

# ***Establishing and managing protected sites in Lahti***

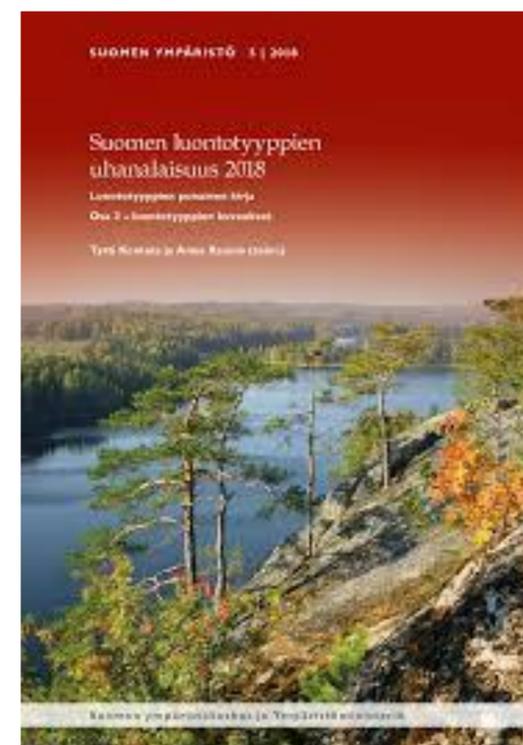
Geosites Project Workshop 23.9.2025  
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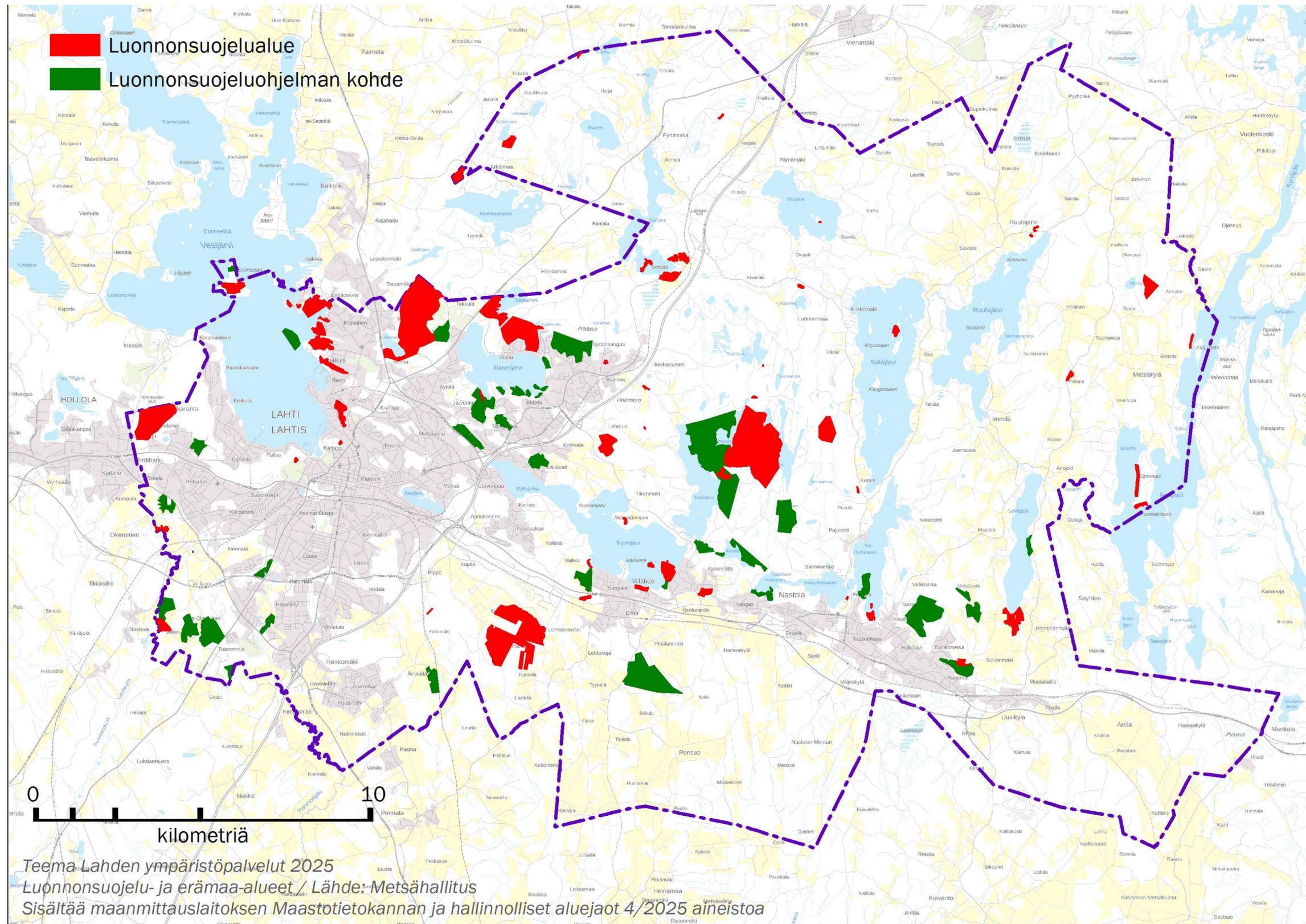


Picture: PP photobank

# Selection of sites for protection

- Areas owned by the City of Lahti
- Based on old information about the value of areas
- Field work to determine the value
- The City of Lahti Nature Conservation Programme (2025-2030):
  - future protected areas (850 hectares/940) are listed and conservation year is scheduled according to area's nature value
  - number of endangered habitat types and their value
  - number of endangered, noteworthy species
  - connection to other protected areas
- Areas are selected by cooperation between the city's Environmental Services, Environmental Planning, Land Use and Forestry section
- Common understanding and avoidance of conflicts
  - are recreational forests suitable for conservation?
  - will the control of the area be lost due to protection?
  - can all use be prohibited due to protection?





# Establishment of protected areas

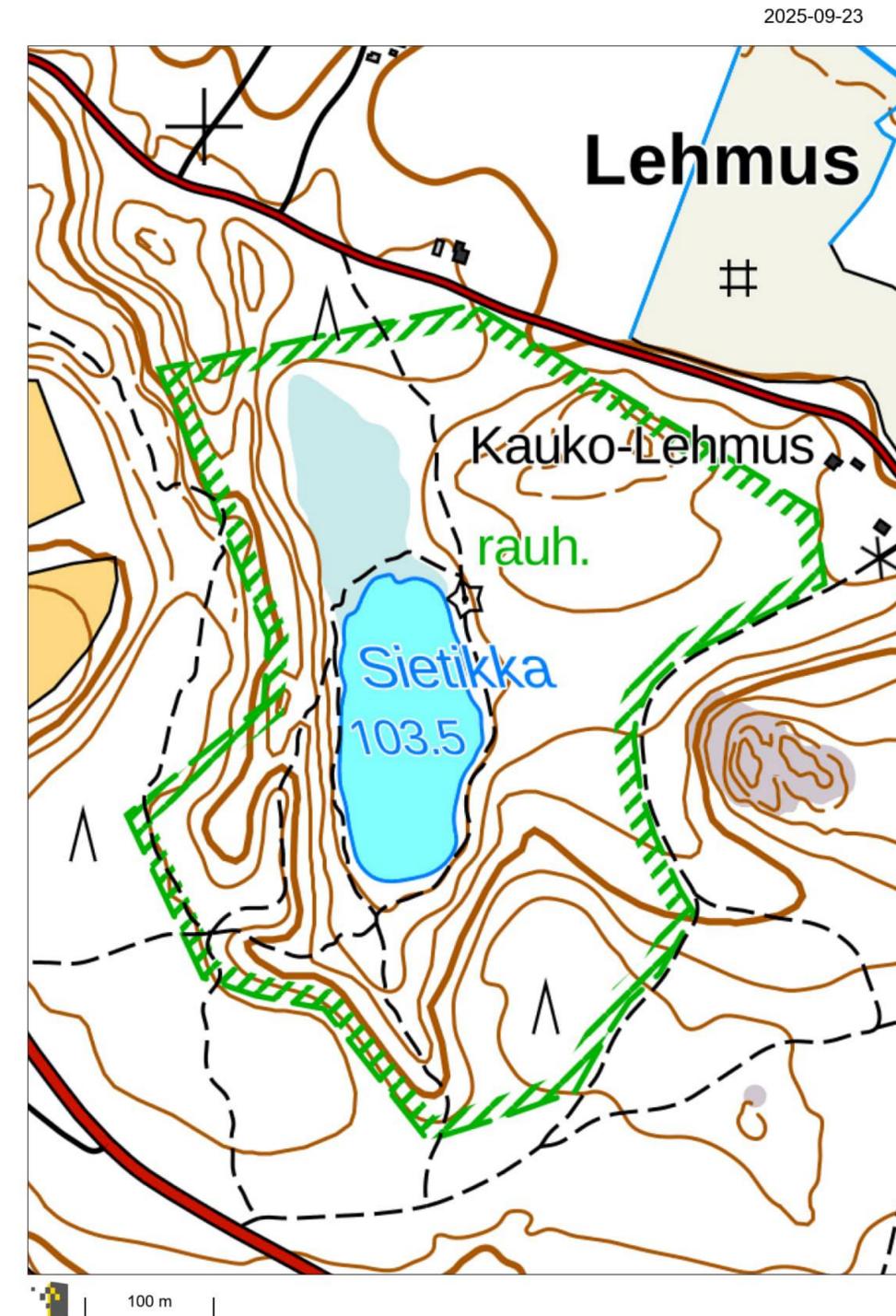
- Municipal protection proposal by Environmental Services
- Protection decision made by:
  1. City's Urban Environmental Board (11 members)
  2. City Executive Board (11 members)
  3. City Council (59 members)
- The application is send to Regional Economic, Transport and Environmental Centre (ELY-centre) for desicion making (official nature conservation supervisor)



Picture: PP photobank

# Protection decision

- Protection decision is made by ELY-centre
  - Contains information about the site (e.g location, size, natural conditions)
  - Contains protection regulations
  - May include the area's management and use plan (if already made in connection with municipal decision-making)
  - The appeal period for the decision is 30 days
    - a legally binding decision
    - information about the area is sent to National Land Surveys Office
    - boundaries of protected areas can be seen in basic maps (Sietikka kettle pond)
- Note! The protection area stays in the property of the city and the protection decision is final
- can only be demolished if the natural conditions no longer meet the criteria of protection



# Conservation regulations

- Conservation regulations determine what can and can not be done in the protected area
- Regulations are made in cooperation between the ELY centre and the land owner (the municipality)
- Activities that change the natural conditions of the area are prohibited
  - e.g deforestation, ditching, digging, collecting plants and killing and disturbing animals
- Everyone's rights generally apply
  - picking mushrooms and berries, small-scale fishing, short-term overnight visiting
- Hunting can also be allowed but it must be mentioned separately
  - activities in accordance with the Management and use plan are permitted



Picture: PP photobank

# Management and use

- The management and the use of the area is guided by the protection regulations and the **Management and use plan**
  - what recreational structures will be made in the area and their location (e.g boardwalks, fireplaces, route signs).
  - what kind of nature management / restoration will be made (removal of spruce in the grove, blocking of ditches in the peatland areas etc.)
- Management and use plan is not obligated
- Must be approved by the ELY-centre
- Responsible section: Environmental services of the city
- The protected area will be marked on the terrain with signposts



Picture: PP photobank

# Financial support for conservation

- State-funded **METSO**
  - focuses on forest environments
  - max 40 % conservation compensation of the fair value of the forest's trees
  - tax free income
  - divided between Land Use and Forestry sections
  - available in the future?
- State-funded **HELMI**
  - focuses on habitat restoration on valuable areas
  - not available in 2025
- **Private project financiers** (e.g. MetsäGroup)
  - Funding of 73 000 €
  - restoration of the bird waters of Kilpiäistenpohja nature reserve
  - removal of alien plant and animal species, opening of waterways, cutting young trees, construction of a bird raft
- **Our own budget** for nature conservation  
140 000 € (2025)



Picture: PP photobank

# *Thank you!*

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