



Juuru oaks

Location

State: Estonia

Region: Juuru Parish

County: Rapla

Parish: Juuru

Other references to the location

On the Southern border of Juuru hamlet on a corn field and by the open gardens, 110 m to the North of the Purila - Kaiu highway.

Coordinates

lat= 59.056075667001, lon=24.958594712793

59° 3' 21" N, 24° 57' 30" E

Description

1st oak: diameter 375 cm (1,3 m), height 18 m; 2nd oak: diameter, 420 cm (1,3 m), height 16 m.

Narrative

Legend and lore The ancient Estonians had a sacred grove at the present site of Juuru church. Two oaks still stand. People made offerings there even later, these are stories that children were nursed on and told by old people. Sure, people would frequent this place. Ribbons were tied there back in the day. The older people have said there were ribbons tied to the trees. In the old days, there was a large stand of oaks where Juuru is now situated. The strong oak roots gave the builders of the church all sorts of trouble. They tried to split the powerful roots with axes. When the church was finished, it began to be called Juuru church. Later the name was shortened in the vernacular, and the name Juuru



Juuru tammed (Juuru oaks).
Photo by Hiite Maja SA



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arose. Estonia [] sacred groves Sacred groves (hiied) are the oldest nature reserves in Estonia, preserved from development out of respect for the forces of nature and ancestors and used as a wellspring of vitality. Estonia has close to 600 known sacred groves or grove-like sites. The area of a sacred grove can span 100 ha and often it can encompass sacred springs, stones, and festive and funeral sites. The sacred grove was used for prayer, offerings, councils, healing, celebration of days on the folk calendar by people in at least one village. The principle of non-violence to people, animals and plants is paramount in the sacred grove. People visit the sacred grove in a clean and sober state and domesticated animals and pets are kept away. Over the centuries, foreign overlords have attempted to destroy and occupy the indigenous sanctuaries to break the people [] spirit of resistance and sense of self-worth. In spite of this, many shrines survived.

Attraction

The oaks are impressive and conspicuous for their size.

Availability

From Purila - Kaiu road, 110 m over a grainfield. Alternative II From a private house at Staadioni tn 10 in the small town of Juuru.

Infrastructure, management, facilities

Parking for cars and bus in the small town of Juuru. No footpath to the oaks.

Local info

Sign for a protected nature monument.

Capacity

0-9

Publicity

Known

Legal Status

Private and state land, nature conservation