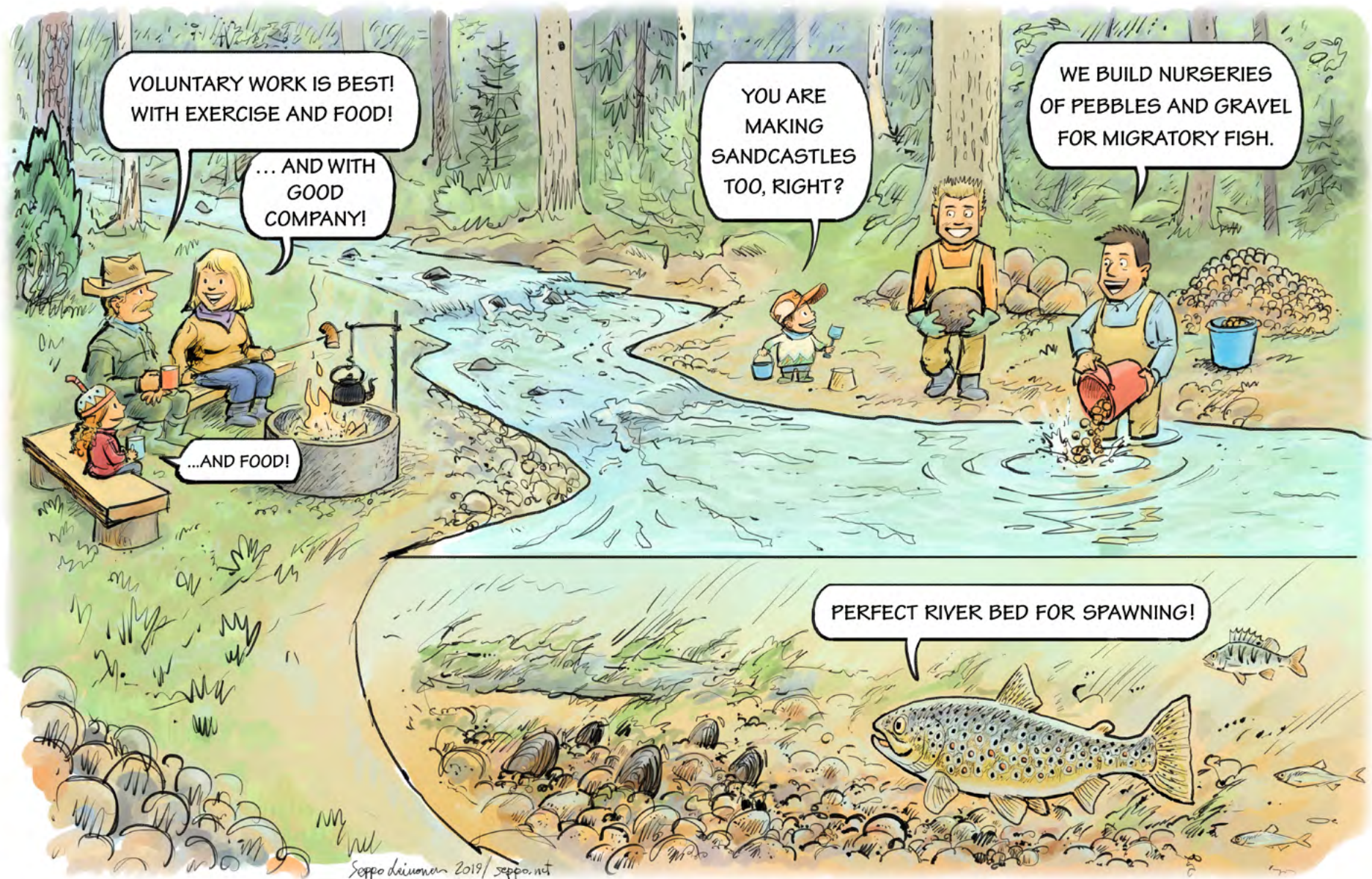


## 5 Return brooks to the fish and anglers!



# Return brooks to the fish and anglers!

**Do you know a place where what was originally a winsome winding brook has been replaced by a straightened drainage ditch? Or, have you heard that trout used to swim in the nearby brook?**

Brooks have been straightened, with dams and culverts being installed in them. This has contributed to a situation in which the original species of animals and plants are no longer able to thrive. Fortunately, it is possible to restore brooks, thus giving them back to the fish and anglers! The freshwater pearl mussel also benefits from restoration and clean brooks.

The restoration of watercourses to their natural state should start upstream. A restored brook will soon become blocked or turbid again if nutrients and soil remain in the upstream catchment area. Once the background information and permits are in order, we get right to work. Taking the catchment area into account in the planning of all restoration measures increases their effectiveness.

## Major benefits with little effort

Even a small group of people working manually can make a real difference: a brook can be directed to an old channel or, for example, stones removed from a brook can be rolled back in to diversify habitats for the species there. Wedging logs into the bed of a brook slows its current, guides the water and acts as a growing substrate for moss. Gravel spawning beds and sheltered places for fry can be made for salmonids.

## Salmonids as hosts for freshwater pearl mussels

When trout return to a brook, they may also carry juvenile freshwater pearl mussels in their gills for some time before the juvenile mussels drop to the brook bed. These rare natural treasures can then live for as long as 200 years!

WETLAND CARDS: [JULKAISUT.METSA.FI/  
EN/PUBLICATIONS/SHOW/2693](https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/en/publications/show/2693)



## Hydrology LIFE project – Restoring peatlands and wetlands all over Finland

During the project we safeguard peatlands, small water bodies and important bird lakes in over 100 Natura 2000 areas. The majority of peatlands in Finland is severely degraded by forestry-drainage. The restoration measures recover the habitats towards the natural state which is vital for many valuable species.

Flood protection, water quality and game areas will also be improved.

The project is run by Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland from 2017 to 2023.

[www.metsa.fi/en/project/hydrology-life](https://www.metsa.fi/en/project/hydrology-life)



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