

SUMMARY

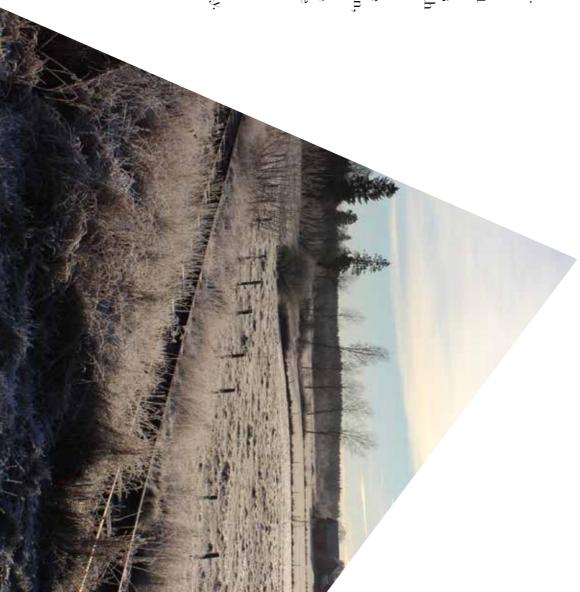
WHAT IS THE PROJECT ABOUT?

surrounding area, the connection outspread "naturum". The projects trails that together with key impoves the tourism in the value of the nature through an the ambition is to increase the the environment. Fewer and fewer knowledge about our nature and more. The cause is to increase the making people stay out in nature projects works as a driving force in public health for Skara residents between urban and rural, and the decreases the knowledge, therefore people are staying outdoors, which This project focuses on hiking

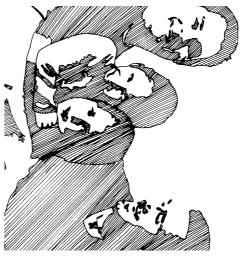
The project argue for better connection between tourism destinations in the municipality, both by foot and by bike. The areas north and south of Skara are focus for the project, since important connections are missing in these places, and the areas feel to some extent forgotten. An important focus is to simplify the contact between the town and the countryside and nature. Therefore it's important that there are activities that are both closeby and that feels easy to reach.

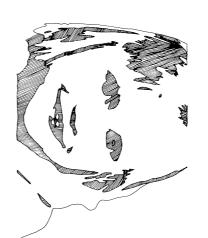
The key projects that are suggested along the hiking trails are smaller built projects that aim to increase knowledge about nature and to experience nature with several senses to get a closer relation to it. They can be specific destinations that makes people want to hike a certain route or a positive element for already experienced walkers. The key projects are with its focus on the senses a way of interact with nature in an active way.

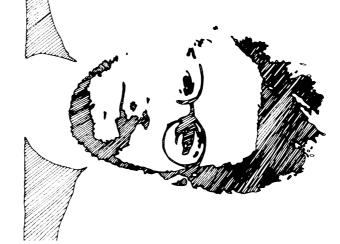
In today's society, with the climate changes and threats we stand upon, it feels important to spread the knowledge about the nature we've got and how important it is for the human being. By strengthen the nature and the cultural landscape of Skara it becomes something to feel pride aboute and creates a strong identity for the municipality.











ORIENTEER , 75 YEARS OLD

"I've been active in the Orienteering association for 47 years. Something I've really missed after a run in the woods is a dip in the river and a hot sauna. A couple of years ago we decided to build a sauna and we've never looked back. Is there anything more peaceful than to sit in the sauna and watch Flian flow by outside?"

FAMILY WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

"Finally there is something to do when the rain is pouring down! Taking the train to Tveta station, and giving the kids a deeper understanding for farming feels important for us. Last year we joined in growing carrots and during the fall we attended the harvest party: The kids were so proud being able to eat something they actually grew themselves."

CHILD, 5 YEARS OLD

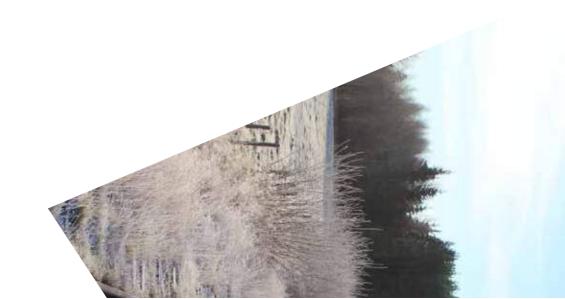
"The world of knowledge is so much fun! I tried sitting in the big funnels and listened to the nature. Climbing was fun too! Last spring we got to fill the infobox with things we found in the forest. I learned that a tree could be very old. More than one hundred years old!"

ARTIST, 32 YEARS OLD

"We've got a lot of talented artist in our municipality and we've got wonderful nature areas. To find a platform for us artists has been important and to combine creative creation with nature is very exciting. I hope this project can strengthen the individual connection with nature and make people realize what amazing creation it really is.



Skara - Urban-Rural Connections and Co-Creation Chalmers School of Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology Master's Programme Design for Sustainable Development 2015/2016 Emma Anderberg, Matilda Leffler, Fredrika Sandblom, Alice Valinger Naturligtvis! - naturupplevelser för kunskap i Skara kommun Design Studio Planning and Design for Sustainable Development in a Local Context



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THE PROJECT

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CONSIDERATIONS

DISCUSSION

Discussion

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COURSE INFORMATION

the assignment and the project group

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN A LOCAL CONTEXT

The course "Planning and design for sustainable development in a local context" is held at the master's program at the institution of Architecture at Chalmers University of Technology. Each year the students work with a smaller municipality in the Västra Götaland region, this year it's located in Skara municipality.

The theme for this year's course is the connection between urban and rural. During the course, which runs from September to January, we've had close contact with different actors in Skara, mainly the planning office. Interviews and site analysis has been important points of departure in the design of our project.



THE PROJECT GROUP

The group that has been working together has different academic backgrounds. Emma, Alice and Matilda has their bachelor degree in architecture from Chalmers University of Technology while Fredrika has a bachelor degree in spatial planning from Blekinge University of Technology.

We think that our different backgrounds give the project another dimension as we've alternated between different scales in our discussions and sketches throughout the project.



SWOT, DEVELOPMENT GOALS & STRATEGIES

previous analysis from the course

STRENGHTS

- A recognized cultural heritage and history, a unique landscape
 Small scale a cozy city that
- is walkable and bikeable
 Closeness between urban and
 rural areas
- Green and blue spaces in and around the town of Skara
- Many tourist attractions
- · Agricultural research and knowledge

OPPORTUNITIES

to overcome

The urban norm

WEAKNESSES to improve - Weak mental and physical connection between urban and rural areas - Low interest in/support for local produce - Physical and social segregation - Contradictive identity

POINT OF DEPARTURE

Before we started working with the in-depth project about hiking trails we've had six weeks of analysis within the design studio. We looked at the local situation in Skara municipality together with trends and challenges for the development of Skara. The analysis was concluded

in a common SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats), eleven development goals and strategies to reach the goals. Here the material that are relevant for our project are presented and they work as point of departure for our project.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- skara has a strong tourism industry built upon culture, food and nature experiences
- 5. Skara is walkable and bicycle friendly with good public transport and less car dependency
- 7. In Skara we support our local farmers and have a good urban-rural connectivity
- 8. Skara is an attractive place to live in with a strong sense of community where people of all ages and backgrounds are welcome

STRATEGIES

- Strengthen Skara's identity as a rural-urban municipality
- Enhance urban/rural connectivity both visually, physically and mentally
- Gather people and support cultural activities on the countryside
- Develop tourism
- Increase knowledge in agriculture
- Create a more bikeable and walkable municipality

Increased experience based tourism New green wave New technologies and digitalization could connect urban and rural

economy

Capitalism Unstable global

Food security uncertainty

10

the human need of nature

HUMAN & NATURE

THE RIGHT OF PUBLIC ACCESS

"You're using the right of public access "Allemansrätten" when you are walking, kayaking or sitting on a stone and thinking. Allemansrätten is a unique opportunity to move freely in nature. But we also have to take responsibility for nature and animal life and show respect towards landowners and other visitors.

By other means, not disturb - not destroy" (Naturvårdsverket, 2015a).



LESS PEOPLE STAY OUTDOORS

According to research from SLU (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences) the interest about nature has decreased with ten percent the last 30 years. We pick less mushrooms and berries and fewer Swedes take longer walks with overnight stays in a cabin or tent.

One of the reasons could be that many Swedes are more than three generations away from the connection with the countryside (Ericsson, Dahl & Sandström, 2009).



DECREASING KNOWLEDGE

During summer 2014 Kolmården's zoo together with Novus did a survey about people's knowledge about animals and nature. It was clear that both knowledge and interest about animals and nature is higher among the higher ages in comparison with the young. The survey also shows that the younger generation spend less time in nature in comparison with the older. If the knowledge about the nature we all descend from decreases there's a risk we loose important knowledge (Kolmården, 2014).



EXPERIENCEBASED KNOWLEDGE

The knowledge should begin in the concrete. That could be reached by increasing familiarity with the changing seasons, processes and phenomena in the urban landscape, woodland, farmland and water scenery. By mixing education with entertainment in an experience based learning the relation becomes more profound. The experience is better the more personal it is. Yesterday's everyday life in the free becomes the future's place to explore (Szczepanski, 2011).



TOURISM IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Today's tourism is not sustainable. With increasing long travels by airplane we increase the carbon dioxide spill a lot. For example a flight to Thailand contributes with almost 200 times as much as taking the train within Stockholm (KTH, 2014).

By instead explore nearby cities and municipalities and nature we could decrease our ecological footprint and do the planet we live on a favor.



URBAN-RURAL CONNECTION

Tourism in the surrounding areas supports both the town and the countryside. When more people visit the countryside there is a better basis for local initiatives and new labour possibilities such as farm shops and lodging. Since everybody that lives in the city doesn't have nature in their neighborhood, the links between these are important, especially how these connections are designed and how easy they are to use (Zettersten, 2007).



NATURE & HEALTH

The costs for stress related diseases increase in Sweden. According to many research reports the health is improved and our stress levels drop by staying outdoors in nature.

After only five minutes in the nature lowers our pulse and blood pressure and the amount of stress hormones in the blood decreases. This is because the psychological distance to demands and routines in the everyday life and that nature catches out interest. The brain reacts positively towards the input that nature experiences bring - colors, smells and sounds (Zettersten, 2007).

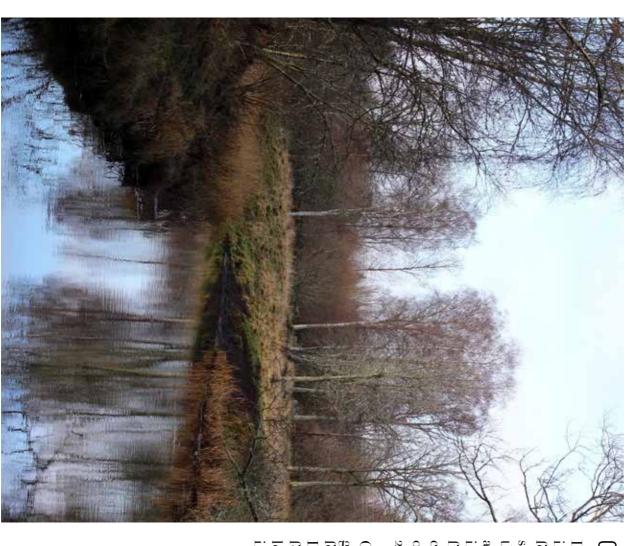
Impressions from nature creates feelings of sympathy, comfort, the wish to collaborate, it improves our short-term memory and increases our concentration. According to Grahn & Skärbäck (2015) there are eight different character of

experience that are desirable for natural areas that meet our general needs. Out of these character "peacefulness", "wildness" and "pleasance" are de-stressing and therefore important ingredients in the design of natural areas.

The same magazine found that if one has a low acreage green environment with high acreage further than I kilometer of their home the risk of dying before retirement age increases.

Furthermore it's shown that the areas in cities where the "peacefulness factor" is high, the household income is high, why it's even more important that there are high quality nature spaces close to home, regardless of area of residence. The nature is for free and for everyone.





GOALS FOR OUTDOOR LIFE POLICIES

In December 2012 the government in Sweden decided upon ten goals for the outdoor life policy. The goals support the outdoor life actors and the point of departure is a rich access to nature, the individual's interest and the engagement from non-profit organizations' commitment to the opportunity for outdoor activities (Naturvårdsverket, 2015e).

Our project aims towards the same goals, since we consider it important for Skara municipality as well. In addition to these objectives, it feels important to strengthen the local nature and cultural landscape, in terms of agriculture and farming.

The goals are as follow:

- 1. Accessible nature for everybody
- 2. Strong commitment and collaboration
- 3. The right of public access
- 4. Access to the countryside for outdoor activities
- Attractive nature close to urban areas
- 6. Sustainable regional growth and rural development
- 7. Protected areas as resource for outdoor recreation
- 8. A rich outdoor life at school
- 9. Outdoor activities for good health
- 10. Good knowledge of outdoor life







ANALYSIS

- method

- the tourism of Skara today & in the future
 tourist destinations in Skara municipality - seasons
- connections & protected areas
 character of the landscape
 existing walking trails

METHOD

the working process



INVENTORIES

To get a better local knowledge we found it important to visit Skara a several times and we have travelled around in the municipality by different means of transportation, from bus to bike, to understand the accessibility.

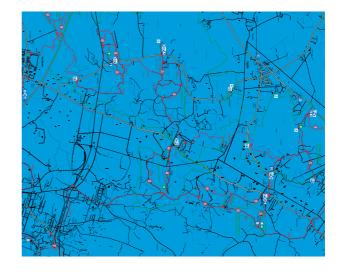
During our visits we have experienced nature, talked to the local citizens and interviewed people of importance for our project to try to grasp the local context.



INTERVIEWS

To get a better knowledge about the mentality about tourism, nature and trekking it we have interviewed different actors from the municipality and Västra Götaland.

We have talked to people on the streets, the tourist information, the owner of Herrtorp mill, Ulf Lindén from Skara municipality who was in charge of the project "Skara i matlandet Sverige" and the architect Per Nadén who works with tourism in smaller municipalities.



MATERIAL & MAPS

We have studied a large amount of maps regarding hiking trails, both from the municipality of Skara but also maps from other parts of the world.

Moreover we have read articles and reports about trails to get a better understanding of different types of trails and how nature experiences influence people's everyday life.

THE TOURISM IN SKARA & THE FUTURE

municipal, regional and national plans for the future

about the development of the tourist





TOURISM STRATEGY

cradle of Sweden. countries and is often called the of ancient remains in the Nordic are areas with the densest amount and dense forest. Moreover there from fields and a unique kame Skara Municipality has everything landscape to plateau mountains

Skaraborgsvisionen, a document Skara with Skara Sommarland. a lot to offer most people associate Even though the municipality has Turistrådet (2010) have written Due to this fact Västsvenska

accessible for everyone. The keywords for the development encouraging the beauty of nature, native. The document stress that nature experiences are for free and obvious place on the map. Moreover the lield, the forests and lakes we as the destinations themselves. By destinations are just as important commitment, inartificial and is small scale, close to nature believe that Skara could have a more the connections between the industry in Skaraborg.

MOVING E20 & NEW RESIDENTIAL AREAS

moving E20. There is a national plan for the future of Skara is the plan for One of the most important projects of the municipality (marked in pink). the investigation will start year 2021. the road to the northwestern corner for improving the road and in Skara Today there is a proposal of moving

orange) are mainly planned in the

New residential areas (marked in

edges of the City of Skara, close to

the big roads. We believe that the

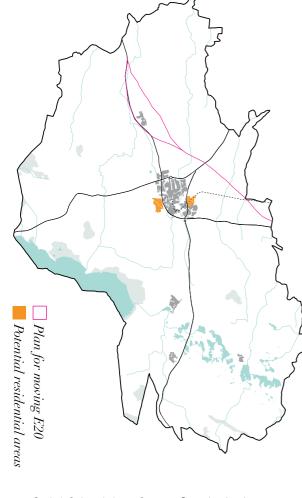
today (Skara kommun, 2005).

overbridging the barriers that E20, expansion of Skara requires ways of

Brogärdsvägen and Road 184 are

considered to be of great importance of the City of Skara, will most likely be left the way it is since it is passing by in the southern part In the future the old E20, today

(Tralikverket, 2012).



TOURIST DESTINATIONS IN SKARA

a variety of tourist destinations but bad connections between them

LAKE HORNBORGA & SKARA SOMMARLAND

The main tourist destinations in Skara today are Skara Sommarland, Lake Hornborga, tourism in the footsteps of the medieval Knight Templar Arn and Varnhem. Around the municipality there are a lot of hostels, bed and breakfasts, hotels and camping sites.

During the summer months the old railway is in use with and old steam train that travels between Skara and Lundsbrunn. It is an activity that mainly attracts families with kids.

After speaking with the staff at the tourist information we understood that there is a lack of indoor activities for families in the municipality. When the weather is bad during summer and tourists that visit Skara Sommarland ask for activities the staff mainly send them to the adventure bath in Skövde municipality (personal communication at Skara Tourist office).

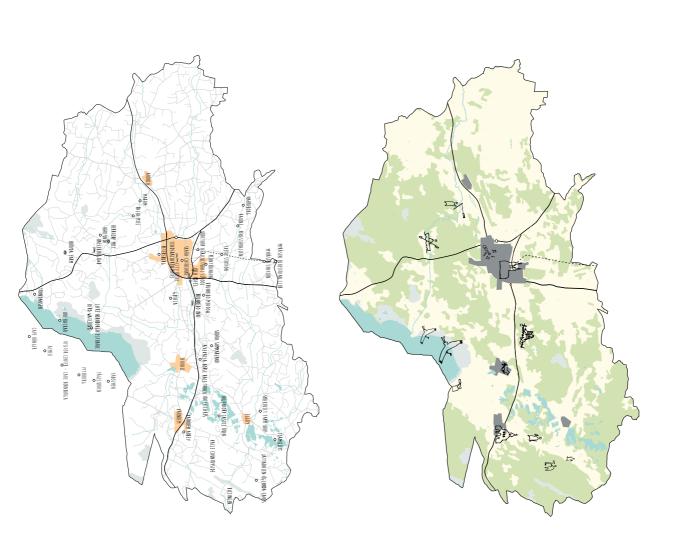
EXISTING TOURIST DESTINATIONS

As mentioned earlier there are a lot of different tourist attractions in Skara municipality. To get a better overview we mapped out the existing destinations together with accommodation. Many of them are close to each other in clusters outside Skara town with fairly bad connection between them, both physically and mentally.

The tourist information rarely informs about the extraordinary nature around the ravine in the northern part of the municipality

(Uddetorp nature trail) of Flianleden in the south, an area that is protected by Natura 2000 (personal communication at Skara Tourist office).

According to the owner of Herrtorp mill, many of his customers are generally interested in nature. When they ask for places to hike he refers them to Valle since the network for hiking in the southern parts is badly developed even though the nature is interesting.



OTHER DESTINATIONS

In the shade of the larger tourist destinations there are a lot of smaller, more hidden places worth to pay



Herrtorp mill (2015) is an old mill by Flian that offers food, accommodation and activities such as beaver safari and canoeing from March until September.



Halleberg Bed & Breakfast (2015) offers charming accommodation south of Fig.



Petersburg is the starting point of three workout paths. On the site there is a building that offers locker rooms, shower and sauna (Skara kommun, 2015).



By the outfall of Lake Hornborga, along the existing trails there is a bird watching tower from where you can see the cranes (Skara Turistbyrå, 2013b).



Planteringen is run by Skara mission covenant church (2015) and have a café during summer with activities such as mini golf.



The boarding school Uddetorp offers two agricultural program and has a farm as a part of the education (Västra Götalandsregionen, 2015).



Halla mill is a beautiful old water mill with a weir worth visiting (Qvarn Marum, 2015).

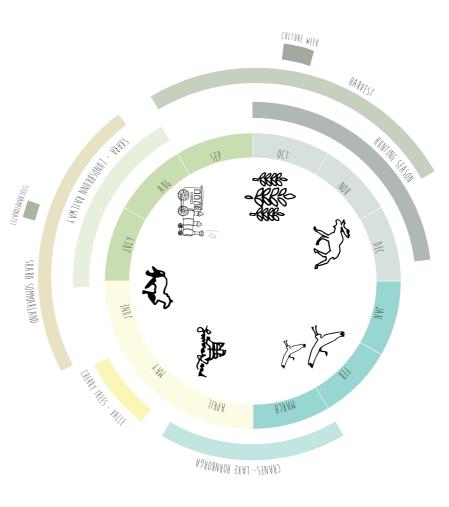


Myråsen is one of the stops along the old railway. It consists of a small society with an equestrian club (Skara-Lundsbrunns Järnvägar, 2015).



Nabbeborg is a plateu surrounded of ravines on three sides with remnants of old graves and a castle (Skara Turistbyrå, 2013a).

SEASONSevents throughout the year in Skara Municipality



ACTIVITIES ALL YEAR ROUND

a lot of tourists during springtime municipality. However Skara attracts amount of tourists are peaking during the summer months in Skara dance by Lake Hornborga. as well when the cranes return and Like most parts of Sweden the

beautiful. the nature reserves particularly trees blossom in Valle making After the crane dance the cherry



the large amount of farms in the importance as well because of The harvest time is of great town with locally produced food. there is a farmers market in Skara municipality. At this time a year

at Skara Tourist office). a ghost tour and plays, to give a few in Skara with exhibitions, concerts, examples (personal communication During fall there is a culture week



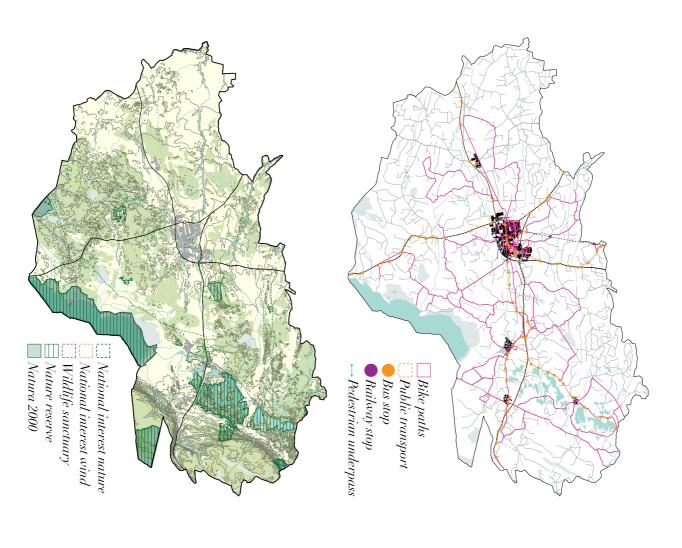












CONNECTIONS & PROTECTED AREAS

bike paths, public transport and protected nature

BICYCLE & PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The bike paths in the municipality are often along country roads and poorly connected to each other or different destinations. Though there is an ongoing project to improve the bicycle network in the municipality (Västtrafik, 2015).

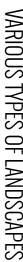
The public transport system is relatively well developed. It is easy to commute to and from work in Skara town and the buses leave for the larger cities in the surrounding

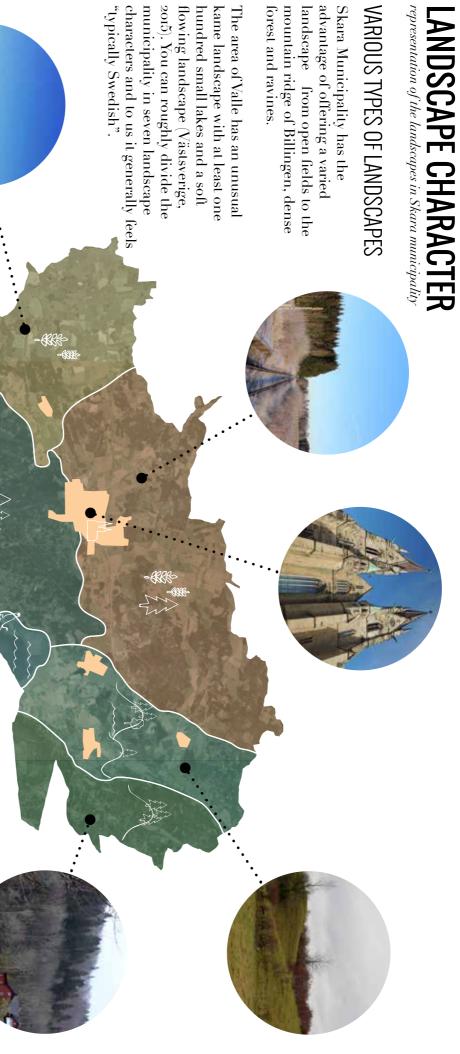
during the weekdays (Västtrafik, 2015). However the commuting is different during weekends and at summertime, when most tourists are visiting, with fewer departures. As an example the bus to Falköping, that passes by Herrtorp mill, only leaves four times a day during the summer months with the result of the inhabitants of Skara to choose the car (Västtrafik, 2015).

NATURE RESERVES & NATURA 2000

The last 50 years we have ruined nature in a faster pace than ever before. Nature reserves have an important role in protecting valuable nature and today most of the protected nature areas in Sweden are classified as nature reserves. The purpose for Natura 2000 is to stop the extinction of species and

their habitat. It covers valuable nature areas with species that need special protection from an European perspective (Naturvårdsverket, 2015b & 2015c).





EXISTING TRAILS

many walking trails in Valle but forgotten landscapes in other areas

TRAILS OF DIFFERENT CHARACTER

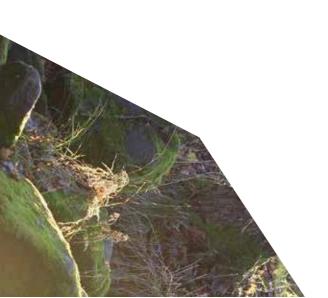
6,5 km), Tempelbacka (1,8 km) and ones for workout are connected trails in the municipality today. the municipality. exists in most of the communities in to Skara town Petersburg (2,5-The more traditional, illuminated There are a couple of walking Planteringen. The "path of health"

the track passes by Varnhem, Axvall the path of the Pilgrimage a part of For the people who want to follow

and Flianleden (15 km), south of trail (6 km) north of the city of Skara two trails, Utloppsleden and Flianleden. Moreover there is no map over be forgotten with unclear signage. the city, are two trails that seem to Orebacksleden. Uddetorp nature By lake Hornborga there are

> to trekking. In the area you move of the municipality when it comes that was made in the area (Skara business thanks to the investment Vallebygden there are a variety of and a changing landscape. In between six different nature reserves "Hike in Valle" is the great pride







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CONCLUSION OF THE ANALYSIS

increasing knowledge about nature

OUR PROJECT

Considering the analysis our project will cover hiking trails in combination with key projects, smaller structures. Together, these create a driving force that could make people spend more time in nature.

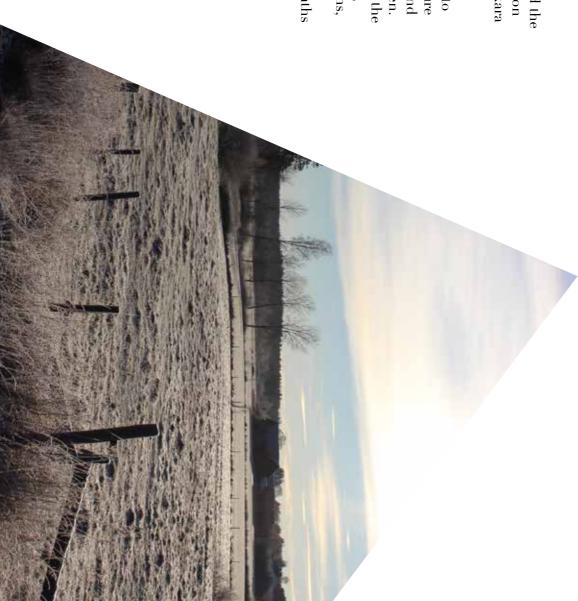
It's important and relevant from many aspects. For example it goes well together with Skaraborg's tourism strategy. Skara is also surrounded by large roads that create barriers for people when it comes to moving from the city to the countryside and nature by foot or bike. It then becomes an important focus to enhance the connection and movability over the

In Skara there are a lot of tourism destinations but today they are not well connected.

From the analysis it becomes

From the analysis it becomes important to focus on the connections between Skara and the countryside, with special focus on the areas south and north of Skara town.

These have a weak connection to the town and although the nature is typical Swedish with forest and farmland they feel a bit forgotten. There are many hiking trails in the municipality, especially in Valle, but they need better connections, both to each other and to the other communities. The bike paths also have great potential to be developed in the future.



CHARACTER

landscapes & destinations north & south of Skara town

NORTH OF SKARA - RAVINE, RAILWAY & FARMLAND

character of the area. and forest with a ravine that goes town varies a lot from farmland The landscape north of Skara in the valley. An old railway cuts from East to West with a stream forest which also contributes to the through the open fields and the

stops within the municipality -A long the railway there are two Small structures for shelter marks Tveta station and Myråsen station

everywhere. a bit neglected and not accessible crafts shop is located. Starting at the dramatic landscape. The trail is trail runs long side the ravine in Tveta station, Uddetorp nature Nearby Myråsen an old arts and

reason to get off at the stations. in another sense to give people a The railway could also be used more allention and care. feel is a bit forgotten and deserves This area of Skara municipality we





SOUTH OF SKARA - RIVER, FOREST & SMALL-SCALE FARMING

points of smaller farmlands. to Lake Hornborga the river has south of Skara municipality. Close lot of deep forest in the area with meadows and streams. There is a west it's kept natural with marshy been straightened out but further The river Flian runs through the

only connects to Flian at one point the area but unlike the name it and the turns back in to the forest. The trail Flianleden goes through Flian except for the adventuresome There is no way to move a long side

> a better option at the moment, with with solid shoes. To go canoeing is points to camp. the possibility to stop at certain

small-scale farmland create a despite the rich flora and fauna. prioritized area for the municipality beautiful landscape to move around Together the deep forest and the We feel that Flian is not a

TRAIL TYPOLOGIES

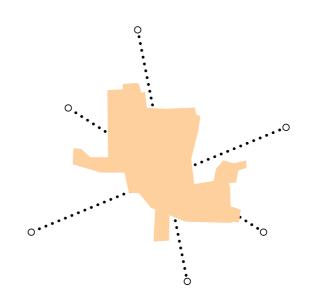
structures for hiking trails



WHICH STRUCTURE?

To create a future vision for hiking trails in Skara municipality we have studied different structures of trails. There are three different principles in Skara alone. These are also the most common in general in Sweden.

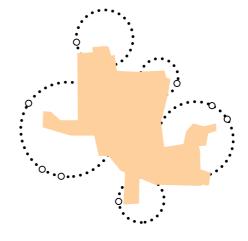
Based on this mapping it was possible to evaluate and consider pros and cons for the principles in order to create a new structure that will be the base for the project.



A TO B - PILGRIM'S PATH

The Pilgrim's path that goes past Skara is based on a walk from one point to another. With this principle there is no natural way back to the starting point without walking back the same way.

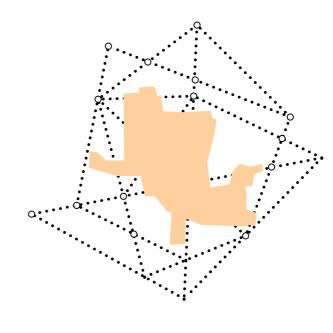
If you want to go back to the starting point this is a problem and not very likely due to the fact that it's not a new experience to walk the same path again.



LOOP - PETERSBURG

Many recreational and running trails in Sweden have the same starting and ending point, as a loop. The trail is sometimes extended with the same principle, like in Petersburg, or with different trails with different lengths.

A loop is practical if you get there by car or bike since it returns to the starting point. Although they tend to be a bit boring with always going the same loop and like "A to B" no new sights or experiences.



NETWORK - "HIKE IN VALLE"

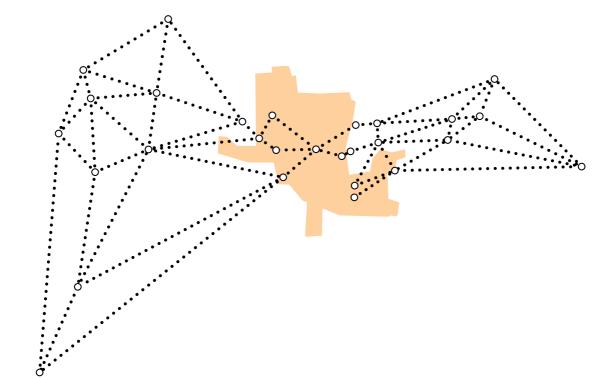
For the hiking trails in "Hike in Valle" another structure is applied. Here, the trails cross each other at certain points and it's possible to walk only a small part of the trail or to return to the starting point earlier than planned.

It's a type of network that makes the hike easy to adapt for many different target groups and over the year.

OUR CONCLUSION

In our project we decided to work and developed the network structure. This, in order to attract many different target group and to make it easy way to walk in nature due to the fact that the trails are ajustable in length.

the different trails and existing structure could be applied to Skara will to discover new trails. This and not become boring. It enables sauna, a nature lab for kids or art smaller structures such as a created by the network become municipality in order to connect local nature and hopefully a for excursion, experiencing the which can be walked many times together a hiking trail is created When these principles are added character of the landscape. important. At the different locations At the crossing points, the nodes installations in nature enhances the







- introduction
 goal & concept
 inspiration "Naturum"
 strategies
 design principles
 the large network
 the small network

- key projects- seasons- the project's phases

INTRODUCTION

four levels of structure

STRUCTURE OF THE PROJECT

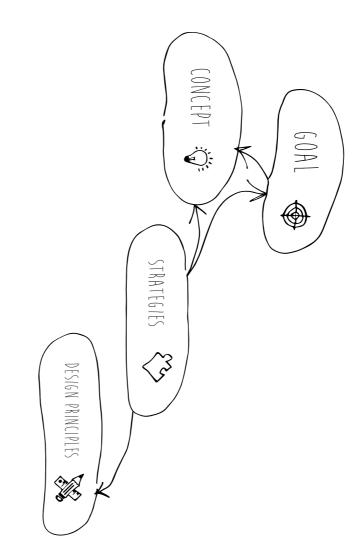
In our proposal we have been working with a system of four levels: goals, a koncept, strategies and design principles. The comprehensive goals is about reaching out to people and spreading knowledge about nature in order to connect people and the towns with the local nature.

To create a picture of what this could be as well as our view on how the proposal could work, we developed a concept based on the goals. It describes the content of the project on a conceptual way where we took inspiration from a *Naturum*, like the one by Lake Hornborga.

But instead of placing it on a specific place in the municipality we decided to spread it out over a larger area.

The strategies, which are based on the concept and reaching towards the goals, are a way to describe the project in different scales. They are three scales where the first looks at the whole municipality and the connections between different areas.

The second level zooms in on the areas just south and north of Skara town and the last level describes the key projects and their locations, either in places with special nature that are a bit forgotten or in the nodes created by the network with the existing destinations. To go with the strategies there are four design principles that sets the criteria's for

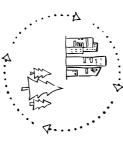


GOALS



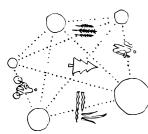
KNOWLEDGE - INCREASED VALUE OF NATURE

With an increased knowledge about nature, the environmental awareness improves, and the value of nature rises. This could be done by spreading information and enhancing the senses through experiences in nature.



CONNECTING URBAN & RURAL - STRONGER IDENTITY

With a improved value of nature, the mental connection between rural and urban areas is stronger, which enhances Skara's identity as a municipality with qualities in both city and the surrounding landscape.



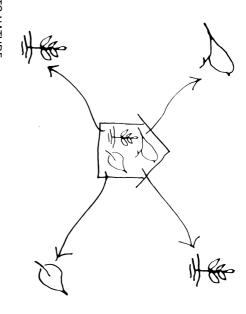
HUMAN & NATURE - IMPROVED MENTAL & PHYSICAL HEALTH

With stornger physical connections between urban and rural, the accessability to nature increases which makes it easier for people to get out in nature. Through visits to nature, the mental and physical health could be improved.

GOALS & CONCEPT

a cohesive concept for three goals

CONCEPT - A SPREAD OUT NATURUM



WHAT? THE GATE TO NATURE

"A *Naturum* is a visitor center for an area. The purpose is to create a gate to nature in general and to a specific area in particular. The visitor can, in an exiting way, be able to learn about the local nature and also get inspired to go out in nature." Here, the visitor gets knowledge about the local animals, plants, geographic and culture history of the landscape in which the *Naturum* is located. (Naturvårdsverket, 2015d).

WHY SPREAD OUT? - MORE ACCESSIBLE

By spreading the knowledge across a larger area rather than a specific location, the value of different landscape characters could be improved. A *Naturum* that is outspread is more accessible when it can reach more target groups with different interests and needs.

WHY IN SKARA? - MANY DIFFERENT LANDSCAPE CHARACTERS

There are many nature areas in Skara municipality that are forgotten or neglected. The connection between these and the existing destination points should be stronger in order to enable for more people to experience the local nature.

INSPIRATION NATURUM

description of other Naturum in Sweden



NATURUM IN SWEDEN

The map above shows different Naturum in Sweden. To the right is a few of them presented to give inspiration to the project and to create a greater understanding of what a Naturum is and can offer.



NATURUM VÄLÄDALEN

Naturum Vålådalen gives inspiration and knowledge about Vålådalen's nature reserve and the goal is to create a will to experience. The visitor can learn about mountains, animals and nature and culture.

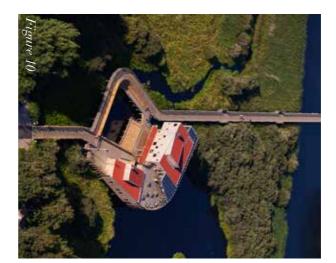
In Naturum Vålådaden there is an "experience-room" where the visitor can get a sense of how the mood changes with light and sound in the first months of the year for example (Naturum Vålådalen, 2015).



NATURUM HÖGA KUSTEN

Naturum Höga Kusten has the purpose to inspire the visitor to take part of the cultural and geographical history of the area as well as encourage discovering the area.

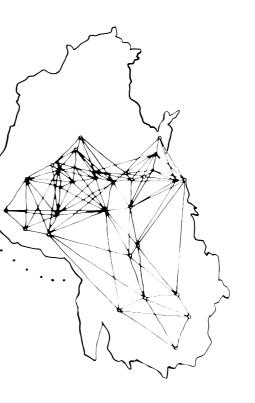
There is an exhibition about Höga kusten and information about Skuleskogens national park and nature reserve. The visitor can see movies and slide shows about the areas unique land uplift (Naturum Höga Kusten, 2015).

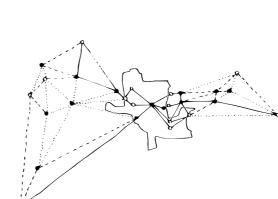


NATURUM VATTENRIKET

Naturum Vattenriket gives the visitor a taste of experiences of Kristianstad's waterarea where the environment includes deciduous forest, willow, meadows, dry land and sea.

The visitor can watch the birds in the lake from the roof terrace or the panoramic windows, take a walk in the area or a boat ride in the river (Naturum Vattenriket, 2015).





THE LARGE NETWORK

In order to reach the goals with increasing knowledge about nature, strengthen connections between rural and urban areas and improving health, it' important to look at the larger scale, the whole municipality.

The comprehensive scale is needed in order to tie the whole municipality and the different areas together with the tourism destinations. The result is that Skara's *Naturum* is outspread but helps connect the municipality together

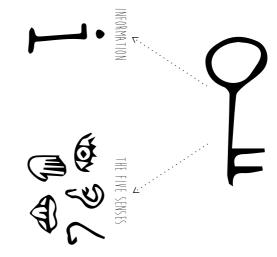
THE SMALL NETWORK

The smaller scale in zoomed in on Skara town and the areas north and south of the town. The existing destination points could be connected to the new key projects and together create a network of trails.

On this scale, principles for the physical connections between the towns and the countryside and nature as well as typologies for trails in the network.

STRATEGIES

three levels of reaching the goals



KEY PROJECTS

The smallest scale focuses on the nodes in the network with smaller structures. Key projects with different character and size are added in order to get people to go out in nature.

They are based on two parts, the first is information in order to spread knowledge about nature and the second is focusing on enhancing the five senses. Every key project contributes to the total knowledge that the outspread *Naturum* involves.

36

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

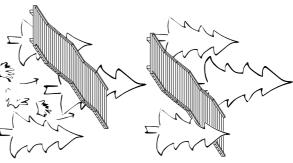
conditions for network and key projects

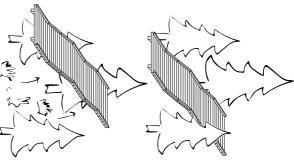


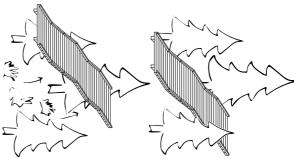












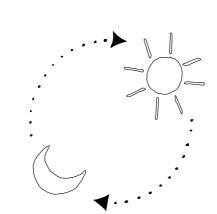












SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

others have a more challenging everyone but the network should in trails have a smoother material while character. total cover all target groups. Some All locations can not be reached by

A DELICATE APPROACH

not making too large impacts in protected. is kept unspoiled and biodiversity the area, the natural environment in a way so that they can be removed without harming the nature. By The key projects should be designed

ALL YEAR ROUND

country skung in the wintertime. of the year, or at least most of the for example be prepared for crosskey projects. The hiking trails could be able to use during all seasons The network and key project should

HROUGH OUT THE DAY

needs to be separate lighting near and light up by motion sense. There some lighting driven by solar cells Some trails in the network should during evenings or during the winter and by the key projects for activities some with have light tracks and be able to walk all times of the day, months.



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THE LARGE NETWORK

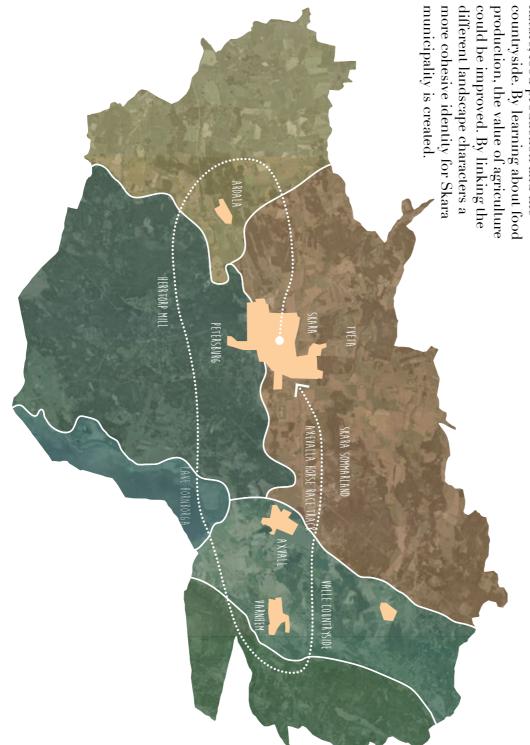
connecting rural & urban areas with different landscape characters in the municipality

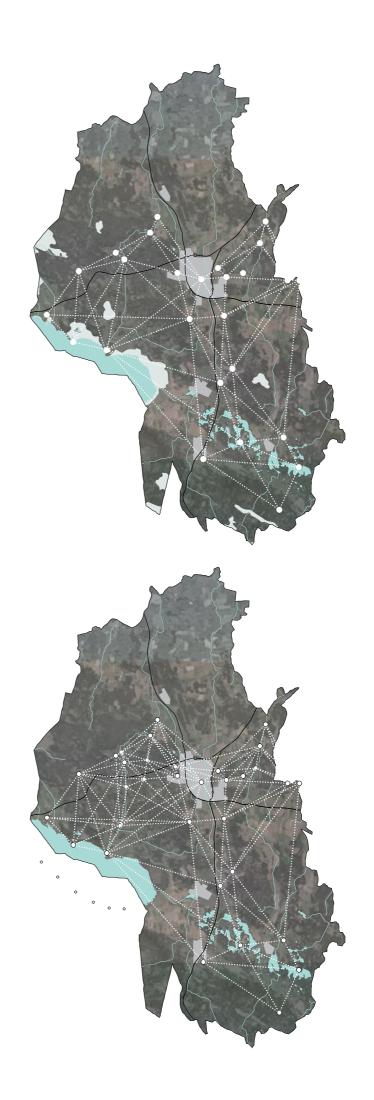
A NETWORK THAT CONNECTS

municipality and the different covers larger areas. On a comprehensive level we have tourist destinations in a network that been working on connecting the

The network connects to existing hiking trails such as "Hike in Valle" and the Pilgrim's path as well as less We believe that this could attract promoted destinations.

nature, food production and the go out in nature, which increases their knowledge about the local more cohesive identity for Skara different landscape characters a could be improved. By linking the production, the value of agriculture both inhabitants and tourists to countryside. By learning about food





NETWORK - TODAY

Existing destinations in a network covering the whole municipality. The long distances between the points create gaps in the network and therefore it's not fine enough to make the areas seem connected.

NETWORK - IN THE FUTURE

Existing destination points together with new key projects creates a smaller and finer network where the distances between the points become a lot shorter.

BIKE CONNECTIONS

no car-dependency to get around between destinations

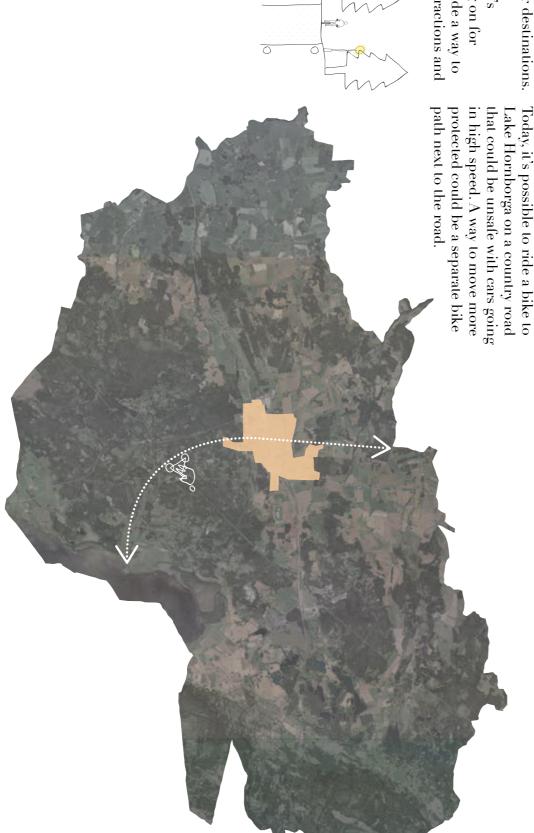
IMPORTANT LINKS TO NORTH & SOUTH AREAS

and further to the other destinations. Skara town and Lake Hornborga An important part that is missing in the large network is the link between

connect the tourism attractions and municipality is working on for bike paths should include a way to The strategy that Skara's

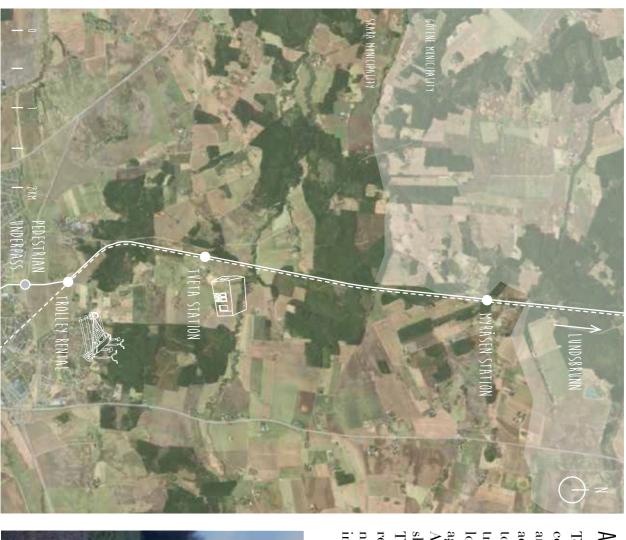
> used the bike to get between them. destinations in order to be able to

Today, it's possible to ride a bike to Lake Hornborga on a country road



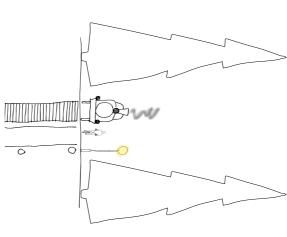
Section

RAILWAY TROLLEYS & BIKE PATH development of bike paths North of Skara town

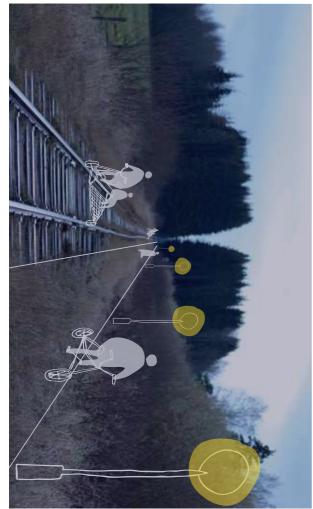


ACTIVATE THE OLD RAILWAY

in nature as well as to Lundsbrunn. nearby and make it easier to get out residential area that's planned should be located along the railway. activate the railway and use the way couple of times per week during July and August and at New Years Eve. To Today the old railway is only used a agriculture and Skaraberg. located close to Uddetorp school of trolleys for the railway. This could be to Lundsbrunn, we suggest rental of A path for biking and walking This could connect to the new



Section



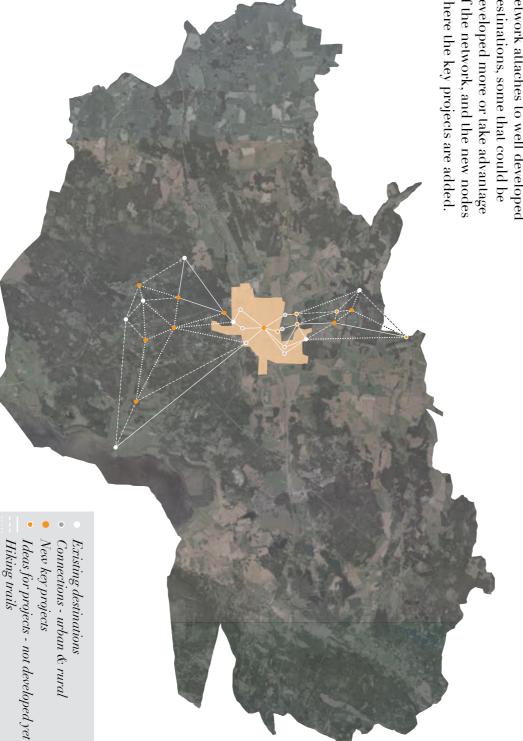
THE SMALL NETWORK

the small network as a part of the large

ENHANCED CONNECTIONS TO NORTH & SOUTH

also creates more varied paths. difficult to cross on foot and by bike move in and between the different work with networks. This, because that becomes barriers. They are town is surrounded by large roads is important due to the fact that the landscapes and destinations. The offers people the opportunity to North and South of the town. This Skara town and the areas just The network reaches between distances within the network. This to offer a wider range of walking it could attract more people and In our project we have chosen to link between urban and rural areas

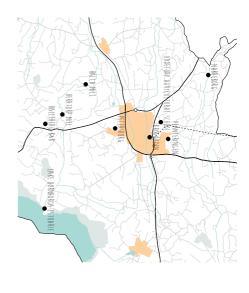
> where the key projects are added of the network, and the new nodes developed more or take advantage areas that are not linked today. The with the large to complement the destinations, some that could be network attaches to well developed The small network is connected





DESTINATIONS

existing and new nodes



EXISTING DESTINATIONS

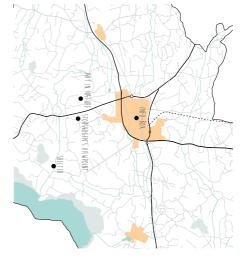
since they have public areas with SLU, Brogården deal with food and the old veterinary school near and the bird-watching tower or attraction. These could be Lake display windows for these questions. café and restaurant which become production and renewable energy. Uddetorp school of agriculture in the course that work on the ravine. The project proposals the old ruins from Nabbeborg by trails. Others are Herrtorp mill and developed and recieve a new near Skara town that could be project attaches to are structures The existing destinations that the These could be tied to our project Petersburg recrational and running Hornborga with the estuary in Flian



SITE-SPECIFIC KEY PROJECTS

Pingstavallen's location, between the two ravines makes it a special place that could be enhanced to increase the attraction of the area and the dramatic landscape. Close by is Tveta station located, which is one of the stops along the old railway. To make the place a destination for those who ride on the train or live in the area, the station could be developed with a focus on food production.

Botorp marshy meadows near the river Flian in the south has a unique nature but to enable moving in the wet area, a new structure for walking is needed.



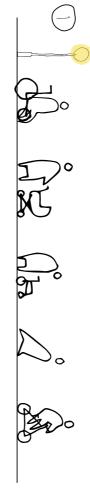
KEY PROJECTS IN NODES

In the nodes that are created by the network when the existing destination points attaches to the previous locations, new smaller structures could be places. They don't require a specific location but instead become activities in the network. They could be structures to camp in, something that enhances nature or enables new experiences and ways to look at nature.

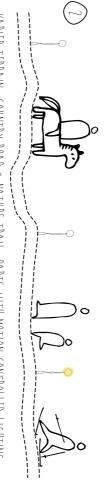
TRAILS FOR EVERYONE

everybody can move around The hiking trails in the network southern and northen of Skara has according to the "network principle" are more challenging. However, accessible for everyone, while some varied character. Some trails are

are more smooth and steady further and you never meet a dead end, challenging parts, while the paths having to see the same things twice you can allways go around without The inner network exists of more



FLAT TERRAIN WITH SOLID GROUND: UNPAVED ROAD, LIGHTED TRACK



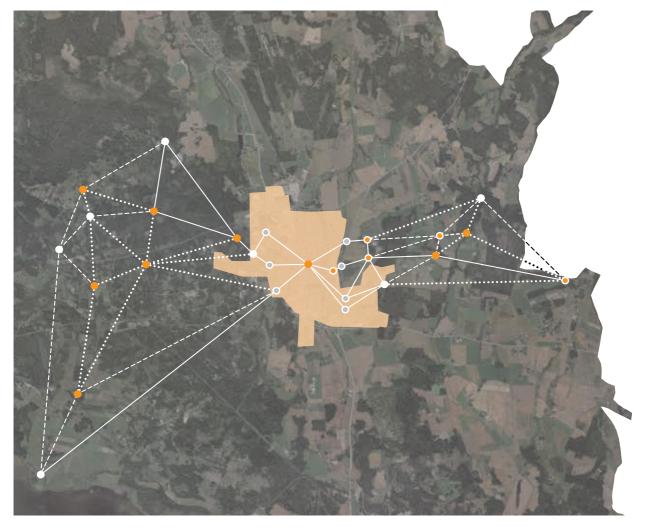
VARIED TERRAIN: COUNTRY ROAD & NATURE TRAIL, PARTS WITH MOTION CONTROLLED LIGHTING





TYPOLOGY TRAILS

three tupologies that the different segments are designed according to



URBAN & RURAL CONNECTIONS physical connections from Skara town

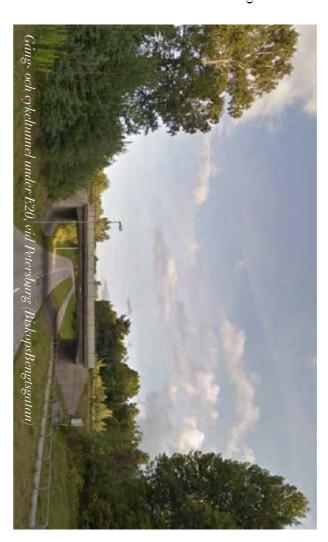
VIADUCTS & UNDERPASSES

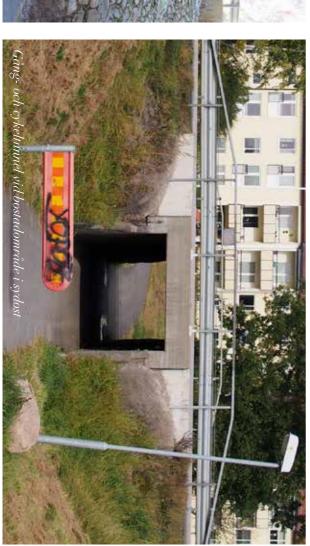
often by thought of as unsafe due to way to go by bike or by walking to Skara town is surrounded by inadequate lighting. is through underpasses. These can the areas in the edges of the town important larger roads and the only

with the underpasses. By improving from the town it's important to work To create more attractive links to and

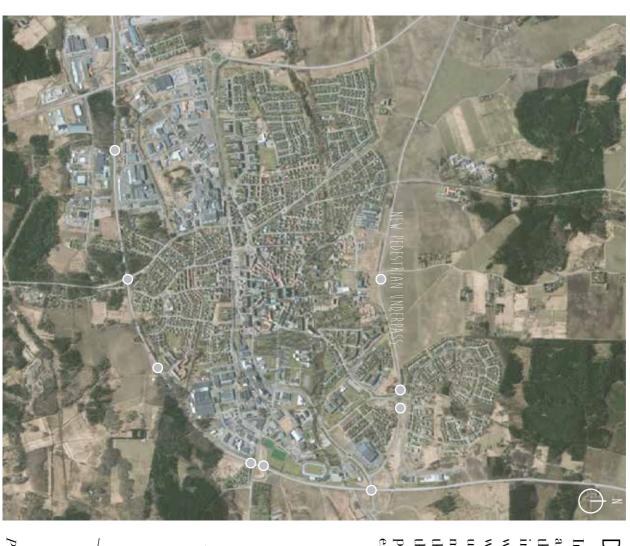
> pass under the roads. gates rather than a neccessary evil to them they can be percieved as nice

existing underpasses, who all would need an update. Below pictures show some of the



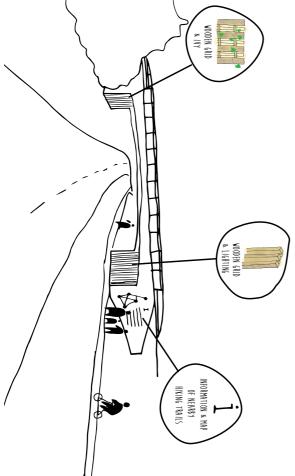






DESIGN PRINCIPLES

In the proposal below we describe a principle on how to work with the design of the underpasses. By involving a softer material such as wood as well as lighting in a creative way together with greenery the underpass feels nicer and safer. To more improve the safety around them it's important to also light up the area in closest connection. This principle could be applied on all existing underpasses.



Principle design underpass, Biskops Bengtsgatan

SIGNAGE

a coherent signage as guidance and information boards



DESIGN PRINCIPLE

To make the trails easy to follow and create a gathered impression a coherent signage is proposed. The materials pine and Corten steel interact well with the natural

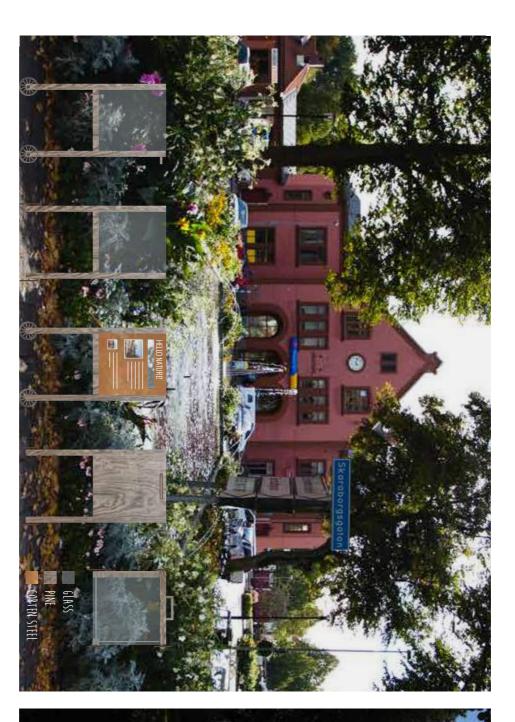
expressions and the signs are thus subtle additions. Larger boards in the beginning of the trail let you know more about the trail - length typology and destinations that can

be reached along the way. The text is complemented with a colour coded map in the trail's specific colour. Along the paths there are smaller guiding signs and cubes you could

sit on. Along the way larger and smaller information boards appear with picture and text that lets you know more about the cultural and natural landscape, flora and fauna.

INFOBOX

en utställningsbox för att öka medvetenheten om naturen





HELLO NATURE!

To increase the awareness about nature and the network that is created on the countryside, an info box that is placed in Skara town is proposed. The info box stand on

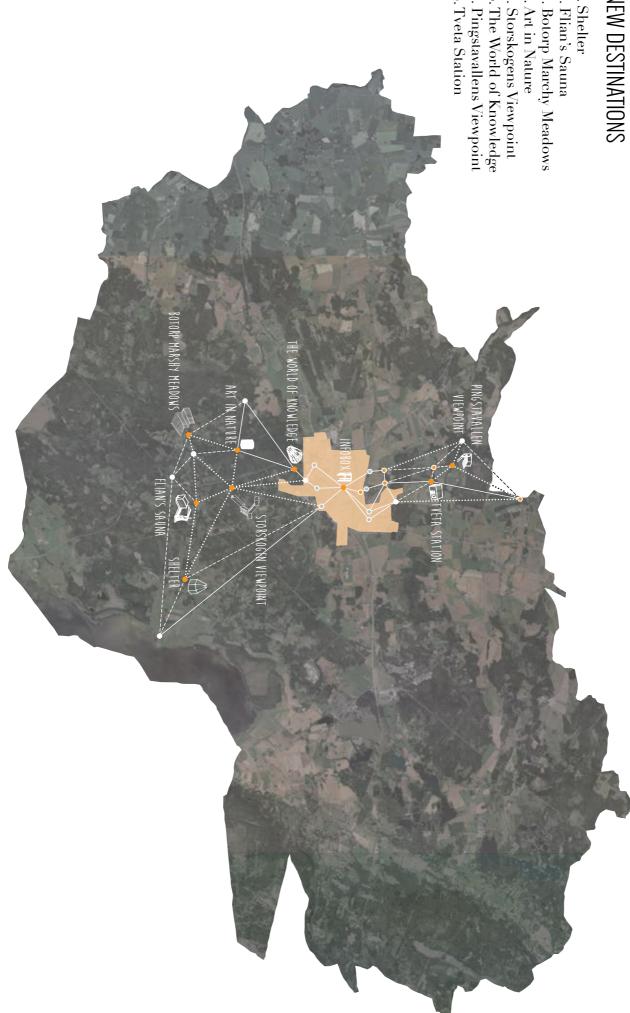
wheels and is thereby movable and could be moved around in the town, something the tourist office could be responsible for. The box could be locked with a padlock attached

to the handle to prevent unwanted movement. The info box interacts with the signage through chose of material. The top and two of the sides are in glass. School classes

could be have exhibitions about animals, nature and food production by putting items in it. It's a flexible spreader of knowledge that helps connecting urban and rural.

KEY PROJECTS new destinations in the smaller network





SHELTER



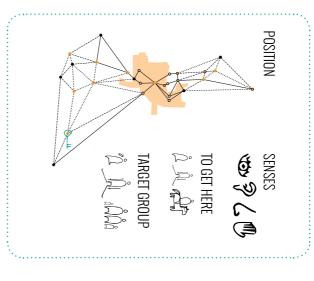
INSPIRATION the network.

A PROTECTED BREAK

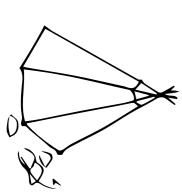
overnight. understanding of nature as a sleep A grilled hot dog over an open fire. Few things give us as good moss. The rain spat on the ceiling. It cracks and breaks in the forest. The scent of pine needles and wet

and protects towards both weather and wind. The benches are wide a break and possible overnight stay set up. It gives the hiker a space for and refer to where a tent could be The shelter is placed close to a trail

enough to sleep on.

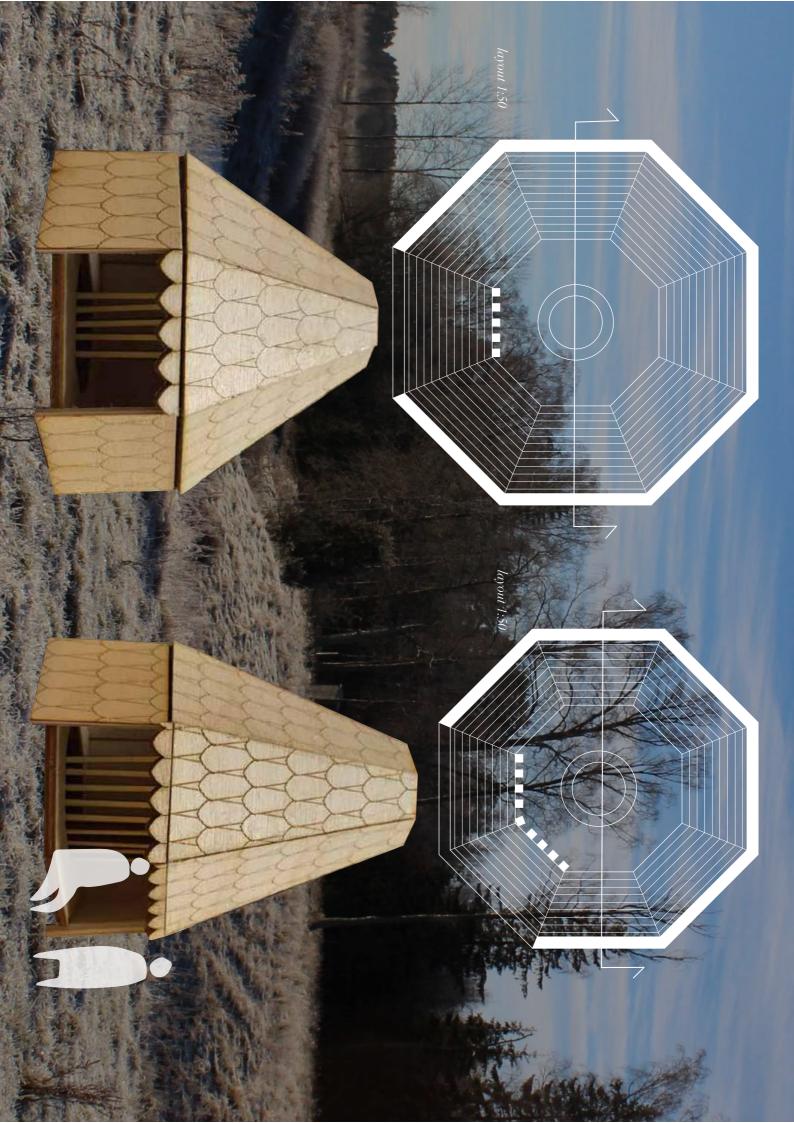


could be placed in different parts of The shelter exist in two sizes and



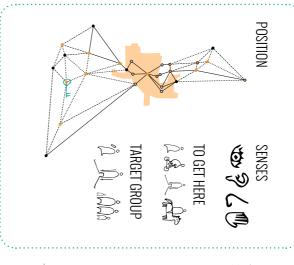


Cot





FLIAN'S SAUNA



BECOME ONE WITH NATURE

sometimes even through some dense countryside. The narrow nature path as the river winds through the goes past the fields and meadows, forest but quickly out again. The walk along the Flian swings

of one of the beavers that live here. can see how the river flows from the water and along the walk you If you are lucky, you can catch sight Hornborgasjön, sometimes rapidly. Tree branches hanging down in

INSPIRATION

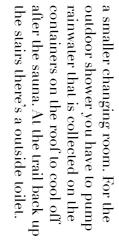
up to the eating space to at last come steps, the first out in the water, then get into the heat takes place in three area and sleeping space. The road to river. Their lodges exist of a eating A lot of beavers live along the Flian to the sleeping space.

to get into the heat of the sauna. to the water on the bridge, then in to In the sauna you first have to get out the changing room to finally be able



change sides of the river. On the down by the water's edge. the bridge, you can glimpse a sauna south side, just a few meters from Flian make the trail a turn and At the old wooden bridge across

two buildings. To the left there's field on the other side between the blends into the landscape. After Covered in greyed pine wood it bridge you can see across to the the steps down the stairs to the

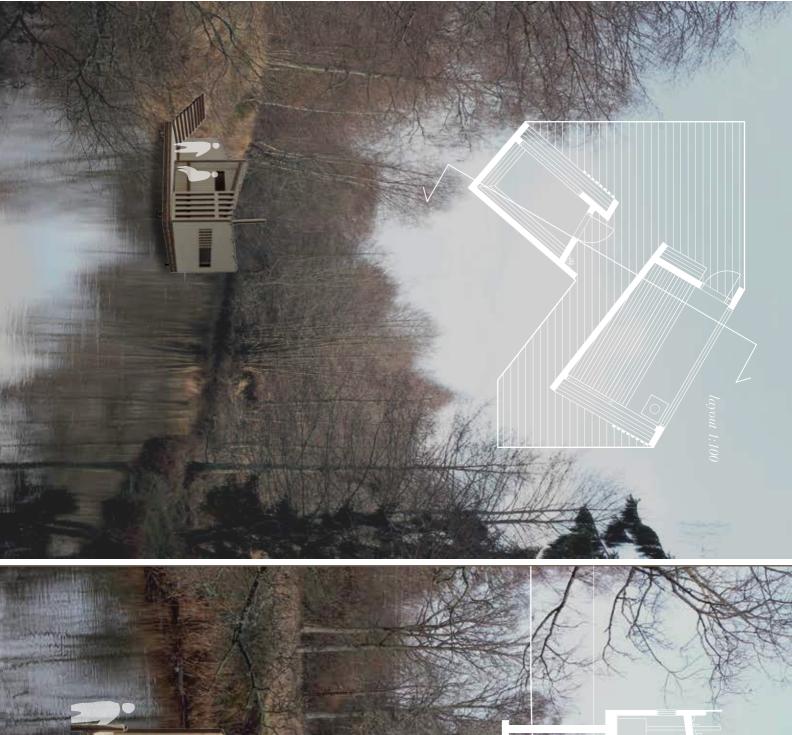


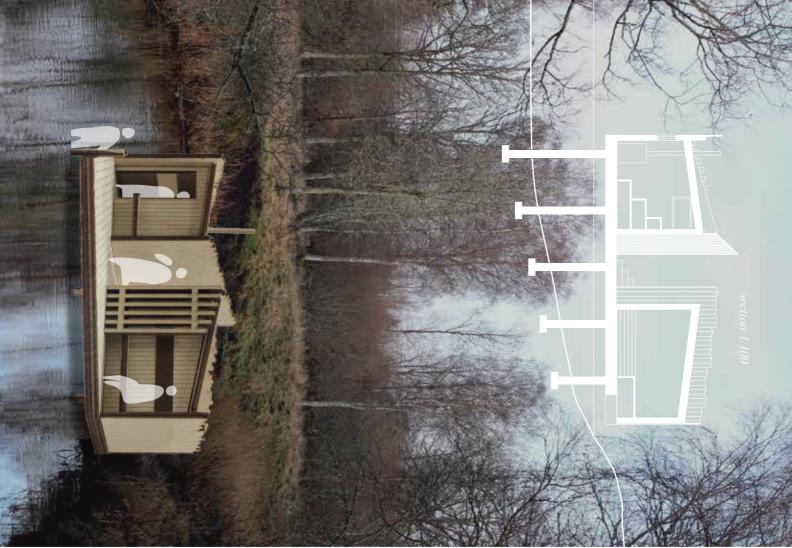
down to take a dip in the river. the water or take the small ladder of the landscape and the rapid river niches of the building and take part At the tip of the bridge, one can fee On the bridge you can sit in the

> makes everything else disappear. benches on a rainy autumn day by the heat. To sit on the wooden sauna you're ımmıdealely struck the wooden fire. If you get in to the the sauna you can see smoke from from the chimney on the roof of

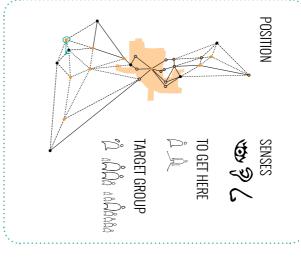
change with the seasons of the year. expressions of the fields and forests of the window you can see how the Through the wooden grid in front

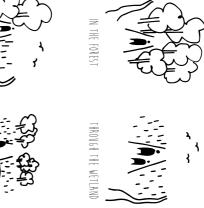


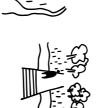




BOTORP MARSHY MEADOWS











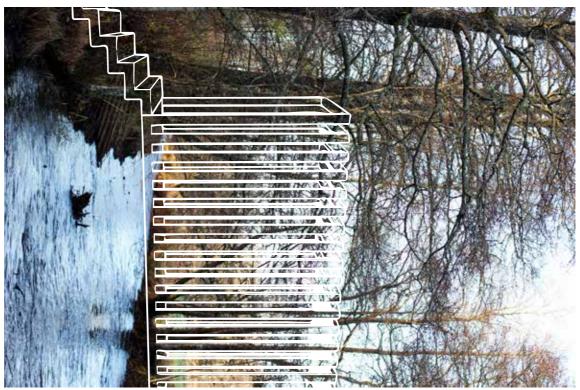
ON WOODEN BRIDGES THROUGH THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

over the landscape, watching people and holts. The area is protected by cultural history and the small scale on wooden bridges to get closer walking in a slow pace along the because of its marshy meadows and the European network Natura 2000 birdlife. Botorp is influenced by the to the wetland and the flourishing river of Flian. They are walking A bird is flying high up in the sky farming land with fields, stonewalls

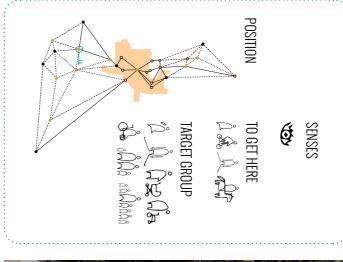
overhanging places to rest the natural grazing land with a flora rich in species. Through a variety to grasp the landscape. The bridges experience of nature is strengthen in the trails with stairs, boxes and landscapes, forest, wetland and lead people through the different and gives the visitors the possibility







ART IN NATURE





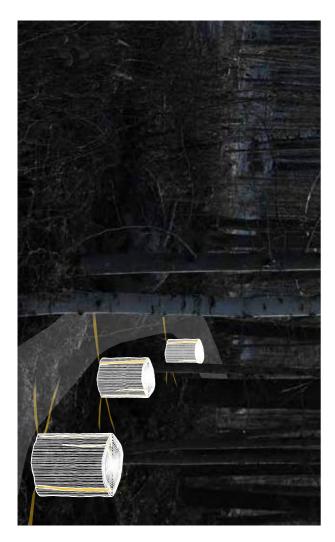
KNOWLEDGE THROUGH ART

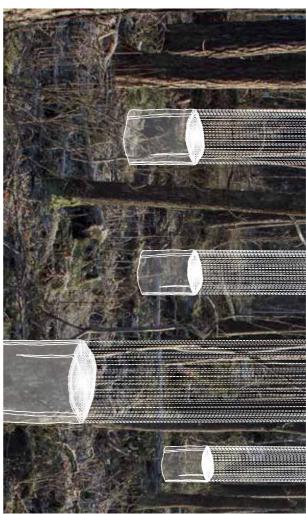
The flowers are starting to bloom and it is time for Skara Art Week. Even though the art is the nature and city all year around there is something extra tonight.

I wonder if there are any new art works this year? The idea is fun, to

let art highlight nature. "The tree cemetery" really is an eye opener for the impact of cutovers in our landscape. Well, well time to pack the picnic and go!

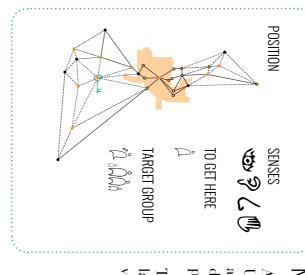








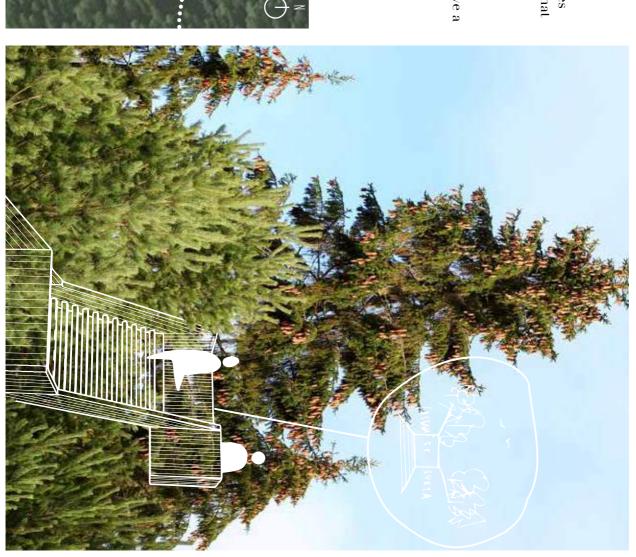
STORSKOGEN VIEW POINT



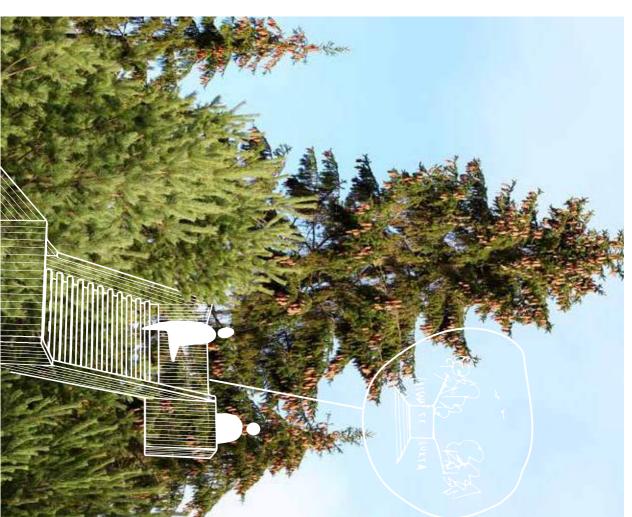
NEW PERSPECTIVES

A stair is wiggling around a tree.
Up through branches and needles
all the way up to the treetops. What
does nature look like from new
perspectives?

variety of views. landings on different levels to give a The wooden stairs has three







THE WORLD OF KNOWLEDGE





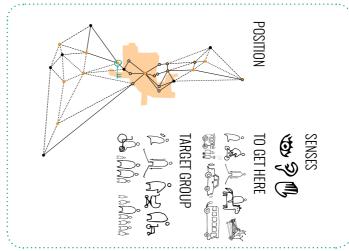




KNOWLEDGE THROUGH PLAY

take the bus home. are happy. If they get tired we can southern parts, maybe bring some world of knowledge so the children outdoors. A walk to the forest in the it is time to seize the day and be It is a nice autumn day in Skara and picnic so. And, of course go to the

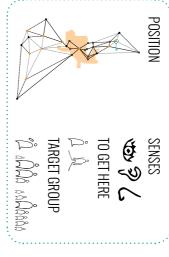
grown-ups have fun. most children in the area, even we I really like that it is something for



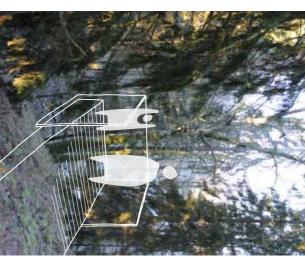
might learn something new, maybe not know about nature. Today we It is interesting how much we do about the birds or the breeze.

growing ever since. association started this world of knowledge and fun, and it has been We are lucky that the parent

PINGSTAVALLEN VIEW POINT









NEW VIEW POINTS

warm and cozy. "Next stop Tveta Station!" crisp outside but in indoors it is landscape passes by. It is cold and Outside the train window the

Pingstavallen and Nabbeborg. It is here along Märskabäckens gullies to Uddetorp nature trails starts from

also possible to take more accessible medieval fortress. place for what is believed to be a edge there is a view point. Further where two gullies meet and at the rout for visitors with baby strollers. on is the site Nabbeborg, a mythical farm shop? Pingstavallen is a plateau Maybe someone buys fika from the



TVETA STATION

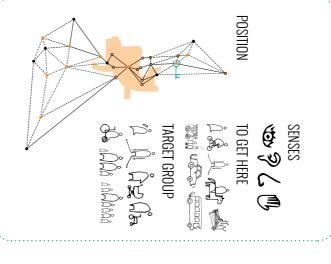




Tveta station there In the area around



surrounding landscape and history. was the inspiration for the new are a lot of farms with traditional destination at Tveta to reflect the barns. The structure of the barn



A FUTURE KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR FARMING

we do instead? The woman at the and tells us to go to Tveta Station. tourist information looks happy to Skara Sommarland. What can bus or even the car to the station" the weather. But you can take the take the railway trolleys because of "Unfortunately it might be hard to It is raining. Our plan was to go

> ourselves we decided to go. exhibitions and that we can try After she had told us about the

experience how to be a farmer and The station is full of kids who has changed. they can learn how the larmers role





PHASE 1

PHASE 2

PHASE 3

the cabin will be on the site. "Skara more things happen people desire that are engaged and used more. People out by Draisine and draisines rented small scale farming. living in the area Uddetorp School in the north are is farming" starts a being established Meanwhile the trails Association at

cabin. Skiing and

Friluftsfrämjandet build a small, there is a need for a heated

and more used

When Uddetorp nature path has been developed

starting-point for

basic house by Tveta Station, the

the destination.

plants a fee is paid to

To buy seeds and

the organization.

is growing they start cabin. Skiing- and The farming is up harvest markets When the farming therefore build cheap. station and can doors on a recycling who collaborates with together with local "Skara is farming" Frilustsfrämjandet, house is built by the popular and a green larmers. lind old windows and

The draisine rent out is now known as a popular activity for families during the summer months. The Draisine Association has an interest in developing Tveta Station as a strong, attractive destination. At the same time more people show interest in farming.

The groups meet and start up a "try out"-area where people can experience what it is like to live as a farmer, how to cultivate and how old steam trains work. Since the association is non-profit they sell fika from time to time to earn some extra money.

PHASE 5

Next phase of the project take place in year 2030. The Draissine Association, Skiing- and friluftsfrämjandet have collected money from the business but also donations. Finally they can build a "real" house for the "try out"-area since there is a need for indoor activities in the municipality. Together with the Railway museum they organise a historical part about the railway and farming as well as an interactive part where you can smell, feel and listen to farming to get a better understanding for the occupation.

Tveta Station has become a destination as well as a meeting point for the trekking in the northern parts of Skara. The future looks bright and new plans are starting to flourish. Maybe the café has to be bigger? Or maybe add an extra floor to the try outarea?

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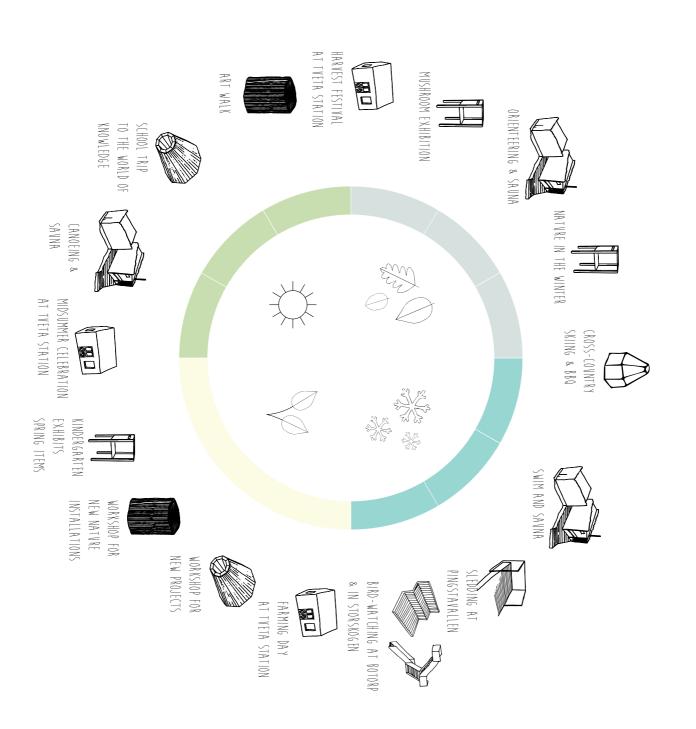
SEASONS

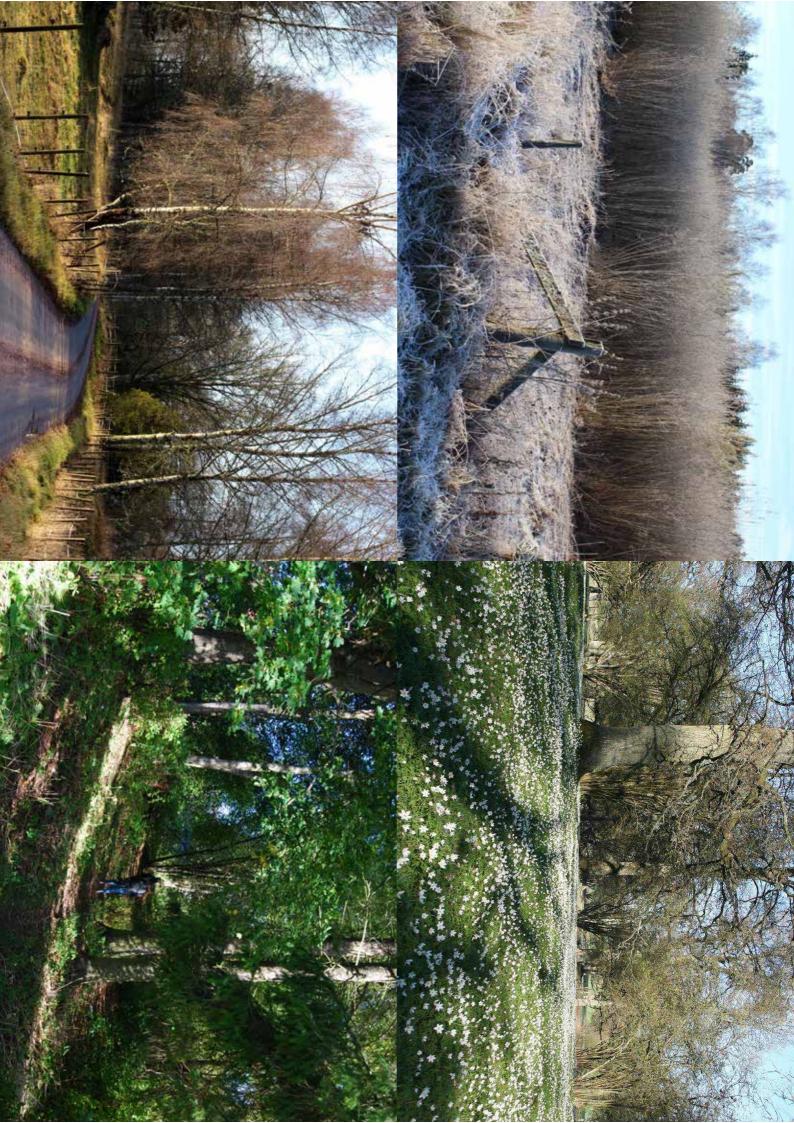
flexibilitet hos nyckelprojektetn

ACTIVITIES THROUGOUT THE YEAR

Since the weather is better during the summer months that's where most of the activities are. Though we find it important to add projects that work all year round no matter what the weather is like.

Many of the key projects can work differently depending on the season. We think that by observing the different seasons and starting up events the key projects can make children understand more about nature. Schools and kindergartens can use the key projects for school trips.





PROJECT PHASES

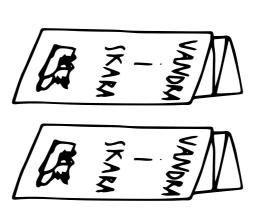
realization of the project in seven stages, from year 2016-2030

PROJECT REALIZATION

The project "Naturally!" could be realized as a couple of different projects with a variety of stakeholders since it easily can be divided to smaller pieces. Some of the key projects can be developed throughout a couple years, such as Tveta Station and Botorps mader.

This project needs interested and committed people, organisations and companies. We see the non-profit sector and associations as strong groups with a lot of engagement and will

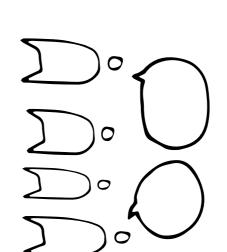
The key projects can work as meeting points and create a feeling of pride and belonging. With help from Hushållningssälskapet we believe that the trails can be realized, as a suggestion in connection to when the key projects are being built.



1 - HIKING MAP

The project can start today, in January 2016, when the proposal is handed over to the planning office at Skara municipality. Since we have mapped out existing trails and destinations there is now a coherent source of information, something that was missing earlier.

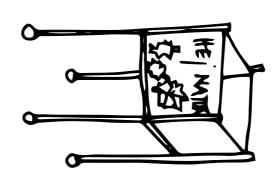
We propose that the first step is to send a map of the existing trails to the inhabitants of the municipality as a way to inspire people to go out and experience nature.



2 - WORKSHOP WITH ACTORS

It is important to early investigate who the stakeholders for the project are. As an example the municipality can buy a couple of draisines to start with and later on let a private entrepreneur to run the hiring.

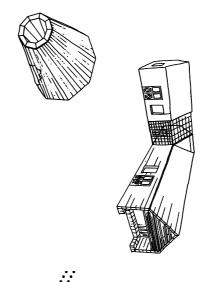
As a proposal Hushållningssällskapet moved around in the city. and the tourist information can administrate one or several morkshops to connect interested as a school project for chiacters who can realize the project.



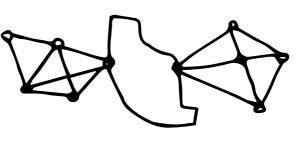
3 - INFO-BOX

To inspire and help the inhabitants of Skara and tourists to open their eyes about the local nature it is important that there are elements in the city. As an example it could be the information box that we propose It can easily be assembled and moved around in the city.

In the beginning it can work as a school project for children of different ages. Children are extremely creative and good at promoting school projects for friends and family.







4 - KEY PROJECTS

Step four covers a large part of the process and will probably take several years. Maybe "The world of Knowledge" is the first project, since it is connected to the earlier mentioned school project, probably initiated by the school or a commited group of parents that wants to develop nature experiences for their children. The world of knowledge, like Tveta Station, can begin as a smaller project and grow throughout the years.

5 - HIKING TRAILS

At the same time as the key projects are developed the trails between them are built and connect the projects with existing destinations.

The trails can be developed and taken care of by the municipality. To make them as accessible as possible and at the same time be careful towards nature they have different character in terms of material, lightening and width.

6 - THE SMALL NETWORK

A network is created gradually, north and south of the city of Skara, with the development of the key projects and the connections. The different key projects can work as domino effect since new nodes are created and the wish for another project arises.

7 - THE LARGE NETWORK

orth When the small network is

h developed it can be further advanced

ts to connect other walking tracks and

t destinations within the municipality.

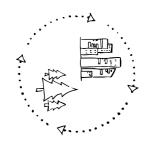
Year 2030 a network that connects the different tourist destinations and communities has been created. The inhabitants and tourists can easily move around in the municipality and discover the nature. The identity of Skara is strengthened as a municipality where qualities from city and countryside are well connected.



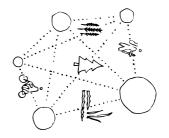




KNOWLEDGE increase the value of nature



PEOPLE & NATURE increase mental & physical health



RURAL & URBAN CONNECTIONS strengthen the identity of Skara

WHY IS THE PROJECT IMPORTANT?

According to the author of the book Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change (Calthorpe, P, 2011) urbanization is the solution to the climate problems since dense cities does not require car dependency. Though, the risk with urbanization is that green areas disappear on behalf of residential areas and today there is a trend to compensate the lack of green space by creating parks on rooftops. It is problematic since

it makes accessibility to greenery a question of class—everybody cannot afford to live in buildings that offer rooftop gardens.

Moreover the planned green in the cities lack the characters that define good green spaces according to Grahn & Skärbäck (2015) in the magazine Plan; wilderness, sereneness and pleasance.

Additionally city parks are often

surrounded by infrastructure and it is hard to get the quiet and tranquillity that nature offers, something wee need in our stressed out societies.

To decrease our levels of stress it is important to find a sustainable way of living and nature is important for our mental as well as physical health. Unfortunately the trend today in urban planning is to densify our

communities with the argument that it is the future of cities. It is problematic since green areas disappear and people have to be in the stressful concrete jungles that contribute to bad public health.

Our goal with the project is to join a future sustainable climate with an increased public health. Research shows that the more time people spend in nature and increase their knowledge about it the more they care and take responsibility to maintain its qualities how can we take care of the planet if we do not know it?

We think that local tourism is important for a sustainable development. Going to Thailand during Christmas and to Mallorca at the summer holidays is not environmentally sustainable. To

challenge these tourist destinations it is important to offer interesting places in our own country, close to where we live. Though it is obviously hard for walking trails in the municipality of Skara to challenge white beaches in Khao Lak, but we see this project as an attempt to make people open their eyes and discover their local surroundings. Local tourism is a sustainable approach to the future.

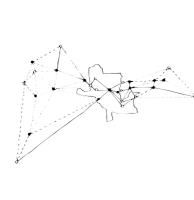
To increase the value of nature and make it easier for people to move between urban and rural areas the project works with the connections

underneath the surrounding roads around the city of Skara. By strengthening the connections and promote the countryside we believe that the identity of Skara will be strengthened. Skara municipality can become a place on the map regarding more than only Skara Sommarland and Lake Hornborga. There are a lot of places to discover and be proud of.

The concept with a spread out Naturum made it easier to make the project more concrete—to start from something that already exist, a well functioning structure to build upon.

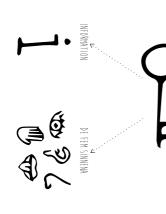
The thought behind the concept is to not focus all knowledge on one place but rather let nature speak for itself

The key projects are examples of activities and destinations that could be along the way and one of the most important parts of the project are the actors. It is important to find stakeholders that are interested in fulfilling the project. Also non-profit organizations have a great force if they are given space to flourish and when driving spirits have started up one project other people will find it easier to follow in their footsteps.



THE SMALL NETWORK enhance connections to north & south

THE LARGE NETWORK connect the municipality



KEY PROJECTS create destinations in the nodes





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Figure 2. Järnväg (2004). *Skara-Lundsbrunn*. Hämtad 2015-12-15, från http://www.jarnvag.net/banguide/skara-lundsbrunn

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