

# Île-de-la-Visitation Nature Park

The activities presented in this circuit, along with the Montréal Urban BioKit, allow you to explore biodiversity in the Île-de-la-Visitation Nature 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!

## A Stifling Guest



Photo: Ville de Montréal



Photo: Ville de Montréal



Photo: Ville de Montréal

GPS: N 45° 34.531' W 73° 39.574'



### At the roundabout by the Maison du Pressoir

Japanese knotweed, recognizable by its bamboo-like stem, is an extremely aggressive invasive species. Its eradication would require a massive effort. Its roots can spread over several metres and seem to produce a toxin that prevents other plants from growing. Japanese knotweed was listed as one of the world's 100 worst invasive species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)! Thousands of Japanese knotweed stems once stood directly in front of you. However, the area has been cleared in an attempt to halt this species' spread. *de freiner leur progression.*



### Citizen Science:

Have you spotted any Japanese knotweed elsewhere in the park?

**If so, please tell us where!**

Send us your observations

[observationscitoyennes@ville.montreal.qc.ca](mailto:observationscitoyennes@ville.montreal.qc.ca)

## HISTORY OF THE PARK



GPS: N 45° 34.493' W 73° 39.702'

### Site of the des Moulins ruins

From 1726 to 1960, this site was home to mills that drew on the power of the Rivière des Prairies to cut wood, brush wool, or make nails and paper. The Maison du Pressoir, which is just a little bit further along, was built in 1806 and served for several decades as a place to press apples into a delicious cider.

*A certain creature has called this park home for a very long time now! Are you ready to meet him? Head to the GPS coordinates N 45o 34.614 W 73o 39.724 .*

*Can you guess what it is?*



## CAUTION! SNAKES CROSSING!



**GPS: N 45° 34.570' W 73° 39.618'**  
**Along the paths around  
the Maison du Pressoir**

The brown snake, which can be found on the list of species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable in Quebec, can also be found slithering around the park. What's more, this species can only be found in the Greater Montréal Area. It is not unusual to spot one chasing down a slug or a worm near the Maison du Pressoir. Unfortunately, however, many individuals are run over on the bike path. As a cold blooded species, the snake is attracted to the heat that radiates from dark soil exposed to the sun. This is why it is so important to be extra cautious when using the paths and trails.

Photo: Ville de Montréal

## Dinner is Served!



**GPS: N 45° 34.531' W 73° 39.574'**  
**On the shore opposite  
Cheval de Terre Island**

The Île-de-la-Visitation rapids are a prime fishing spot! Humans and birds alike come here to fish such species as bass, walleye, pike and sturgeon, as well as American shad which settled here to breed in one of only two known spawning grounds of significance for this species. In fact, this is the reason American shad populations are considered vulnerable. If you see people out there casting a line, ask them if the fish are biting!

Some bird species come from faraway places to enjoy the area's rich biodiversity.



**Do you want to know  
where they come from?**

**Find the geocache!**

**GPS: N 45° 35.052' W 73° 39.242'**

**Black-crowned  
Night Heron**  
Photo: iStockphoto



Photo: Ville de Montréal

### Resources:

- Ville de Montréal network of large parks [ville.montreal.qc.ca/grandparcs](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/grandparcs)
- Groupe uni des éducateurs-naturalistes et professionnels en environnement (GUEPE) [guepe.qc.ca](http://guepe.qc.ca)
- Club ornithologique Ahuntsic-Cartierville [coamontreal.org](http://coamontreal.org)
- Société d'astronomie de Montréal [lasam.ca](http://lasam.ca)
- Cité Historia [citechistoria.qc.ca](http://citechistoria.qc.ca)
- Biosphère [ec.gc.ca/biosphere](http://ec.gc.ca/biosphere)
- BioKits [ec.gc.ca/biotrousses-biokits](http://ec.gc.ca/biotrousses-biokits)