

# Forest in Western Lithuania near the river Veiviržas



<b>Location</b>	Šilutė district, near Pangiriai, Šilininkai villages
<b>Size</b>	6,08 ha / 15 ac
<b>Story</b>	This is the first forest plot acquired by the Foundation in Western Lithuania. The forest is located by the river Veiviržas, near the villages of Pangiriai and Šilininkai in the Šilutė district. The old Evangelical Lutheran cemetery is a nearby cultural object.

**Forest** The forest parcel belongs to IIA forest group, which is distinguished by the 800 m long bank of the Veiviržis stream, with rich, diverse hillside deciduous forests. While it still have to mature before reaching the old-growth forest level, there are already elements indicating the potential – dead tree standings and fallen trees, oaks celebrating their centenary, mature aspen, lime, birch, and white alder trees.

The forests adjacent to water bodies are highly abundant of distinctive micro-habitats and biodiversity. The large dead wood along the coast receives relatively more moisture and sunlight, which provides favourable conditions for the establishment of more sophisticated species of insects, lichens and fungi. Here not only the forest, but also the entire streamside will be left to develop on its own, thus providing an excellent shelter for the protected species of fish and otters of Veiviržas Hydrological Reserve. Beavers will be able to burrow in the forest slopes in peace. The site is also distinguished by the regionally scarce evergreen thickets of rough horsetails (*Equisetum hyemale*).

The forest falls within the area of the valleys of the Veiviržas and Šalpė rivers and belongs to the Veiviržas Ichthyological Reserve (zoological-ichthyological; habitat protection). A small part of the site is grassland (0,4 ha).



