

Pointe-aux-Prairies Nature Park

The activities presented in this circuit, along with the Montréal Urban BioKit, allow you to explore biodiversity in the Pointe-aux-Prairies 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!

Marsh under observation



Photo: Environment Canada

Photo: iStockphoto

Green Heron



GPS: N 45° 41.315' W 73° 31.283'

At the Des Marais Pavilion

Before the park was established, the chain of marshlands would dry up each year during the summer, driving away the animals who lived there. The Ville de Montréal accordingly developed the site so that water is present year round, a change that has resulted in the appearance of a great diversity of plants and animals. Wetlands are among the environments with the richest biodiversity. That's not all, either—wetlands act as important filters, removing 90% of the pollutants from the water. In spring, there are plenty of birdwatchers around the marshes. For a better view of the approximately 180 bird species present here, go to the Des Marais Pavilion, where you will find a magnificent observation platform.

HISTORY OF THE PARK



GPS: N 45° 40.945' W 73° 29.991'

In the flower-lined path near the Sherbrooke E. Street entrance

During the last century, a special tramway was assigned to transport the dead to a funeral station on Notre-Dame E. Street. Families walking from this station to the cemetery, located north of Sherbrooke E. Street, passed by here. In 2002, a flower-lined path was created to commemorate this old funeral route. The various plant species along the path bloom from early spring to late fall and attract an abundance of birds and insects. The fragrances, colours and ambience of the site change with the passage of the seasons.



Are you curious to discover, in the park, a path to follow that is unique?

Find the Geocache!

GPS: N 45° 40.937' W 73° 29.894'

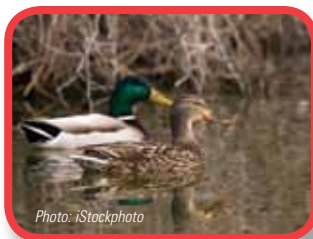


Photo: iStockphoto

Mallard



Citizen Science: To maintain an adequate water level and ensure the site's biodiversity, a pump adds water as needed from the Des Prairies River. **To verify whether the system is working at its best, observe the water level on the water level gauge. The water level gauge is located on the trail passing through the marsh to the left of the Des Marais Pavilion**

Send us your observations: observationscitoyennes@ville.montreal.qc.ca

A HERD ON THE ISLAND!



GPS: N 45° 40.802' W 73° 30.452'

On the trails near the Héritage visitor centre

The Island of Montreal is home to two main herds of white-tailed deer. One is located in the western part of the island and the other is right here, in the Pointe-aux-Prairies Nature Park. Four clues allow us to detect their presence on the park trails:

1. Torn bark on the staghorn sumac trunks
2. Grazed branches on certain shrubs and trees
3. Tracks on the ground
4. Excrement

If you don't happen to see any deer, look up in the sky: a Great Horned Owl can be seen all year round in the vicinity!



Photo: Antonio Rizi



Photo: iStockphoto

Photo: Ville de Montréal

Closely watched elms



GPS: N 45° 40.083' W 73° 30.620'

On the trail in the Bois-de-la-Réparation sector

Here is one of the finest stands of rock elms in Quebec. Largely exploited for its quality wood and attacked by Dutch elm disease since the 1940s, the population of rock elms has been reduced. The species is now threatened in the province. Its branches are covered with cork-like ridges. Walk along the trail and try to spot some.



You can see them, among other things, at the following coordinates:

GPS: N 45° 40.137' W 73° 30.988' GPS: N 45° 40.245' W 73° 31.076'

Resources:

- Groupe uni des éducateurs-naturalistes et professionnels en environnement (GUEPE)
guepe.qc.ca
- Ville de Montréal network of large parks
ville.montreal.qc.ca/grandsparc
- Biosphère
ec.gc.ca/biosphere
- BioKits
ec.gc.ca/biotrousses-biokits