

AURA RIVER PROGRAM 2025-2030



Summary of the Aura River Program

The Aura River Program 2025–2030 is a strategic plan aimed at preserving and enhancing the ecological, cultural, and recreational values of the Aura River. The program serves as a guideline for the Aura River Foundation’s activities and focuses on eight strategic priorities:

WATER PROTECTION

The program focuses on reducing nutrient loads and improving water quality, especially within the framework of the Archipelago Sea Program, which aims to remove the Archipelago Sea from HELCOM’s list of polluted waters. Collaboration is carried out with local farmers, forest owners, and other landowners.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

The cultural landscape of the Aura River is one of Finland’s most valuable. The program emphasizes preserving historic landscapes and enriching cultural life. This includes maintaining traditional landscapes and finding new ways to combine cultural heritage and environmental values.

RECREATION

The program supports the development of routes along the Aura River, such as nature trails, cycling paths, and paddling routes, and promotes swimming and fishing opportunities. Enhancing accessibility and enjoyment is central, as is collaboration with landowners and municipalities.

BIODIVERSITY

The focus is on combating invasive species such as Himalayan balsam and fringed water lily and protecting fish stocks. Community participation in nature conservation is encouraged through volunteer work and corporate partnerships. Species development is monitored using methods such as eDNA.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The program supports sustainable development and local adaptation to climate change. New methods are being developed to measure the carbon footprint of the watershed and to enhance carbon sinks in traditional landscapes.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The Aura River Foundation develops educational materials about the river's aquatic ecosystems and water protection. Tools include the "Water Backpack" program.

COMMUNICATION

Communication aims to raise awareness of the Aura River's importance and strengthen the local river identity. Positive messages and concrete examples highlight the impacts of collaboration and conservation efforts.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The program leverages international networks and funding and shares knowledge with other regions. This enhances the effectiveness of water management and introduces innovative practices to local activities.

The Aura River Program is based on participatory workshops that gathered insights from residents, experts, and other stakeholders. The primary goal is to create a vibrant and sustainable Aura River that unites nature, culture, and the community in long-term development efforts.

