

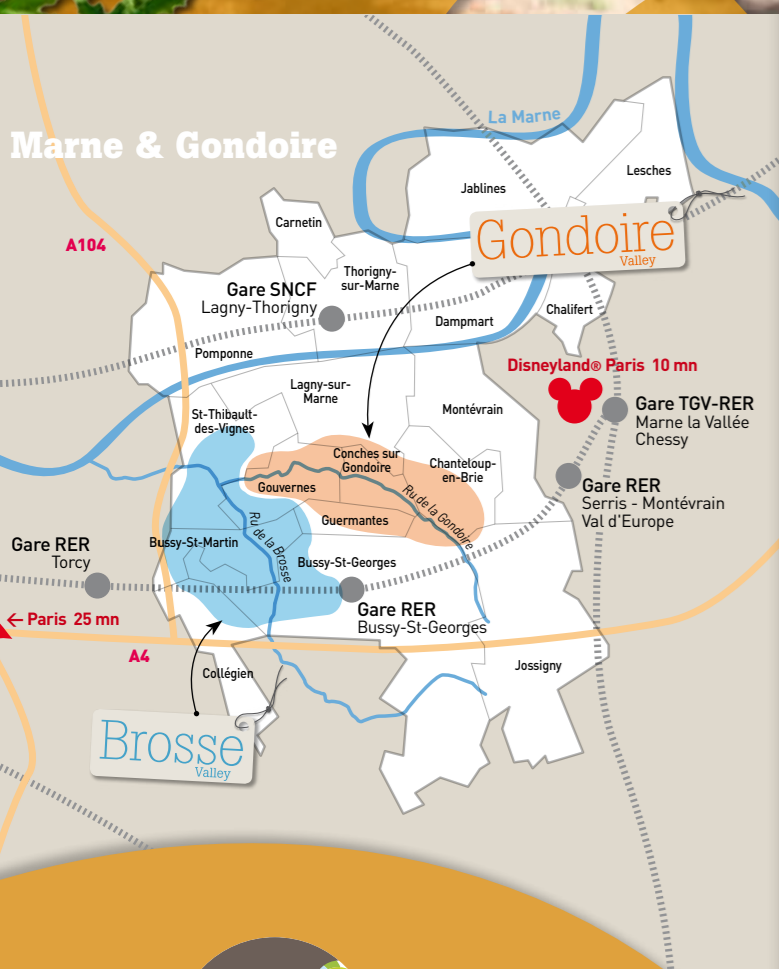
The valleys of Brosse and Gondoire

PLEASANT LINK PATHS



2 valleys for an unforgettable trail

2016-2017 edition



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THE LISTED SITE OF THE VALLEYS

of Brosse and Gondoire

The valleys are a permanent delight for walkers and riders.

In the south-west of the Marne and Gondoire area, two valleys have formed around the little rivers of the Brosse and the Gondoire, which are exceptional in that they have continued following their natural course for their full length. The two valleys have benefited from discreet development works, and are further enhanced through differentiated space management: the paths are maintained on a regular basis, whilst the more remote areas are left to grow wild and are only mowed once a year.

When you follow the narrow pathways of the Brosse Valley, you can observe flora and fauna that are typical of wetland environments. You'll find no less than 38 hectares of prairie, 11km of footpaths, almost the same distance of cycle paths and 4km of equestrian paths. The valley's terrain provides some wonderful viewpoints: for instance you can see the remarkable churches of the villages of Bussy-Saint-Martin and Bussy-Saint-Georges, in the Briard region. The tops of their bell towers jut upwards in the midst of open countryside with flowers in bloom, perfect for a pastoral excursion. It took the Communauté d'Agglomération of Marne and Gondoire two years to restore the fragile ecology of this area.

A little further to the north-east, the Gondoire Valley extends over 70 hectares. This is a predominately rural area where many crops are grown, and is markedly forested, with many heritage features. So that you can enjoy this protected natural environment to the full, some 15km of pleasant link paths have been developed. In springtime, you'll see lots of fruit trees in blossom everywhere you go. It's not unusual to come across horses from the studs of Le Grand Clos and Les Sources as you round a bend in the path, or to see them grazing peacefully in the fields amongst goats and poultry.

Welcome to the pathways of the two valleys!



Rentilly Cultural Park, where nature, culture and patrimony are in perfect harmony.

Following its restoration and the refurbishment of its paths, Rentilly Park now has open views across the Brosse valley. In the northern part you'll find an «English garden» with many species of trees including giant sequoia, American honey locust, sycamore maple, purple beech, Weymouth pine, large-leaved lime, Indian horse chestnut and ginkgo biloba. On the opposite side, French-style terraces with ornamental basins extend for a distance of 350 metres from the château. To the west is a forest of around 15 hectares, where there are some lovely pathways to follow.

These 54 hectares of greenery are a setting dedicated to art: you will be dazzled by the mirror façade of the château of Rentilly, recently renovated to become a centre for contemporary art with the Contemporary Arts Fund (FRAC) of Ile-de-France. The Cultural Park has several exhibition halls, a documentary resources centre with a collection of no fewer than 10,000 works, and a living arts space. Each year it puts on a programme of events for young people and families, two free festivals (Frisson Baroque and PrinTemps de Paroles), and plays host to artists and writers in residence.

Parc culturel de Rentilly - 1 rue de l'Étang - 77600 Bussy-Saint-Martin
Tel. + 33 (0)1 60 35 46 72 - www.parcculturelrentilly.fr



Russon Mill, a protected heritage.

Built at the end of the 17th century, Russon Mill has by turn been a watermill, an industrial building in the 19th century, a private residence, and, from 2001 on, the property of the Marne and Gondoire Communauté d'Agglomération. Following renovations carried out by its present owners, the mechanism has been restored to its original function. A water wheel is set in motion by hydraulic power sourced from the little Brosse river. Thus the site is not only a souvenir of industrial heritage but also an educational and fun facility, and a means of promoting the message of sustainable development. It's run by the Marne and Gondoire Tourist Office and the Environn'hôtes organisation. Two members of the team are qualified millers, and the mill is fully equipped to produce and sell its own flour.

Self-guided tours, events and workshops during school holidays and on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons for the general public. Visits by school and leisure centres scheduled on the other days.

Russon Mill - 1 rue du Lavoir - 77600 Bussy-Saint-Georges
Tel. + 33 (0)1 64 77 27 14 - moulinrusson@marneetgondoire.fr



The Parc des Cèdres So many different species!

In summer, go for a breath of fresh air at the Parc des Cèdres (Cedars Park) at Conches sur Gondoire. The park extends over 14 hectares, with many different species of trees including giant sequoias and Lebanese cedar trees, and has landscaped areas interspersed with little lakes and ponds.

You can also see a 19th century ice house and the remains of a historic washhouse.

The park is divided into two areas: a public area to the left, and a private area (a retirement home). Access is via the north gate, at the junction of Rue Ferraille and Chemin des Piats.

OPENING TIMES: every day from 9am to 7pm.



Parc culturel de Rentilly - Château - ©Valérie_AJAGP, 2014. © Marin Argyrogis



Gondoire Valley

The château of Guermantes A listed Historic Monument since 1944.

The village of Guermantes was immortalised in Marcel Proust's novel *A la recherche du temps perdu* (Remembrance of Things Past). Apparently the writer just loved the name, which he heard from the mouth of his friend, a grandson of the owners of the château. The château of Guermantes was built in the first half of the 17th century and underwent major restoration in the early 20th century, which resulted in the building as you see it today. It has been a listed Historic Monument since 1944.

It's now privately owned by a conference company, but you can still get a good view of the impressive residence and its gardens from the Avenue des Deux Châteaux, overlooking the panorama of the Gondoire valley and the village of Gouvernes.



Loy Pond, its name in French is evocative of the lark - so it's not surprising that birds love it!

Back in the 13th century, Loy Pond was already a plentiful source for fishermen, with roach, carp, tench, perch, pike etc. It's a historic site and now, after a great deal of work, aquatic flora and fauna are increasingly colonising this wetland nook. The pond is also a favourite haunt of the great crested grebe, the Eurasian coot and the grey heron, as it provides a congenial environment for them. The well-protected reed beds are a perfect home for shyer species such as the reed bunting, and the Eurasian reed warbler that, like a trapeze acrobat, builds its nest in the reeds. The little island were not created as mere fantasy: our feathered friends were quick to discover them, and they give the rare common tern a shelter from its predators.

Please respect this area and do not disturb our feathered friends.

If you would like to fish, please contact the «Groupement Communal du site de l'Étang de la Loy» association on + 33 (0)1 64 30 54 11



The «Dragonfly Mirror» and its woodlands: a lush green glade around the Loy Pond.

A crescent-shaped area of woodland has been planted around the pond to protect this aquatic site: young saplings have been set in the fishermen's wood, the «Contreforts des Noyers» (Walnut Foothills) wood has been replanted and in particular, a reforestation programme has been carried out in the «Miroir aux Libellules» (Dragonfly Mirror) zone to help it recover from the wounds inflicted by the great storm of 1999. A series of three linked pools has been created behind the pond, protecting these great reed beds from human pressure. This also benefits the creatures of stiller, shallower waters: dragonflies such as the magnificent Banded Demoiselle, the common toad, green frogs and marsh frogs.

Wetland zones and ponds have become so rare in our regions that amphibians now have protected status. Tadpoles stand little chance of developing in your garden and the singing population of the ponds will dwindle, if everyone starts catching them or driving them away. The golden oriole and the Eurasian hobby also keep a watchful eye on these wetlands.



The château of Fontenelle Birthplace of a famous photographer!

A fiefdom of Lagny Abbey, as was the village of Chanteloup-en-Brie, the château of Fontenelle was already in existence in the 18th century. It was subsequently owned by a succession of lords, military officers and statesmen, but its most famous owners were the family of the photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson. The château as we see it today was reconstructed during the last century. Monseigneur Roncalli, the future Pope Jean XXIII, stayed there while he was the Apostolic Nuncio in Paris. The château is currently in private ownership and is undergoing refurbishment.



Orchards bring joy to animals For jam-lovers.

With the renewed emphasis on natural spaces, orchards are making a comeback. You'll find orchards to the south of the Loy Pond and in the vicinity of Broce Pond. The walnut, a tree with a long history in these parts, has regained popularity...

Calling all food-lovers! Here you will rediscover forgotten varieties that lend themselves more to being made into jam than eaten off the tree: medlars, quinces, hazelnuts, hawthorn... A feast for the less fussy birds such as song thrushes and warblers... and maybe one day for red squirrels too, with their feathery tails, who are venturing into suburbs where there are a lot of fruit trees.



Brosse's vineyards A future grand cru classé?

In 2004, 2,000 vines were planted to the south of the ancient village of Bussy-Saint-Georges by the Communauté d'Agglomération of Marne and Gondoire, and since then they've been tended by volunteers from the Coteaux de la Brosse association.

The grapes were harvested for the first time in September 2006 and the wine was bottled in 2007. The wines produced by the association are Chardonnay (two-thirds of the vine stock) and Pinot Noir (1-third of the vines).

Association Les Coteaux de la Brosse
Mairie de Bussy-Saint-Georges - 77600 Bussy-Saint-Georges
coteaux-delabrosse@laposte.net



Crédits photos: Office de Tourisme Marne & Gondoire - Vallées de la Brosse - Marin Argyrogis - Nicolas Raquillet - René Lameau - Un cœur qui bat - Fotolia



Gondoire Valley

Brosse Valley

2 valleys for an unforgettable trail



Citizen's Charter for walkers and riders

- Keep to the waymarked paths
- Follow the appropriate trails (walking, cycling or horse riding)
- Take care around crops and animals
- Enjoy the countryside and do not gather plants
- Remain quiet and unobtrusive, observe flora and fauna without touching
- Do not light fires and do not smoke in woods or close to brushwood
- Do not drop litter on the ground, use the bins that are provided throughout the valley
- Use the visitor facilities carefully and obey signposting and markers
- The Communauté d'Agglomération of Marne and Gondoire should be informed immediately of any problems encountered along the trails

KEY

Pleasant link paths

- Equestrian paths
- Footpaths and cycle paths
- Other possible routes
- Footpaths
- Cycle paths

Transport links

- Motorways
- Departmental roads
- Railway
- Footbridges
- Parking

200 meters

Remember, you cannot look at the flowers in this vast wetland zone if at the same time you gather bouquets for yourself all year round!!

Extension scheduled to open during 2016



Autoroute de l'Est E50 A4

Avenue Marie Curie D406

Avenue Marie Curie

LE GÉNITOY

BUSSY-SAINT-GEORGES

Avenue A. Malraux

Avenue du 6^e de Gaulle

Vignoble de la Brosse

Rue de Ferrarès

Rue de Faubry

Moulin Russon

Rue de Lavoir

Rue des Sources

Rue de la Montagne

Vergers

Ch. du Clos Betail

Route de Bussy-Saint-Martin

Chemin des Cos

Rue Pasteur

Sentier de Gouvernes

Chemin de Torcy

SAINT-THIBAULT-DES-VIGNES

LAGNY-SUR-MARNE

Boulevard G. Pompidou

Château de Deuil

Chemin de Deuil

Rue la Fontaine

Chemin Neuf

Chemin de Malvoisine

Château de Guermantes

Château de Guermantes

Château de Guermantes

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