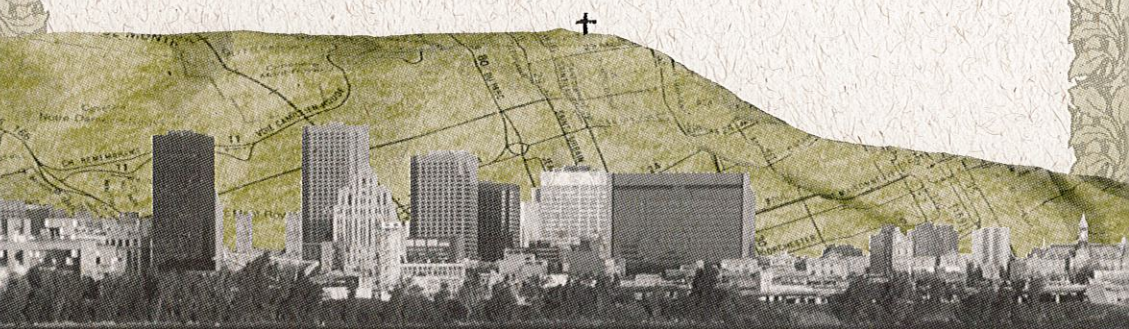


*Plan for the Conservation and
Restoration of **Mount Royal***

SHORT SUMMARY



Ville de Montréal



*Plan for the Conservation and
Restoration of **Mount Royal***



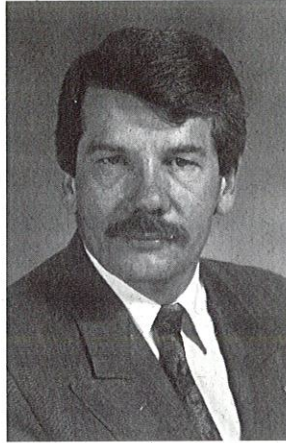
Message from the Mayor

Dear citizens,

It is my great pleasure to present this summary of the *Plan for the Conservation and Restoration of Mount Royal*. This Plan results from the most important study to date on the potential, issues and future of the mountain.

This Plan, adopted by City Council on December 18th, 1992, is based on an integrated vision for the mountain. It provides guidelines which will determine future strategies for the conservation and restoration of the whole area. It also represents, for the first time in the history of Mount Royal, the results of discussion and cooperation between the City of Montréal, the Cities of Outremont and Westmount, all the institutional property owners and the citizens of Montréal.

The Plan symbolizes our commitment to a part of our city which is close to the hearts of Montrealers. It represents, in particular, our intent to conserve and restore Mount Royal Park.



One of the jewels of our heritage, it has suffered over the years from the unfortunate intrusion of roads and buildings, and long periods of neglect. Whether we are citizens of Montréal, regular or occasional visitors, Mount Royal Park

unites us all in appreciation of the pleasures and tranquility it offers. The Plan for the Conservation and Restoration of Mount Royal includes strategies to protect and keep alive its ecological wealth, its beauty and its varied uses.

Three cities, many prestigious and respected institutions, and the citizens of Montréal have therefore been mobilized around a shared project for the park and the mountain. I invite you to join with us in this project and I look forward to your participation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean Doré".

Jean Doré

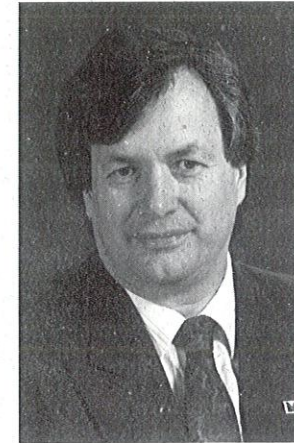
Mayor of Montréal

Preface

The Plan for the Conservation and Restoration of Mount Royal concludes an important phase of study, consultation with the citizens of Montréal, and cooperation between municipal, institutional and associated partners. This is the most extensive initiative ever undertaken regarding the mountain and represents an historic consensus regarding its future.

As the culmination of this work, the Plan also opens a new era in the history of the mountain. The main themes of this new era are, above all, the partnership between the City of Montréal, the Cities of Westmount and Outremont, the institutional property owners and the citizens; the conservation of Mount Royal; and finally, its restoration.

This document is a summary of the Plan for the Conservation and Restoration of Mount Royal. It



The sense of attachment that Montrealers feel for our largest park remains deep and unchanged. Its popularity and its beauty, as well as its ecological and historic value, have dictated our course of action: we must restore it,

and control the effects of destructive developments in the past and years of neglect. This requires that it be designated as a conservation area and given back the natural beauty which has inspired such devotion.

Our Plan for the Conservation and Restoration of Mount Royal is a major point of departure for the next phase in the history of the mountain, and it is a solid basis for community action.

I am proud to submit this Plan to you today, to thank all the people, organizations and municipalities who have contributed to its preparation, and to invite all of



Introduction

Mount Royal : A Part of our Heritage

The Plan for the Conservation and Restoration of Mount Royal was adopted by Montréal's City Council on December 18, 1992. It is the culmination of a rigorous planning process involving the most extensive analysis undertaken to date of the potential and future of the mountain and the requirements for its conservation and restoration. This Plan has grown out of joint studies, consultations, and unprecedented cooperative efforts on the part of the City of Montréal, the Cities of Westmount and Outremont, Montrealers and the institutions located on the Mount Royal site.

A familiar symbol of Montréal, Mount Royal is often equated with the much-frequented Mount Royal Park, which includes such popular spots as Beaver Lake, the chalet, the cross and the scenic lookouts. This immense garden in the heart of the city is a part of our heritage treasured by Montrealers and is, of course, a central concern of the Plan. The Plan does, however, place the issues of conservation and restoration in the broader context of the mountain site in its entirety.

The "three summit" concept embodies a view of Mount Royal as a complex whole, of which the park is an essential component, and as a multifaceted element of our heritage which should be the object of concerted attention and action on the part of the three municipalities and their partners.

The abundant natural heritage of Mount Royal is itself a unique part of a larger legacy which includes architecture, landscapes, scenic views, sculptures, funerary art, and many pieces of decorative art. The traditional functions the park serves and the principle of keeping the park accessible to citizens are also an important part of the rich legacy of Mount Royal.

The pressing need to conserve and restore this invaluable heritage in all its dimensions finds expression in the concept of cultural heritage.





Conservation and Restoration of Mount Royal : the Issues

Preserving the Mountain's Assets

Mount Royal is an integral part of Montréal's image and identity. Its symbolic value remains one of its most positive features.

The park's ecological value is equally important. The scale and contours of the mountain and the park and the fact that they are situated in the centre of the city make a variety of conservation measures necessary.

The growth of citizen awareness, accompanied by popular pressure for conservation, constitutes another significant asset, as does the partnership which has been forged among property owners on the mountain site. The sheer number of property owners, many of them representing important institutions, creates an opportunity for concerted action in the interest of preserving the mountain's many positive attributes.

The diversity of the mountain's functions also figures among its main assets. As the basis of the mountain's cultural heritage sta-

- its historical value, especially in relation to the Mount Royal Park Plan conceived by F.L. Olmsted, one of history's great landscape architects. Olmsted's vision remains relevant today from the aesthetic, ecological and social perspectives;
- its educational value: for many years the mountain and the park have provided — and can continue to provide — opportunities for the public to learn to make use of the park in ways which respect the natural environment, and to engage in other activities related to environmental education.

Addressing Negative Developments

The mountain is under constant pressure resulting from the urbanization on its slopes. These pressures jeopardize its ecological value and imperil the singular place it occupies in the Montréal landscape.

value: soil erosion, the lack of a comprehensive renaturalization and maintenance program, and the proliferation of unplanned paths. The park's roads and the staircases providing access to the park are in need of repair and the park's buildings require renovation.

Consolidating Recent Gains

The process of planning for the conservation and restoration of Mount Royal entailed taking concrete measures in response to some critical problems facing the park. These actions constitute a major step forward in the effort to conserve and restore Mount-Royal. They include:

- the creation of the position of Mount Royal Park administrator,
- the adoption of by-law 7452 regulating the planting and protection of trees,
- the adoption of by-law 7593 making Mount Royal a heritage site and recognizing the importance of the architectural heritage,

Mountain for cooperation in conserving and restoring Mount Royal,

- the creation of an interim joint committee which brings together the signatories to the above-mentioned agreement, as well as representatives of the MUC and the institutions located on the Mount Royal site.
- public consultation on the preliminary plan for the conservation and enhancement of Mount Royal,
- a commitment, in the wake of joint discussions, to take into consideration the concerns of the City's partners in the final plan for the conservation and restoration of Mount Royal.

The Plan's Priority Objectives : Partnership, Conservation, and Restoration

Partnership

In addition to bringing together the municipalities, property owners, the MUC, and citizens, the three summit concept is also intended to win the support of

ing principles and proposed measures put forward in the Plan.

Conservation

The goal of conservation is at the root of the Plan for restoring Mount Royal; it remains the guiding principle. All the varied measures which will be undertaken to preserve the mountain's existing assets—its ecological and aesthetic qualities, as well as its traditional functions—will ensure that the objective of conservation is met.

Conservation also involves implementing measures designed to protect the mountain from activities particularly harmful to its natural environment or its architectural heritage.

Restoration

The goal of restoring Mount Royal stems from the need to implement special measures to restore and improve certain aspects of the mountain. The principle of conservation will serve as framework for the identification of these measures.

Balancing conservation and enjoyment

The popularity of Mount Royal, and especially Mount Royal Park, and the development and

- over and above the general action plan, special measures will be taken within each property to ensure the longevity, renewal and enrichment of the natural environment;
- measures to improve the landscape will conform to the spirit of the Olmsted plan;
- conservation entails preserving the varied functions that the mountain and the park have traditionally served; however, it will be necessary to examine certain types of activities in order to ascertain whether they are compatible with the goal of ecological conservation;
- one of the principal means of achieving the proper balance between the conservation and enjoyment of Mount Royal is to increase public awareness of the challenges involved in preserving the mountain as a central part of Montréal's heritage.

Mount Royal must continue to fulfill its educational, recreational, and tourism-related functions, and the public should be made aware of the need to render these

Proposed Measures to Restore Mount Royal

The Mountain

The Natural Environment

To reconcile the goal of conservation with the recreational, educational and tourism-related functions of Mount Royal Park, the Plan provides for zoning which will take into account the ecological value and the fragility of each area of the mountain as well as the number of visitors. Such zoning could eventually be extended to the mountain site as a whole.

A program could be established to make administrators and visitors aware of the specific conservation requirements of the various parts of the natural environment, again along the lines of what has been recommended for the park.

This could be accompanied by natural resource management programs paying special attention to the enrichment, restoration and upkeep of plant material, the preservation of the ecological integrity of certain areas, and forest management.

The Historical Heritage

possessing aesthetic or symbolic value, such as the Georges-Étienne-Cartier monument, the cross, the legacy of certain planners, and some of the traditional functions served by the mountain.

- reassess the design of certain infrastructures so as to improve their integration into the landscape;
- acquaint visitors with the diversity of the landscape;
- develop programs for the protection and management of cultural resources in the heritage site, possibly through a partnership between the public and private sectors;

Accessibility and Road Networks

The Plan recommends that Mount Royal be made more accessible from the city. Among other improvements, it calls for repairs to the staircases on the southern slope and for new points of entry on the northern slope. The park's internal road network will be connected to the roads around the

The roads which traverse the mountain (Camillien-Houde Way and Remembrance Road) will be reassessed with a view to harmonizing automobile use with the use of public transportation and bicycles, as well as with pedestrian traffic.

The issues to be addressed are: the dimensions of Camillien-Houde Way; car parking inside the park; the creation of a public transportation service to the park, possible pilot projects experimenting with closing the road to traffic at certain times, revamping the Camillien-Houde lookout, particularly in order to allow buses to stop there, and measures in other strategic areas of the park to create greater accessibility.

Scenic Views and Landscapes

F.L. Olmsted's design for a main road was based on the potential for scenic views of the city and the region, as well as of the mountain's scenery. Guided by the spirit of the Olmsted plan, the current Plan calls for the integration and enhancement of observation points and vistas along pathways. It also recommends that existing lookouts be restored and that the quality of the mountain's scenery be preserved.

the conservation zoning for the park.

Public Art

In this domain, the Plan provides for measures to conserve existing works of art in the park and in the cemetery. These measures should be carried out in a manner consistent with the nature of the park and the natural environment of the mountain.

Conservation and Restoration of Mount Royal Park

The much-needed measures to restore and enhance the park must be consistent with both the principle of conservation and the park's traditional functions. Here again, the current Plan draws on the work of the park's original planner.

The Olmsted Legacy

The principles underpinning the Plan's recommendations in this area are derived from the Olmsted plan. Olmsted divided the park into eight zones on the basis of topographical features and vegetation. These classifications were to serve as the basis for the renovation of the park, and especially for planning itineraries with successive changes of scenery. In this context the arrangement of plant species and the lay-out of roads is most important. Olmsted wanted visitors to have the experience of discovering a series of natural landscapes on the slope of a mountain which appears steeper than the Mount Royal hillside actually is.

The current plan recommends:

- increasing the number of links between the mountain and the city;
- restoring the staircases providing access to the mountain.

Conservation and Restoration in Different Sectors of the Park

The Plan calls for better control over access to and use of the park, and for measures to limit the proliferation of paths, notably the introduction of a new system of signage for the park.

Moreover, five zoning categories will be adopted to accommodate varying conservation requirements. This zoning may be further refined as a result of research currently underway.

The first category is the "high conservation zone" which embraces the escarpment and a fragile, typical forest area. Public access to these areas will be strictly controlled, confined mainly to visits for educational purposes.

The "conservation zone" will

development. These zones often lie between high conservation areas and developed areas, hence their designation as "transition" zones. The "extensive activity zone" is the designation for relatively large grassy areas in which there is no overconcentration of visitors. Finally, the "intensive activity zone" embraces areas with a high density of visitors, including the main points of entry, the principal attractions, Olmsted Road, other roads and parking lots, buildings, and the communications towers.

In addition, the Plan calls for measures to minimize damage resulting from run-off and for the exploitation of this water resource with the repair of gutters, the use of retention and drainage areas, and the creation of distribution channels.

Conserving the Architectural and Artistic Heritage

Measures must conform to the objective of conserving the park and concern, in particular, Beaver Lake and the pavilion, the chalet, the Sir Georges-Étienne-Cartier monument and the surrounding area, and the sculptures located near the Smith House.

In addition, an area of 25 hectares on the northern slopes offers a good potential for development. Close to both the University of Montréal campus and the Édouard-Montpetit metro station, it offers breathtaking views of the city and the region. Conservation and restoration of existing wooded areas and of environmentally damaged zones should permit the use of this area for recreational and educational purposes without the construction of new facilities.

The restoration and improvement of the eastern slope includes the opening up to the public of the grounds of the universities and hospitals. This could involve, for instance, providing public access to McGill University's planned future sports facilities, negotiating with the Royal Victoria Hospital for shared use of the northernmost part of its parking lot, and creating a pedestrian link to the mountain through the extension of University Street.

The Roads Bordering Mount Royal

The Plan calls for upgrading Park Avenue so as to enhance its scenic qualities and improve the pedestrian crossings at Mount

Pine Avenue should be revamped to enhance its panoramic features and its function as a beltway south of Mount Royal, its architectural and artistic heritage, as well as the view of the mountain's woods and rocky cliffs. Its links with the city should also be improved through the renovation of the du Musée and Drummond stairways, and signage should be posted to indicate points of entry to Mount Royal Park. More generally, Pine Avenue should be made more accommodating to pedestrians. Côte-des-Neiges Road and the Côte-des-Neiges/Remembrance interchange are also targeted for improvement.

Studies will be undertaken in relation to various elements of this Plan, and impact studies will be conducted for any development projects which raise concerns with respect to conservation. Finally, follow-up and periodic assessments will accompany any measures taken in the park related to the use of the site, to drainage, to control of soil erosion and to forests.

Controlling Urban Development

This would entail cooperation with the various institutions in the development of their lands in the form of comprehensive development programs addressing the issues of conservation of the natural environment, preservation of architectural heritage, and public access to institutional grounds.

In the case of Montréal, the master plans for the Ville-Marie, Plateau-Mont-Royal/Centre-Sud, and Côte-des-Neiges/Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Districts include measures designed to meet the objectives of the Plan for the Conservation and Restoration of Mount Royal, such as placing limits on the height of future buildings in the Ville-Marie District.

Legal Status and an Administrative Body for Mount Royal

The Plan introduces the possibility of granting Mount Royal its own legal status and suggests several approaches to help the interim joint committee raise this matter with the Montréal Urban Community and certain Québec government departments.

The Plan also puts forward a

set out in the Conservation and Restoration Plan.

Finally, the Plan emphasizes that the three summit concept should be rendered more concrete through joint private and public sector funding and priority projects. In particular, it notes the importance of the contribution of the Québec government to the Plan for the Conservation and Restoration of Mount Royal.

Implementing the proposed Measures

The Plan sets out criteria for establishing priorities which will be used to develop an action program and describes those measures already taken in Mount Royal Park and surrounding areas. Between 1990 and 1991 more than seven million dollars was invested in projects such as forestry work in the summit area, water management, improvements to Olmsted Road and to the chalet lookout, the restoration of the chalet and the cross, repairs and improvements to playing fields in Jeanne-Mance Park and to the Redpath staircase south of Pine Avenue.

The Plan identifies the following projects to be undertaken in 1992 :

- control of soil erosion, the consolidation of the summit and the escarpment;
- continuing improvements to the area surrounding the chalet and to Olmsted Road;
- studies regarding the repair of the Trafalgar, Drummond and du Musée staircases.

The following projects have been planned for the next three years:

- continued work on the renaturalization of the summit;
- repairs to the Peel entry and the Drummond and du Musée staircases;
- improvements to the staircase at the Camillien-Houde lookout;
- a preliminary plan for Pine Avenue;
- resurfacing the north side of Cedar Avenue.

Conclusion

The principles of partnership, conservation and restoration central to the three summit concepts are at the heart of the Plan to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of Mount Royal. The City of Montréal has already taken steps to restore the natural environment of the park with the principal aim of preventing further deterioration, and plans to spend nearly four million dollars on this project over the next three years. Another two million dollars will be spent on a variety of projects, such as undertaking repairs to the staircases on the southern slope.

This underscores the City of Montréal's commitment to acting effectively and in a timely manner and to rallying the support of public and private interests to ensure the conservation and restoration of Mount Royal.

