



Teivaalan Hertta

Visitor Center and Nature Wardens



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Teivaalanharju Visitor Center provides a welcoming place for visitors to gather, learn, and connect with the surrounding nature. Located within the unique esker landscape, the center would offer information about the area's geology, ecology, and recreational opportunities.



Enabling Sustainable Recreational Use of Teivaalanharju

Teivaalanharju is a unique and valuable esker at the heart of Teivo-Mäkkylä development. Balancing its conservation with growing recreational demand is essential to preserve the area's attractiveness and long-term livability.

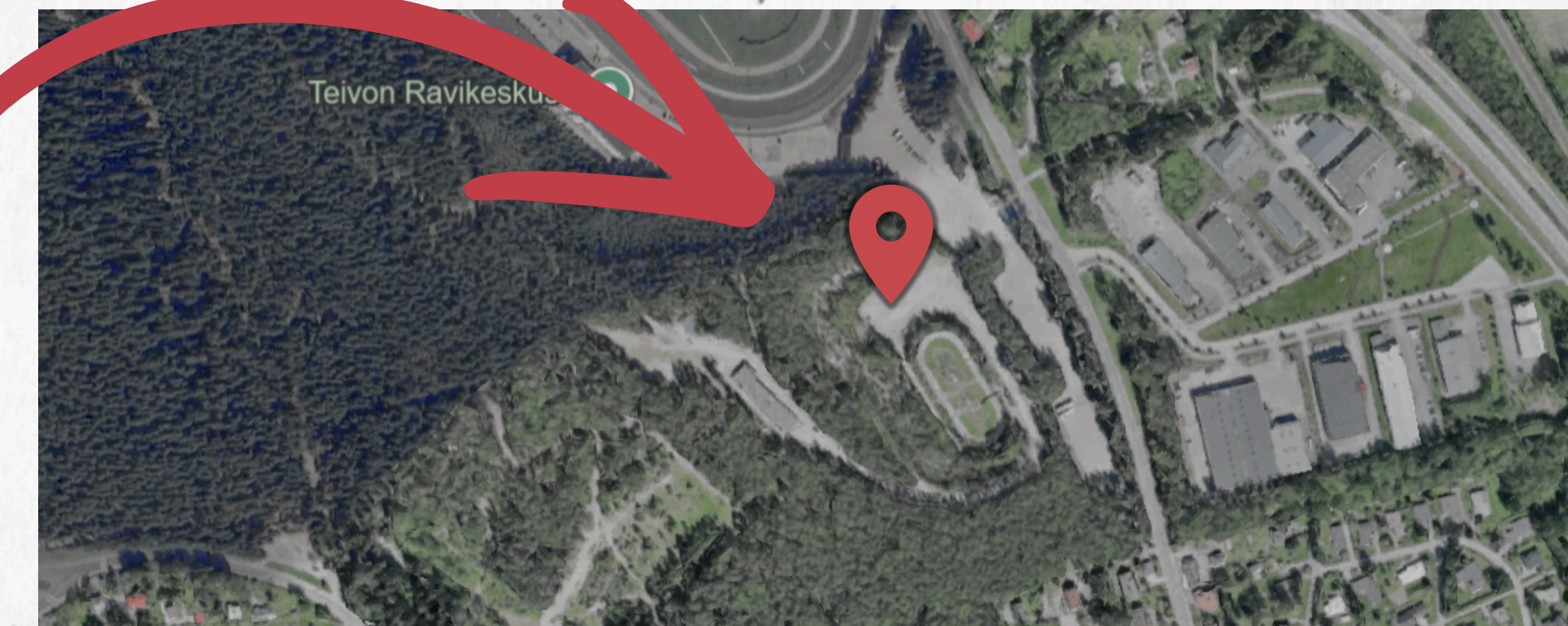
Our project asks: How to communicate and ensure the sustainable uses of Teivaalanharju?

Research has shown that an effective solution would be involving local residents and recreational users in the decision-making and conservation efforts (Burgoyne, 2018). Thus, we propose creating a shared hub for all stakeholders - Teivaalan Hertta, a community and visitor centre, where knowledge, discussion and recreational activities come together to support the sustainable use of Teivaalanharju.

- Burgoyne, C. N. (2018). Stakeholder relations and natural resource management: Case studies from ecotourism in Tanzania and South Africa—University of Johannesburg [Doctoral dissertation, University of Johannesburg]. <https://hdl.handle.net/10210/400942>
- Visitor Pori. (n.d.). Yyterin Vierailukeskus. <https://www.visitpori.fi/yyteri/yyterin-vierailukeskus/>
- Thames Basin Heaths. (n.d.). About Us - Thames Basin Heaths. Retrieved March 12, 2026, from <https://tbhpartnership.org.uk/about-us>



The vibrant community hub, Teivaalan Hertta, provides an educational environment that can be utilized by schools and universities or other organizations, supporting learning about the area's natural and cultural features. Additionally, there would be educational materials, such as informational posters and leaflets for visitors to learn about the upkeep of the ecological integrity of the esker.



Google Maps



Floorplanner

The floor plan is organized into two distinct wings: the **cafeteria** is located on one side of the building, while the **visitor center** occupies the other. Between them, an inner courtyard serves as a flexible space for presentations and educational activities. A removable roof is planned above the courtyard, allowing the space to be used in varying weather conditions while maintaining an open connection to the surrounding environment. We got inspiration for our design from Yyteri Visitor Center in Pori, Finland.



Floorplanner



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There would also be a café in Teivaalan Hertta, where visitors can take a break and enjoy a cup of coffee.



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Nature wardens

Nature wardens are volunteers and representatives, who are composed of locals trained to help and educate users of the Teivaalanharju about its sustainable use. This idea is based on the Thames Basin Heaths special protection area, England, where nature wardens provide a human connection to the area (Wokingham Borough Council, 2024).

- Representation of local residents and recreational users in Ylöjärvi
- Putting up signs
- Organising free conservation events
- Social media presence
- Educational outreach in school and communities
- Work closely with the land managers



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Nature Committee

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