



City of Helsinki

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> Housing and environment >
Nature and green areas

From badgers to forest birds

The badgers' tunnel systems are right next to the paths, in garden plots. The forest birds include the European crested tit, Eurasian treecreeper and great spotted woodpecker.

The two swamps

The two swamps in the north-west of Skatan tila farm were formed by the drainage of a lake. Rudträsket is an overgrown pond, with seven hectares of wetland, along the borders of which are alder marshes and in the centre of which is a reeded open marsh. In the coniferous swamp forests the marsh fern, which is rare in Helsinki, grows.

Uutelanneva is an impressive open swamp in its natural state. It is home to the rare bog orchid and the more common heath spotted-orchid from the same family. Swamp plants also include the bog bilberry, marsh Labrador tea and swamp cranberry.

Särkkäniemi rising from the sea

The post-glacial rebound following the last ice age is causing the Helsinki region to rise by around 20 centimetres a century. Särkkäniemi ponds have split off from sea bays due to post-glacial rebound. The southern pond is a glo pond, having separated completely from the sea. The northern pond is still connected to the sea, and is thus called a flad. In the spring, around early May, at the freshwater pond you will be able to hear the mating chatter of the moor frog, and the sound of the common toad will also be distinguishable. The ponds are also great dragonfly sites.

The tufted duck and the red-breasted merganser can be found paddling around the shallow shore of Särkkäniemi. The great crested grebe is a common nester in the reed coves. Grey Herons and great cormorants can often be found sitting on the rocks nearby, but they do not nest in the area. The traffic in Vuosaari Harbour, just opposite Särkkäniemi, can be heard murmuring.

Skatanniemi

In the middle of Skatanniemi is an artillery bunker built by the Russians in 1916–17. The artillery station is large and the space inside can be explored with the help of a torch. The artillery battery's role was to defend Helsinki from the east, against attacks coming from the sea. The four artillery units were never installed. The centre of the battery has been torn down to make way for the road leading to the plots.

Ruggedly beautiful flora

The nature trail in the west of the area provides access to the shade of fir woodlands. In the wetter areas of the forest the lush common alder grows. On the rocks lining the tracks elderly twisted pines hold their ground. A small fern, the common polypody, grows on shady rock shelves. The same spots are also home to the rarer rock fern, maidenhair spleenwort. The precipices are formed partially of a dark gabbro, an alkaline rock type which this demanding rock fern prefers. Other similar areas in Helsinki include old fortifications.

Historical fishing landscape

Nuottaniemi, Nuottasaari and Niemanapaja are translations of the Swedish names used in the 19th century: Notudden, Notholmen and Uddvarpet.

The old place names refer to the seine net fishermen who could, in the past, be found on the shores, pulling in Baltic herring. In the springtime nowadays the rocks on the shore draw crowds of whitefish anglers.

*Experience
Helsinki Nature!*

Uutela

Uutela recreational area

The glinting of the
sea and the twilight
of the forest



Uutela is sea shore and the forest

Within walking distance of Vuosaari metro station, Uutela is a large recreational area, covering over a hundred hectares of forest and sea shore. The area makes for a great outing destination for both family picnics and nature photographers exploring and creating their own paths.

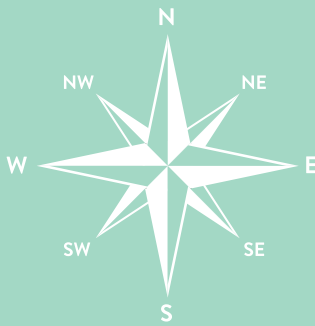
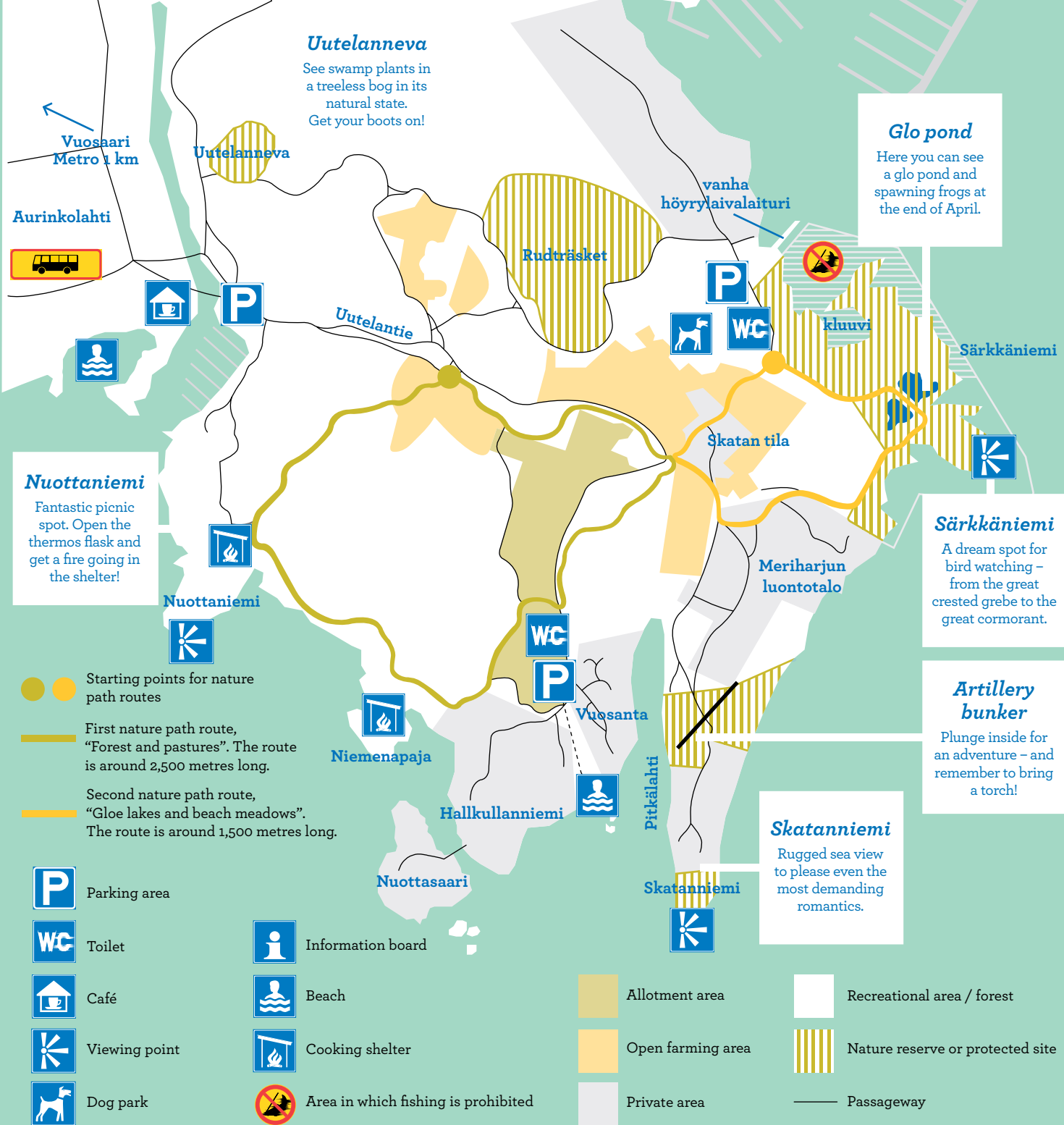
Uutela offers elderly natural forests, high cliffs and the shade of woodlands. On the east of Särkkäniemi are meadows and glo ponds cut off from the sea. In the midst of the forests of the north of Uutela are two swamps. From the shore you can see bays and the Sipoo archipelago. In the centre of Uutela is the old Skatan tila farm. A rugged view of the sea opens up from the tip of Skatanniemi.

The City of Helsinki purchased Uutela as a recreation area in 1953, before the region was joined with the City of Helsinki in 1966. Uutela and Skatan tila farm were once part of Vuosaari Manor. The area has been settled since the 17th century. At the end of the 19th century a number of high-value villas were built along the shores. Uutela recreation area was given its name in 1967 from the farm’s Swedish name, Nybonds.

Place name backgrounds

In 1969 the City of Helsinki’s Place Name Committee gave the area the name Vuosaari, as a translation of the Swedish Nordsjö. The Swedish name did not originally refer to the north, instead, in the 16th century the region’s name was Norsby, with ‘Nor’ referring to the narrow sound where there is a current. In those days Vuosaari was an island separated by a long, narrow sound, and the height variation between the seawater at each end caused a current. Nordsjö is a corruption of the original name. The name Särkkäniemi was given in 1969, coming from a translation of the locally used Swedish name, Rataudden.

Literature: Riitta Salastie and Raisa Kiljunen-Siirola: *Uutelan rakennetun ympäristön arvot [The Values of Uutela’s Built Environment]. Helsinki City Planning Department 2003. Also available in PDF format online.*



The following activities are permitted in the area

- Making a fire in one of the two cooking shelters
You will need to bring your own barbecue charcoal or wood
- Swimming
- Picking berries and mushrooms
- Angling and ice fishing A fishing permit is required for trolling
- Walking a dog on a lead
- Accessing the tip of Skatanniemi via the road that runs through the plot area
- Exploring inside the artillery battery with a torch

The following activities are prohibited in the area

- Making fires anywhere other than in the campfire sites
- Fishing in the Särkkäniemi nature reserve and going off the paths
- Cycling in the Särkkäniemi nature reserve

Connections and services

Uutela is approximately one kilometre by foot from the nearest metro station. Bus 78 will take you to Aurinkolahti. There are parking areas beside Aurinkolahti, on the edge of the allotments, and to the north of Skatan tila farm. There are public toilets in all the parking areas. There is a café at Aurinkolahti harbour.

There are two campfire sites, one in Nuottaniemi and one in Niemenapaja The hiking trails are accessible to bikes and push-chairs. The gardens of the villas on the southern shore of the area are private areas. Several of the houses are inhabited year-round.

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Layout and map: Mainostoimisto RED, 2016



Skatan tila farm - from cattle to culture

Skatan tila farm was a crown farm from the 18th century. The state owned the farm, but it was handed down from one generation to the next, with the user just paying the taxes for the farm. At the end of the 19th century the ancestral farm was joined with Vuosaari manor. The current main building dates to the 19th century. A stone barn, a wooden granary and two sheds remain of the old buildings.

Finland’s oldest horse riding school Keskustalli stables operated out of Skatan tila farm from the mid 1950s until the 1970s. In those days herds of horses galloped in the pastures and at the summer camps many young people from Helsinki learned how to ride. Another popular activity was taking the horses to paddle in the sea. Artist Miina Äkkijyrkkä and her eastern Finncattle – native to Finland – lived on Skatan tila farm between 1996 and 2010.

Uutela’s inhabitants



Frog

The normal frog and the moor frog, which look very similar, spawn in Uutela’s glo ponds. The frog croaks and the moor frog makes a gurgling sound like the sound made when air is blown into water.



Grass snake and common European adder

The grass snake can be identified by the yellowish mottling on the back of its head. The common European adder usually has a clear sawtooth pattern on its back.



Common toad

The common toad is easy to identify thanks to its ‘scabby’ hide and inelegance.