



# Garphyttan National park

**Garphyttan National Park was founded in 1909 and is one of Sweden's oldest national parks. At that time it was believed that the richness of the flora was best preserved without human influence. Only when the land began to become overgrown and the meadow plants declined was it understood that the flora was dependent on both the farmer's activities and grazing animals.**

The majority of the land used to belong to the farm of Östra gården, one of four farms in Svenshyttan where the farmers were also allowed to produce iron. The principal environment in the park comprises the grounds of the old farms and the remaining open cultivated land, which is still traditionally managed through annual mowing and haymaking. There are many plants and animals that are typical of old-fashioned meadow cultivation. The surrounding coniferous forests are now freely evolving into natural forest and are home to many rare plants and animals.

## Natural forest and floral meadows

The majority of the national park is forested. Most of this is coniferous forest that was planted after felling in the late 1800s. The forest can now evolve freely, resulting in a dramatic increase in the number of dead trees. This benefits a number of threatened and vulnerable plant and animal species that thrive in natural forests. The national park includes a number of ancient beaches that were formed around 10,000 years ago when the



Photo: Elisabeth Karlsson

coastline was at this level. The open land is managed through annual haymaking and has flora and fauna that is typical of old-fashioned meadow cultivation.

## Cultivated land

The iron industry required many draught animals. Hay and leaves were gathered from the meadows to provide their winter fodder. Pasture land was thus more important than arable land. The park's open land is mown annually in order to imitate the old meadow cultivation. For the same reason, a number of the park's deciduous trees are also pruned (lopped) regularly.



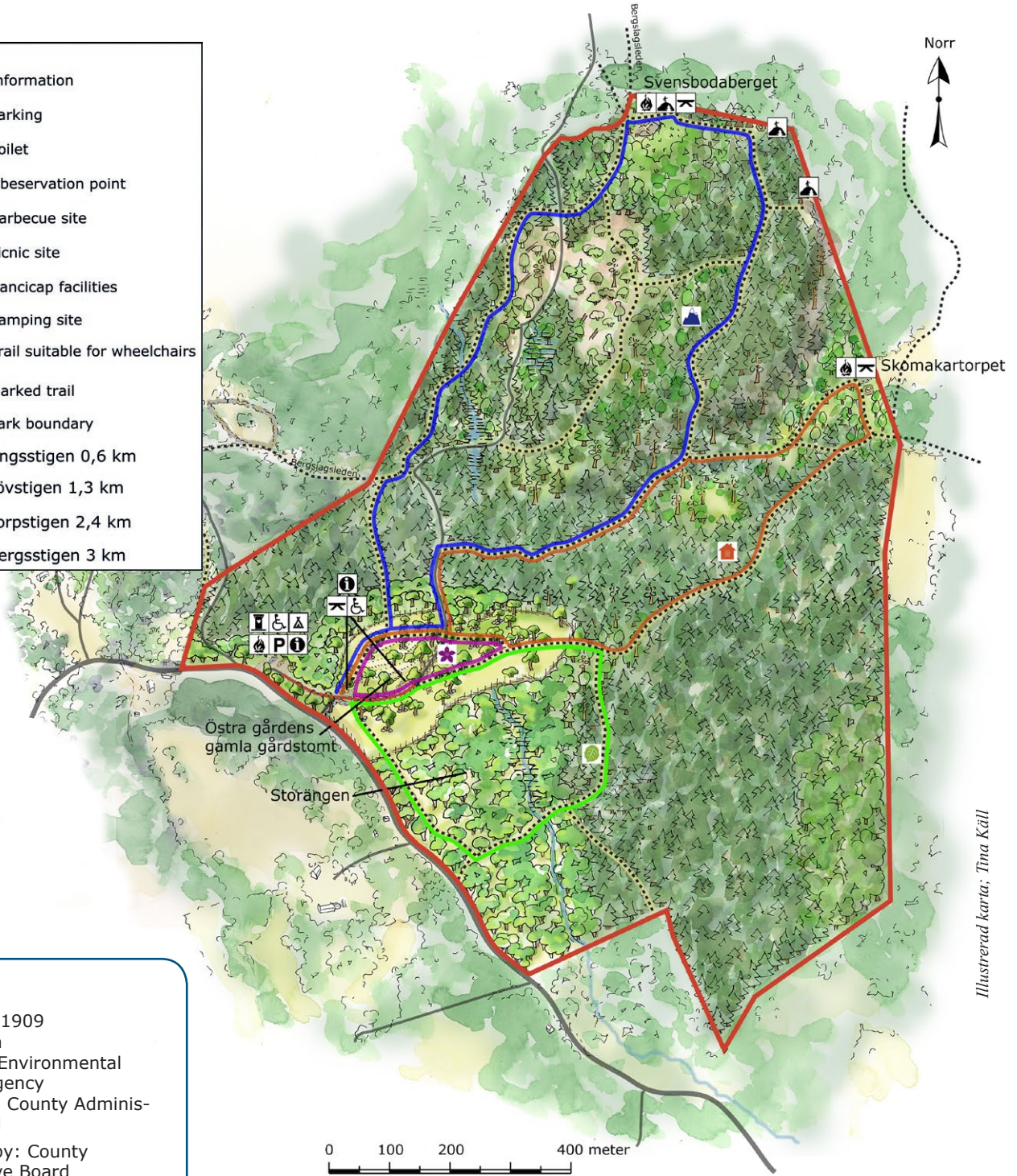
Photo: Leif Olofsson

## "Östra gården"

This is where Östra gården, one of the four farms at Svenshyttan, was located. The iron industry was an important source of income for the families that lived here. Agriculture was thus a lower priority. The farm buildings were demolished when the national park was founded 1909. The old farm grounds now house a large ash tree and a number of obvious building foundations.



	Information
	Parking
	Toilet
	Observation point
	Barbecue site
	Picnic site
	Hancicap facilities
	Camping site
	Trail suitable for wheelchairs
	Marked trail
	Park boundary
	Ängsstigen 0,6 km
	Lövsstigen 1,3 km
	Torpstigen 2,4 km
	Bergsstigen 3 km



Illustrerad karta: Tina Käll

**Facts**  
 Established: 1909  
 Area: 111 ha  
 Landowner: Environmental Protection Agency  
 Managed by: County Administrative Board  
 Established by: County Administrative Board

**§ In the National park it is forbidden to:**

- Dig or hack,
- Damage, carve or paint on rocks, ground, boulders or stone
- Remove stones
- Break twigs, fell trees or in any other way damage living or dead trees or shrubs
- Damage or disturb wildlife, climb nesting trees or stay near a bird of prey's nest, den or burrow
- Drive a motorized vehicle or park outside of the roads or the designated parking places
- Launch or land an aircraft
- Camp or put up shelters or similar, except in designated camping sites
- Light fires, including the use of disposable grills or outdoor stoves, except in designated areas
- Bring unleashed dogs or other pets without leash
- Cause sound in a disturbing way

- During the period May 5th – August 10th tread the meadows, except on designated trails
- Engage in military or police training activities
- Ride, except on the road or designated parking places
- Cycle, except on the road or designated parking places

**Without authorization from the County administrative board is not allowed to:**

- Carry out sports competitions or sport events
- Put up signs, boards, posters, orienteering controls, stripes, markings or similar
- Carry out scientific surveys or conduct environmental monitoring that involves marking, collection, trapping, or other impacts on the natural environment
- Collect amphibians or reptiles
- Collect insects, spiders, snails, slugs or other invertebrates
- Pick, gather or dig up plants, including mosses, or lichens or wood living fungi