



Opening the Akmena River in Kretinga to the Public

A project that will transform Kretinga's treasured natural asset — Akmena Riverside.

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Kretinga – A Historic Riverside Town

Kretinga is a historic town in Western Lithuania, well known for its monasteries and a Winter garden as well as its close ties to the nature. For centuries, the Akmena River has shaped towns identity and a landscape.

Current Challenge: For residents and visitors inaccessible Akmena river in the heart of town











A group of people are kayaking on a river. The kayakers are wearing life jackets and paddling their kayaks. The river is surrounded by lush green trees and vegetation. The scene is peaceful and scenic.

A Successful Event That Sparked a Bigger Vision

From Event to Initiative

The Midsummer celebration held in 2022 on the Akmena River became a successful event that revealed the river's potential.

Inspired by this event, Kretinga Museum became the first institution to explore new ways of activating the river and introduced guided excursion services along the Akmena.



A Project That Will Transform the Face of Kretinga

An aerial architectural rendering of a riverbank development project. The scene shows a wide, flowing river with white water rapids in the foreground. A prominent feature is a curved, multi-level concrete structure with a wooden walkway and a set of wide, shallow steps leading down to the water. The walkway is populated with small figures of people, some walking, some sitting on the steps, and one person with a dog. To the left, a paved area contains a black truck, a yellow van, and a green structure. In the background, there are more paved paths, trees, and modern, white, angular buildings. The overall atmosphere is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

Picturesque banks of the Akmena river will be opened up for residents and visitors.

Planned Riverside Development Project

The Akmena River riverside development project aims to create an **attractive public space** connecting Kretinga's most important sites.

1

Renewal

Renewal of the riverside area, restoring natural beauty while adding a modern touch.

2

Pedestrian Infrastructure

Creation of pedestrian-friendly pathways, combining existing pedestrian pathways with new infrastructure linking nature, culture, and history.

3

Tourism Routes

Building circular tourism route within the town, connecting main turistic points– Monastery and Kretinga Museum

4

Community & Business

Encouraging local business, community events, and social activities along the river.

Project scale

- **3.4 km continuous path** will extend from Žuvinė Bridge (Kretinga city center) all the way to Kretinga museum
- **2.4 km will be built on poles directly above the water** – creating a truly unique elevated boardwalk experience unlike anything else in the region.



Recreation & Active Leisure Zones

The project introduces **five dedicated recreation and active leisure zones** distributed along the riverside route

Observation Deck

A scenic observation deck with amphitheater-style stairs leading directly to the embankment near Žuvine Bridge



Špitolė Square

New public square on
Vilnius Street.



Šaltinių Square





Active Leisure Square

A dynamic outdoor recreation area with **3 distinct play zones** designed for different age groups.



Lighting & Rest Areas

Modernly illuminated spaces designed for safe and inviting evening use, complemented by comfortable benches, wooden loungers, and charming gazebos.





Flood-Resilient Infrastructure

The main riverside path is engineered to remain **above water level during flood events**, ensuring it stays accessible and safe throughout all seasons.

Implementation in 3 Stages





Thank you !