

The meadows of Skövde are now blooming again

Harebell, mountain everlasting, pasqueflower and common rock rose are flourishing on the meadows of Skövde again, following the restoration of enclosed pastures in the municipality. The restoration has additionally created attractive destinations for excursions by the population of the municipality.

The successful restoration of enclosed pastures in the municipality of Skövde has contributed to increased biodiversity. As the number of farms has decreased, many enclosed pastures have ceased to be maintained and have become overgrown. With support from the Local Investment Programme (LIP), 171 hectares of enclosed pastures were restored over the period 2003–2006. The meadow plants pasqueflower, harebell, mountain everlasting and common rock rose are flourishing again, as is the butterfly fauna. The restoration has also produced other positive environmental effects.

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- Increased biodiversity.
- Cultural heritage assets have benefited.
- Improved recreational opportunities.
- The enclosed pastures have become popular for excursions.

Photograph: Municipality of Skövde



IMPLEMENTATION

The purpose of the project was to restore overgrown enclosed pastures to a variety of open and semi-closed pastures. During the restoration the pastures were cleared, thinned, fenced and improved. The municipality and the Swedish Forest Agency cooperated on the project. The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation has assisted with important knowledge. Local knowledge has been important as the areas are sensitive and restoration must be done at the right time.

An acreage 41 hectares greater than the target that had been set was restored. The measures cost more than planned. Information about the project has been disseminated through newspaper articles, the municipality's website, a small brochure and guided tours. Local residents have been positive and as a result of the restoration have gained fine areas for rambling.

POTENTIAL AND FUTURE BENEFIT

The natural landscape, natural resources and biodiversity have to be preserved and used sustainably. The restoration of enclosed pastures and other valuable habitats is part of this, and new methods and forms of collaboration may need to be developed. Having access to and being able to spend time in nature is important to everyone. In the long term this can lead to greater environmental involvement.

WHY BEST PRACTICE

The restoration of 171 hectares of enclosed pasture has improved the conditions for biodiversity. Meadow plants are blooming again and cultural amenities have been preserved. The project has led to improved recreational opportunities. The enclosed pastures have become popular for excursions by people living in the municipality.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Contractors/providers:
Swedish Forest Agency
Sydved AB
Private landowners

The project on the Internet:
www.skovde.se

Further information on Best Practice
www.swedishepa.se/bestpractice
www.naturvardsverket.se/mir

FACTS
LIP Skövde 2001
Action 16
Environmental investment: SEK 5.0m
Grant: SEK 1.2m

