

# PARC NATIONAL DE LA **YAMASKA**

DISCOVERY GUIDE

2018

# WELCOME TO THE PARK



## A reservoir of family fun belted by a bicycle path and surrounded by nature

Parc national de la Yamaska will unveil for you its panorama of soft rolling hills, mixed forests of various shades of green and, nestled at its centre, a vast expanse of blue pristine water. A 19 km long bicycle path completely encircles the park and Réservoir Choinière. This protected area is a hot spot for bird watching as it welcomes over 180 species of birds, year after year.

Strolling through the park, one can easily come to understand Réservoir Choinière's importance in a region where there are very few lakes. This man-made expanse of water, created in 1977, has become one of the area's major recreational and tourism hubs. This ideal place for swimming and water activities is yours to discover!

Find out more at [sepaq.com/yamaska](http://sepaq.com/yamaska)



**Cassandra**  
*The salamander*

### THE NORTHERN DUSKY SALAMANDER PARK EMBLEM

No, it's not a lizard! Discrete small animals with moist skin and no scales, salamanders belong to the group of amphibians, just like frogs. Some species are known to be rare in Québec. This is the case for the Northern Dusky Salamander, found in the park's forest streams where the water is clear and fresh. Devoid of lungs, this salamander "breathes" through its moist skin. Given its rarity across Québec, this species was chosen as the park's animal emblem.

**ANNUAL**  
**QUÉBEC NATIONAL**  
**PARKS CARD**

Québec's national parks offer a one-of-a-kind experience. Explore this exceptional world of nature with the Annual Québec National Parks Card, featuring:

- Unlimited access to ALL national parks for 12 full months
- Many exclusive benefits, including a free night of camping

Details at [sepaq.com/parkscard](http://sepaq.com/parkscard)

# MUST-DOS



A

## THE GRAND TOUR

This 19-km path offers a fun bicycle ride all around Réservoir Choinière which is nestled in the middle of the park. Accessible to the whole family, the rolling countryside will take you across different types of woodlands and on to the Yamaska Nord River's green banks.



B

## WALKING... ON WATER!

Gliding along the banks of Réservoir Choinière standing upright on a surf board with a paddle in hand is almost like "walking" on water! Stand up paddling, which comes from Hawaii, is a sport somewhere in between surfing and kayaking. Come and test your balance. After all, the worst thing that can happen to you is taking a dunk in the water!



C

## BICYCLING IN WINTER...

Discover the park on two wheels... even in winter!

Called *Fatbikes*, our bicycles are equipped with oversized tires that offer good traction on snow. Hop on and ride on hardened, compacted snow for a unique and exciting adventure. Bicycle rental is available on site.



D

## LA RIVIÈRE TRAIL

Whether on foot or on snowshoes, La Rivière trail is sure to offer you pleasant surprises. Explore a maple tree stand, go on to a pine grove and come out on the banks of the Yamaska Nord River, at the foot of the Choinière Dam.



E

## BIRD WATCHING

Birds are present in the park all year round. Did you know that some 180 species of birds can be observed in the park every year, and that the park's secondary dyke is the ideal vantage point to watch our feathered friends? There you will find 3 discovery panels that will inform you on the diversity of the park's avian fauna. Bring your binoculars!



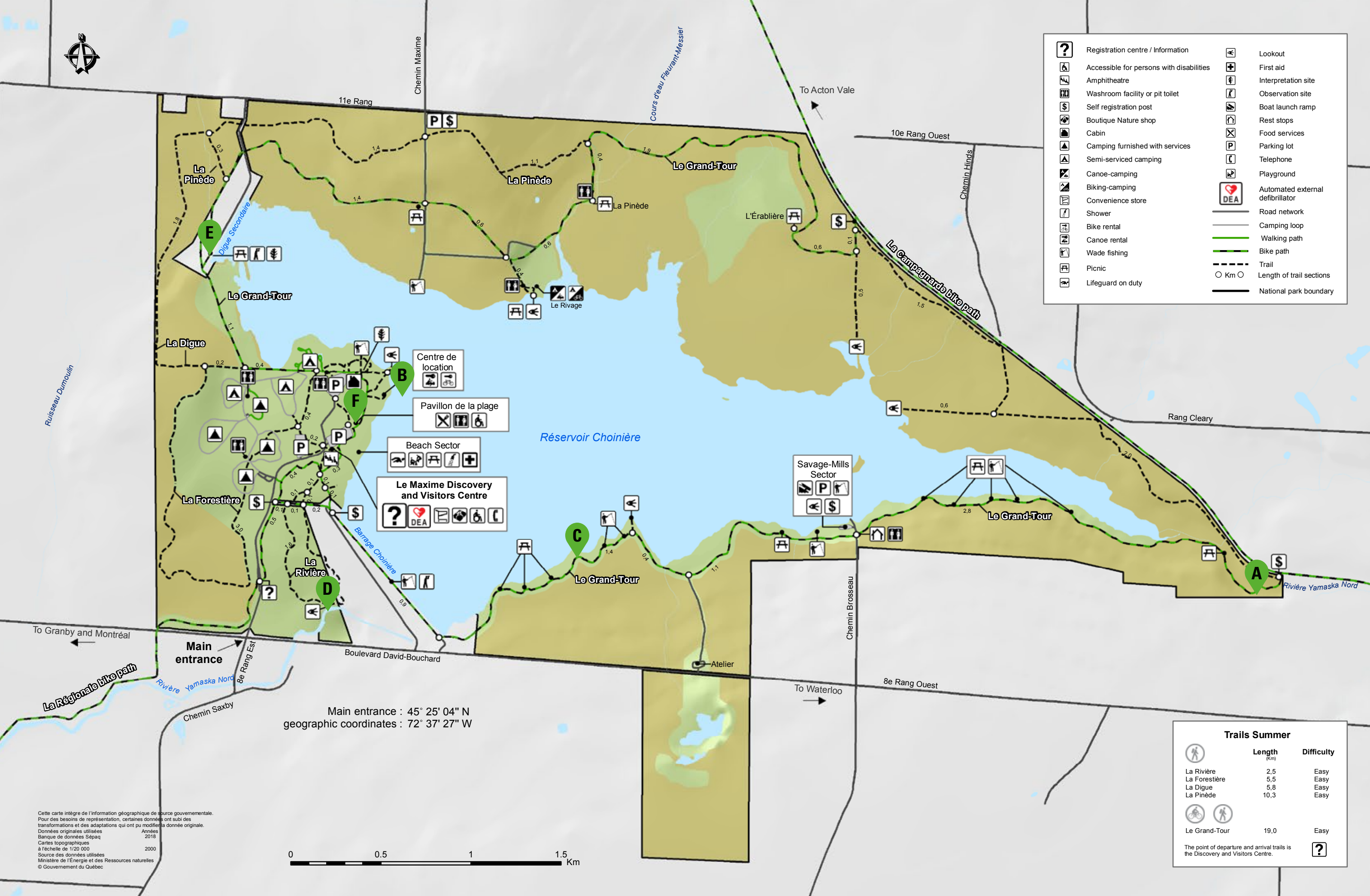
F

## WATER GAMES FOR THE LITTLE ONES

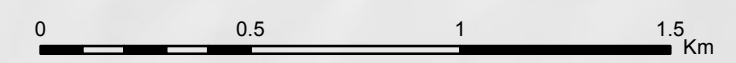
Water games and interactive water jets are a great way to have fun and to cool down at the same time. Located in the beach area, this site also offers a beautiful view of the Réservoir Choinière. Fun and laughter guaranteed for young families!



	Registration centre / Information		Lookout
	Accessible for persons with disabilities		First aid
	Amphitheatre		Interpretation site
	Washroom facility or pit toilet		Observation site
	Self registration post		Boat launch ramp
	Boutique Nature shop		Rest stops
	Cabin		Food services
	Camping furnished with services		Parking lot
	Semi-serviced camping		Telephone
	Canoe-camping		Playground
	Biking-camping		Automated external defibrillator
	Convenience store		Road network
	Shower		Camping loop
	Bike rental		Walking path
	Canoe rental		Bike path
	Wade fishing		Trail
	Picnic		Length of trail sections
	Lifeguard on duty		National park boundary



Main entrance : 45° 25' 04" N  
 geographic coordinates : 72° 37' 27" W















Trails Summer		
	Length (km)	Difficulty
	La Rivière 2,5	Easy
	La Forestière 5,5	Easy
	La Digue 5,8	Easy
	La Pinède 10,3	Easy
	Le Grand-Tour 19,0	Easy

The point of departure and arrival trails is the Discovery and Visitors Centre.

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 Années 2018 Banque de données SÉPAQ Cartes topographiques à l'échelle de 1/20 000 2000 Source des données utilisées Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles © Gouvernement du Québec

# DISCOVER OUR TRAILS

TRAIL		LENGTH AND DURATION*		LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY	DEPARTURE
  	<p><b>La Rivière</b> – This trail provides a varied panorama. You will be engulfed by a dense pine forest and its intriguing environment. You will magically come upon Rivière Yamaska Nord as it exits from the forest at the foot of the Choinière dam.</p> <p>This segment of the river, which has given its name to the park, refuses to ice over for most of the winter, leaving ducks the option of lingering on the river according to their whim. The cool temperatures and the water join forces to create a morning mist of sparkling frost in the pine forest.</p>	2.5 km loop	1 h	E	Discovery and Visitors centre
 	<p><b>La Forestière</b> – At a stone's throw from the service area of the beach, La Forestière trail is home to a variety of wildlife and provides a great overview of the tree mosaic of the park. By walking through it, you will come across young hardwood forests and dense patches of evergreens, and then sense the greatness of the forest canopy of mature maple stands.</p> <p><i>Download the application or borrow a free ipod at the Discovery and Visitors centre.</i></p>	5.5 km loop	2 h	E	
 	<p><b>La Digue</b> – La Digue trail is a pleasant forest path that provides a great overview of the park's plant and tree composition. Sugar maples of which the huge trunks majestically flank the trail here and there, are a reminder of this species' dominant rank in the forest mosaic of the park.</p> <p>From the promontory formed by the stone wall of the Choinière levee, 560 metres long, you will have the perfect spot to spy on the habits of these species that utilize Réservoir Choinière, its shoreline and the forest edge to feed and to rest.</p>	5.8 km loop	2 h	E	
	<p><b>La Pinède</b> – Compact and dense massifs of fir trees, dominated by white pine, with undulating hills of fallow fields, passing by mature maple forests, you will be able to witness the various forest evolutionary stages along very short distances.</p> <p>Pay special attention to details such as the discreet presence of a few former orchards, which are vestiges of a not-so-distant era. That is when the current park area was actually the setting of human occupation: country dwellers.</p>	10.3 km loop	3 h 30	E	
   	<p><b>Le Grand-Tour</b> – By bicycle or on foot, there is no better way to get a good overview of the park than to criss-cross it along the multifunctional path called Le Grand-Tour.</p> <p>This journey will take you along Réservoir Choinière's shoreline, where you will disappear into the enticing forest and then emerge to climb the hillsides of fallow fields. While discovering this path, you will also learn about the history of the great "lake", the river at its origin, as well as an awesome and diversified forest mosaic.</p> <p><i>Download the application or borrow a free ipod at the Discovery and Visitors centre.</i></p>	19 km loop	5 h 30	E	

 Hiking  
  Biking  
  Interpretation site  
  Park Path Explorer  
  Family experience

**F:** Easy    **I:** Intermediate    **D:** Difficult

\* The durations and difficulty levels mentioned are indicative and refer to summer season.



## THE NATURE CHALLENGE...

You can enjoy the La Rivière trail all year long. This family dedicated trail, accessible even to strollers, is jotted with a series of stopping points that can be used as a discovery rally that will be sure to tickle your young explorers' curiosity.

### Equipment rental:

Bike: \$14.25/h  
 Stand-up paddle: \$17.25/h

### Also available:

Solo and tandem kayak  
 Pedal boat 2 and 4 seater  
 Canoe  
 Rowboat  
 Rabaska canoe  
 Children's trail-a-bike

# THE LARGEST NATURE AND OUTDOOR NETWORK IN QUÉBEC

The exceptional territories of Sépaq, including 24 national parks, are privileged destinations where you can enjoy all the benefits of an intimate contact with nature. Here's a special invitation from us to you: come relax at the heart of an authentic natural world that's the pride and joy of Quebecers!

24 NATIONAL PARKS | 14 WILDLIFE RESERVES | 8 TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS | SÉPAQ ANTICOSTI

Discover all our destinations at [sepaq.com](http://sepaq.com)



**QUÉBEC NATIONAL PARKS DAY**  
September 8, 2018

**SÉPAQ WINTER DAY**  
January 26, 2019



## BOUTIQUES

**Don't forget to visit our boutiques for a souvenir!**

Profits are fully reinvested in Québec's national parks

# DISCOVERY TIME



## RABASKA CANOE PANORAMA

Take part in this guided tour. Join our Rabaska canoe excursion as we out on this large expanse of water. Enjoy a front row seat as we explore the surrounding landscape and wildlife.

**Rates:** \$8.25/ adult | Taxes and entry fees not included

**FREE** for children accompanied

**Reservation required** | **Minimum age:** 6 years



## PARK PATH EXPLORER

**A visit experience.**

*Park Path Explorer* is a tool that allows you to personalize your visit to a national park in the Parcs Québec network, while learning about the riches of these magnificent protected areas. According to your preferences and interests, choose from among a variety of paths and discover the park's beauty, landscape, habitats, plant and animal life, and history.

**You can download this app:**

[www.sepaq.com/pq/parc-parcours.dot](http://www.sepaq.com/pq/parc-parcours.dot)

**if you don't have a device, you can borrow one at the Discovery and Visitors Centre**



## WHEN WATER ENGULFS A VALLEY

The park's panorama is the result of the major upheaval caused by the creation of Réservoir Choinière, in the spring of 1977. This body of water's history is closely linked to the park's creation a few years later. To know more about the park's history, visit the extremity of Choinière Dam where discovery panels will allow you to understand how the project that people at the time had dubbed the "little Manic".

## LET US GUIDE YOU...

Participate in discovery activities at Parc national de la Yamaska. Let a park warden share his or her passion for the territory and the nature it protects.

We spare no efforts to contribute to your enjoyment of the park's rich natural and historical heritage. Excursions on the water, hiking activities, marionette shows for kids, and evening talks are all part of the wide range of activities we offer to pique your curiosity.



## BUDDING FISHERMEN

**Tickling yellow perch is a fun way to discover the joys of fishing.**

This organized activity allows young aspiring fishermen to discover fish, their habitat as well as the rudiments of the wonderful sport of fishing while learning to respect the environment, wildlife, and rules and regulations. After a 30-minute information session, budding fishermen will be invited to try out their new skills for about an hour on the shores of the reservoir. Consult our schedule of activities.

**Check the schedule of our activities.**

**Fishing equipment provided**

**Duration of the activity: 1 h 30**



## A LOOK ON THE PARK'S AVIFAUNA

Small, medium, or large, diurnal or nocturnal, birds are present in a vast number of habitats. You will be startled by the diversity of the species and the colours of this animal group. Fascinating, with their sounds and behaviours, they star in an original presentation not to be missed.





## BATS IN DISTRESS

Amazing late-night chat... Bats have always been part of our nighttime stories but how much do we really know about them? These little mammals that fly "under the radar" are in serious decline. Join us as well the passionate saga of these beautiful but gloomy creatures. Watch our activity schedule.

[Watch our activities schedule.](#)

## NIGHT SOUNDS AND ANIMALS

The tetraploid gray treefrog starts singing as dusk. Come and listen to its love serenade, a series of repetitive trills that sound a bit like a telephone ring. This organized activity starts with a short guided walk and ends by a warm campfire. You will hear surprising sounds and will learn a lot about the night creatures that produce them.



# SLEEPING UNDER THE STARS



Spend the night with us and enjoy the park to the fullest. You'll have your base camp and discover the territory at your leisure all the while having a front-row seat to check out the wildlife in its natural habitat!

Visitors can choose from among several types of accommodations and packages:

- Rustic camping, semi-serviced and two services (water and electricity)
- Ready-to-camp
- Nature cabin all seasons
- Canoe-camping package



## BEGINNING OF BOOKINGS 2019 SEASON

### Cabin

April 28, 2018 (summer) and  
Septembre 18, 2018 (fall/winter)

### Camping and ready-to-camp

October 27, 2018

1 800 665-6527 | [sepaq.com](http://sepaq.com)



# FAMILY FUN IS HERE!

Photo: Mathieu Dupuis

HERE ARE A FEW EXTRAS WE HAVE IN PLACE FOR YOU TO SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE AND TO HELP YOU SAVE MONEY.

### For your children 17 years of age and under

**FREE ACCESS**  
to national parks

**EQUIPMENT LOAN\***  
for the outdoors

**ACTIVITIES**  
varied and rewarding

**ACCESSORIES\***  
on loan for young children

\*Limited quantities available



Look out for this marker which identifies the ideal family experiences.

Discover all our family destinations at [sepaq.com/family](http://sepaq.com/family)

## OUR TOP PICKS

### AT PARC NATIONAL DE LA YAMASKA

Take a look at our not-to-be-missed offers: popular activities, trails to discover with your family, and cosy spots for a stay.

- Water park and a huge playground
- La Rivière trail nature Challenge rally
- Puppet theater



# CONSERVE FOR TOMORROW



## MY FOOD IS TO BE FOUND IN NATURE

Laying its hands on table scraps... Now, that is something raccoons love to do! At the beach or at the campground, please make sure to always keep an eye on your food provisions and to dispose of any waste as quickly as possible in our designated areas. Your cooperation is essential.

## TICKS UNDER CLOSE SURVEILLANCE

Tick bites and the risk of contracting Lyme disease have become a concern for many nature enthusiasts. That is why Parc national de la Yamaska is enrolled in a Lyme disease surveillance program entitled *Programme national de surveillance intégrée de la maladie de Lyme* that is spearheaded by Quebec's ministry of Health and Social Services in collaboration with the Institut national de santé publique du Québec and Université de Montréal's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

To determine the level of infection among tick populations, specialists from the monitoring program collect *Ixodes scapularis* ticks in order to determine if they are infected or not by *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

**Do you know how to avoid tick bites?**

**One of the basic safety rules to avoid tick bites is keep to well cleared paths and to avoid walking in tall grasses, fern patches and dense forest undergrowth.**

For more information on ticks and Lyme disease, please visit Quebec's Health and Social Services Ministry Internet web portal:

(<http://sante.gouv.qc.ca/problemes-de-sante/maladie-de-lyme/>)

Institut national de santé publique du Québec's website:

(<https://www.inspq.qc.ca/guide-d-identification-des-tiques-du-quebec>).



## NATURE BEYOND THE PARK'S LIMITS

How can we guarantee the park's long-term conservation efforts when human activity outside the park's limits can impact on the integrity of its resources? That is the question that really sums up our park's conservation issues... Let's act today for tomorrow!

Did you know that 95% of the territory – called a watershed – that drains into Réservoir Choinière is located outside the park's limits? Yamaska Nord River's water quality is therefore a regional issue that concerns us all.

## Did you know that all the land surrounding the park is privately owned?

This vast territory still has well forested areas that contribute greatly to our park's rich fauna and flora. Maintaining the forest's "connectivity" between the two zones is therefore essential to ensure the sustainability of our natural heritage.

To adequately protect our park outside of its boundaries, we must mobilize the population living on its fringes. We are currently working in that direction and interacting with land owners and local citizens who care about the conservation of their region's natural habitats.

To learn more about this initiative called *La Ceinture verte du parc national de la Yamaska* (Parc national de la Yamaska's Green Belt), please visit : <https://www.sepaq.com/pq/yam/conserver/>



## A CONSOLIDATED CONSERVATION MISSION

Did you know that our park is now even bigger? A 61-hectare expanse of land has just been added to the park's overall surface area.

The efforts to acquire this plot of land made over the last few years by Quebec's ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks culminated on September 14, 2017, following the publication of the provincial Cabinet's official decree in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*. The new addition, however, is off limits to the general public for the time being as the park officials are still reflecting on how to best showcase this area.

This piece of land, essentially a mature sugar maple forest crisscrossed by rivulets and a wetland area, will increase the park's natural diversity and consolidate its conservation mission.

## OUR PARK... A TREASURE!

Did you know that because of especially favorable climate conditions, soil composition and topography our park features one of the province's greatest biodiversity? We are home to more than 500 plant species and numerous animal species. Come and discover the park's ever changing seasonal landscapes!

**We are home to more than 500 plant species and numerous animal species.**



# PLAY <sup>IT</sup> SAFE



In the wild, your **safety**  
is your **responsibility**



Photo: Steve Deschênes, Parc national des Grands-Jardins

Sépaq's mission is to ensure the widest possible access to Québec's most beautiful natural treasures. Sépaq is committed to the safety of its visitors and urges you to play it safe!

Preparing yourself adequately is the first step in the safe and enjoyable practice of your favourite activities. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY** and risk management is an integral part of your experience.

Before leaving for an excursion, **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED** to practice your chosen activity **AND RESPECT YOUR PHYSICAL LIMITS**. Your outing should leave you with nothing but pleasant memories. There are a number of organizations that can help you plan your activities safely. Do not hesitate to contact them. We also invite you to consult our safety guides for Sépaq activities on our website at

[sepaq.com/security](http://sepaq.com/security)

## CHECKLIST

### BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

- Plan on going with at least one other person.
- Check the weather report.
- Pack water and food, even if the activity is only for a few hours.
- See that you have appropriate clothing and footwear for anticipated weather conditions.
- Let somebody know the exact location of your destination and the time you plan to return home


### ONCE YOU ARE ON SITE


- Do not rely on your cellphone.
- Check how much time it will take to complete your activity.
- Obey signs and notices, including bans on open fires.


### WHEN YOU GET BACK


- Once you have completed your activity, make sure that you report to our staff anything wrong or any damage or problems you encountered.


## REMINDERS

 During your visit to a national park, you must always carry your entry fee receipt or your annual entry card.

 To preserve our natural riches, you are not allowed to remove any natural elements (animals, plants, dead wood, rocks, etc.). Please also keep to established hiking trails to avoid trampling flora.

 Animals find all they need to eat in nature. Feeding wildlife can be very damaging. Keep food or garbage out of reach of animals.

 We ask you to carry out all your garbage.

 Domestic animals are not accepted in Québec's national parks. However, guide dogs and service dogs are admitted.

### PILOT PROJECT AUTHORIZING DOGS

A pilot project is in place authorizing the presence of dogs in FRONTENAC, JACQUES-CARTIER and OKA national parks. As of May 18, 2018, the project will be expanded to include AIGUEBELLE and LAC-TÉMISCOUATA national parks. Please read the applicable rules and authorized places at [sepaq.com/animals](http://sepaq.com/animals).

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY : 911

**SÛRETÉ DU QUÉBEC**: 310-4141 (general number) / \*4141 (for cellphones)

\*Where cellphone networks are available. The costs and expenses incurred in conducting search and rescue operations are the responsibility of the beneficiary. You can obtain protection against these risks from an insurer.

### Parc national de la Yamaska

1780, boulevard David-Bouchard  
Roxton Pond (Qc) JOE 1Z0  
Information : 450 776-7182

Courriel : [parc.yamaska@sepaq.com](mailto:parc.yamaska@sepaq.com)  
[sepaq.com/yamaska](http://sepaq.com/yamaska)

Legal Deposit: 2018  
Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec

Photos: Dominic Boudreault, Mathieu Dupuis, Alain Mochon, Marc Loiseau, Fondation SÉTHY, INSPQ, François Fabianek, Michel St-Jean, Shutterstock.



Garant  
des forêts  
intactes®

# ARTRIA

LE PARCOURS DES ŒUVRES  
EN NATURE



Denis Landry



ARTRIA, a distinctive Open-air Museum, offers an impressive collection of some sixty monumental sculptures disseminated along our reputed cycling network throughout magnificent natural settings. Cyclists, hikers and art enthusiasts alike will be delighted by this ambitious and innovative concept!

[artria.ca](http://artria.ca)    [tourismegranby.com](http://tourismegranby.com)    1 866 472-6292

## 33 "TASTY" FAMILY OUTINGS

LESS THAN 15 MINUTES DRIVE  
FROM YAMASKA NATIONAL PARK

PICK-YOUR-OWN, AGROTOURISM,  
FARM BOUTIQUES, PREPARED MEALS,  
ARTS & CRAFTS, GIFT IDEAS



RÉSEAU DES  
**HALTES  
GOURMANDES**  
EN HAUTE-YAMASKA

INFORMATION  
[HALTESGOURMANDES.CA](http://HALTESGOURMANDES.CA)  
BROCHURE AVAILABLE AT THE PARK DISCOVERY  
AND SERVICES CENTRE  
1 866 472-6292



A PRESENTATION OF:  
COMMERCE  
TOURISME  
Granby  
RÉGION



mrc  
La Haute-Yamaska  
Prospère de nature

# PEDALLING COULDN'T GET MORE EXCITING!

4 SAISONS BIKE DESTINATION



 Sépaq

Parc national  
de la Yamaska