

Protected nature of national interest in Skövde

140 hectares of land around Skövde have been protected under the Local Investment Programme (LIP). The measures taken include protection of red-listed species, broadleaf forest and pristine wetland forest close to an urban area.

Many of the areas of nature around the municipality of Skövde in Västergötland are of national interest. This applies for example to unique broadleaf forest and enclosed pastures close to the town. It has become particularly important to safeguard these valuable areas of nature as the town of Skövde at the foot of Billingen is growing steadily. In the “Conservation of high natural amenities” programme work was done among other things on forming four nature reserves and three Natura 2000 sites in the municipality. This was a long process that was initiated in 1999 and was completed in 2005.

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- 140 hectares of nature area have been protected and safeguarded.
- Erosion in sensitive areas has been reduced for example through footbridges.
- Increased knowledge among the population of the municipality on nearby nature areas.
- Newly created connecting paths directly from the residential areas.

Photograph: Municipality of Skövde



IMPLEMENTATION

The municipality selected valuable nature areas from the municipal nature conservation programme, conducted a detailed inventory of these and provided guidance on how the areas were to be delimited. Affected landowners were contacted when conservation plans were written. Necessary action has since been taken for each area based on the conservation plans.

The municipality also chose to make a substantial information effort in the project and has produced the book *Naturguiden* (Nature Guide), which has been distributed to all households. All the areas are now marked and information signs are in place.

POTENTIAL AND FUTURE BENEFIT

Having access to and being able to spend time in nature is important to everyone, and in the longer term this may lead to greater environmental engagement. Protecting and managing areas of nature worthy of protection and making them available increases the attractiveness of these areas and benefits biodiversity. This activity provides good opportunities to place nature and environmental issues in a natural context and communicate them to various target groups.

WHY BEST PRACTICE

The municipality was put long-term effort into achieving sustainable development by preserving important biological functions in environments close to the town. The walking trails that start directly at the residential areas have moved nature and population closer together. The programme has generated a great deal of interest, and the municipality receives many telephone calls asking about procedures, cooperation and costs. Several other municipalities have since worked in a similar way to Skövde.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact
Sari Strömblad, Municipality of Skövde
Telephone: +46 (0)500-49 82 96,
+46 (0)76-104 96 65
E-mail: sari.stromblad@skovde.se

Contractors/providers
Pro Natura konsult
Optimal media
Naturcentrum
Swedish Forest Agency

The project on the Internet:
http://www.skovde.se/templates/S_ListPage.aspx?id=12735
http://www.skovde.se/templates/S_Article.aspx?id=12738

For further information on Best Practice
www.swedishepa.se/bestpractice
www.naturvardsverket.se/mir

FACTS
LIP Skövde 1999
Action 10
Environmental investment: SEK 4.0m
Grant: SEK 1.9m

