



The 10 ecoterritories

Senneville Woods

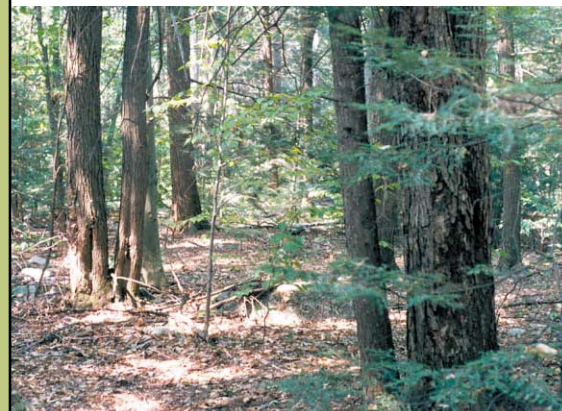


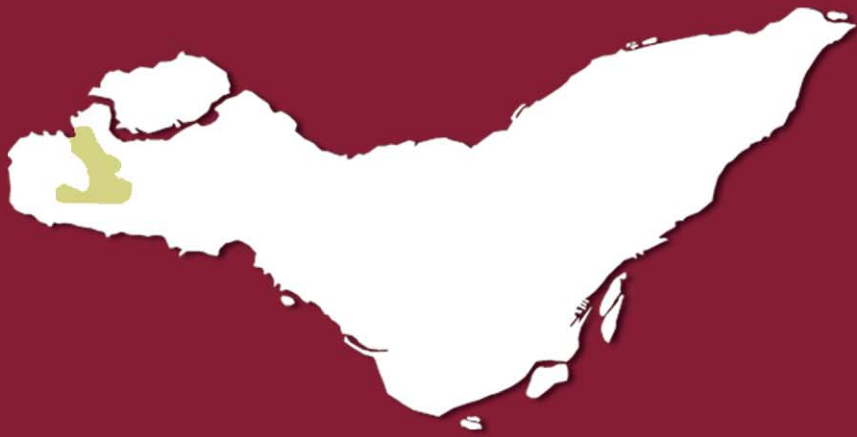
Ecological profile

This territory, which comprises the area surrounding the Morgan Arboretum, is dominated by stands of mature trees and includes several streams and wetland areas (marshes and treed swamps). These natural habitats are home to rare species of plants and contribute to the preservation of a wooded tract some 300 hectares in area, the largest on the Island of Montréal. Found here are rare stands of beech, red oak and eastern hemlock several of which have been selected by the Ministry of Natural Resources for designation as exceptional forest ecosystems (EFEs). Owing to both size and diversity, these woods constitute prime habitat for forest birds, including birds of prey.

Conservation and management objectives

- Preserve the biodiversity and integrity of this wooded area.
- Provide for wildlife corridors linking Lake of Two Mountains, Senneville Woods, the Ecomuseum and Bois-de-la-Roche Agricultural Park without compromising the privacy of lakefront properties.
- Preserve the ponds located north of the Ecomuseum given the rarity of ponds on the island and their potential as wildlife habitat.





Rivière à l'Orme Ecoforest Corridor



Ecological profile

This corridor comprises five distinct natural areas of considerable biodiversity: Angell Woods south of Autoroute 40; Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Woods west of Rivière à l'Orme; the two mature forest stands at each end of Anse-à-l'Orme Nature Park; and, the lowland area at the mouth of Rivière à l'Orme. Each of these areas is characterized by a mosaic of vegetation comprising mixed stands of young and mature forest growth, unimproved land, marshland, bogs and waterways. These natural areas are home to a number of rare species of plants and constitute potential habitat for three endangered species of animal life, namely the red-shouldered hawk, Cooper's hawk and brown snake. The size of the mature wooded areas combined with the proximity of open land favours the presence of populations of birds of prey. *Veronica anagallis-aquatica** or American speedwell, an aquatic plant particularly rare in Québec, can be found in the vicinity of Rivière à l'Orme. This ecoterritory encompasses the entirety of Rivière à l'Orme and its principal tributaries. The forest corridor bordering Rivière à l'Orme serves a strategic link for the fauna and flora of the three neighbouring nature parks (Anse-à-l'Orme, Bois-de-la-Roche and Cap-Saint-Jacques).

Angell Woods are home to eight species of rare plants and a full quarter of the wooded area—dominated by stands of hickory and sugar maple—has been designated as an exceptional forest ecosystem (EFE) by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Woods boast rare stands of yellow birch and cedars which constitute prime habitat for white-tailed deer and birds of prey.

Conservation and management objectives

- Create a sustainable ecological corridor of great biodiversity in the area surrounding the only inland river on the Island of Montréal.
- Create a recreational corridor from Beaurepaire Station to Cap-Saint-Jacques Nature Park and Bois-de-la-Roche Agricultural Park.
- Maintain Rivière à l'Orme water quality and ensure appropriate water levels.
- Consolidate the boundaries of Anse-à-l'Orme Nature Park and Bois-de-la-Roche Agricultural Park by conserving natural spaces of significant ecological interest in the adjoining area.

Île Bizard Ecoforest Corridor



Ecological profile

This corridor is characterized by important networks of wetlands (marshes and bogs) linked by waterways and stands of mature trees. These natural spaces are home to a number of rare plants and constitute prime habitat for herpetofauna (amphibians and reptiles), waterfowl and forest birds. Wetlands are particularly abundant in the southwest sector of the island in the vicinity of Pointe Théorêt and in the area north of Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard Nature Park. The high ecological value of the Pointe Théorêt sector led Montréal Urban Community (MUC) officials to shortlist the area for eventual transformation into a nature park. The sector north of Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard Nature Park is characterized by several tracts of open land which serve as feeding grounds for birds of prey that nest in the nature park. The cedar bush also found in the area provides habitat for the white-tailed deer population in winter.

One of the sectors of the nature park is dominated by a prize stand of sugar maple and hickory. Home to seven rare species of plants, the area acts as a buffer for nature park's network of wetlands. These woods provide suitable habitat for two endangered species of birds of prey that live in the nature park, namely the red-shouldered hawk and Cooper's hawk. The black maple woodlot to the northwest of the nature park is extremely rare for Montréal and environs, and infrequently encountered elsewhere in Québec. This woodlot has been designated as an exceptional forest ecosystem (EFE) by the Ministry of Natural Resources, and is home to seven species of endangered plants. The brown snake, also an endangered species, frequents the open land in the vicinity of the black maple woodlot which adjoins the nature park.

Conservation and management objectives

- Preserve the diverse, sustainable ecosystems in the vicinity of the wetlands and forest stands of extremely high ecological value, all of which are located in an area under development.
- Consolidate the boundaries of Cap-Saint-Jacques and Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard nature parks by conserving various natural spaces of intrinsic ecological interest or decided significance in terms of wildlife habitat.
- Create an ecological and recreational corridor linking Pointe Théorêt (extension of Cap-Saint-Jacques Nature Park), Lake of Two Mountains and Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard Nature Park.
- Conserve an important tract of the natural environment north of Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard Nature Park to meet the needs of resident wildlife, especially birds of prey and white-tailed deer.





Cheval Blanc Rapids



Ecological profile

The area in the vicinity of Cheval Blanc Rapids is characterized by a wooded shoreline, ongoing stretches of wet meadowland home to an abundance of *phalaris arundinacea* or reed phalaris and a concentration of treed wetlands adjoining Rivière des Prairies, which are home to large silver maple woodlots. These areas constitute prime breeding habitat for fish, amphibians, reptiles and waterfowl. They also serve as feeding grounds for the great blue heron and other shorebirds. These riparian and wetland areas, as well as adjacent terrestrial tracts—open land and woods—are home to a number of rare plant species. Until recently, one of these species, the pubescent sticklewort, had not been observed in Québec for over 50 years.

The silver maple woodlot found in this area is the largest of all such stands bordering Rivière des Prairies.



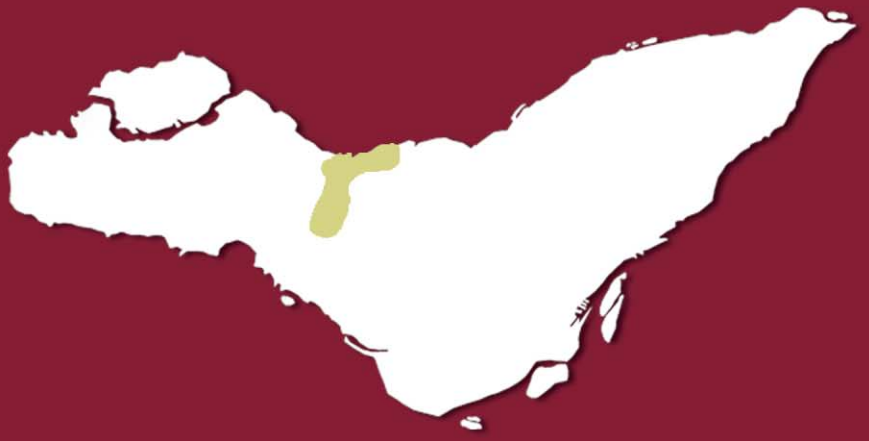
Pubescent sticklewort



Conservation and management objectives

- Preserve a viable ecosystem in an area of unique scenic beauty along the banks of Rivière des Prairies which offers potential in terms of regional park development.
- Preserve extensive wildlife and plant biodiversity in the area while maximizing access to the riverbank.
- Maintain a link between the conservation areas and the three riverside parks: Roxboro Island, Cheval Blanc and Des Arbres parks.

Bertrand Stream Basin



Ecological profile

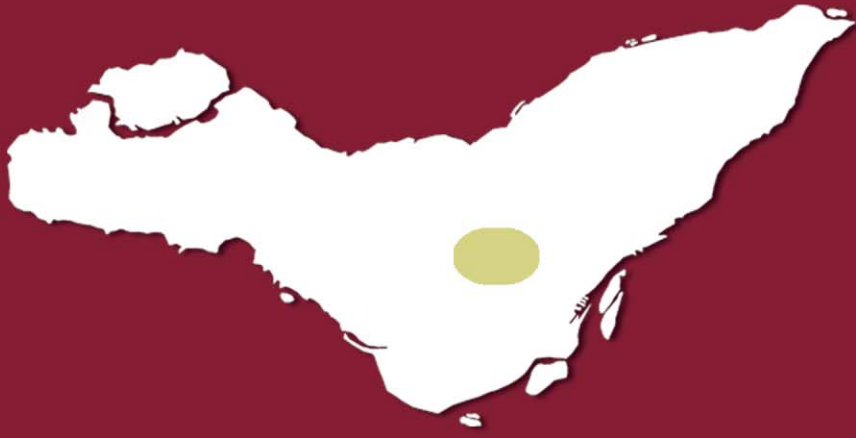
The basin encompasses the entirety of the Bertrand Stream system from the upstream sector of the waterway to Bois-de-Liesse Nature Park. In the upstream sector, Bertrand Stream flows through a bog and marsh area adjacent to Dorval Industrial Park. In the stream's headwater area, on land occupied by the Saint-Laurent Technoparc, is found a natural space comprising a small pond bordered by marsh and treed swampland, as well as a mature stand of beech which is considered a rarity on the island. These aquatic (streams and ponds) and wetland (marshes and bogs) areas provide habitat for fish (cyprinids), migratory waterfowl, amphibians, reptiles, beavers and muskrats.

South of the nature park lies a wooded area of considerable ecological interest comprising various types of mature forest stands representative of the Montréal area: sugar maple-beech, sugar maple-hickory, silver maple and an extremely rare stand of black sugar maple. These forest stands are home to rare species of plants and are frequented by two endangered species of birds of prey observed in the park, namely the red-shouldered hawk and Cooper's hawk.

Conservation and management objectives

- Control Bertrand Stream water quality and quantity.
- Redirect runoff from Saint-Laurent Technoparc to Bertrand Stream.
- Develop and enhance the natural environment with a view to recreating a natural ecosystem the length of the stream from the airport to Bois-de-Liesse Nature Park.
- Consolidate the boundaries of Bois-de-Liesse Nature Park by including the stands of trees of ecological interest south of the park.
- Provide for a green belt linking Lake Saint-Louis and Bois-de-Liesse Nature Park.





Summits and Slopes of Mount Royal



Ecological profile

The summits and slopes of Mount Royal are of significant landscape and ecological value. The wooded areas found on the mountain comprise mainly mature, century-old stands of red oak, sugar maple-red oak and sugar maple-hickory. Stands of oak, a rarity in Montréal, are generally concentrated on the slopes of Mount Royal. These wooded tracts have preserved their ecological integrity, constitute prime breeding habitat for birdlife and are possibly home to rare species of plants.

Conservation and management objectives

- Update the Mount Royal Development Plan by incorporating objectives relating to ecological management as currently practised in the nature parks.
- Preserve the emblematic value of the green summits and slopes of the mountain.
- Protect each of the three strata of vegetation (herbaceous plants, brushwood and trees) on the summits and slopes which provide feeding and nesting habitat for a broad diversity of birds.
- Focus particular attention on the preservation of exceptional forest stands on the north slope of the mountain which is home to rare vestiges of the original Mount Royal forest cover.
- Maximize the possibilities for lookouts and contact with nature on all sides of the mountain.
- Foster links between the islands of natural spaces on each of the three summits both inside and outside the limits of existing parks.
- Preserve the wooded corridor bordering Camillien-Houde Way.

De Montigny Stream Basin

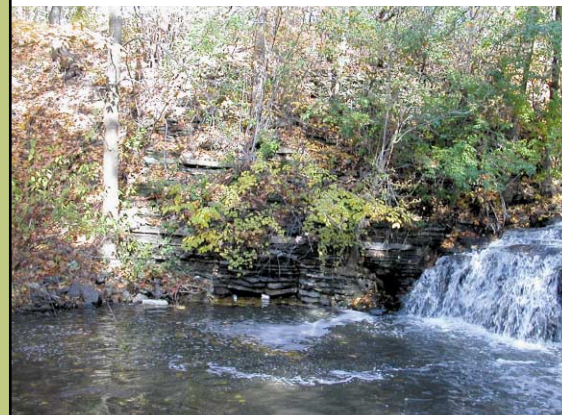


Ecological profile

The De Montigny Stream Basin is unique to Montréal's natural landscape. The stream cascades directly down over the limestone and features a spectacular waterfall. Stream banks are bordered mainly by a mix of young and mature growth northern red ash. The four islands offshore from the mouth of the stream (Boutin, Rochon, Lapierre and Gagné) are almost completely flooded come spring and constitute prime breeding habitat for fish, muskrats, amphibians, reptiles and ducks, as well as feeding grounds for the great blue heron. These islands, where a number of rare plants have been observed, together comprise one of the rare, natural, East Island locations little impacted by urban development and which present considerable interpretive potential.

Conservation and management objectives

- Preserve a viable ecosystem in the area surrounding this exceptional stream located in a highly built-up sector of the City generally lacking in natural spaces.
- Preserve the considerable biodiversity of Boutin, Rochon, Lapierre and Gagné islands by allowing recreational activities in keeping with efforts to protect the natural environment.
- Ensure a sufficient volume of quality water to feed De Montigny Stream.
- Create a linear park linking the area extending from Rivière des Prairies to the retention pond in Anjou.





East Island Greenbelt



Ecological profile

This area comprises mature stands of trees running alongside Autoroute 40, which serve as a visual screen, and those found in the Bois-de-la-Réparation sector outside the boundaries of Pointe-aux-Prairies Nature Park. These wooded areas are home to a number of rare species of plantlife, including the cork elm. The Bois-de-la-Réparation sector is currently being evaluated for designation as an exceptional forest ecosystem (EFE).

The East Island greenbelt, which also encompasses the upstream and central sections of Pinel Creek, features a mix of marsh, new growth forest, wetlands and wooded tracts bordering Pointe-aux-Prairies Nature Park, in particular those located in the headwater sector of Grou Basin and those found in the area south of Heritage Woods. These natural spaces constitute prime habitat for amphibians, reptiles and waterfowl. The white-tailed deer population, estimated at some fifteen or so individuals, frequent the wetlands and open fields to the south.

Bonfoin Island, located off the eastern tip of the Island of Montréal, also forms a part of this ecoterritory. This small island, which boasts a mix of herbaceous prairie cover and central marshland, provides breeding habitat for fish and waterfowl. The island's shoreline is home to a number of rare species of plants.

Conservation and management objectives

- Supplement the deficiency of natural spaces in the eastern sector of the Island of Montréal.
- Preserve biodiversity by protecting the remaining natural spaces of ecological interest.
- Maximize connecting links between and accessibility of natural spaces in the area for both residents and wildlife.
- Consolidate the boundaries of Pointe-aux-Prairies Nature Park.
- Ensure sufficient supply of quality water for Pinel Creek, Grou Basin and headwater marshes.
- Conserve the wooded areas along Autoroute 40 to buffer and reduce traffic noise, and provide a visual element of quality in a heavily industrialized area which serves as one of the main gateways to the Island of Montréal.

Lachine Rapids



Ecological profile

The Lachine Rapids are unique to the Québec landscape. The area is a breeding ground for any number of species of fish (still and fast water spawning sites) and aquatic birds (sterns, ducks and herons). The midstream islands provide sanctuary for several endangered species of plants and represent prime nesting sites for ducks and herons. Heron Island is home to a mixed colony of herons, including the black-crowned night heron, great blue heron and tufted heron. This colony includes the largest nesting population of black-crowned night herons and second largest nesting population of great blue herons in Québec. The midstream islands and Parc des Rapides in the Borough of LaSalle form a part of the Heron Island migratory bird sanctuary and are fast becoming refuges for wildlife as well.

The stand of willow in Parc des Rapides speaks volumes about the highly diverse wetland environment and wealth of wildlife (fish, amphibians and reptiles, aquatic and shore birds, as well as semi-aquatic mammals). This natural environment of demonstrated interest is already subject to certain protective measures. Within the scope of the action plan to be drawn up in support of this Policy, steps will be taken to ensure proper protection of this site.



St Paul Woods on Nuns' Island provide sanctuary for a number of endangered species of plants and are home to a great diversity of birds, including birds of prey. This wet woodland, together with Lac des Battures, constitute important breeding grounds for amphibians and reptiles. This natural space, like the Heron Island heron colony, is listed in the registry of protected areas compiled by the Québec Ministry of the Environment.

Conservation and management objectives

- Conserve ecosystem integrity.
- Preserve cultural heritage.
- Develop recreational and tourism potential.





Saint-Jacques Escarpment



Ecological profile

The Saint-Jacques escarpment, together with Mount Royal, are each defining characteristics of the Island of Montréal landscape. This escarpment is dominated by stands of poplar which ensure soil stability. Geographically located between Mount Royal and the Lachine Rapids and extending over an area of more than 20 hectares, the escarpment is of strategic importance for migratory waterfowl.

Conservation and management objectives

- Draw up a protection and development plan for this area in conjunction with the boroughs concerned.
- Identify action required to curb erosion of the escarpment.

In conclusion

The success of this social initiative hinges upon certain essential conditions deserving of mention. They are as follows:

- Ensuring that everyone (citizens, developers and partners) recognizes the economic, social and ecological value of the island's natural habitats;
- Realizing the necessity of striking a compromise between two visions: on the one hand, total, all-out conservation and, on the other, development without regard for protection and enhancement of natural habitats of high ecological value;
- Cooperating with external partners in drafting objectives relating to protection and development and the regulatory frameworks and ensuring harmonization with other government programs;
- Identifying opportunities for protecting and enhancing natural habitats when planning new development projects;
- Harmonizing all municipal policies and action, inclusive of funding programs, with the *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats*;
- Involving the citizenry and City partners in drafting an action plan to underpin this Policy.

In tabling this *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats*, the City of Montréal seeks to underscore the importance attributed to natural habitats in the ongoing planning and development of an urban entity which remains both competitive from the economic standpoint and a great place to live in.

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