

## WOODLAND AS HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE

### Ånäs woodland in the City of Porvoo

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#### Abstract

Questions discussed in landscape architecture are related to the character of a forest, the *genus loci*; whether a forest landscape reveals stories, and whether it can be read. In environmental art, it has been stated that even a minimal signal carrying a human message is significant. Visible cultural historic elements are currently emphasized in the maintenance and care of antiquity sites, and the aim is to secure their preservation. The past is visualized by connecting memories to places. In urban forests, the cultural heritage is significant, because it helps to understand local history.

Research of the Ånäs woodlands relates to town and forestry planning in the area. The cultural history of the woodlands was emphasized in the planning process. Questions: What was the history of the Ånäs woodlands? Are there any cultural vegetation types or heritage sites? What kind of cultural processes they refer to? Are there particular cultural values connected to the woodlands – values that can be supported or damaged by forestry measures? Research material: The current wood stand, vegetation and terrain of the Ånäs woodlands, historical maps, old photographs and literature.

Results: The Ånäs woodlands have an exceptional history in Finland. The old pine stand dates back to the beginning of the 1800<sup>th</sup> century, when the hill was a landmark for those arriving to Porvoo from the sea. The herb stand includes several archeophytes, as well as herbs from the Age of Enlightenment, which refers to an early use of the area as a garden. In the woods, there are terrace structures from a villa garden from the 1900<sup>th</sup> century. Some tree and shrub species originate from the villa arboretum from the beginning of the 2000<sup>th</sup> century.

Effects of the results on the town plan: The Ånäs woodlands are a cultural heritage site. The objective of landscape protection is the preservation of the pine stand and cultural species.

Effects of the results on the forestry plan: In the woodlands the thicket of saplings is cleared, there are planted pine trees and tree species from the old arboretum. The preservation of the rare herbs is supported by providing a 60% shadow by the canopy. The former terrace garden was cleared of thicket and planted with old fruit tree species, and it shall be maintained as a semicultural biotope.

#### Key Words

Urban forestry, cultural heritage management, nature management policy