

ROCK CLIMBING

IN GATINEAU PARK



THE CAPITAL'S CONSERVATION PARK

Since the adoption of the Gatineau Park Master Plan in 2005, the National Capital Commission (NCC) has increased its focus on the conservation of Park ecosystems. The Eardley Escarpment is the richest and most fragile natural ecosystem in Gatineau Park.

The various activities undertaken in this area over the course of several decades, including hiking, geocaching, hang-gliding, horseback riding and rock climbing, have damaged the escarpment.

ROCK CLIMBING ON THE EARDLEY ESCARPMENT

With the aim of maintaining certain rock faces for climbing, the NCC has published a report, entitled *Ecological Evaluation and Identification of Rock Climbing Sites to Be Retained in Gatineau Park*. In spite of efforts on the part of rock climbers to preserve the natural environment, the cumulative impact of human presence in the area has meant that several sectors now require rehabilitation and restoration.

WHERE IS ROCK CLIMBING PERMITTED?

After discussions with the climbing community, the NCC decided to open five rock faces, for a total of 64 climbing routes.

- Home Cliff: Centre Wall
- The three rock faces at the Twin Ribs site: Down Under, Eastern Block and The Left Twin
- Western Cwm — West.

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

Specific measures will need to be undertaken on these rock faces to ensure better protection of plants and wildlife. Also, to minimize degradation of the escarpment, and help to ensure that rock climbing continues to be permitted on the Eardley Escarpment, please observe the following rules.

- Use only official trails, and climb only on permitted routes.
- Creating new routes is not permitted, and climbers must remain on the rock face (i.e. they may not access the top of the escarpment).

Persons found in contravention of these rules will be subject to a fine (or other penalty).

YOUR SAFETY, YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

If you engage in rock climbing, you must recognize the following.

- Rock climbing involves risks (e.g. risk of falling) which can cause serious injury and even death.
- The anchors in the rock face were not installed by the NCC, nor are they inspected by the NCC.

Remember, you are climbing at your own risk.
Be safe and have fun!

- Because of the remoteness of climbing locations, it is possible that you may experience difficulty communicating with emergency services and that these services may take more time to locate and help you if you need assistance.

Only you can assess the risks to which you are exposed. You are responsible for your own safety, as well as for the decisions you make and the actions you take.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- Ensure that you have the necessary training, knowledge and experience to climb safely.
- Use the appropriate equipment, including protective gear (e.g. helmet), and ensure that it is in good condition.
- Do not use any anchors in the rock unless you have the knowledge and experience to assess whether or not they are safe (i.e. in good condition, appropriately placed and well anchored).
- Choose a route that is within your technical ability.
- Ensure that you are in good health and proper physical condition, and that your mental faculties are not impaired (e.g. by fatigue, medication, alcohol or drugs).
- Check to ensure that weather conditions are favourable for climbing.

Please help protect the Park, each time you visit.

INFORMATION

NCC website:
canadascapital.gc.ca/gatineau

Gatineau Park Visitor Centre:
819-827-2020

TTY: 613-239-5090



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CANADA

Outdoor Ethics

