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KANKAANPÄÄ

Versatile GEO Learning Environment & Active Honkajoki Upper Secondary School

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GEO LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

HONKAJOEN LUKIO

Photo: Terttu Hermansson

This Is Us

Sustainability

Locally produced

Circular Economy

Biodiversity

Education

Geopark

Effectiveness

Hands-on culture

Cooperation

Availability

International

Modern

Overview

GEO Learning Environment

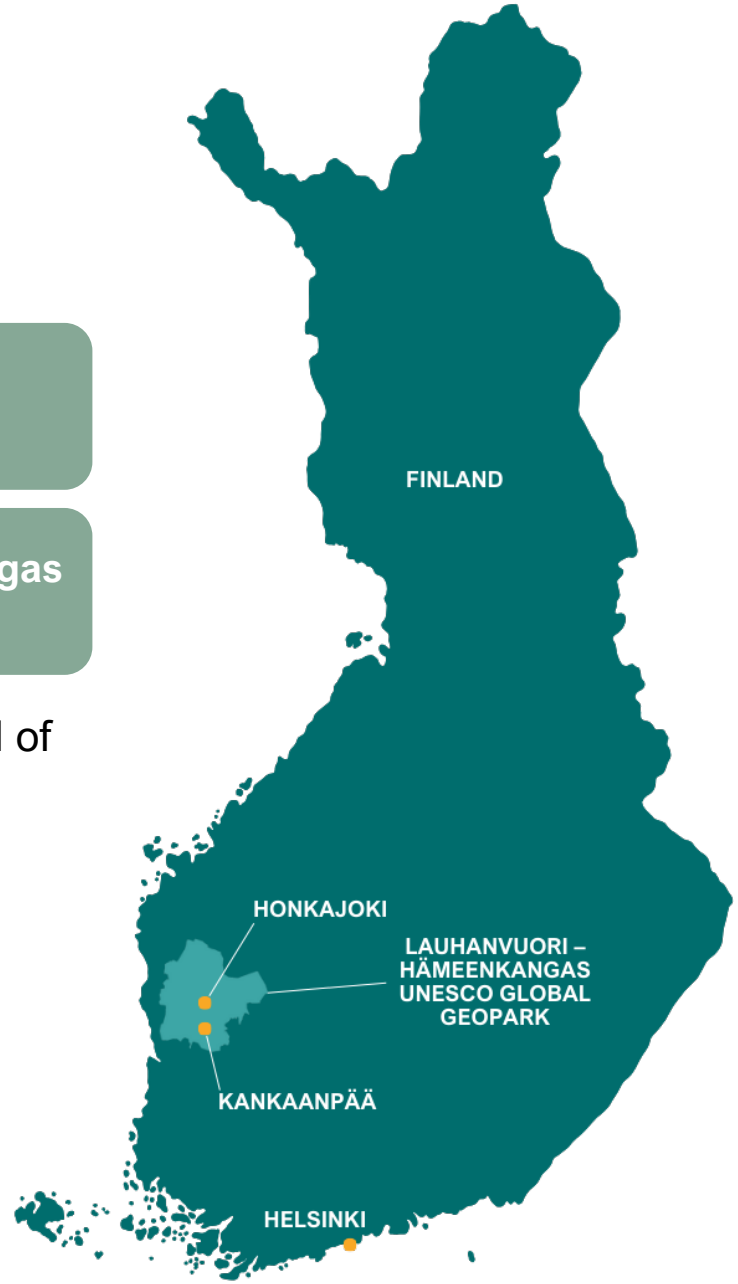
Schools in the area

GEO Learning Centre

Lauhanvuori – Hämeenkangas UNESCO Global Geopark

Local cooperation with Satakunta University of Applied Sciences' (SAMK) School of Fine Arts and City of Kankaanpää.

International cooperation.



Current Development Work – Three Clusters of Competence

Funded by EU's Just Transition Fund and Regional Council of Satakunta. [You can find the project's website here: (psvsa.samk.fi/en)]

The GEO Learning Environment

Our new Plan for Environmental Education is also available in English here: [Plan for Environmental Education (samk.fi)]

SAMK's project Northern Satakunta on the Waves of Green Transition

Construction Product Group in Kankaanpää

A future workplace for young. Has also provided leftover materials for workshops.

KIRKKOKALLIO eco-innovation park

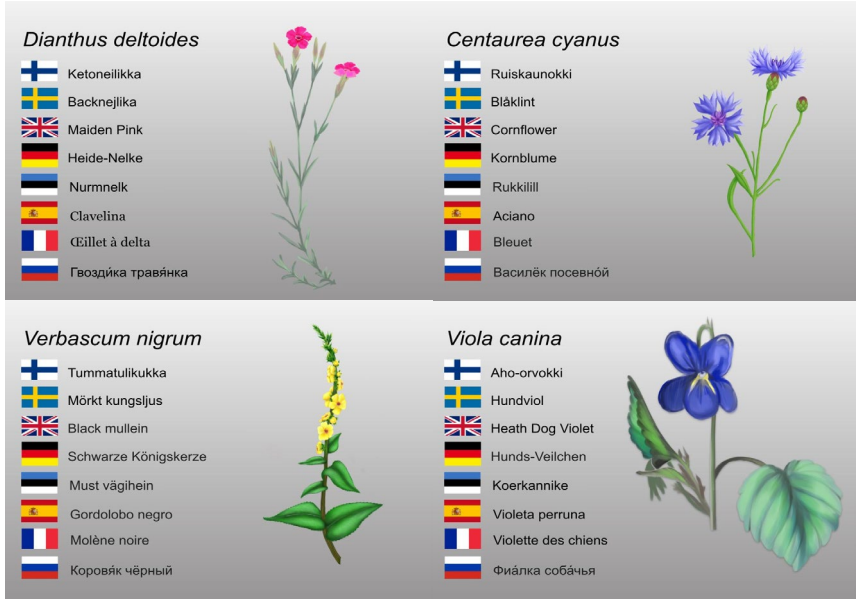
Kirkkokallio Eco-industrial Park in Honkajoki is a strong circular economy actor in the food sector. It also provides a learning platform and future workplaces for young.

Honkajoki General Upper Secondary School

- The new building was built for future. The priorities were clear from the beginning: safety, ecological and economic sustainability and modern tools to offer high-quality education.
- The school creates opportunities to participate in projects to protect and improve biodiversity through hands-on learning.
- A great example of hands-on learning is the beehive near the school grounds. The students can join a beekeeper on their check-up visit to the beehive to see how to care for the bees.
- Honkajoki general upper secondary school is also located in the immediate vicinity of the GEO Learning Centre.

Comprehensive Environmental Study Possibilities

- Honkajoki upper secondary school students have a possibility to complete a large number of freely chosen environmental study courses.
- Some examples of these courses are environmental research, studies on biodiversity, environmental art and environmental education in a virtual environment.



Case: Biodiversity in the Schoolyard

- Students have had various roles in designing the school and the schoolyard to fit everyone's needs – teachers', students' and nature's.
- The work to implement biodiversity and environmental education into students' everyday life began with the schoolyard. The goal was to turn a lawn into a lush meadow for organisms. Now the results can be seen in increase of insects inhabiting the area.
- There are also a few hand-made gardening boxes that are used to grow food plants. These plants, for example carrots, can be used by students in their cooking classes.
- The schoolyard has partly been transformed into a garden in some areas. There is a variety of different kinds of berries and fruits. These are for students and teachers to use in the process of learning and understanding – and of course enjoying the products of nature.

Case: Projects to Protect Biodiversity

- Honkajoki’s upper secondary school is an active operator in the area’s biodiversity projects. The school’s ongoing project at the local motor sport club’s circuit is a great example on how to improve biodiversity in such man-made environments.
- The project started in autumn 2021. The students have then annually returned and continued the work and thus created a more visitor-friendly landscape.

Case: Microplastic Concentrations in Fish

- The students of the Honkajoki upper secondary school have an important role in producing content for the GEO Learning Centre. A great example of this is the study project on microplastic concentrations in fish.
- In this project, the students create all the content needed to prepare and complete the task, from fishing in different places to extracting the samples from the fish.
- These samples can also be used at the GEO Learning Centre to offer everyone a chance to be a part of scientific study. The students, and visitors as well, have a chance to learn how to operate a microscope and how to properly analyse the information they gather about the samples.

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GEO LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The GEO Learning Environment

The GEO Learning Environment is one of the three clusters of competence in Northern Satakunta region. The GEO Learning Environment consists of several sites and areas, such as the Lauhanvuori – Hämeenkangas UNESCO Global Geopark and the GEO Learning Centre. The GEO Learning Environment covers all the area's learning contents and sites.

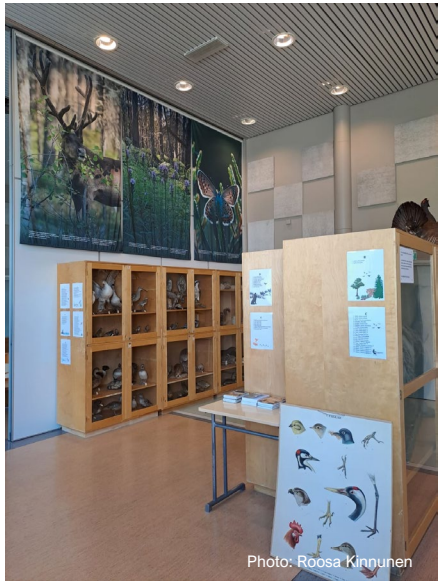
Photo: Piia Orava

The GEO Learning Centre

- The GEO Learning Centre is located in Honkajoki, Kankaanpää, in Northern Satakunta region.
- Its aim is to create opportunities for all ages to deepen their knowledge on the matters of sustainable development and offer possibilities to participate in environmental studies within the Learning Environment.
- In addition, the GEO Learning Centre offers versatile environmental research tools for both visitors and students to use.
- The GEO Learning Centre is being developed by Satakunta University of Applied Sciences, the City of Kankaanpää and the Lauhanvuori – Hämeenkangas UNESCO Global Geopark.

Have a Look Inside

- The GEO Learning Centre has effectively utilised recycled materials. Old structures have received new purposes and appearances with the help of professionals but also young students from the school.
- The vicinity between the Honkajoki upper secondary school and the GEO Learning Centre creates opportunities for students to participate in the Centre’s activities.
- In one of the latest workshops with SAMK, students created small-scale models of different habitats, using mainly natural materials.



Case: Bee Hotels and Bee Walk

- The Bee Hotels were built in a workshop which was executed in cooperation with SAMK School of Fine Arts.
- The artistic hotels were built by local upper secondary school students, utilising upcycled materials from local construction companies.
- To inspire citizens and raise awareness, the Bee Hotels were then placed around town centres to create a special Bee Walk. The town people had a chance to take the walk and solve the bee-related crossword puzzle.
- The project had a strong communicational connection to City of Kankaanpää's own bee character, *Hörhiäinen*.

Case Coming Up: Environmental Art with Satakunta University of Applied Sciences

- SAMK School of Fine Arts is developing a project to create more biodiverse school grounds at its property through landscaping and environmental arts. The model comes from Honkajoki upper secondary school’s work with their schoolyard.
- The project aim is to include many different actors to iniate larger impact.

Lauhanvuori – Hämeenkangas UNESCO Global Geopark

- The Geopark is located in Western Finland, in the Southern part of Suomenselkä, a region separating Ostrobothnia from the Southern and Eastern lake regions of Finland.
- The geological theme of the Geopark is the development from an ancient mountain range to the diverse mire habitats.
- The Geopark has several species of special concern, for example the Golden Eagle and the Freshwater Pearl Mussel.

unesco Global Geopark

Lauhanvuori - Hämeenkangas Geopark FINLAND

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THANK YOU

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We are interested in finding international upper secondary school partners for our environmental work and also for the GEO Learning Environment.

Photo: Laura Koivumäki