



Photo: Heimtali Nature Study Trail, R. Vaiksalu

landscape and the objective of the area's protection, the forest has been developing in its natural way and most fallen trees have been left for a new cycle of life in order to foster the biodiversity. The study trail is also a perfect place to learn about different tree fungi. The place of growth of the netted Rhodotus, or the rosy vein-cap (*Rhodotus palmatus*) of protection category I on the wood of dead elms has been registered in the area.

Also some rare plants, such as the broad-leaved helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*) and the orchid twayblade (*Listera ovata*), grow near the Heimtali Study Trail. On the trunks of deciduous trees you can find the specific species of moss – the Neckera moss (*Neckera pennata*) – which indicates the cleanness of air. As to birds, you can meet different species of woodpeckers and the tawny owl (*Strix aluco*) in the grove woods at Heimtali. The manor park is also a habitat for bats.

Throughout times, the timber of hardwood deciduous trees has been valuable material for making tools, furniture, weapons, vehicles, medicaments, and food. The oak, in particular, and also some other deciduous trees had an important role in our ancestors' religious beliefs.

DOS AND DON'TS FOR VISITORS

- You can move about on private land from sunrise to sunset unless you do damage to the landowner. In case the private land is fenced or marked, you need the landowner's permission for passing.
- Drive your motor vehicle and ride your bike only on the provided roads and park it only in the car park.
- Put up your tent and make a fire only at the prepared and marked places.
- At the time of fire risk it is forbidden to make an open fire, even on special grounds.
- You can pick berries, mushrooms and other forest goods in the protected area.
- Keep your dog on the leash while moving about in the nature.
- Try to act without leaving traces in the nature.

When you see damage done to the nature or visiting objects, inform the Environmental Inspectorate by phone 1313.



ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

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Front page photo: Heimtali Distillery,
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Layout by: Akriibia Ltd
Printed by: Aktaprint PLC

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Publication supported by
Environmental Investment Centre



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HEIMTALI Nature Study Trail

Loodi Nature Park



Photo: Deciduous Forest, A. Ader

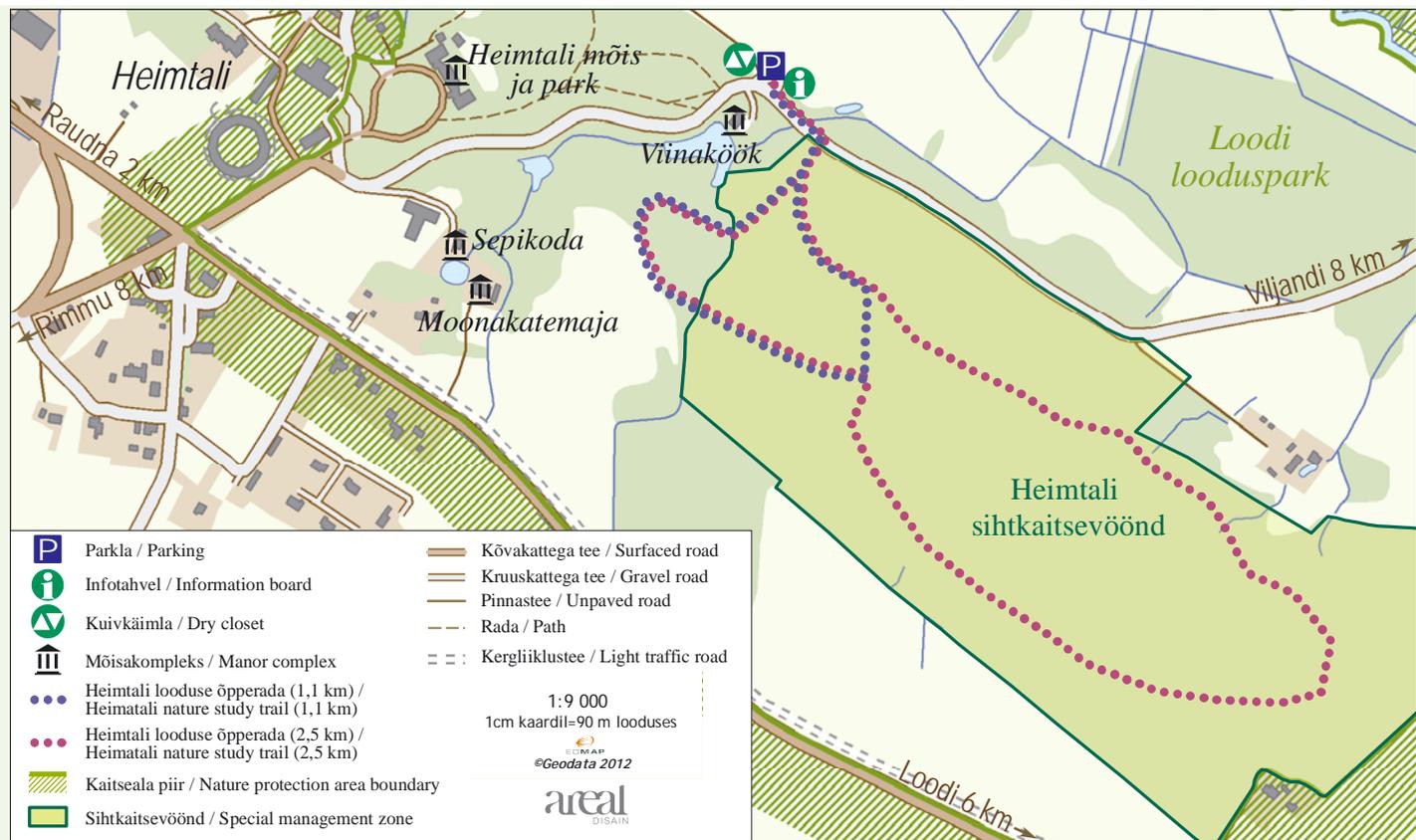
HEIMTALI MANOR AND MANOR PARK

The heart of the Heimtali Manor consists of the 19th century classicistic mansion, the steward's house, a cellar, a barn – drying kiln, a smithy, the manor workers' house, a circle stable and a distillery (Viinakööök) in the valley.

The manor house was established by Peter Reinhold von Sivers, constructed by his own drawings and completed in 1860. Since 1932, the building has been accommodating a school, which is now called Heimtali Basic School. The manor park in its free-shape style was founded in the late 19th century by the family of the von Siverses. The front square of the park is large, surrounded with a curvy entrance road and a few groups of trees. The stone cross in the south-west of the square was probably erected in memory of the Landlord's daughter who drowned. Alleys head from the manor park in the direction of Rimmu, Loodi and Vardi.

The best-known building in the Heimtali Manor complex is the **distillery** with its four corner-towers (drawing chimneys), which has been in operation since 1856. From the 1860s to 1938, the building was used as a dairy (cheese-making workshop).

DECIDUOUS FOREST is not very common in Estonia and makes up about 5% of the forests. They grow mostly on fertile soil with good water supply. The tree, scrub and grass layers are rich in species. The dominating species of trees are the oak (*Quercus robur*), the ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), the maple (*Acer platanoides*), and the elm (*Ulmus glabra*). The undergrowth mostly comprises the common hazel (*Corylus avellana*), the fly honeysuckle (*Lonicera xylosteum*), and the Alpine currant (*Ribes alpinum*). The distinctive flowering plants are shade-tolerant, such as the herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*), the common wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), and the European wild ginger (*Asarum europaeum*).



HEIMTALI NATURE STUDY TRAIL

The Heimtali Manor is accompanied by the forest park with a study trail, which was founded in 2003 with the aim to introduce the diversified deciduous forest, rare in Central Estonia. You can choose **between two different trails, the longer being 2.5 km and the shorter 1.1 km**. The trails start and finish at the car park near the distillery, which is a part of the manor complex. The study trail following the eskers is provided with information boards about hardwood deciduous trees.

In comparison with West-Europe, there are fewer hardwood deciduous trees in Estonia. Four most common of them – **the oak, ash, maple, and elm** – are represented on the slopes of the Heimtali ancient valley. **Lime trees** (*Tilia cordata*) grow in single groups on the eskers and esker slopes. As to trees of foreign origin, firs and Douglas-firs tower on the trailside.

The esker slopes are rich in springs. Some places, red sandstone is cropped out. The shadier and damper valley climate has created favourable growing conditions for different species of ferns. The entire study trail leaves a slightly primeval and mysterious impression because, proceeding from the particularity of the



Photo: Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*), A. Ader