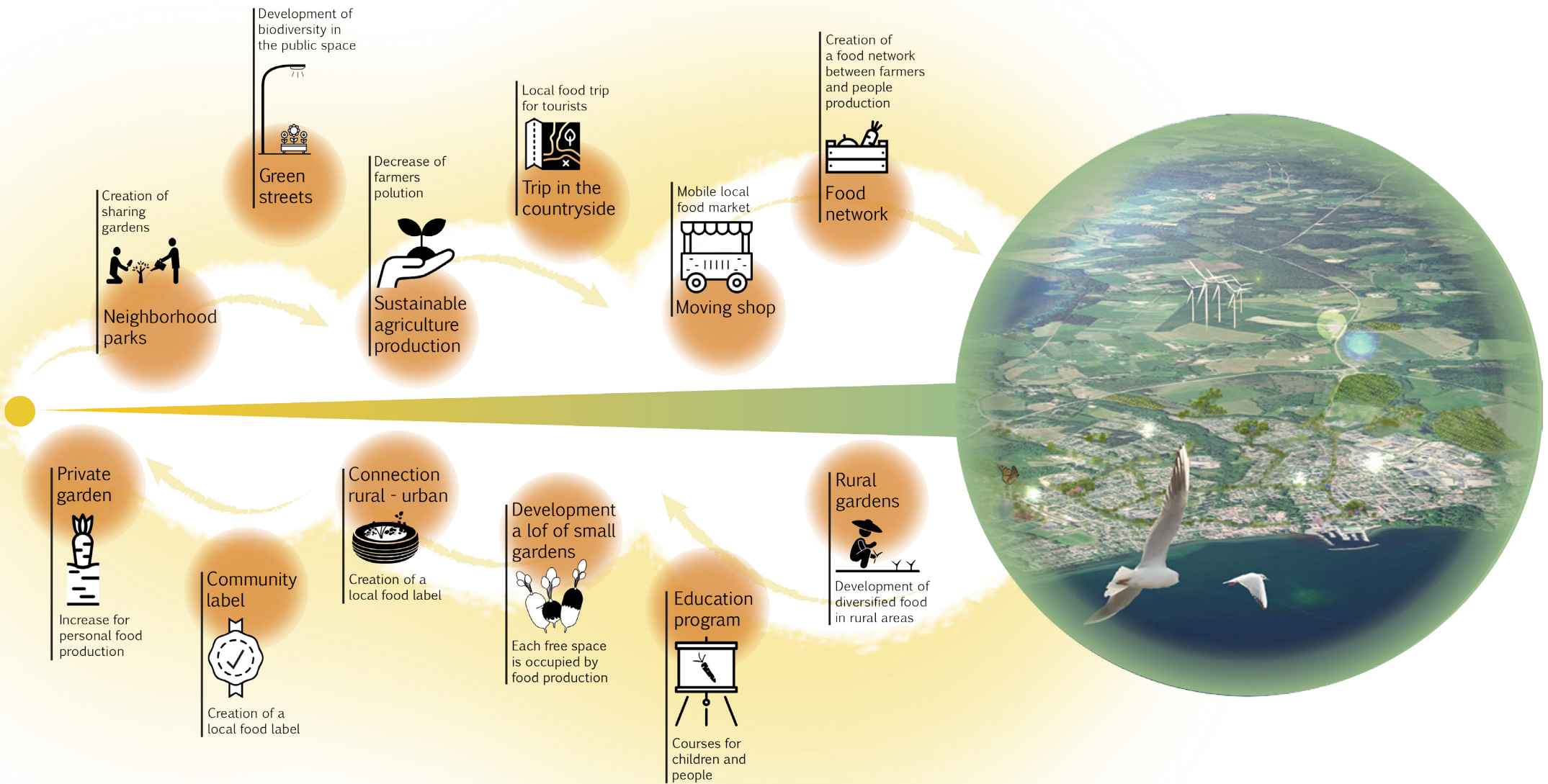
## Connection to the Local Objectives

> Hjo is a place of inclusion where differences and diversity are valued and represented in an equitable community.

> By 2030 80% of food consumed in Hjo is organically and locally produced within the Skaraborg region.

> In Hjo urban and rural areas are well connected.

> Hjo Inhabitants have awareness of sustainable lifestyles and has an ecological footprint below one.



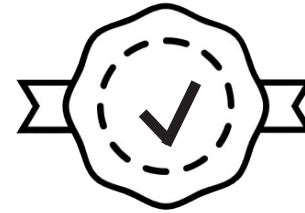
# Strategies

We imagine different strategies to approach our vision step by step. Some strategies improve the food production, such as the creation of a Neighborhood Park. Other strategies develop the local food market. Others promote the green structure and the biodiversity like the Vivid Network. Then, some encourage the awareness of the population. Among them, we choose to develop two of the strategies into projects that can be realistic in quite a short time, the Neighborhood Parks and the Vivid Network.



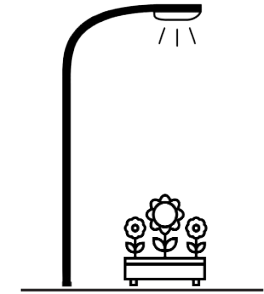
Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks can be the first step to raise awareness of the food production. To start with a small scale is an opportunity to make a link with neighbors, municipality, farmers, schools, elderly care centres and associations. The neighborhood parks are public parks in which the neighborhoods can produce food for themselves and maybe others. This makes food activities visible, a part of the everyday life and a subject of discussion in the community.



Local Food Label

The label aims to promote the sharing of local food. Farmers and neighbors can sign up to the label to promote their food to be shared or rescued. The label can be in the form of an application for smartphones and also a physical label. For example, people who have fruit trees in their garden, can have a label panel which says “Please come and pick up”. The label can also be used in the stores and markets to highlight local food.



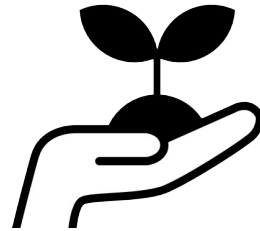
Vivid Network

The Vivid Network creates a link between different areas in the town. The idea is to extend the use of the street to grow foods, flowers and other plants. These connections are an opportunity to promote the biodiversity and to decrease car use. Also, this new green plantations can be a sharing project with people, municipality and farmers.



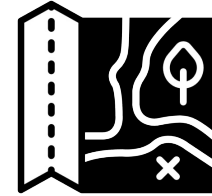
## Strengthening Urban - Rural Connection

Today, people in the town and people in the countryside have less connection to each other than they have historically. We want to promote the rural with paths, experiences and building structure that links the rural and the urban together. We refer to the project “Living Loops” of Kimberley, Amanda, Mathilda and Anna, and to the project “Turn your Head” by Moa, Marcus, Wu Chen and Fabio”.



## Sustainable Food Production

We suggest to enable a more sustainable way of farming through educational programs, municipal investment and a stronger knowledge and awareness in how the production works and of its consequences among the public. Interaction between farmers working in different scale enables them to share ideas and innovation. The farming needs to be diverse in order to function well in a long term perspective.



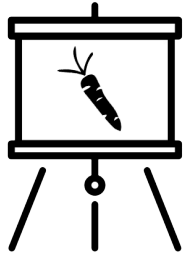
## Trip to the Countryside

There can be an organised trip or route for people to go from the town and out to the countryside. The purpose is to get a better insight of what the landscape looks like and how it works. The plan is also that this route will contain stops at different farms where you can visit and get to know the farmer and the farm better. This project is intended both for the tourists and as an activity for people of Hjo. They can discover the variety of farms and production in the countryside of Hjo.



## Productive Private Gardens

We think that the municipality and the neighborhood gardens can support people who want to grow food also in their own garden. When knowledge and tools are more easily accessible we think that there is a good potential for an increase of farming also in private gardens.



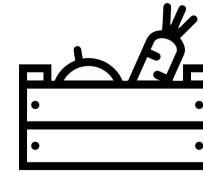
### Educational Program

Hjo can offer courses and workshops for people to have knowledge about foodproduction. Also, foodproduction can be on the curriculum in the school education. For example, the children and teachers could produce the food for the school restaurant during the class hours. This would be a good way to learn about food production but also to integrate the learning with other fields like natural science, mathematics, domestic science, engineering, arts etc.



### Moving Shop

The moving shop is the idea of a municipal food distributor that can go straight from the farms to different neighborhoods in the town to sell fresh and local food. It can be a neighborhood event, like when the ice cream truck comes in Sweden. The moving shop can be in different areas different days and it can be a place to meet your neighbors and to experience and discuss the local food.



### Food Network

The food network creates a link in between different farmers and between farmers and the people. We imagine for the network to be used for sharing experiences, knowledge, contacts, distribution channels and maybe also goods. For this strategy, we refer also to the project “Co-Food Hjo” of Jens, Omar and Sofie.



### Rural Gardens

In the future, the demand of local food production will increase. Hjo will need more space for farming and more productivity. Farmers are open to collaborate with the public and we suggest to create growing gardens in the rural areas to promote co-gardening and to develop the concept of the neighborhood farming further.

## Connecting all of Hjo

Many of our strategies aim for a better connection between the urban and the rural and between food production and people. We illustrate some of our ideas in this map.

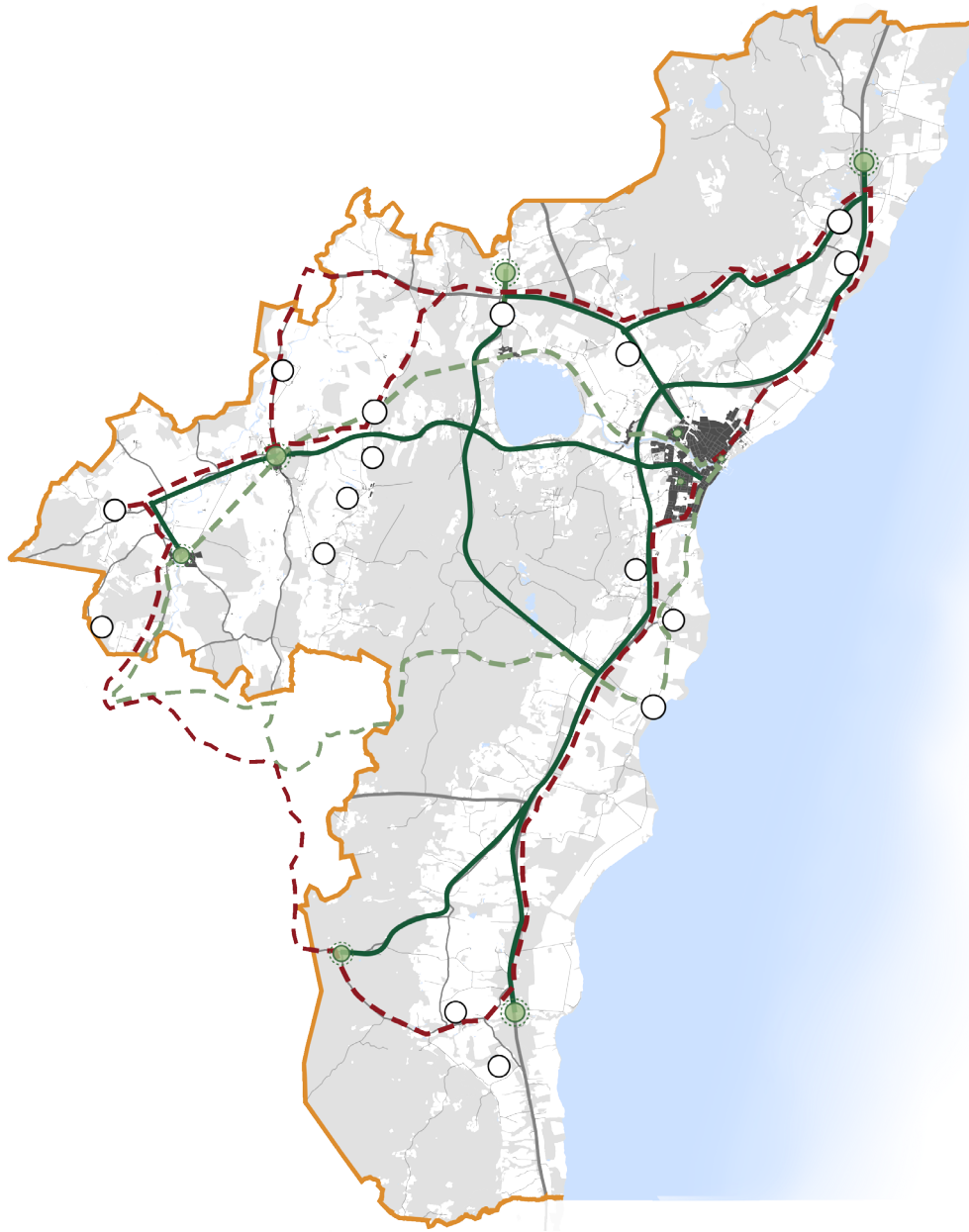
The white points are farms and the green lines are the physical connection that are existing today. We suggest to develop these connections with the concept of the Vivid Network, to diversify the green structure and promote biodiversity. Also to extend the possibilities to move around the municipality by bike and by foot.

The red line is a suggestion of a route for the Countryside Trip and the green dashed line is a partly existing bikelane.

This suggestion is just an idea of how you can work with the connections throughout the municipality. For more detailed planning and other suggestions, see In-Depth projects “Living Loops” or “Turn Your Head”.

One of the most important aspects of this map is that it shows the location of the Neighborhood Parks that are not within the town. We think it is important for the Neighborhood Parks that they are close to the people managing it, and therefore the small communities must also be included.

The additional Neighborhood Parks are placed in Korsberga, Blixtorp and Svebråta. There are also Rural Gardens included in the idea and they are marked out on the map with the same green point.



- Green link (biodiversity)
- - - Walk and bicycle path
- - - Bus trip
- Neighborhood Parks
- Farms



# PROJECTS

## Vivid Network

### Program

The Vivid Network aims at raising awareness in local food production by making it visible and present in the town. The idea is that people will be encouraged to participate in growing food and other plants in the public space. The green streets also work as a link between the neighborhood gardens.

The vivid network consists of green structures which promote biodiversity. This is important for a sustainable development and for making the municipality more resilient by preserving eco-system services.

Another important aspect of the Vivid Network is to make the streets more walkable by using a human scale, increasing the amount of interaction and greenery and adapting to walking speed. The goal is to offer a nice atmosphere which will invite people to bike and walk. We want to increase the space for pedestrians and cyclists and reduce the space and speed for cars.

### Food plantation boxes

The use of food plantation boxes is a way to integrate the food production all over the city. The box can be temporary and flexible.

The maintenance of the food plantation boxes is in collaboration between local farmers and the schools. Also private people can be in charge of the maintenance.

### Street Gardens

The Street Gardens are in the green belt that is in the middle of the street on Ringvägen. The idea is that Villa owners who live next to the street can be in charge of one part of the Street Garden, for design and maintenance. It can also be a collaborations between neighbors. We believe that if the Street Garden is managed by different people, everyone's ideas are valued and the walking experience will be diverse and exciting.

### Neighborhood Parks and satellite gardens

Within the town the different Neighborhood Parks are placed in suitable green locations or existing parks spread out in different areas. We imagine there can develop smaller satellite gardens connected to each Neighborhood Park, which can make use of the building, tools and other resources of the Neighborhood Parks.



Popular

173 Houses with gardens and apartments  
Schools  
Natural reserve

Actors

Municipality  
School  
Neighbors  
Farmers

Program

Green house  
Chicken house  
Terrace  
Market space  
Play ground  
Hill  
Football field

Evens

Food festival  
Workshop with school  
Temporary market (1 per week)

Evens

Temporary market (3 days per week)  
Sharing of green house between neighbors

Program

Green house  
Terrace  
Market space  
Restaurant  
Shop

Actors

Municipality  
Tourists  
Neighbors  
Farmers  
Restaurant  
Shop owner

Visible

Houses with gardens  
School  
Elderlycare  
Sport area

Intimate

Houses  
Elderlycare  
Big park

Actors

Municipality  
School  
Neighbors  
Farmers  
Sportsmen

Program

Little green house  
Play ground  
Hill  
Football field

Evens

Workshop with school  
Temporary market (1 per week)



*Vivid Network stretch*

The map illustrates the stretch of the Vivid Network and how it connects the gardens.

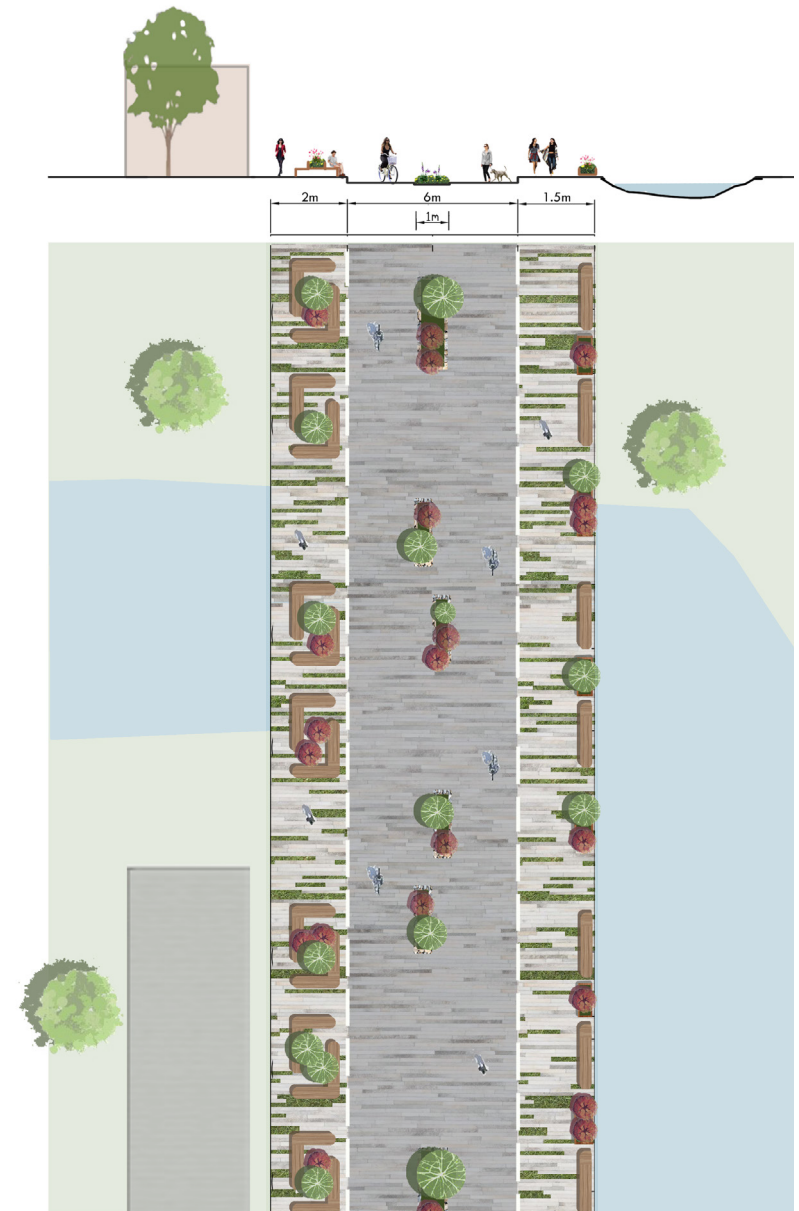
## Hamngatan, water flow

Between the creek and the harbour - now

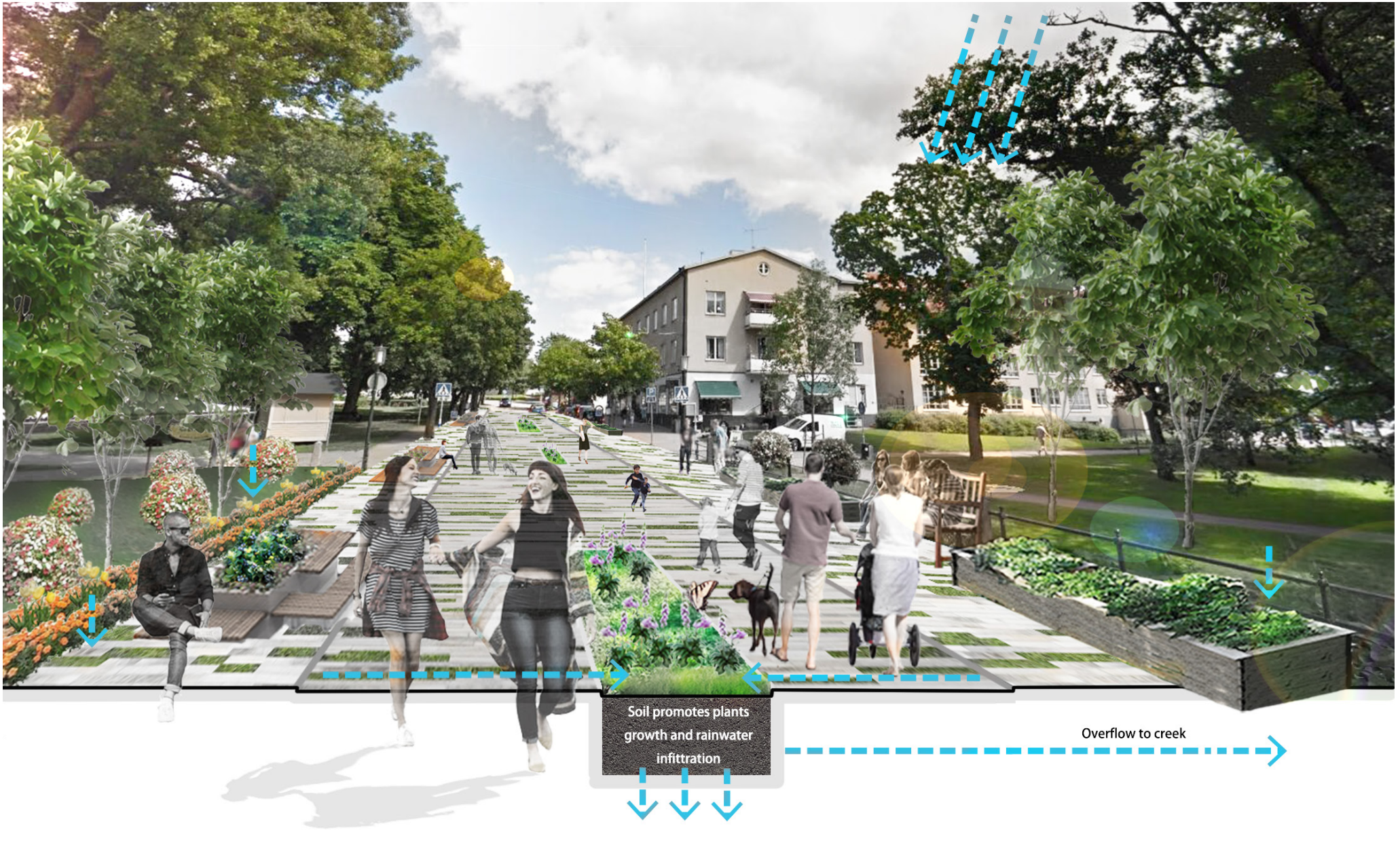
Hamngatan is the key road in the city centre of Hjo. Today there are a lot of cars passing by in high speed and there is not much space for pedestrians. Parts of the street lack connected green structure and the asphalt and cars make the atmosphere feel harsh.

Water cycle  
- future

The new Hamngatan provides a generous and green walking street. The project is based on the water sensitive strategy which is a way of taking care of rainwater through soil and plants. In the new Hamngatan there is no car traffic and the road has been transformed into a pedestrian park. There is also space for cyclists and the green additions are present throughout the street.



Section and plan of the future



## Ringvägen, flourishing diversity

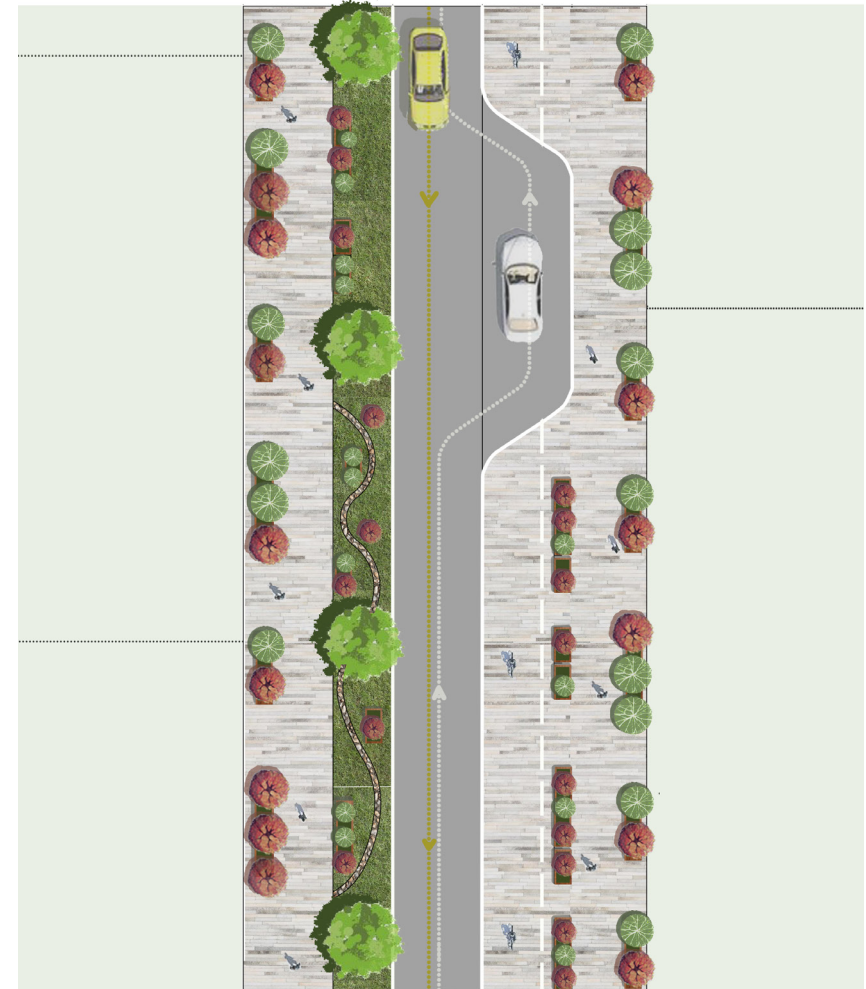
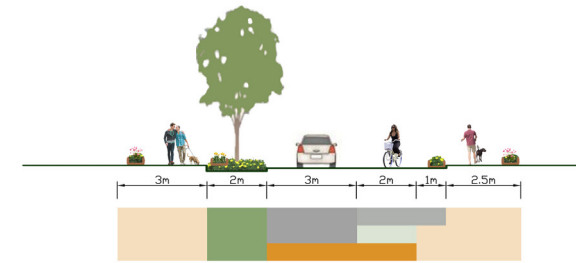
Calm residential area  
-Now

Ringvagen is an important roads in Hjo, it connects Guldkroksskolan and Guldkroksvallen and also the northern and the southern part of the town. Today there is a strong traffic atmosphere in the street.



Biodiversity line  
- Future

In the new version of Ringvägen, the dual lane will be changed to a single lane with a passing space provided in every 100 meters. Extra space is available for the cyclists and pedestrians. Street Gardens and Plantation Boxes guarantee the green and pedestrian dimensions of the road. In Ringvägen, the theme of the green structures is flowers.



Section and plan of the future



## Kvarngatan, food by the street

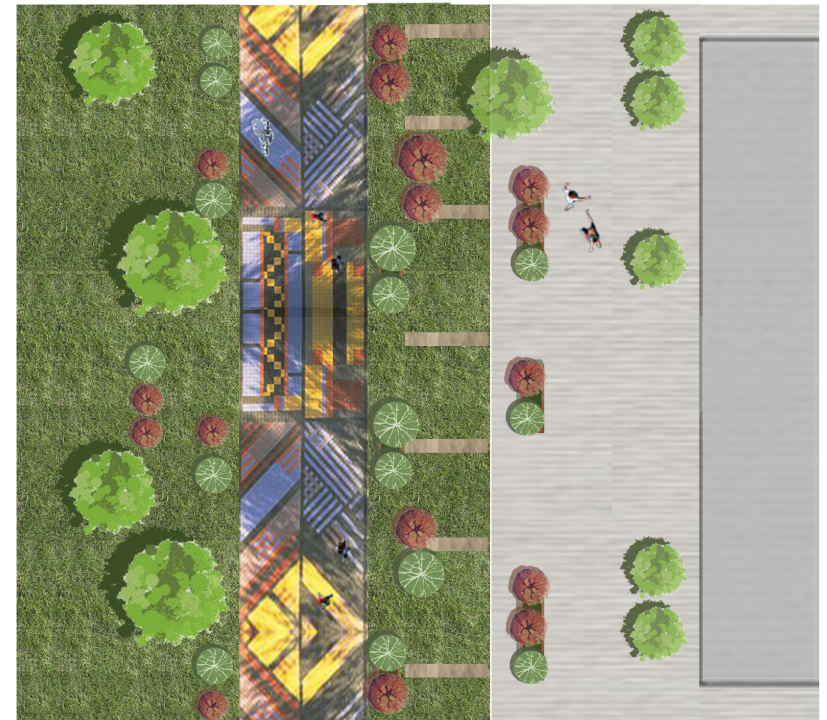
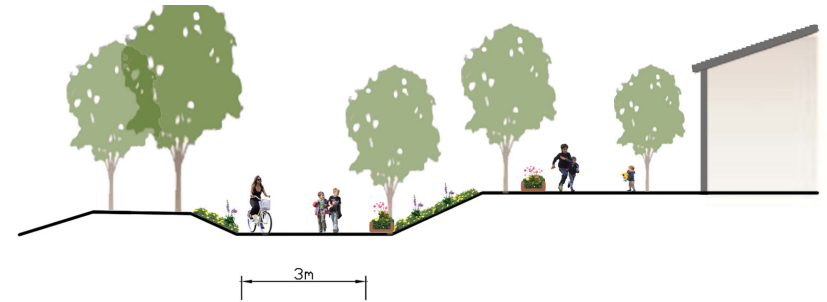
Natural reserved proximity  
- Now

Kvarngatan is near Hammarnskolan Hammaren. Today it is a road for bicycle and pedestrians, at the border of the natural reserve of Hjoån. Today the path lack attractions for children and the sides of the path consist of lawn strips.



Playground garden  
- Future

On the new Kvarngatan, the street will be more playful to connect to the school and preschool. The project includes painting the asphalt into colors and to set up device on the slope for children to climb. As in all the streets the plantations are a large part of the atmosphere. This street is specifically suitable for growing food, since it is not polluted by cars or other kinds of traffic. The food boxes and berry bushes are key elements.



Section and plan of the future



# Neighborhood Park

## Hammarsjorden

### The Selection

The selection of the site, Hammarsjorden, is based on the fact that we believe it has a representative balance between being large scale and public, but also being closed in and intimate for the neighborhood.

The private gardens in the area are small which is also a good reason to create more space for garden activities in this area. The roads within the area are pedestrian and the planning gives good prerequisites for developing a Neighborhood Park.

The area consists mostly of lawn today but there is also a number of trees and many surround the small creek which runs through the yard, which gives a good starting point when designing for biodiversity. In the area there is a deserted asphalt court, giving possibility to build without interfering much more with the ground.

### The Garden City

The area Hammarsjorden is built in the 70s with the Garden City as a model.

The garden city is a planning utopia described by the planner Ebenezer Howard in the shift to the 20th century. It is based on the idea that people will live close to nature in self sufficient small cities and that a surrounding greenbelt would be connecting the different cities. (Howard, Ebenezer, 1898)

There are today 216 properties, out of which 173 are villas. There is an association responsible for the roads and plantations within the area, including the neighborhood yard (Hammarsjordens samfällighetsförening, 2016), where the Neighborhood Park is located.





Creek



Football field



Orchard



Growing Garden



Wild hill



Community House



Playground



Entrance



## Program

In the project we want to revive the spirit of the Garden City to the area, as well as giving place for biodiversity and for social activities concerning food production. We want to take the lawn areas to a new, wilder level and to grow fruit trees in an orchard in the yard.

One part of the yard will be the productive Growing Garden. There we include food plantations of vegetables, a chicken house, a cellar for storage of food, a composting station and a building with kitchen and greenhouse. We imagine that the park and building will be a productive meeting place for the neighborhood. We also imagine for the whole yard to open up on certain occasions, for events and food festivals.

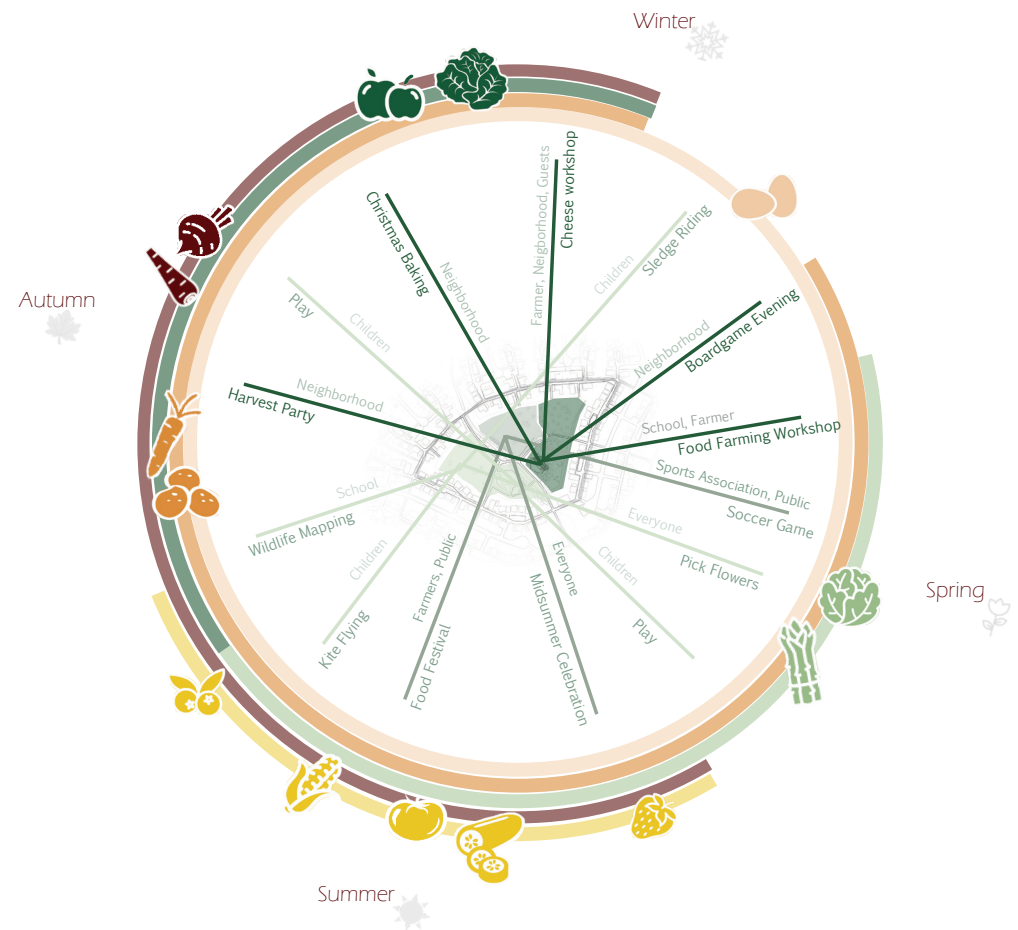
In a longer time perspective we see that the area can develop at the neighborhood's initiative. We imagine that maybe there will be sheep grazing in the wild grass on the hill and that there will be beehives in the orchard.

## Activities

The idea is that the Neighborhood Park will be lively and active throughout the year, with different kinds of activities happening in the different seasons. The diagram shows some examples of activities and seasons for different groups of vegetables and fruit.

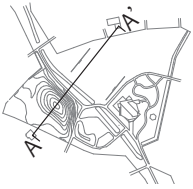
The activities are placed inside the circle and are connected to a specific location in the park. They are examples of activities that can be suitable in the different seasons. For example in the beginning of the summer there can be a midsummer celebration on the grass field which is held for everyone.

The vegetable seasons are divided in groups of vegetables after harvest season. The season stretches all throughout the colored line. The illustrated vegetables are chosen examples and do not cover all possible species. For example, we show carrots and potato, which are possible to grow in all seasons, but in reality that includes also cabbage, swede and onion.



## Wild Landscape

The park is like a wild area in which the orchard, the creek and the hill with wild grass participate to develop biodiversity.



Wild Landscape - Section of the neighborhood park - Section A-A' 1:1000

## Welcome View

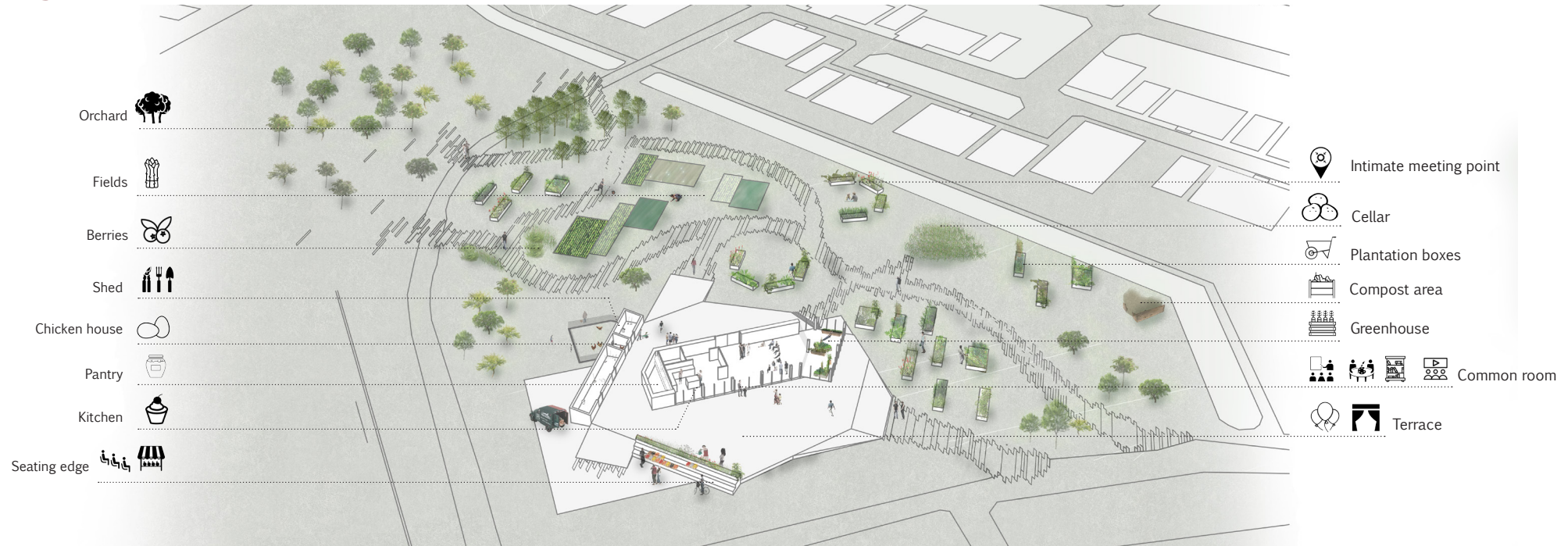
When entering the Neighborhood Park one can see the garden and the building, with the greenhouse directed towards the entrypoint. The path invites to walk into the garden

and towards the building and even if just passing by one gets a good view of the activities going on in the Growing Garden.



Welcome View - Perspective from the entrance to the Neighborhood Park

# Growing Garden



Axonometry of the Growing Garden - Activities in the neighborhood garden

## Combination of food production and leisure

The garden invites for the public to walk through and around. The path also invites to walking out into other parts of the garden.

In the garden there are several varieties of food production. Fruit

trees, berry bushes and the chickens are some. There are also two kinds of plantations, the fields and the plantation boxes. This is to give the prerequisites for different kinds of agriculture and to also have a flexibility to divide the plantations in different

ways. The boxes are practical for the educational purpose, and for the appearance of the garden.

As a complementary building we include a cellar in garden, for storage of food products over time. Once a big harvest is over, the vegetables can be

put in the cellar for a cool and energy efficient storage underground.

## Relation between the garden the the Community House

The different facades of the building represent different kinds of activities. The north facade is more closed and the south facade is open and it gives conditions for social events. The connection to the outside indicates that this outdoor space is

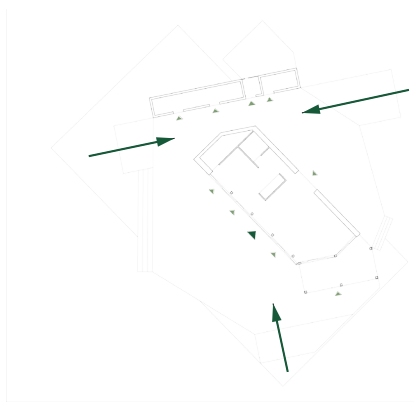
mainly used as a workspace. The south facade on the other hand is open and it gives conditions for social events.



Relation between the garden and the building - Perspective section B-B' 1:200

# Community Building

## Entry and access to the garden

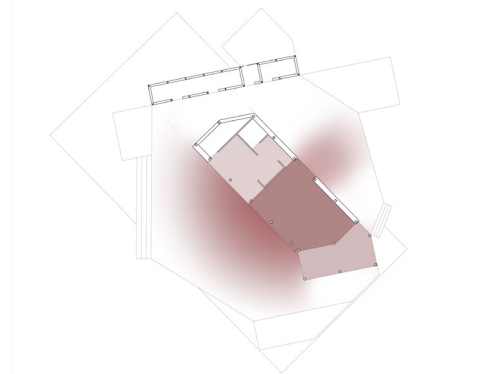


The Community Building is located in the Growing Garden. We build on the existing asphalt court to minimize the pollution of the ground. This makes a natural step up to the terrace which indicates the public space turning into being semi public.

There are three access points to the terrace which are ramps. Around the other parts of the edges you either have one large step or a small stair. The building has a main entrance on the southern facade but it could also be totally open on this side by moving windows. The other entrances are

through the greenhouse and from the northern facade towards the garden.

## Flexibility

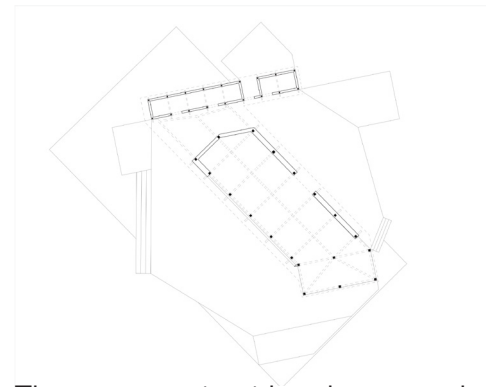


The building is designed to be flexible in use, to enable different kinds of activities and to expand the room if it is needed. The south facade can be opened towards the terrace to enable an open interaction between inside and outside in order to use the main room as a stage for example. In another case the greenhouse can be used, as well as the kitchen and the terrace. In this way the feeling of the main room can be both cosy for only two people and also fit sixty

people at an event. Moreover, the seating edge can be a stand for the temporary market.

The kitchen is open to the main room and the social areas. It gives possibilities to have cooking workshops or to cook for neighborhood events. Behind the kitchen there is a pantry for everyday storage.

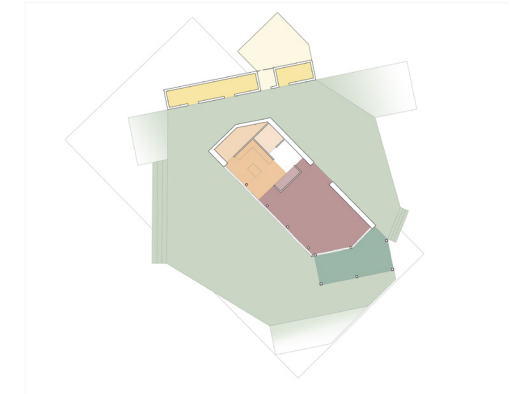
## Structure









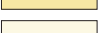


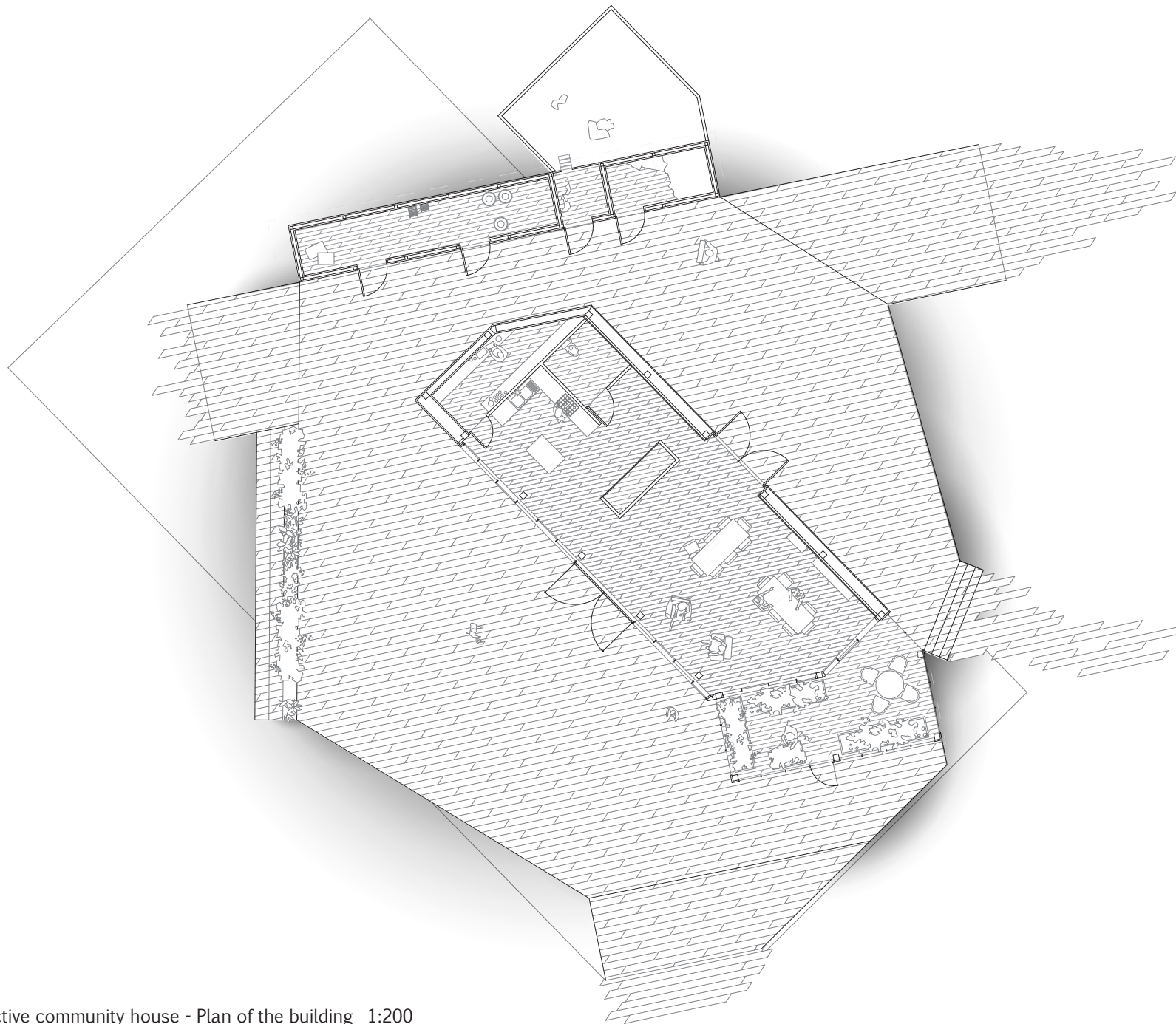
The structure is with columns and beams in wood. The insulation consists of straw bales. This structure allows to be built by the people and it is also very flexible. The thick wall

in the north can be used to insulate and store heat while the light construction and glass facade to the south can capture sunlight to make use of passive solar techniques.

## Program

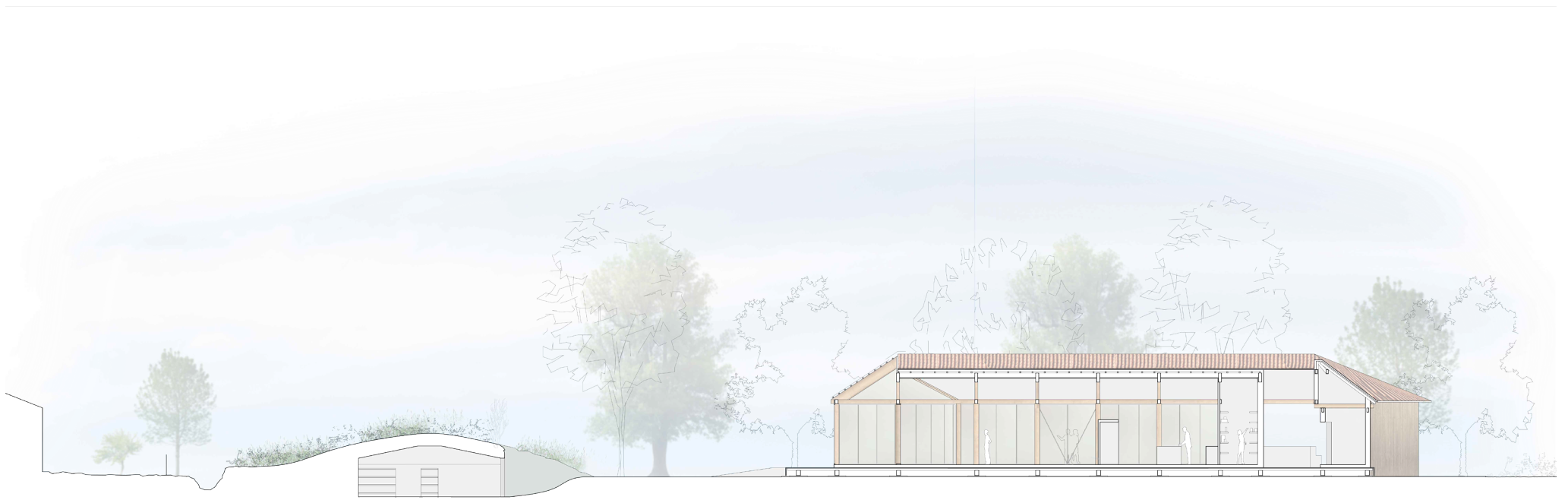


Terrace - 340m <sup>2</sup>	
Green house - 26m <sup>2</sup>	
Main room - 52m <sup>2</sup>	
Cloackroom - 2,5m <sup>2</sup>	
Kitchen - 20m <sup>2</sup>	
Pantry- 8,5m <sup>2</sup>	
Toilet- 5m <sup>2</sup>	
Shed - 21m <sup>2</sup>	
Chicken house - 3m <sup>2</sup>	

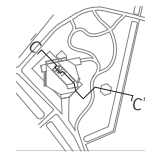


Active community house - Plan of the building 1:200





From the cellar to the kitchen - Longitudinal Section - Section C-C' 1:100



# CONCLUSION

## The Project

Our project is focused on food production and the design represents a rather small step to take in order to develop in the right direction. We believe that the effects of our ideas and projects can be larger than that in the long run, with positive side effects. The snowball effect influence not only food and the consequences can impact various fields towards sustainable development.

The food theme has been very central to us and we have learned a lot about food production systems during our work. Although, we acknowledge the fact that we are not experts in this field, which might be a deficiency in our project.

The project is based on the on the rich agriculture of Hjo, but we believe that the strategies can be implemented also in other regions.

This project could be even stronger if we had a more participatory process and an extensive insight in the neighborhood communities and their ambitions. It would also be more effective if we had a local leader for the project who knew about the local initiatives and had knowledge in food production.

The social aspect has been important for us. We think that the possibilities for a social movement are open in Hjo, based on the interviews and the survey response. We see the individualisation trend as a challenge to propose possibilities for strengthening communities.

## The Studio

The analysis of the local situation gave us a broad and extensive view of the local context. It has been a good background for us, and we chose our in-depth project theme partly based on our interest but mainly on the local resource mapping.

The sharing of work and experiences between the students in the studio has been a valuable input for the work.

Our theme focus of food has been the most important aspect in our project but with our own background and knowledge it has sometimes been hard to stay on the right track and not to go deep into other themes.

## Sustainable Development

Our project influences the social aspects of sustainability by raising awareness and strengthening communities.

It also addresses the issues of pollution and over fertilization by promoting a more sustainable food production.

The project supports local food production and market, which will lead to reduced transports and increased resilience.

The fact that people can grow their own food is also a question of health. It is a way to take back control over the production and the nutrients of food.

We believe that a change of lifestyle is the most important aspect today in order to achieve sustainable development, that is our goal with the project.

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Howard, Ebenezer (1898), "Garden Cities of To-morrow"

Janine de la Salle, Mark Holland (2009), "Agricultural Urbanism"

## Meetings

### Farmers

Marcus Nyström, Hjordnära  
Thomas Berglund, Almnäs  
Malin and Calle Indebetou, Munkebo  
Bernhard Reckermann, Vättern  
Sparris  
Alexander Tervasmäki, Blåbärgården

### Professional Guests

Louise Didriksson,  
Ailia Hirvonen,  
Anna DeLaval  
Niklas Wennberg

Thank you for good advice and collaboration!

## References

Incredible Edible  
Todmorden, England

REKO  
Finland, Private initiative

Rosendals Trädgård  
Stockholm, Sweden

Urbana Vångar  
project, Kronetorp, Sweden

Ananas New Community  
project, Silang, Philippines

Agrarpark  
concept, Nytorpsgårde, Sweden

