

Des Rapides Park

The activities presented in this circuit, along with the Montréal Urban BioKit, allow you to explore biodiversity in Des Rapides 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!

Surfing the Vague à Guy

GPS: N 45° 25.169' W 73° 36.199'



Between Gagné and Raymond streets

Montréal is a city where it's fun... to surf! In some places, the St. Lawrence River creates continuous, stable waves that are a delight to river surfers. Unfortunately, surfing has a negative impact on the health of the shoreline of the Des Rapides Park. Since the shores were not developed with surfers in mind, their repeated passage speeds up erosion and threatens the balance of the fragile environment.



Photo: Jacques Gilbert

HISTORY OF THE PARK



GPS: N 45° 25.646' W 73° 35.385'

On the gravel access to the river

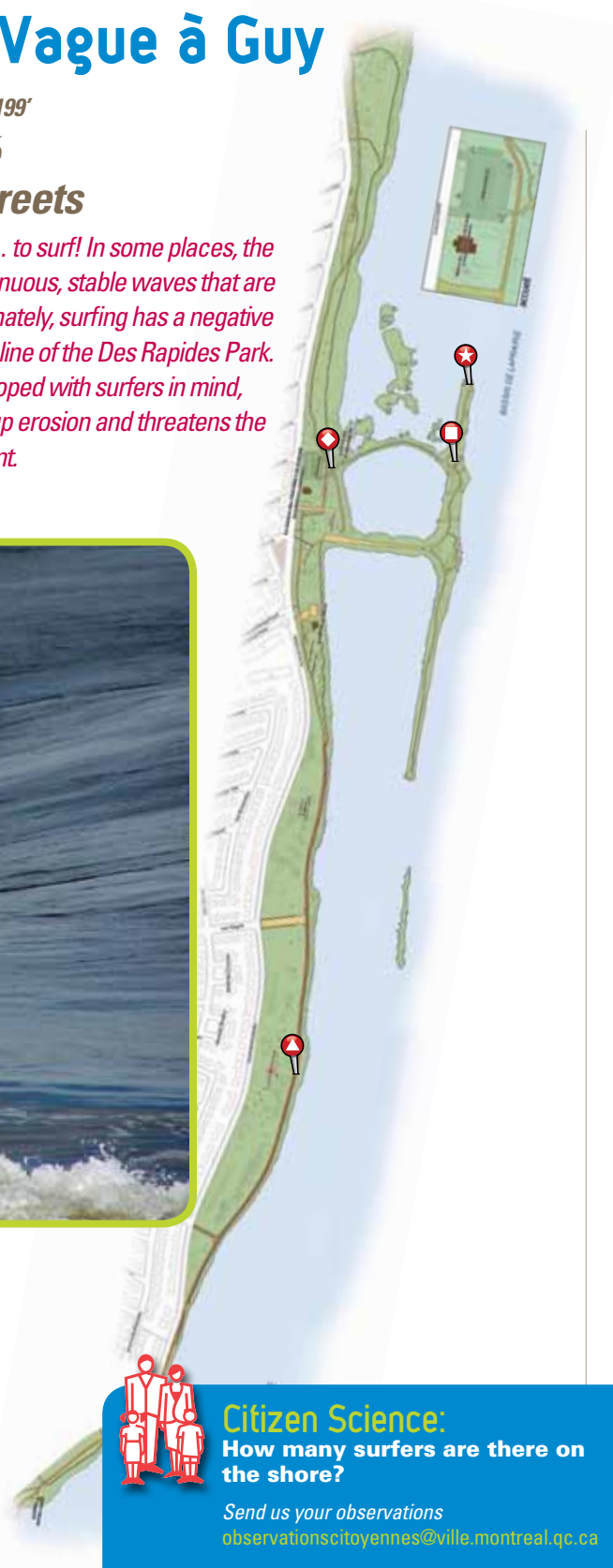
In this setting, the Lachine Rapids steal the show! They have produced an absolutely unique environment that is favourable to many animal and plant species. Tree and shrub planting in this park over the years has attracted a varied abundance of wildlife.



Have you wondered why Des Rapides Park has the peculiar shape it does?

Find the Geocache!

GPS: N 45° 25.606' W 73° 35.438'



Citizen Science:

How many surfers are there on the shore?

Send us your observations

observationscitoyennes@ville.montreal.qc.ca

THE EELS OF THE PAST



GPS: N 45° 25.724' W 73° 35.294'

At the observation point

People know that eels are caught in the Lower St. Lawrence River, but few are aware that eels also used to be caught right here! Unfortunately, overfishing, pollution and obstacles such as dams that limit their movements have reduced the eel population. The eel is likely to become designated as a vulnerable or threatened species in Quebec.

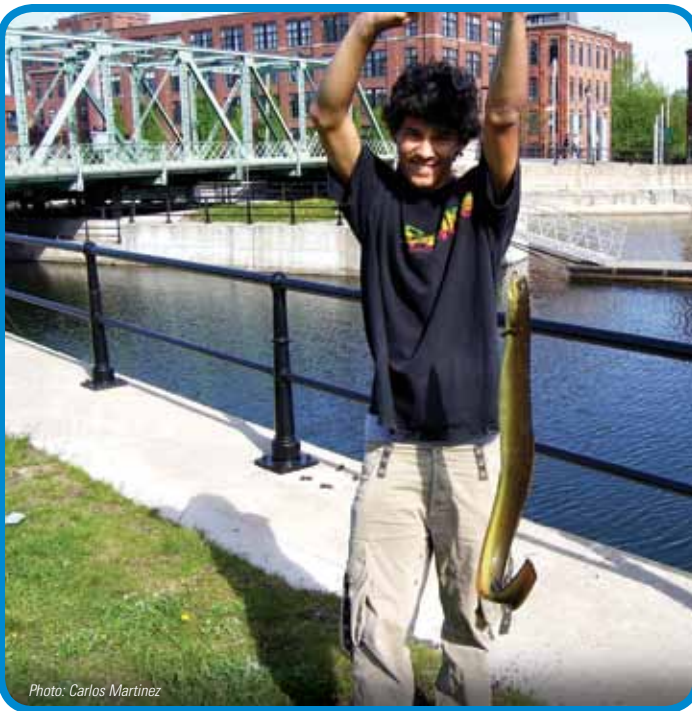


Photo: Carlos Martinez

Down with reeds!



GPS: N 45° 25.744' W 73° 35.539'

In front of the parking lot

Common reed is highly invasive. When this large grass appears in a wetland, it quickly overruns the place, crowding out the other species little by little. With the help of volunteers, Des Rapides Park has therefore orchestrated campaigns to remove the reeds and enhance the site's biodiversity..



Photo: Ville de Montréal

Resources:

- Héritage Laurentien
heritagelaurentien.org
- Ville de Montréal network of large parks
ville.montreal.qc.ca/grandsparc
- Biosphère
ec.gc.ca/biosphere
- BioKits
ec.gc.ca/biotrousses-biokits

Photo: Shutterstock