



RESEARCH AND FIELD COURSE GUIDE



McGill

RÉSERVE NATURELLE

GAULT

NATURE RESERVE

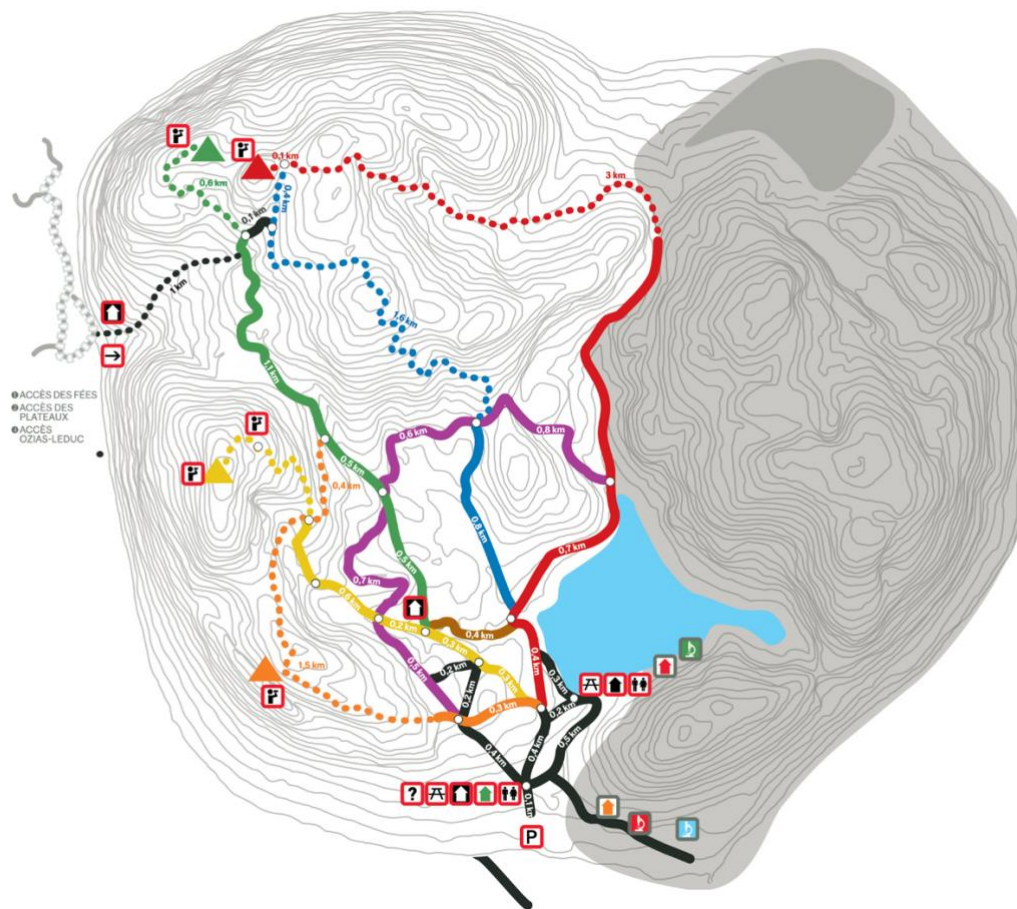
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Welcome to the Gault Nature Reserve, McGill's living laboratory.

This protected area of over 1,000 hectares is home to one of the last old-growth forests in the St. Lawrence Valley. This guide will help you prepare for your work and follow the essential rules to ensure the site's conservation.

If you have any questions after reading, please contact us at science@reservegault.ca.



We acknowledge that the Gault Nature Reserve is situated on unceded traditional territory of the W8banaki Nation, the Ndakina.

K'wlipaĩ8ba W8banakiak wdakiw8k. You are welcome on Abenaki territory.

Approval process

1. Approval by the Gault Executive Committee:

- a. All research and teaching projects must be registered and approved by the Gault Executive Committee by completing a [research permit application](#). This process must be repeated each year.
- b. No research or teaching activities should compromise the ecological integrity of the ecosystems.
- c. Experimental manipulations must be limited and should not have any long-term impact on the ecosystem.

2. Additional approvals:

- a. **Use of animals** – Any project involving animals must be approved by McGill University's [Animal Compliance Office](#). Projects from external universities must include a copy of their institution's protocol approval.
- b. **Animal capture** – In addition to the approval process outlined in section A, you must obtain and submit to the office a [permit for the capture of wild animals for scientific, educational, or wildlife management \(SEG\)](#) purposes from the Government of Québec.
- c. **Human participants** – Any research project or field course involving contact, surveys, or any other data collection from human participants (visitors, employees, etc.) must receive approval from McGill's [Research Ethics Board](#) to ensure the protection of participants' rights and well-being.

Application processing time

The Gault Executive Committee reviews research permit applications as they are submitted. However, additional information may be requested. We strongly encourage you to submit your application **several weeks before the planned start of your work**. Please also allow additional time for obtaining any required permits (see section 2 above).

First day of your field season

Research project

Upon arrival, check in at the Welcome Centre (**open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**) to collect:

- A **research vest**, which must be worn at all times in the field;
- Any necessary **keys, access cards, or alarm codes**.

Field course

Instructions will be sent to you by email before your arrival.

Presence form

The presence form must be completed **at least 24 hours before each visit**. It allows us to:

- Grant you **access to the site** for the day;
- Locate you in case of an **emergency**;
- Process **special requests** (e.g., package deliveries, technical needs) – Please allow extra time for evaluation. We will contact you by email.
- Compile **data** on the use of our research infrastructure.

Equipment storage

- All equipment stored on-site during your field season must be clearly labelled with your research permit number.
- At the end of the field season (May to October, unless otherwise approved), all equipment must be removed. Fees will apply if you wish to store equipment outside the regular season or if we need to dispose of it for you.
- Once your project is complete, sites must be restored to their natural state. Remove flags, tapes, markers, or any other debris.

Deliveries

- All packages must be clearly labelled.
- You must notify us of the delivery date and the designated storage location as soon as possible using the [presence form](#).
- **Deliveries with oversized vehicles** – Any delivery requiring the use of oversized vehicles must be communicated and coordinated with our staff in advance to ensure proper access and storage management.

Safety rules

1. You must wear appropriate clothing to protect yourself from tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease. **Take the time to read and share the 5 tick prevention tactics in the appendix**. If you are responsible for a group, it is your responsibility to inform all participants about the presence of ticks in Montérégie and the preventive measures to take before and after their activity in natural environments. [Learn more about prevention here](#).
2. If you plan to use a motorized boat, please send a valid copy of your boating license in advance. For more information, [visit the Transport Canada website](#).
3. Any incidents or accidents that occur during your stay at Gault must be [reported to McGill using the appropriate form](#). Incidents and accidents involving individuals from other institutions must follow their institution's procedures and inform the management of the Gault Nature Reserve.

IMPORTANT: Cellular service may be limited depending on the area and the provider.

Rules specific to the preservation sector

1. The use of the preservation area, which is closed to the public, is reserved for **occasional visits** and **non-destructive sampling**. We prioritize research projects that require access to long-term monitoring sites or studies that require minimal human interference.
2. The **maximum number of people allowed in this area at one time is 15**.
3. The person responsible for the group must validate each outing with the Gault Nature Reserve team using the [presence form](#).

Rules specific to the public sector

1. Activities must not interfere with the visitor experience.
2. Our team must be informed of any site or equipment visible from the trails.
3. To help promote the mission of the Reserve, we ask that you take the time to answer any questions from the public regarding your research.
4. On the trails, groups must be divided into subgroups of 10 people.

Sharing results and data

Your research contributes to a better understanding of the ecosystems of Mount Saint-Hilaire and guides our management practices. Please send a copy of your publications, reports, and/or data to science@reservegault.ca.

Directory and emergency contacts

For any emergency requiring first responders (police, fire, or ambulance): **9-1-1**

VERY IMPORTANT

Please remember that outside of regular hours, the gate is closed. Therefore, it is important to send someone (if possible) to open the gate and direct first responders.

For assistance outside of regular hours

- Gault Reserve emergency line (24/7): **514-944-9504**
- McGill Security Service: **514-398-3000**

Contact information for Gault Nature Reserve staff

[Click here](#) to view the staff directory.

5 Anti-Ticks Tactics

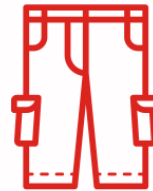
Good practices to protect yourself
from Lyme Disease

#1



Stay on the trails

#2



Wear long clothes,
ideally in light colours

#3



Apply an icaridine or
DEET-based insect
repellent

#4



Shower and inspect your
body as soon as possible

#5



Wash/dry your
clothes and examine
your equipment



If bitten, safely remove the tick
by following the Quebec
government's guidelines



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