

## A roomful of nature

The exhibition room is full of things to see, touch, examine, listen and play with, and there are lots of things that interest children. The different sections of the exhibition provide a good overall view of the nature in Espoo.

- *Blue anemone* presents the rich fauna found in the herb-rich forests in Espoo.
- *The Oystercatcher* informs visitors about the Espoo archipelago, brackish water and the area's ancient past.
- The *Flying Squirrel* section is devoted to the forest habitat and Nuuskio National Park.
- *Espoo area nature maps* have been compiled in a big book-on-the-wall with turning pages.
- Posters by the cafeteria door present the *endangered species* in Espoo as well as current nature-related issues. Brochure slots contain *free brochures* for visitors.

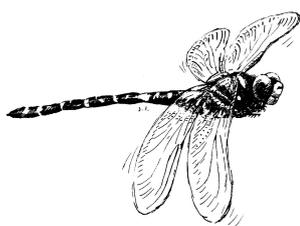
The Nature House tells about nature in Espoo in many different ways.

- The main room: the "Long Live Espoo" exhibition
- The Laajalahti Room
- Upstairs: "Badger's forest" for children
- Temporary exhibitions

*Make the information and the experiences offered by the exhibition your own. Explore the outdoors for unforgettable hands-on experiences!*

## Flying squirrel

The flying squirrel is the emblem of Nuuskio National Park. It takes the visitors to the taiga forest during summer and winter.



The goldringed dragonfly, *Cordulegaster boltonii*, is at home by the brooks in Nuuskio.

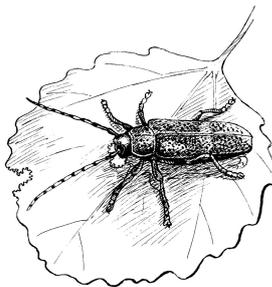
The lake upland area of Nuuskio, covering over 200 square kilometres, features pine groves on rocky cliffs, imposing dark spruce forests, luscious herb-rich forests, dozens of brooks and ponds. There are designated areas for building fires in the area, as well as marked hiking trails and paths and places for setting up tents. The area has pride of place as the showcase for the forest habitat in Espoo. Part of Nuuskio National Park is situated in Espoo.

Of the four seasons in Finland, winter is the soul of the taiga forest. Even though the forest looks quiet in the winter, it is by no means dead. The objects displayed on the shelves are related to the animals found in the forest and how they survive in the snow and the arctic cold. The old aspen, with a number of suitable nesting cavities is the queen among trees here.

## Blue anemone

For thousands of years since the Ice Age, the land has risen and the sea has receded in southern Finland. The plants found today in the herb-rich forests in Espoo, such as anemones as well as trees and shrubs typical of this forest type, were the first to take root in the fertile soil of the former seabed. Herb-rich forests are the most fertile and richest in species of all different types of woodland found in Finland.

The exhibition depicts life in Espoo's herb-rich forests in the spring and summer. Insects are seen in their natural habitat in display drawers, posters show the beauty of plants growing in herb-rich forests, the bird diorama treats you to an avian spring concert, and a multitude of species are displayed on the shelves.



The large poplar longhorn, *Saperda carcharias*, favours the aspen, *Populus tremula*.

According to an old Finnish belief the forest is also home to spirits, fairies and gnomes. These creatures usually keep out of sight of humans.

## Endangered

Espoo has published its own red book entitled "Animals and plants in Espoo that are endangered or need observation". The exhibition presents many rare species in word and pictures, and there are mounted examples as well. There are several threatened species living in Espoo, particularly in Nuuskio, such as the flying squirrel, lesser spotted wood-pecker, the indigenous brown trout living in small brooks and the European brook lamprey.

The protection of endangered species in Finland is governed by Finnish legislation and the system of EU directives. The list of endangered species in Finland is reviewed at given intervals.



The lesser spotted woodpecker, *Dendrocopos minor*, lives in the herb-rich forests by the sea in Espoo.

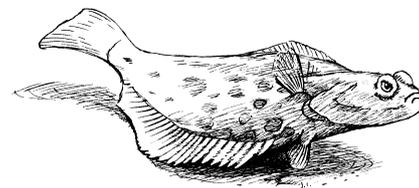
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## Oystercatcher

One of the sources of pride in Espoo is the city's vicinity to the sea. It has a total of 58 kilometres of shoreline and 165 islands. The city owns several recreational-use islands ideal for hiking. Swimming, boat trips, fishing and lounging on the beach are an integral part of summer in Finland. There is regular boat traffic between the islands in the summer. During cold winters the sea ice is thick enough for skiers to take themselves to the recreational-use islands, where they can build a fire to make coffee, camping style.



The flounder, *Platichthys flesus*, lives in the brackish water of the Gulf of Finland.

The Archipelago section describes life under the surface of the Gulf of Finland. The species living in low-salinity brackish water are small in size and not as plentiful as in the ocean. The treasures of the sea include both marine life and remains of wrecked vessels.

The oldest signs of inhabitation in Espoo are the rock paintings that were made 6,000 years ago. Bronze-age barrows and dwelling places are other remnants of prehistoric life.

## The exhibition Long live Espoo



Blackcap, *Sylvia atricapilla*

## The City of Espoo The Nature House Villa Elfvik

The basic exhibition in the main room is a celebration of the wonderful natural sites within the city of Espoo: islands in the sea, reedy bird lakes, luscious herb-rich woodlands, conservation areas and Nuuskio National Park.