



**ROME WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 2023**



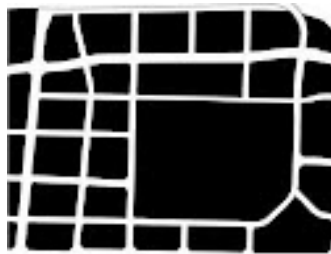
**MAJOR
DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY
THESSALONIKI S.A.**

A quest for natural porosity in the urban form: the case of the metropolitan area of Thessaloniki

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Urban porosity – urban built up and voids

The connection between the built and the unbuilt / between the “indoor” and the “outdoor” / between the mass and the void



MISSISSAUGA



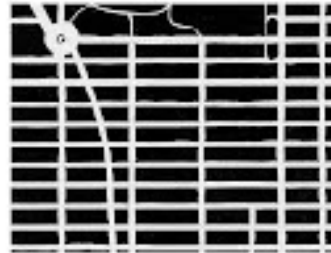
BARCELONA



COPENHAGEN



LONDON



NEW YORK



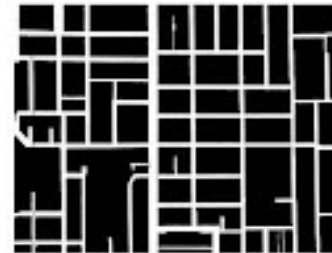
PARIS



ROME



SAN FRANCISCO



TORONTO



VENICE



LONDON



PARIS



BRASÍLIA

Urban porosity today

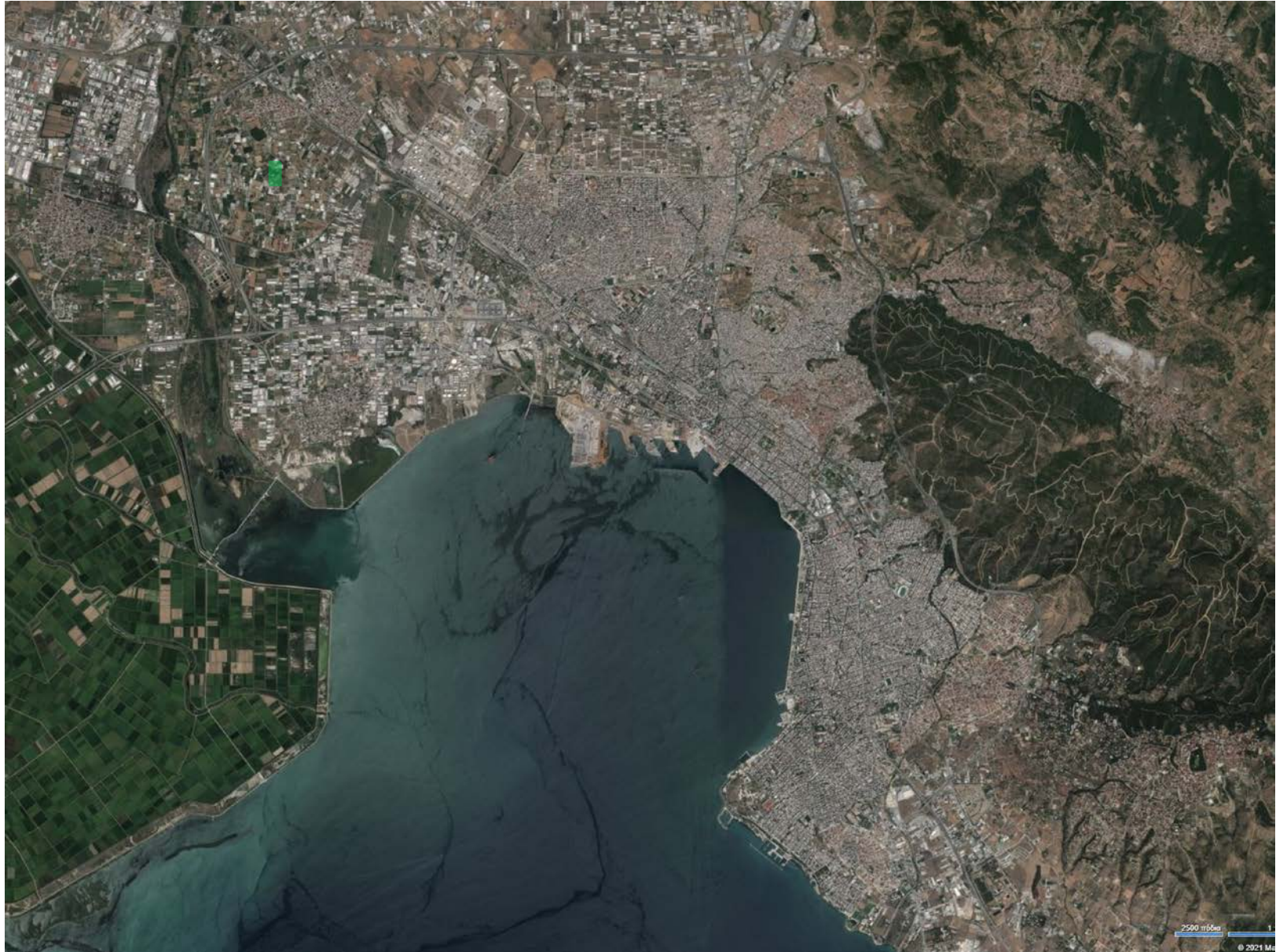
Climate change, adaptation, mitigation, resilience

Porosity can be understood in this context as a city's capacity to adapt to the natural flow of water, focusing on fluidity and flexibility as essential mechanisms of climate adaptability, elements often neglected in urban planning

Porous cities are like sponges, they can absorb water, let nature grow,

the case of Thessaloniki metropolitan area

the
geography
has
formulated
the city's
shape



the case of Thessaloniki metropolitan area

the
geography
has
formulated
the city's
shape

Thermaic
Gulf and
the extent
seafront
line



the case of Thessaloniki metropolitan area

the
geography
has
formulated
the city's
shape

The forest



the case of Thessaloniki metropolitan area

the
geography
has
formulated
the city's
shape

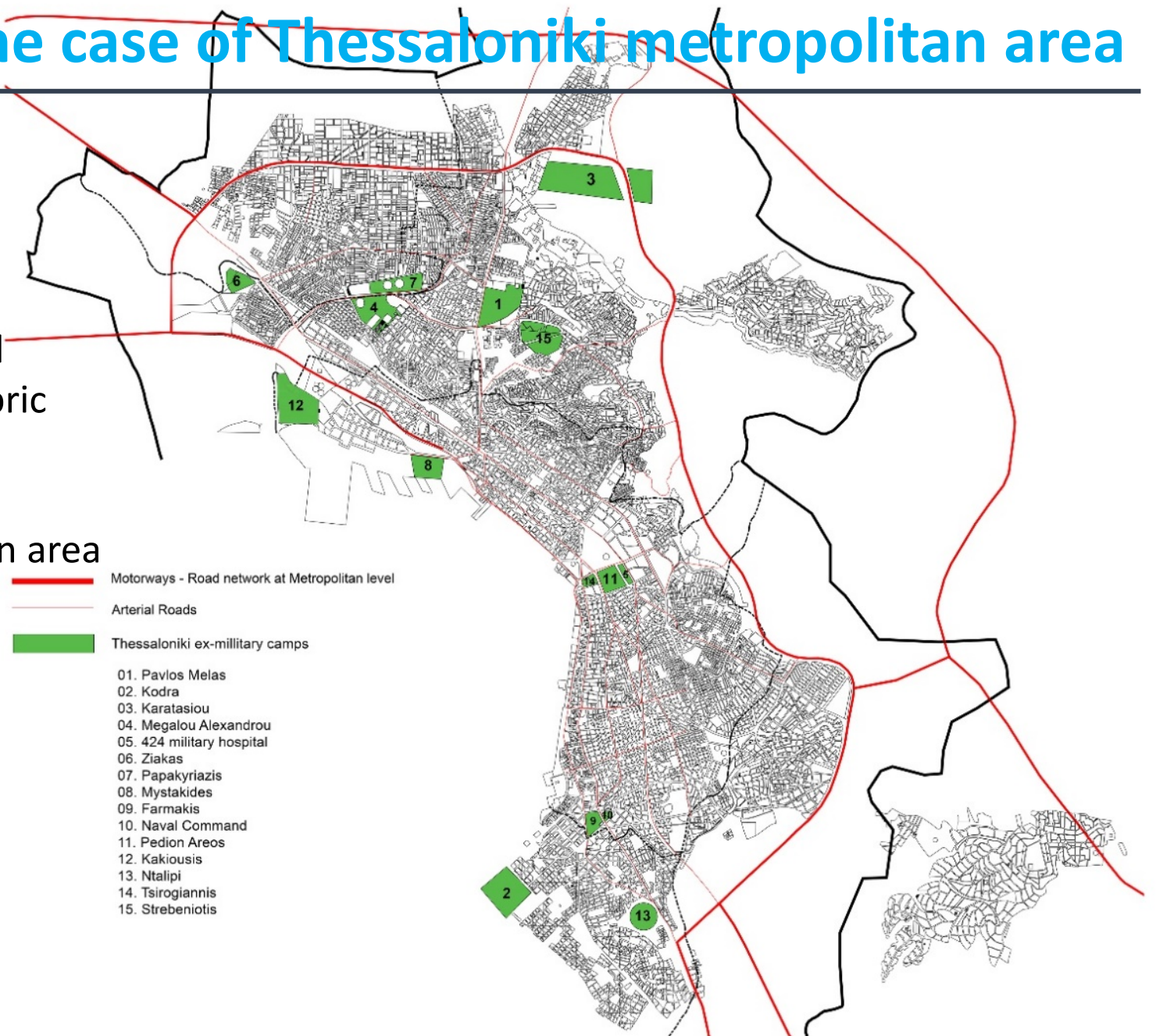
The
"butterfly"
shape of
the city



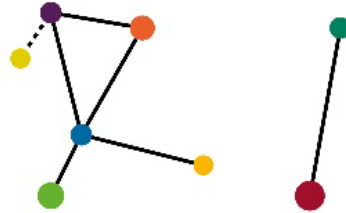
the case of Thessaloniki metropolitan area

EX MILITARY CAMPS
TOTAL AVAILABLE LAND:
Aprox. 475 Ha

Availability of porous urban land
Urban voids in a dense urban fabric
Nature in the city
Historical buildings
Spread at the entire metropolitan area



the case of Thessaloniki metropolitan area



**URBACT NETWORK of
8 Metropolitan Cities**

RiCONNECT
RETHINKING INFRASTRUCTURE

Barcelona Metropolitan Area

Porto Metropolitan Area

Greater Manchester

Métropole du Grand Paris

Krakov Metropolis Association

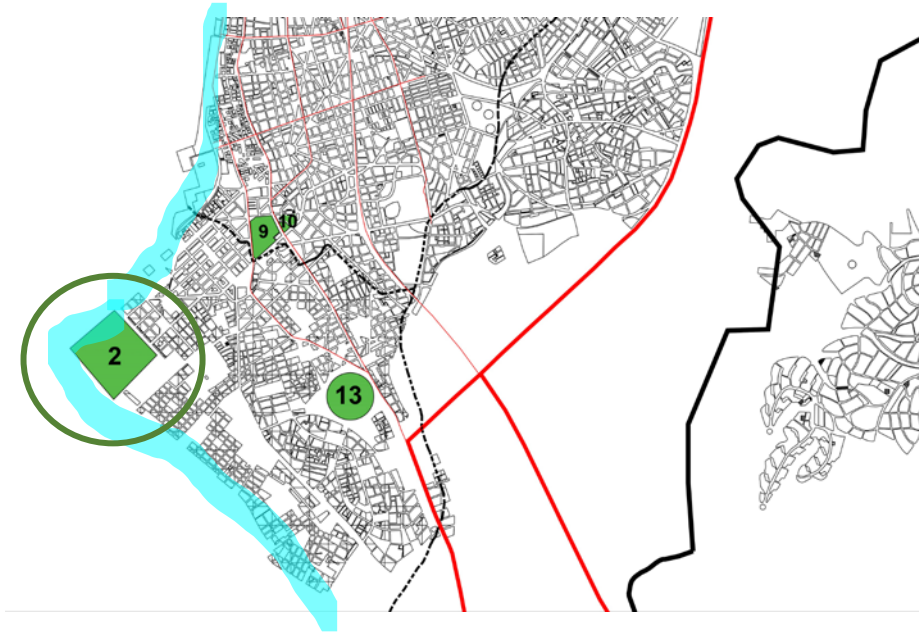
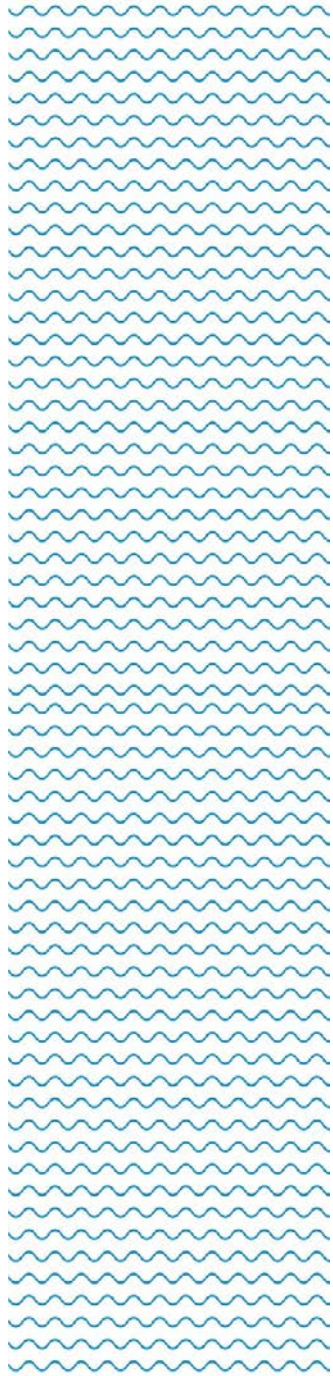
Gdansk-Gdynia-Sopot Metropolitan Area

Amsterdam Region

Thessaloniki Major Urban Area

The central theme for RiConnect Thessaloniki is under the concept **“Re-coding Urban Voids”**.

Within this framework, the Thessaloniki RiConnect Project aims to develop a strategic action plan of how to regain the porous lams and to reconnect it as an ecosystem network both with other natura resources



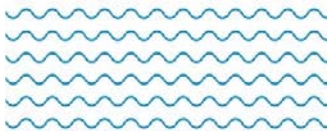
EX MILITARY CAMP KODRA: 35 Ha



MDAT

- ✓ Produce an Integrated Action Plan
- ✓ Keep consulting the Municipality in the various steps of planning (especially the strategic one)
- ✓ Trying to keep a participatory approach including civic communities not only in planning process but also in the management process and implementation

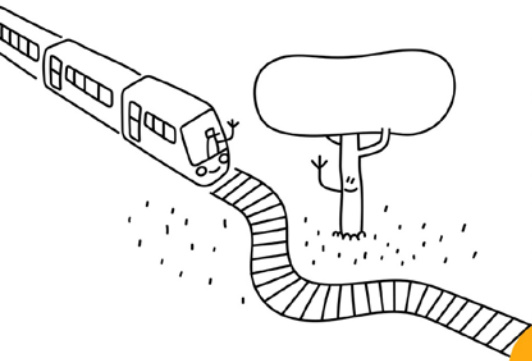




Ecosystem functions

Mobility is a key driver in global ecology challenges. Some mobility modes cause air and noise pollution, climatic effects, and induced suburbanisation and land consumption. In addition, infrastructures may result in harmful physical impacts on ecosystems such as fragmentation of habitats and reduced landscape quality.

However, mobility infrastructure can also be a trigger for change. By rethinking mobility infrastructure, we not only avoid harmful environmental impacts, we can also contribute to the fight against climate change, improve local ecosystems and increase urban resilience. This new model of mobility infrastructure requires careful planning which incorporates adaptability to changes and the promotion of self-running solutions.



How it's happening in THESSALONIKI

Thessaloniki has more than 15 military camps awaiting transformation into metropolitan parks, providing an opportunity to integrate the natural environment into the surrounding communities and adding new functions at the same time.

In the case of **Kodra**, the former military camp enjoys a stunning waterfront location. The project will help connect the city and its waterfront, while providing the community with a new green civic space and improving the relationship between land and sea ecosystems.

Fostering dialogue between infrastructure and nature



Stronger ecology



Reconnect open spaces

Infrastructures must allow the continuity of natural areas, allowing wildlife to move freely.



Support biodiversity

Transformations should offer safe places for wildlife, especially insects and birds, to nest.



Contribute to the water system

Infrastructure projects must allow the continuity of water flows and favour soil permeability.



Accessible landscapes

The granting of access to infrastructures can create new open spaces that provide a source of enjoyment to citizens.



Provision of energy

Infrastructure spaces can generate energy and other resources.



Favour resiliency

Redesign infrastructures to improve local resilience and reduce risks from extreme events.

Softer human impact

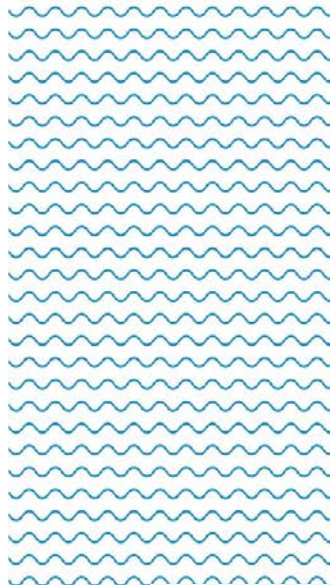


Ignore maintenance

Natural areas tend to demand a higher level of maintenance, and solutions must take this into account.

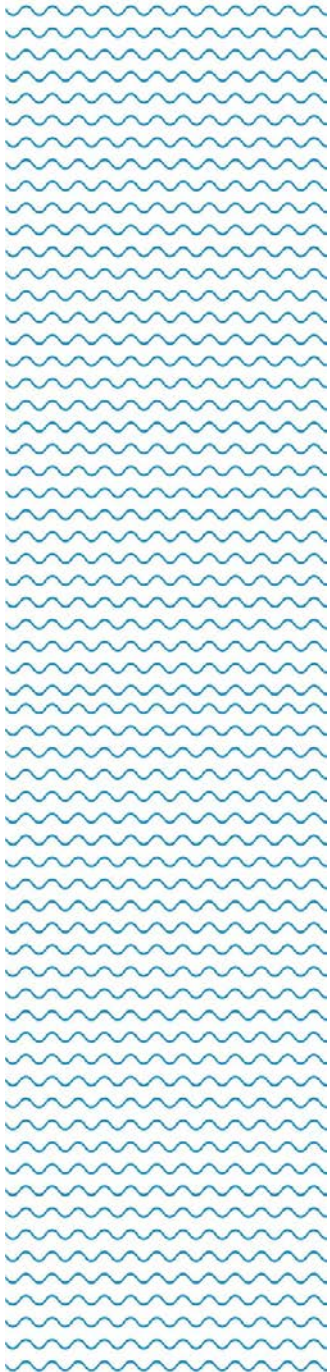
Create oversophisticated solutions

Complex nature-based solutions can be difficult to maintain in the long run - keep it simple!



EX MILITARY CAMP of PAVLOS MELAS: 39 Ha (no1)





Ex Military Camp of Pavlos Melas

Metropolitan Park of Pavlos Melas

Master Plan planning
Municipality of Pavlos Melas and
external architects (Nikifiridis –
Cuomo Architects)

Major Development Agency – Funding
schedule, historical buildings
renovation



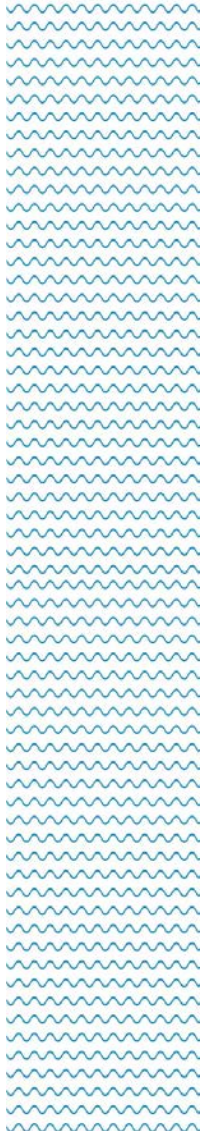
the case of Thessaloniki metropolitan area



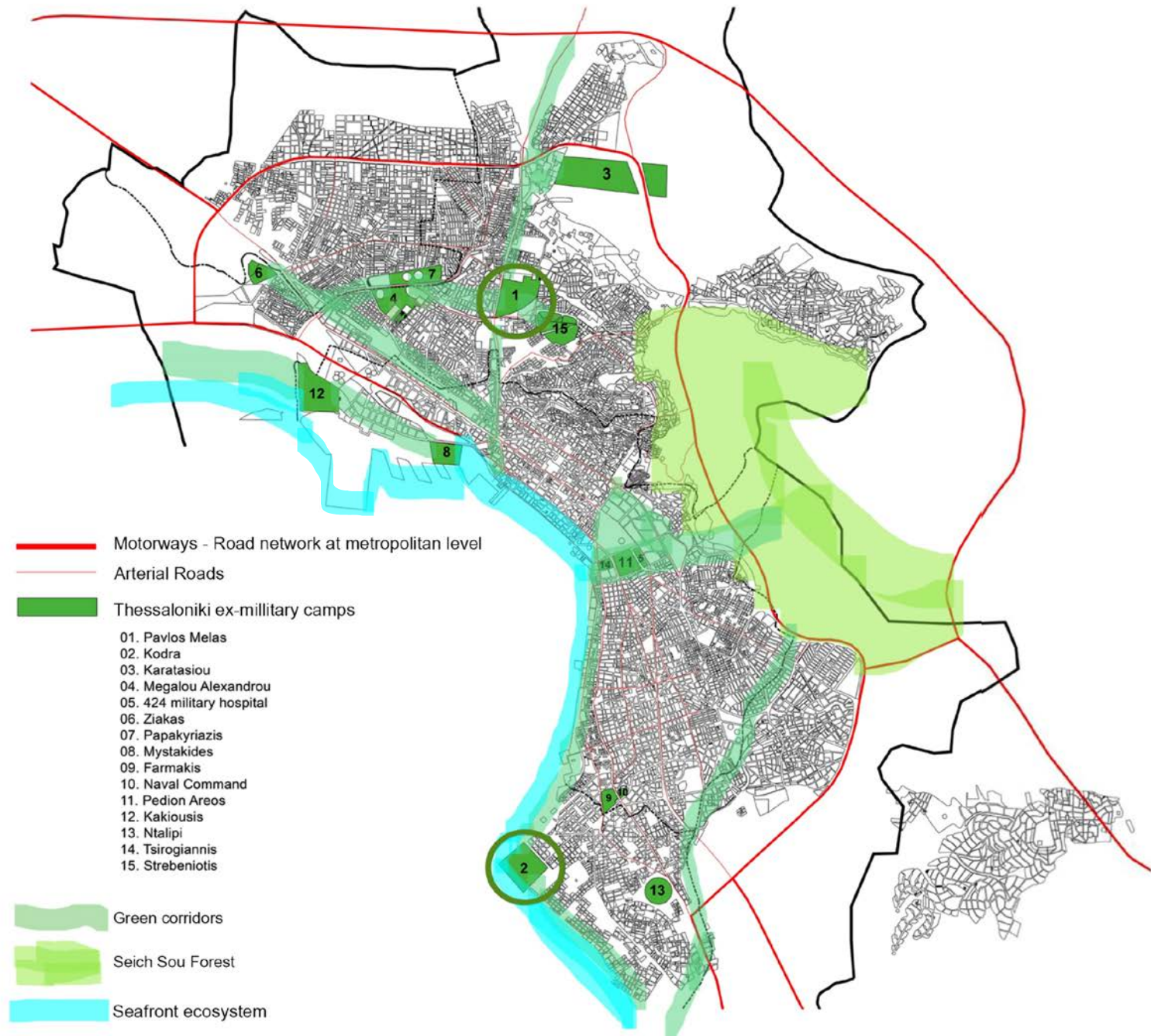
The main aim of the MPPM is to keep the porous character of the soil and the sense of the “wild” nature

WATERFRONT
CLIMATE
SOS





- ✓ **Aware people and authorities** the overall planning of the form military land not seen separate but as an ecosystem network
- ✓ Consider the former military ca as the available land where a **network of new collective green spaces can be developed in connection with the city's exist natural resources**
- ✓ **Rise intermunicipal collaborati and projects for green infrastructures and green colle spaces in metropolitan level.**



the case of Thessaloniki metropolitan area

Some thoughts:

- ✓ Strong political will
- ✓ Metropolitan level of the city
strong metropolitan
authorization
- ✓ City stakeholders
- ✓ Well informed citizens and
citizens' participation

porous city

urban porosity

nature based solutions

ecosystem
functions

city and biodiversity