

SÉPAQ

# PARC NATIONAL DU MONT-MÉGANTIC

Protected area. Enriching nature experiences.

Both national park, astronomy museum and international dark sky reserve, this protected territory represents an outdoor destination four seasons as well as an astro-tourist attraction unique in Quebec.

Explore sometimes the mountain, sometimes the sky, this is what makes our national park a unique place, from Earth to the stars.

 **Sépaq**  
human nature

# OUR TEAM'S FAVOURITES



## Daytime Visit of the Astrolab and the Observatory

Discover fascinating activities when you visit the ASTROLab in afternoon: movie Emergence: Cosmic Evolution, 4K projection system, Virtual Reality experience in the Solar System! Pursue your visit at the Mount Megantic Observatory, located at the top of the mountain, for explanation on its operation as well as the work and research accomplished by the astronomers.



## Stardust

Did you know that the atoms that compose you were formed in the heart of the stars? This discovery so well shared by Hubert Reeves has changed the way we look at the Universe and ourselves. Discover with us the secret links that unite us to the cosmos.



## Mount St-Joseph Micro Museum

Discover the new micro museum located in the former Abri du prêtre. A place of remembrance bearing witness to the history of the chapel, immerse yourself in important moments in the history of the Canton and of the site and relive the journey of people who have visited the site, and of the French Canadian colonization of the territory.



## Escarpements Trail

This 6.7 km loop, situated in the Franceville sector, opens on new landscapes and never seen before rocky caps of the massif: numerous cliffs, rocks overviews, luxuriant lichens, vertiginous points of view. The Pain-de-Sucre hill will reveal itself in its entire splendor.



## Little Dragons and Little Suns, to your Nuggets!

Stimulate curiosity in your family hikes by browsing the Trail to the Dragon Rest so that your little explorer brings a gold nugget to the reception in exchange a surprise. In the Observatory sector, it is at the Belvedere Sun he will find a lunar nugget. Good discoveries to future great hikers!



## Astronomy in Winter

To top off a memorable day of outdoor activities, enjoy a late afternoon visit of the ASTROLab or an evening of stargazing at the ASTROLab every Saturday nights during winter. To learn about the celestial movements and to travel inside our Universe!

# DISCOVER OUR TRAILS

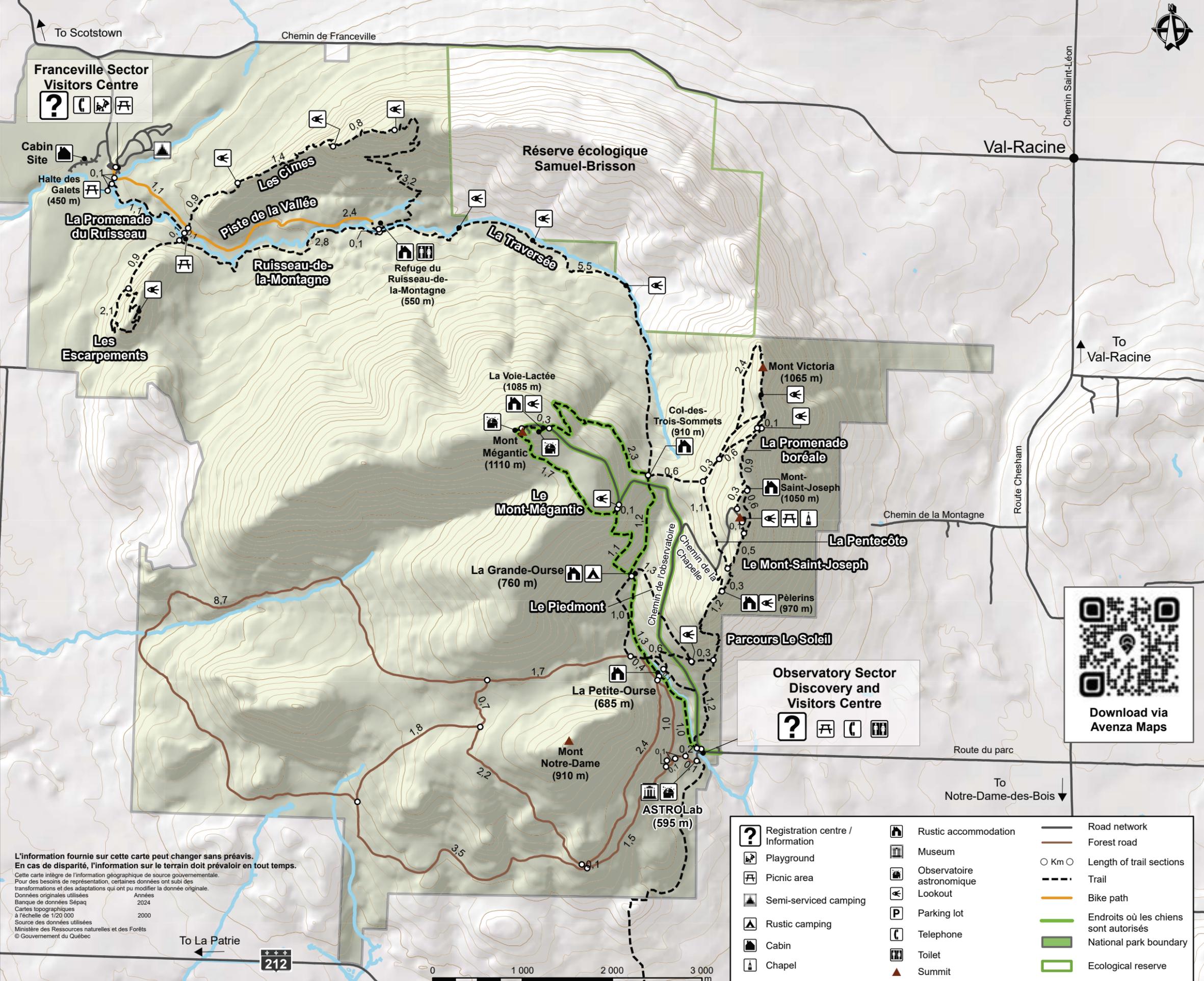
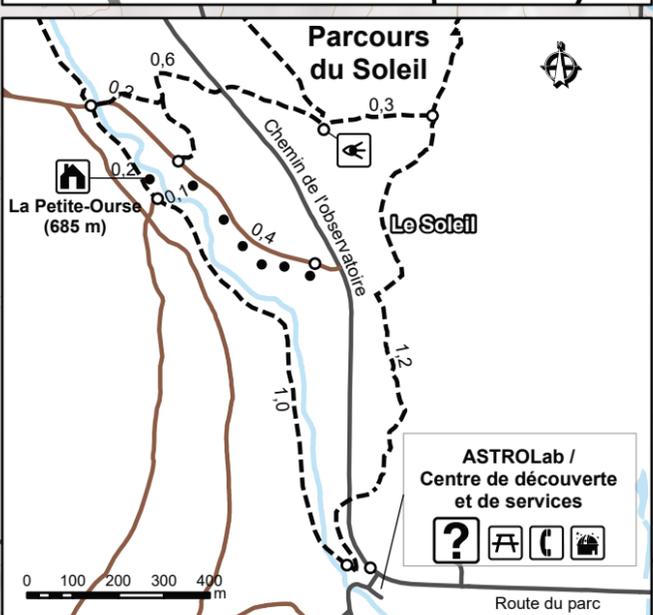
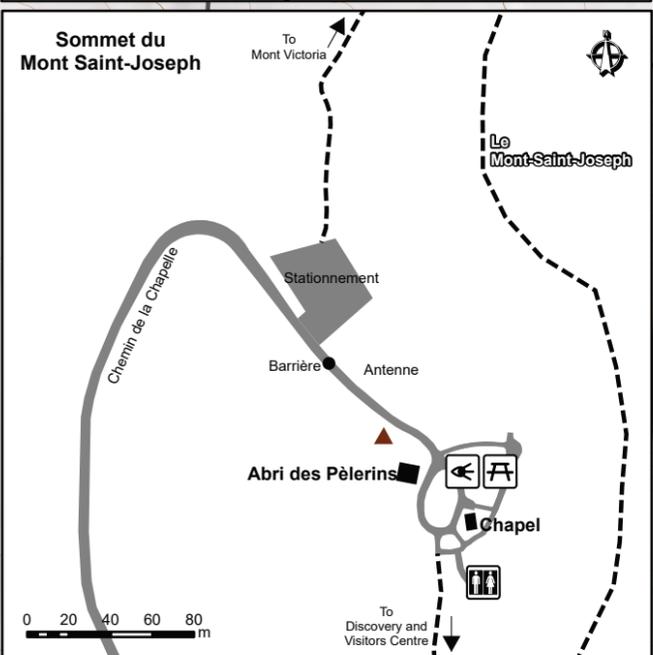
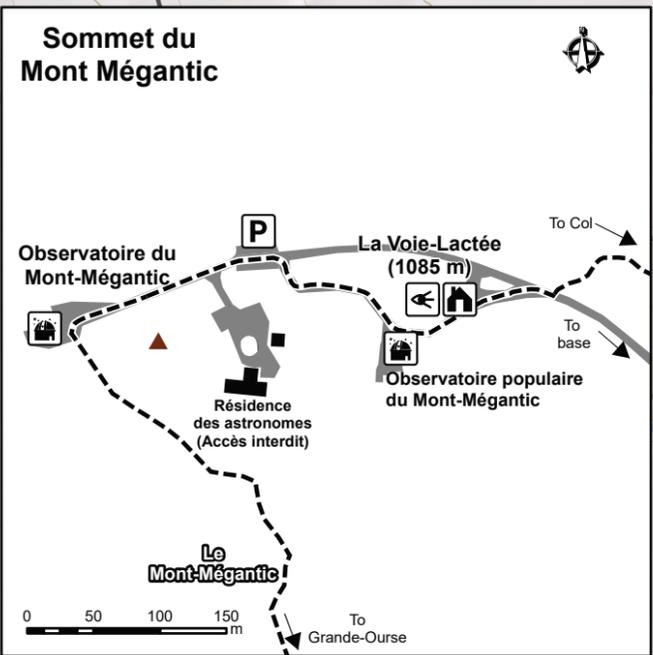
OBSERVATORY SECTOR COURSES		LENGTH AND DURATION*		DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY
  	<b>Le Parcours du Soleil</b> – Short hike with great reward: beautiful view on the surrounding mountains. Discover a sugar maple/yellow birch forest. Go on a lunar nuggets hunt!	3,4 km / loop	1h30 - 2h30	E
  	<b>La Promenade Boréale</b> – Short hike at high altitude between Mount St-Joseph's summit and Pic des Crépuscules viewpoint. Discover a high altitude forest of common wood and sorrel fir and amazing scenery.	2,4 km round trip	45 min	E
 	<b>Le Piedmont</b> – Hike that extends the challenge of the Parcours du Soleil by connecting it in the Grande-Ourse sector. It follows a contour curve at the foot of the mountain, without much effort, and allows to walk along the stream on the way back.	5,1 km / loop	2 h - 4 h	I
 	<b>La Pentecôte</b> – A journey that offers a great reward for a short effort! After the 1st spectacular viewpoint on the Appalachians, it allows a quick return towards the Col, passing through areas of chablis, softwood and beard lichen.	7,8 km / loop	3 h - 5 h	I
 	<b>Le Mont-Saint-Joseph</b> – Discovery loop focussing on forest transition and on the history of colonization of the region. Elevation of 1 065 m, to Pic des Crépuscules.	10,1 km / loop	3 h à 5 h	I
   	<b>Le Mont-Mégantic</b> – Discovery loop focussing on forest transition. Highest summit in the Park. Elevation of 1 110 m.	11,2 km / loop	4 h - 7 h	I

FRANCEVILLE SECTOR COURSES		LENGTH AND DURATION*		DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY
 	<b>La Promenade du Ruisseau</b> – A short hiking trail that runs along a stream, part of Ruisseau-de-la-Montagne trail. You can stop at Plage des galets, Halte des Pruches and Halte du Vieux-Barrage rest areas; the walk is accessible even to beginner hikers.	2,6 km / loop	45 min - 1h	E
 	<b>Le Talweg</b> – Follow the trail along the mountain stream that sculpts patiently the landscape enjoying a breach in the rocky crown to evacuate tumultuous and particularly clear waters. Talweg, referring to a winding bottom where water flows, literally means valley path!	8,4 km round trip	2h30 - 4h30	E
 	<b>La montée du Dragon</b> – A short trail that will reward you with a view of nearby mountains. Discover a yellow maple sugar birch grove. Go in search of gold nuggets!	4,6 km round trip	2h - 3h	E
	<b>Les Cimes</b> – Walking along the syenite summits line (syenite being a rock of the granite family), you can witness the far-off history of magmatic intrusion that happened during the formation of the massif mountain.	11,9 km / loop	3h - 5h	D
	<b>Les Escarpements</b> – The smallest but not the least of the massif mountains, Pain-de-sucre, reveals numerous cliffs, narrow faults, overhanging rocks, moss and lichen, and also, vertiginous views.	6,5 km / loop	2h30 - 3h	I

 Hiking  Hut  Family-Friendly  Dogs allowed [sepaq.com/animaux](http://sepaq.com/animaux) **E** : Easy **I** : intermediate **D** : Difficult

The asphalted road towards summits is accessible in vehicle in daytime summer, between 9 am and 5 pm. In spring and in autumn, verify the accessibility with the welcome center of the park.

\*The durations and the mentioned levels of difficulty are for information purposes and refer to the summer season.



L'information fournie sur cette carte peut changer sans préavis.  
 En cas de disparité, l'information sur le terrain doit prévaloir en tout temps.  
 Cette carte intègre de l'information géographique de source gouvernementale.  
 Pour des besoins de représentation, certaines données ont subi des transformations et des adaptations qui ont pu modifier la donnée originale.  
 Données originales utilisées :  
 Banque de données Sépaq 2024  
 Cartes topographiques à l'échelle de 1/20 000 2000  
 Source des données utilisées :  
 Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts  
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	Registration centre / Information		Rustic accommodation		Road network
	Playground		Museum		Forest road
	Picnic area		Observatoire astronomique		Trail
	Semi-serviced camping		Lookout		Bike path
	Rustic camping		Parking lot		Endroits où les chiens sont autorisés
	Cabin		Telephone		National park boundary
	Chapel		Toilet		Ecological reserve
			Summit		Length of trail sections



# DISCOVERY TIME

## OBSERVATORY

### SECTOR



### Discover the Universe

Located at the foot of the mountain, the ASTROLab is a museum with two exhibitions and a multimedia hall with giant screen. The day tour includes the film Emergence: cosmic evolution, the virtual reality experience, and an animation dedicated to families on giant screen.

The Mont-Mégantic Observatory, located in 1110 m altitude, can be visited during the day with a guide : discover Canada's most powerful telescope.

**ASTROLab visit** between 11 am and 4 pm.

**Observatory visit** between 1:45 pm and 5:45 pm.

Drive up with your vehicle between 9 am and 5 pm.

\$20.50/adult, Free for 17 and under.

## DISCOVERY ACTIVITIES

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

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



### Stargazing

On summer evenings, visitors are invited to astronomy evenings where the starry sky is in honour. When the clouds come, the presentations on screens reveal the movements of the sky, and different shows are honored as Stardust and the quest for the origins of the Webb space telescope. The nights of the Festival allow to look at the telescope of the Astronomical observatory, and Perseids are a unique opportunity to make dozens of wishes!

**Astronomy evenings at ASTROLab:** Saturdays in spring and fall, all summer evenings

**Astronomy evenings at the Observatoire populaire:** every evening in the heart of summer

**Astronomy Festival:** July 4-5-6, 2024.

**Perséides:** August 9 to 11, 2024.

Reservations required for all activities.

Access to the summit is restricted to those registered for activities only.

### Contemplate the sanctuary

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, pilgrims erected a cross at the top of Mount Saint Joseph, which would later become a sanctuary and a belvedere on the Appalachians. The landscape which is unveiled next to the centennial chapel is striking. On this ridge in altitude, the coniferous forest is characterized by a boreal type forest named the mountain oxalide fir. This forest is considered to be exceptional in Quebec due to its rarity and seniority.

It is possible to drive to the summit every summer day between 9 am and 5 pm.

**Summer animation at the top:**

**Plein la vue :** 1 pm to 4 pm, some afternoons. Animation posted.

**La fabuleuse histoire du Mont-St-Joseph:** at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., some afternoon. Costume animation.

**Micro museum:** place of memory testifying to the history of the chapel.

# DISCOVERY TIME

## FRANCEVILLE SECTOR



### Cycle along the streams

The Piste de la Vallée offers a 7.4 km round trip bike ride. It leads to the footbridge of the fall and the refuge of Ruisseau-de-la-montagne. To prolong the pleasure, it is suggested to discover the **Regional Park of Marécage des Scots**, next to the park. Punctuated with stops, whether along Salmon River or McLeod Creek, which have several wildlife, flora, forestry and history interpretive panels and the famous Log hauler train history. Moreover, children will be able to board and make their own scenario! Two short walking trails offer beautiful views and picnic tables to the sound of waterfalls.

**Bike rental at the welcome center.** Free for 17 years and under.

Discover our neighbours at [marecagedesscots.ca](http://marecagedesscots.ca)



### Participate in animated activities

To get to know the park better, let us tell you its unique story, its amazing shape, adapted plant stands and diverse wildlife. Sit comfortably at the amphitheatre near the welcome center for a chat, dip your feet in the stream in search of “aliens” «or turn your eyes to the starry sky.

**Evening talks :** Summer Evenings at the Amphitheatre.

**Extraterrestrials in the stream:** summer mornings, at the amphitheatre.

**Trolley of the curious:** some summer mornings, on the edge of the stream at the Pruche halt.

See schedule at the welcome center.

### Family Experience

**Free of charge!**

Admission and equipment loan offered to children 17 and under

Offer varies from one establishment to another. First come, first served.



## IN THE WILD, YOUR SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

### Outdoor activities can involve certain risks.

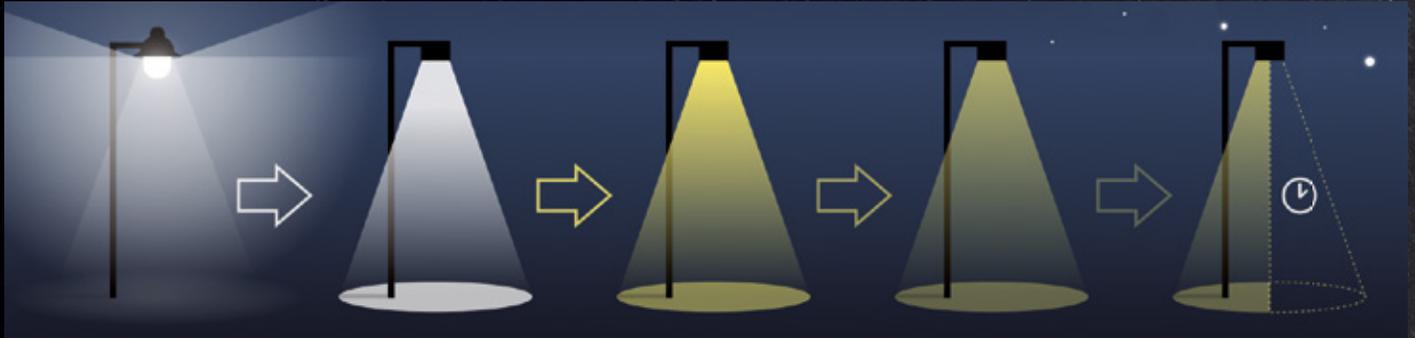
Always be sure to have the skills and abilities required for the activity you choose. It is very important to find out about the risks involved in the activity, to know and respect your own limits and to use appropriate equipment. Preparing yourself adequately is the first step in the safe and enjoyable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

**For more information, visit our website at [sepaq.com/security](http://sepaq.com/security)**

# CONSERVE FOR TOMORROW

## Eco-lighting

BY FOLLOWING THESE 4 SIMPLE PRINCIPLES, IT IS POSSIBLE TO GET ADEQUATE LIGHTING WHILE PRESERVING NOCTURNAL INTEGRITY.



### Shielding

Choose luminaires whose luminous flux is oriented towards the ground, and do not spill light towards the sky and the horizon.

### Color

Give preference to warm color and amber light sources in order to minimize the amount of blue light emitted and thus reduce negative impact on living beings biological cycles and starry sky visibility.

### Dimming

Opt for low-keyed and constant lighting in order to reduce glare and excessive contrasts which jeopardize visibility.

### Timing

Turning off outside lights in late evening is a simple and efficient way to reduce light pollution and energy waste.

## 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

Taking shortcuts can destroy vegetation.



#### Do not gather dead wood\*

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*.