

THE ATTYAI FEN

Attyai Fen is one of the valuable protected areas of Bakonyalja near Pápa. Cold springs and lukewarm (16 °C) karst water for great depths supply its waters. Half a century ago drainage by ditches and transformation into agricultural land was attempted. In the 1980s springs dried up due to the water pumping in neighbouring mines. The fen drying out has been degraded and the alien Giant Goldenrod expanded aggressively (35). In the beginning of the 2000s mining ceased and the springs broke out again.



During 2012–13 the Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate with the financial support of the EU carried out rehabilitation interventions. Sluices had been built into the ditches (36) which drove the dammed water into the side ditches and raised the level of groundwater (37). Giant Goldenrod was driven back by mowing.

As a result the fen started to revive. Flowers of protected plant species provide a colourful view: Black Bogrush (*Schoenus nigricans*), Odorous Garlic (*Allium suaveolens*), Marsh Helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*), Siberian Iris (*Iris sibirica*), Brook Thistle (*Cirsium rivulare*) (34).

Insects and amphibians (38) linked to water find good reproducing sites, too. The nature protection interventions and the rich wildlife are presented for the visitors by a 6-station education trail.

