



How do we get young people interested in science?

Vattenhallen currently welcomes close to 40 000 visitors per year from all over Skåne. The activity has reached the limits of its current premises and cannot expand further. In order to meet the increasing number of visitors, an extension of this popular destination is now planned, to make it more than three times its current size and enable it to receive 100 000 visitors per year. Below, we describe the development potential which will become a reality with your support and involvement.

Vattenhallen is a science centre at Lund University. The departments at the University, as well as private companies, have contributed their expertise and knowledge to the development of new experiments, mainly within science and technology. Many researchers are also active in meetings with schoolchildren and other visitors to Vattenhallen, which contributes to achieving our aim of being a meeting-place between universities, schools, the general public, business and industry.

“Our wish is for Vattenhallen to involve the whole University, the municipality of Lund and Region Skåne. We also hope that more companies and organisations want to get involved in our work of disseminating knowledge and curiosity about science and education in an enjoyable way,” says Monica Almqvist, director of the Centre and senior lecturer.

THE EXTENSION

The new extension, which will give Vattenhallen a total surface area of 2900 square metres, will have an entrance easily visible from the campus plaza of the Faculty of Engineering (LTH), with an open and inviting architecture. Adjacent to Vattenhallen’s outdoor area, a very robust theme playground will also be installed, usable even when Vattenhallen is closed. Thanks to the extension, Vattenhallen will be able to receive around 100 000 visitors per year, which means that it will be possible to run several activities simultaneously. The aim is to be able to receive groups of visitors from several school classes and companies, while keeping the centre open to the general public.

An extended, flexible exhibition space will reinforce Vattenhallen’s attractiveness both for schools and as a tourist destination. This will be achieved by making space for spectacular temporary themed exhibitions alongside the centre’s own new experiment stations, such as an exhibition on the digestive tract. The extended Vattenhallen will welcome visitors in a large atrium, which will feature a shop with inspiring items. Adjacent to the entrance, a café offering simple refreshments will allow visitors to take a break during their visit. From the café, it will be possible to reach the themed playground designed as an extension of Vattenhallen’s indoor experiments. The café as well as the themed playground will be accessible when Vattenhallen is closed, offering an activity in the area for a longer period during the day.

FUNDING NEEDS

Vattenhallen is an important science centre for the whole of Lund University. In the new extension, several research fields will collaborate to exhibit current technology and science to inspire young people. Vattenhallen’s day-to-day work is currently funded by Lund University, entrance ticket sales, fees and sponsorship and contributions from participating companies.

Lund University and Vattenhallen are now seeking complementary funding of SEK 30 million to enable the implementation of the planned extension.

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