



Fieldtrip Guide

Boreal Biogeographical Seminar

11th October 2023



Nuukio National Park and Espoonlahti Bay, Finland



FIELDTRIP 11.10.2023

Wednesday fieldtrips will take place in Nuuksio National Park and Espoonlahti (sea bay) protected area.

The fieldtrips will start from the Hotel at 9:00 am, in two groups. Both areas/sites are visited by the groups but in different order. Between visiting the two areas we will have lunch at Haltia visitors center in Nuuksio National Park. See the detailed schedule below. The tours will be guided by the experts of Parks & Wildlife Finland.

Please bring your own water bottles and snacks if needed, and clothes suitable for the October weather conditions. Waterproofed outdoor shoes/boots are recommended.

Programme for the day

- 9:00 Start from Hotel Nuuksio, arrive at the sites around 9:30.
End of first trip at 11.30 and leaving towards Haltia visitors center.
- 12:00-14:00 Lunch at Haltia in two groups: 12-13 and 13-14.
Exploring Haltia visitors' center before or after the lunch.
- 14:00 Busses leave from Haltia for the second trip. Arrival at the sites at 14:30 (14:20).
End of the trips and heading back around 16:30.
- 17:00 Back at the hotel.

Both sites, Nuuksio and Espoonlahti (Espoo bay), are described in the following pages.

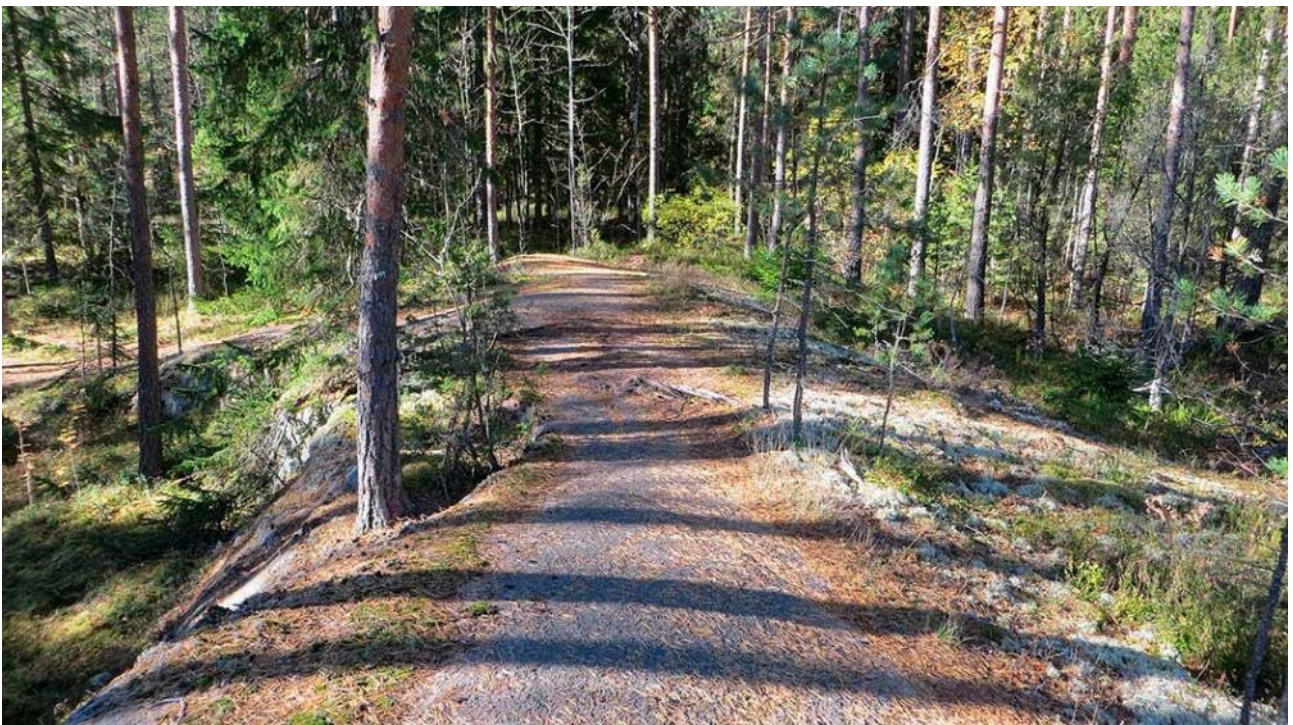


Nuukio



Nuukio National Park is a green oasis in the capital region. The rocky lake upland is home to many species that thrive in old-growth forests, vibrant meadows and valleys, and ponds (Description and screenshot from: <https://www.nationalparks.fi/nuuksionp/nature>).

The Nuukio nationalpark fieldtrip will take us to see a range of forest habitats. Along our walk there is former forestry area that is now aloud to recover through natural succession processes (passive restoration), forest restored using prescribed burning (active restoration), old growth rocky terrain forest and a restored bog woodland site.



Typical pine dominated boreal rocky forest in Nuuksio area. Screenshot from <https://www.nationalparks.fi/nuuksionp/trails> .



Mosaic and transition of forest, open fen, and bog woodland typical for Nuuksio area and Finnish Nature in general (photo: Helena Lunden / Parks & Wildlife Finland).



Restoration of forest structure using prescribed burning also provides habitats for the species dependent on dead and burned wood (Photo: Helena Lunden / Parks & Wildlife Finland).

Natura habitat types (or equivalent): 9010 Western Taiga, 91D0 Bog woodland

Procedures/methods: restoration of forests, restoration of bog woodland

Topics for discussion:

- When does a former forestry area fulfill Natura habitat criteria (even as “not in good condition”)?
- What does the visited areas look like from the perspective of standards for old growth forests?
- Relationship of restored area and effect area in mire restoration
- Bog woodland or a fen? How to determine or decide if there’s a tree stand from drainage period, possible forest species value, and Climate Change mitigation considerations (bog woodlands having stronger cooling effect).

More information (in English) on Nuuksio nationalpark is available at

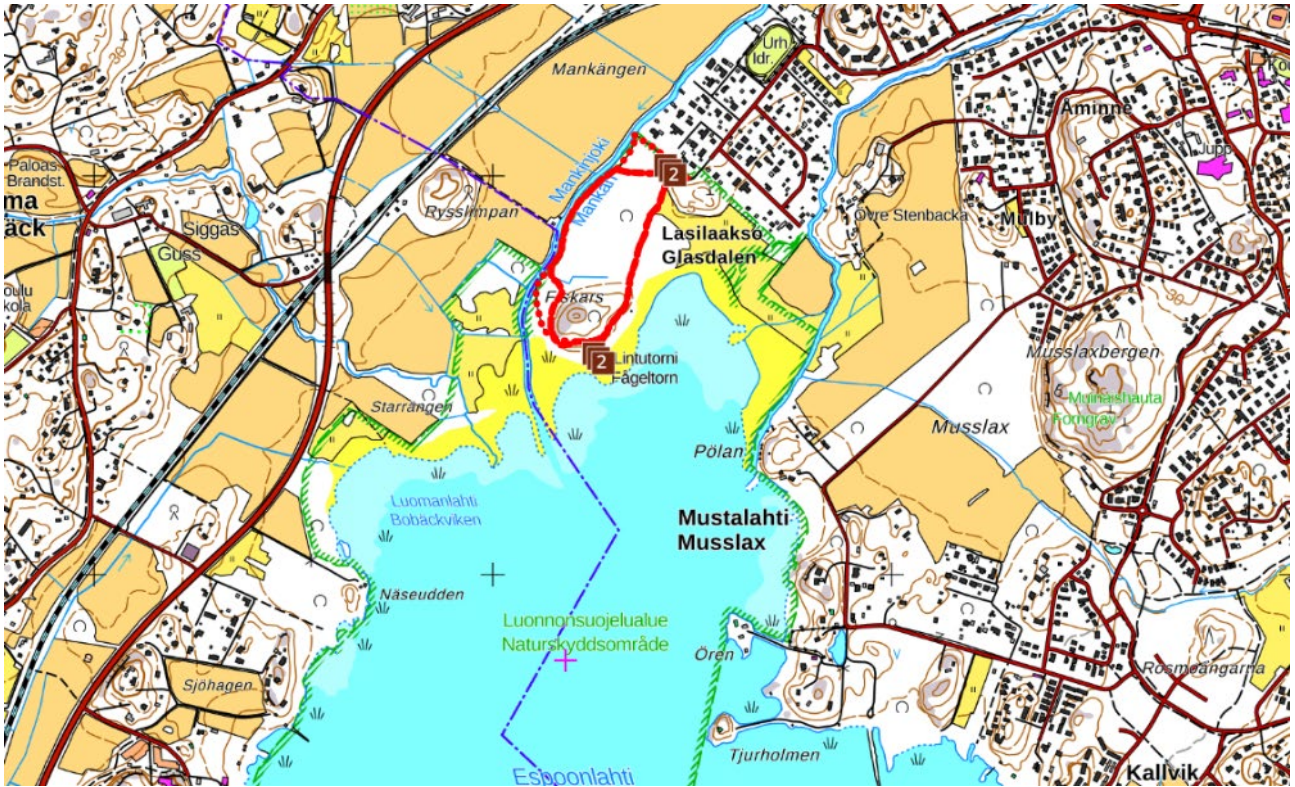
<https://www.nationalparks.fi/nuuksionp>

Espoonlahti (Espoo bay)

Espoonlahti (and Luomalahti) is a small protected area for biodiversity and recreation surrounded by suburban areas of the cities of Espoo and Kirkkonummi. It consists of a mosaic of seaside reeds, herb-rich forests, wooded pastures and meadows. The area and its ecosystems are managed through grazing to maintain the open and semi-open habitat structures important for many species from plants and insects to birds.



(Screenshot and description translated from: <https://www.luontoon.fi/espoonlahti>)



Footpath (red line) and a birding tower (lintutorni), and protected area borders (green dashed line).



Aerial view on the open seaside reed and meadow habitats managed through grazing.



Mosaic of meadow and wooded pasture surrounded by herb rich forests (photo: Saara Karjalainen / Parks & Wildlife Finland).

Natura habitat types (or equivalent): 9050 Fennoscandian herb-rich forest, 9020 Fennoscandian hemiboreal natural old broad-leaved deciduous forest, 9070 Fennoscandian wooded pastures, 9070 Fennoscandian lowland species-rich dry to mesic grasslands

Procedures/methods: continuous or repeated management of open and semi-open habitats

Topics for discussion:

- Challenges for continuous managing
- Collaboration with landowners
- Nearby land-use pressures
- Contrasting targets: deforestation regulations vs. open habitats' management

More information (in Finnish and Swedish only) available at: <https://www.luontoon.fi/espoonlahti>

The Finnish Nature Centre Haltia (at lunch break)



View from Haltia's restaurant terrace (from <https://haltia.com/en/>)

The Finnish Nature Centre Haltia is the visitors center for Nuuksio National Park but also for the whole National Park network in Finland with a permanent exhibition of Finnish Nature and facilities for recreation and meetings. Haltia increases environmental awareness and reinforces people's relationship with nature through exhibitions and other services. Haltia has won several sustainable development competitions, for example the award for sustainable development at the highly esteemed European Museum of the Year Award.

During the lunch break we will have an opportunity for a "behind the scenes" tour by the head of the planning process for the concept of Haltia.

Find out more: <https://haltia.com/en/>