

Sandgrund Park

Location: Karlstad, Sweden **Designer:** Thorbjörn Andersson Landscape Architect **Photographer:** Åke E:son Lindman, Kasper Dudzik, Johan Krikström **Completion date:** 2010 **Site area:** 40,000 sqm



1. Viewing Platform
2. Jetties with Boat Mooring
3. Riverside Walk, East
4. Riverside Walk, West
5. The Ridges with Granite Steps
6. Reedbed Park
7. Event Location
8. Activity Space
9. Sandy Beach
10. Sunset Boardwalk

The Sandgrund Park in Karlstad, Sweden, has undergone a major change from being an unused peninsula of sand, transforming into an attractive park in the middle of the city. The aim of the project has been to create a certain place from which to enjoy the grandeur of the surrounding landscape. The new park now offers lush valleys, viewpoints and extensive boardwalks by the river.

At the point where the Klar river splits, a 400-metre long peninsula forms what from the air looks like a bird's pointed beak. The presence of water, the dramatic end point and the urban setting were the most obvious features here. The designers' concept became to amplify those same qualities for the future park. Along the river's edge, the proximity to the water was further stressed through a system of boardwalks on the western shore, facing the sunset. The very end was given a sharper profile by adding a 40-metre long viewing platform.

The grounds were shaped as undulating terrain with five parallel ridges, about 100 metres long. The ridges were designed to offer green viewpoints along their crests, and contained valleys in between. Each other valley was designed to be a distinct plant habitat, a beech forest, a magnolia grove, a fern valley. The others were made into activity areas for rest and play, formed by grass and low granite steps marking the contour lines.

Award description:

Best Park of 2010 by Associates of Architects of Sweden

Right: On the west side, a series of boardwalks form a sunset promenade at the parks edge

