



11.9.2025

INFORMATION SHEET FOR STUDY PARTICIPANTS

Research study – Micro forests in the city - survey

We invite you to participate in this study, which examines how micro forests fit into Finnish urban planning and the forest relationship of city dwellers. A micro forest is a small, densely planted area of trees, usually located in the middle of the built urban environment. The size of a micro forest is, for example, the size of a tennis court or a small detached house plot. The micro forest method was developed by a Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki. Dense planting causes plants to compete for light and grow faster compared to conventional planting. One of Finland's first micro forests was planted in the Hervantajärvi neighbourhood in the summer of 2025, and it bears the name Hakkisenpuistikko. In this survey, we map people's thoughts about the Hakkisenpuistikko micro forest. The Hervantajärvi forest with its recreation areas and nature reserve serves as a point of comparison.

We have distributed an invitation to participate to the residents in the houses in Hervantajärvi neighbourhood. In addition, the invitation is displayed in Hakkisenpuistikko and Tampere University website. After reading this information sheet, you will have the opportunity to ask questions about the study, after which you will be asked for your consent to participate in the study. **By completing the survey, you give your consent to participate in the survey.**

Purpose of the research

The purpose of this study is to find out what kind of thoughts people have about the Hakkisenpuistikko micro forest and the Hervantajärvi forest and how people use them now or in the future. This knowledge can be applied in future sustainable urban planning.

Description of the process

In the study, participants fill in an electronic questionnaire. It takes about 5-10 minutes to complete the survey. The survey is open until **31.10.2025**. Participants will not receive financial compensation.

Procedures for collecting research data

You participate in the survey by answering the survey anonymously. Your background information is collected by gender, age range, length of residence in Finland (in brackets)

and roughly the area of residence (Hervantajärvi neighbourhood, elsewhere in Hervanta or other). You can also leave the background information unanswered.

Potential risks and benefits of participation

You will not receive any direct benefit from participating in the study. The results of the study can be used in future sustainable urban planning. The procedures and methods used during this study do not involve social risks, financial risks, health risks or risks relating to personal data breaches.

Data confidentiality, processing and storage

All personal data collected during the study will be processed in compliance with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the data protection laws of Finland. The responses to the survey are stored in the university's cloud service, which only the researchers in this study can access from their own computers through a username and password. Any direct identifiers in open replies will be removed. Without direct identifiers, the data can also be processed by other researchers.

Protecting the privacy of participants in research papers/publications

Individual respondents cannot be identified from the publications. The research data is offered for archiving at the Finnish Social Science Data Archive for those respondents who give their consent to this when asked separately in the survey. Before archiving, any direct identifiers will be removed from the open responses to the data.

Funding sources

University of Tampere.

Voluntary participation

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary, and you have the right to withdraw from the study at any time either permanently or temporarily by leaving the survey before submitting the responses. **Data collected after submitting the survey responses will remain in the study database and may not be removed.**

Privacy protection in the context of research papers and communicating about the study

The results will be used in the reporting of the study. This includes any scientific publications, presentations and reports, including publications on the website of the University of Tampere. The results are published in such a way that an individual participant cannot be identified.

Use of data for non-research/later research purposes

Researchers can use the research data for multidisciplinary follow-up research with a main focus in the discipline of urban planning. In addition, the research data will be offered for permanent archiving without personal data at the Finnish Social Science Data Archive for those respondents who give their consent when asked separately in the survey. Finnish

Social Science Data Archive releases data to its registered customers for research and master's theses.

Inquiries

Please direct all inquiries about the study primarily to Elina Sirén.

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