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The City of Heinola Celebrates Its 250th Anniversary by Protecting Forests

The City of Heinola is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year. To mark the occasion, the city has published a new forest management programme aimed at ensuring that municipal forests remain vibrant, economically productive, diverse, and rich in biodiversity also in the future.

The new forest programme takes into account biodiversity, recreational use, landscape values, climate objectives, and the economic use of forests. The City of Heinola owns 3,700 hectares of forest, of which 1,400 hectares are commercial forests. The landscape is characterized by the variation between forests and waterways.

Planned forest management helps preserve forests, and a large proportion of forest areas have been designated as value forests in order to safeguard cultural, landscape, and natural values. Forest planning also promotes water protection, as it can prevent materials that cause pollution from running off into water bodies.

Forest biodiversity is enhanced, among other measures, by increasing the amount of protected areas, valuable broad-leaved trees, and deadwood, as well as by controlling invasive species. Tree species diversity is increased especially in spruce-dominated forests that have become overly dense or over-mature.

In Finland, forests also have a significant impact on people's well-being and residential comfort, as approximately 96 percent of the adult population spends time outdoors in nature. Finns visit natural areas on average 180 times a year, or about three times a week. The City of Heinola supports residents' access to forests by keeping routes and trails accessible throughout the year.

The international project meeting of the Naturefin project will be held in Heinola in the summer of this year, from 9 to 11 June 2026.