

# PARC NATIONAL DE PLAISANCE

DISCOVERY GUIDE



# WELCOME TO THE PARK

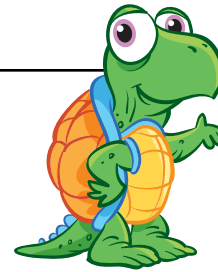
**Experience the wetlands of parc national de Plaisance. The park is home to over 250 species of birds, to many amphibians and, of course, to turtles! Venturing into our wetlands is a trip to another world!**

Visiting parc national de Plaisance will create magic memories inspired by the beauty, diverse landscapes, and peacefulness of our natural environment. The discoveries you make during the activities we offer – tailored to the entire family – will amaze you.

Enjoy your visit! Our entire team is pleased to welcome you.

**Discover more at [sepaq.com/plaisance](http://sepaq.com/plaisance)**

Front page picture: la Zizanie-des-marais Trail



**ODILE  
THE TURTLE**

## **THE SNAPPING TURTLE, ANIMAL EMBLEM OF THE PARC NATIONAL DE PLAISANCE**

The snapping turtle is fascinating. Encountering one on a trail will automatically be a highlight of your visit. This turtle right out of the dinosaur age is considered vulnerable in Canada. For all these reasons, this species was chosen as the park's new 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)**

## **SUPERVISED ACCESS FOR DOGS**



**Dogs are allowed at parc national de Plaisance, in certain designated areas.**

All details at [sepaq.com/animals](http://sepaq.com/animals)

### **MAIN RULES\***

- Dogs must remain in the places where they are authorized at all times.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash and under surveillance at all times.
- The person in charge of the dog must pick up the animal's excrement without delay.
- Barking or howling dogs as well as dogs affecting the tranquility and safety of other visitors are not allowed.

\*Individuals who fail to comply with any of the rules stated above may be required to leave the area and/or issued a statement of offence, where appropriate.

**Compliance with the regulations is essential, and the offer could be reviewed if non-compliance is noted.**

### **AUTHORIZED PLACES**

<b>Summer trail</b>	<b>No authorized access</b>
<b>Camping</b>	Fer-à-Cheval RV area
<b>Picnic area</b>	Dollard-des-Ormeaux picnic area Thurso picnic area
<b>Nautical access point</b>	Thurso sector boat launch Boat launch at Discovery and Visitors Centre

# MUST-DOS



A

## ZIZANIE-DES-MARAIS : WALK ON WATER

The absolute top must-do of parc national de Plaisance! Destroyed in our 2017 flood, this spectacular trail is once again accessible for unforgettable walks through the heart of the marshes.



B

## VISIT THE NEST: THE NEW PERRAS TOWER

The Perras Tower is undoubtedly our new star this year! Built in the shape of a bird's nest, this tower pays tribute to the wonderful diversity of winged fauna that lives and reproduces in the park and the Perras Marsh. It offers amazing views of the marsh. Bring your binoculars!



C

## CHUTES DU MOULIN FALLS BY CANOE

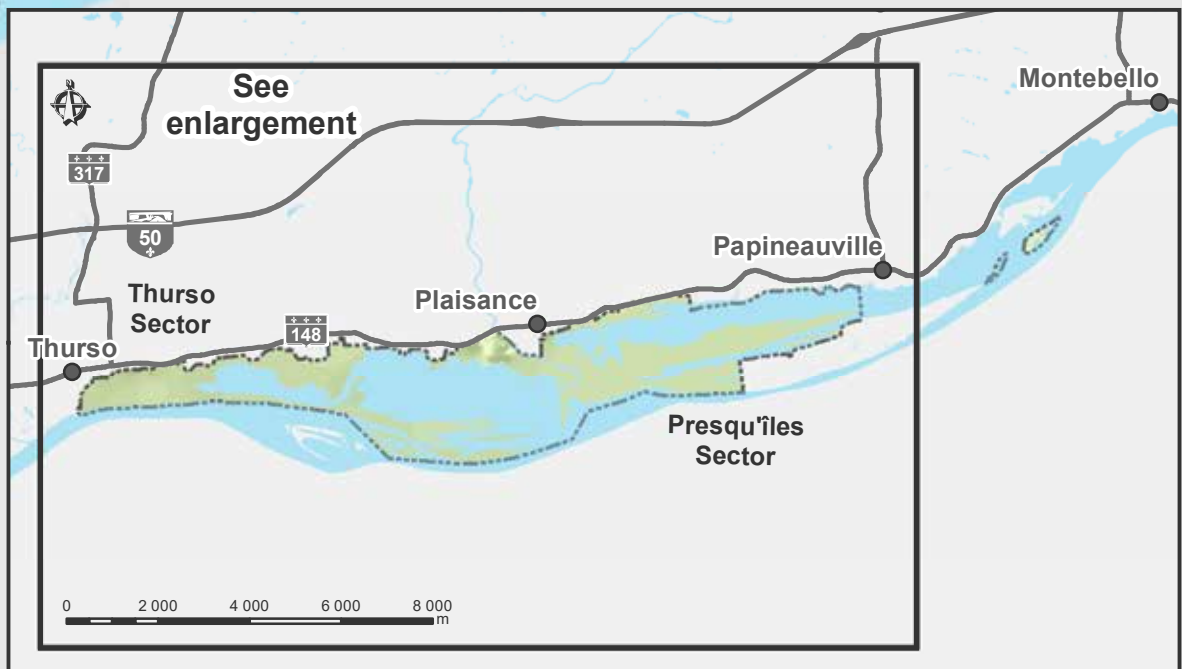
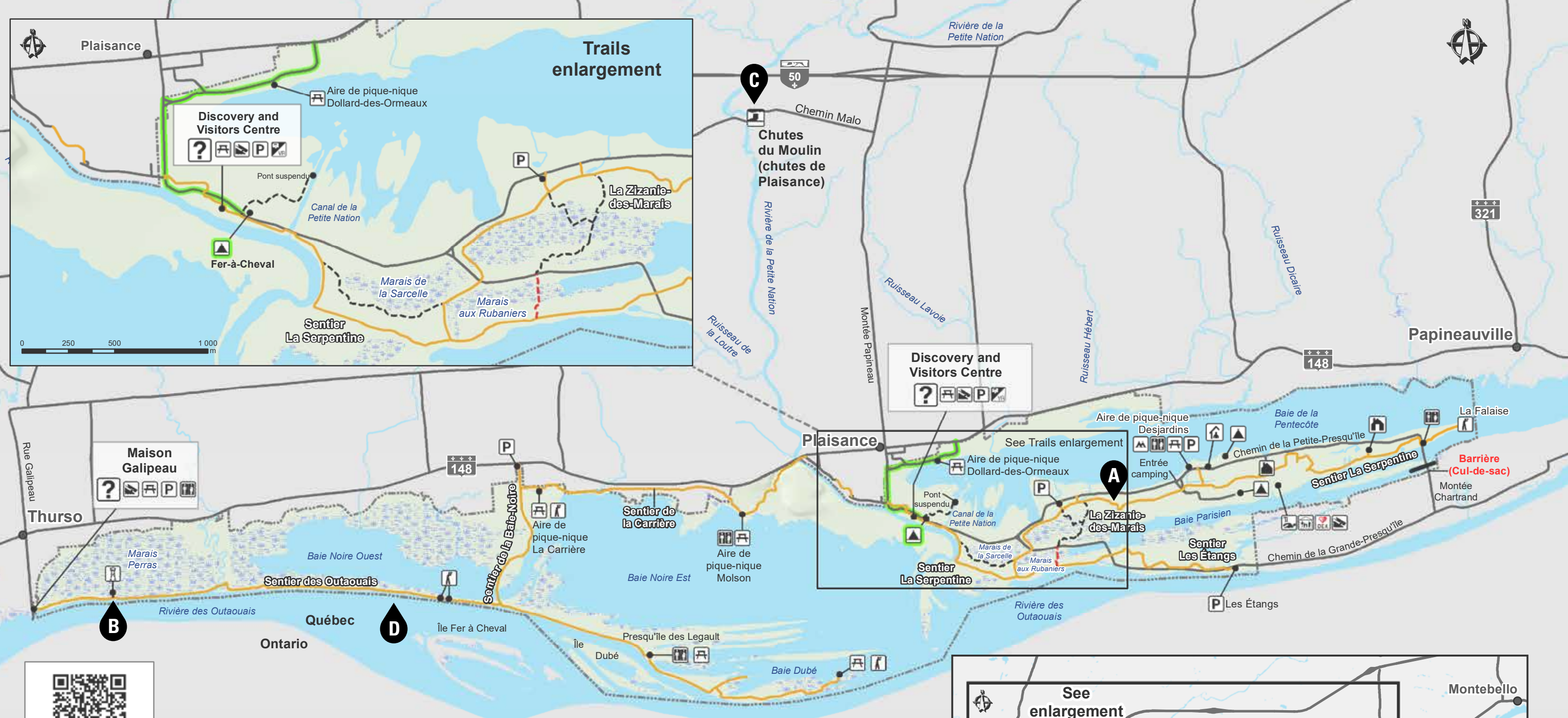
With a vertical drop of nearly 60 metres (higher than Niagara Falls), these falls, also called the Plaisance Falls, are definitely worth a visit. Fear not, however! The idea is not to go down them but rather to view them from below. This beautiful beginner level canoe trip takes 3.5 hours (10 km).



D

## ENJOY A GENTLE RIDE ALONG THE DES OUTAOUAIS TRAIL. A BIKE ADVENTURE AWAITS!

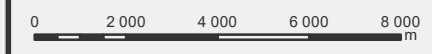
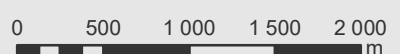
Come discover one of the most beautiful trails in the park offering the best views of the Ottawa River and the Baie Noire Est and Baie Noire Ouest and their magnificent marshes. It also crosses a stunning silver maple stand, one of the most beautiful ones in the park, around kilometre 9.








	Registration centre / Information		Rustic accommodation (Yurt)		Perras Tower
	Picnic area		Pavillon Ménéard		Bike path
	Semi-serviced camping		Swimming pool / Water games		Trail
	Group camping		Boat launch ramp		Road network
	Cabin		Community hall		Dogs allowed location
	Waterfall		Observation site		Under construction sector (2020)
	Automated external defibrillator		Parking lot		National park boundary
	RV area		Washroom		Wetland




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, 2020  
 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

CYCLEPATH		LENGHT AND TIME*		DIFFICULTY
	<b>La Serpentine</b> – Access all the services available in the Presqu’îles area and take in unforgettable views at La Falaise (cliff). Starting point : Discovery and Visitors Centre	17 km round trip	1:45	<b>E</b>
	<b>Les Étangs</b> – Especially during migration season, this path will have some wonderful “winged” discoveries for you at the Grande Presqu’île ponds. Lieu de départ : Discovery and Visitors Centre The path starts at kilometre #2 of the La Serpentine path. You can get there by cycling or walking.	8 km round trip	50 min.	<b>E</b>
	<b>Des Outaouais</b> – This path running along the majestic Ottawa River features the dynamic natural habitat of the Perras Marsh and the Legault peninsula. Starting point : Maison Galipeau in Thurso	21 km round trip	2 hrs.	<b>E</b>
	<b>La Carrière</b> – Take this quiet route to the Thurso area that avoids Highway 148 – and be rewarded with stunning views of a former quarry. Starting point : Discovery and Visitors Centre	11 km round trip	1 hr.	<b>I</b>
	<b>De la Baie-Noire</b> – This path is a shortcut to the heart of the des Outaouais Path as well as to the view-point on the La Carrière Path. Starting point : Parking lot beside Highway 148	2 km round trip	15 min.	<b>E</b>

HIKING TRAIL		LENGHT AND TIME*		DIFFICULTY
	<b>La Zizanie-des-Marais</b> – Floating walkways. Starting point : La Zizanie-des-Marais Parking lot.	1 km loop	20 min.	<b>E</b>
	<b>La Sarcelle Marsh</b> – This short path approximately 850 m long borders a magnificent marsh featuring turtles and water fowl. Starting point : About 500 m from the Discovery and Visitors Centre – which is included in the total distance.	3 km round trip	1:15	<b>E</b>
	<b>Suspension Bridge</b> – Stressed out? Take a break along this short stretch of trail that offers a beautiful view of the La Petite Nation canal! Starting point : Discovery and Visitors Centre (walk across the Fer-à-Cheval campground)	1 km round trip	20 min.	<b>E</b>

 Hiking  Bike  
**E** : easy **I** : intermediate



**Free of charge!**  
Admission offered to children 17 and under.

## Our favourite offers at parc national de plaisance

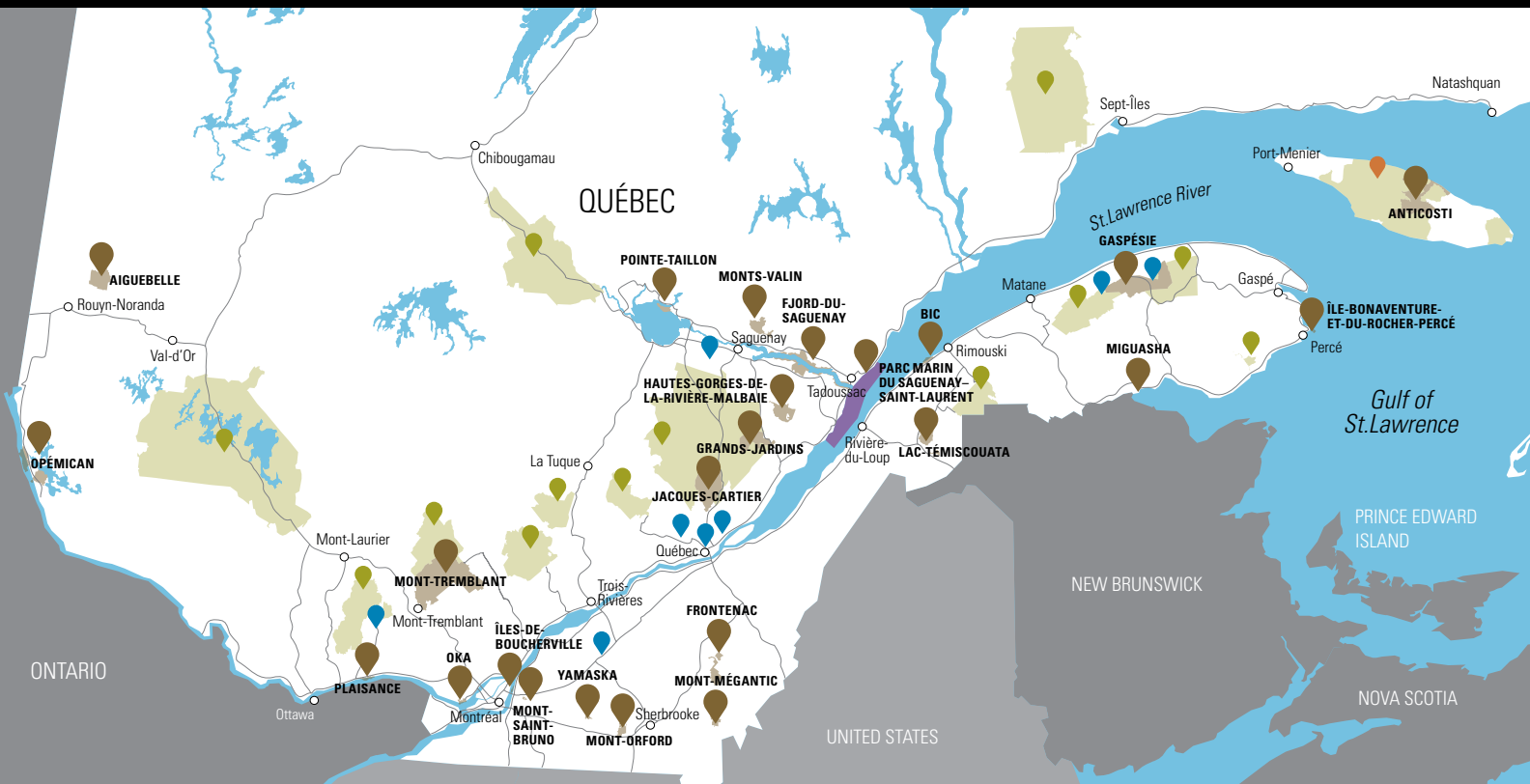
- Enjoy the pool and the splash pad.
- Discover a wetland full of life by roaming the Zizanie-des-Marais, the floating boardwalk accessible to all.
- Have a family picnic at one of these areas: Desjardins, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, de la Carrière, Thurso



# THE LARGEST NATURE AND OUTDOOR NETWORK IN QUÉBEC

Sépaq has the privilege of developing territories of incredible richness. Among them, 24 national parks stand out as unique. These are protected areas that belong to all Quebecers and that provide lasting memories for visitors who proudly make such exceptional destinations their own.

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



NATIONAL PARKS | 
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## QUÉBEC NATIONAL PARKS DAY September 12, 2020

FREE ADMISSION

## SÉPAQ WINTER DAY JANUARY 30, 2021

FREE ADMISSION



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\*Value of \$7.99. Eligible on all purchases of \$75 or more after applicable rebates, discounts, and promotions and before applicable taxes. Exclusions: wood and convenience store products.

\*Valid until December 31, 2020. Limited quantities available.

# DISCOVERY TIME



These activities might not be offered during the 2020 season.

## ACTIVITIES LED BY OUR PARK WARDEN-NATURALISTS

We offer approximately 10 activities to introduce you to our magnificent territory. These activities include talks, workshops, and hiking and boat outings. The schedule and description of these activities are updated weekly. You will find this information on our bulletin boards and at all our washroom facilities.

## EXCURSION INTO THE BAYOUS!

There is nothing like an outing in a rabaska canoe to discover our floating gardens. One of our park wardens will lead you through this “water world” and introduce you to the special flora and fauna found there.

**Adults: \$ 11.31. Free for children 8 years and older accompanied by an adult, excluding youth groups.**

**Where: Campground docking station**

## CANOE / KAYAK / STAND-UP PADDLE BOARD / ROWBOAT

In addition to an excursion to the Plaisance Falls (see the must-dos on page 3), several other aquatic activities are available. A popular option is to navigate the Petite Nation canal, an artificial waterway dating from the late 1940s. Once you pass our suspension bridge, you will have access to the splendid marshes of the baie de la Pentecôte (takes from one hour to a half day).

## A CANADA GOOSE 60 METRES LONG!

This gigantic work was created by local artist Guy-Louis Poncelet. Built of rocks from an abandoned quarry, this strange bird can be seen from the La Carrière picnic area. A relaxing six-kilometre bike ride from the Discovery and Visitors Centre or a 500-metre bike ride from the Baie-Noire parking area will take you there.



## GROUP ACTIVITIES?

Group activities can be tailored to your interests, including classroom educational activities or guided hikes or rabaska canoe trips. Check with the Discovery and Visitors Centre.

(Minimum 12 people, \$)





## A REFRESHING BREAK?

After a hike, a break at the pool is often most welcome! This summer, we also have a splash pad to keep kids of all ages happy!

## DISCOVERY AND VISITORS CENTRE

Reception and rental desk, exhibition, shop, boat launch and picnic area.

Schedule \*subject to change

### Low Season

Sunday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 Friday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
 Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### High Season

Sunday to Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
 Friday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.



## YOU LEFT YOUR EQUIPMENT BACK HOME?

### ÉQUIPEMENT DISPONIBLE

- Rowboat
- Canoe
- Recreational kayak – single
- Recreational kayak – tandem
- Sea kayak – single
- Sea kayak – tandem
- Stand-up paddle board
- Child's bicycle
- Adult bicycle

Might not be offered during the 2020 season.



# CONSERVE FOR TOMORROW



**The park's beaver population is estimated at over 400 individuals!**



Example of damage done by the emerald ash borer.

## WIRELESS... BEAVERS!

If you are observant, you may see beavers with odd tails during your hikes! Some beavers have had an electronic tracking device placed on their tails by researchers from the Institut des Sciences de la forêt tempérée (ISFORT). With one of the largest beaver populations in Québec, the park is an ideal place to study this species.

**To learn more, take the "Castor à la trace" guided hike. See the weekly activity schedule posted on our bulletin boards.**

## KEEPING OUR CAMPSITES SAFE

The effects of the emerald ash borer started to be felt after this pest was first noticed in the park in 2015. Many dead trees, which could pose a safety risk, were cut down this winter near several pieces of infrastructure, especially in the camping area. Tree planting projects will be undertaken in coming years in collaboration with the Institut des Sciences de la forêt tempérée (ISFORT).



**Help regenerate the areas between the campsites by staying on the paths and developed areas.**

## TARPS TO THE RESCUE!

If you venture out along the des Outaouais Trail, it will be difficult to miss the large black tarps on the ground. These are part of our strategy to eradicate Japanese knotweed, a highly invasive plant. To be successful, these tarps must stay in place for seven years. Then we can reintroduce a diverse selection of native plants.



# PLAY <sup>IT</sup> SAFE



Photo: Steve Deschênes, Parc national des Grands-Jardins

## IN THE WILD, YOUR SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSABILITY

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. We invite you to consult our safety guides for Sépaq activities, available at [sepaq.com/security](https://sepaq.com/security). You will also find a list of organizations that can help you plan your activities safely.

[sepaq.com/security](https://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.

 Remember that animals are in their natural habitat and that you are a visitor. To ensure both your safety and theirs, feeding them is prohibited; otherwise they may lose their natural fear of human beings and become aggressive.

 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.

## 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 Plaisance

1001 chemin des Presqu'îles  
Plaisance, Québec J0V 1S0  
Information: 819-427-5334  
Reservations : 1-800-665-6527  
[parc.plaisance@sepaq.com](mailto:parc.plaisance@sepaq.com)  
[www.sepaq.com/plaisance](http://www.sepaq.com/plaisance)

Legal Deposit : 2020  
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J.-F. Houle, M. Vallée, P. Bernier



TCF



Municipalité de  
**Plaisance**



La municipalité est heureuse de contribuer  
au succès du parc national de Plaisance.

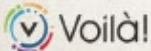
275, rue Principale, Plaisance, Québec J0V 1S0 (819) 427-5363  
[www.ville.plaisance.qc.ca](http://www.ville.plaisance.qc.ca)



*Thurso*

La ville de Thurso est fière partenaire  
du parc national de Plaisance comme  
porte d'entrée du secteur ouest du Parc.

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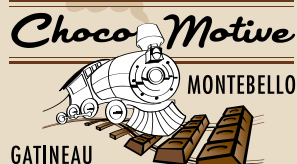
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