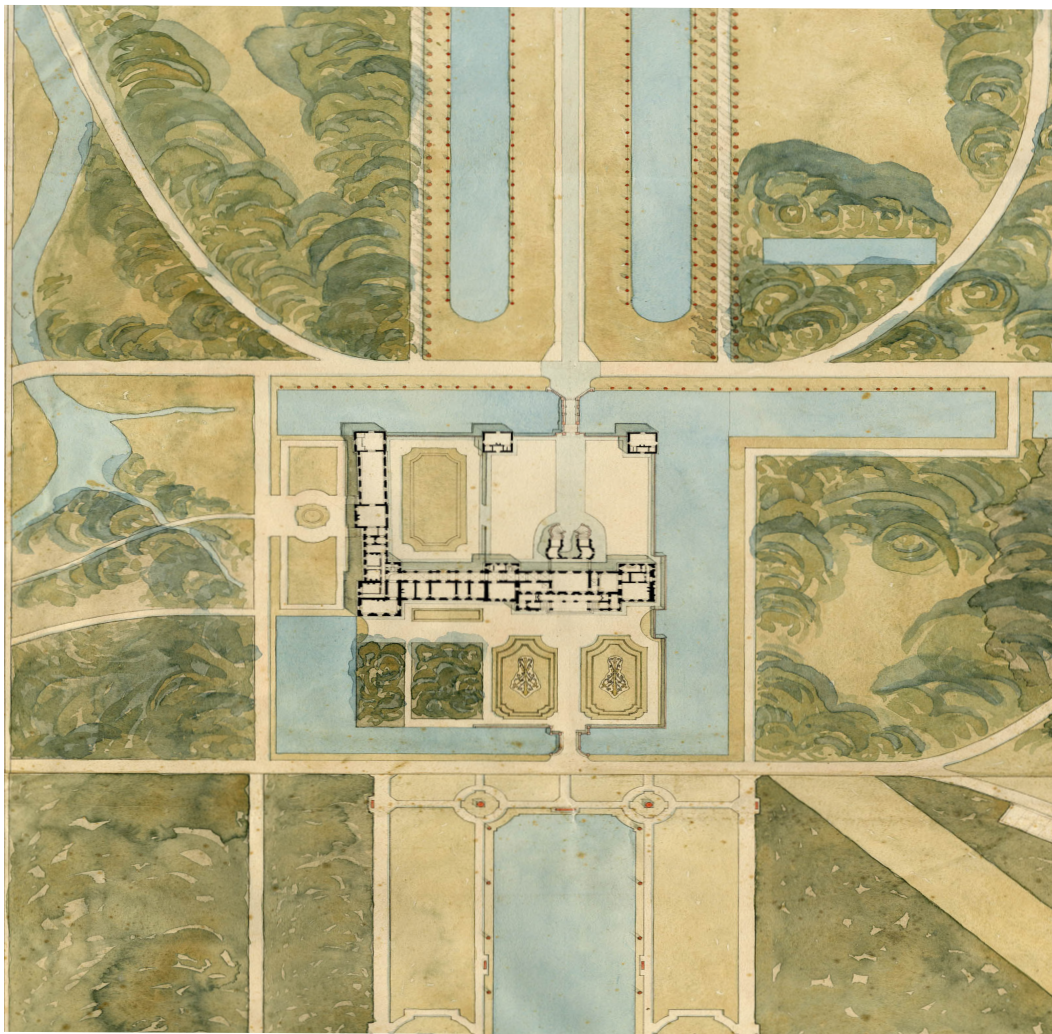




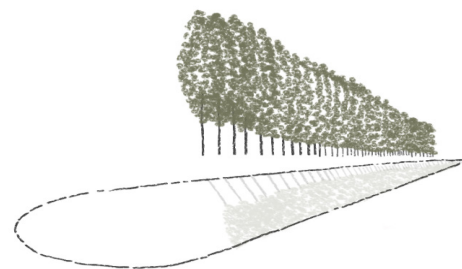
THE PARK

History

Known for the abundance and quality of its water since the 17th century, the Parc de Courances is made up of 17 pools fed by 14 springs. Courances illustrates the idea that a park or garden cannot be 'preserved' through the centuries, and must constantly be reinvented if it is to stand the test of time.

At the end of the Second World War, the economic context presented new challenges for historic buildings and their owners. To meet these challenges, Jean-Louis de Ganay, an agricultural engineer, simplified and mechanised the upkeep of the park, thus redefining its style. The gravel paths were replaced by lawns and the trees were no longer cut back. He thus created a park that was unique and modern for its time, and yet paradoxically both classical and romantic as well.

At Courances, we try to work hand in hand with nature, rather than to control it. In order to maintain the perspectives, trees are planted where old ones die, but also to regenerate entire areas. There are no pumps in the park: the water flows from pool to pool through a 7-metre gradient.



Maintenance, biodiversity and sustainable development

A great deal of importance is attached to the quality and durability of the upkeep of the walled estate, which comprises 100 acres of gardens and 115 acres of woodland. Six employees work throughout the year to maintain the high standards required for a listed and protected site.

As part of its commitment to sustainable development, the park also adopted a zero-pesticide policy in 2012. As such we tend to allow dead leaves and deposits of silt or green duckweed on the pools. The carp feed on the algae and the iron grids are regularly cleared.

You will also come across plenty of 'inhabitants' on the estate such as Canada geese, herons and egrets, coots and ducks, as well as frogs and squirrels. The park is rich in flora and fauna, which thrive in the many wooded areas left untouched as well as wet zones. Since the conversion of the agricultural land to organic farming, nitrate levels have fallen considerably, gradually restoring the purity of the water.



DOMAINE DE COURANCES

15 rue du Château
91490 COURANCES

info@domainedecourances.com
www.domainedecourances.com

+33(0)1 64 98 46 93

Follow the Domaine on :

@domainedecourances



THE DOMAINE

The accomodation

Behind the Japanese garden stands a set of buildings. The former watermill, sawmill and woodwork shop, as well as the estate manager's house, were restored as holiday cottages in 2015. The Métairie, a group accomodation, opened in 2020. They are managed by Pierres d'Histoire.

For more information and booking: www.pierresdhistoire.fr/en/

The Café de Courances

Accessible from the village, the café is open from Tuesday to Sunday. Hot and cold drinks, homemade pastries and seasonal savoury dishes await you. Don't miss the shop and grocery corner, as well as the workshops held every month.

For more information: www.cafedecourances.fr

The Vivier

In the heart of the Parc de Courances, the Vivier du Bien-être is dedicated to well-being.

For more information: www.domainedecourances.com/le-vivier-du-bien-etre

The agro-ecology

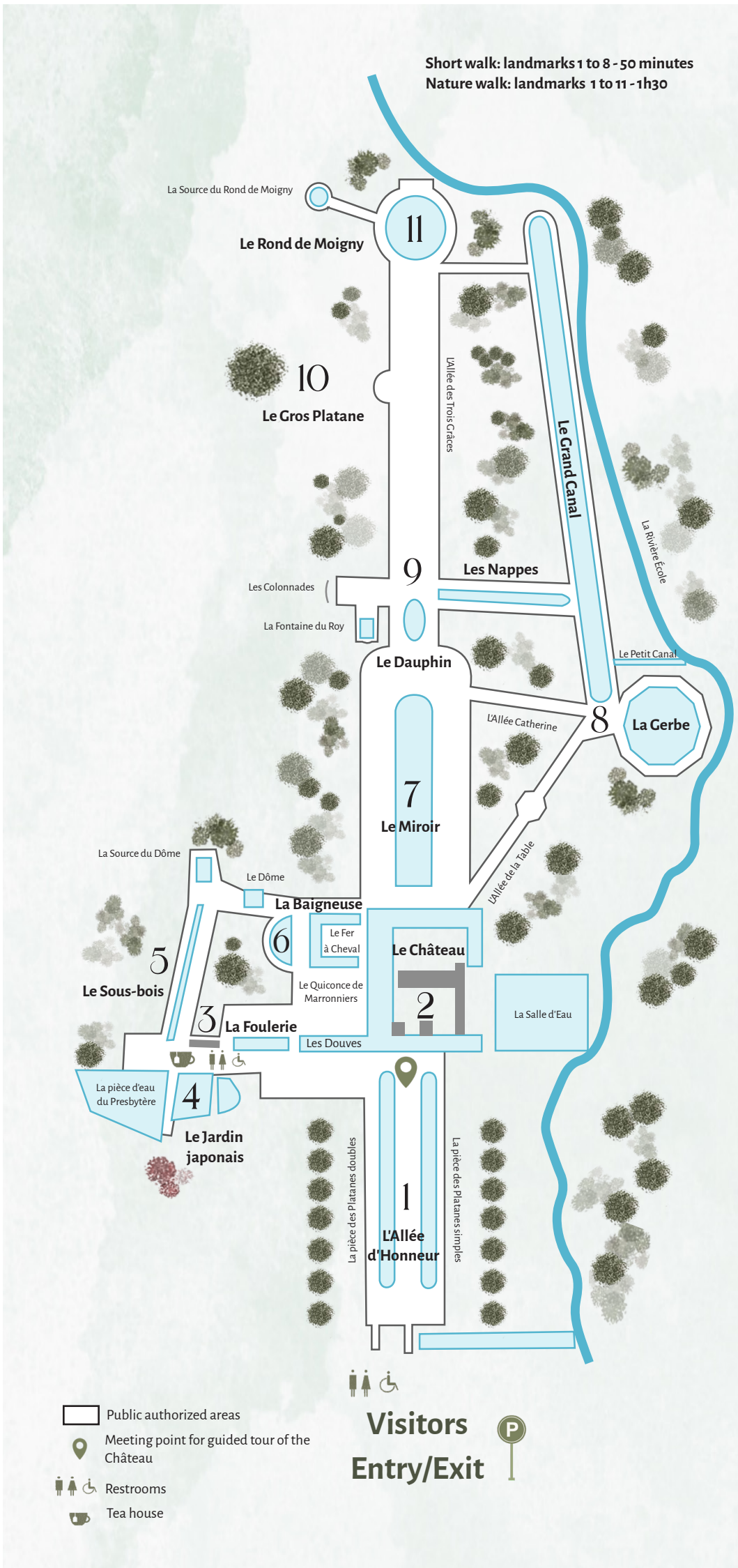
Courances is committed to sustainable farming having established agroforestry (with the planting of 1,800 trees), agro-pastoralism and forestry regeneration over the last fifteen years. The transition to organic farming was initiated in 2015, with market gardening in the walled garden and arable crops on the land between Courances and Fleury.

THE CHÂTEAU



The Château de Courances is said to be 'twice Louis XIII'. The construction of the 17th-century Château marked the foundation of the building, during the reign of Louis XIII. Abandoned in 1830, Samuel de Haber, ancestor of the current owners, acquired the ruined estate in 1872. In order to restore and embellish the Château, he hired Hippolyte Destailleur, a well-known architect at the time (Vaux-le-Vicomte, Waddeston Manor), who used brick cladding between the sandstone ashlar, giving the Château a Louis XIII style for a second time. The horseshoe staircase inspired by Fontainebleau was also added to give it a more regal appearance.

Driven by post-war economic considerations, Jean-Louis de Ganay also undertook extensive restoration works. He carried out a 'de-restoration' by removing certain chimneys and the oculus windows whilst restoring the roof before finally, in 2010, embarking on a 're-restoration' project and having the three dormer windows reinstated for greater architectural coherence.



EXPLORE FIVE CENTURIES OF GARDEN HISTORY...

1. THE ALLÉE D'HONNEUR

The **Allée d'Honneur**, bordered by the Platanes Doubles and Platanes Simples water features, was laid out at the end of the 16th century. The plane trees that line it were planted in 1782 by the Nicolaÿ family. The springs flow into these canals through the 'Gueulards', spouting monsters sculpted by Italian Renaissance artists working at the Château de Fontainebleau at the time. There are 17 of them scattered throughout the park.

2. THE CHÂTEAU

Built by Claude I Gallard between 1622 and 1630, the **Château** dates from the period of Louis XIII and comprises a main building flanked by two pavilions with a farmyard. It was Samuel de Haber, assisted by the architect Hippolyte Destailleur, who, in 1872, gave it its Louis XIII appearance once more. Still privately owned and lived in, the Château now belongs to the Ganay family.

3. THE FOULERIE

The **Foulerie**, overlooking the Japanese Garden, dates back to the 17th century and takes its name from the action of treading hemp to extract the fibres and make rope or canvas. At the beginning of the 20th century, Berthe de Ganay, while creating her Japanese Garden, turned it into a tea house to entertain her friends. Abandoned after the Second World War, the Foulerie was restored in 2007. You can now once again enjoy a cup of tea indoors or on the terraces, while contemplating two very different ideas of a garden.

4. THE JAPANESE GARDEN

Contrasting with the monochromatic sobriety of the park, the **Japanese garden** can be viewed through the interplay of size and transparency. It is also one of the most floral parts of the park. Berthe de Ganay designed it before the First World War, with the help of Kitty-Lloyd Jones, a disciple of Gertrud Jekyll, the inventor of the English mixed-border. The Second World War left the garden in a sad state, and it was thanks to Philippine de Noailles, wife of Jean-Louis de Ganay, that it was brought back to life. In addition to parotsia persica, dwarf maples and liquidambar, she added acer, bamboo, gunnera, several types of magnolia, hostas and ferns. The Far East is suggested by the Japanese tradition of 'cloud' pruning local varieties.

5. THE SOUS-BOIS

Behind the Foulerie, the **Sous-bois** (2005) was designed by landscape architect Astrid Verspieren with Philippine de Ganay and her youngest daughter, Valentine. We follow a fine line of water on one side, with tree trunks darkened by ivy and a collection of ferns. And on the other, white blossoms highlight clusters of tree trunks. The path leads us to one of the oldest pools in the park, the **Dôme**, formerly known as the Grotto. From here, you can see the Château without being seen from it...

6. THE BAIGNEUSE

The **nymph Aréthuse** overlooks the French-style landscaping created by Henri and Achille Duchêne between 1899 and 1914. It includes the **Quinconce de Marronniers**, as well as the **Fer à Cheval** and the **Baigneuse** pools. The statue, sculpted by Claude Poirier (1656-1729) and designed for the royal park at Marly, was installed in Courances in the 19th century. The original has been in the Louvre Museum since 2005.

7. THE MIROIR

The **Miroir** (almost 2 acres of water), in which the Château is reflected, is a major creation of the 18th century. The purpose of these 'water mirrors' was to give perspective, a view and elegance to gardens of the time. The statues, placed by Baron de Haber at the end of the 19th century, are arranged from the smallest to the largest, to cancel out the effect of perspective and to reduce the impression of distance.

8. THE GRAND CANAL AND THE GERBE

The first **Grand Canal** created at Courances dates back to the 16th century. Henri IV drew inspiration from it to create a similar one at Fontainebleau in 1609. The 470-metre-long canal you see today was built in the 17th century. On the right you will see the **Petit Canal**, into which the Grand Canal flows. A auditive illusion might surprise you: the water you hear is not that of the waterfall you can see at the end of the canal, but that of the **Rivière École**, which cascades into it and cannot be seen.

The **Gerbe**, a ten-sided water feature dating from the 17th century, the only example of its kind in France, takes its name from the original spout of water at its centre.

9. THE NAPPES AND THE DAUPHIN

Three centuries separate the **Nappes** pool from the **Dauphin** pool. The first, with its three tiers of water, demonstrates the subtle science of water levels at the end of the 16th century. There are no pumps to help the flow of water, which follows the natural slope of the park.

Le Dauphin was designed by the architect Destailleur at the end of the 19th century. Behind the hedge is the **Fontaine du Roy** where Louis XIII used to send for his drinking water when he resided at Fontainebleau.

10. THE GROS PLATANE

Recognised as a 'Jardin Remarquable' in 2015, the **Gros Platane** is named 'Samuel', in memory of Baron de Haber, ancestor of the current owners, who saved the Château from ruin in 1872. Planted in 1782 at the same time as the plane trees on the Allée d'Honneur, Samuel was able to develop in a completely different way as a result of it being isolated.

11. THE ROND DE MOIGNY

The **Rond de Moigny** is the only round pool in the park, and completes the central perspective with the statue of Apollo slaying Python. The canal behind the hedge leads to the spring that feeds into the Rond de Moigny. If you look carefully, you might be able to see the water bubbling through the Fontainebleau sand.

