

Cap-Saint-Jacques Nature Park

The activities presented in this circuit, along with the Montréal Urban BioKit, allow you to explore biodiversity in the Cap-Saint-Jacques 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!

Taking up too much space

GPS: N 45° 27.725' W 73° 56.285'



At the gatehouse near the Outdoor Centre

Common buckthorn is an invasive plant that threatens biodiversity by monopolizing the space around it. You are looking at a good example. On one side of the road, the forest is overrun by buckthorn while, on the other side, a variety of plants can be seen. The presence of a variety of plant species is due to repeated and substantial efforts in 2005, 2007 and 2008. Weeding, cutting and even uprooting the buckthorn and planting indigenous species made it possible to restore the site's biodiversity.

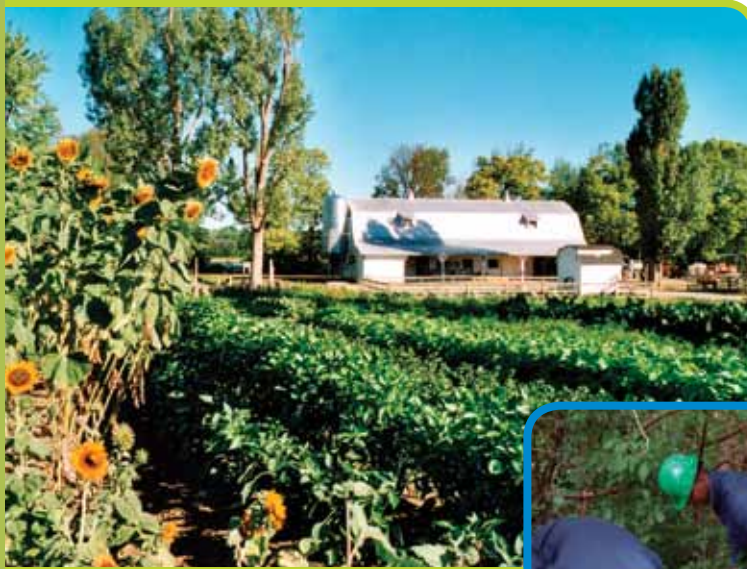


Photo: Ville de Montréal



Photo: Ville de Montréal



Citizen Science:

Do you see any buckthorn growing back in the intervention zone?

Send us your observations

observationscitoyennes@ville.montreal.qc.ca

HISTORY OF THE PARK



GPS: N 45° 28.226' W 73° 56.181' At the Ecological Farm, in the northern part of the park.

Cap-Saint-Jacques has been used for farming for a long time. Low old stone walls rising here and there bear witness to its agricultural past. The tradition continues today with the Ecological Farm, managed by the Corporation D-Trois-Pierres, which combines organic farming, social integration and an enchanting site! The organic vegetables and herbs grown on the site are distributed under Équiterre's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. In season, the produce can also be bought directly at the farm. Visitors can discover this magnificent site through the successive activities conducted throughout the year.



Are you curious to discover what drove crowds to visit the park in the 1940s and 1950s?

Find the Geocache!

GPS: N 45° 28.184' W 73° 56.255'



A TURTLE THAT IS BECOMING RARE



GPS: N 45° 27.557' W 73° 56.706'

At Havre aux tortues in the beach sector

Quebec has nine freshwater turtle species. This magnificent observation spot on the shore of the Lac des Deux-Montagnes gives you the chance to discover, among other things, a map turtle in its natural environment. This species, designated vulnerable in Quebec, loves to bask in the sun on the riprap (assemblage of rocks along the shoreline) created especially for it. Keep your eyes open!



Photo: Ville de Montréal



Photo: Ville de Montréal



Photo: Environnement Canada



Downy Woodpecker
Photo: iStockphoto

Fallen but full of life



GPS: N 45° 27.498' W 73° 56.719'

Where the trails cross near the water

You will find many dead trees, fallen or still upright, at the intersection of Sentier de la Pointe Madeleine. If you take a closer look, however, you will discover that they are teeming with life! Some support mushrooms, while others provide food and shelter for insects. Trunks that are still standing serve as a real pantry for woodpeckers in the area. You can see the holes these birds peck out in search of insects and larvae to devour! What other traces of life can you observe on these snags?

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/grandparcs
- Biosphère
ec.gc.ca/biosphere
- BioKits
ec.gc.ca/biotrousses-biokits