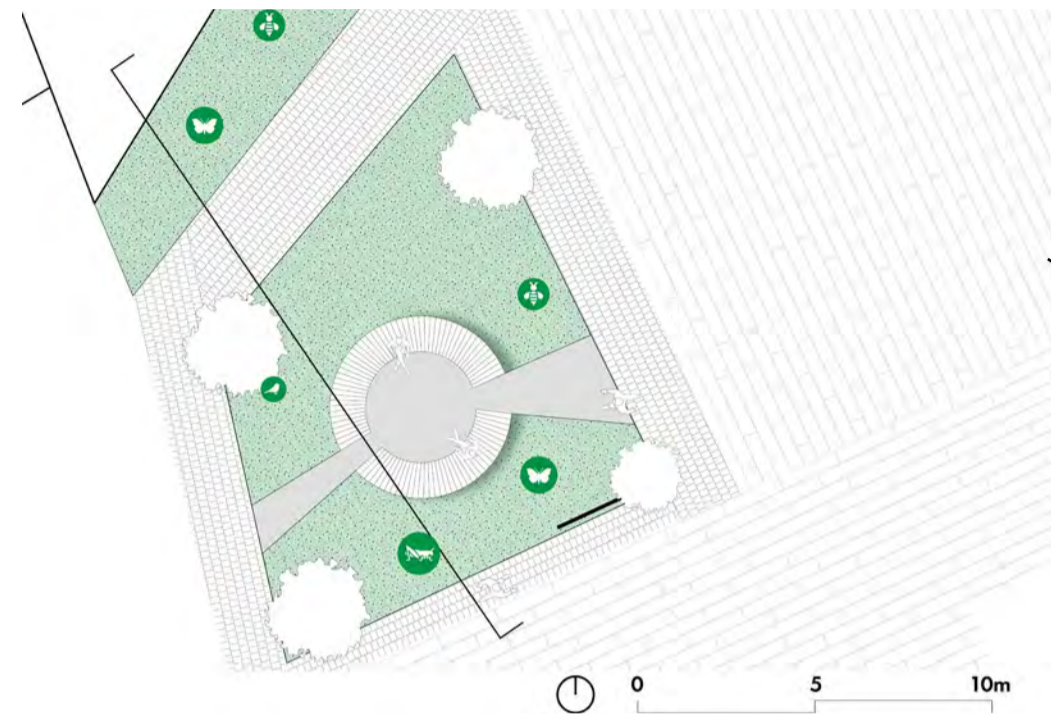


Rewilding Chalmers

Possibilities to promote biodiversity on campus Johanneberg

The aim of the project is to show how biodiversity can be increased on campus Johanneberg. The campus lies between two large green areas in central Gothenburg - Mossen and Johannebergsparken. By connecting these areas a better possibility for woodland species to disperse can be created. As green areas in cities get more fragmented as a result of densifying strategies, a better connection will allow species to move more freely in the city.

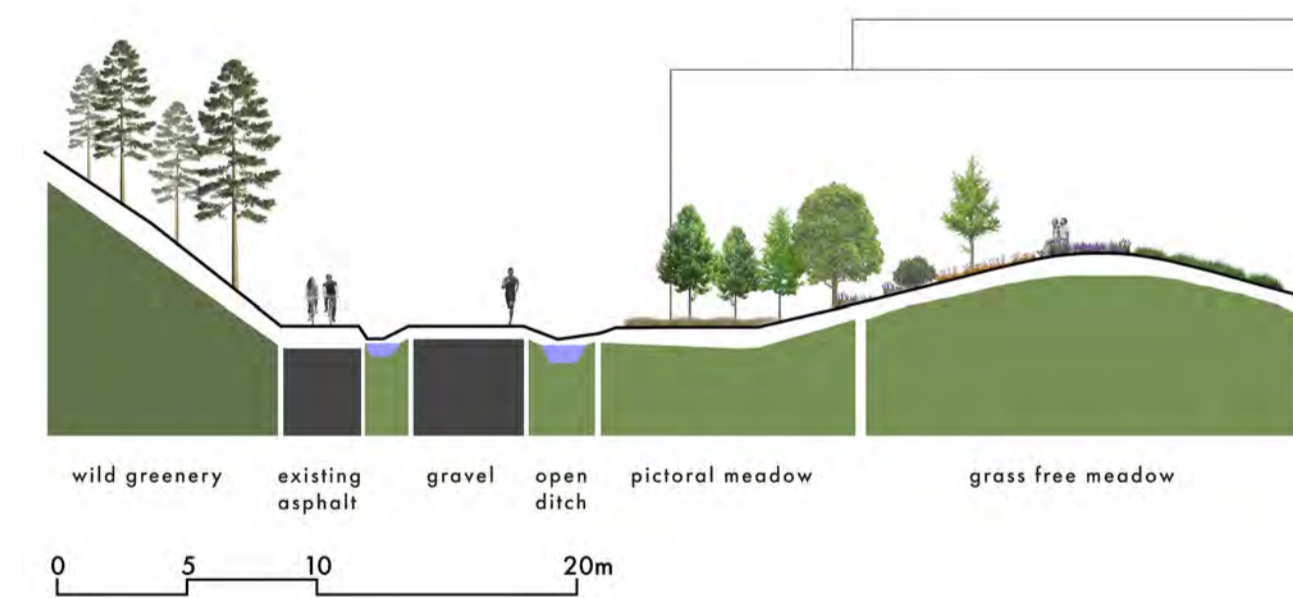
A lot of greenery already exists on campus but transforming the lawns and hard surfaces into meadows will result in a more coherent green structure. The project focuses on three focus areas which have the best potential to promote biodiversity. Each area includes a different proposal, such as an experimental garden, a rewilded street and an educational pocket park.



Along the main path through the campus a place where bikes are parked is transformed into a meadow. A round bench will allow visitors to sit down and contemplate on questions of ecology and education. An information sign describes what plants the meadow consists of and how it enhances biodiversity. The location of the park along the main path ensures that it is visible for visitors and those who just passes by the campus. In future other functions can be added to the park, such as insect house and beehives.



existing vegetation
proposed vegetation



Conventional lawns are a usual sight in many cities. They consist of grass that is regularly mown during summer and improved through seeding and fertilizer treatment. Lawns are often used for recreational activities and are seen as neat and tidy by many. In terms of biodiversity lawns are quite poor as the grass is often intervened by human and amount of species is low. To increase ecological values lawns can often be replaced by meadows. The process is done by reducing mowing thus giving flowers a chance to bloom. Furthermore the topsoil can be removed and meadow seed-mix can be layered. This process can be combined with planting perennial plants to maximise the duration of the flowering season, thus making it more attractive for people.

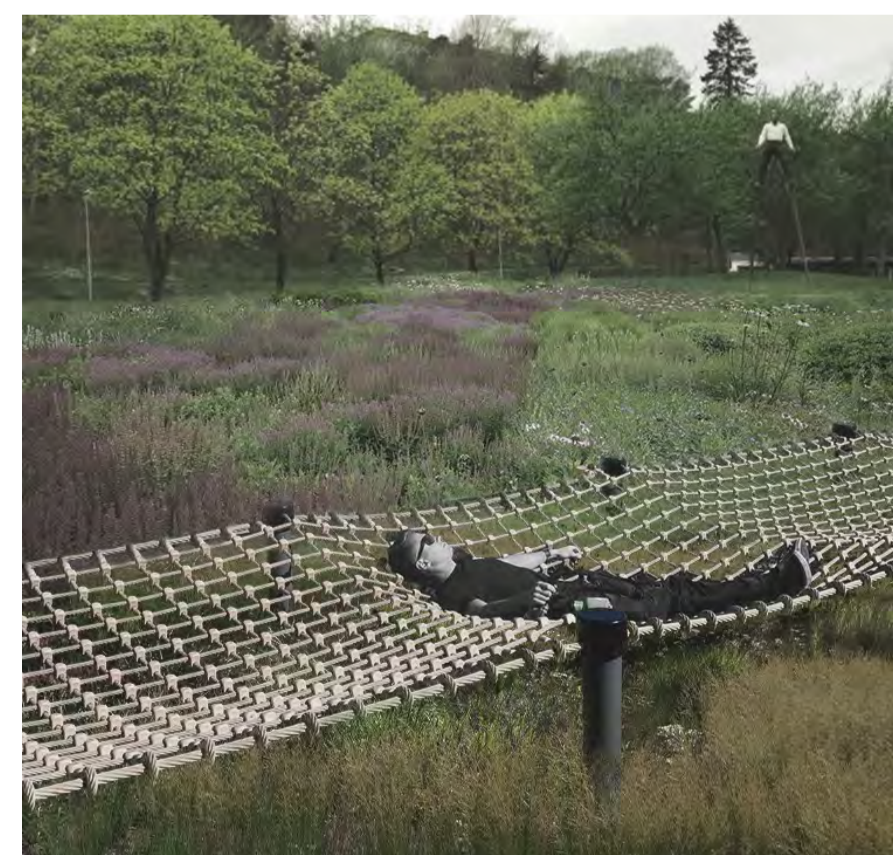
Another benefit of converting lawns to meadows is low maintenance as lawns have to be mowed up to 20 times per season. Meadows can be cut 1-2 times per season.

In this project two types of lawn alternatives are suggested: grass free lawn and pictorial meadow. The biggest difference between the two being that grass free lawn is more forgiving when walking or sitting on.

- Grass free lawn:**
- domestic perennial herbs
 - low grown
 - flowering period: may - september
 - cutting 2 times/season
 - suitable to sit and walk on

- Pictorial meadow:**
- annual Swedish herbs
 - high grown
 - must be reseeded regularly
 - colourful

A current parking lot is transformed into a place where students can study different types of vegetation that are suitable for swedish climate. An outdoor learning space will promote better knowledge about biodiversity and ecosystems not only for the students but also for visitors. An accessible meeting place where public can come in contact with Chalmers and school of architecture. As the school is usually closed during summer, there should be a possibility to hold a summer course on the topic of biodiversity. For accessibility purposes a few parking places are left in proximity to the entrance. Apart from students the garden can be maintained by available staff of Chalmers Fastigheter.



Today Sven Hultins street is not heavily trafficed, which may decrease further as car usage in city centres is discouraged. To create a better connection between the forest slope and the campus, the hard surface of the street is transformed into gravel which will give it more rural character. An open ditch will take care of the rain water and become a natural habitat for many species. After filtration the water from the ditch can also be used for watering plants in the experimental garden.

In proximity to the ACE building a lawn is transformed into a pictorial and grass free meadow, which will further increase amount of species. As this place today is very popular for recreation, a possibility to lie down is organized in form of hammocks made of ropes. This will allow for a better connection with nature that is also not disrupting the ecosystem.

