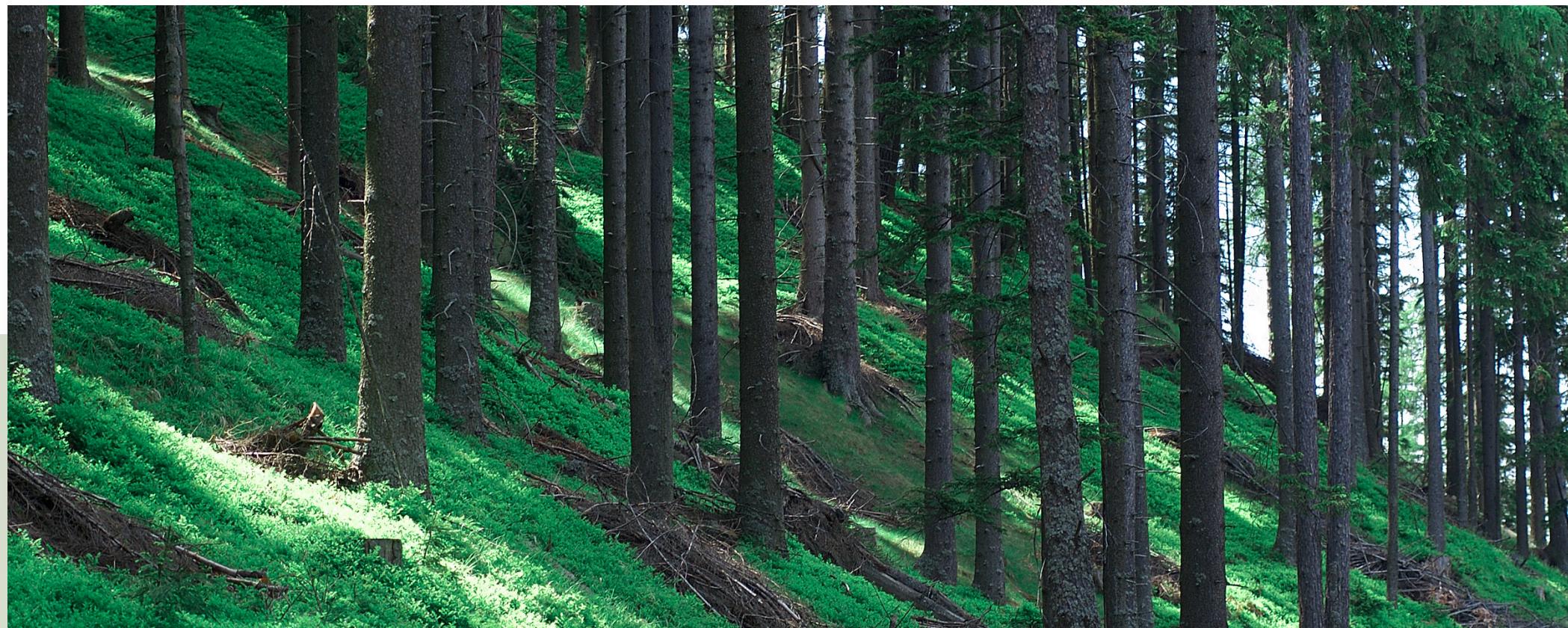


EXPERIENCE THE MAGNIFICENCE OF **PAEHRNIK'S** FORESTS

Forest Culture – With the Future in Mind
Forest Etiquette

Radlje ob Dravi is surrounded by the lush forests of Pohorje and Kozjak, with which people have coexisted since prehistoric times. The Pahernik forests represent an exceptional natural and cultural heritage of the municipality of Radlje ob Dravi, which must be preserved and protected for present and future generations.

The forests are located in an area of special importance, where it is important to respect the natural features, ecological functions of the forest and the rules when visiting the forests. In order to preserve the natural balance, peace and biodiversity, we have prepared forest etiquette for visiting the Pahernik forests.



Centuries old Pahernik's forests



"Society benefits when the elderly plant trees, even though they know they will never sit in their shade."

Greek proverb



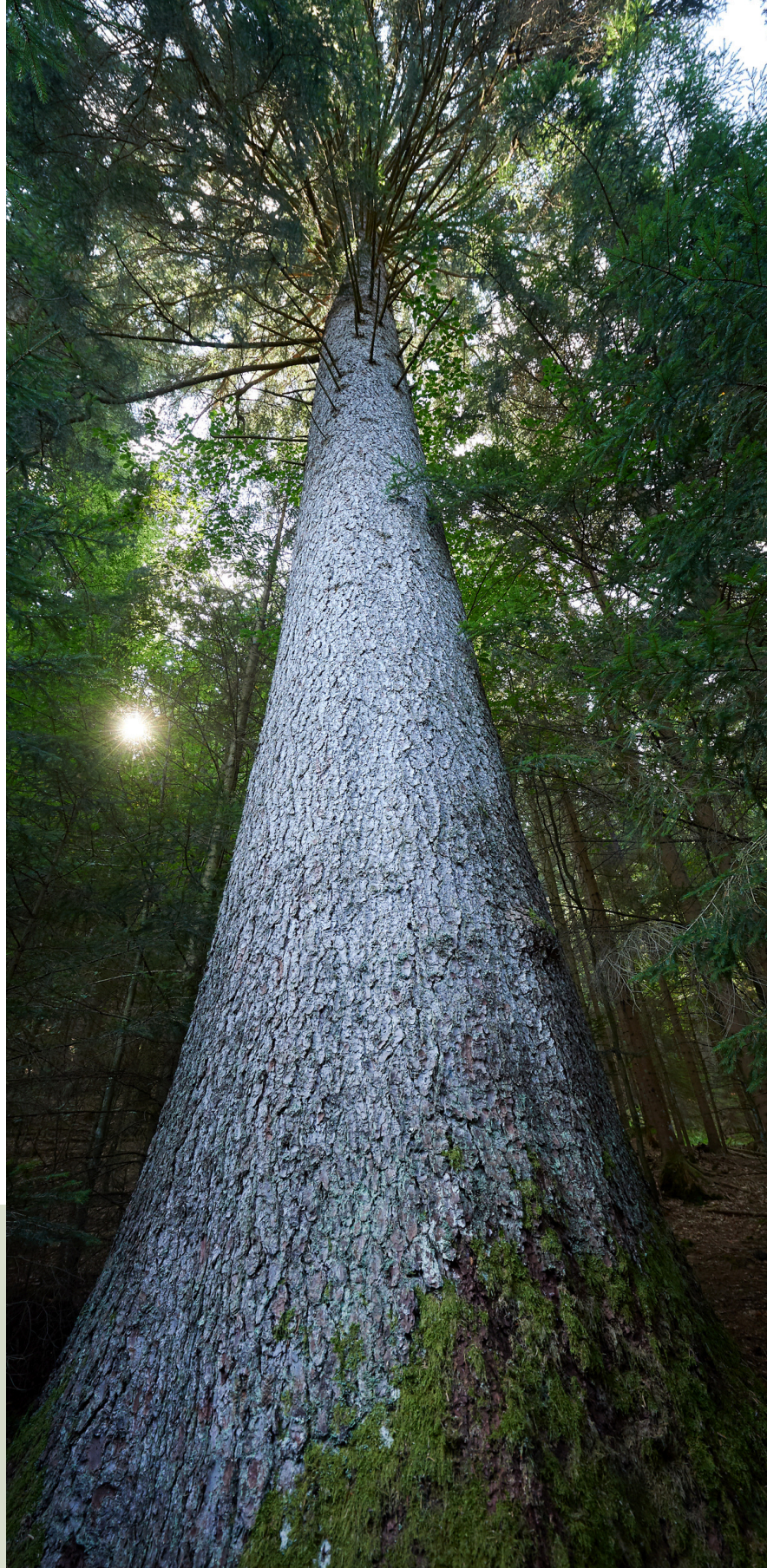
The Pahernik Forests forest estate extends over an area of 552 hectares from the Drava River near Vuhredu to the Pohorje peak of Velika Kopa.



The estate encompasses rich mixed forests of fir, beech, and spruce, including seventeen exceptionally thick spruces and Pahernik's spruce.



Sustainable forest management was entered into the register of intangible cultural heritage of Slovenia in 2024, at the initiative of the municipality of Radlje.



Deep roots of coexistence with nature

Due to the important transport location of the Drava Valley, people have coexisted with forests here since prehistoric times. Much later, at the end of the 17th century, the former castle harbor was transformed into the Mahrenberg Manor, which then in the 19th century also received a naturally shaped English park with many species of trees. Another century later, local resident Franjo Pahernik laid the foundations of sustainable and environmentally friendly forest management, which seeks a balance between the needs of the forest ecosystem and the interests of forest owners.

Today, when climate change is also having a major impact on forests, it is particularly important to disseminate knowledge on sustainable forest management.



According to the principles of Franjo Pahernik

The pioneer of sustainable forest management was the forestry engineer Franjo Pahernik (1882–1976), a driving force in the development of the Drava Valley and Pohorje. He worked to implement new methods of forest management aimed at natural regeneration and forest care. Pahernik's forests are also an important educational point for students and professionals learning about sustainable forest management. The tradition of Franjo Pahernik is spread and implemented by the Pahernik Foundation.





Prosperous Pahernik forests

Vida Ribnikar, the sole heiress of Franjo Pahernik, founded the Pahernik Foundation in 2005 and donated 552 hectares of family forests to it after her death. Pahernik's forests on the northern slopes of Pohorje between Vuhred and Velika Kopa consist of mixed forests of fir, spruce and beech. Management is based on sustainable principles, with the future in mind.

For more than a century, the forests have been regenerating in the shade of mature trees, which represents a unique technique of relaxed forest cultivation. This type of management is economically successful and provides visitors with an insight into the sustainable management typical of this part of Slovenia.



Pahernik spruce

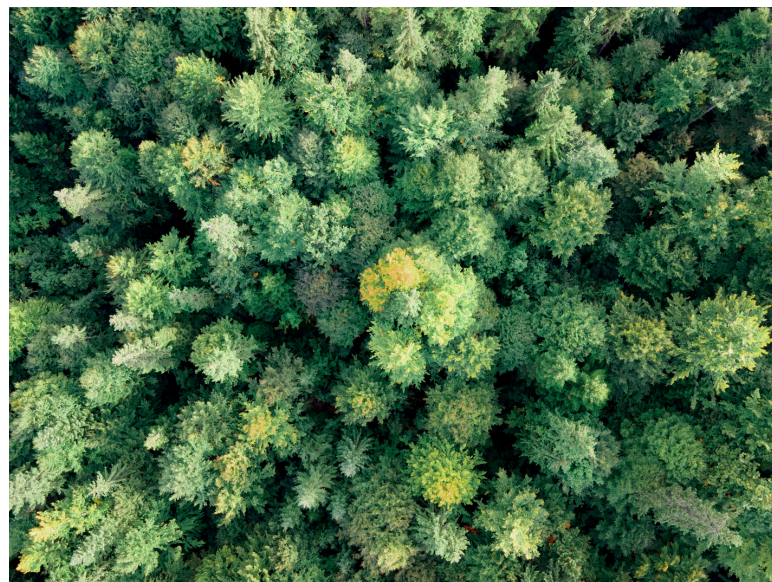
The centuries-old Pahernik forests are home to a remarkable tree named after the forestry expert and engineer Franjo Pahernik. In 2015, the spruce measured 1.42 metres in diameter and 49.6 metres tall, and is estimated to be 270 years old. The importance of the spruce to the local people is also demonstrated by the sculpture "Z-namen-je", created in 2005 by the sculptor Jiri Kočica.

FOREST ETIQUETTE

Uncover the secrets of forest life and contribute to responsible management of the forest environment.



Taking care of the natural environment



Activities should take place exclusively on marked and maintained paths, especially in areas of high ecological sensitivity.

Signposts, markers, fences, benches, and other facilities should be left undamaged for future forest visitors. Respect all “prohibited” warnings.

Arrival and parking in the forest



Drive only on roads, not on unpaved trails or off-road areas. Respect the usage regulations for forest roads and obey traffic signs. Driving outside designated forest roads is not permitted. Do not park motor vehicles just anywhere – parking is allowed only within a five-meter strip off the roadway.

Responsible harvesting of wild fruits



We do not destroy vegetation. Forest flowers, mushrooms, fruits and moss are essential for the biodiversity of forest life, so their collection is limited by regulations.

We do not disturb animals



Forest animals are very shy and tend to retreat from humans. Do not disturb them with unnecessary noise. Please ensure your dog is always under control.

FOREST ETIQUETTE

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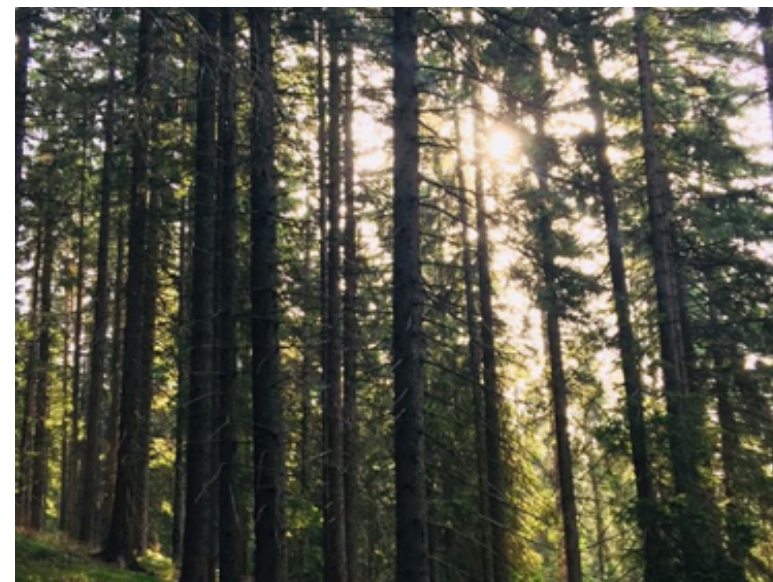


Keep It Clean - Dispose of Waste Properly



Do not leave trash or waste in the forest. Take it with you and dispose of it in a bin or at a designated waste collection site. Be kind to nature – if you come across other litter, take that with you too. All cigarette butts must be properly extinguished and taken away with you.

Light pollution



The use of artificial light at night should be limited to the bare minimum. Lights should be directed towards the ground and should not emit excessive light. Unnecessary lighting of the forest in the evening or at night has a negative impact on nocturnal animals.

Respect the Silence



Avoid using electronic devices whenever possible. Do not create unnecessary noise through loud music, shouting, or the use of speakers, and respect the right to peace and quiet in nature.

Fire safety



In the Pahernik Forest area, open fires are strictly prohibited. An uncontrolled fire can destroy trees, other plants and wildlife. Smoking in the forest is prohibited, especially during periods of increased fire danger.



"A forest is not just a collection of trees. It is silence, home, shelter, and the breath of life. Let's preserve it as it was given to us – untouched and free."

Thank you for respecting and valuing the Pahernik Forests – our shared natural heritage – and for contributing to the sustainable coexistence of people and nature.

Javni zavod ŠKTM Radlje ob Dravi
Mariborska cesta 4
2360 Radlje ob Dravi
www.sktmratlje.si