

Making It Happen



Pieni Karhunkierros follows the meandering banks of River Kitkajoki

PIENI KARHUNKIERROS
HIKING PATH

OULANKA
NATIONAL PARK

HOSSA REGION

FINLAND

New system for implementation planning in use

PAVE GIS system is a new tool for implementation planning and monitoring. PAVE was introduced in winter 2017-18 with most of Parks & Wildlife Finland (PWF) field staff attending an upskilling course.

In this activity, PAVE was used by a PWF planning officer for drafting an implementation plan for Pieni Karhunkierros, a 12km circular hiking path in Oulanka National Park in Hossa region. The planning officer attended the PAVE upskilling course earlier in the year, and this activity describes the making of an implementation plan in practice using the new GIS tool.

Pieni Karhunkierros is situated in a very rugged landscape and has over 100 m of duckboards, around 7,5 km of path with gravel surfacing, dozens of long staircases and three hanging bridges. Main infrastructure also includes two fire places and two cabins with wood sheds and composting toilets and two piers.

The maintenance of such a site is challenging. All material is taken to site with snow mobiles in winter time which is difficult because of a hilly landscape. Through winter transportation, damages can be reduced and most of the time no visible marks can be seen on the ground afterwards.

Fire wood is delivered and toilets emptied mostly in winter, as well. Some 60 000 visitors walk the path yearly making maintenance a constant effort.

Implementation planning started by inspection of the site. The planning officer, along with other staff, made notes on the condition of structures, erosion and other things to be taken into account. The next step was to move all gathered data into the PAVE system - there is no technical solution for making notes straight into the system on site as yet. Thus, all data is stored in PAVE and kept up to date. Material acquisitions are based on

data in the implementation plan, and therefore it is crucial that all data is accurate. Resources and schedules are an important part of the plan.

Before any works could start on site, planning permissions had to be taken care of. As resources are often scarce, some actions may have to be dropped off the list later. The plan includes a general description of the site, a needs assessment, a risk assessment and the aim of the plan. Furthermore, immediate and long-term impact on environment is assessed and engagement of the public is described. The planning officer is in charge of the planning process from start to end.

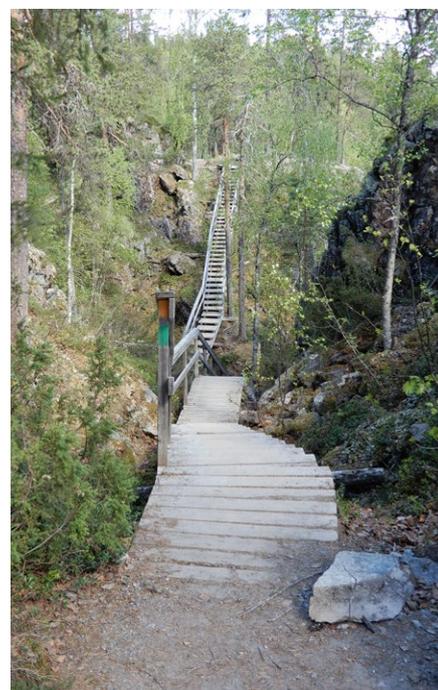
Outcome

The aim of implementation planning is to get field work done economically and in an ecologically sustainable way - the environment should suffer as little damage as possible. Budgeting is based on implementation planning making accurate cost estimation very important. The execution of a plan should be well managed and controlled. So far, it can be noticed that implementation planning is always a complex and time-consuming process.

Not all field work has been finalized yet on Pieni Karhunkierros following the new implementation plan. Stair cases are being removed and new ones built and tons of new gravel is being laid on the path. Some technical issues have arisen during the process

and learning from them will help improve the system. There has been a transition from an old MapInfo based system into an ArcGIS based system, and it goes without saying that some teething problems will occur.

How well the whole process from the first inspections to a finished site will go at the end, still remains to be seen, as works are on-going. Hopes are high for PAVE making things run smoother than in the past. The upskilling programme has made it possible to lift implementation planning to a new level, although it will take some time and getting use to before the whole capacity of the system is in use and routines are developed.



Work has started on site following the implementation plan



FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact details: Leena Jartti
Field Work Manager
Metsähallitus
Parks & Wildlife Finland

e-mail: leena.jartti@metsa.fi
mobile +358 406 341 653

<https://www.ascent-project.eu>

Key Findings & Learning Points

As PAVE is a new system, it will take time to achieve a level where all users are familiar with the system and can use it smoothly. No matter how well an upskilling programme may be executed, only working closely with PAVE will give answers to some practical questions and give certainty to users.

At the moment, the first implementation plans are being made, and whatever systematical improvements may be needed will surface in due course. Some practical problems in the use have been noted. It seems clear that in the development and use of an extensive GIS system, patience is essential and perfecting all details will require hands-on user experience.