

# The Saint-Michel Environmental Complex

The activities presented in this circuit, along with the Montréal Urban BioKit, allow you to explore biodiversity in the Saint-Michel Environmental Complex. 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!

## Making light of waste

 **GPS: N 45° 33.865' W 73° 37.201'**  
**Near the big asphalted oval**

A large part of the future park will consist of meadows covered with plants of different heights to favour biodiversity. They will conceal beneath them 40 million tonnes of waste, piled over 70 m thick in some places! As it decomposes, the waste produces biogases, which can be harmful to human health and the environment. As an enlightened solution to this problem, the biogas is being tapped by 350 interception wells and then piped to the Gazmont plant on the south side of the site. Gazmont burns the biogas to produce steam, which in turn powers a generator. Ultimately, a little more than 6000 homes currently get their electricity from biogas!



Photo: Ville de Montréal



Photo: Ville de Montréal



### Citizen Science:

After your visit, evaluate and comment on the transformation of this future large park.

Send us your observations  
[observationscitoyennes@ville.montreal.qc.ca](mailto:observationscitoyennes@ville.montreal.qc.ca)

## HISTORY OF THE PARK



**GPS: N 45° 33.621' W 73° 37.000'**

**On the lookout near La TOHU, in the Paul-Boutet Street extension**

It was an immense limestone quarry for nearly a hundred years and then the biggest urban landfill in North America for over 30 years... There was nothing to suggest that this area in the northern part of the island was destined to have a very green future... Yet the site in front of you is now a large Montréal park and changing fast! The previously exposed waste is now covered by a layer of rock, sand and earth 1.4 m thick, which will ensure the future park is a danger-free environment. By 2020, the Saint-Michel Complex will cover 192 ha, an area almost equivalent to that of Mount Royal Park.



# BACK TO THE EARTH



**GPS: N 45° 33.441' W 73° 37.368'**

## **On the bridge, near the composting zone**

*This is where the leaves collected in Montréal's territory end up. They are dumped in windrows, or elongated mounds like the ones in front of you. These windrows, which are turned regularly by a machine, create compost through the decomposition of the leaves. The compost is distributed in spring and fall free of charge to Montrealers, who use it to grow their plants in quality soil.*



Photo: Ville de Montréal

**A former landmark for Montrealers used to be located close by... until it was blown up!**

**Are you curious?  
Find the Geocache!**



**GPS: N 45° 33.437' W 73° 36.364'**



Photo: Ville de Montréal



Photo: Ville de Montréal

## **In the rock**



**GPS: N 45° 33.845' W 73° 38.484'**

## **In the parking lot in the west sector of the park**

*One of the large boulders lining the edges of the parking lot is full of fossils! Did you find it? These little shells and corals were compressed for millions of years at the bottom of an ancient sea. Over the centuries, they were transformed into rock, which today bears witness to the biodiversity of another age!*

## **Resources:**

- TOHU  
[tohu.ca/en/](http://tohu.ca/en/)
- Éco-quartier Saint-Michel  
[ecoquartierstmichel.com](http://ecoquartierstmichel.com)
- Centre d'expertise sur les matières résiduelles  
[cemr.ca/e\\_home.asp](http://cemr.ca/e_home.asp)
- L'environnement à Montréal  
[ville.montreal.qc.ca/cesm](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/cesm)
- Ville de Montréal network of large parks  
[ville.montreal.qc.ca/grandparcs](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/grandparcs)
- Biosphère  
[ec.gc.ca/biosphere](http://ec.gc.ca/biosphere)
- BioKits  
[ec.gc.ca/biotrousses-biokits](http://ec.gc.ca/biotrousses-biokits)