

# Consultation on the future of the Pierrefonds-Ouest sector

April 4, 2017



## Protection and enhancement of natural environments

Montréal 

 Pierrefonds  
Roxboro  
Montréal 

# Objectives of the presentation

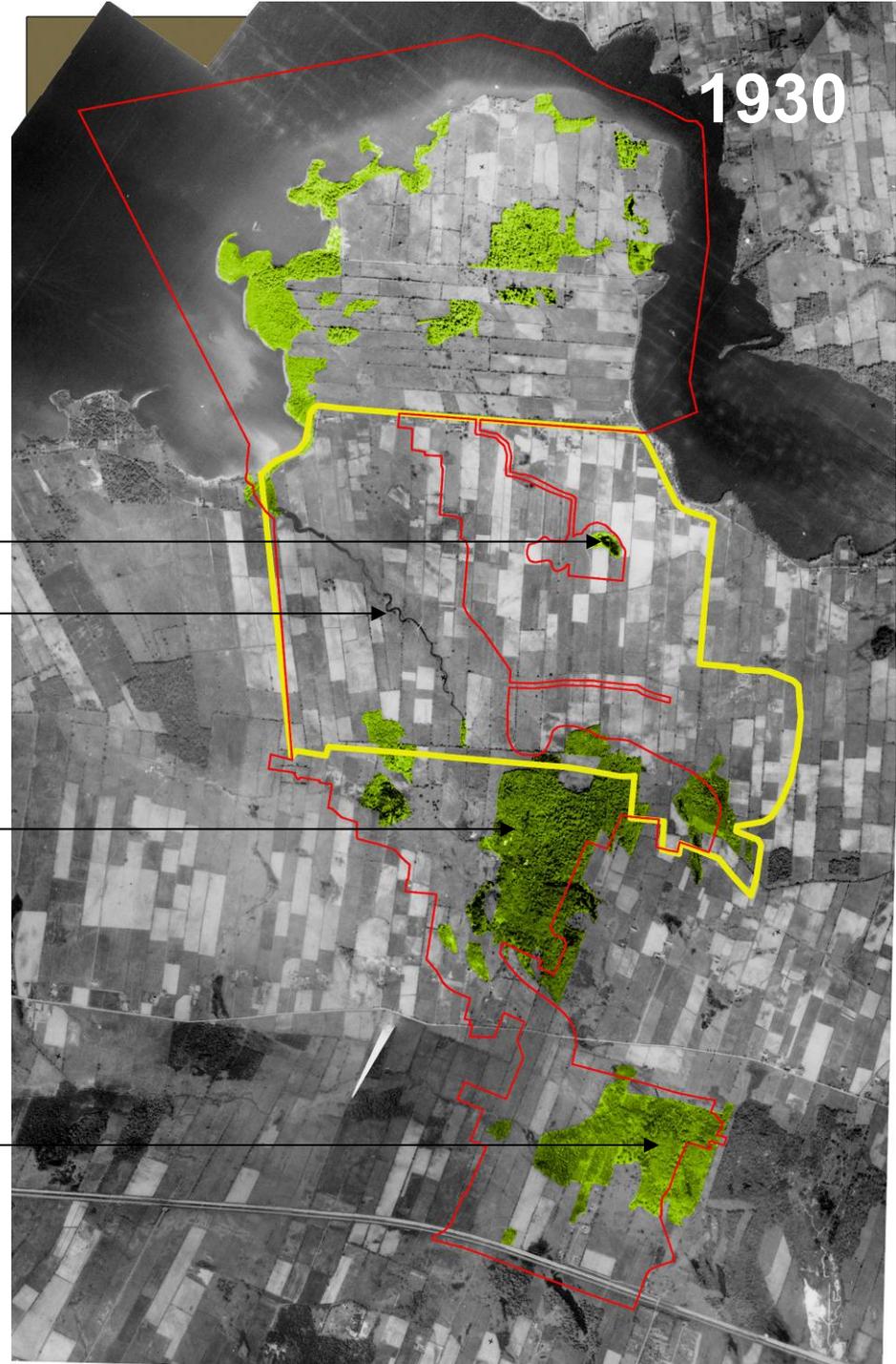
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- Present the historical background
- Present the conservation project for the Pierrefonds-Ouest sector and the ecoterritory of the Rivière à l'Orme ecoforest corridor
- Present prospects for enhancement and development



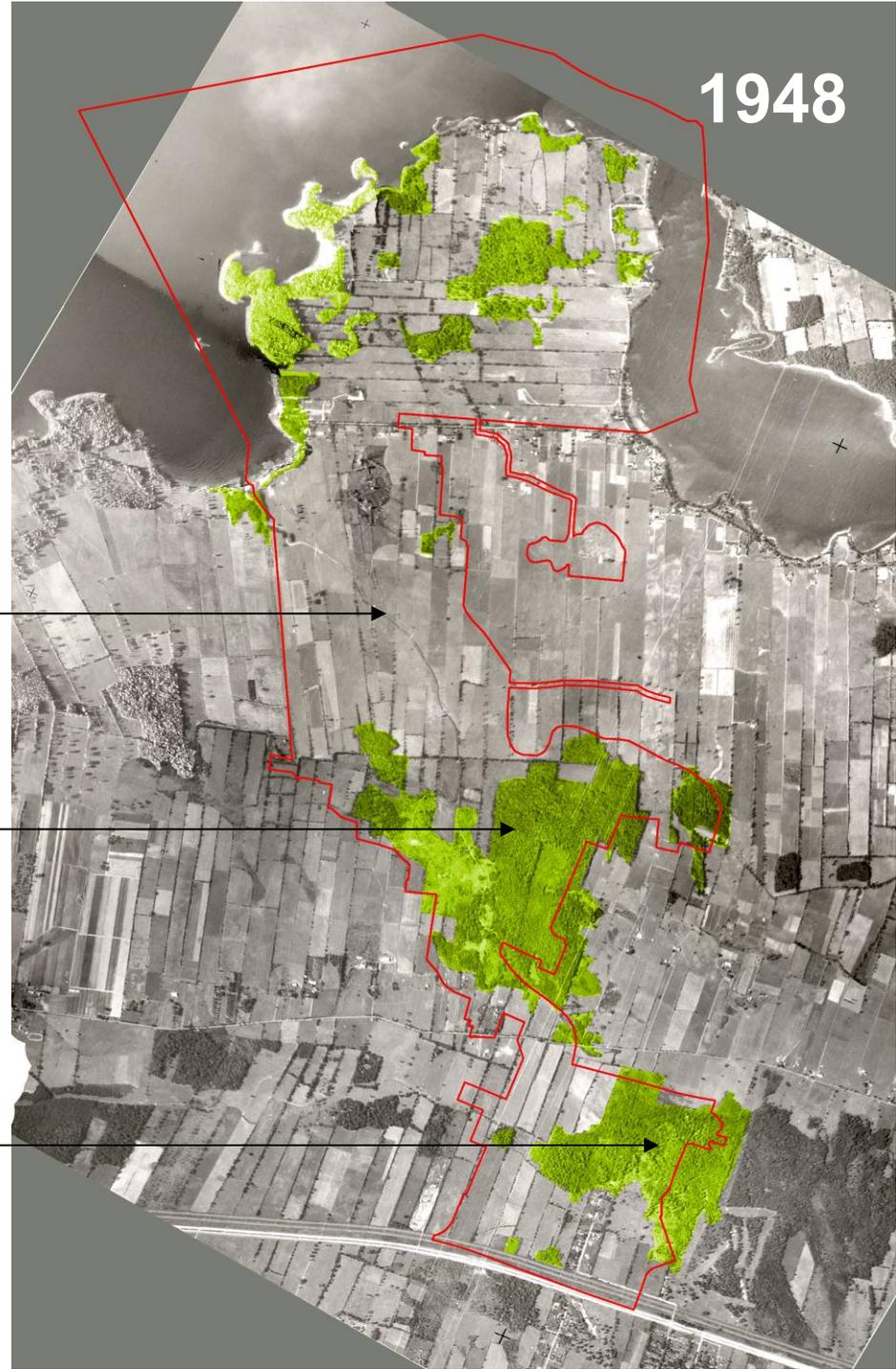
# Evolution of the territory

Lauzon March  
Rivière à l'Orme  
Wood No. 3  
Angell Wood



- 1. Background
- 2. Conservation
- 3. Enhancement
- 4. Prospects

# Evolution of the territory



- 1. Background
- 2. Conservation
- 3. Enhancement
- 4. Prospects

# Evolution of the territory



# Evolution of the territory

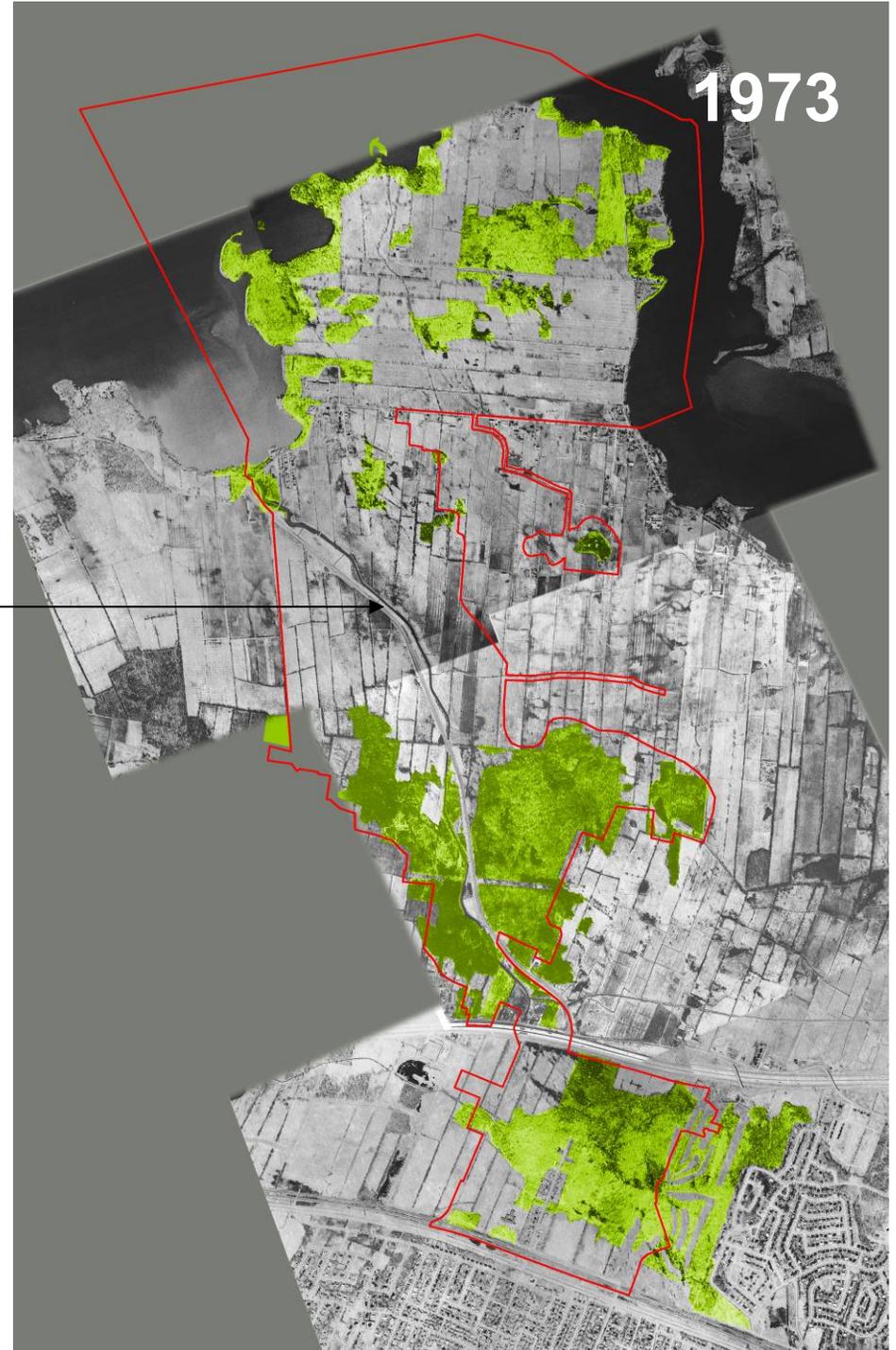
1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

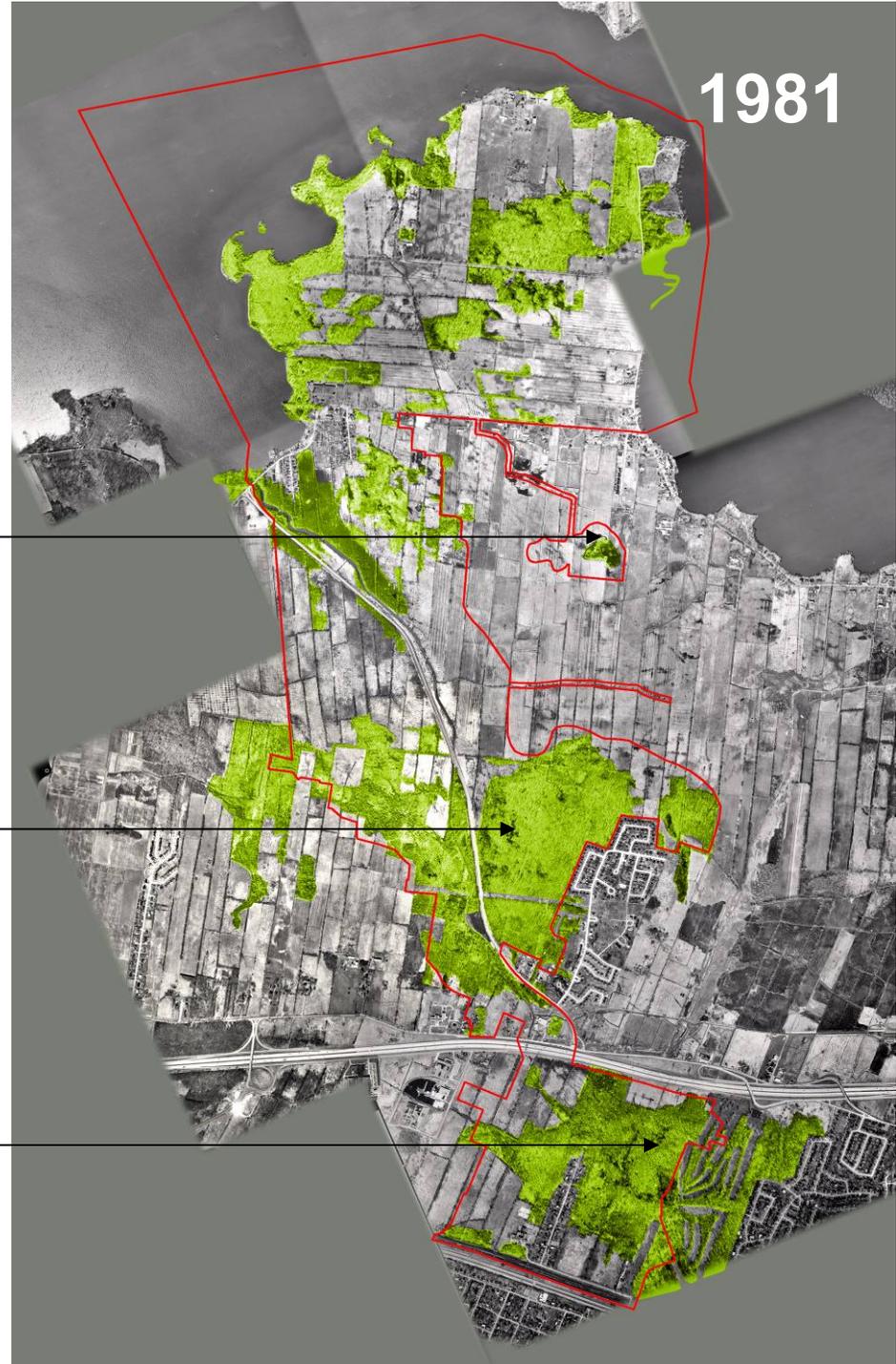
4. Prospects

Anse à l'Orme Road



- 1. Background
- 2. Conservation
- 3. Enhancement
- 4. Prospects

# Evolution of the territory



Lauzon March

Wood No. 3

Angell Wood



# Evolution of the territory

1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects



# Policy on natural environments

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## 1. Background

## 2. Conservation

## 3. Enhancement

## 4. Prospects

- Following the moratorium on the acquisition of natural spaces on the Island of Montréal by the MUC in 1992, several natural environments have disappeared due to urban development.
- In 2004, protected areas made up only 3.1% of the agglomeration.
- The Ville de Montréal then affirmed its desire to protect natural environments by adopting the *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats*.
- The Policy aims to have protected areas constitute 6% of terrestrial environments.
- In 2015, this target was increased to 10% with the adoption of the Montréal Urban Agglomeration Land Use and Development Plan



# Policy on natural environments

## 1. Background

## 2. Conservation

## 3. Enhancement

## 4. Prospects

- The Policy identifies **ten ecoterritories** where the protection and enhancement of natural areas is considered a priority.
- In each ecoterritory, the City proposes to establish a consultation approach leading to a conservation project.



# Policy on natural environments

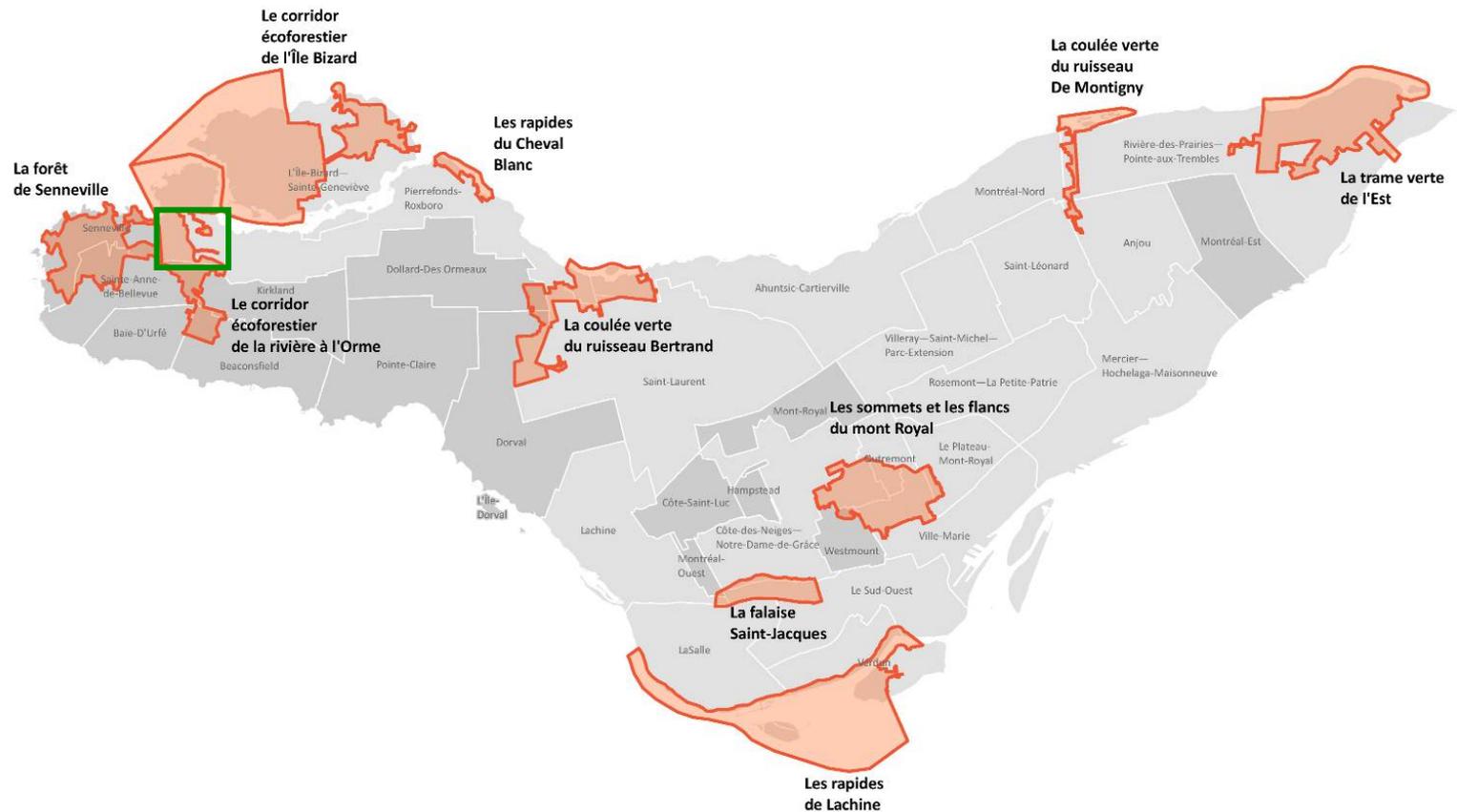
## 1. Background

## 2. Conservation

## 3. Enhancement

## 4. Prospects

- In 2015, the boundaries were all revised when the Plan was adopted.
- The new boundaries of the ecoterritory of the Rivière à l'Orme ecoforest corridor follow the outline of the conservation area defined in the consultation process.



# The ecoterritory

## 1. Background

## 2. Conservation

## 3. Enhancement

## 4. Prospects

- The ecoterritory extends from the Angell Wood to the Cap Saint-Jacques nature park, running along Rivière à l'Orme.
- It is located in the heart of the Green and Blue Network in the west.



**1. Background**

## **2. The conservation project**

**3. Enhancement**

**4. Prospects**



# The conservation project across the ecoterritory

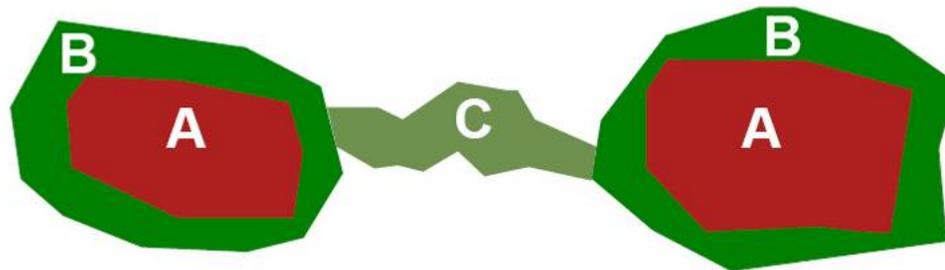
1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

- From 2003 to 2005, a technical committee was set up and developed a conservation project for the ecoterritory.
- It serves as a frame of reference to support a consultation approach to development projects.
- This conservation project is based on building **ecological networks** as a model of ecological sustainability.



- A- The core area is a hotspot of biodiversity.
- B- The buffer zone protects the core.
- C- The ecological corridor ensures connectivity.



# The conservation project across the ecoterritory

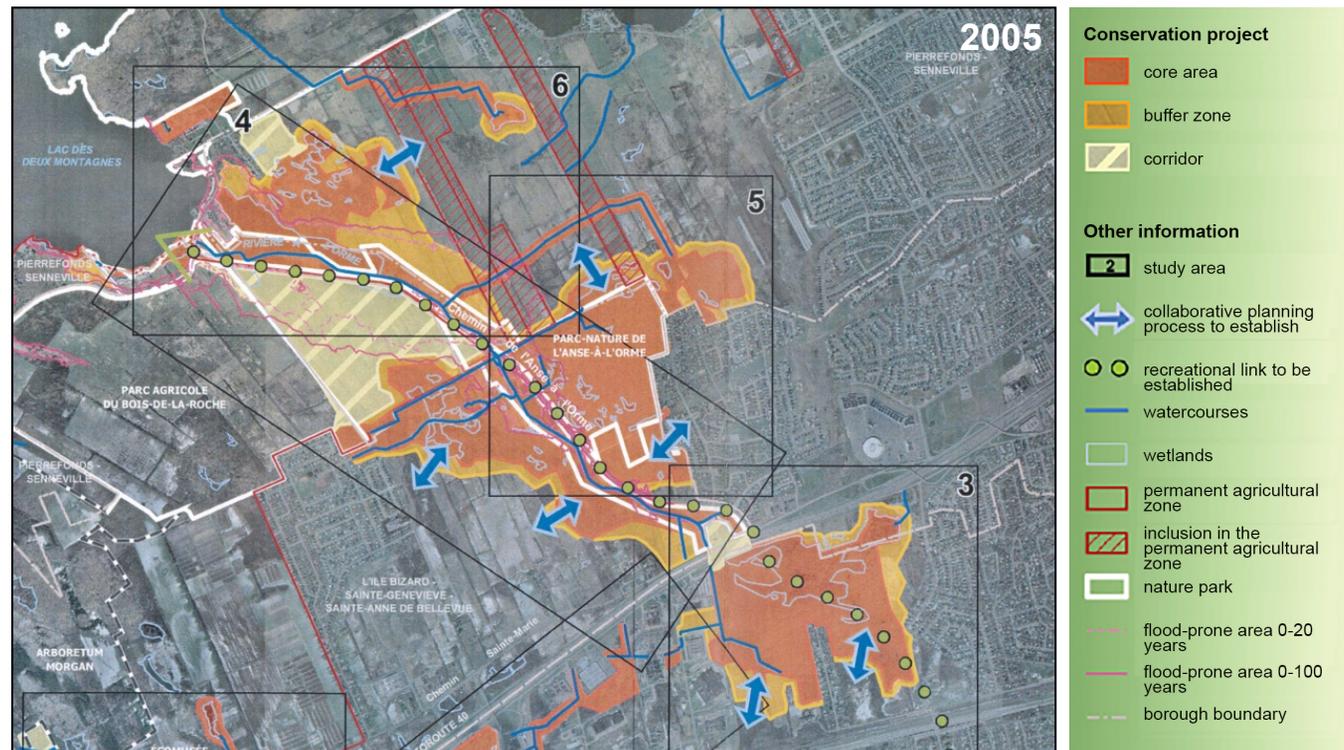
## 1. Background

## 2. Conservation

## 3. Enhancement

## 4. Prospects

- results from the integration of knowledge about natural environments and takes into account planning issues.
- aims to build a critical mass of diverse natural areas that ensures their viability.
- makes it possible to significantly widen the protection zone on either side of Rivière à l'Orme.



# The conservation project across the ecoterritory

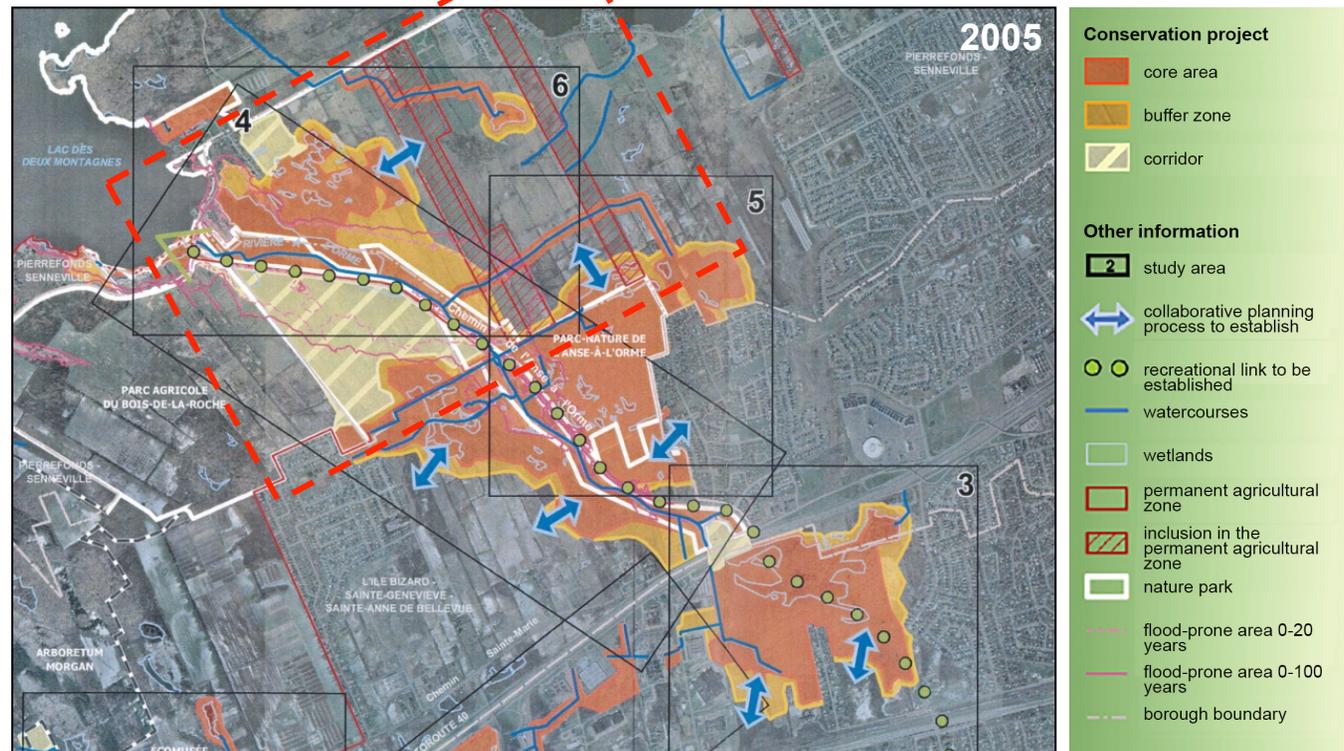
## 1. Background

## 2. Conservation

## 3. Enhancement

## 4. Prospects

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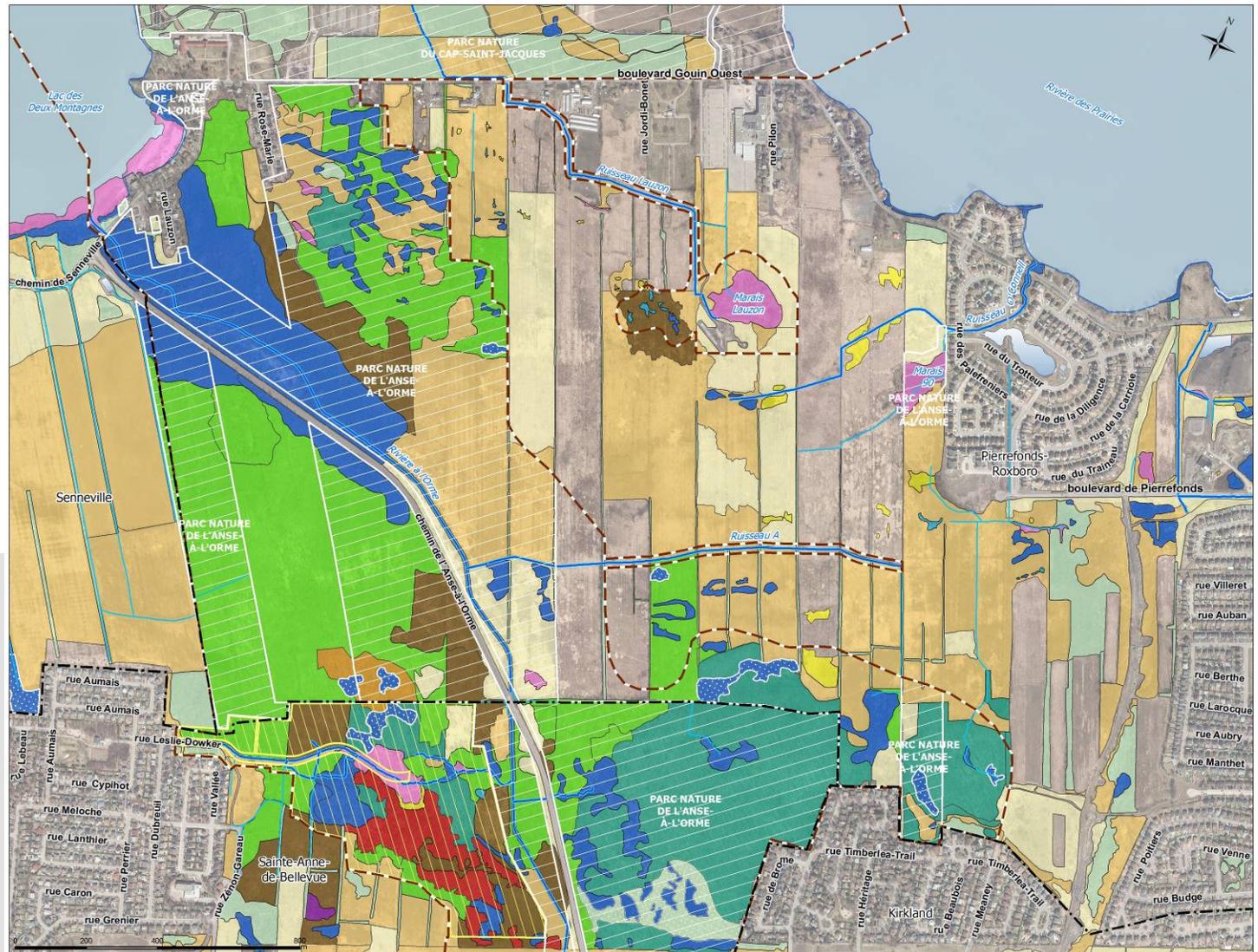
# Identification of natural environments

1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects



# The conservation project in the Pierrefonds-O sector

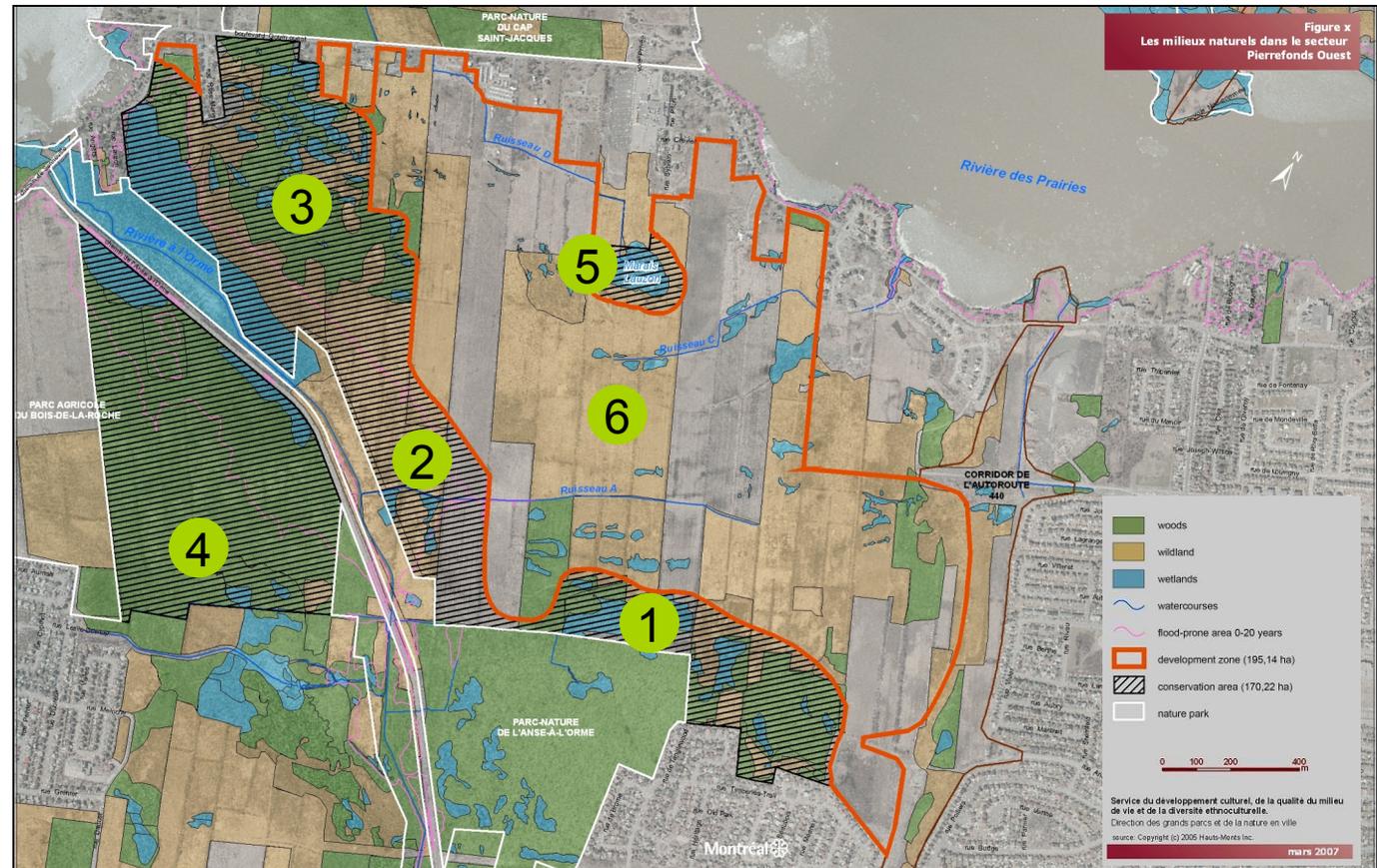
1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Perspectives

- A collaborative planning process (2004-2008) resulted in an agreement for a 181-hectare conservation project based on six conservation objectives.



# The conservation project in the Pierrefonds-O sector

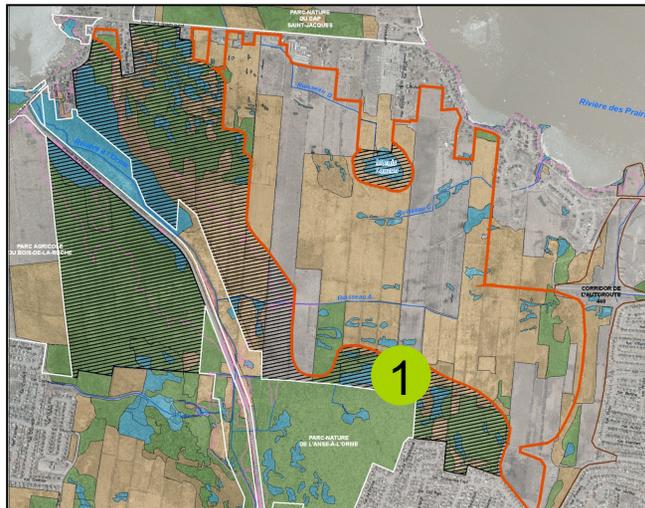
1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

1 Addition of mature and centenary woods to consolidate Wood No. 3





# The conservation project in the Pierrefonds-O sector

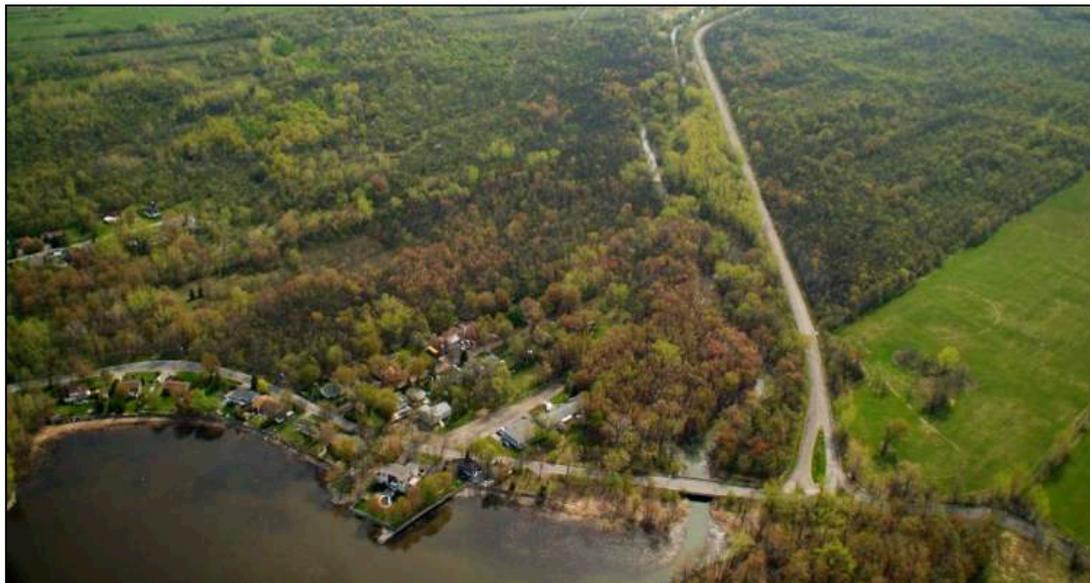
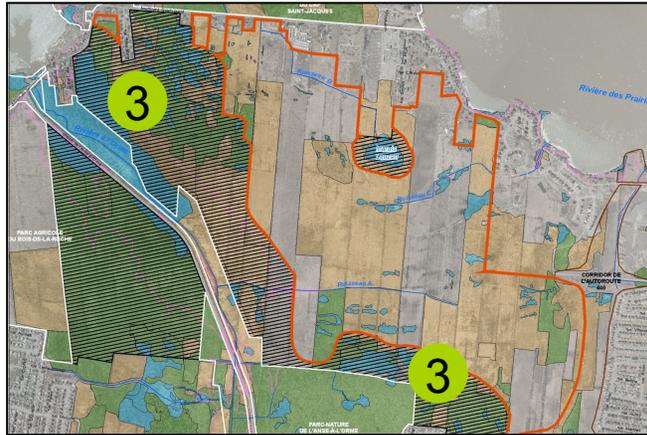
1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

3 Preserve the concentration of wetlands suitable for avian fauna and herpetofauna



Habitat of great interest for fish, wood duck and the map turtle.



# The conservation project in the Pierrefonds-O sector

1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

- 4 Ensure a corridor link between the Bois-de-la-Roche agricultural park, the Cap-Saint-Jacques nature park and the Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue woods.



# The conservation project in the Pierrefonds-O sector

1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

- 5 Preserve the Lauzon Marsh and the mosaic of habitats around its perimeter - buffer zone of more than 50 metres.



# The conservation project in the Pierrefonds-O sector

1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

- 6 Integrate wetlands to be preserved into the development zone, and their compensation land into the global conservation project.



# The conservation project in the Pierrefonds-O sector

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1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

- In 2006, in connection with possible development in the Pierrefonds-Ouest sector, the City characterized wetlands and watercourses.
- The objective was to evaluate wetlands subject to section 22 of the EQA in order to arrive at a comprehensive compensation plan for the sector that would take into account the relative value of the environments present.
- The following criteria were used:
  - Area
  - Species richness (total number of species)
  - Significance of invasive species
  - Uniqueness
  - Vertical stratification (heterogeneity)
  - Presence of water (hydroperiodicity)
  - Integrity of adjacent environment (30 m radius)
  - Spatial contiguity with other wetlands (30 m radius)



# The conservation project in the Pierrefonds-O sector

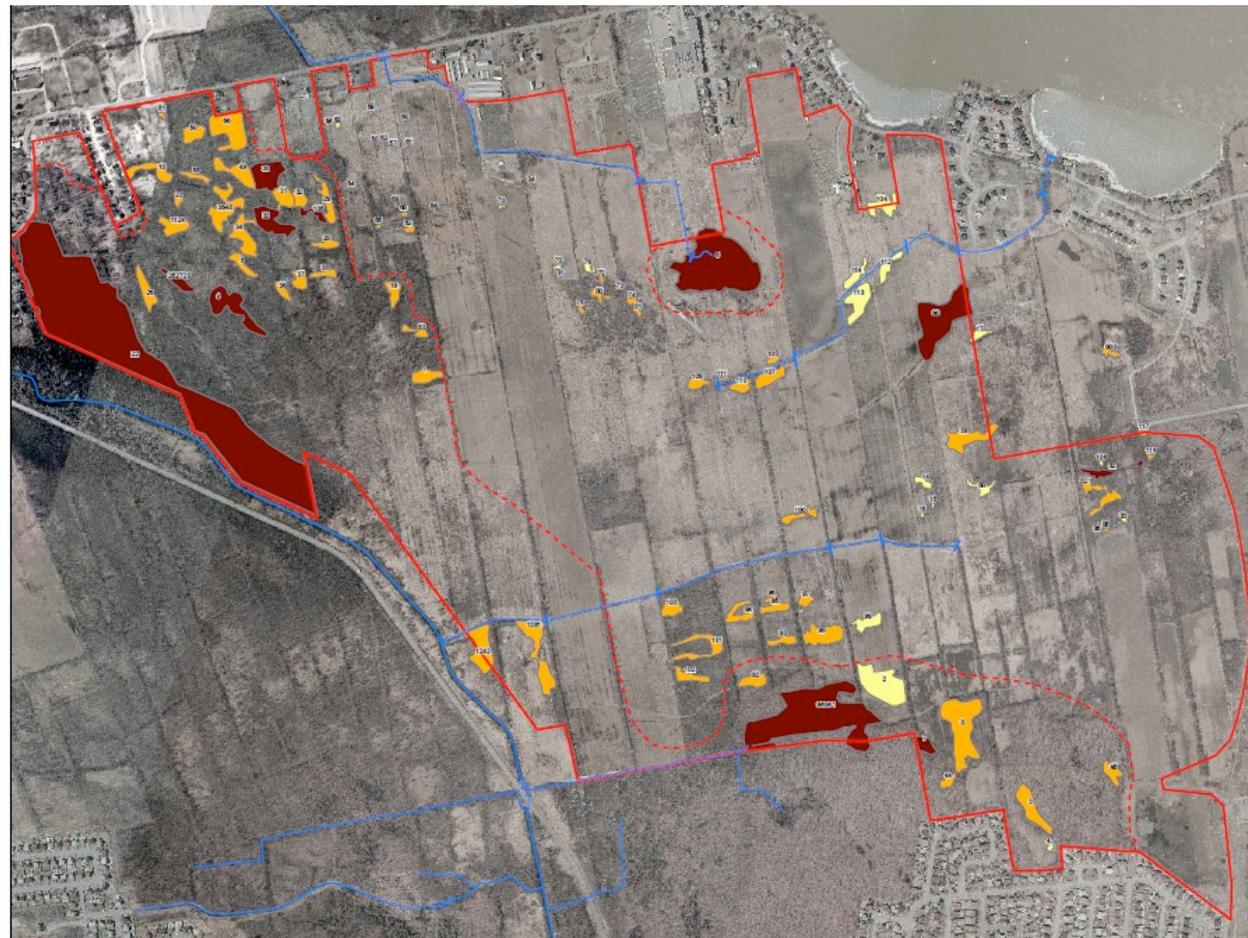
1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

- This profile enabled the City to more precisely define the delineation of the conservation zone by including wetland surfaces to be protected and compensated for.



# The conservation project in the Pierrefonds-O sector

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## 1. Background

## 2. Conservation

## 3. Enhancement

## 4. Prospects

- Through discussions with the ministère de l'Environnement du Québec regarding a possible development project, a wetland protection and compensation plan was established in 2008.
- It is expected that two marshes of great interest, the Lauzon and 90 marshes, will be protected and enhanced within the heart of the development zone.

Lauzon Marsh



Marsh 90



# The conservation project in the Pierrefonds-O sector

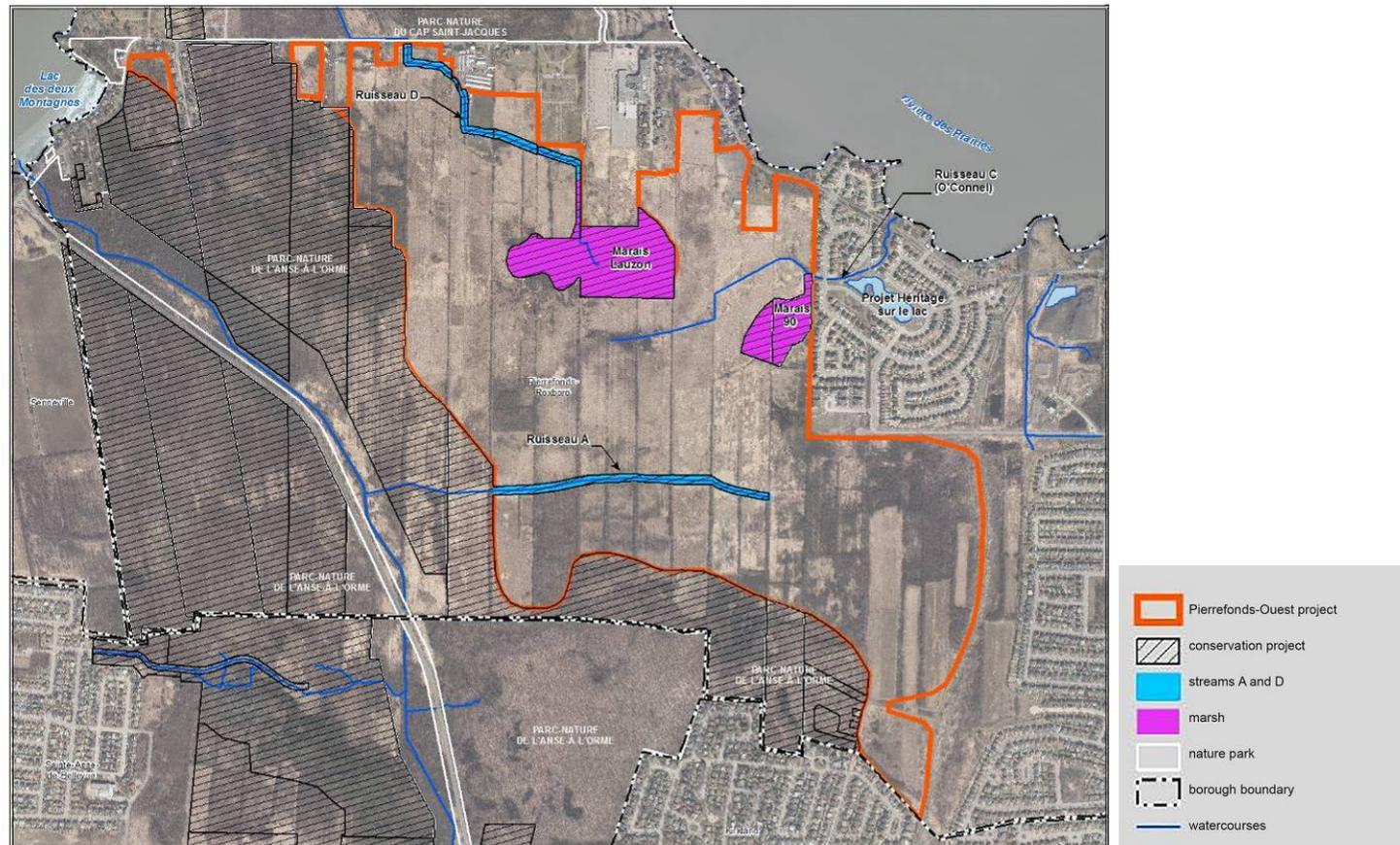
## 1. Background

## 2. Conservation

## 3. Enhancement

## 4. Prospects

- The Lauzon and 90 marshes, with buffer zones around their edges, will be protected areas that will cover an area of 12.4 hectares within the development zone.
- Two streams and their shorelines will also be protected.





# The conservation project in the Pierrefonds-O sector

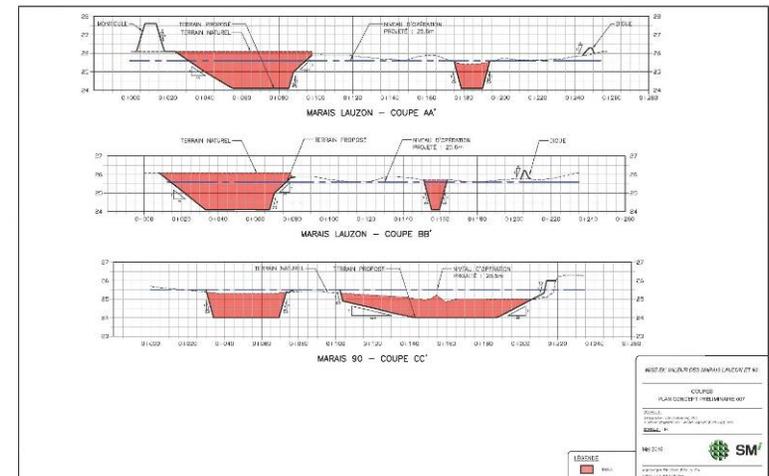
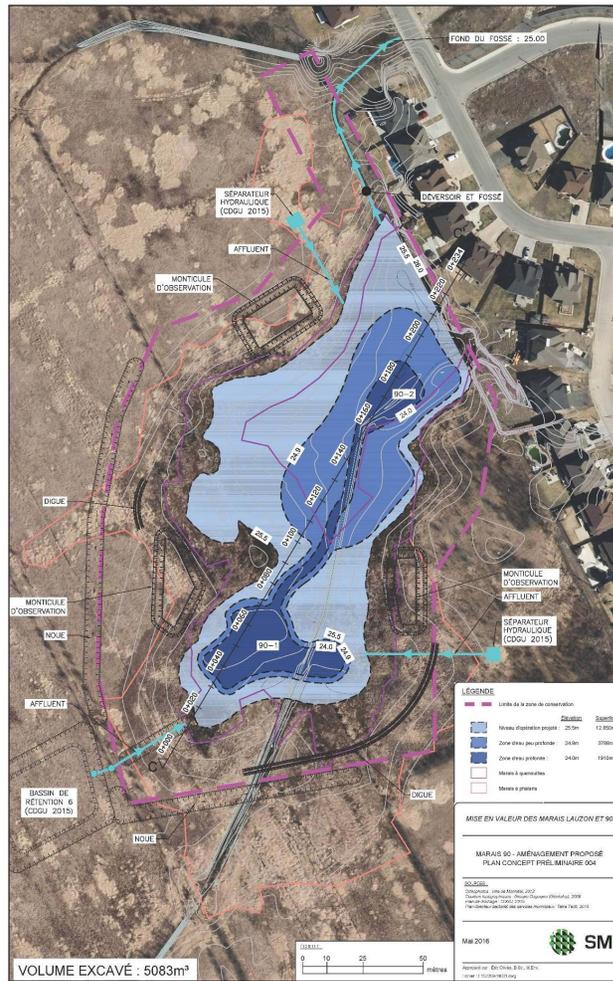
1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

## Digging of Marsh 90



# The conservation project in the Pierrefonds-O sector

1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

- 181-hectare conservation project
- Existing 24-hectare part of the Anse-à-l'Orme nature park

**Result: 205-hectare conservation area**



# The involvement of Ducks Unlimited

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1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

- Mandates for the Ville de Montréal:
  - Expertise in wetland management
  - Acquisition of land for conservation



# Acquisitions

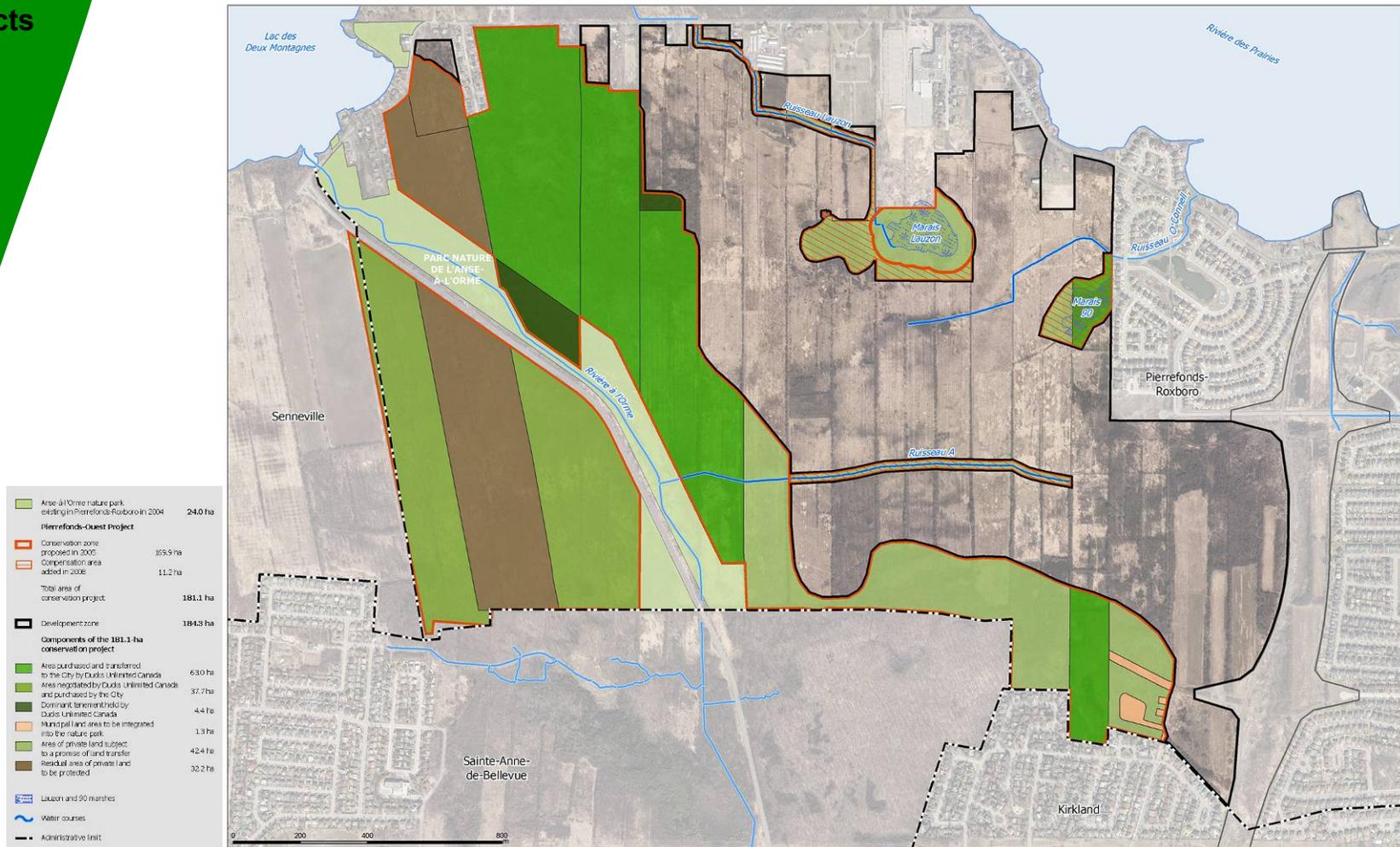
1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

- The City, with the collaboration of Ducks Unlimited, made acquisitions to secure the conservation area.



# Acquisitions

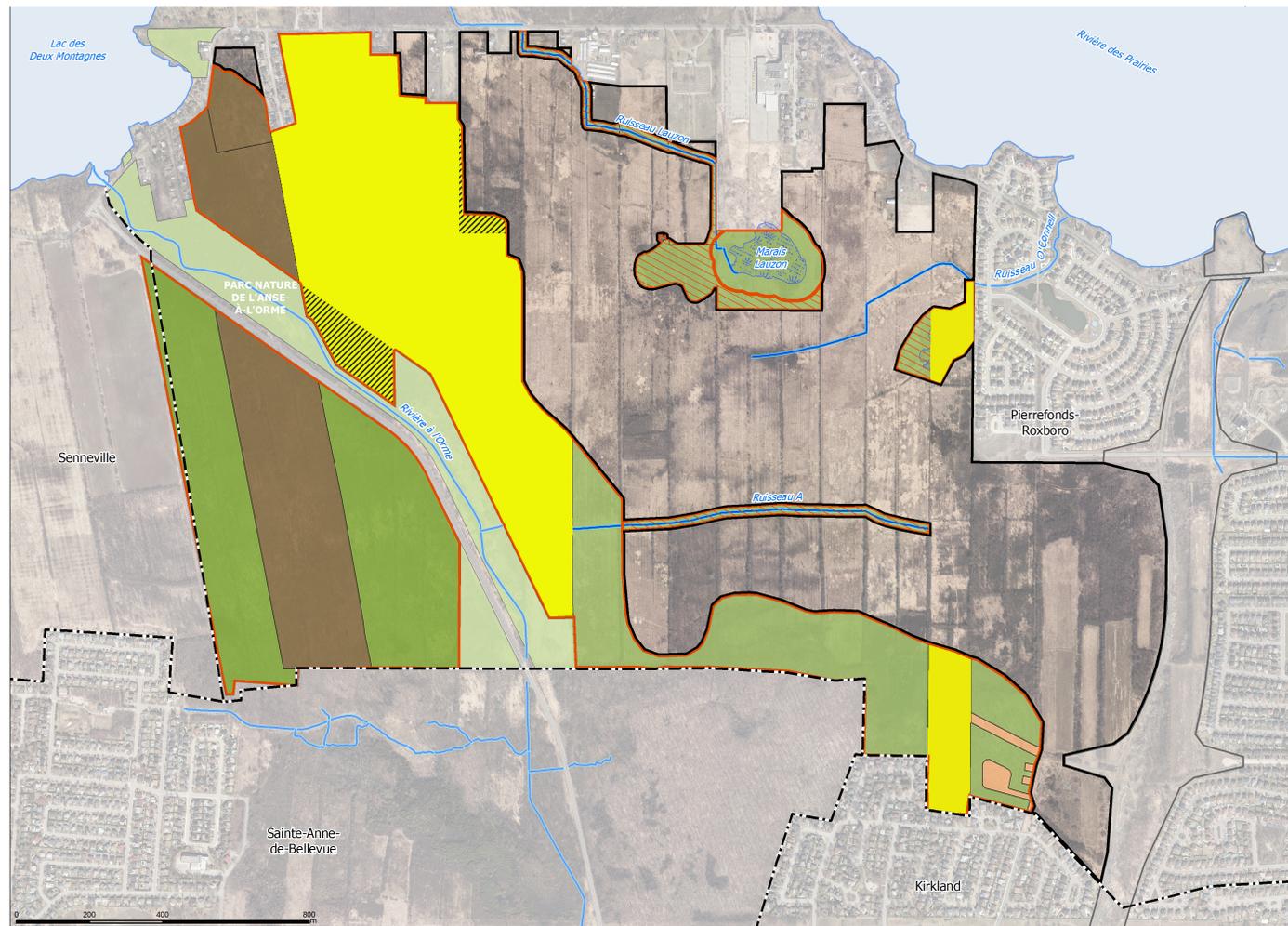
1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

- Area purchased and transferred to the City by Ducks Unlimited (63 ha)
- Dominant tenement held by Ducks Unlimited (4.4 ha) 



# Acquisitions

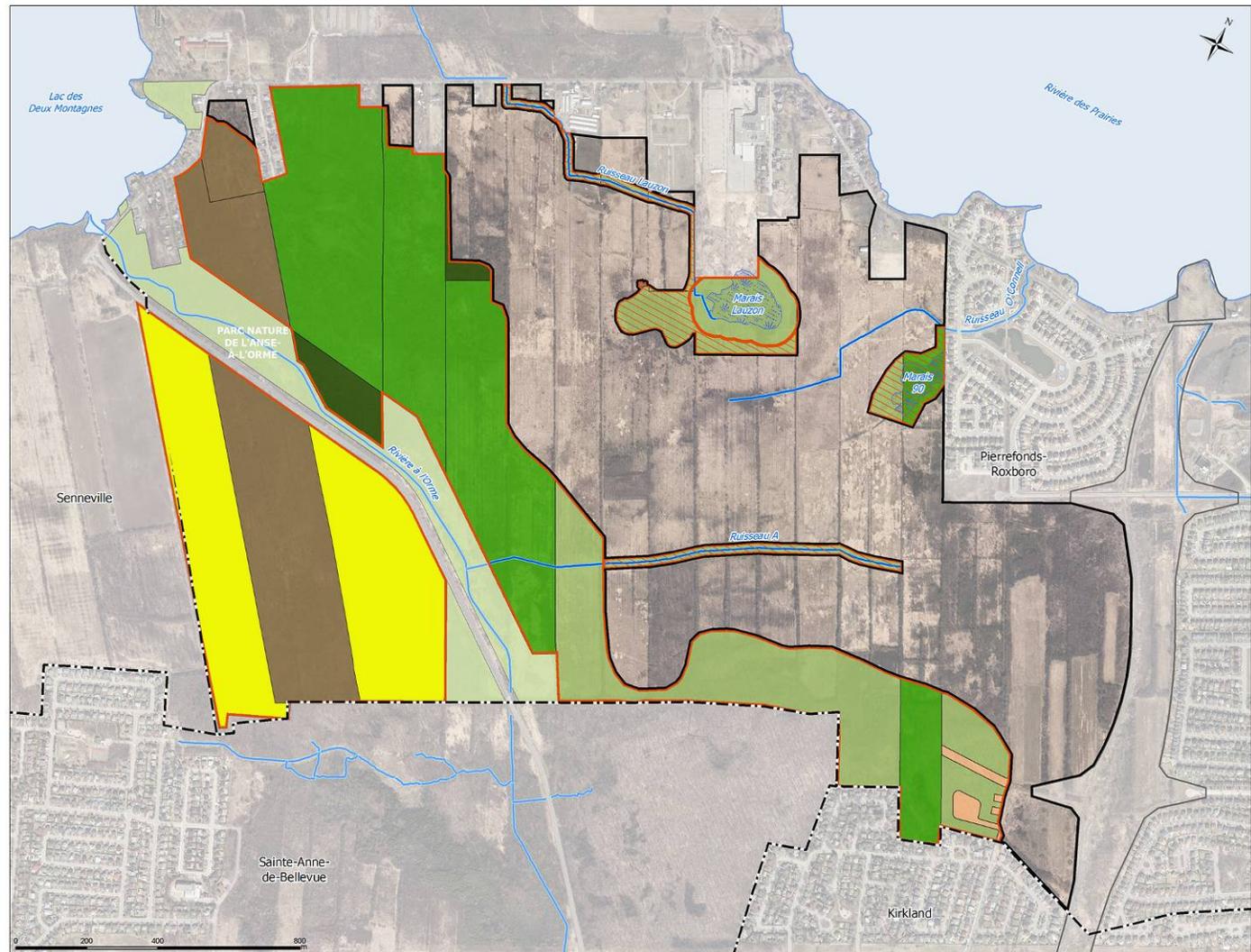
1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

- Area negotiated by Ducks Unlimited and purchased by the City (37.7 ha)



# Acquisitions

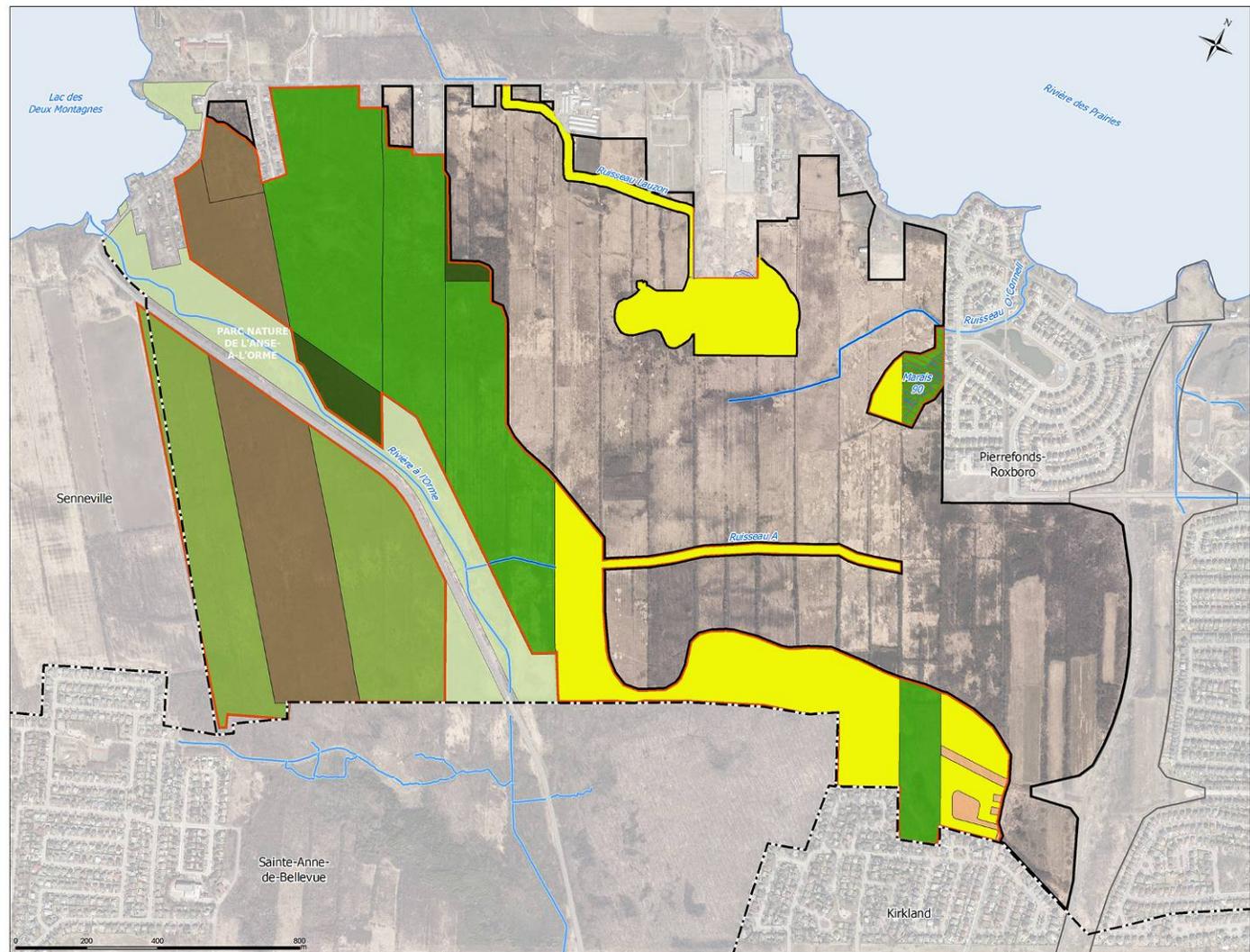
1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

- Private land subject to a promise to sell (42.4 ha)



# Acquisitions

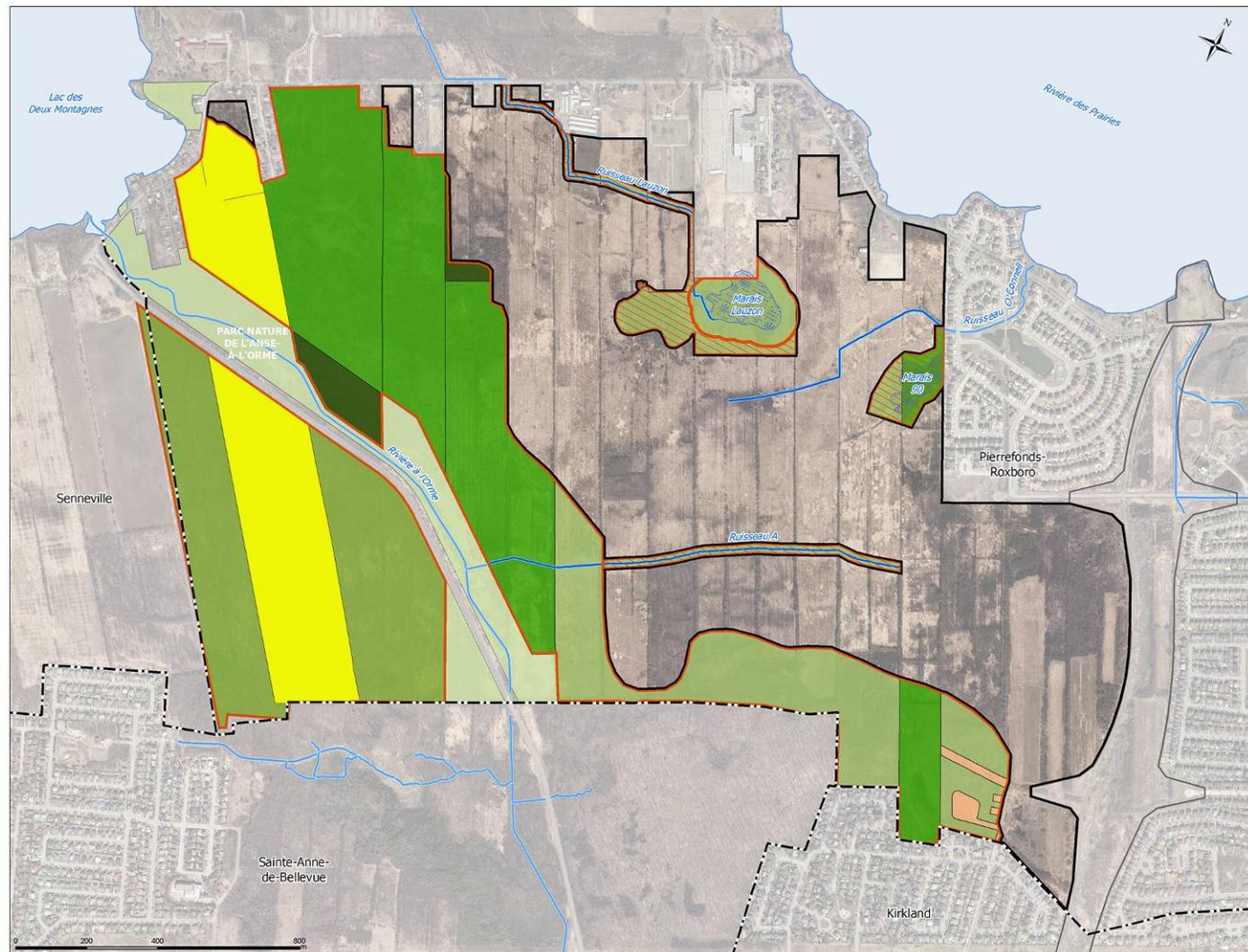
1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

- Residual area of private land to be protected (32.2 ha)



1. Background

2. Conservation

**3. Enhancement**

4. Prospects



# Protected lands in the ecoterritory

1. Background
2. Conservation
3. Enhancement
4. Prospects

- Including land acquired in the Pierrefonds-Ouest sector, many acquisitions have made it possible to protect several lands in the ecoterritory and to enlarge the existing nature parks



# Enhancement of the ecoterritory

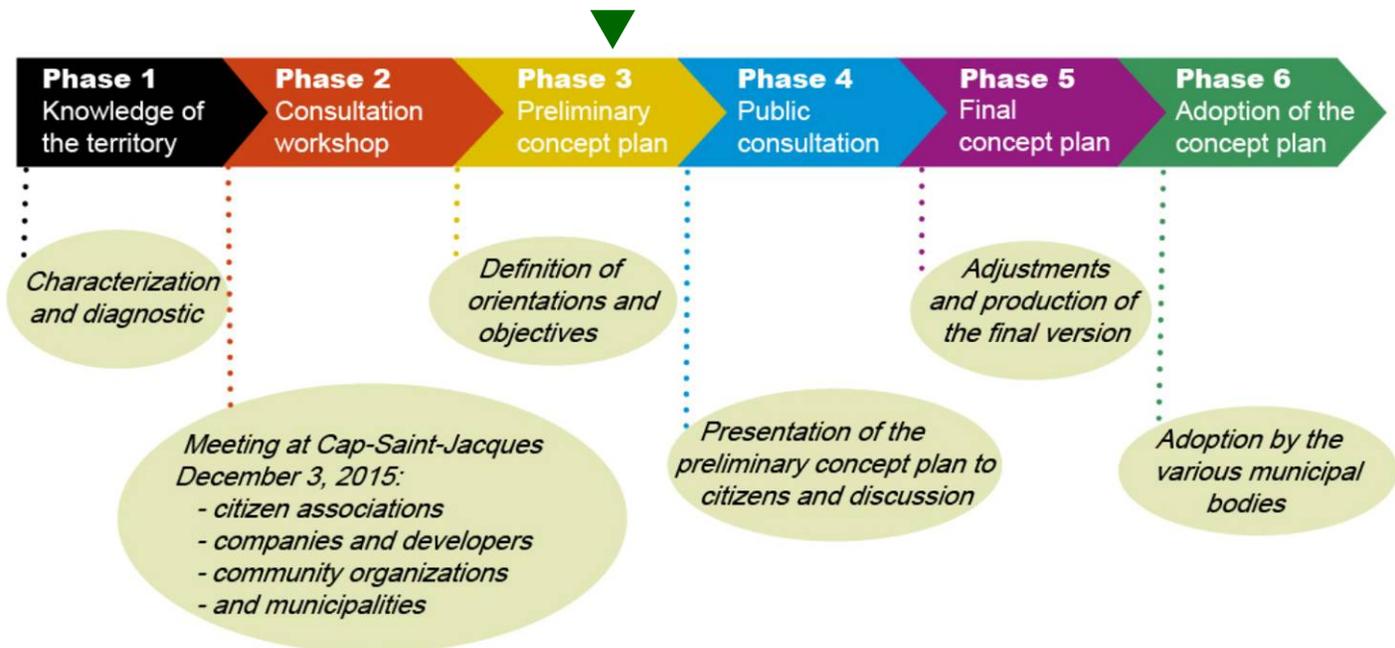
1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

- In keeping with the *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats*, a committee has undertaken the development of the ecoterritory concept plan, which allows for, in particular, the definition of guidelines for protection and enhancement.
- This committee is made up of representatives of the municipalities, departments of the Ville de Montréal and representatives of the Québec ministries of transport and the environment.



# Enhancement of the ecoterritory

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1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

- The objectives to protect and enhance this ecoterritory are to:
  - create a viable ecological corridor of great biodiversity around Rivière à l'Orme;
  - create a recreational corridor linking the train stations to the Cap-Saint-Jacques nature park and the Bois-de-la-Roche agricultural park;
  - maintain Rivière à l'Orme water quality and ensure appropriate water levels;
  - consolidate the boundaries of the Anse-à-l'Orme nature park and the Bois-de-la-Roche agricultural park by preserving natural environments of ecological interest.



# Enhancement of the ecoterritory

1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects



The main proposals are:

- Create a primary axis running through the entire ecoterritory;



# Enhancement of the ecoterritory

1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Perspectives



The main proposals are:

- Create a primary axis running through the entire ecoterritory;
- Create secondary axes that establish links with the surrounding neighbourhoods;



# Enhancement of the ecoterritory

1. Background
2. Conservation
3. Enhancement
4. Prospects



The main proposals are:

- Create a primary axis running through the entire ecoterritory;
- Create secondary axes that establish links with the surrounding neighbourhoods;
- Establish a link with the proposed REM stations to improve public transit accessibility;



# Enhancement of the ecoterritory

1. Background
2. Conservation
3. Enhancement
4. Prospects



The main proposals are:

- Create a primary axis running through the entire ecoterritory;
- Create secondary axes that establish links with the surrounding neighbourhoods;
- Establish a link with the proposed REM stations to improve public transit accessibility;
- Enhance the different activity hubs via a discovery trail that showcases the diversity that makes up this territory.



**1. Background**

**2. Conservation**

**3. Enhancement**

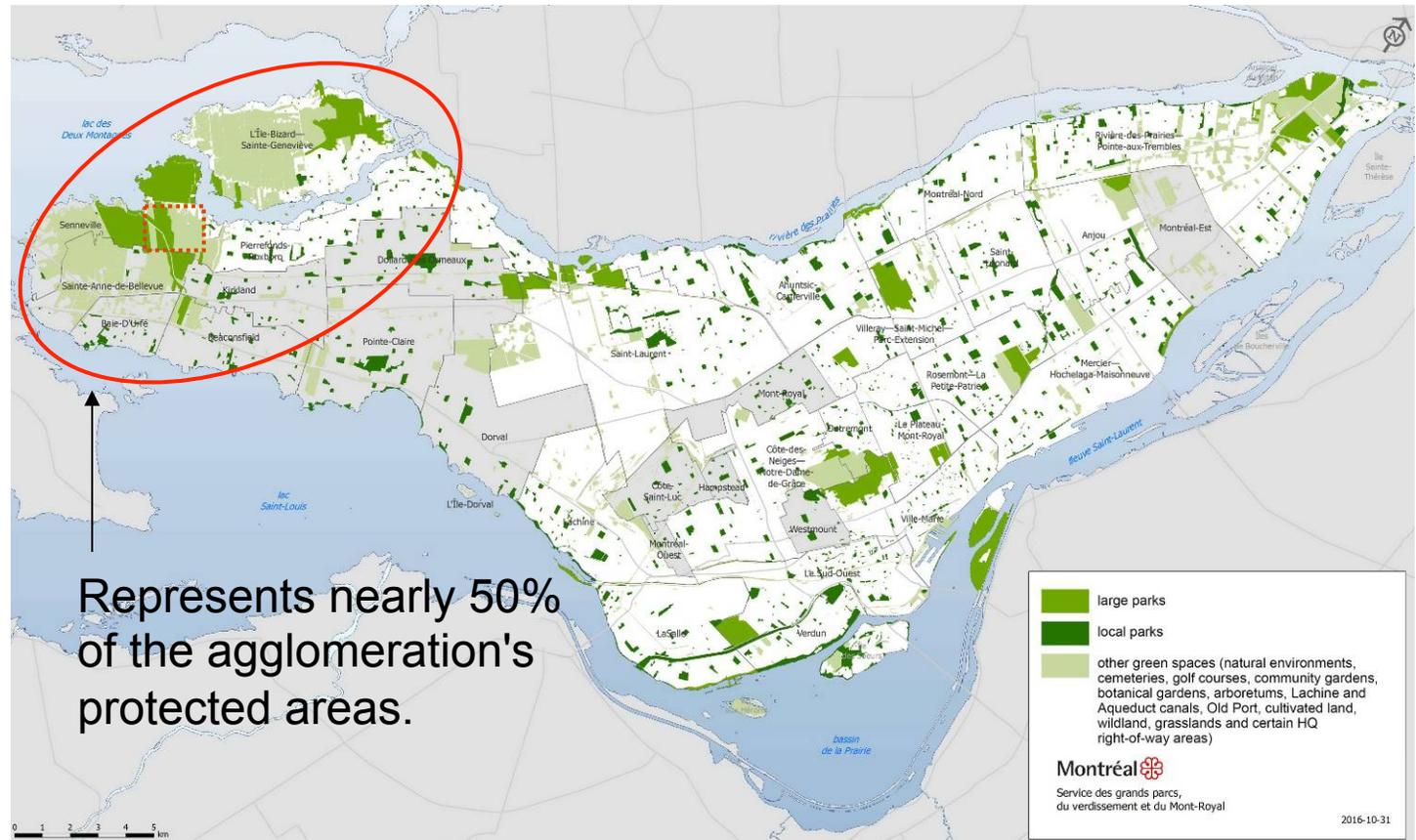
**4. Prospects for the future**



# The Green Network in the west

1. Background
2. Conservation
3. Enhancement
4. Prospects

- The Pierrefonds-Ouest sector is part of the Green and Blue Network in the west of the agglomeration of Montréal.
- The West Island has a multitude of diverse natural areas within which the Pierrefonds-Ouest sector occupies an important place.



# The Green Network in the west

1. Background
2. Conservation
3. Enhancement
4. Prospects

Pierrefonds-Ouest conservation project zone: 205 hectares

Part devoted to urban development: 185 hectares



# The Green Network in the west

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1. Background
2. Conservation
3. Enhancement
4. Prospects

Conservation project in the ecoterritory: 715 hectares

The size of a national park such as Mont-St-Bruno (890 hectares)



# The Green Network in the west

1. Background
2. Conservation
3. Enhancement
4. Prospects

With protected green spaces nearby: 1 235 hectares

Comparable to 1½ times the size of Îles-de-Boucherville National Park (814 hectares)



1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

# The recreational tourism offering in the west

- This green network is made up of different green spaces that offer users a variety of educational and recreational activities.



1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

# The recreational tourism offering in the west

- Less than 1% of the Anse à l'Orme nature park is developed.



# Future prospects

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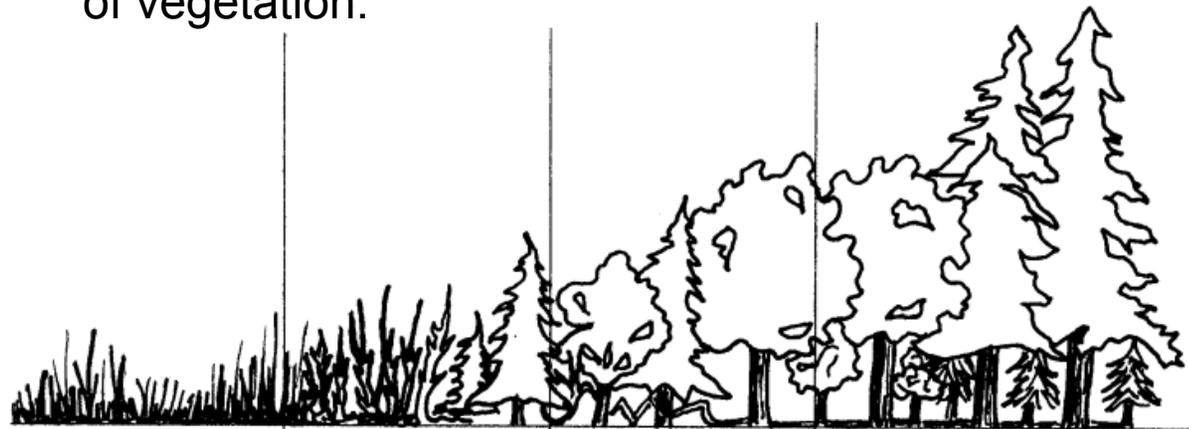
1. Background

2. Conservation

3. Enhancement

4. Prospects

- It is now important to enhance and make available a portion of the lands acquired throughout the ecoterritory, including the Pierrefonds-Ouest sector. It is also important to reduce certain impacts, such as:
  - the progression of invasive plants;
  - the alteration of natural environments through the creation of illicit trails;
  - the loss of wildland environments through the evolution of vegetation.



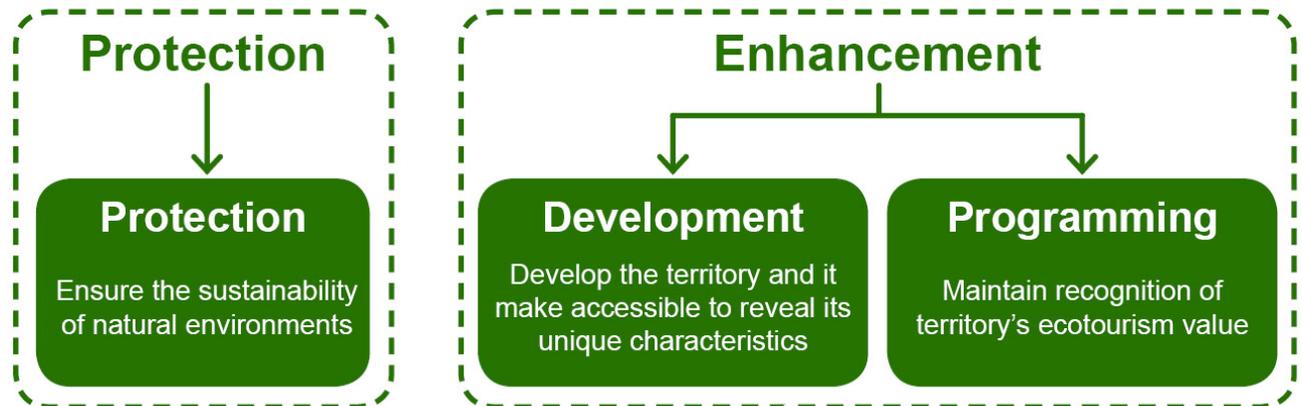
(fields → grasslands → shrub wildland → forest)



# Future prospects

1. Background
2. Conservation
3. Enhancement
4. Prospects

- Develop the Anse-à-l'Orme nature park by reconciling the **protection** of natural environments with the **enhancement** of the territory while respecting the support capacity of the existing ecosystems.



- Continue the ecological management program, which is accompanied by the continuous monitoring of natural environments, an analysis of the impacts of human use, and includes measures such as invasive plant and animal population control or the monitoring of water levels in wetlands.





**Thank you for your attention.**