

I have serious concerns regarding the development of the buffer zone around the L'Anse-a-l'Orme nature park. I believe that it is important to maintain the integrity and viability of what is one of the few remaining nature preserves on the island of Montreal. Allowing development to proceed within the edges of this park will negatively impact on the livelihood, and more than likely, the long term existence of many of the wildlife and plant species (some of which have designated threatened status by COSEWIC) that live in this area. Studies, conducted by reputable conservation organizations have listed a myriad number of plant and animal species living in this area and have voiced their serious concerns regarding its development. It is so ironic that developers are always promoting the natural surroundings, as a big selling point for their developments, when in fact, the very development of these areas spells their very demise. Anybody who knows and understands the basic fundamentals of this issue, understands that the greatest threat to the viability of any plant or animal species is habitat loss. And once that habitat has been "developed", it is gone forever.

I understand that citizens have to have housing but it has been pointed out that there are so many more viable areas in which to develop housing projects on the island that doesn't threaten the precious few green spaces we have left. I have heard how the city and developers only want to take a small portion of what's there. No one administration and developer is ever asking for "too much". It's just that after many years of such scenarios playing out, we will be left with only a very poor vestige of what we once had and could have proudly passed on to future generations of Montrealers.

Claudio D'Angelo