

# European Garden Award 2014

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## Europäischer Gartenpreis 2014

On Friday, 5th September 2014 the European Garden Awards by EGHN and the [Schloss Dyck Foundation](#) with support by [Lorenz von Ehren Nursery](#) were awarded for the fifth time. Here are winners and finalists of the European Garden Award 2014 in four categories:

- [Best Development of a Historic Park or Garden](#)
- [Most Innovative Contemporary Concept or Design of a Park or Garden](#)
- [Special Award of the Schloss Dyck Foundation](#)
- [Large Scale Green Concepts \(new in 2014\)](#)

### CATEGORY 4:

#### **LARGE SCALE GREEN CONCEPTS WINNER: NATIONAL URBAN PARKS (FINLAND)**



Green zones, wedges or corridors are far from new invention. But there are signs of a comeback of green zones and networks in urban planning, this time under the auspices of multi-functionality and climate change adaptation.



In Finland, the need for more intensified land use and urban infill puts great pressure on valuable urban environments like green areas and historical quarters and can lead to short-sighted, scattered development and to loss of sense of a place.

One policy to avoid this is very successful – the National Urban Park (NUP). The initiative to be accepted as a NUP and the relevant charter come bottom-up from the city government. The Ministry of the Environment grants the charter but has also a consultative role in the application and further development processes of the NUP.

The NUP zone must fulfil the following criteria and must fit into the operative city plans: diverse environments, including urban biodiversity, cultural historical structures, scenic parks and green areas, the inclusion of the central urban core area, undisturbed and extensive green and recreation areas and interconnections with a possibility to walk from one district to another, and ecology and continuity with corridors and links to natural, rural and forest areas outside the city centre.

The National Urban Park status does not exclude development, from which may follow land use conflicts. Any major change in regard to the central values of National Urban Parks must be negotiated between the city representatives and the Ministry of the Environment. The network has so far six NUPs with different cultural and natural landscapes, townscapes, historical characteristics, and biodiversity as well as social, recreational and other special values.

The network of National Urban Parks provides the most valuable Finnish urban environments. A NUP also represents image value to the cities, which indeed is one of the key motives for their foundation. At the same time, NUPs are everyday outdoor living rooms for citizens and visitors.