

## Regulations and other Acts

### Notice

Natural Heritage Conservation Act  
(chapter C-61.01)

#### **Permanent protection status as “Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford” assigned to the portion of Mont Gosford forming part of the Municipalité régionale de comté du Granit in the Estrie Administrative Region**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 44 of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (chapter C-61.01), that the Government made Order in Council 180-2013 dated 13 March 2013, establishing the Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford, as shown on the plan for this area and the conservation plan attached to this Order in Council.

CLÉMENT D’ASTOUS,  
*Deputy Minister*

Gouvernement du Québec

#### **O.C. 180-2013, 13 March 2013**

Natural Heritage Conservation Act  
(chapter C-61.01)

#### **Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford — Establishment and approval of its conservation plan**

Establishment of the Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford and approval of its conservation plan

WHEREAS, under section 43 of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (chapter C-61.01), the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks may recommend to the Government that permanent ecological reserve status be assigned to all or part of land set aside for that purpose and that the applicable conservation plan be approved;

WHEREAS, under Order in Council 297-2009 dated 25 March 2009, the Government authorized the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks to assign the status of proposed ecological reserve to the upper portion of Mont Gosford and approved the plan of the area and its conservation plan;

WHEREAS, in accordance with section 27 of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks assigned, by Minister’s Order dated 31 March 2009, temporary protection status as a proposed ecological reserve to a portion of Mont Gosford for a term of four years commencing on 15 April 2009;

WHEREAS, in accordance with sections 29 and 38 of the Act, with a view to consulting the public after the setting aside of the upper portion of Mont Gosford as a proposed ecological reserve, a notice was published in *L’Écho de Frontenac* and *The Record*, and also in Part 2 of the *Gazette officielle du Québec* of 15 April 2009 stating that the area could be assigned permanent protection status as an ecological reserve on the expiry of 60 days following that publication;

WHEREAS, in response to a comment received in connection with the public consultation, the boundaries of the proposed ecological reserve have been slightly changed so as to exclude a small portion of less than 100 square metres allowing the establishment of a lookout on the outline of the trail crossing the ecological reserve, but excluded from that reserve;

WHEREAS the land included in the territory forms part of the domain of the State and it is not included in an agricultural zone within the meaning of the Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural activities (chapter P-41.1);

WHEREAS Municipalité régionale de comté du Granit has certified that the proposed ecological reserve is consistent with its land use planning;

WHEREAS the Commission de toponymie has approved the use of the name “Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford”;

WHEREAS, in view of the ecological value of the land, it is expedient to assign permanent ecological reserve status to the land whose plan and technical description are attached to this Order in Council, under the name “Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford” and to approve the proposed conservation plan for the ecological reserve;

WHEREAS section 45 of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act provides that permanent protection status for land and the applicable conservation plan take effect on the date of publication of the order in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* or on any later date specified in the order;

IT IS ORDERED, therefore, on the recommendation of the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks:

THAT permanent ecological reserve status be assigned to the land whose plan and technical description are attached to this Order in Council, under the name “Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford”;

THAT the proposed conservation plan for the area, the text of which is attached to this Order in Council, be approved;

THAT the ecological reserve status and the conservation plan of the reserve come into force on the fifteenth day following the date of publication of this Order in Council in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

JEAN ST-GELAIS,  
*Clerk of the Conseil exécutif*

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**CANADA  
PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC  
MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE DE COMTÉ LE GRANIT**

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION**

**RÉSERVE ÉCOLOGIQUE DU MONT-GOSFORD**

**CADASTRE: Canton de Woburn  
MUNICIPALITY: Paroisse de Saint-Augustin-de-Woburn  
REGISTRATION DIVISION: Frontenac**

A territory situated on Mont Gosford and comprising, in reference to the original survey, part of lot 37 (part of lot 37 cad.) of Rang VI, part of lot 37 (part of lot 37 cad.) of Rang VII and two undivided parts (two parts of lot 74 cad.) of Canton de Woburn.

The perimeter of that territory may be described as follows:

Starting at the point of intersection of the dividing line between ranges 6 and 7 with the dividing line between lots 36 and 37; thence, westerly on a bearing of 270°23'48", for a distance of 482.2 metres to the northwest corner of the territory, being Point A.

Starting at Point A, thence, easterly on a bearing of 90°23'48", for a distance of 722.2 metres to Point B;

From that point, southeasterly, on a bearing of 117°13'59", for a distance of 1,381.4 metres to Point C;

From that point, southerly, on a bearing of 172°38'39", for a distance of 523.4 metres to Point D, situated on the north side of a path;

From that point, in a general westerly direction, along the north side of a path, along a sinuous line for a distance of 866 metres to Point E;

From that point, westerly, on a bearing of 274°23'55", for a distance of 13.0 metres to Point F;

From that point, southerly, on a bearing of 194°02'10", for a distance of 24.7 metres to Point G;

From that point, southwesterly, on a bearing of 208°04'21", for a distance of 17.0 metres to Point H;

From that point, southerly, on a bearing of 192°05'41", for a distance of 14.3 metres to Point I;

From that point, in a general southwesterly direction, along the northwest side of a path to its intersection with another path, along a sinuous line for a distance of 179 metres to Point J;

From that point, in a general southerly direction, along the west side of a path, along a sinuous line for a distance of 583 metres to Point K;

From that point, in a general northwesterly direction, along the northeast side of a path to its intersection with the northwest limit of Ruisseau du Cap, along a sinuous line for a distance of 527 metres to Point L;

From that point, in a general southwesterly direction, along the northwest side of Ruisseau du Cap to its intersection with the northwest side of a path, along a sinuous line for a distance of 893 metres to Point M;

From that point, in a general southwesterly direction, along the northwest side of a path to its intersection with the north side of Ruisseau du Cap, along a sinuous line for a distance of 223 metres to Point N;

From that point, in a general westerly direction along the north side of Ruisseau du Cap to its intersection with the northwest side of a path, along a sinuous line for a distance of 113 metres to Point O;

From that point, westerly, on a bearing of 274°34'26", for a distance of 75.3 metres to Point P;

From that point, westerly, on a bearing of 252°50'17", for a distance of 71.2 metres to Point Q;

From that point, southwesterly, on a bearing of 238°14'26", for a distance of 123.5 metres to Point R;

From that point, southwesterly, on a bearing of 214°05'42", for a distance of 78.5 metres to Point S;

From that point, westerly, on a bearing of 252°00'19", for a distance of 288.2 metres to Point T;

From that point, northerly, on a bearing of 347°54'19", for a distance of 572.9 metres to Point U;

From that point, northeasterly, on a bearing of 65°54'06", for a distance of 685.9 metres to Point V;

From that point, northwesterly, on a bearing of 311°52'40", for a distance of 545.4 metres to Point W;

From that point, northeasterly, on a bearing of 48°15'20", for a distance of 386.1 metres to Point X;

From that point, southeasterly, on a bearing of 113°13'04", for a distance of 390.7 metres to Point Y;

From that point, northeasterly, on a bearing of 37°42'45", for a distance of 340.1 metres to Point Z;

From that point, northwesterly, on a bearing of 320°07'53", for a distance of 466.6 metres to Point AA;

From that point, northerly, on a bearing of 0°07'35", for a distance of 453.1 metres to Point A, that point being the starting point.

The approximate SCOPQ coordinates for the points on the perimeter described above are:

Point "A" 5 019 126 m NORTH, 274 729 m EAST;  
Point "B" 5 019 121 m NORTH, 275 451 m EAST;  
Point "C" 5 018 488 m NORTH, 276 679 m EAST;  
Point "D" 5 017 969 m NORTH, 276 745 m EAST;  
Point "E" 5 018 035 m NORTH, 276 040 m EAST;  
Point "F" 5 018 036 m NORTH, 276 027 m EAST;  
Point "G" 5 018 012 m NORTH, 276 021 m EAST;  
Point "H" 5 017 997 m NORTH, 276 013 m EAST;  
Point "I" 5 017 983 m NORTH, 276 010 m EAST;  
Point "J" 5 017 904 m NORTH, 275 903 m EAST;  
Point "K" 5 017 533 m NORTH, 275 920 m EAST;  
Point "L" 5 017 674 m NORTH, 275 581 m EAST;  
Point "M" 5 017 127 m NORTH, 274 908 m EAST;  
Point "N" 5 016 998 m NORTH, 274 731 m EAST;  
Point "O" 5 016 973 m NORTH, 274 637 m EAST;  
Point "P" 5 016 979 m NORTH, 274 562 m EAST;  
Point "Q" 5 016 958 m NORTH, 274 494 m EAST;  
Point "R" 5 016 893 m NORTH, 274 388 m EAST;  
Point "S" 5 016 828 m NORTH, 274 344 m EAST;  
Point "T" 5 016 739 m NORTH, 274 070 m EAST;  
Point "U" 5 017 300 m NORTH, 273 951 m EAST;  
Point "V" 5 017 579 m NORTH, 274 577 m EAST;  
Point "W" 5 017 943 m NORTH, 274 171 m EAST;  
Point "X" 5 018 200 m NORTH, 274 459 m EAST;  
Point "Y" 5 018 046 m NORTH, 274 818 m EAST;  
Point "Z" 5 018 315 m NORTH, 275 026 m EAST;  
Point "AA" 5 018 673 m NORTH, 274 728 m EAST.

TO BE WITHDRAWN from that territory two parcels of land.

A path of irregular shape having a width of 2 metres, running across part of the territory of the ecological reserve in a sinuous line for a distance of 1,750 metres, with the following approximate SCOPQ coordinates for certain points:

Point "BB" 5 018 855 m NORTH, 275 967 m EAST;  
Point "CC" 5 018 750 m NORTH, 275 938 m EAST;  
Point "DD" 5 018 683 m NORTH, 275 886 m EAST;  
Point "EE" 5 018 606 m NORTH, 275 799 m EAST;  
Point "FF" 5 018 508 m NORTH, 275 808 m EAST;  
Point "GG" 5 018 423 m NORTH, 275 772 m EAST;  
Point "HH" 5 018 317 m NORTH, 275 696 m EAST;  
Point "II" 5 018 202 m NORTH, 275 675 m EAST;  
Point "JJ" 5 018 101 m NORTH, 275 813 m EAST;  
Point "KK" 5 018 011 m NORTH, 275 879 m EAST;  
Point "J" 5 017 904 m NORTH, 275 903 m EAST.

A place situated along the path described above and measuring 10 metres by 10 metres, and whose apexes are identified by the following approximate SCOPQ coordinates:

Point "LL" 5 018 512 m NORTH, 275 741 m EAST;  
Point "MM" 5 018 510 m NORTH, 275 731 m EAST;  
Point "NN" 5 018 520 m NORTH, 275 729 m EAST;  
Point "OO" 5 018 522 m NORTH, 275 739 m EAST.

The territory of the ecological reserve has a total area of 306.78 hectares.

The whole as shown on the attached plan prepared by the undersigned on this date. The plan is an integral part of the present description.

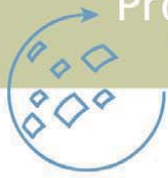
All measures in this technical description and in the attached plan are in metres (S.I.). The directions are bearings in reference to the SCOPQ coordinates (zone 7) (MTM) NAD 83.

NOTE: A survey of the boundaries of the territory will improve the accuracy of the perimeter of the ecological reserve.

PREPARED AT LAMBTON, on the twentieth day of the month of April of the year two thousand and ten, under number five thousand four hundred and thirty-nine (5439) of my minutes.

**Dossier/File:** LM100407  
(PEMI-2350)  
**Minute:** 5439

Michel Perreault  
Land surveyor



# Protected areas in Québec:

A Lifelong Heritage

## Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford



CONSERVATION PLAN

Québec 



**Production Team****Direction du patrimoine écologique et des parcs**

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**Photographic Credits:**

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Christian Savard: photo 3

**Bibliographical Reference:**

Gouvernement du Québec, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement, de la Faune et des Parcs, Direction du patrimoine écologique et des parcs. Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford, Conservation Plan, 2013. 10 p.

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## 1. Official Toponym

Official name: Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford, in reference to Mont-Gosford, where the reserve is located.

## 2. Plan and Description

### 2.1. Geographical location, boundaries and dimensions

The reserve is located in the municipality of Saint-Augustin-de-Woburn, Municipalité régionale de comté (MRC) du Granit (Figure 1), and covers an area of 306.78 ha. It mainly covers the northern and western slopes of the Massif du mont Gosford, from its peak at about 1,183 m down to an altitude of approximately 720 m (Figure 2).

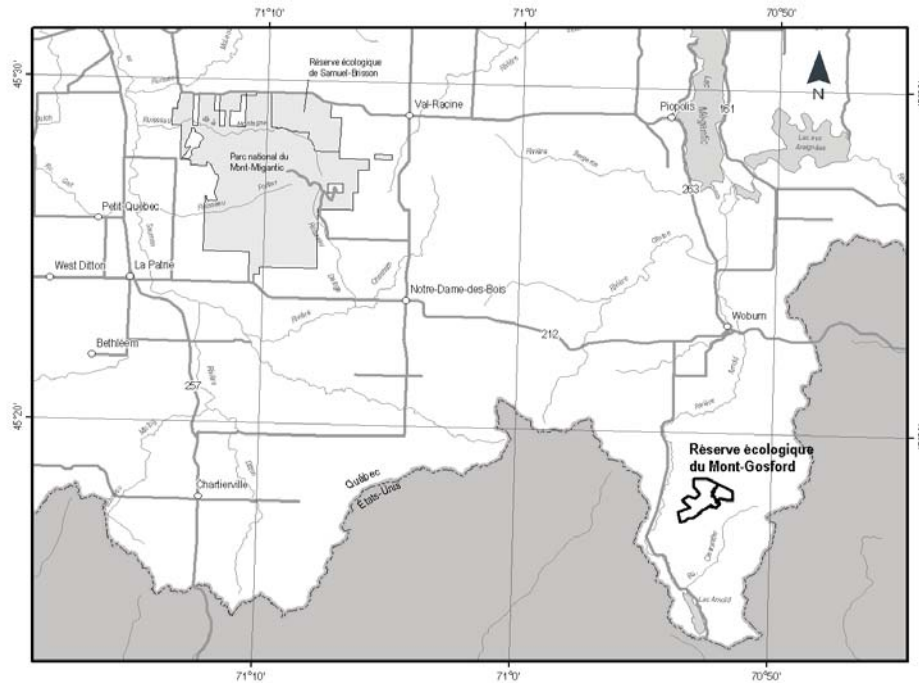


Figure 1. Location of Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford

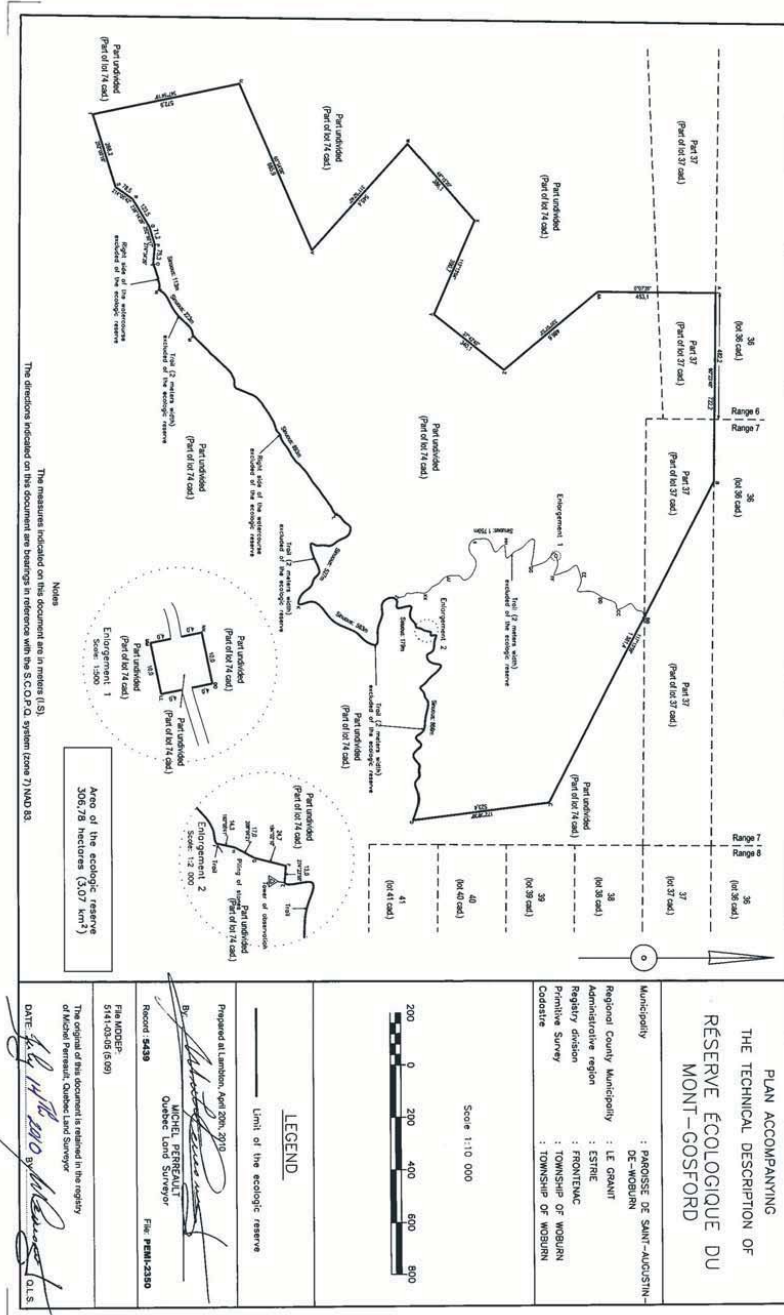


Figure 2. Plan of the Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford

## 2.2. Ecological overview

The Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford contains representative and outstanding elements of the territory in which it is located.

### 2.2.1. Representative elements

**Ecological frame of reference:** The Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford constitutes a representative sample of the upper portion of the peaks encircling the natural region of the White Mountains, one of the five regions of the natural province of the northern Appalachians (Ecological Reference Framework for Québec). This region extends across the border into the United States.

**Relief and geology:** Mont-Gosford is the highest peak in southern Québec and the seventh highest in the province. Due to the relief, the soil is very shallow and composed of till. The geology of the mountain and the surrounding area is unique in Estrie. The area forms part of the Chain Lakes massif, a supracrustal block that long remained a puzzling element in the orogenesis of the Appalachians. The massif is constituted mainly of meta-sediments and some metavolcanic rock. During the Paleozoic Era, between approximately 685 and 483 million years ago, sediments were deposited in a fore-arc basin on the western shore of the Iapetus Ocean. Around 470 million years ago, magma intrusions related to the formation of the arc provoked the partial fusion of the sediments and their transformation into diatexite. From a physiographic viewpoint, the Chain Lakes massif is an extension of the White Mountains of New Hampshire and Maine.



Photo 1: Mountain-top detritus on the summit of Mont Gosford, formed by in-situ alteration of the rock.

**Vegetation:** The ecological reserve forms part of the sugar maple–yellow birch bioclimatic domain (Ministère des Ressources naturelles (MRN)). However, due to its high altitude, above 720 m, the vegetation is mainly coniferous and closely resembles that of more northern bioclimatic domains. In fact, only the last stages of vegetation on Mont-Gosford are represented in the ecological reserve. Balsam fir and wood sorrel grow on the uppermost part of the mountain, above 950 m altitude, while balsam fir and red spruce occupy the high and the steep slopes (50% incline or more). Although balsam fir–red spruce stands are almost nonexistent in the Laurentians and Gaspésie, they are characteristic at high altitudes in the Appalachian mountains south of the border. A little lower, one can find balsam fir–white birch and white birch–balsam fir stands. These different forest types are representative of the region’s high peaks.



Photo 2: Carpet of common woodsorrel.

### 2.2.2. Outstanding elements

The representative forest types associated with the Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford also have outstanding features. Wood sorrel and red spruce stands are rare in Québec, and white birch and white birch–balsam fir stands are rare in the region.

The ecological reserve constitutes one of the rare recorded southern Québec nesting grounds for certain birds characteristic of the boreal forest, such as the spruce grouse, the gray jay, the fox sparrow and the blackpoll warbler. Bicknell's thrush, which has been designated vulnerable in Québec and is considered threatened in Canada, also nests in the reserve.



Photo 3. Bicknell's thrush.

There are no recorded archaeological sites but the existence of such sites in the vicinity indicates the potential for finding some in the reserve

### 2.3. Land occupation and uses

The land is publicly owned and is surrounded by the zone d'exploitation contrôlée Louise-Gosford. The boundaries of the ZEC, a forest management contract and a trapline have been changed to allow the creation of an ecological reserve. A two-metre-wide hiking trail crosses but is not part of the reserve.

### 3. Protection Status

A master's study carried out on Mont-Gosford in the mid-1990s highlighted the relevance of establishing an ecological reserve to protect softwood forests that are typical of the higher Appalachian peaks and rare in Québec and in the region. The reserve is similar to the nearby Réserve écologique Samuel-Brisson and characterized by the same forests. However, given how rare and fragile those forests are and how small an area they cover, establishing the Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford for their protection is a complementary measure. The Réserve écologique Samuel-Brisson is located in a different

natural province (Plateau d'Estrie–Beauce) and its geological nature—an intrusion that forms part of the Montérégie hills—is completely different. The Réserve écologique du Mont-Gosford is currently the only ecological reserve in the natural province of the White Mountains.

The ecological reserve covers the peak and the northern face of the mountain. The contour was adjusted to better cover the rare forests mapped by the MRN and recognized by the department as outstanding forest ecosystems.

#### **4. Framework for prohibited and permitted activities**

The following activities are prohibited in an ecological reserve:

- forest anagement within the meaning of section 3 of the Forest Act (chapter F-4.1);
- Mining, and gas and petroleum development;
- Mining, gas, or petroleum exploration, brine or underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, digging or drilling;
- Development of hydraulic resources and production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis; and
- Hunting, trapping, fishing, excavation or construction activities, agricultural, industrial, or commercial activities and, generally, any activity that could alter the state or the nature of the ecosystems.

No person may be in an ecological reserve, except for an inspection or to carry on an activity authorized by law.

Under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (chapter C-61.01), the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks may authorize, in writing and on the conditions the Minister determines, any activity consistent with the purposes or the management of an ecological reserve.



## 5. Role of the Minister

The Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks is responsible for the administration of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, as well as the management of the ecological reserve. The Minister sees to the monitoring and follow-up of the measures provided for in that Act with respect to prohibited and permitted activities. Moreover, the Minister holds authority over these lands, which form part of the domain of the State.

## 6. Bibliography

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