



Ignatius Jesuit Centre

A Place of Peace

Trail Use Guidelines

Caring for the Land We Share

Ignatius Jesuit Centre welcomes visitors to enjoy the trails, forests, and open spaces across the property. Many people come here to walk, reflect, observe nature, and spend time outdoors. As a Jesuit work rooted in the Catholic tradition, the land is cared for not only as an ecological landscape, but also as a place of reflection, learning, and spiritual connection.

This land is also actively managed as an ecological restoration site. Conservation staff, volunteers, and partner organizations work year-round to restore forests, wetlands, grasslands, and wildlife habitat. This work includes planting native species, removing invasive plants, monitoring wildlife, and protecting sensitive ecosystems.

The choices visitors make while using the trails play an important role in whether these restoration efforts succeed. The following guidelines help protect the land and ensure the trails remain open to the community.

Trail Hours

The property is open from dawn until dusk.

Please plan your visit so that you leave the trails before dark. After-hours access is not permitted unless specifically approved.

Stay on Marked Trails

Please remain on established trails while visiting.

Many areas surrounding the trails are active restoration sites where native plants are being established or invasive species are being removed. Walking off-trail can damage young plantings, disturb habitat, compact soil, and undo months of restoration work.

Staying on the trails helps protect these areas and allows restoration projects to recover and grow.

Dogs Must Be on Leash

Dogs are welcome on the trails, but they must remain on leash at all times.

Leashing dogs helps protect wildlife, ground-nesting birds, and sensitive habitats. It also ensures the safety and comfort of other visitors, volunteers, and people working on the land.

Even well-behaved dogs can unintentionally disturb wildlife or restoration areas if allowed to roam. Please also clean up after your dog and pack out waste.

No Fires

Fires are not permitted anywhere on the property, including trails, forests, fields, and river areas.

Fires pose a risk to surrounding forests and restoration areas and can cause long-term damage to the landscape. The fire pits on the property are not for public use.

Vehicle Access

To help protect trails, restoration areas, farm operations, and visitor safety, public vehicle access is limited to designated parking areas.

Visitors must park in approved parking lots and may not drive beyond the Farm Workshop parking lot or onto trails, laneways, fields, or other areas of the property unless specifically authorized by staff or tenants.

Unauthorized vehicle use can damage trails, compact soil, interfere with restoration projects, and create safety concerns for visitors, volunteers, and staff working on the land.

If you require vehicle access beyond designated parking areas for accessibility, program participation, deliveries, or other approved purposes, please contact staff in advance.

No Foraging Without Permission

Please do not harvest plants, mushrooms, berries, wood, or other natural materials without prior permission.

Many plants on the property are part of restoration projects or ongoing ecological monitoring. Removing them can interfere with conservation work and long-term habitat recovery.

Respect Community Gardens and Farm Areas

The community gardens and farm fields are cared for by individual growers and volunteers.

Please do not pick vegetables, fruit, or flowers from garden beds or farm areas unless you have permission from the growers. These spaces represent many hours of care and stewardship.

Leave No Trace

Please help keep the property clean and welcoming by:

- carrying out all garbage and recycling
- avoiding damage to plants, trees, and natural features
- leaving rocks, branches, and natural materials where you find them

Shared Use of the Land

Ignatius Jesuit Centre is home to many different activities including conservation work, farming, volunteer projects, research, and spiritual and educational programming.

Visitors may encounter staff, volunteers, and partners working on the land. Your patience and cooperation help ensure everyone can safely share the space.

Thank You

The trails exist because of the ongoing care of volunteers, conservation partners, and the wider community. By following these guidelines, you help protect the land and support the long-term restoration of this landscape.

Thank you for helping care for this place. To support this ongoing work, please consider making a donation at <https://ignatiusguelph.ca/donate>.