

THE FJARÐABYGGÐ EDUCATION AND RECREATION STRATEGY



FUTURE VISION

Fjarðabyggð residents shall benefit from education and leisure activities in secure, encouraging surroundings, where they receive full opportunities to develop and the environment is respected and cared for.



ABOUT THE STRATEGY

After adopting an education and recreation strategy ten years ago, in the summer of 2009, Fjarðabyggð has now reviewed it. The review was directed by a diverse team which obtained ideas from advisors at various locations, in addition to hundreds of local residents from all age groups. These residents participated in brainstorming on both the school and leisure activities of their dreams.

This Education and Recreation Strategy outlines the future vision of Fjarðabyggð, as well as stating the municipality's focal points for coming years. The Strategy marks the way for substantial progress in schooling and recreation, providing both young and old with chances to develop and apply their particular abilities, to the benefit of everyone.

ROLE OF THE MUNICIPALITY

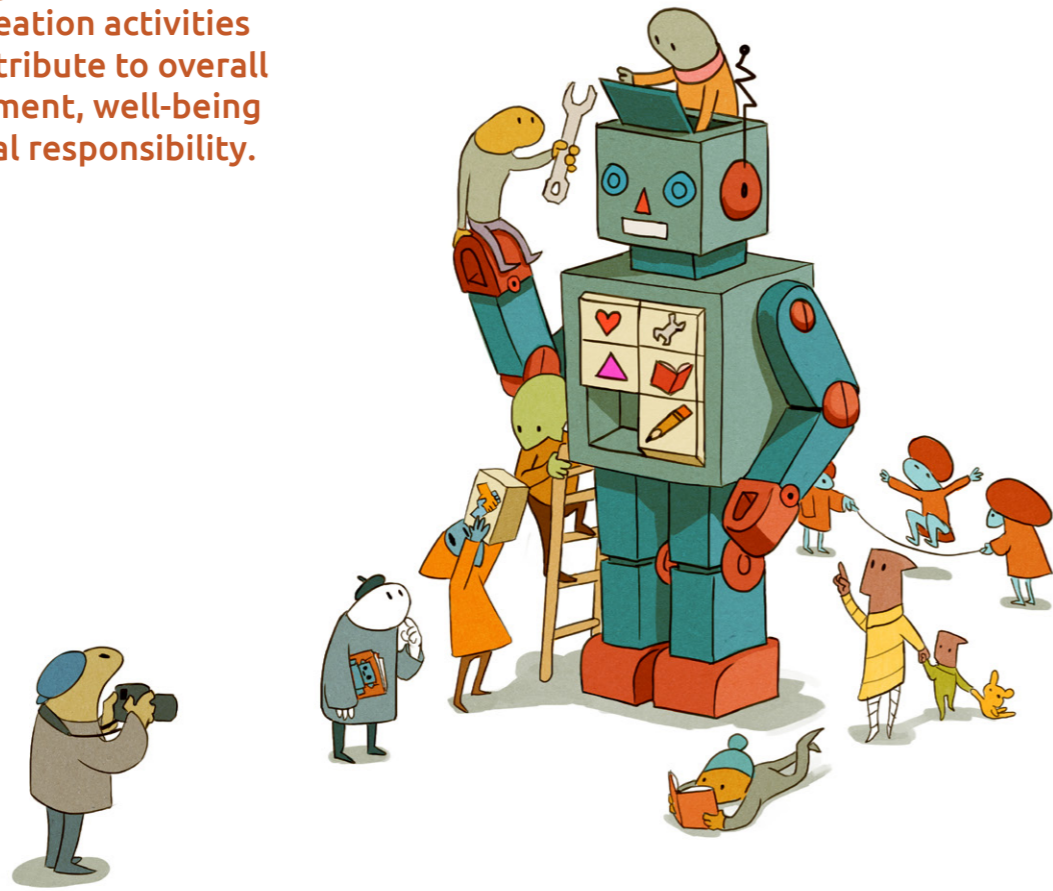
The municipality's role in education and leisure is to create a secure, encouraging, health-promoting environment where democratic practices are the norm, human rights are respected and residents are able to nurture their talents, both for their own good and that of others.

This role shall be fulfilled by:

- providing, through schools and recreational activities, basic education that is ambitious and progressive
- acting in the spirit of learning communities and health-promoting societies
- attracting capable, energetic employees who are offered a range of opportunities for professional development
- facilitating leisure activities for residents of all ages

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Children and young people shall be able to take advantage of education and recreation activities that contribute to overall development, well-being and social responsibility.



To realise this, it is important that educational and recreational institutions offer the following:

- education that is intended to cultivate responsibility and is appropriate for each individual
- education that keeps up with technological progress and social developments
- a variety of teaching and study methods as well as approaches to evaluation
- a learning environment that harmonises with democracy, well-being and human rights
- access to an assortment of leisure activities

This objective is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in addition to the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

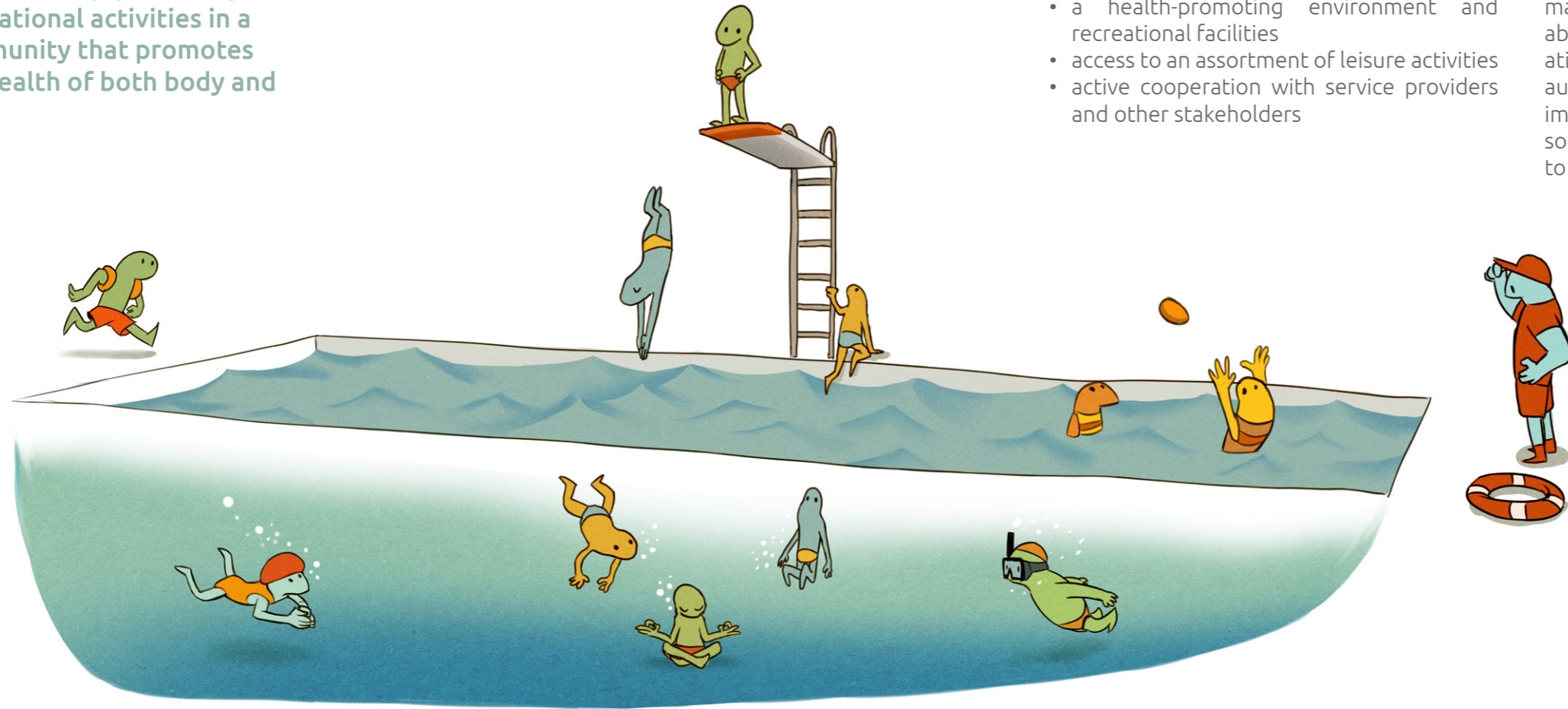


By enjoying educational and recreational opportunities that enable them to develop on their own terms and nurture their personal abilities, children and young people become optimally prepared for living responsibly in a free society which accords with peace, understanding, tolerance and gender equality, accompanied by the friendship of all nations and nationalities.

Children and young people shall also have the opportunity of acquiring the knowledge and abilities necessary for promoting sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles which include a respect for human rights and the natural environment, as well as for different languages, values and cultural traditions.

Children and young people shall be permitted to exercise influence, receiving encouragement and support towards developing talents that are in harmony with community progress. They shall have access to a range of options for increasing their skills and capabilities, in ways that are rewarding for their companions and the community. Support will be on hand for them to build up a strong, positive self-identity, together with social responsibility.

Fjarðabyggð residents shall be able to enjoy a variety of recreational activities in a community that promotes the health of both body and soul.



To realise this, it is important that the municipality provide:

- a health-promoting environment and recreational facilities
- access to an assortment of leisure activities
- active cooperation with service providers and other stakeholders

This objective is based on the vision of a health-promoting society which focuses on maintaining and improving the health and abilities of people in every age group. Systematic public health endeavours shall serve to augment the well-being of residents through improvements in their mental, physical and social health. These endeavours shall also seek to increase equality and the quality of life.

MAIN GOAL

The main goal of the Education and Recreation Strategy is that Fjarðabyggð residents, regardless of age, can develop their abilities in a worthwhile way for themselves and others, living in a community characterised by respect for both nature and human activities.

For the individual, a society of this sort contributes to social responsibility and a strong self-image. Education ought to highlight the basic elements, as below:

Literacy, sustainability, health and welfare, democracy and human rights, equality and creativity. Through improved transportation and events organised for its whole diverse community, Fjarðabyggð strives to increase its residents' opportunities for cooperation and togetherness.



LITERACY

Literacy is important for every individual in order to understand and communicate about society and the environment.

Since literacy involves consensus between people on word meanings and the use of language within a speech community, it is a social phenomenon that extends to written language, images, symbols and numbers, in addition to technology, society and the environment. For the purpose of cultivating literacy, educational and recreational bodies shall take the lead in cooperating closely with the home. Through the early intervention of the former bodies, children and young people will become capable, as quickly as possible, of reading effectively, gaining knowledge and expressing themselves personally and creatively, both verbally and in print, on topics of the day.



SUSTAINABILITY

If we live sustainably, the environment we pass on to our descendants will be in better condition than we received it.

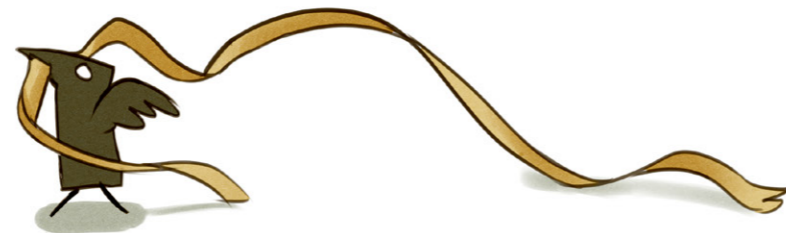
A comprehensive understanding of sustainability stresses how society and the economy belong to a finite system, so that growth cannot surpass the limits set by nature. Efforts will be made to increase both the understanding and knowledge of sustainability as well as the appreciation of how important our contributions can be to nature and society if we act in the appropriate manner.



HEALTH AND WELFARE

Health and welfare encompass mental, physical and social well-being, and have their foundation in a healthy lifestyle and strong self-image.

The means of achieving a firm self-image are self-discipline and determination, since these help a person succeed regardless of whether the going is rough or smooth. Opportunities and encouragement enable the person to tackle a range of challenges in educational and recreational activities which may boost her/his physical, vocational and academic abilities. Because a healthy lifestyle entails caring for one's own health, the municipality's strategy for a health-promoting community shall support each person to this end. Health-promoting communities are characterised by a positive atmosphere at school and an uplifting feeling at work. These are furthermore based on helpfulness, tolerance and cooperation, with separate individuals learning to shoulder responsibility and communicate constructively with each other.



DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Both the United Nations Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and the Icelandic system of democratic government are based on democracy and human rights, implying that each individual can form her/his own opinion on ethical questions and can actively participate in shaping society.

It is extremely important to acquire a solid, basic knowledge of nature and society, as well as competence in communication, ethics and critical thinking, all of which must be grounded in democratic procedures, active involvement and a respect for nature and human activities.

The educational strategy which teaches self-discipline and is called restitution has its foundation in democracy and human rights. When education follows this strategy, the individual person is provided with opportunities to develop her/his ability to put her/himself in the shoes of others, seek mutual solutions to problems and assume social responsibility. What matters most are procedures that honour equality and concentrate on everybody having opportunities to develop on their own terms, cultivate their talents and live responsible lives in a free, pluralistic society.



CREATIVITY

Creative drive is the wellspring of individual creativity. This drive supports a spirit of initiative and is rooted in innate curiosity, critical thinking and a yearning for accomplishment.

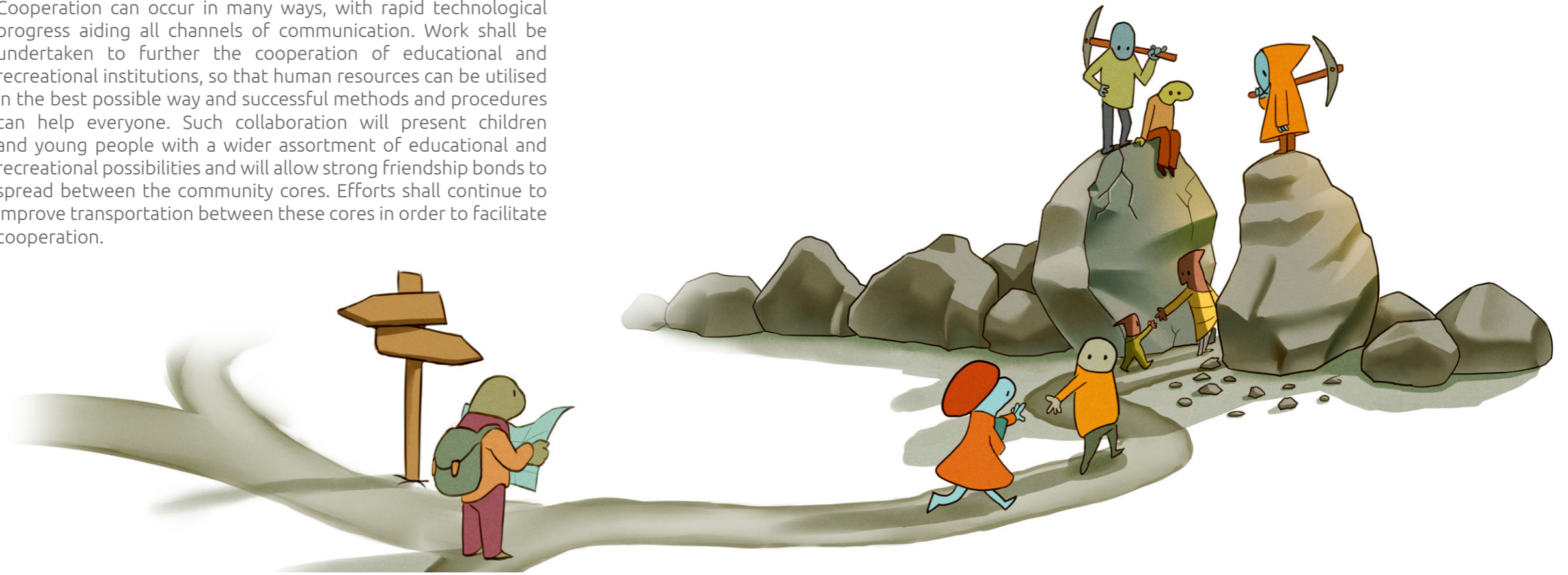
Creative activities involve the discovery and empowering of the individual's imagination, by means of which s/he, together with society, may often reach a fresh understanding that lends value to life. Educational and recreational work shall endeavour to provide individuals with the capability of utilising their creative gifts and relishing creative pleasure, in a manner that adds to their study interest and deepens their understanding of the value and meaning of study topics.



COMMUNICATIONS AND COOPERATION

A multi-core municipality has every reason to nurture close cooperation in order to enhance diversity, solidarity, a broad openness and a sense of unity.

Cooperation can occur in many ways, with rapid technological progress aiding all channels of communication. Work shall be undertaken to further the cooperation of educational and recreational institutions, so that human resources can be utilised in the best possible way and successful methods and procedures can help everyone. Such collaboration will present children and young people with a wider assortment of educational and recreational possibilities and will allow strong friendship bonds to spread between the community cores. Efforts shall continue to improve transportation between these cores in order to facilitate cooperation.





FJARÐABYGGÐ



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