





MALMI – THE CENTRE OF NORTH-EASTERN HELSINKI

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Pihlajamäki



Malmi



2,3 km | 8 min



2,7 km | 12 min

The Malmintori square is a lively hub of commerce. Photo by Simo Karisalo.

Malmi has been a regional centre for over a century. Originally, it served as the centre of what was then the township of Helsinge until 1946 when the area was consolidated to the City of Helsinki. After the consolidation, Malmi became, for all practical purposes, the heart of north-eastern Helsinki, which has been its role to this day. Today, Malmi is also one of the two district centres in Helsinki.

The opening of the railway station in 1871 drew a large number of residents as well as industry to Malmi.

The period following the consolidation to Helsinki also saw the beginning of new zoning projects: the west side of the railway tracks (Malmi, Tapaninkylä) received its first town plan in 1953, but the east side had to wait nearly two decades after the consolidation, until 1964.

In 1972, the City Council resolved that Malmi would be designated as the second district centre of Helsinki, which sparked a new zoning process in the Malmi district. The new railway station over the railway tracks was completed in 1986 and was connected to the pedestrian and bicycle ways on both sides of the tracks with bridges. The most important commercial and public services were positioned around the squares at the ends of the bridges. Office buildings were constructed along the roads flanking the main railway line. Later development of the district centre has followed along these lines. As was the case with the first town plan, the new plan took into account the existing network of streets, which is why



View from the Kirkonkyläntie bridge.
Photo by Simo Karisalo.



A recreational centre in the
premises of the old von Essen Villa
and Malminkylä Manor in Ala-
Malmi. Photo by Simo Karisalo.



The park around the Malmintalo building has been renovated with an attractive water theme. Photo by Simo Karisalo.

➤ The Ströms Estate outbuilding in Ala-Malmi on the Latokartanontie road. Photo by Simo Karisalo.

Malmi took its current form. Additionally, conscious efforts were made to preserve as much of the old building stock as possible.

Construction of the actual district centre did not, however, begin until the 1980s. The indoor swimming pool in the Ala-Malmi area and the church on the Kirkonkyläntie road were the first of the larger public building projects. By the end of the 1980s, the district centre was nearly complete and the Malmi-talo community centre was, at long last, open for everyone to enjoy.

The Malmi district is divided into two sections, Ylä-Malmi and Ala-Malmi, by the main railway line. In addition to the public and commercial services, both sides of the tracks hold residential apartment blocks, which are, on the Ylä-Malmi side, followed by a vast area of detached and semi-

detached housing, which extends all the way to the Vantaanjoki river in the west and the Tapaninkyläntie road in the east. The Ala-Malmi area, in turn, contains the relatively expansive Longinoja park area, which is surrounded by detached and semi-detached housing as well as several educational institutes.

The Ylä-Malmi area also holds the impressive brick church from 1981, which was designed by architect Kristian Gullichsen, as well as a century-old hospital, which, during the war years between 1939 and 1944, served as a military hospital. In 1946 when the horrors of war had passed, ownership of the hospital was transferred to the City of Helsinki, and it received the name Malmi Hospital. The hospital has now been dubbed the Eastern Emergency Hospital and its expansion work is under way. Despite the renovations, the old hospital buildings will be preserved.



Central Malmi, Aerial photo: © City Engineer's Office, Helsinki.



The new area of urban detached and semi-detached housing in Ormuspelto represents complementary building in the area. Planning-stage picture by City Planning Department. Photo by Sakari Pulkkinen.

The Ala-Malmi area, in turn, houses a beautiful graveyard, which was established in 1890 on former military training grounds.

The area also holds the Malmi Airport, which was taken into use in 1936. Currently, the City of Helsinki is searching for a suitable new location for the airport in the metropolitan area. The current site is intended to be zoned for residential use.

Additional plans have been made to construct new residential areas in the Ormumäentie area near the centre of Malmi and in Alppikylä, which is located between Tattarisuo (a vast area of light industry on the east side of the airport) and Jakomäki.

