

POLICY ON THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF NATURAL HABITATS



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*The Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of
Natural Habitats* honours a commitment made at the
Montréal Summit



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PREFACE BY HUBERT REEVES

The City of Montréal's Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats.

This welcome initiative by the City of Montréal is cause for celebration for a number of different, yet equally important reasons.

First, as it provides citizens across the island with nearby places where they can reconnect with nature and discover the wonders of the City's natural surroundings, this Policy is no less than a splendid gift for Montréalers one and all. For without adequate protection, these spaces would quickly transform into unsanitary wastelands. Studies have indeed demonstrated that natural urban spaces are oftentimes invaluable areas of biodiversity where species eliminated in other locations owing to the use of chemical pesticides are able to survive. In the context of the current biodiversity crisis, the enhancement of these important tracts of land may well prove, in certain instances, to be the key to their sustainability.

Second, this initiative is exemplary from the social standpoint. By including all users in the process, namely builders, ecologists and outdoor enthusiasts, and by advocating a participative approach, the City is seeking to foster cooperation among all partners and stakeholders. This Policy is thus an excellent antidote to the all too frequent radicalization of attitudes – ecologists on the one hand and commercial enterprises on the other – and ensuing rigid, dead-end conflicts which leave little or no room for compromise or reconciliation of differing points of view.

Third, the Policy is in perfect keeping with the principle of the three P's. Not the much talked about three P's, rather those used to define the framework of sustainable development initiatives:

The first 'P' is for 'Profit': What are the expected economic spinoffs? After all, people must make a living for themselves.

The second 'P' is for 'People': What will the impact be on citizen quality of life?

The third 'P' is for 'Planet': What will the long term impact be on planetary balance, air and water pollution, natural resource preservation and biodiversity?

There can be no doubt that this *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats* will inspire considerable numbers of organizations. My heartfelt thanks to the City of Montréal and partners for making it a reality.

Hubert Reeves
Astrophysicist, Honorary Member of the Québec Biodiversity Institute



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Montréal possesses an identity that combines urban effervescence with the presence of nature. Given the diversity of its natural landscapes, our city already offers an exceptional quality of life, but it is still possible to improve it even further by accentuating the quality of the natural habitats found on its territory.

Over the past few years, we have all become aware of the importance of having nature present in our environment. It contributes to ensuring the quality of the air we breathe and helps beautify our living environment. Together, green and blue spaces constitute a heritage that is an integral part of the feeling of attachment Montrealers have to their city.

The accelerated pace at which our city is developing has led us to ask some serious questions about the fate of these vital areas. Natural habitats are fragile, and their survival depends on the care we give them. That is why we are proposing to Montrealers a number of guidelines to protect and enhance our natural environments. These orientations have already been subject to public consultations and have sparked a great deal of interest, not just from the groups concerned, but from the citizens of Montréal.

Today, I am pleased to present our first-ever *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats*. Our goal is not to prevent the development of new, high-quality residential or industrial projects, but rather to provide ourselves with a tool that will allow us to act in a way that ensures that development is not done to the detriment of nature.

This *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats* will soon join the Urban Plan, the Heritage Policy and the Tree Policy, as well as projects in the green and blue networks, in our continuing efforts to make Montréal a true "city of nature".

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gerald Tremblay". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gérald Tremblay
Mayor of Montréal

MESSAGE FROM ALAN DESOUSA AND HELEN FOTOPULOUS

Embracing sustainable development to benefit current and future generations is the cornerstone of our Administration's plan for urban development that cares about the quality of life of our citizens. The adoption of the Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats is one of the first concrete expressions of this direction.

While reconciling its rich industrial history and its status as a metropolis, Montréal, in the near future, intends to reach an objective of protecting 8% of its territory, as established in the Québec Strategy on Protected Areas. In 2004, the protected areas represented about a little over 3% of its territory. This Policy aims to double this area on land. It also recognizes the special ecological value of the riverbanks of our Island, and it intends to ensure that they are preserved.

The identification of ten sectors that are deemed priorities due to their bio-diversity is at the heart of this new Policy. Each of these ten "eco-territories" has the potential for significant conservation projects. Some of these zones are home to major Montréal parks. This new Policy also deals with the protection and enhancement of natural habitats in all parks, as well as riverside areas of ecological value. It resolutely expresses our Administration's desire to increase the points of contact with nature for our citizens. Far from limiting public access, the proposed protection measures will contribute to facilitating the access of Montréalers to these zones of great ecological diversity, all while respecting their equilibrium.

For the City, as well as the boroughs, this new Policy provides stimulating new perspectives on consolidating the green and blue networks, promoting outdoor activities in an urban setting and increasing the public's awareness to environment, all elements to ensure a better living together.



Alan DeSousa, CA
*Member of the Executive Committee
Responsible for Sustainable Development
and Economic Development*



Helen Fotopulos
*Member of the Executive Committee
Responsible for Mount Royal, Green and Blue
Spaces, Parks and Montréal's Nature Museums*

Table of contents

RICH NATURAL HERITAGE DESERVING OF PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT	7
TARGET OBJECTIVES	9
SIXFOLD STRATEGY FOR ACTION	12
Concerted action to sustain viable ecosystems	13
Regulatory framework, policies and municipal action to support protection of natural habitats	14
Ecological management of natural habitats in City parks	15
Land use strategy: an important lever for ecoterritory protection and enhancement	15
Partner support programs	16
Citizen participation	16
SECTORS OF INTERVENTION UNDER THIS POLICY	17
Natural habitats in existing parks	19
Shoreline and aquatic environments of ecological interest	20
Ecoterritories	21
Map (sectors of intervention)	33
IN CONCLUSION	35

Rich natural heritage deserving of protection and enhancement

The City of Montréal is particularly well endowed in terms of natural landscapes and green spaces. The waterways surrounding the island, natural wooded areas, tree-lined streets, abundance of parks and green spaces all form a part of the island's green and blue heritage, and together lend the City of Montréal a singular identity.

Each of the aforementioned elements of the natural landscape is important and merits special attention by the municipal administration. The City of Montréal has accordingly instigated a number of initiatives which include the drawing up of the Urban Development Plan, Heritage Policy, Tree Policy, Sustainable Development Policy and Strategic Plan for the Development and Enhancement of the Green and Blue Network. Each of the foregoing defines action the object of which is to protect and enhance the varied components of Montréal's natural heritage.

The drafting of the *Policy and the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats* is one of these initiatives. The thrust behind this policy is to preserve and expand island biodiversity, enhance the quality of the island's living areas, boost Montréal's overall power of attraction, and increase the contact Montréalers enjoy with their natural surroundings.

The Island of Montréal enjoys a broad diversity of natural habitats inside and outside existing parks which together form a mosaic made up of open fields, tracts of unimproved land, wooded areas, lakes, waterways, and wetland marshes and bogs. These spaces ensure and sustain animal and plant biodiversity, and can be distinguished from other green spaces by their physical and biological characteristics which provide for the survival of living organisms and constitute habitat where wildlife can feed and reproduce. Thus although a grassed property planted with trees may be considered a green space, it does not qualify as a component of the natural environment for the purposes of the Policy.

Within the scope of the *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats*, the City seeks to protect a rich and diverse wealth of large, natural spaces. These spaces indeed represent core areas of biodiversity which are often home to rare species of plantlife. The island's large tracts of wooded land constitute prime habitat for wildlife given the three strata of vegetation present, namely herbaceous plants, brushwood and trees. Wetland and aquatic environments are characterized by the presence of vegetation which provides habitat essential to the proliferation of a variety of wildlife.



The City intervenes in the following 3 sectors:

- *Natural habitats in existing parks;*
- *Ecoterritories (tracts of land conducive to the creation of new protected areas);*
- *Shoreline and aquatic environments of ecological interest..*

Tributary of Rivière à l'Orme running through woods at Sainte-Anne de Bellevue



Stand of sugar maple and hickory in woods at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue



Rivière des Prairies shoreline in vicinity of Cheval Blanc Rapids



Bertrand Stream south of Bois-de-Liesse Nature Park

At year-end 2003, wooded tracts outside existing parks totalled less than 1600 hectares in area. The aggregate market value of these wooded tracts nonetheless amounted to several hundred million dollars. Were the City of Montréal to purchase these natural spaces outright, the cost of full-fledged protection would be prohibitive given the City's limited financial resources. Hence the urgency of taking decisive action of another sort.

City targeting protection of 8% of island land mass

According to an evaluation conducted by the Government of Québec, protected areas¹ on the Island of Montréal account for slightly more than 3% of the total land mass. Drawing inspiration from the provincial Strategy on Protected Areas, this Policy targets protection of a total of 8% of the island area under City jurisdiction, including a full 6% land sites.

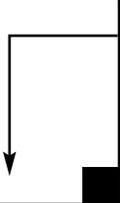
This Policy further seeks to spur community initiative and cooperation, an innovative approach the object of which is to provide for the planned, integrated management of natural habitats of high ecological value, thereby ensuring that future generations enjoy continued access to these viable, sustainable natural spaces.

City intent upon acting upstream of development

The success of this Policy is reliant in equal measure upon the active involvement of all partners concerned and recognition by all Montréalers (citizens, developers and others) of the economic, social and ecological value of the island's natural habitats. In adopting this Policy, the City of Montréal is intent on taking action ahead of time within the overall development process and putting into place a mechanism for cooperatively resolving issues relating to the natural environment.

One the inherent challenges of this Policy lies in seizing opportunities to protect and enhance natural habitats of high ecological value while underscoring attendant added value for new real estate development projects. In short, it is a matter of reconciling environmental, social and economic values and benefits for all parties concerned.

¹ 1 'The World Conservation Union (IUCN) defines protected area as "an area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective measures".



TARGET OBJECTIVES

The three key objectives of the *Policy on the Protection and Enhancements of Natural Habitats* are as follows:

OBJECTIVE 1

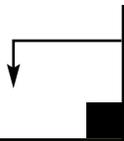
Maximize biodiversity and increase aggregate hectarage of protected natural habitats in Montréal

The City of Montréal plans to develop conservation projects for sectors encompassing natural habitats of high ecological value measuring 15 hectares or more in area. The City seeks to intervene in sectors which are home to natural habitats of ecological value currently threatened by ongoing development (Please see map of sectors of intervention). However, the consolidation of a natural habitats in existing parks or ecoterritory could entail renaturalization work in the areas in question.

For the purposes of this Policy, size is of the essence if only because ecosystem viability hinges largely upon size. Accordingly, the City seeks to create or consolidate natural corridors conducive to wildlife movement, plantlife dispersion, and recreational and educational activities. To the extent possible, the City further wishes to remedy the lack of natural spaces in certain areas of the island, notably the central and eastern sectors.

It is not that smaller natural spaces are lacking in interest from the social or environmental standpoint. It is, however, considerably more difficult to ensure the viability and sustainability of these ecosystems. Spaces of this nature often require silviculture intervention. The Tree Policy, Urban Development Policy and other more localized initiatives such as the drafting of green plans at the borough level provide the wherewithal for focusing specific attention on smaller-sized natural spaces.

Lastly, the waterways in and around the island, shoreline flats, and the hundred or so offshore islands and islets are each fundamental components of the Montréal landscape. It is therefore incumbent upon the City to devote particular attention to the protection and enhancement of shoreline and aquatic environments, especially those of significant ecological interest. These sectors of intervention, found both inside and outside the confines of the island's ecoterritories, are shown on the map included with this Policy.



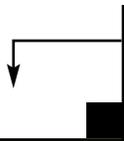
TARGET OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 2

Ensure the sustainability of natural habitats in existing City parks, and promote the consolidation and viability of park ecosystems

Public parks and spaces are home to a number of natural habitats boasting a wealth of biodiversity which the City of Montréal is intent upon preserving. Although these habitats already enjoy a certain protected status, they represent areas threatened by human intervention either inside or outside the boundaries of existing parks. To maintain the integrity of the island's wetlands, sustain flow regimes for area waterways and preserve water quality, it is essential to ensure proper runoff management in new, nearby development projects. To ensure the sustainability of natural habitats in City parks and preserve the integrity of existing ecosystems, Montréal intends also to examine opportunities for ecosystem consolidation when planning new developments on adjacent tracts of land.

An upsurge in recreational activities or overuse by citizens can bring pressure to bear upon the natural spaces found in City parks and, as result, jeopardize the sustainability of these spaces. The City of Montréal has therefore developed a special model for managing the ecosystems and landscapes of the island's nature parks (Anse-à-l'Orme, Cap-Saint-Jacques, Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard, Bois-de-Liesse, Bois-de-Saraguay, Île-de-la-Visitation, Bois-d'Anjou and Pointe-aux-Prairies). This model involves accurately evaluating ecological units present, intervening to protect ecosystems as required, and monitoring subsequent development by means of specific indicators. The City advocates adapting this management model and broadening application to all island parks featuring natural spaces of high ecological value.



TARGET OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 3

Foster enhanced integration of ecosystems and natural landscapes in built-up areas

The *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats* identifies conservation priorities. The Policy also outlines a framework for concerted action and development conducive to the formulation of novel, winning solutions designed to ensure that natural habitats are protected without unduly hampering development.

Although a number of real estate developers have understood the added advantage of preserving natural habitats when planning new development projects, they do not as yet represent the majority. Any number of new developments continue to be built by felling the trees in the vicinity or backfilling marshy areas.

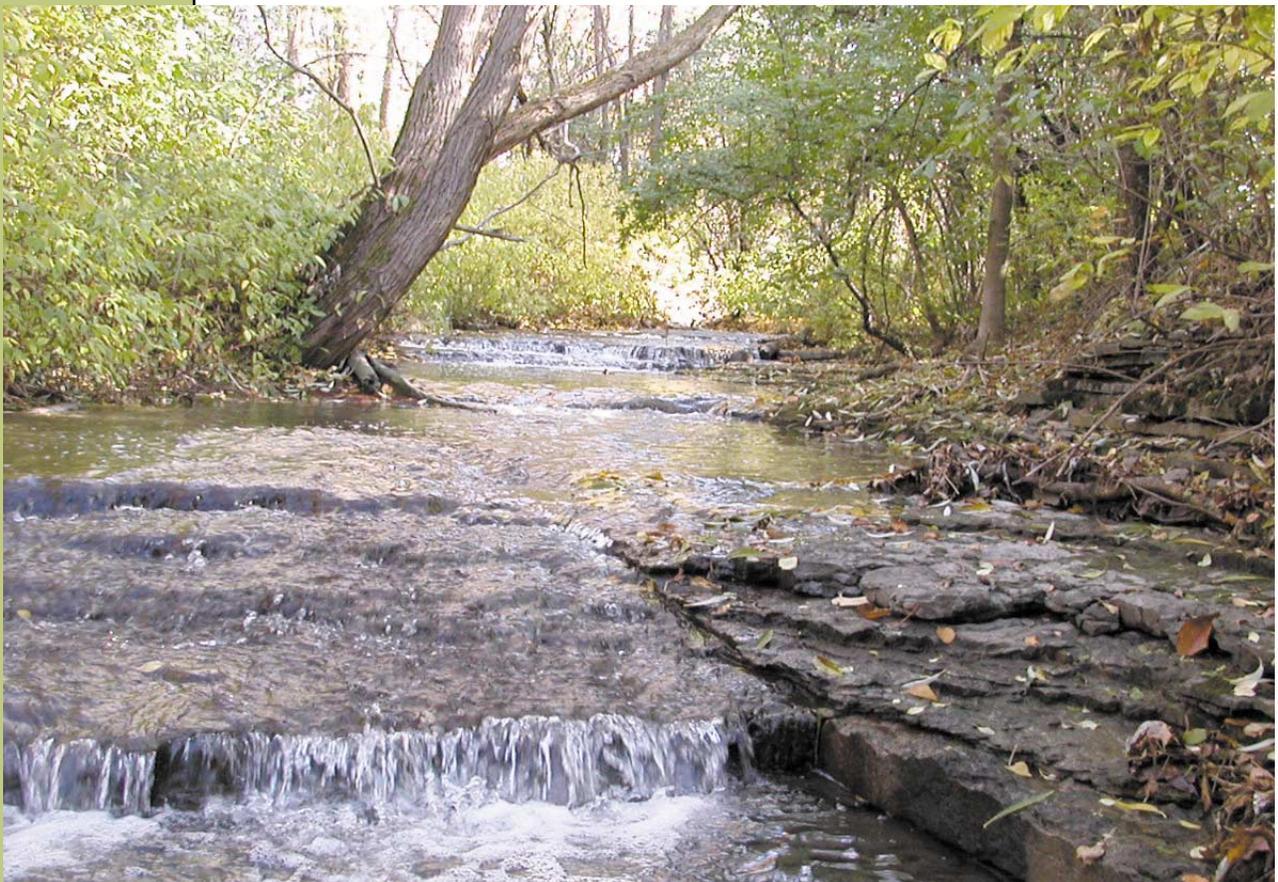
In Montréal, precious few vacant lots remain available for development. Indeed a significant proportion of available land is now found in the more outlying areas of the island in locations endowed with a wealth of natural habitats (woodlots, uncultivated land and marshes). Hence the current social debate over two divergent development visions: on the one hand, that of conservationists who advocate the integral protection of natural habitats at any cost to ensure uncompromised quality of life for generations present and future, and, on the other, that of developers for whom the protection of natural habitats is often perceived as an obstacle to profitability.

One the greatest challenges of this *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats* involves reconciling these two visions by underscoring that the integration of natural habitats into the urban fabric can promote economic vitality and elevate quality of life.

SIXFOLD STRATEGY FOR ACTION

Given the limited means available to the City and the significant financial resources required to protect and enhance the island's natural habitats, this Policy proposes a sixfold strategy for action. These six measures combined are key to the success of this notable municipal thrust to protect and enhance Montréal's natural heritage. These six measures further constitute the main elements of the action plan which will be drawn up in support of this Policy.

Rather than acting as sole architect, the City of Montréal is counting upon the cooperation and involvement of a number of internal and external stakeholders. The object is to introduce a negotiation process designed to achieve consensus among decision-makers and other partners on protection and development objectives, cooperative agreements, incentive programs, and an appropriate regulatory framework.



Cascading waters of De Montigny Stream

1. Concerted action to sustain viable ecosystems

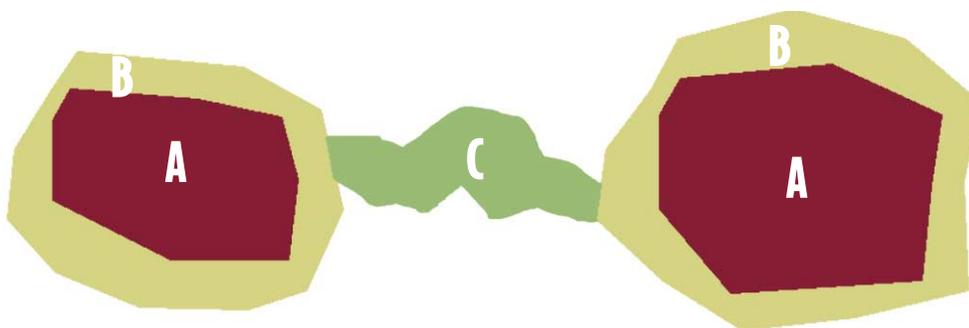
The City has identified 10 sectors, referred to as ecoterritories, in which natural spaces are slated for priority protection and enhancement. These sectors represent considerable tracts of land which include existing protected areas (large parks, nature reserves, etc.) as well as natural spaces in need of protection and enhancement. Together these spaces provide for the creation of a mosaic of natural habitats of broad ecological interest accessible to all Montréalers. In this Policy, there appears a brief profile of each ecoterritory, as well as an outline of the conservation and management objectives specific to each.

In each ecoterritory, the City plans to initiate concerted action leading to the development of a conservation project. Protection and enhancement objectives will then be set out in detail, the aim being to ensure the sustainability of rich, diverse ecosystems which form integral parts of the urban fabric.

Action will be based upon the notion of an ecological network or whole defined as a natural environment comprising three zones: a core zone, a buffer zone and an ecological corridor around which a development project may be designed. This model fosters a better meshing of urban development projects while safeguarding the long term viability of high value ecosystems

ECOLOGICAL NETWORK

- A)** Core zones are pockets of biodiversity which provide the environmental conditions conducive the safeguarding of ecosystems, habitats, as well as significant populations of animals and plants.
- B)** The buffer zones play a number of roles. They protect the core zones from potential external threats and provide habitats which are essential to the survival of the species living in the core zones.
- C)** The ecological corridors provide a linear link from one core zone to another, allowing species to disperse and migrate.



The City will also develop a similar technique to be used to identify the objectives specific to the protection of shoreline and aquatic environments of ecological interest, the object being to safeguard these environments.

A multidisciplinary technical committee made up of representatives from the City, the boroughs, the municipalities concerned, as well as the federal and provincial governments will be set up for each sector of intervention (ecoterritory and shoreline environment of interest). These technical committees will be commissioned to draft an optimal conservation project or development/intervention plan designed to protect and enhance elements of the natural environment. These committees will further examine issues linked to protection and conservation, and propose appropriate solutions.



Stand of sugar maple and beech south of Anse-à-l'Orme Nature Park



Boutin Island offshore from De Montigny Stream



Marsh south of Heritage Woods in Pointe-aux-Prairies Nature Park



Bertrand Stream in the vicinity of the industrial park, Borough of Dorval–Dorval Island



Stand of silver maple in treed swamp in the vicinity of Cheval Blanc Rapids.



St Paul Woods on Nuns' Island

A management committee will be set up to oversee the workings of the technical committees and address issues pertaining to the *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats*. This committee will comprise a mix of elected officials from the City of Montréal, the boroughs and the municipalities concerned. An annual report, to be approved by the committee, will support the *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats*, detail action taken and outline action planned for upcoming years.

The citizenry will also have the opportunity to voice their opinions on conservation projects during public consultation sessions organized by the technical committees or during annual consultation conducted by the City respecting the action plan to be drawn up in support of the *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats* (See Strategy 6 outlining citizen participation).

2. Regulatory framework, policies and municipal action to support protection of natural habitats

The City of Montréal plans to harmonize all policies and action with a view to protecting and enhancing the island's natural habitats. Already, the Urban Development Plan makes specific mention of the City's willingness to take action to protect and enhance its natural habitats, and encourages the incorporation of initiatives into the plan. In further support of this Policy, the Urban Development Plan incorporates the conservation and management objectives specific to the ecoterritories.

The supplement to the Urban Development Plan outlines the rules and criteria for evaluating a cadastral operation, cut or fill project, or building construction or expansion project planned for a site located within 30 metres of a wooded area, wetland or waterway situated within a designated ecoterritory. These criteria relate to the viability of the natural habitat, preservation of the topography, maintenance of natural site drainage, and enhancement of waterway flow regimes.

The work of the ecoterritory technical committees will assist the boroughs in deciding on the tools they require in light of the directives set out in the supplement to the Urban Development Plan (master development plan, architectural implementation and integration plan, etc.), and in determining the mechanics of regulatory enforcement. In cooperation with the different levels of government, certain technical committees could be called upon to assess the pertinence of other tools necessary for the proper protection and preservation of the island's ecosystems (conservation status: natural space, wildlife sanctuary, plant habitat, etc.).

Pursuant to the regulatory framework prescribed under the Urban Development Plan, decisions by a borough council regarding a project planned for a given ecoterritory will be subject to notice to such effect by the Urban Development Advisory Committee (UDAC). The Montréal Heritage Council will also enjoy a role in assessing projects planned for the ecoterritories. Prior to initiating the formal project evaluation procedure, developers will be entitled to seek the assistance of the technical committees in designing projects that adequately comply with established objectives and criteria.

For the purposes of this Policy, the City of Montréal is of the opinion that the 10% contribution required of developers for parkland, playgrounds and natural spaces will be in addition to other government regulations pertaining to the protection of natural habitats, notably Québec's Environment Quality Act.

In the instance of City-sponsored funding initiatives (infrastructure, housing, etc.), Montréal seeks to make the protection and enhancement of natural habitats a condition essential to the acceptance of development projects planned for sectors of high ecological value.

The City of Montréal will further rely on the support of applicable laws and regulations enforced by other levels of government.

Lastly, the City plans to develop an overall vision for all wetlands and hydrous environments with a view to identifying ecological value, prioritizing sectors to be preserved and determining specific action to be taken. This vision will serve as the foundation of a new regulatory framework to be drawn up in cooperation with the boroughs, the municipalities, the Metropolitan Montréal Community, the Québec Ministry of the Environment and Environment Canada.

3. Ecological management of natural habitats in City parks

The City of Montréal plans to assess natural habitats in island parks and green spaces, and enter key components in a registry of protected areas. These protected areas would be subject to protective measures within the scope of an ecological management process similar to the one applying to nature parks.

Ecological management is essential if the City is to maintain plant and animal biological diversity, restore environments impaired by human development or natural causes, and prevent future degradation. Ecological management makes it possible to understand and monitor ecosystems, and then develop and institute recreational and educational activities for users.

4. Land use strategy: an important lever for ecoterritory protection and enhancement

The drafting of a land use strategy is one of the elements of the action plan underpinning the Policy on the *Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats*. This strategy will involve the setup of a land use program designed to provide for public/private financing packages and to seize opportunities as they arise.

Furthermore, in the light of the market value of land of high ecological value and mounting pressures in this respect, the City foresees the creation and utilization of a budgeted fund to protect and develop strategic natural habitats. Provisions in the land use strategy will make allowance for recourse to various mechanisms such as ecological donations, land exchanges (whereby developers would relinquish sites of high ecological value and reorient their designs on alternate properties offered by the City), tangible participation by public organizations and institutions in possession of vast tracts of undeveloped land which could be included in the network of protected areas, multiparty, shared-cost agreements with stakeholders—including the federal and provincial governments, and public/private partnerships.

This strategy is also based on a concerted approach in matters of the utilization of contributions (cash or land) required of developers to provide for parkland when planning new housing subdivisions.



Marsh on Île Bizard



White-tailed deer south of Heritage Woods in Pointe-aux-Prairies Nature Park



Riffle or natural shallows on Lachine Rapids

5. Partner support programs

This Policy provides for the drawing up of various cooperation and support programs for partners seeking to assume a role in natural habitat protection and enhancement initiatives.

These programs will be developed based on criteria and terms specific to the conservation organizations, and other public and private groups and organizations involved. The program could take a number of different forms such as providing project development support, enhancing citizen awareness and supporting funding campaigns. The City intends to certify real estate development projects that meet the objectives set out in this Policy.

6. Citizen participation

The success of this *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats* lies not only in adoption by the City but also in ensuring that the vision and approach advocated herein are shared and defended by Montréalers one and all (citizens, developers, environmental organizations, etc.).

Accordingly, as opportunities impacting the ecoterritories arise, the City intends to foster discussions among citizens, representatives of environmental organizations and developers with a view to planning development projects designed to procure added value for both conservationists and developers.

The City further plans to schedule citizen consultation in conjunction with the tabling of an annual report on the *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats*. This report will summarize action taken during the year and outline an action plan for the upcoming year.

In addition, the City of Montréal will post information on its website respecting the island's natural habitats, including information pertaining to the implementation of this Policy.

Lastly, in the wake of the Montréal Summit, the City will pursue dialogue with the representatives of environmental organizations concerned about the challenges associated with the protection and enhancement of the island's natural habitats.

Sectors of intervention under this policy *

- Natural habitats in existing parks
- Shoreline and aquatic environments of ecological interest
- Ecoterritories
- Map of sectors of intervention

* These sectors may be subject to re-evaluation.

Natural habitats in existing parks

Natural habitats in existing parks

The City of Montréal advocates adapting and applying the ecosystem and landscape management model used for its nature parks to all parks featuring spaces of high ecological value.

The development of this management model led to a change in nature park status. In 1993, the Regional Parks Division of the Montréal Urban Community drafted an ecosystem and landscape management program based on studies conducted in the 1980s, the object being to provide for the sustainable development of regional parks and park heritage. As a consequence, on 24 March 1994, the Executive Committee of the Montréal Urban Community authorized the name change from *regional park* to *nature park*.

Ecosystem management objectives

- Identify and recognize the natural heritage of existing parks;
- Provide for the protection and enhancement of this natural heritage;
- Bring natural space protection status and Policy objectives into line with one another;
- Maintain biodiversity, both plant and animal;
- Detect, in the field, changes to biophysical resources;
- Propose tangible solutions to the consequences of disturbances—human and natural—to the ecological value of natural habitats.



Shoreline and aquatic environments of ecological interest



Shoreline and aquatic environments of ecological interest

In addition to the wooded areas, tracts of undeveloped land, ponds, bogs and marshland, Montréal's natural heritage includes an abundance of waterways and shoreline environments. These shoreline and aquatic environments are fundamental elements of the Montréal landscape. Shoreline areas are particularly popular with citizens for recreational activities such as fishing, or simply for admiring the scenery and enjoying the ambient peace and quiet. These shoreline and aquatic environments are home to a wealth of unique vegetation which provides habitat essential to the development of a diversity of plant and animal life. Within the scope of the *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats*—allowance being made for applicable federal and provincial policies, the City of Montréal plans to devise a strategy for protecting and developing shoreline and aquatic environments of considerable ecological potential. .

Conservation and management objectives

- Preserve and enhance the biodiversity of shoreline and aquatic environments;
- Establish an overall vision for shoreline and aquatic environments with a view to identifying ecological potential;
- Protect and enhance shoreline and aquatic heritage (preserve landscape, monitor interventions, ensure that water is physically and visually accessible, etc.)
- Ensure sound ecosystem management in these environments;
- Draw up a communications and educational program to raise citizen awareness of shoreline and aquatic environments of ecological interest.