

Indicator 1: Nature areas

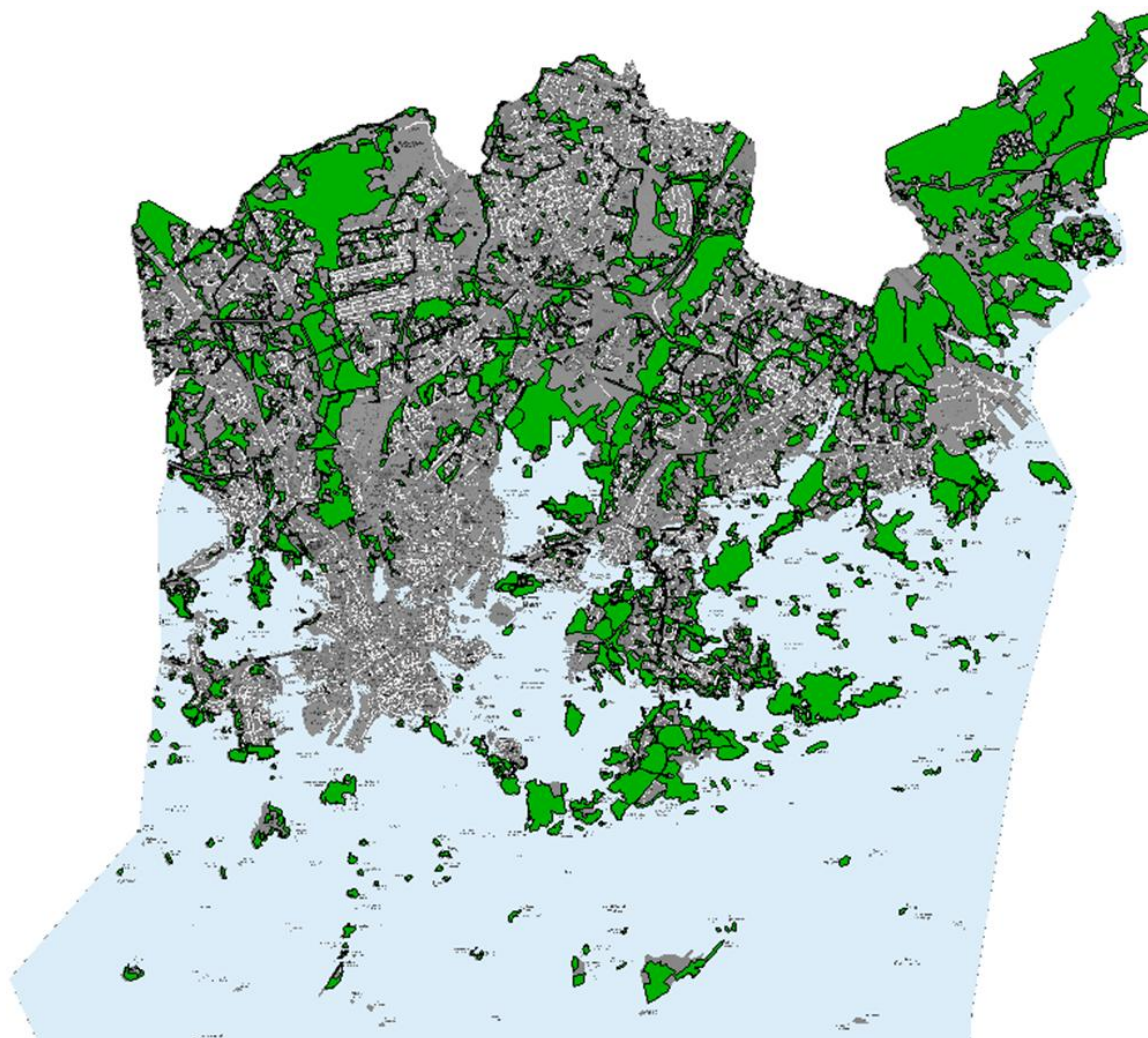


Figure: Helsinki's nature areas. The urban core stands out clearly as an area where there are only few nature areas. On the other hand, the areas of Sipoo that were annexed to Helsinki in 2009, the largest protected areas and Central Park stand out as broad and quite contiguous nature areas. The southernmost islands lie outside the range of this figure. (Figure: Milja Heikkinen, Map © Real Estate Department, Helsinki 2015)

Status:

The Nature Areas database, comprising natural and slightly disturbed areas, as well as areas in which anthropogenic activities are aimed at the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. The database is based on previous databases and the examination of aerial photographs¹. The indicator value was calculated by comparing the area of nature areas with the surface area of the city. The calculation was performed both including and excluding the area of the sea. The area of the sea in the city of Helsinki is considerably large, at over 500 km². Because sea areas can be considered as being 99% natural, the total proportion of nature

¹ A more precise account can be found from the report: Forss, Jessica; Heikkinen, Milja; Kemppe, Saana; Kivikoski, Mikko & Lindholm, Tanja: City Biodiversity Index Helsingissä, delivered to the Helsinki Environment Centre on 30.1.2014

areas exceeded 80%. As the sea area was large enough to cover all of the land-use changes, the index was calculated excluding the sea areas.

	Helsinki surface-area (km²)	Surface area of nature areas (km²)	%
Excluding sea areas	212.60	76.7	36.1

Score:

0 points: < 1.0%

1 points: 1.0% – 6.9%

2 points: 7.0% – 13.9%

3 points: 14.0% – 20.0%

4 points: > 20.0%

Monitoring:

For monitoring this indicator is calculated excluding sea areas. Changes in the amount of nature areas will be registered in the database by temporary staff in conjunction with monitoring of this indicator. The value is obtained from the surface area in the database. Helsinki gets an excellent result for this indicator, which it will endeavour to maintain. From the aspect of biodiversity, it would be reasonable if the city was set a higher objective than CBI requirement.

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