

Ecopark sights

- 1 Lilla Aspön** is the highest point in northern Vättern's archipelago. The island is dominated by pine trees, and there are a great many precipices and ravines.
- 2 Grönön** has a laid out path, and guided tours are arranged via Askersunds skärgårdstrafik AB with the passenger boat Wettervik.
- 3 Stora Hjortholmen** is a beautiful island in the south-western archipelago. It has facilities to simplify outdoor living.
- 4 Stora Aspön** is the largest island in the ecopark. The island is dominated by spruce forests that contain deciduous trees as well. There are 24 kilometres of hiking paths to discover here. The island also accommodates Aspetärn lake.
- 5 Lövön** is the most fertile island in the archipelago. In addition to pine and aspen dead wood, there are natural pine-woods, an old marshy forest and deciduous trees.
- 6 The northern Vättern archipelago nature reserve** makes up one part of the ecopark. There is more information available on the nature reserve and any particular regulations that may apply to the areas in a separate brochure offered by the county council in Örebro and the tourist agency in Askersund.

Sights close to the ecopark

- 7 Harge Uddar** is a nature reserve that offers a great opportunity to experience nature, swim off the cliffs and enjoy a magnificent view of Vättern's water.
- 8 Utnäset** is a nature reserve located next to the ecopark. It offers 3 kilometres of marked paths with a beautiful view of Vättern's islands, deep bays, steep flat rocks and old pinewoods.
- 9 Uviken Kyrkogårdsön** is a nature reserve with many legends. Artist and author Folke Dahlberg lived here.



The passenger boat Wettervik



-  Information
-  Rest area
-  Outlook
-  Guest harbour
-  Refuse bin
-  Outhouse
-  Camp-out site
-  Fireplace
-  Sights
-  Water
-  Buildings
-  Forest
-  Marsh
-  Open land
-  Land outside the ecopark
-  Nature reserve
-  Main road
-  Road > 7 m
-  Road 5-7 m
-  Road < 5 m
-  Private road
-  Paths/trails
-  Watercourse

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MS2008/07842

Norra Vätterns Skärgård Ecopark

0 1 2 3 4 5 km



Right of public access—freedom with responsibility

The right of public access is a privilege which allows us to move freely through forests and across land as long as we show respect for the plants and animals. The ground rule is don't disturb—don't destroy. You can find out more information on the right of public access from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency at www.allemansratten.se

What is an ecopark?

An ecopark is a large, contiguous forest landscape with high natural values and nature conservation ambitions. An ecopark is at least 1 000 hectares in size with at least 50% of the productive forest land used for nature conservation. In ecoparks ecological values take precedence over financial values.

This is Sveaskog

Sveaskog will lead the way in the development of forest values. Sveaskog is Sweden's largest forest owner, with 15% of the country's productive forest land, and a leading supplier of timber, pulp wood and biofuel. The company is also actively engaged in land transactions, offers hunting and fishing opportunities and makes land available to local entrepreneurs within nature-based tourism.

The forest is Sveaskog's core business. Sveaskog contributes to long-term sustainable development by exemplary management of its forests and by combining a focus on profitability with eco-responsibility. Sveaskog will provide its owner with a return on its forest assets and be a model employer and business partner. The company makes long-term investments in research and development and has an active dialogue with stakeholders.

Sveaskog's operations are decentralised and characterised by a local presence throughout Sweden—from Skåne in the south to Norrbotten in the north. Sveaskog has annual sales of approximately SEK 7 billion and approximately 730 employees. Sveaskog is owned by the Swedish state.



For more information:

www.sveaskog.se or Sveaskog's Customer Centre 0771-787 100

West Studios • Photo: Ullabritt Jonsson (cover), Johan Bergsten, Rune Andersson, Anna Ahlin, Eje Andersson, Leif Öster, Alf Lindermalm/N • Printing: Alta45 Tryckeri AB • November 2008

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Norra Vätterns Skärgård Ecopark




SVEASKOG


SVEASKOG

Welcome to Norra Vätterns Skärgård Ecopark and Sveaskog

Norra Vätterns Skärgård Ecopark is located along Vättern's channel towards Askersund. The interior archipelago with its over fifty islands and thousands of rocky islets, plus its sounds and bays is as beautiful as it is unique.

The rugged cliffs, rounded granite slabs and windswept pinewoods are a colourful contrast to Vättern's clear bluish-green water. Magnificent birds of prey thrive here as do fish hawks and hobbies. The archipelago is a popular setting for boat tourists in the summer and a paradise for skaters in the winter.

Sveaskog decided to turn the area into an ecopark in order to preserve and restore the archipelago's unique diversity.

Sveaskog's ecoparks – for nature and mankind

An ecopark is a large land area that has important ecological value. Sveaskog has lofty environmental ambitions. At least half of the productive forest soil will be used for nature conservation. Sveaskog plans to preserve and actively restore biological diversity in the ecoparks. There will be forestry work in most of the ecoparks, but it will be adapted to their unique natural and cultural value. Ecological value takes precedence over financial value in the ecoparks, at the same time that the importance of the forest in terms of outdoor living and human well-being is in focus. Sveaskog is developing a total of 36 ecoparks across the country. Together with the Swedish Forest Agency, we will sign special nature preservation agreements in order to ensure long-term protection. Norra Vätterns Skärgård Ecopark was inaugurated in 2004 to become Sveaskog's fourth ecopark.



Wilderness archipelago

The archipelago in northern Vättern is a wilderness archipelago, and contains basically no buildings. Historically, there have been a great many forest fires on the islands, which has contributed to the variety of trees and species. The landscape is characterized by old pinewoods marked by forest fires and fertile valleys with old spruce forests and abundant deciduous trees. Several forest stands contain a great deal of dead wood – which is important for the threatened species in the forest.

Ecoparks preserve and change

Sveaskog has set several long-term objectives for nature conservation in its management plan, as well as described action that will be taken. The table below shows how the archipelago in northern Vättern will be in the future..

Conservation ambitions in the ecopark			
Forests with high natural values	Starting point 2004	Restoration	In the future
Pinewoods	23%	26%	49%
Spruce forests	8%	15%	23%
Deciduous forests	7%	13%	20%
Total forest area with high natural values	38%	54%	92%

Including the segment of the production forest that is set aside, the total nature preservation area reaches 94 percent.

Pinewoods

The pinewoods in Norra Vätterns Skärgård Ecopark have a long history. A great many of the pines there are up to 300-400 years old. Pinewoods need to be burned frequently to grow truly old and resemble a primeval forest. Sveaskog will set nature conservation forest fires in several pine stands in the ecopark to allow free development.



Osprey

Spruce forests

Coniferous forests dominate in the mosaic of forests found in the ecopark. This is due to the great variety of soil and access to nourishment. There are older spruce forests on hillsides and rift valleys. There is also a great deal of dead wood thanks to the fertile, shady and moist growth areas. Sveaskog is planning to leave the old spruce forests alone to allow them to develop freely.

Deciduous forests

Birch, aspen and alder are three of the most common deciduous trees in the ecopark. Many of the deciduous-dominated forests are firmly linked to the animal husbandry and farming that was previously found on the islands. Sveaskog is planning to preserve the deciduous forests found in the area, as well as create new ones. This will be done by removing spruce and pine trees from young deciduous forests and keeping up with spruce tree ingrowth in old deciduous forests. Sveaskog will also phase out spruce plantings growing in old cultivation land.

Grazing land

Even though many years have passed since there was any livestock on the islands, many areas in the ecopark are still clearly characterized by the animal husbandry and grazing that took place there. Sveaskog is planning to restore a small

segment of the grazing land with trees in the ecopark in order to preserve the old meadow flora and revive a tradition that once had a great deal of importance for the archipelago forests.

Ascending Vättern

Vättern is like a bathtub where one end slowly lifts up. Vättern's outflow 8,000 years ago was to the north, past Askersund. At that time, the land mass at northern Vättern was depressed by the melted inland ice. Today Vättern's outflow is at the Motala stream, in the middle of the lake. The land at northern Vättern continues to rise. Vättern moves one millimetre to the south every year.

Forests rich in species

Forestry work has been done on the islands in the northern Vättern archipelago for a long period of time, but it has been limited by the water and hazardous ice and has been done with long time intervals. This in combination with frequent forest fires has resulted in varied archipelago forests that are rich in species.

Traces of grazing

The animal husbandry and cultivation of times past has also impacted the natural environment of the large islands. The forests and building remnants found there indicate that there was hay making and grazing. Hazel brush, old junipers and coarse oaks serve as additional evidence of a time when grazing domesticated animals kept the forest open and light.

Popular fishing

Fishing was once an important industry for the people living here. The number of professional fishermen diminished significantly in the 20th century, but recreational fishing is popular. Vättern is a much appreciated fishing lake with over thirty fish species, as well as an impressive 14-metre water depth. Char, freshwater salmon and pike offer world-class fishing. There has also been an abundance of crayfish in northern Vättern since 1992.

Vättern offers rich outdoor living

In the summer, the archipelago in northern Vättern is a popular destination for recreational boats, and it transforms into an ice skating paradise in the winter. It is possible to camp out on the Björkholmen, Stora Krokholmen, Stora Aspön, Stora and Lilla Hjortholmen islands up to two nights. There are also mooring pines, outdoor grilling areas, wood stocks and restrooms.



Pasture



Environmental fire



Fisherboy



Fungus



Aspen



Canoeists



Archipelago