

CYKLASTAD DALSLAND



Dalsland is a remote Swedish area surrounded by an amazingly beautiful landscape and provides a unique closeness to nature. Newly arrived Swedes, students, farmers and factory workers are spread out around this area but perhaps not all having social interaction amongst each other. We believe there is a potential to activate this region. Our intention is to integrate different people living in the community through cycling and to form a distinctive image for the region. We see the possibility to coincide with already existing groups of people who also have a rich knowledge and creativity around dalsland.

In this proposal we will lay how it can be approached and achieved. This will include the basis to the ideas we have generated and how we see it run in the future. The goal is to provide a platform for different cycling interests in order to include minorities and to share an activity.

What Dalsland has

Dalsland X-country & gravel race



An annual mountain bike race that attracts more than 700 participants to join. The start and finish line is located in Bengtsfors. Various distances and levels are provided for different interests. Camp Dalsland also holds different races for other outdoor sports. These events attract more and more outdoor enthusiasts come to Dalsland.

Creative attractions

The closeness to natural landscapes inspire the creative minds. Many creative projects and emerging models are happening here. 72 hour cabin, Långed park and Not Quite's artist residency have indicated a new style of community. Stenebyskolan and HDK at Steneby also bring a dynamic force to the area. The variety and acceptance attract more people to settle here.



Dalslandsleden

It is a 360km long bike trail connecting multiple towns in Dalsland. Dals Långed and Bengtsfors are nearly the middle point of the main route of this trail (Vänersborg-Mellerud-Dals Långed-Bengtsfors-Ed-Färgelanda-Vänersborg.) There are plenty of small trails around the forests joined with the main route which provide various paths for cyclists. This route is famous for its beautiful sightseeing and challenging grades which fascinates many cyclists in spring and summer.

Dalsland kanal



From Vänersborg to deep Värmland and east of Norway, Dalsland kanal is a 250km-long canal that is active during the summer. Tourists from different nations spend their summer vacation along the canal. Bengtsfors is also located at the middle point of the canal. Visitors often anchor their ship and wonder round the area for a long period.

What it can be

For new-comers to explore

Immigrants, new residents, and students who do not have vehicles or a driving license find hard to explore the place and transport themselves in this remote area. We imagine if bicycles can be used commonly it would help them get familiar to the environment and integrate to the new place.



Knowledge & power supply

“Can I cycle with groups? where can I fix my bike and how? Is there any stop that I can take a break from a long cycle?” These questions have raised up frequently in the area. A few bike shops and local businesses could supply such things but they work independently and are dispersed in the region. A certain structure to coincide with them would help a lot to the visitors and new-comers .



Last mile to home

Trains don't operate here throughout the year and bus routes and schedules do not provide a convenient transportation in the region. Bicycles can be a tool to help move residents the last mile to their home.

Then we have the idea!



Leisure activities

Bikes does not only provide transport but also exercise for the community and to take advantage of the bike paths and the forest trails in the region. It can be used to encourage social activities and gather different people to coincide with the cycling system of the municipality.



Cykla Gul

A shared bike system and a community bike studio opens for everyone!



CYKLA GUL!

CYKLA GUL started from the opportunity to reuse abandoned bikes. We aim to develop a pattern for the community with bike stations and an open bike studio to activate the community through cycling.

A group of us with a range of skills, had the idea to set up a bicycle sharing service that can encourage and make accessible sustainable transport and activities for the public. There was an opportunity to collect used city bicycles, service and repair, with the intention to provide a community with many possibilities, from health and recreation to transport and freedom to explore. Thus the project Cykla Gul was born in November 2018.

Mötesplats Steneby granted a contribution to the project and encouragement was given from Bengtsfors Kommun. The first stage of the project was fulfilled in late 2018. Twenty-seven bikes were transported from Gothenburg and an eventual eight were serviced, painted and branded to test around Dals Långed with the help of the library. The project proved the need and desire to have such a service available and we received much positive feedback from the community and visitors passing through.

Possibilities

A Successful model

It is an eco-friendly and sustainable model by reusing abandoned bikes to extend their use and lifecycle. The concept of Cykelköket commonly exists at many provinces in Sweden and abroad but we are looking for a more holistic model to make it integrate with broader community activities. The Bay Bike collective from the USA helped us visualise this. It has run as a bike shop for years and it hold group activities for the community also. Group tours, courses, competitions, creative markets and discovering & building new trails make it strong and impactful benefit for the community. This is a healthy, collaborative and engaging resource that we believe could spark activity here and around the neighbouring communities.



We imagine a platform that reuses abandon bikes, holding courses and group activities is valuable to the community.

Activities & courses

Since Dalsland has such incredible landscape with river-sides, forests and hills, we want to welcome all the new-comers to the region to explore. There are multiple trails made available throughout the region and more potential routes awaiting investigation. On the other hand, Muslim arriving have the potential difficulty of commuting in the area. Through courses, group tours, and modified bikes we hope to include the minorities within the community.

CyklaBod, ny mötesplate

We will share the asset of tools and parts that have been bought at the potential community bike studio. Courses and events will happen here with open access. The collected bikes and 'spare parts library' will also be stored and reused for the community. The public can then pass on the knowledge they have, from minor repairs and assembly and this leads to a sustainable project that is not run by just a small number of people. A small station with basic tools and pump can be setup outside for anyone needing to adjust their bike or pump their tires.

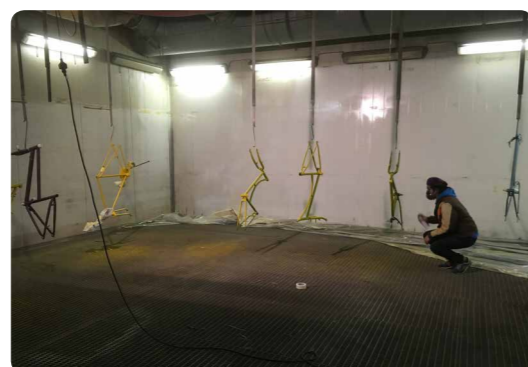
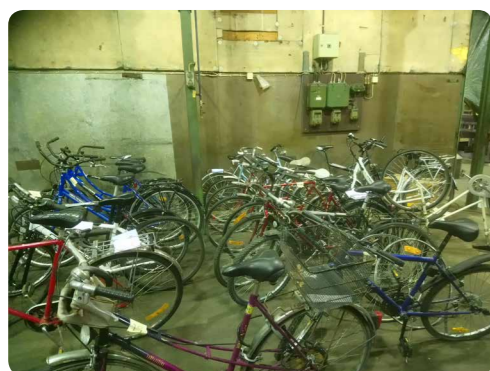
Affär'n at Stenebyvägen 28, is where we hope to be situ-

ated in the near future and where this community studio can be run from. The investment of this property is undergoing through Mötesplats Steneby, Steneby Stiftelse along with Alumni and local and active people with the community. This will hopefully be a cultural-project-based association that will run this space. The process is in discussion at the moment with meetings at the end of April and early May. The will be a gathering space in Dals Långed with many possibilities.

CYKLASTAD DALSLAND

Commuter system

It is at a perfect time as it coincides with many developments in the area of cycling in Dalsland. The project could be the start for the cycling system of the municipality. Sharing bikes, shelters, bike routes, leisure groups and other events are possible to be organised through open calls to involve more people from the region. Satellite stations are possible to establish "the last mile" Four towns- Dals Långed, Brohögen, Billingsfors and Bengtsfors are connected safely with a 15km long bike path. These would have the most potential to have bike stations in the future. Maintenance for the bikes should be periodic to keep the service running smoothly. Social media will be used to update the status of the bikes. We will continue to develop methods to make the system more efficient. With the help from volunteers or other potential collaborators, we are looking forward to seeing the system run independently by the community in the future.



8 bikes were serviced after intense 3-weeks-long work.



Dals Långed is where our ideas rise, it is a great place for leisure activities and sharing knowledge.

Where are we now

CyklaGul! Second Trial operation

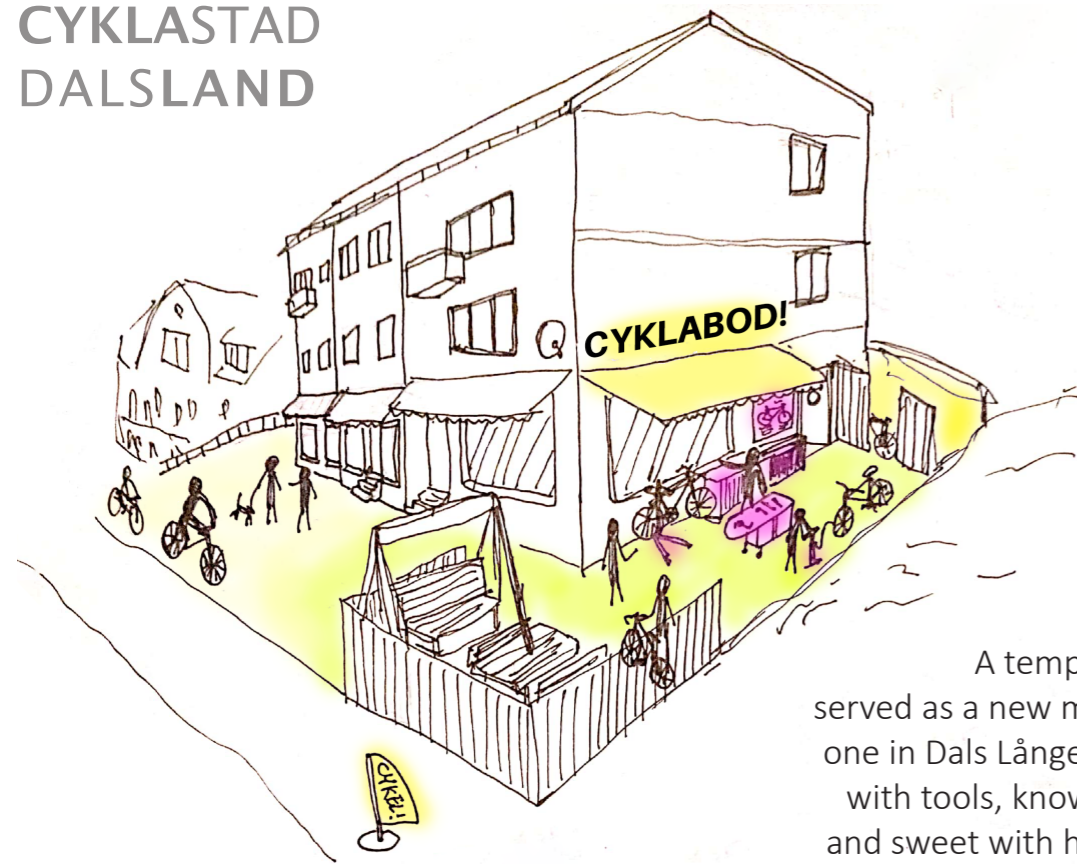
8 bikes were designed to be used under an easy system. They were painted in yellow inspired by the story from Nikola Metakovic. The bikes are catalogued and distinctive to be recognised. They are ready to serve people's needs in cycling. We had held the first trial operation last November, and we plan to do a second trial in coming May. This time the operation will possibly hold for longer period around the beginning of May to the beginning of November.

A temporary outdoor studio for bicycles

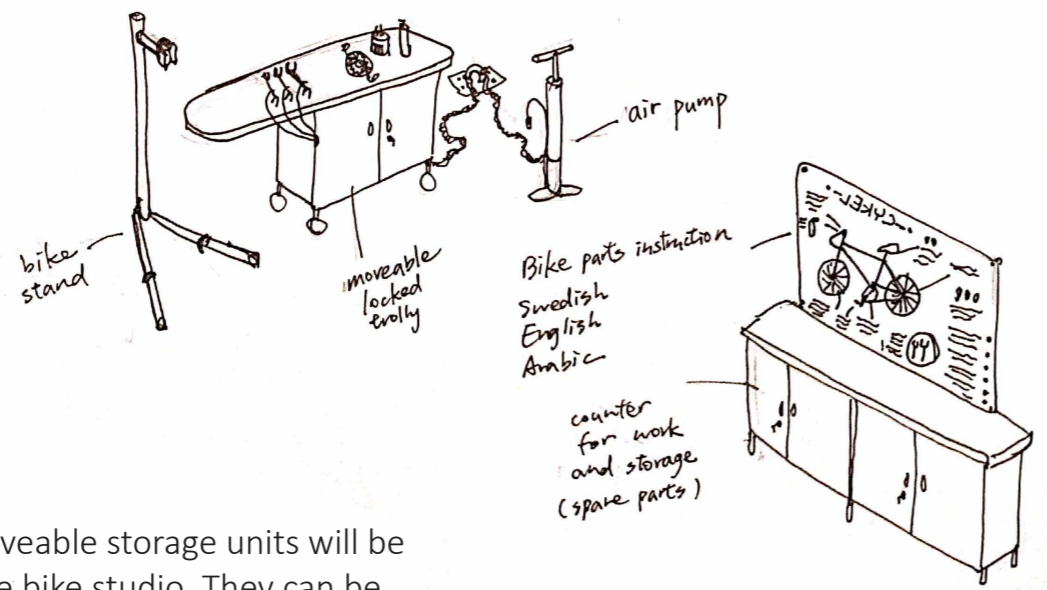
Since a complete set for servicing bicycles were purchased, we will host courses in bike maintenance and set up an open bike workshop for the community with the asset. We will design and build a set of moveable storage units to store tools at an opened area for everyone to use whenever they want. Two potential sites are considering to set up the temporary bike studio - kafé schuckert and Ny magazinnet. The temporary studio will be opened to the public together with the second trial operation of Cykla Gul.

Workshops and group event

We will run the temporary studio with various courses and group events to ignite the picture of Cyklastad. Basic bike maintenance, knowing the tools, riding together event will be organized periodically during the operation.



A temporary Cyklabod will be served as a new meeting place to everyone in Dals Långed. We imagine a place with tools, knowledge, a cup of coffee and sweet with happy souls are here to integrate the community.



A set of moveable storage units will be customised for the bike studio. They can be flexible enough to adapt various locations. They will be designed with multiple features such as mobility, security and adaptability for all ages in order to be used for long. They will be permanently used even after the temporary studio.

Something we are also developing

Långed bike park



A project that we hope to collaborate with in the future is Långed Bike Park. This project is focused on building bike trails in Långed close to the centre of the village. This project hopes to involve the young people, and all who are interested, in Långed to get involved in establishing and building this trail. The purpose is to provide an active outlet for the locals and for tourists and enthusiasts alike to come to Långed, to visit, and experience the outdoors in a healthy way.

A plot of land has been outlined and the process now is to contact the surrounding landowners and lay out a 5 year plan. We have the support from Utvecklingsråd and Crister Blüme and hope to establish a good foundation for the development of the project. Mötesplats has supported the project in its initial stages and we hope to apply for funding once this foundation has been laid out.



This trail will be focused at the more adventurous cyclist and we hope it can offer something more on top of Cykla Gul. We would like to incorporate these two projects to build a stronger and more connected sense of community. Something for everyone to get involved with!

TACK!

