

# PARC NATIONAL DU MONT-SAINT-BRUNO

Protected area. Enriching nature experiences.

The *Parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno* is a veritable biodiversity islet in the heart of an urban and agricultural area. A highly representative element of the natural region comprising the Monteregian Hills, the park stands out through the extensive diversity of its flora and fauna as well as the heritage of its human history.



# **OUR TEAM'S FAVORITES**



### Watercraft rental at the Lac des Bouleaux

A one-of-a-kind opportunity to get acquainted with canoeing or riding a stand-up paddle board (SUP) in a delightful, captivating panorama while discovering this lake's innumerable secrets.

## Orchard

Starting in late August, the park's orchard offers several varieties of crunchy, succulent apples you can pick yourself! A unique opportunity to enjoy hiking on our trails surrounded by Mother Nature's fall colours.



## The Tea Room at Le Vieux-Moulin

Located in the heart of the park and proud with its 300-yearplus history, the tea room at the Old Mill (*Vieux-Moulin*) invites you to experience a tasting adventure: delve into a selection of speciality coffees and teas, viennese pastries, smoothies, gelati, macaroons and fine chocolates in a warm, congenial atmosphere.

# "On The Energy Cubes Trail" Course

In collaboration with the Grand défi Pierre Lavoie and "The Little Expé," the park has introduced this course, based on an entertaining free-of-charge format that will acquaint youngsters with the practice of cross-country skiing in a fun, casual, laid-back atmosphere.



# **Cross-Country Skiing**

A cross-country skiing network comprising 35 km of mechanically groomed trails (27 km for alternating step and 8 km for skating step) welcomes you to get away from it all for hours at a time.

# **Fatbike Trails**

This large-tire bicycles provide traction ideal for snow-covered surfaces. Come over and try them out on our dedicated trails (13.5 km)! Available on rental at the Discovery and Services Centre during winter.

PCF BIOGAZ

# **DISCOVER OUR TRAILS**

*× \$	<b>Le Saint-Gabriel</b> This trail is where the Brothers of <i>Saint-Gabriel</i> left a deep, durable mark. As you hike along, let the orchard, arboretum and grotto win you over.	LENGTH AND DURATION*		LEVEL	DEPARTURE
		1.8 km Loop	45 min	E	
<b>К \land Х</b> а	<b>Le Seigneurial</b> Take advantage of this trail running alongside the lac Seigneurial to learn more about the Montarville seigniory's history and vacationing at <i>Mont-Saint-Bruno</i> .	7 km Loop	1 h 30	E	Discovery and Services Centre
× 11	<b>Les Lacs</b> As its name suggests, this pedestrian parkway lets you discover the park's aquatic and wetland ecosystems, all extremely rich and colorful environments.	8.8 km Round trip	2 h	E	
Ŕ	<b>Le Montérégien</b> Located in the middle of the forest, this trail is per- fect for savouring the moment and bathing in this unique atmosphere that only the forest can offer: fragrances rich in underbrush, a sound environment that is cozy and calm, but also churning with life.	8.8 km Loop	2 h	I	
Ќ 🖤 Х̀л	<b>Le Petit-Duc</b> Along this trail, hikers pass between two ponds and can make eye-opening observations despite the area's visitor traffic. It is commonplace to surprise a muskrat, a great heron on watch, or a green frog giving a concert.	1.5 km Loop	20 min	E	
¥ 🖤 🕅	<b>Le Grand-Duc</b> This pedestrian beltway goes through several different environments, such as shrubby wildland, a sugar maple-hickory stand, a fledgling woodland of hardwoods intolerant of shade (birches and poplars), and a field.	3.5 km Round trip	1 h	E	

\*Durations and difficulty levels are mentioned as guides, and apply to the summer season.

Family experience 🕺 Dogs allowed - sepaq.com/animaux

D: Difficult E: Easy I: Intermediate

Hiking 🔊 Biking 💵 Brochure/Panels

# **IN THE WILD, YOUR SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**

#### Outdoor activities can involve certain risks.

Always be sure to have the skills and abilities required for the activity you choose. It is very important to find out about the risks involved in the activity, to know and respect your own limits and to use appropriate equipment. Preparing yourself adequately is the first step in the safe and enjoyable practice of your favourite activities.

For more information, visit our website at sepaq.com/security



# DISCOVERY TIME



# The Le terrier Stand

During the 2024 season, *Le terrier*, a permanent discovery stand, will once again be the lighthouse for all those explorers at heart bubbling with questions about the park's fauna and flora!

Over the seasons, come by and meet a naturalist and park warden who will share his/her passion for and knowledge of the park's natural and cultural heritage!

When: Find out more at sepaq.com/montsaintbruno

### Shedding New Light on the Stars

Although the vast majority of space is made up of emptiness, our sky, when the Perseids appear, is as filled as one could wish! Planets, shooting stars, constellations and much more! Nighttime thus provides an opportunity to take a short interstellar flight while keeping both feet on the ground, all guided by a naturalist and park warden flanked by experienced astronomers.

#### Bring your blankets!

**When:** Monday August 12, from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. In case of rain, activity postponed to Saturday, August 13.

#### **Stars for an Evening!**

These guided evening treks introduce you to the fascinating world of fireflies and allow you to experience the park in a new light... **that of the night!** 

Do you hear the frog's call? Or perceive the skunk's odour? Bats, raccoons, flying squirrels... What surprises does the night hold in store for us?

Follow your guide to find out.

**When:** July 4, 6, 11 and 13 from 9 P.M. to 10:30 P.M.

Priced activity Reservations compulsory

#### **Raptors Ahead!**

We can more or less guess which raptors we are looking at from their outlines profiled on the horizon. One flies straight ahead, another glides while turning around... but what are these birds of prey? Where do they go? A passionate naturalist and park warden makes it a date with you in the "Old Orchard" to unveil the secrets behind the great fall migrations.

When: September 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 and 22

# DISCOVERY AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Consult the program to enrich your visit. (in French only)

You will find entertaining activities to explore the park from every angle.



# Come and live a simplified family experience!

### Family Experience Yippee, it's absolutely free!

For kids 17 years of age and under, access, accommodations, and certain equipment loans are free of charge. The offer varies from one establishment to another.



# CONSERVE FOR TOMORROW



**Since 2005, the park has been confronted by a Virginia deer overpopulation problem.** A lead deer herd shrinkage operation took place in the fall of 2023. It enabled us to draw 80 out of a herd of at least 353 deer in the *parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno*. The control measures intend to limit pressure exerted on the vegetation by these cervids' grazing, thus promote the ecosystems' natural restoration, and ensure survival of several rare plant species. This action, coupled with a similar initiative carried out at the parc national des *Îles-de-Boucherville*, allowed us to re-distribute the meat to food banks through the auspices of the *Chasseurs généreux* program, and thus provide almost **89,000 meat portions!** 





## **Sentinel Trees**

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of deer population control measures for plant regeneration, we implemented **20 red oak seeding spots/quadrats** to measure the browsing rate relating to the Virginia deer population density. To reach this objective, we will have to repeat the protocol over several years. When the damage and mortality rate will be comparable to that of an area untouched by any excessive deer grazing, we will be able to believe that we will have attained the optimal population density for our habitats and that the natural regeneration process can be restored.

Conservation Is Everybody's Business!

The *parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno* is currently contending with a touchy problem: the fauna's development of unusual behaviours toward humans.

Keeping one's distance and refraining from feeding wild animals make for a step in the right direction. **By the way, why not to** feed them?

- Animals find in their natural surroundings the food adapted to their needs.
- Not only can our food not be suited to them, but also, and worse, it can lead to health problems, discomfort and ailments, and even cause death.
- Feeding wild animals imparts a dependency that can make them vulnerable to predators.
- Our food's appeal increases their recklessness toward humans.
- Every time we disturb and/or disrupt their natural activities, we modify their behaviours at the risk of their own lives.

# **CONSERVE** FOR TOMORROW





## **The Fight Against IASs!**

It is safe to predict that over the coming years, you will see the abbreviation "IAS" more often. It stands for "invasive alien species," i.e., species that came from elsewhere, often settle aggressively into our ecosystem, dislodge and bump out our indigenous species, and automatically take over their territories. The conservation team has gone on the war path to contain the invasion of 6 IASs in the park! A characterization of each of these species'

populations and the actions taken in the form of manual lifting and pulling out will continue this year in order to limit their propagation.

- Garlic mustard
- Common barberry
- Buckthorn / cathartic
- Common reed
- Japanese knotweed
- Russian venom master

## A Little Frog Re-Introduced into the Park

The chorus frog, this minute amphibian, is an endangered species in Quebec. As Mother Nature needs a bit of a helping hand sometimes, the park's conservation department proceeded to re-introduce this frog into ponds specially fit up for its preservation. In co-operation with various partners such as the Biodôme de Montréal, we have released about 1,500 such mini-frogs into these ponds since 2020, as a genesis to this project. We will once again carry out an audio inventory and a scientific follow-up this year, and if the trend continues, there are grounds for optimism!

# **Preserving This Species Is Done One Chorus Frog at** a Time!

5 good practices to adopt in nature

# Our national parks

Given the millions of visits to our national parks annually, harmful behaviors can cause permanent damage to the environment and negatively impact the experience of other visitors. Let's do our part to care for these extraordinary nature sites so we can all enjoy them for years to come.

# Stay on trails and in designated visitor areas

#### Do not gather dead wood\*

Taking shortcuts can destroy vegetation.

To preserve the natural environment, it is prohibited to remove natural elements. including animals, plants, dead wood, and rocks.



#### Do not feed wildlife\*

Feeding wildlife negatively impacts their natural feeding habits. Keep all food out of reach of animals.



#### Keep your distance when observing wildlife

When animals are repeatedly disturbed, their natural behaviors can change, and they can develop problems to feed, find a mate, and communicate among themselves.



#### Respect the peace and tranquility, and comply with curfews

People come to national parks to relax and enjoy nature. Please respect curfews and avoid playing music at all times.

\*Failure to comply with rules governing parks and authorized activities is considered a violation of the Parks Act and Parks Regulation.