

EXPLORE MAUNULA

Maunula is a fine place to live - peaceful, friendly and with easy access to outdoors. The supply for cultural activities is increasing, when the new Maunula House will be finished next year. New residents are already moving in and new shops will open to new locations, when plans unfold.

In this special edition "Explore Maunula" we offer you an insight on what goes on in Maunula. Andrei, Irina, Francis, Tasneem and Yifan Lin all have a story to tell about Maunula. You will be pleasantly surprised what you can find in Maunula, when you go on a walk. For this purpose the map of Urban Walk (Kotikaupunkipolku) is provided. The numbers in brackets refer to the accompanying map.

Maunula in English is a new webpage, with local information. <http://maunula.net/maunula-in-english>

And who will help you to use websites? You can go to the Maunula library, Saunabaari or Mediapaja to get help and access the to the internet. All these are introduced as well.



Cosy Café Wanha Maunula is near Saunabaari, the landmark of Maunula (11). Picture Sauli Heikkilä, Pieni Huone Oy.

Saunabaari

Asukastalo Saunabaari (11) is a local place to carry out social activities and different hobbies for the residents of Maunula. Saunabaari is like a living room where you can meet other neighbours, read newspapers, play billiard and enjoy cheap refreshments from the cafe. At Saunabaari you can find internet-capable computers, Wi-Fi and a printer for everyone to use for free. Several groups of different activities, such as billiard, digital photography and knitting, gather here on a weekly basis.

Some of the groups in Saunabaari are open to everyone, but others may require previous experience or a sign up process. Additionally, some of the groups require you to bring your own materials and others may have a small material fee. However, the cafe is always open to everybody and you are very welcome to come and check it out. Saunabaari offers services in Finnish and English, but some activities and groups may not be available in English, depending on the organizer.

You can reach Saunabaari's staff via email: asukastalo.saunabaari@hel.fi and on Facebook: <https://fi-fi.facebook.com/saunabaari>. Saunabaari is run by the Social Services and Health Care Department of Helsinki.

ACTIVITIES FOR IMMIGRANTS / RED CROSS

Red Cross offers a language club at Saunabaari on Monday evenings. Language club gives you an opportunity to practice your Finnish skills as well as to get to know new people. This local language club is a great addition to any formal courses you might be attending. The club will continue after the summer break. For more information please contact Leila Kinnari, kinnarileila@gmail.com

Mediapaja

At the street level you can find Mediapaja where you may use the computer, arrange small meetings, look for information, etc. Volunteer workers assist you in various issues concerning every-

day life in Maunula. You may even ask for advice on computer skills and on how to use mobile devices. The operation is run by the active neighbourhood association Maunula Society (Maunula-Seura).

Language Café at Maunula Library

For several years now there has been a discussion group even at Maunula Library. Here people can practice their speaking skills in Finnish and meet new friends.

The group is called Language Café and it meets every Wednesday at 5 pm. Anyone who wants to improve his or her Finnish is welcome. There is no need to sign up.

At the Language Café meetings the participants chat informally in a relaxed atmosphere with a cup of coffee or tea. Language Café is not a language course, nor a formal class. To participate you don't need to speak Finnish fluently, but we hope that you speak some Finnish.

Every meeting has a special theme for discussion,

usually a topical subject. Discussion is led by a member of the library staff or some other person. Hille Rantala, a former teacher, has been an active participant and an adviser in the group for a couple of years already. Hille's interesting and useful discussion themes have made the informal events very useful, too. My role as the host of the discussion is to give some information about our society and culture, and encourage people to talk and use Finnish in their daily lives. And it is nice for me, too, to meet new people from all over the world. I always learn something interesting every time we meet", says Hille.



Language Café at Maunula Library. Hille Rantala with participants from Estonia, Mosambique, Ukraine, Morocco and Russia. Picture Anne Dickert

Urban Walk

Experience Maunula

In Maunula we are currently exposed to a large construction project especially in the town centre (1). Many new buildings will shortly be complete and ready to attract new residents. There is now new housing available for larger families as well, e.g. in the single-house area near Tuusula highway. The northern part of town is called Pirkkola (6,7) and it will stay untouched due to restrictions to build anything new. The southern part of town is known as the "Old Maunula from the 1950s" and is also protected by city plans.

Most residents, both old and new, will welcome the new community centre Maunula House (1) that will be built beside the S-market grocery store. The doors will open in the autumn of 2016.

If you could go back in time to the early 1920s, you would see a small village with 18 wooden houses, some horse carriages and a mud road - but to experience local history further, join us for a journey exploring Maunula by foot!

Maunula started to grow after the Second World War when there was a huge shortage of decent housing and people were flooding to Helsinki. The new area had space and greenery, services nearby, and new apartments that were equipped with modern conveniences (water pipes, in-house toilets, electricity to light the rooms, etc.). The "Old Maunula" was planned by the best architects of the 1950s and formed an ideal suburb where people moved with great pleasure. The population of Maunula peaked by 1964, reaching 13,000. By 2015, the population has dropped to 7,100. We are expecting a slight population increase in the near future with all the new building taking place.

NEW MAUNULA

- Hospital and other municipal buildings, together with sheltered housing for senior citizens, were built between 1960-90 and are all situated at the edge of Suursuo (2,3). These are conveniently situated so that the municipal services are easy to find. You can use English to communicate with civil servants.

- On your way towards Pirkkola you will walk on Lampuotilantie (5) where 12 new single-family houses were built at beginning of the 2000s. They represent more recent architecture.

PIRKKOLA

- Pirkkola single-house area (6) was formed by cutting down forest and renting out small plots for post-war residents. 150 of these single-family houses were donated by Swedish people to help Finland recover from the war. The houses were partially mass-manufactured and could be completed with own labour and with the help of neighbours. Each garden was similar; the garden plan included apple trees, a small garden plot and flowerbeds. Later on similar single-houses were built to Viidenrajan tie for war veterans. World-famous architect Alvar Aalto designed house number 41 on Petaksentie.

- The route passes by a beautiful Art Nouveau style wooden building (7) which dates back to 1910. It is now used by the Steiner pedagogical kindergarten Pikku Marjatta.

- The Finnish population are predominantly Lutherans, and in Maunula we have both a church and an urn cemetery (8). The cemetery has a nice garden for a quiet retreat and is open for the public daily. The church (22) was completed in 1980. The services held in Maunula church can be viewed online and as recordings on the web.

OLD MAUNULA

- Walking back towards Maunula, you may observe the red-brick houses on both sides of Metsäpurontie (9). These are all owned by the City of Helsinki and rented to residents according to their needs. The housing complex represents the high-quality municipal building of the 1950s. The unified and thoroughly renovated entity consists of 12 residential buildings and a park. In addition, there is a kindergarten as well as a former sauna and laundry building. World-famous architects Viljo Revell and Keijo Petäjä directed the planning and construction work between 1949-53. As a whole, more than half of the inhabitants in Maunula live in affordable rental apartments.

- Sauna House, or as we Finns say, "Saunabaari", is a local landmark (11). The public sauna was used by more than 500 people daily. There was also a cafe which served as a popular meeting place. The activity centre offers various activities. Mediapaja is at the street level.

- As.Oy Vesakko (12) has an information poster on its wall to celebrate its 50-year anniversary. On the

poster you can see pictures from the year 1952 when the residents moved into the buildings and Helsinki hosted the Summer Olympic Games.

- Over half of the residents of Maunula are retired and senior citizens. There are retirement homes (3) and rental apartments (13) available for senior citizens. To celebrate the 400-year-old history of the City of Helsinki, the City Council founded a trust and built these rental apartments in Maunula in 1953. There are many engaging activities for the residents who are all 55+ years in age.

- Near Maunula brook (14), the urban path passes by the Maunula Nature Trail. You can get more information on-site using the QR code provided.

- Eight row houses were built in Koivikkotie (15) in 1955-57, facing the Central Park of Helsinki. The gardens along the road have largely retained their park-like character. With their big trees, they give the street a leafy and shady atmosphere. Many residents have made it a habit to walk this street just to enjoy the scenery.

- Moving forward, you will pass by the Männikkötie 5 houses (16). The long, curved buildings are unique. All the apartments are the same size and shape, with two bedrooms.

- Walking down Pirttipolku you will enter the next attraction, the Sahamäki area (17, 18 and 19). The current housing area was built in 1952-56. This residential area has been chosen by international architects (DoCoMoMo) as an exceptionally well-planned and functional housing area. Architect Hilding Ekelund created an atmosphere and visual similarity to Italian hill villages which still suits the scenery exceptionally well.

- The row houses are all part of As.Oy Oulunkylän Rivialot, and they look alike with yellow walls and red-tile roofs. The 21 houses are situated on the slope like a small village around the "fortress" on top of the hill. The interior is divided into four floors to form a multi-level solution. Life in these row houses is very social.

- As you climb up the hill (19), you will reach the high-rise buildings. These buildings are grouped around a sheltered courtyard. They have no elevators so they are not suited for disabled persons. On the upper floors are studio apartments that were designed for the use of painters.

SCHOOLS AND PLAYGROUND

- Maunula Primary School (21) is literally in the middle of Maunula and is well visible to the surroundings.

- You may notice the peculiar south-east wing of Metsäpurontie 16 (23). It used to house cinema Bio Maunula which showed movies from 1956 to 1962. Now the location is divided in two, housing a fast-food restaurant and a company producing sound effects.

- Maunula is lucky to have the Upper Secondary School (Maunulan Yhteiskoulu, 24) situated here as well. The school has about 800 pupils altogether.

- Most children in Maunula, both younger and older, can simply walk safely from home to school. They will probably pass by the playground (25) which has operated at the same spot since the 1950s.



Maunulan-Pirkkolan Urban Walk -history and present. Content: Sinikka 2015.

Maunula Primary School

The school (21) consists of grades 1-6 and the number of pupils is currently approx. 400. Shortly after the Second World War the school had up to 1,500 pupils, so the classes were packed and the school was run in two shifts. Maunula Primary School hosts international classes where the teaching is conducted in English. The premises host a wide range of activities from a kindergarten to a youth club. Nowadays Maunula is a multicultural residential area with over 30 nationalities. The school brings together all families and teaches tolerance and respect for each other.

Maunula Playground

Families with children can use the facilities free of charge. During summer holidays there is a free warm lunch for all minors under 16 years. Remember to bring your own plate and spoon! During the school year there are after school activities for first and second grade children. You must apply to be included in these groups. Don't hesitate to pop into the playground and ask for more information. The helpful staff Stella, Linni and Nina, can speak Estonian, English, Swedish and German and a few words in Turkish and other more rare languages.

Playground has been able to engage volunteers, apprentices and students from different ethnic backgrounds to work with the children and families. Over 24 different nationalities use the services and mingle at the playground. Because of this, there are eg. multicultural volunteers to sing, perform and cook at the annual Maunula Day.

Maunulan Yhteiskoulu

First impression of Maunula

"Looking through the Urban Walk leaflet which we studied at school I was amazed, I really didn't know the historical and social aspects of Maunula. As a foreigner, and especially as person who just came to Finland all the way from China, the only city I knew in advance was Helsinki, and the only person I had heard of was Santa. So I think I'll write about how Maunula looks in my eyes.

First visit to Maunulan Yhteiskoulu (24), walking down the curvy path, the fresh breeze flowing through the air, the sun glowing through the bright feathers of the birds and gradually, the school appeared in my eyesight. It wasn't that eye-catching nor plain, but simple.

On my way to school, what surprised me was that in Maunula, people seem happy, no matter who you are and what you do. Not like in the big cities where everyone is busy. Happiness is shown on beautiful faces. Also, time seems to slow down in this magical place. Not only the scenes are beautiful, but also the people. What could be more ideal in Maunula? Well, for me it is already ideal."

This short insight is written by Yifan Lin, a 8th grade student who came from Beijing only 2 months ago. He studies English and aims to be admitted for the IB Upper Secondary School to continue his studies. Lin's family moved to Finland because of his father's work.

International Classes

Teacher Arja Tingstedt organized a writing activity for her international students. The students explored Maunula. They found out some history and facts, discussed and compared their findings, and walked around the neighborhood. The assignment was to express some initial feelings they had about Maunula.

The International Classes are for students aged 13–16 studying in grades 7-9. The International Classes form a small, yet significant section of our bigger Finnish-speaking school. The pupils are children of Finnish or other nationality who have received their elementary education in English - in Finland or abroad. There is no charge for tuition or study materials. The students get a hot lunch every day, with consideration to special diets. The school offers the students free health care services and dental care. The school has several partner schools in different European countries.



REITIN PITUUS 5,5 KM.

ka Joutsalmi-Torvalds, Susanna Pitkänen, Lisa Ressler-Gabrielsson and Leena Valmu. The numbers in brackets refer to this map,

Maunula Playground reaches out to families

Maunula Playground (Leikkipuisto, 25) has good contact to all families in Maunula. We met at the playground with Francis Mukole from Uganda and Mohammed Ruqaiya Tasneem from India to discuss their lives in Maunula. Both families felt that it is easy to approach the playground and its activities and they have spent a lot of time there with their children.

"It would help a lot to have an English contact list of local authorities, clubs and services with relevant internet addresses for more information", says both Francis Mukole from Uganda and Mohammed Ruqaiya Tasneem from India. "Community house Saunabaari could be an information and contact point also for foreigners, and Maunula.net could provide information network also in English."

Both agree that wintertime has been challenging, when we meet at the Playground Maunula. "Too much time is spent inside at home during winter. It would be great if there would be some organized activities to teach the children to ski and ice-skate", says Francis. Parents coming from warm countries do not know how to.

Also the big gym Maunulan liikuntahalli (21) could offer some activities for children during wintertime. These activities should not require that you join some organization or club, but could be joined easily by all children regardless of background. "Our kids would like to play with Finnish children, but sometimes it seems like the adults have turned down these attempts to socialize".

Francis Mukole came to Finland as an exchange student. He finished his studies here and married a Finnish girl. The couple has two boys, aged four months and three years. The family has lived in Maunula for two years. Francis likes to live here because he now knows many of his neighbours, and they have a tight knit community in the house he lives in.

There are not very many immigrants from Uganda living in Finland, but Francis has his brother and sister here in

Finland, too, so now he has an extended family to help out.

Mohammed Ruqaiya Tasneem from India has live five years in Finland with her family. The couple has two children, a one year old son and a four year old daughter. The family speaks Hindi, Urdu and English at home, but they use Finnish at work and in studies. Tasneem does most of her shopping in Hakaniemi in special food stores since her Indian family likes spicy food.

Tasneem likes living in Maunula where almost everything is near. Her daughter attends day care, and the family

visits the library frequently and spends much time at the playground. "Sometimes it is hard to get help with the children if something unexpected happens", says Tasneem.

In future Tasneem is going to continue her studies to become a lab technician, after her younger child also starts to attend the day care center. Francis has found it hard to find a job in IT and marketing, but he is motivated to learn Finnish at the fulltime course he now attends. He is considering to continue his studies to more technical direction.



The Playground reaches out to families and offers great activities. Picture Susanna Pitkänen



Andrei Terentjev at his award winning excellent garden. Picture Susanna Pitkänen

Allotment garden

Andrei and Irina Terentjev live in Maunula near the Upper Secondary School. They have moved to Finland six years ago and have nurtured their allotment garden for four years. Usually they walk or bicycle their way from Maunula to Pakila. The garden is their summer paradise where they can spend time, grow fresh and ecological vegetables, feel a part of the nature and enjoy the miracle of growth.

When Andrei and Irina grew up near Narva, Estonia, their parents and grandparents had gardens where everyone always helped out. "We can still call our grandmothers when we need advice in anything concerning gardening and plants", they say and laugh. The couple has put a lot of time and energy to make the soil better and get rid of the weeds. The soil has been improved by composting, chicken manure and straws. "The improvement is visible when you turn the soil. The soil is now rich with earthworms", Irina tells us. The hard work has paid off so that they get a good crop. Irina stores the vegetables and berries so that they can make meals from her own garden. The vegetables are more or less the same they used to grow in their hometown. Andrei has collected seeds of a local Estonian cucumber which he prefers to the kind you can buy here. In one part of the patch Andrei has a nice variety of garlic, and in another corner a specialty; Estonian sorrel. The couple has not had problems with vegetable thieves. The only damage has been caused by rabbits which have eaten some of the crop. "Elontien palstaviljelijät" association has granted Andrei and Irina a diploma for their excellent garden.

The couple found the allotment area while

passing by. They simply called the secretary to apply for the patch. The annual fee for one plot is very moderate, under 40 €. Andrei and Irina feel that the atmosphere at the garden is very nice and all the neighbours have been most helpful. They take part in the annual "talkoo" activities along with others. The gardeners are becoming more and more multicultural. You can hear at least Chinese, Vietnamese, Greek, Turkish, Arabic, Russian and Estonian languages spoken when the gardeners gather together.

Andrei and Irina enjoy living in Maunula. Their daughter attends the Finnish-Russian high school in Haaga and will soon have her matriculation exams. The family praises the excellent bus connections. They feel that Maunula is a very peaceful place to live. Andrei thinks this is partly due to the great number of elderly people living in Maunula. The old ladies remind them of their own relatives from whom they have learned much. Andrei works as a storage worker and Irina works at a day care center. Andrei and Irina both speak some Finnish and have found work here.

Allotment garden

Nearby Maunula you can find two allotment garden areas: Elontien Palstaviljelijät and Maunulanpuiston palstaviljelijät.

The city of Helsinki has more information and maps about allotment gardens on their webpages:

<http://www.hel.fi/www/Helsinki/en/culture/leisure/cottages/>

Maunula Nature Trail

On the hike you can enjoy the forest, hazel groves, a brook and interesting cultural landscapes. The trail is suitable for families and hikers but not for strollers. The trail is 3.3 kilometres long and it is marked by blue signs bearing a fir cone. A good place to start is at Maunulan Maja in Central Park (Keskuspuisto). A picnic area can be found alongside the brook between the cemetery and the allotment gardens.

The signposts along the way, give you information about natural diversity and the cycle of life. By walking the trail all the way round and back to the Maunulan Maja, you can learn more about forest and other biotopes, plants and animals and their lifecycles.

Maunula Nature Trail is an initiative by local residents. Maunula Nature Trail is maintained by the Helsinki City Public Works Department.



Use the QR code with your mobile phone to access the detailed information along the trail in English. Website: www.vihreatsylit.fi > Maunula Nature Trail



Maunulan Maja and Cafe

This over hundred years old red cottage is a jewel hidden in Helsinki Central Park. The unique cafe in the building offers homemade bakery and fresh coffee. Olympic biathlons practiced and competed here in 1952. Since 1960 the cottage has been maintained by outdoor association Helsingin Latu, but it serves all visitors to the park.

Opening hours:

Wednesday 13.00-19.00

Thursday 16.00-19.00

Saturday 10.00-16.00

Sunday 10.00-16.00

More information: <http://www.helsinginlatu.fi/mm/>



Maunulan Maja is a starting point for Maunula Nature Trail. Picture Susanna Pitkänen

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Information about Finnish and Swedish courses
www.finnishcourses.fi

Infopankki.fi

Helsinki-Espoo-Vantaa-Kauniainen

Coming soon!
a New Neighbor

Participate in the design of the new Maunula House activities!

More information:
maunula.blogspot.fi
hel.fi/tyovaenopisto

Maunula House community center will be opened in the autumn of 2016.

City of Helsinki
Finnish Adult Education Centre

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