

A HARBOUR OF OPPORTUNITIES

Visions for more activity within the
Harbour of Copenhagen



FOREWORD

– A HARBOUR OF OPPORTUNITY

A GREAT POTENTIAL

With this Vision, the City of Copenhagen wishes to spotlight the enormous pervading potential in the recreational development of the Harbour of Copenhagen. Many new developments have taken place in the harbour in recent years, and lots of new projects are currently in progress. Even so, there is still plenty of room for many more new ideas and recreational activities.

The intent of the Vision is to

- inspire more activities within the harbour area
- increase Copenhageners' quality of life and health
- create a stimulating abundance of cultural and recreational activities
- heighten Copenhageners' awareness of the Harbour of Copenhagen
- make the city more attractive to future residents
- bring together the harbour's stakeholders to focus on jointly developing the harbour.

The Harbour should be

- a harbour of possibilities
- a harbour for people
- a harbour for everyone



CONTENT

PURPOSE	4
AREA	5
VISION:	
– AN ACTIVE AND ATTRACTIVE HARBOUR	7
OWNERSHIP WITHIN THE HARBOUR AREA	8
HARBOUR USERS	10
SELECTED THEMES	13
1 – MORE ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE HARBOUR	14
2 – BETTER ACCESS TO AND FROM THE WATER	15
3 – MORE PUBLIC SPACES	16
4 – BETTER ROUTES AND CONNECTIONS	17
5 – A CLEAN, INVITING HARBOUR	18
6 – A HARBOUR WITH A HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	19
7 – EVENTS AND TEMPORARY PROJECTS	20
8 – VARIATION AND ROOM FOR EVERYONE	21
RECOMMENDATIONS	22
PROCESS AND SCHEDULE	23
THE HARBOUR'S HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT	24
PROJECTS SITED AT THE HARBOUR	26

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Vision is to establish the framework and desire for more liveliness and activity in the Harbour of Copenhagen. The Vision should help to make the city more attractive to future residents and businesses, as well as heighten Copenhagen's profile as a maritime capital. The Vision for recreational use of the harbour should highlight the harbour's great potential as a recreational urban space and envision what is required to realise this potential and overcome any obstacles.

Copenhagen is continuously developing and changing. The city's population and diversity of lifestyles are increasing. This imposes new demands on both the physical design of the city and the way in which the various districts are administered.

In 2009, the Copenhagen City Council adopted the proposal "A Metropolis for People". The proposal's vision stated: "We intend to be the world's best city to live in. A sustainable city with urban spaces that invite a unique diversity of urban activity. We wish to be a metropolis for people. The proposal itemises three objectives for urban life: More urban life for everyone; more people walk more; and more people stay longer. The three objectives represent three important aspects of urban life: diversity, pedestrians and public areas."

In recent years, many of the large manufacturing industries have left the harbour. This opens up space for new initiatives within the harbour and provides a unique opportunity to develop a more inviting and recreational harbour.

The City aims to encourage more people to make use of the green and blue urban areas and to encourage them to stay longer when they visit these areas. This is particularly true of the harbour area with its enormous potential as a venue for more activities and to develop and further improve the already pleasant public areas.

The areas of Nyhavn and Christianshavn, the harbour baths and the waterfront park at Islands Brygge are very successful at livening up the harbour but there are many more possibilities of creating pleasant public areas and activities on and near the water.

Accordingly, this Vision aims to spark public discussion and promote ideas for recreational use of the harbour to ensure that recreational interests are given priority as the harbour is developed and transformed. Finally, the Vision will hopefully serve as a source of inspiration for harbour development. This inspiration will lay the basis for planning activities in the years ahead, including local urban development plans and the Municipal Plan 2015.

WHY ARE NEW VISIONS NEEDED FOR THE HARBOUR?

- The Harbour of Copenhagen has transformed from an area of active industrial activity into increasingly being used for recreational purposes.
- Large waterfront areas are currently being transformed and will be used for new purposes.
- The harbour has enormous potential.
- The City is burgeoning with new housing complexes and new residents. This requires new recreational initiatives.
- More new attractive urban spaces on the waterfront are needed.
- More waterfront parks and better access to the water are wished for.
- There is also a wish for better connections around and across the harbour.



Christianshavn

AREA COVERED BY THE VISION

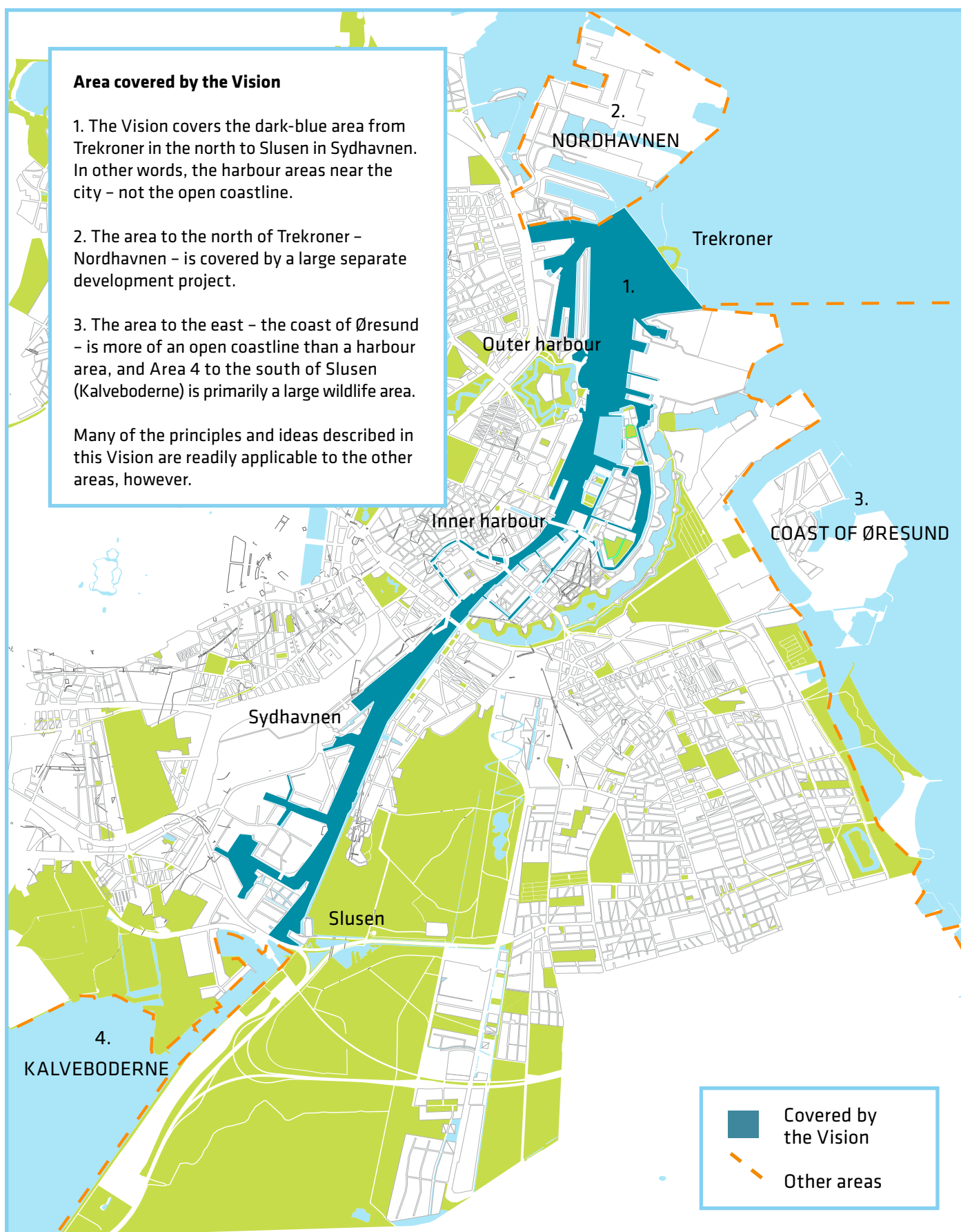
Area covered by the Vision

1. The Vision covers the dark-blue area from Trekroner in the north to Slusen in Sydhavnen. In other words, the harbour areas near the city – not the open coastline.

2. The area to the north of Trekroner – Nordhavnen – is covered by a large separate development project.

3. The area to the east – the coast of Øresund – is more of an open coastline than a harbour area, and Area 4 to the south of Slusen (Kalveboderne) is primarily a large wildlife area.

Many of the principles and ideas described in this Vision are readily applicable to the other areas, however.



AN ACTIVE, ATTRACTIVE HARBOUR

Islands Brygge



Slotsholmen Canal



VISION

– AN ACTIVE, ATTRACTIVE HARBOUR

Today

The harbor is continuously developing. The harbour is being transformed from an industrial harbour into a modern urban harbour with residential areas, office buildings and recreational facilities. The harbour's many tall waterfront edges limit access to the water, however, and not all routes and promenades are interconnected yet.

In some places, this makes it difficult to move along the waterfront or cross to the other side of the harbour basin. The harbour has many attractive public areas, but they are sometimes difficult to find and, thus, less frequented.

Vision for a new urban harbour

By 2025, the Harbour of Copenhagen has become the centre of abundant activity by and on the water. There are attractive public areas, space for play and exercise, and the water is easily accessible in many locations.

The harbour is designed for both organised sports and ad hoc recreational activity. There are also areas with charming cafés, restaurants and multifaceted retail areas. Some areas of the harbour have been designated for special purposes to allow space for a "harbour for everyone" and it has become easier to embark on new ideas and activities.

The city and harbour are naturally interconnected and there are varied connections along the waterfront and across the harbour basin. A new and more interconnected urban harbour has been created.

The harbour continues to be a site of experiment and development and accentuates Copenhagen's image and profile as a continually changing modern metropolis. The long linear quays are interrupted by attractive public areas, and the harbour gathers Copenhageners and visitors at the waterfront.

The Harbour's Image in 2025

The Harbour of Copenhagen is renowned as one of the most well-functioning, inviting and safe urban harbours in a metropolitan area. The urban harbour is renowned for its many possibilities for urban life – including sites for active sports and play and quiet areas for relaxation and concentration. There is a lively atmosphere along promenades and interesting urban areas on the waterfront. Central areas still ooze with a 17th century atmosphere, but new areas have arisen featuring modern architecture and inviting, pleasant urban spaces.

By 2025, the Harbour will be:

- the City's life-giving centre – with lots of life and activity on the water and the waterfront
- a area with a diversified system of splendid, interconnected pedestrian, running and cycling routes
- a place with parks and quiet public areas on the waterfront
- typified by good access to and from the water with waterfront facilities, stairways, wharfs and pontoons
- a clean, inviting harbour with good conditions for bathing and boating
- typified by a colourful varied selection of materials
- a place where variety and diversity are considered strengths
- a dynamic, experimental venue of which Copenhageners are proud.

Planning

The focus is on orderly, coordinated planning involving users, associations, owners, CPH City & Harbour Development, the City of Copenhagen and other authorities. Information about the harbour's qualities and scope of activity is to be communicated in a coordinated manner and the planning is carried out with respect for the harbour's history, qualities, clean water, abundance of flora and fauna and the aim to make the harbour accessible to everyone.

THE HARBOUR OF COPENHAGEN IN 2025

- Lively waterfronts brimming with activity
- Good access to and from the water
- A wide variety of public areas
- Good routes around the harbour
- A clean and inviting harbour
- A harbour with healthy and abundant wildlife
- Space for events and new projects
- A versatile and varied harbour



Exhibition at the Danish Architecture Centre

PORT OWNERSHIP

Who owns the water?

No one owns the waters around Denmark, but the Danish state has sovereignty over the territorial waters. Sovereignty does not constitute outright ownership but the right to regulate the use of the territorial waters.

Due to the state's sovereignty, the permission of the Danish state is required if someone wishes to set up a stationary facility on or fill in territorial waters. This same applies if onshore excavations are to be carried out to create new sea areas. The Danish Coastal Authority administers these rules for the state on behalf of the Ministry of Transport.

Administration of the Port of Copenhagen

The section of the territorial waters situated within the boundaries delimiting the Port of Copenhagen are administrated by the CPH City & Port Development (By & Havn) pursuant to the act on Metroselskabet I/S and Arealudviklingselskabet I/S. The port's borders are set by an executive order issued by the Ministry of Transport. The port's borders are indicated by a dotted blue line on the map on the opposite page.

Port regulations

The Ministry of Transport also lays down the regulations governing the use of Danish ports by means of executive order. Regulations for the use of the Port of Copenhagen (navigation, speed, etc.) are laid down by CPH City & Port Development through the port regulations (the latest version can be found on CPH City & Port Development's website).

Using the Port of Copenhagen

CPH City & Port Development have the powers of management over the port's aquatic areas, which is almost equivalent to the state's sovereignty over territorial waters. CPH City & Port Development can lay down the regulations for the use of the port, and thus the water, and charge rent for the use of aquatic areas. For instance, permission must be requested from CPH City & Port Development if someone wishes to obtain space for a houseboat or to host an event in the port.

CMP, Copenhagen Malmö Port

Operation of the commercial port proper in Copenhagen is carried out by Copenhagen Malmö Port (CMP), formed in 2001. CPH City & Port Development and Malmö Hamn AB each own 50% of CMP.

The area at Holmen

The waters surrounding Holmen, "Flåden's leje" (see the orange and blue areas near Holmen) are administrated in part by the Danish Military (orange), and in part by the Ministry of Transport (blue area around Holmen). This also applies to the part of Arsenaløen behind Copenhagen Opera House, where Defence Command Denmark is situated.

Who owns the quay and the seawall?

There are a wide variety of owners of quays and seawalls in the Port of Copenhagen. Large areas are owned by CPH City & Port Development, the Danish state and the City of Copenhagen. The rest are owned by private landowners. See the map on the opposite page.

Administration of rules

Applications submitted for projects on the water of a more permanent nature require that CPH City & Port Development, the City of Copenhagen and the Danish Coastal Authority be consulted. The use of municipal parks and roads on the waterfront is administered through Copenhagen Business Service. It is possible to borrow the City's parks, roads and squares for open events. This is free but requires the permission of the City of Copenhagen. Permission must be applied for from CPH City & Port Development, if an applicant wishes to hold an event in the harbour basin itself.

Collaboration

Developing a dynamic and versatile port requires broad co-operation involving the City of Copenhagen, CPH City & Port Development, local committees, landowners, developers, investors, foundations and many other stakeholders.

MANY HARBOUR OWNERS

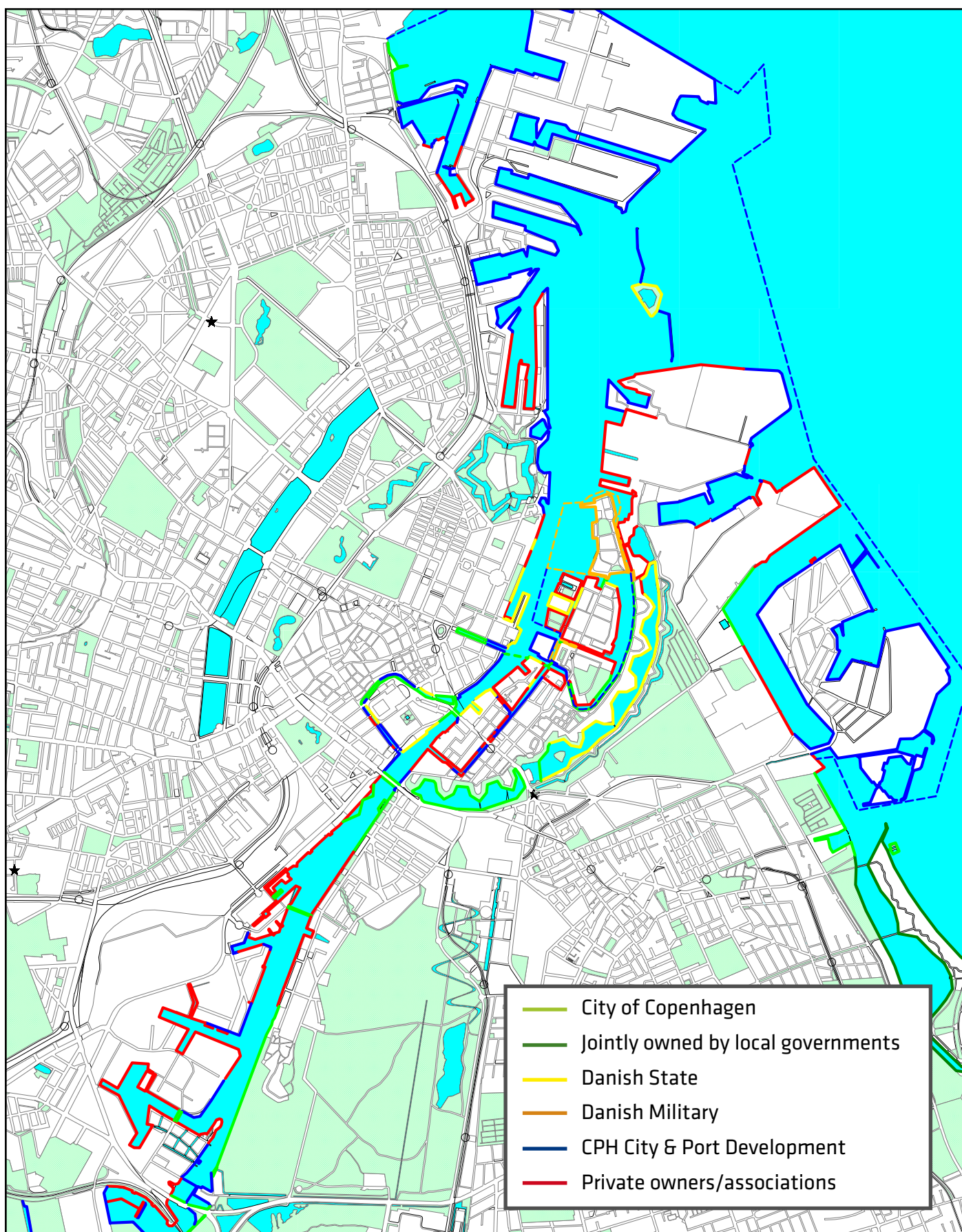
Ownership and administration of the port is quite complicated.

To construct something in a harbour basin or on a waterfront usually requires the permission of CPH City & Port Development, the City of Copenhagen, the Danish state, and any private owners involved. This usually makes it bureaucratic and difficult to carry out waterfront or harbour-basin projects. Perhaps a "Blue Council" should be set up to coordinate projects, events, etc., in the port.



Valby Boat Club, Sydhavnen

WHO OWNS THE QUAYS?



HARBOUR USERS

RECREATIONAL INTERESTS

Many users – many needs

The harbour has an enormous number of users, comprising many different types of people. This means there are also many different wishes and needs relating to the harbour.

Examples of the various harbour users:

- local residents
- visitors from other parts of the city
- tourists
- commercial properties
- cultural institutions
- hotels
- houseboats
- rowing and kayaking clubs
- harbour buses
- sightseeing boats
- yachting enthusiasts
- bathers
- anglers
- events
- and many others.

Open dialogue needed

Developing a dynamic, versatile harbour requires open, broad-based dialogue about the harbour. Accordingly, the City of Copenhagen frequently hosts meetings with different stakeholders. Naturally, the City of Copenhagen wishes to continue this dialogue to engender local ownership related to harbour development.

Because needs continuously change over time, this Vision does not seek to propose specific solutions, but only to describe general needs, wishes and solutions. Specific solutions will be developed in collaboration with local residents, owners, authorities, et al.

Space for business

For years, the harbour has been characterised by heavy industrial enterprises, such as B&W, Uniscrap and Dansk Sojakagefabrik. They have gradually relocated away from the central harbour area. They have been replaced by many large office and housing complexes.

Only a few commercial vessels ply the waters of the inner harbour basin. The outer harbour basin, however, is still teeming with commercial traffic, including ferries, cruise ships and container ships.

Throughout the harbour, there is an increasing number of water buses and canal sightseeing boats for tourists and local transportation.

The harbour must continue to accommodate all of these businesses, but going forward, they in turn must increasingly share the harbour with the many other recreational interests.

Space for leisure and play

Local residents, people on their way to or from the harbour, tourists and other visitors use the harbour as a recreational area. There are also many associations and sports clubs actively using the harbour. These different groups also have many different needs and wishes for the harbour.

Many of these groups want a more active harbour brimming with bustle and activity, but local residents, hotels and offices also have a need for peace and quiet.

The City of Copenhagen wishes to strike a suitable balance with room for plenty of activity but which considers the needs of others.

Harbour activities

The map on the opposite page shows examples of recreational options already existing in the harbour today.

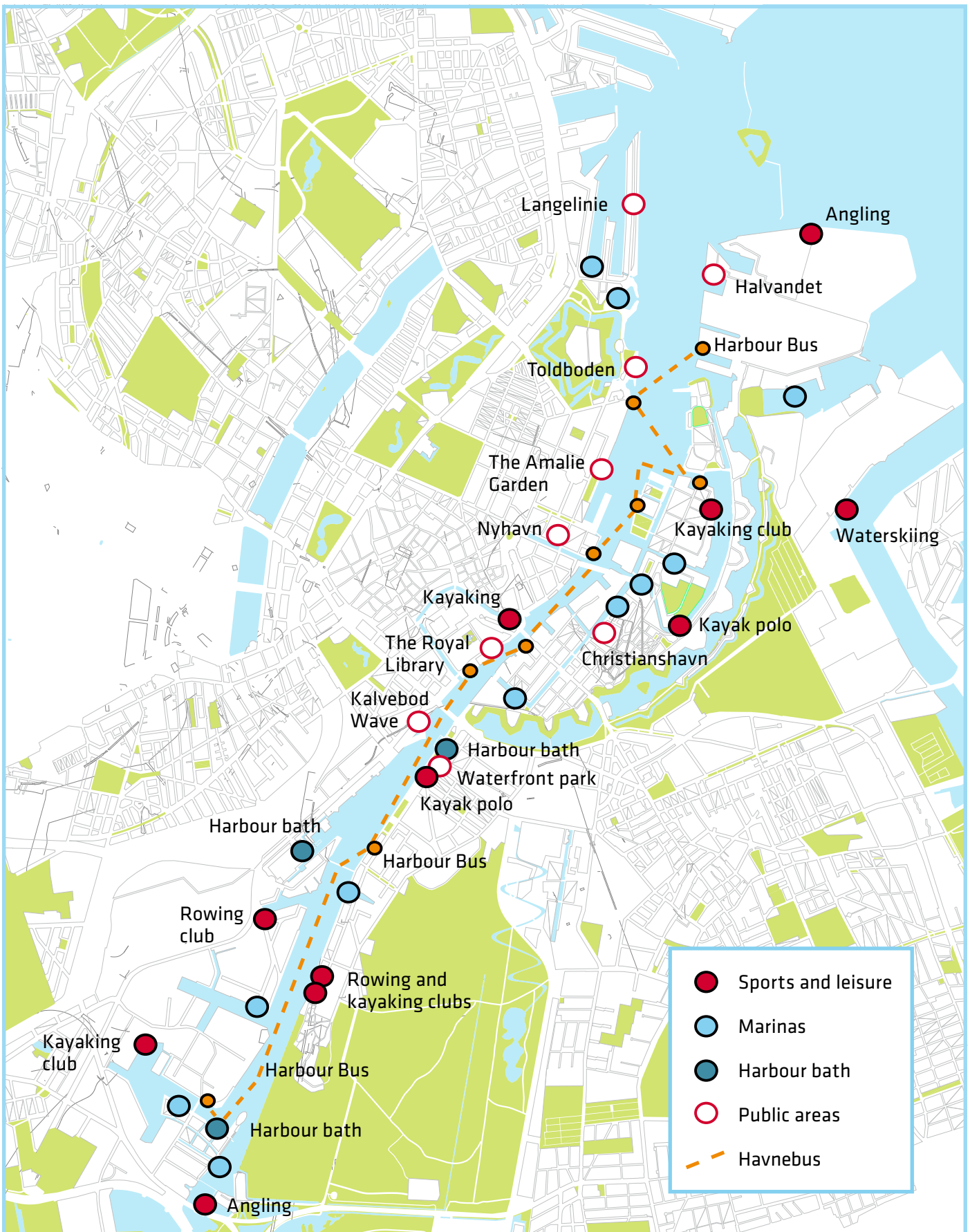
FACTS ABOUT USING THE HARBOUR

- The Harbour of Copenhagen has around 3,000 kayak users.
- The harbour sightseeing boats convey around one million passengers a year.
- The Harbour of Copenhagen has three public harbour buses with hundreds of visitors on good days.
- The harbour has many small marinas with yachts, such as Christianshavn Canal, Valby Boat Club, Langlinie Harbour and many more.
- Houseboat colonies are found at Refshaleøen, Holmen, Tømmergraven, Slusen and other locations.
- The Copenhagen Harbour Bus lines now provide service all the way from Sydhavnen to Refshaleøen.



Harbour of Copenhagen

EXAMPLES OF RECREATIONAL POSSIBILITIES IN THE HARBOUR, 2013



RECREATIONAL THEMES IN THE HARBOUR



The Harbour Bath, Islands Brygge



Nyhavn

SELECTED THEMES

Many considerations

The development of the Harbour of Copenhagen comprises many topics and considerations that should be analysed and weighed in relation to one another.

Initially, the City of Copenhagen chooses to focus on eight themes which, in our view, should be given very high priority. These themes are important to laying the basis for more activities along the waterfront and in the harbour to increase the number of people who benefit from harbour.

Selected themes:

- 1 **More activities within the harbour**
- 2 **Better access to and from the water**
- 3 **More public spaces**
- 4 **Better routes and connections**
- 5 **A clean and inviting harbour**
- 6 **A harbour with a healthy natural environment**
- 7 **Events and temporary projects**
- 8 **Variation and space for everyone**

Each theme is reviewed on the following pages where we will argue in favour of focusing on notably the themes selected. This does not mean, however, that other themes are not important. Accordingly, the City of Copenhagen will continue to identify residents' wishes for the harbour through workshops and dialogue meetings. Through this dialogue, we will continuously evaluate whether there is a need to focus on more or different themes.

Many authorities and opinions, but only one harbour

The City of Copenhagen is fully aware of the many different opinions about the harbour and the action being taken in the harbour. The City tries to hear the viewpoints of as many parties as possible but the efforts and choices always involve striking a balance between many different considerations and options. Thus, there are a great many sets of rules and authorities in play whenever anyone wishes to do something on the water or waterfront. In addition to the City's administrations and CPH City & Harbour Development, the Danish Coastal Authority, the Danish Nature Agency and many private landowners own large parts of areas and quays along the waterfront.



Christianshavns Canal



Frederiksholms Canal



Kalvebod Brygge

1 – MORE ACTIVITIES IN THE HARBOUR

Objective

The Harbour of Copenhagen should be developed into an active, diversified area which invites to play, exercise and visits – both on the water and the waterfronts.

This does not mean that activities should be ubiquitous, however. There should also be quiet areas and small green oases where it is possible to find peace and quiet.

We would like to create a harbour

- with a high level of maritime activity by and on the water
- with space for all types of boats – from kayaks and motorboats to large sailing boats
- that is navigable for harbour buses, sightseeing boats and others who use the harbour as a waterway every day.
- which provides activities for children, young people and adults
- which accommodates exhibitions, art and markets
- where it is possible to exercise: jog, run, sail, swim, play ball and host aquatic competitions
- that accommodates temporary projects

Action

Through collaboration with the many stakeholders, the harbour should develop into an active, diverse area that invites play and exercise, as well as various types of visits.

Examples

The new angling jetty in Sydhavnen has increased the possibilities of fishing. The Blue Route improves safety and kayaking options, and new waterfront facilities will increase the use of waterfront areas.

Festivals, events and sports festivals will increasingly make use of the many waterfront options. The City actively supports many of these projects, such as Harbour of Culture and Round Christiansborg.



Frederiksholms Canal



Quincentenary of the Danish Navy



Islands Brygge



Angling on Slusen in Sydhavnen



Harbour of Copenhagen

2 – BETTER ACCESS TO AND FROM THE WATER

Objective

It should be easier to access the water directly and it should be easier to get out of the water onto waterfront, jetties and promenades. Therefore, additional sites are needed where the waterfront is divided into different levels to reduce the distance to the water.

We would like to create a harbour with

- easy access to the water's edge in several locations
- more elevation differences between shore and water (stairways, pontoon bridges, wharves, promenades, etc.) to make it easier to access the water
- many pleasant public waterfront areas
- a wider variety of waterfront materials (more wood, vegetation, etc.)
- better opportunities for visiting yachters to moor and come ashore.
- clear coherence between city and harbour.

Action

The City of Copenhagen has compiled a Waterfront Design Catalogue to inspire a wider variety of waterfront designs. The City intends to promote the establishment of additional waterfront facilities in the form of small local areas directly accessible to and from the water (floating jetties, pontoons, wharfs, etc.). These can be established on the initiative of residents, property owners or associations. If municipal subsidy is needed, this could be found in existing funds or by giving higher priority to this action in the upcoming annual budgets.

Examples

By establishing Kalvebod Wave (Kalvebod Bølge) and opening up for new waterfront facilities, it is possible to improve local access options to and from the water. The Blue Route for kayakers behind Holmen and the anglers' jetty in Sydhavnen also give direct access to the water (see the examples on the map on the last page).



3 – MORE PUBLIC AREAS

Objective

The harbour should be a natural place to meet and a venue that unifies the city. The harbour should provide versatile urban spaces to attract people to the waterfront and invite them to spend time by and on the water, e.g. by providing play and exercise areas, small green oases, floating markets, small marinas and harbour baths.

We would like to create a harbour with

- many more attractive public areas
- more green areas along the waterfront
- possibility for shelter from wind and rain
- more places to play and exercise
- more areas with good access to and from the water
- more small marinas and docks

Action

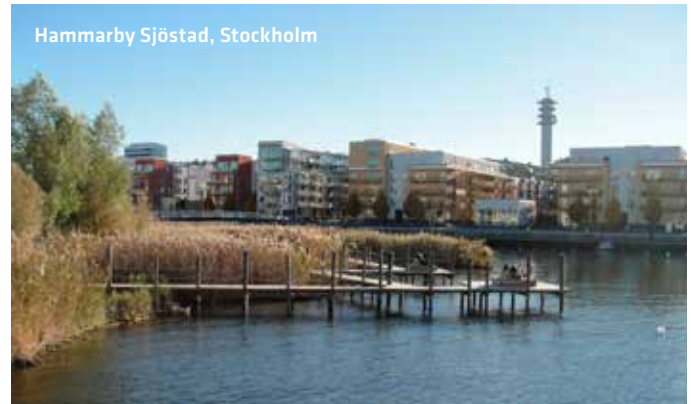
The harbour should be a series of versatile urban spaces to attract people to the waterfront and encourage people to enjoy spending time on the waterfront and the water. The planning of the harbour's urban spaces should also include a recreational angle.

This should be part of future plans for harbour areas that have yet to be transformed. Specific actions in the City's own urban spaces can be given higher priority in upcoming annual budgets.

Examples

More waterfront facilities will pave the way for more waterfront visits and better access to the water. The promenade by the Royal Danish Playhouse and at Kalvebod Wave are examples of new public waterfront areas.

The City also encourages landowners, private investors and foundations to establish more attractive public waterfront areas concurrent with the development of the harbour.



4 – BETTER ROUTES AND CONNECTIONS

Objective

The harbour should comprise a continuous network of good connections to make it easy to move about along the waterfront and across the harbour basin. There is also a need for higher visibility of connections to the waterfront from adjacent urban areas.

We would like to create a harbour with

- good options for pedestrians, cyclists, runners and joggers
- possibilities for both short and long routes
- routes of a varying nature and length so users can experience Copenhagen's variety of harbour milieus
- clear signposting of the different routes
- good connections along the waterfront and across the harbour basin to provide easy access to all harbour areas
- good connections to and from adjacent urban areas to naturally connect them to the waterfront
- a combination of bridges and harbour buses to connect the city across the harbour.

Action

Municipal Plan 2011 comprises an interconnected cycling route network, guidelines for promenades, for access to and on the water, etc.

The City of Copenhagen expects to update the basis for the Municipal Plan's guidelines and maps as part of preparing Municipal Plan 2015, in which it will be possible to focus on connections around and across the harbour basin.

Example

A new bridge from Teglholmen to Nokken will vastly improve the access to the expansive nature areas on Amager. A new promenade from the Royal Library to Havnegade will improve waterfront continuity.



Christians Brygge



Bryggebroen



Harbour Bus



Barcelona



Istanbul

5 – A CLEAN AND INVITING HARBOUR

Objective

The Harbour of Copenhagen intends to be a clean harbour where it is possible to bathe, fish and pursue aquatic sports.

Bathing water

The Harbour of Copenhagen is already renowned for its clean water and harbour baths, but a large-scale and costly effort is required to maintain the large drainage system and adopt it to a larger population and the new climate challenges with enormous cloudbursts.

To be able to bathe and pursue aquatic sports in the harbour still requires a high level of ambition and giving high priority to the harbour's water quality.

Waste

More intensive use of the harbour will also generate more waste on the waterfront and in the harbour basin. This problem is already clearly evident at the waterfront park at Islands Brygge.

We would like to create a harbour with

- more attractive bathing sites
- clean, inviting water
- fewer waste-water overflows
- less waste on the waterfront and in the water

Action

More waste-water overflows into the harbour need to be closed and the volume of waste-water still needs to be reduced. New developments and climate adjustments need to be implemented to ensure focus on maintaining and improving the good quality of the bathing water.

The many new users of the harbour also necessitates actively minimising waste in the water.



Slotsholmen Canal

6 – A HARBOUR WITH HEALTHY WILDLIFE

Objective

The Harbour of Copenhagen should have a healthy stand of eelgrass and sea grass, as well as a healthy, high-diversity of fish and benthic fauna.

Biology

The harbour is already cleaner today than many people think. There is an abundance of eelgrass and sea grass in the shallow areas of the harbour. In addition, there are also lots of benthic fauna, crabs, snails and mussels. More than 30 different fish species also inhabit the harbour basin. In other words, the wildlife in the harbour basin is abundant and healthy and almost on a par with Øresund wildlife.

But waste-water is still discharged into the harbour basin during heavy rainfall. This pollutes the water with the nutrients phosphorous and nitrogen, and with bacteria and viruses.

Unfortunately, there are still many heavy metals – particularly mercury – on the harbour seabed, from industrial discharges of the past.

We would like to create a harbour with

- a healthy stand of eel grass, sea grass and fish
- with fewer waste-water overflows
- with fewer heavy metals in the seabed

Action

It is important to protect the shallow areas containing eelgrass, sea grass and lots of fish.

It is also important to preserve the large open aquatic spaces with lots of light. There should be more focus on providing wildlife information to children and youths. The harbour affords plenty of opportunities to do so.



7 – EVENTS AND TEMPORARY PROJECTS

Objective

The Harbour of Copenhagen should provide good options for temporary use and events. The harbour should be an ideal venue in which to experiment, try out and test new initiatives for the purpose of developing more permanent solutions.

Areas that will not be developed for several years can easily become desolate. In the meantime, these areas could be used for temporary purposes. This applies to areas of Refshaleøen, for instance. There are both large open areas and many old buildings that are not scheduled for urban development until several years from now.

There are also other waterfront areas that are not actively used. They contain many good options for temporary use and events.

Good examples of temporary events and use of the waterfront and harbour include Copenhagen Jazz Festival, Harbour of Culture, Round Christiansborg, Copenhagen Harbour Race, Cliff Diving from Copenhagen Opera House, Luftkastellet, Ofelia Beach and Halvandet.

We would like to create a harbour with

- appealing options for temporary activities
- space for events, festivals and markets
- easy administration of permissions for events, etc.

Action

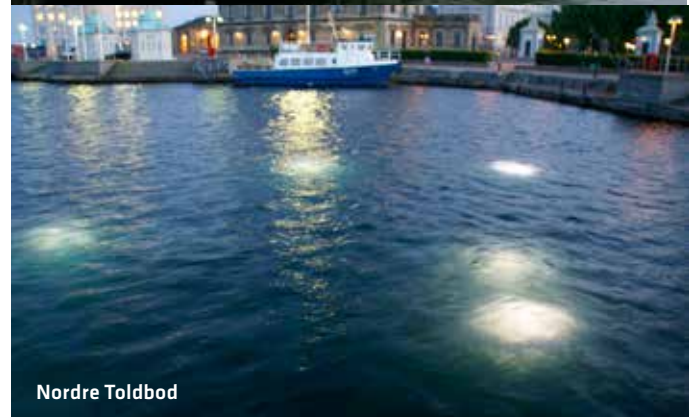
The harbour has ideal areas for temporary projects today, but at present it is frequently quite difficult to carry out projects in the harbour area. A common point of entry to the City could make it easier to carry out projects in the harbour area. For this reason, the City intends to facilitate the application procedure for temporary projects.



Amsterdam



Christianshavn



Nordre Toldbod



Enghave Brygge



Amsterdam

8 – VARIATION AND ROOM FOR EVERYONE

Objective

The Harbour of Copenhagen must preserve its diversity and versatility with space for business, housing, play, exercise and festivities, but it should also have peaceful waterfront parks. There should be room for all interest groups. Today, the harbour bears the mark of a historical commercial harbour with tall waterfronts and long straight esplanades paved with cobblestones and asphalt.

We would like to create a harbour with

- a wider variety of local waterfront designs
- a versatile selection of options
- space for events and temporary projects
- more parks by the water and along the waterfront
- a wider variety of materials.

Action

Needless to say, the harbour should preserve its historical references and sites that already function well today. But there should also be room for renewal and new activities in the harbour.

Activity and tranquillity

There should be room to host events like Harbour of Culture, Copenhagen Jazz Festival and Distortion, but there should also be areas of peace and quiet.

Old and new

In the old city centre, the harbour should be developed out of great respect for the historical buildings. Sydhavnen, by contrast, affords more elbowroom for trying out new solutions and cultural initiatives.

Flexibility

Residents, landowners, CPH City & Harbour Development and the City of Copenhagen must be innovative, bold and flexible if we are to develop a more diversified, varied harbour environment.



RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOPING THE HARBOUR OF COPENHAGEN

Diversity and variation

It is important that the Harbour of Copenhagen ultimately becomes a varied, diversified harbour with room for everyone. It should be an attractive place to visit, regardless if you are meeting friends or looking for peace and quiet.

Setting a good example

The Harbour of Copenhagen should be developed into a good example of how to create space for waterways for large ships, harbour buses, sightseeing boats, rowing clubs and individual kayakers, as well as for runners/joggers, swimmers and café frequenters. The harbour should also set a good example for how to establish pleasant public areas and easy access to and from the water.

Continuity and connections

The City of Copenhagen will work on connections around the harbour – without obstructing navigation. The joint planning for a network of promenades and recreational cycling routes is part of the municipal plan. It is recommended that a review of routes and connections can be included in the Municipal Plan 2015.

Conserving the harbour's environment

The shallow areas of the harbour should be maintained as they are important biotopes with eelgrass and lots of fish. The large open aquatic areas of the harbour should also be protected, because they infuse the harbour with vistas and light and also provide space for many activities within the harbour.

Individual harbour areas

There are still many areas of the harbour with great development potential or whose potential use is not sufficiently exploited. These various harbour areas have unique characteristics and, thus, unique potential. Better utilisation can be ensured through the planning aimed at transforming harbour areas and by giving higher priority to improving these areas in the upcoming annual budgets.

Funding harbour projects

The Technical and Environmental Administration of the City of Copenhagen is responsible for the harbour's municipal waterfront areas. The administration will process specific ideas and projects and look into their potential realisation both through financing from foundations/funds and from the City's upcoming annual budgets.



PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

PROCESS

Open dialogue and cooperation

Developing a good, versatile harbour requires open, inclusive dialogue about the harbour. To achieve this, the City meets frequently with CPH City & Harbour Development, local committees, foundations, landowners, developers, investors, the Danish Outdoor Council, Wonderful Copenhagen and many other stakeholders. The City will obviously continue this dialogue to get new ideas and engender local ownership relating to harbour development.

Development

Needs change over time. Therefore, this Vision does not try to pinpoint specific solutions but only to describe local needs and general solutions to them. The analyses and proposed projects mentioned in the following will provide specific proposals for areas and local solutions.

The City of Copenhagen hopes that this Vision can help to establish the direction for developing a dynamic urban harbour with greater number of attractive public areas, better access and more activity.

Joint effort

Developing the Harbour of Copenhagen is a continuous, complex and steadily changing process. Due to the complicated ownership situation and the many authorities involved, it is often difficult to carry out projects in the harbour.

External sources of inspiration

The City of Copenhagen already cooperates with a many different local organisations and other cities and towns around the world. We will naturally use this network as a source of inspiration but also for dialogue concerning possible solutions for the future.

2013 This is your harbour

From March to June 2013, the Danish Architecture Centre (DAC) hosted the exhibition "This is Your Harbour", which was prepared by DAC and several foundations together with the City of Copenhagen. The exhibition has helped to bring focus to bear on the development of the harbour.

Wishes for the harbour

The City of Copenhagen will join forces with various stakeholders to conduct analyses aimed at identifying wishes and needs for developing the harbour. The Technical and Environmental Administration carried out a questionnaire survey about residents' wishes for the harbour in connection with the DAC exhibition in 2013.

Consultation procedure for the Vision

The Vision "A Harbour of Opportunities" was sent for consultation in the autumn of 2013 by way of the City's consultation portal "Bliv hørt" (be heard). The results of the consultation process will be included in the preparation of the next municipal plan.

Waterfront Design Catalogue

The Technical and Environmental Administration has prepared a Waterfront Design Catalogue to serve as a source of inspiration for new and more versatile waterfront solutions for upcoming harbour projects.

The development of the harbour itself must take place in an iterative process, i.e. with repeated analyses, development, design and testing, in ongoing dialogue with the many stakeholders. Therefore, the City of Copenhagen hopes that associations, private individuals and foundations will help to contribute and carry out many good new ideas and projects to develop the harbour.

2014 The final plan

The final vision of a "Harbour of Opportunities" has been approved by the Technical and Environmental Committee and is expected to be approved by the City Council during 2014.

2015- The continued development of a more active, varied and inviting harbour will take place within the framework set out by Municipal Plan 2015.

The realisation of specific projects will take place concurrent with the securing of funding. For the City of Copenhagen, this will be to the extent that funds can be found in the city's budgets in the years ahead. As part of the continuing process, a development plan will be drawn up for the recreational development of the harbour.

HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF THE HARBOUR

Medieval harbour

The Harbour of Copenhagen has always been a lifeline transecting the city and much of the city's activities have always taken place along the waterfront.

Copenhagen was originally a small fishing hamlet situated where Gammel Strand and the city centre are today. The wide, open fairway contained islets named Slotsholmen, Bremerholm and Gammelholm.

Commercial harbour

From the late 1100s, the harbour became increasingly important to the hamlet's business life. The town's location on Øresund sound meant that Copenhagen soon became an attractive commercial centre and quickly became Denmark's wealthiest and most important urban centre.

From the early 1500s, the town's islets were formed or enlarged (such as Bremerholm/Gammelholm and Nyholm) and in 1619, the enlargement of Christianshavn began. In 1671 a new harbour (Nyhavn) was constructed and Gammel Strand was converted into a canal with trading ships.

Naval base

As the city gradually grew, it was no longer expedient to have the navy docked in the middle of the town. Therefore, a plan to relocate the navy outside the town was implemented starting in 1680. The area around Holmen, which includes the islets Nyholm, Frederiksholm and Arsenaløen, is the joint designation for the islets to where the navy was relocated. For years, the area was the main base for the Danish navy and was Denmark's biggest workplace for around 300 years.

Industrial harbour

During the 1900s, a number of large manufacturing facilities were established along the waterfront. Industrial companies like B&W Shipyards, De Danske Sukkerfabrikker (sugar factory), Aalborg Portland (cement), Dansk Sojakagefabrik (soymeal) and the H.C. Ørsted Power Station were established during this period and characterised the harbour's utilisation up until the late 20th century. The harbour's importance as a ferry harbour also grew during this period.

Recreational harbour – the urban harbour

Since the late 1990s, the vast majority of the manufacturing industries have closed, relocated to outer harbour areas or left the city entirely, which provides an opportunity to infuse the harbour with new life. The freed up harbour areas provide an opportunity for Copenhagen to establish new urban waterfront environments and make the harbour accessible to Copenhageners.

The harbour today

Today, the Harbour of Copenhagen is largely a recreational harbour with housing along the waterfront, promenades, parks, rowing clubs, harbour baths with multifaceted features and recreational activities. Projects like the Waterfront Park (1983–1995) and the harbour bath at Islands Brygge (2002) dramatically changed the harbour's image and Copenhageners' awareness and use of the harbour.

Several projects like the park at Havnegade, Kalvebod Wave and the harbour baths at Fisketorvet and Sluseholmen have been added since then and help to make the part a lively varied urban space in the centre of the city.

ABOUT THE HARBOUR'S HISTORY

- The Harbour of Copenhagen was founded in the Middle Ages, around 1200.
- The harbour was an important trading centre from 1200 to 1600.
- In the 1600s, the harbour was dramatically enlarged into a naval base.
- During the 1800s and 1900s, the harbour also became an important industrial harbour.
- Since the 1990s, many manufacturing industries have left the harbour.
- From the 1990s onward, many new housing complexes and commercial properties have been built along the waterfront.



DEVELOPMENT OF THE HARBOUR



PROJECTS SITED AT THE HARBOUR

Many projects in the harbour

The transformation of the harbour from an industrial harbour into a more recreational harbour is already in progress.

Projects 2013

The map on the opposite page shows all the harbour-related projects currently in progress in 2013. They include projects like Kalvebod Wave, the cycling link to Bryggebroen and new bridges spanning the inner harbour basin at Nyhavn.

Upcoming projects

Plenty of plans for new projects are also on the drawing board. Accordingly, a selection of these potential projects are also included on the map. These projects have not necessarily been decided upon but are projects or ideas which have been discussed as possible future projects.

Information about large-scale ongoing municipal projects can be found on the City's website:

www.kk.dk/da/om-kommunen/indsatsomraader-og-politikker/byplanlaegning-og-anlaeg/anlaegsprojekter

www.kk.dk/da/borger/byggeri



Sydhavnen 2012



Børsgraven



Bridge spanning the inner harbour



Kalvebod Wave



Proposed waterfront facility, Refshaleøen

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS IN THE HARBOUR





European Union

European Regional Development Fund

**COPENHAGEN
TOGETHER**

CITY OF COPENHAGEN
The Technical and
Environmental Administration

Prepared by the City of Copenhagen, 2013

PHOTOS

Aerial photos: Henrik Schurmann

Underwater photos: Orbicon

Other: City of Copenhagen



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