

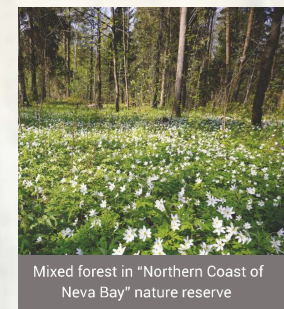


Fen in "Sestroretsk Mire" nature reserve

- sand dunes and beaches along the coast of the Gulf of Finland (represented in nature reserves "Western Kotlin", "Gladyshevsky" and in the natural monument "Komarovo Coast");
- shallow waters of the Neva Bay (represented in nature reserves "Southern Coast of Neva Bay", "Northern Coast of Neva Bay", "Western Kotlin" and in the natural monument

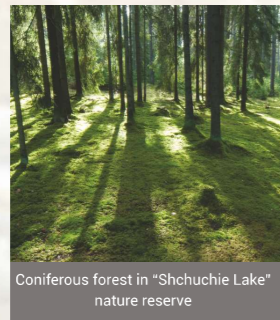
"Strelnya Coast");
- river and lake systems (represented in nature reserves "Shchuchie Lake", "Gladyshevsky" and in the natural monument "Popovka River Valley").

In Saint Petersburg protected areas form regional ecological network. They maintain biological diversity of the megalopolis and contribute to the provision of living environment for its



Mixed forest in "Northern Coast of Neva Bay" nature reserve

citizens. Within their boundaries economic activities are restricted with the aim to preserve the nature. Forbidden activities include construction works, making fire, driving, pollution, logging, collecting plants, hunting and causing any harm to wildlife, walking of pets and domestic animals, etc.



Coniferous forest in "Shchuchie Lake" nature reserve

Nature trails constructed in natural monuments "Komarovo Coast", "Dudergof Heights" and in the nature reserve "Western Kotlin" provide opportunities for visitors to learn about the nature as well as cultural and historical heritage while walking in these protected areas. All nature trails are equipped with information panels and can be visited without a guide.

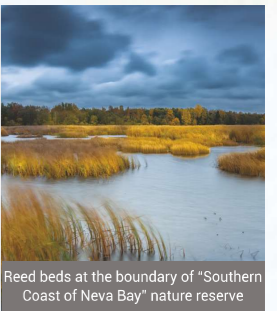


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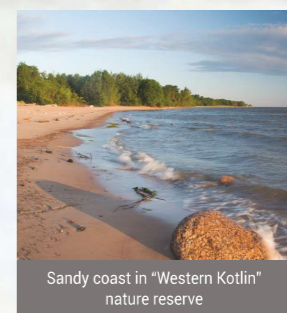


Protected Areas in Saint Petersburg

Specially protected natural areas (Protected Areas) are areas of land and water surface where particularly valuable natural complexes and objects are located, which are withdrawn from economic use and where special protection regime is established. Protected areas development is the main method of territorial conservation, ensuring not only preservation of



Reed beds at the boundary of "Southern Coast of Neva Bay" nature reserve



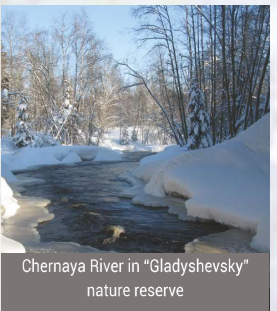
Sandy coast in "Western Kotlin" nature reserve

natural ecosystems and landscapes, but also restoration of previously disturbed areas.

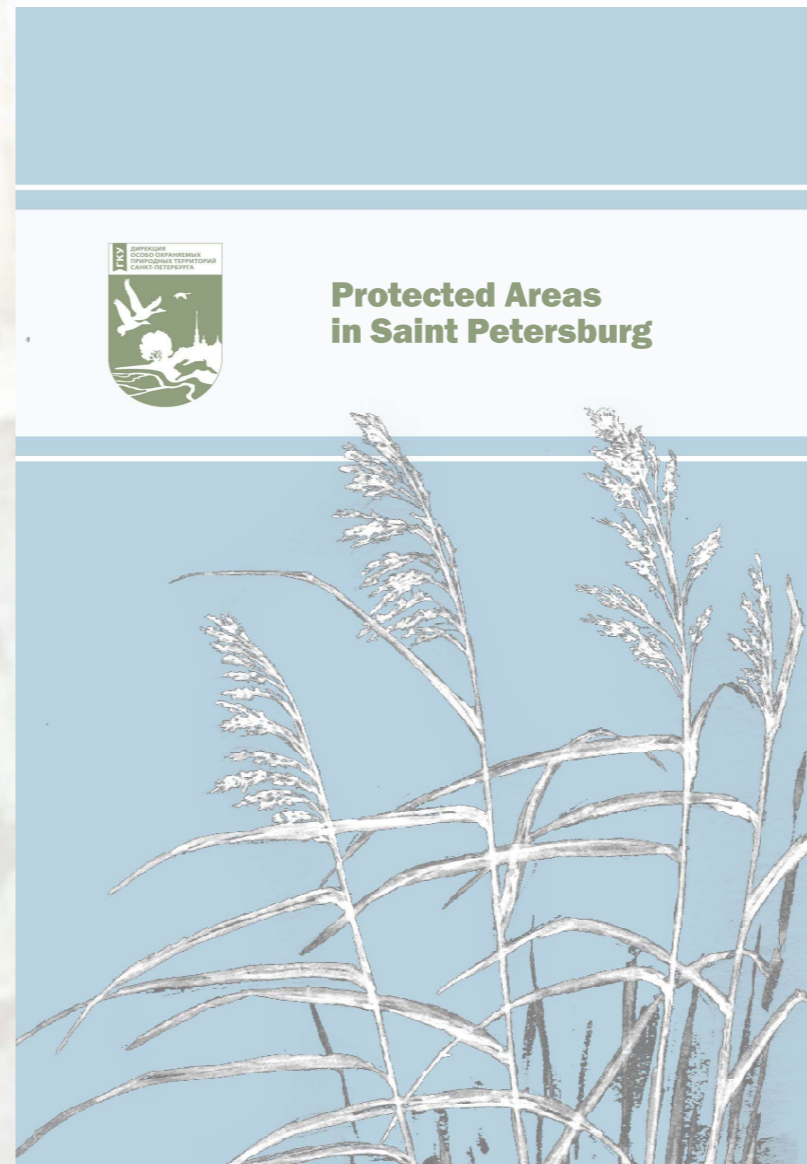
At present there are 15 protected areas in Saint Petersburg, including 8 nature reserves (zakazniks) and 7 natural monuments. Their total area is more than 6 140 hectares which constitutes about 4 % of the city's area.

In protected areas of Saint Petersburg one can find all the main types of natural complexes characteristic for the city territory:

- coniferous and mixed forests (represented in nature reserves "Shchuchie Lake", "Northern Coast of Neva Bay", "Gladyshevsky" and in the natural monument "Komarovo Coast");
- mires (represented in nature reserves "Sestroretsk Mire" and "Yuntolovsky");



Chernaya River in "Gladyshevsky" nature reserve



Protected Areas in Saint Petersburg



Legend:

— boundaries of Saint Petersburg — boundaries of Protected Areas

"Elagin's Island" natural monument from a bird's eye view



Bog-myrtle – *Myrica gale*



Lady's-slipper orchid – *Cypripedium calceolus*



North red wood ant – *Formica aquilonia*



Nuthatch – *Sitta europaea*



Common reed – *Phragmites australis*

1. "Yuntolovsky" Nature Reserve

Area: 976,8 ha. The reserve is established in 1990 with the aim to conserve coastal landscapes providing habitats for rare plant species as well as nesting areas and stop-over sites for migratory birds. The reserve includes water area of the Lakhta Bay and major part of the Lakhta mire.

2. "Dudergof Heights" ("Dudergofskie vysoty") Natural Monument

Area: 65 ha. The protected area is located on elevation composed of two ridges – Voronya (144 m, Baltic Height System) and Orekhovaya (176 m Baltic Height System) hills (literally "mounts"); the latter being the highest point in Saint Petersburg. The natural monument is established in 1992 to preserve a broadleaf forest on the northern limit of its distribution.

3. "Komarovo Coast" ("Komarovskiy bereg") Natural Monument

Area: 180 ha. The natural monument is established in 1992 and protects mature spruce forest, black alder forests, sand dunes and beaches on the coast of the Gulf of Finland. The monument's area is notable for its unusually high number of anthills of North red wood ant.

4. "Park "Sergievka" Natural Monument

Area: 120 ha. Old landscape park "Sergievka" was declared as natural monument in 1992. The park was started in the first half of the 19th century in the place of natural forest on two coastal terraces and on the slope of coastal scarp.

5. "Strelnya Coast" ("Strelninsky bereg") Natural Monument

Area: 40 ha. The protected area is established in 1992 with the aim to preserve the etalon of natural complexes on eastern coast of the Gulf of Finland: shallow waters with reed and bulrush beds, black alder forests and willow thickets that create favorable habitats for birds.



Freshwater pearl mussel – *Margaritifera margaritifera*



Common oak – *Quercus robur*



Northern Pike – *Esox lucius*



Black Grouse – *Lyrurus tetrix*



European white water lily – *Nymphaea candida*

6. "Gladyshevsky" Nature Reserve

The reserve's territory is shared by Saint Petersburg and the Leningrad Region; it occupies an area of 8 418 ha (out of which 765 ha belong to Saint-Petersburg). The protected area is established in 1996 to preserve the habitat of Freshwater pearl mussel and spawning grounds of salmonids.

7. "Northern Coast of Neva Bay" ("Severnoe poberezhie Nevskoy Guby") Nature Reserve

Area: 330 ha. The reserve is established in 2009 with the aim to preserve typical coastal landscapes of the Neva Bay, nesting sites and stop-over sites of waterbirds as well as forest massive with old-growth oak trees

8. "Shchuchie Lake" ("Ozero Shchuchie") Nature Reserve

Area: 1 157 ha. The reserve, which name is translated as "Pike's lake" encompasses coniferous and small-leaved forests, several lakes, mires and fluvioglacial land forms such as kame hills and ridges. The protected area is established in 2011 for conservation of the largest taiga forest massive within Saint Petersburg.

9. "Sestroretsk Mire" ("Sestroretskoe boloto") Nature Reserve

Area: 1 877 ha. The reserve is established in 2011. It includes the northern part of the Sestroretsky Razliv reservoir and the largest mire system within the city boundaries. The Sestroretsk mire represents a unique natural complex untouched by human activities and having the age of some 8 000 years.

10. "Peter's Pond" ("Petrovskiy prud") Natural Monument

Area: 3,1 ha. The core of the natural monument is a reservoir on the place of a huge granite boulder – "Thunder-stone". This boulder was removed from the ground in 1769 to become the pedestal of the monument to Peter I "The Bronze Horseman" by E. Falconet. The protected area is established in 2011 with the aim to preserve this natural complex having ecological and cultural value.



Red Squirrel – *Sciurus vulgaris*



Common Sandpiper – *Actitis hypoleucos*



Green Woodpecker – *Picus viridis*



Trilobite



Redstart – *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

11. "Elagin's Island" ("Elagin ostrov") Natural Monument

Area: 96,8 ha. The protected area occupies the entire Elagin island and includes a palace and park ensemble built in the first half of the 19th century. The island's natural complex was declared as natural monument in 2012.

12. "Western Kotlin" ("Zapadny Kotlin") Nature Reserv

Area: 102 ha. The reserve is located on the western cape of the Kotlin island, which shallow waters maintain traditional stop-over sites of migratory waterbirds. The protected area was established in 2012 with the aim to preserve large area of black alder forests, vegetation of sandy beaches and complex of coastal ridges that is being formed. Within the reserve there located the coastal fort "Alexander Shanetz" – an object of cultural heritage of federal significance.

13. "Southern Coast of Neva Bay" ("Yuzhnoe poberezhie Nevskoy Guby") Nature Reserve

Area: 266 ha. The protected area is a cluster consisting of three components: "Kronstadt Colony", "Private Dacha" and "Znamenka"; it is established in 2013. In the reserve large areas are occupied by black alder forests as well as reed and bulrush beds, where numerous flocks of waterbirds stop to rest and feed during the migration period.

14. "Popovka River Valley" ("Dolina reki Popovki") Natural Monument

Area: 25,7 ha. The protected areas is established in 2013 and includes canyon-like valley of the Popovka River with more than twenty outcrops of Paleozoic rocks. These rocks contain numerous fossil ancient marine organisms, in particular, trilobites.

15. "Novoorlovsky" Nature Reserve

Area: 138,3 ha. Established in 2015, the nature reserve is located in actively developing part of the Primorsky District of Saint Petersburg and includes pine and mixed forests of the Novoorlovsky woodland park created in 1950-ies. The name of the woodland park, and then the name of the reserve derives from the Orlovsky forest once located here – the possession of Count A.F. Orlov-Denisov-Nikitin.