



SP0177 Final Report

Please answer the following questions and return the completed form to the [SPF Staff](#) via e-mail.

Project Title: Gault Nature Reserve Community Access

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Actual Project Start Date: 2/1/2018

Actual Project End Date: 8/23/2019

1. Please summarize the project and its key accomplishments in 1-2 sentences.

(400 characters maximum)

In the summer of 2018, the new 'local access' trail was developed on the base of an old, well-known trail. The addition of a secondary access allows the possibility of directly accessing the Gault trail system from downtown Mont-Saint-Hilaire and favoring active transport.

2. Your team listed the following goal in your application:

To ensure conservation of natural habitats, offer a local community access to the Gault Nature Reserve (GNR) and promote the adoption of behavior for the development of active and collective transport.

Did your team achieve your project's goal? In your answer, please describe the impact your project had on McGill's structures, processes, and/or systems. Also, please specify how this positively transformed people's behaviors/perspectives/habits on McGill campus(es).

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

The most important part of the project was to review the old trail's configuration, which was unsustainable due to significant erosion and a close proximity to the stream. The new path has been made according to the latest rules and regulations while improving the visitor experience through the addition of view points and natural attractions along the walk.

The new trail is much safer for hikers, thus reducing the risk of accidents. In addition to reducing erosion, the planning techniques used create a better path layout making for optimal ascent conditions compared to the old layout, which simply followed the stream.

The improved trail has also reduced the bad practice of off-trail hiking. This bad habit is usually caused by hikers wanting to avoid degraded trails, creating circumvention routes.

The last step to achieve our main objective is the addition of full time staff at the local access trailhead by the end of August. This team will be spreading awareness about conservation and reminding visitors that the purpose of this access is to favor active and public transport.

3. Please describe the key successes and challenges of your project. (Minimum of two examples for each)

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

Key success #1 : The remodelling of this path and creating an official entrance was a necessity after getting data from a pedestrian counter in the area. In 2016, there were 63,000 passes through the sector counted compared to 100,000 in 2017.

Key success #2 : The city of Mont-Saint-Hilaire and the Nature Center are important stakeholders in the project. Seeing the overall picture, our partners have created a path network in the Piémont Reserve, which is adjacent to

the GNR. The network connects surrounding neighborhoods to the local access trail, creating a coherent infrastructure system.

In addition, our partners have successfully obtained financing to increase the protected area of the piémont by acquiring land on the perimeter of the GNR. By doing so, there will be an increase of footpaths in the Piémont Reserve with better trail connectivity for the local population. This will promote active travel.

Challenge #1 : Respecting deadlines due to the complexity of the project and its implications with a multitude of stakeholders. Passed the deadline in terms of communications. The signage has been meticulously scrutinized by the Faculty of Science's communication services, lengthening the process. In addition, the video of the project was not accepted by the communications department of the faculty. The scenario and vision of the video should have been presented before its completion to have avoided this problem.

Challenge #2 : Making official and communicating publicly about this access, which is already strongly used, without increasing its use. For this reason, this project's communications are not easy and require a low profile strategy while conveying the objectives of the local access.

4. What key points of advice or *lessons learned* would you give to other SPF teams either regarding your experience managing your project or the project itself?

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

The best advice is to inform any partners or stakeholders well in advance of the start of the project to avoid wasting time and starting over. The creation of the video is a good example of a project realised without the consultation of partners. Integrating the project in daily operation is also important; the absence of our project's leader for four months held up the project.

We would also recommend well documenting throughout the project with photos and videos.

5. What recommendations do you have for the future of this project to be continued and are there any opportunities for complementary projects? Who will take responsibility for the project's future and how can interested persons be in touch? The SPF team will also be in touch with this contact for updates on the project's progress in coming years, if ongoing.

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum 1 paragraph)

This new access is a big step for Gault in terms of public management, consequently, the operation and management of the access has been added to the 2019-2020 budget. Allowing the presence of full-time patrollers starting at the end of August 2019. The data from the survey conducted for the SPF have allowed us to see the evolution of the access's usage. It is recommended to redo the survey in the summer of 2021 to follow this evolution. The manager of services and security will be responsible of the operation of the access.

6. Would you or your project team member(s) be willing to serve as a mentor to SPF project teams?

Please choose one. If yes, SPF Staff will contact you with more information. (800 characters maximum)

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. In your application, you listed the following sources of funding: Operations funds from Gault (28,975\$)

Please confirm if you received this funding in the space below. In your response, please list the actual amount (in dollars) that you received. Note: If you received funding from a McGill Department or Unit, please attach a letter from its Financial/Budget Officer confirming the actual amount of support.

(1,800 characters maximum)

We confirm our contribution of 28 975\$ in labour. This amount was mostly put towards our team's time for the construction of the trailhead, installation of signage, rehabilitation and the closing of illegal trails. In addition, a supplementary investment of over 10 000\$ for equipment will be made to begin the operation of the access.

8. Did you purchase equipment or make an installation on campus? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please briefly describe how these items will be maintained and used in the future.

(1,800 characters maximum)

The new local access will be fully maintained by the Gault operations budget, it will auto-finance itself through the entrance fees collected. For the current financial year, 2019-2020, the operations budget of this access is for labour and equipment which comes to 88 000\$.

9. The following Key Success Indicators were indicated in your project application and selected for tracking. Please indicate the actual results that you have achieved in the "Actual" column.

Selected Key Success Indicators	Target	Actual
# of articles in local newspaper about the project, in addition to website/social media coverage	1	To do0%
# of visitors using the local access point use car transport	50%	67%
1 trail created and new signage installed by October 2018	Complete	90%

If there is a significant difference in the target numbers and the actual numbers achieved, please explain. If you have any additional information to share about these success indicators, please also include it below.

(1,800 characters maximum)

Our interns surveyed 665 people during the summer of 2019 and found that 67% of visitors were coming to the access by car. This fact will be monitored to follow it's evolution. The project was delayed when the complexity of the signage and messaging manifested itself. This is the reason why a new deadline was requested. Despite the extra time, we are facing more delays in the production of the signage, which is pushing back the opening and the placing of patrollers at the access for the end of August 2019.

10. Please report on your results for the standard SPF Key Success Indicators in the "Actual" column.

Standard SPF Key Success Indicators	Actual #
# of volunteers directly or indirectly engaged in the project	5
# of people (student, staff, or other) trained in the context of the project	30
\$ raised for project activities subsequent to SPF funding	88 000\$
# of partnerships or collaborations developed between the project team and other McGill administrative units, student groups, community groups, other universities, and/or other groups/organizations.	7

Regarding the last Key Success Indicator, please list the groups and/or organizations that you counted.

(Unlimited characters; point form acceptable.)

City of Mont-Saint-Hilaire
Nature Center of Mont-Saint-Hilaire
McGill design facilities
Canadian Conservation Corps
McGill interns
Biol240 Monterigian flora field course
Communications Faculty of Science

If you have any additional information to share about the Standard SPF Key Success Indicators, please include it below. (1,800 characters maximum)

The article will be done during fall when the access will be operational, this communication needs time.

11. Please indicate the McGill stakeholder groups that were involved with your project as a team member or collaborator/partner. Choose all that apply.

☒ Undergraduate ☐ Postgraduate ☒ Administrative Staff ☒ Academic Staff ☐ Alumni

12. Please rate your project team's overall satisfaction with the support provided by the SPF Staff. Choose only one response.

☐ Very Dissatisfied ☐ Dissatisfied ☐ Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied ☐ Satisfied ☒ Very Satisfied

13. Please provide any feedback or recommendations regarding your team's experience with the SPF.

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum 1 paragraph)

The flexibility of the SPF office was a very important element in the success of the project, taking into account the project's time extension.

14. If there is additional information you would like to share about your project, please use the field below.

(Unlimited characters)

15. Has involvement in this SPF project positively impacted your team in the area of professional growth?

Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below. (800 characters maximum)

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer Not to Share

This project needs a large collaborative effort between many partners to maintain it's coherence.

16. Has involvement in this SPF project positively impacted your team in the area of personal growth?

Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below. (800 characters maximum)

☒ Yes ☐ No ☒ Prefer Not to Share

17. Which of the following skills or attributes has your team improved through involvement in your SPF project? Choose all that apply.

☐ Budgeting

☒ Communications

☐ Conflict Resolution

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leadership | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Problem Solving | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teamwork |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listening | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Negotiating | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Networking | <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Identification | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify in the field below) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Systems Thinking | |

Other:

18. Since starting your SPF project, has your team improved its knowledge of sustainability?

Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below. (800 characters maximum)

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer Not to Share

I believe that the development of the local access project has forced us to reflect upon the main entrance's visitors' dependance on automobiles. The project attained both McGill's objectives for ecological transitionning and the new sustainable urbanism plan from the municipality. Most importantly, it is inovating the region's culture away from the usage of cars.

19. (Optional) If applicable, please list the total number of team members voluntarily self-identifying as members of marginalized communities:

Please identify the represented communities below. (e.g. women, Indigenous people, people of colour, LGBTTQI, student parents, members of ethnic minorities, immigrants, people with disabilities)

(1,800 characters maximum)

Thank you for completing your Final Report!

Please e-mail your report to the [SPF Staff](#) attaching any additional information that you would like to share about your project (e.g. other reports, research, documents, photos, etc.). Please note that this Final Report will be shared publicly on your SPF project's webpage.







