Biosphère URBAN Biokit MONTRÉAL

Mount Royal Park

The activities presented in this circuit, along with the Montréal Urban BioKit, allow you to explore biodiversity in Mount Royal Park. The locations of sites of interest are identified by a short description, a symbol on the map, and GPS coordinates. Complementary information is hidden in a Geocache, which is a small container concealed near the GPS coordinates indicated. See what wonderful treasures you can uncover!

Swallowwort, milkweed and the monarch butterfly

GPS : N 45° 30.055′ W 73° 35.862′

Along the edge of Chemin Remembrance, to the left of the municipal workshops

The monarch, the well-known butterfly, is paired with a toxic plant called milkweed. Monarch caterpillars feed exclusively on this plant, which contains latex, a white liquid. The toxins in the latex accumulate in their flesh and give them a bitter taste. The bright colour of the caterpillars and butterflies warns their predators that they are not good to eat!

Unfortunately, swallowwort, an invasive plant, is gradually crowding out the milkweed in this small wooded area along the edge of Chemin Remembrance. Monarch caterpillars thus have fewer and fewer possibilities to feed themselves...

Photo: Chantal Lepire

Milkweed

Photo: A. Guindon, Parks Canada

Monarch caterpillar

Photo: Les amis de la montagne

Swallowwort

Citizen Science:

How many monarch caterpillars do you see on the milkweed leaves?

How many monarch butterflies did you observe in the vicinity?

Send us your observations

observationscitoyennes@ville.montreal.qc.ca

HISTORY OF THE PARK

GPS : N 45° 30.088′ W 73° 35.598′

In front of the Smith House

First opened on May 24, 1876, Mount Royal Park has been the green jewel of the metropolis for over 125 years. It was designed by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, who also did the plans for Central Park in New York City. Mount Royal Park was designated a historic and natural district to ensure its protection in the years to come. It is the first and only park to date to have received this designation.

The Smith House in front of you bears witness to the mountain's rural and agricultural past. It was the country residence of Hosea Ballou Smith, a rich Montrealer who owned a vast estate on the mountain. Fifteen other landowners shared the park's territory at that time.

Would you like to find out when the Smith House was built?

Find the Geocache!
GPS : N 45° 30.087′ W 73° 35.636′

Montréal

Canada

WATER RESURFACES

GPS : N 45° 30.272′ W 73° 34.925′

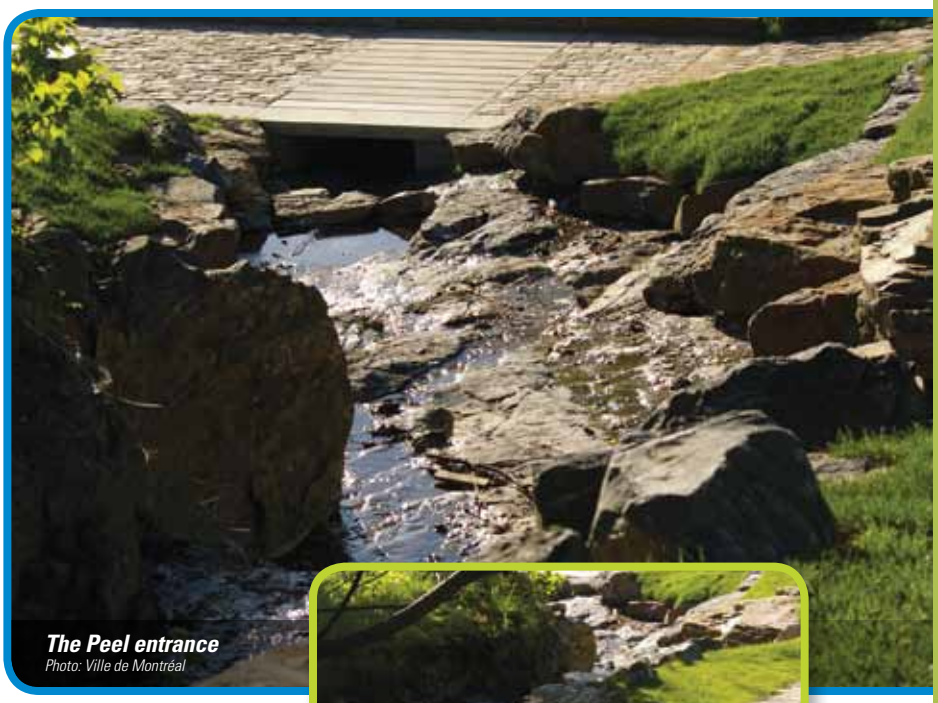
At the Peel entrance, at the corner of Des Pins W. Avenue

The Peel entrance, a favourite downtown access point to the mountain, was upgraded in a major redevelopment in 2009. Water used to be harder to find in this corner of Mount Royal: it was channelled underground and discharged rapidly. Today, thanks to the work done there, the water has resurfaced and has been reclaimed for the greater benefit of wildlife, plant life and pedestrians! Can you see it, hear it or smell it?

Sometimes, in spring or after a heavy rainfall, some of the water flowing here cascades over a magnificent waterfall.

The water runs under the little bridge visible at the top of the slope.

Do you want to see it? Go to the following coordinates:
GPS : N 45° 30.108′ W 73° 35.250′.



The Peel entrance
Photo: Ville de Montréal

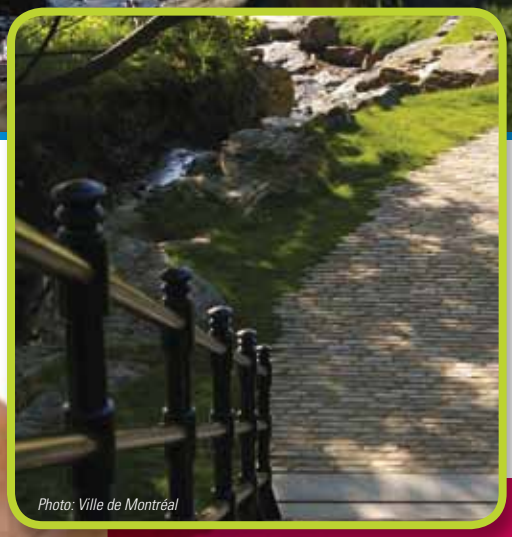


Photo: Ville de Montréal

Photo : iStockphoto

At the summit with the oaks

GPS : N 45° 30.315′ W 73° 35.260′

In the picnic area behind the chalet

The woods behind the chalet are partly populated by red oaks, a species typical of the summits of the Monteregian Hills and relatively rare on the Island of Montreal. Many of these trees have deeply ridged bark.

Do you want to know the age of one of these oaks? Calculate the circumference of the tree. (Clue: Stretch your arms out from both sides of your body. The distance between the tip of your right hand and the tip of your left hand corresponds to your height.) Each centimetre is approximately equivalent to half a year. So who found the oldest tree? And the youngest?*

**This formula varies according to species and climate.*

Resources:

- Les amis de la montagne **lemontroyal.qc.ca/en/learn-about-mount-royal/homepage.sn**
- Bureau du Mont-Royal of the Ville de Montréal **ville.montreal.qc.ca/bureaumontroyal**
- Mount Royal Web page of the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine **mcccf.gouv.qc.ca/index.php?id=2166**
- Ville de Montréal network of large parks **ville.montreal.qc.ca/grandsparcs**
- Biosphère **ec.gc.ca/biosphere**
- BioKits **ec.gc.ca/biotrousses-biokits**

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