



# Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan

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**DRAFT**



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# Background



Mount Royal is one of Montréal's best-known landmarks. Its exceptional natural, cultural and heritage qualities were recognized by its designation as a heritage site in 1987 and the adoption of the *Montréal Master Plan* and the *Mount Royal enhancement plan* (*Plan de mise en valeur du mont Royal*) in 1992.

More recently, a number of steps have reaffirmed the goal of protecting and enhancing the Mountain, including:

- the Mount Royal sector summit, as part of the Montréal Summit in 2002;
- the adoption in 2003 of an addendum to the *City Contract* to transfer responsibility for managing the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District to the city and allocate a specific budget for its conservation and enhancement;
- the statement of guidelines relating to Mount Royal in the *Montréal Master Plan* adopted in 2004 and its designation as a detailed planning area;
- the adoption of the *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats* in 2004;
- the creation of the Bureau du Mont-Royal and the Table de concertation du Mont-Royal in 2004, and the start of work by the Table in 2005;
- the adoption by the Quebec government, under the *Cultural Property Act*, of the decree creating the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District in 2005;
- the adoption of the *Heritage Policy* in 2005;
- the addition to the *Agreement on the cultural development of Montréal* (*Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal*), in 2006, of point 5 relating to the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District;
- the consensus by the Table de concertation, in May 2007, on the protection schemes presented by the city;
- as part of "Montréal, Cultural Metropolis - Rendez-vous November 2007":
  - including specific actions for protecting and enhancing Mount Royal in the "Improve the cultural quality of the living environment" approach of the Action Plan;
  - renewing and expanding the *Agreement on the cultural development of Montréal* for the 2008-2011 period.

In addition, throughout 2007, institutional property owners in the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District were all invited to make concrete commitments to protecting and enhancing the heritage features on their property; together, these commitments will constitute the Mount Royal Heritage Pact (Pacte patrimonial du Mont-Royal).

In keeping with the goals set to date, a draft *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan* has been prepared.





The *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan* lays out the objectives set in light of the goals established in the 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan* and the 1992 and 2004 *Montréal Master Plans*, and on the basis of the work of the Table de concertation du Mont-Royal and the statements in various policies relating to the Mountain adopted in recent years:

- Protecting and enhancing Mount Royal;
- Making the Mountain an accessible and welcoming place;
- Creating the appropriate conditions to protect and enhance Mount Royal.

These objectives must be shared and made public if the *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan* is to be a success.

### **Protecting and enhancing Mount Royal**

The issues and concerns raised with regard to protecting and enhancing the Mountain and the actions taken over the years clearly point to the importance of making its protection a priority, by refining initiatives for protecting features of interest and updating our view of its heritage, in particular by including the concept of landscape and recognizing its designation as an ecoterritory and a historic and natural district.

### **Making the Mountain an accessible and welcoming place**

One of the key aims of the 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan* was to improve the links between the city and the Mountain. Work must continue on upgrading access to the Mountain and the roads that circle it so as to make all access points more user-friendly, safe and inviting.

In addition, the quality of services offered in Mount Royal Park must be improved to allow users to make the most of its attractions.

### **Creating the appropriate conditions to protect and enhance Mount Royal**

To protect and enhance Mount Royal, it is important to inform people of the quality and diversity of its heritage features and the related issues, and to make all stakeholders aware of the need to protect and enhance these features and the importance of becoming involved so that the necessary funding may be obtained.





## 2.1 Protecting and enhancing Mount Royal

Right from the beginning, Mount Royal has played a key role in defining Montréal's image and identity. Its impact extends beyond the city, too – with its typical Monteregian topography, it rises above the surrounding plain and stands as a lush green landmark for the whole region.

Closer to home, it is this same topography, combined with its dominant position in the city, that has given the Mountain's different heritage features their singular characteristics: dramatic rock walls; distinctive plant cover that enhances both its ecological value and beauty; varied landscaped features, of which the most prominent is Mount Royal Park, one of renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted's masterpieces; an exceptional archaeological heritage extending back to prehistory; architectural, artistic and commemorative structures consisting of the major institutions, cemeteries and homes that have gradually taken over the slopes and part of the very heart of this exceptional site; and the roads and paths circling, climbing and crossing it, giving or blocking access to the Mountain.



Montreal from St. Helen's Island, James Duncan, 1831

All these heritage features sit side by side, coexisting, overlapping and rising atop one another to create landscapes and ambiances that evolve constantly with the time of day and year, offering the eye ever-renewed splendours. This evolution is also a result of a number of factors that affect the health of the Mountain's heritage: natural factors, from weeds to insect pests; human factors, too, some as minor as mountain biking or vandalism, some causing more lasting damage – felling trees, paving surfaces and erecting new buildings.

Together, all these natural and human actions have considerably altered the Mountain's appearance and in some cases have diluted the significance of its heritage features and landscapes. The pace at which the Mountain is being transformed has picked up sharply in the past decade, illustrating the urgent need to better identify and describe its different components to ensure that they are protected and enhanced as such exceptional treasures deserve.

Consequently, this *Protection and Enhancement Plan* outlines different protection and enhancement schemes, to be adapted to each of the Mountain's main components.

## 2.1.1 Protection and enhancement schemes

Separate schemes have been drawn up to protect and enhance the Mountain's natural habitats, built and developed environments, and landscapes.

These schemes call for immediate action based on the current state of knowledge and the tools available in each field, but also include longer-term initiatives that will benefit from additional research and the development of new tools.

### 2.1.1.1 Natural habitats

Mount Royal and its greenery are key aspects of Montréal's identity and image. Although most of its plant cover has been altered by different actions over the years, the Mountain has retained some of its significant original characteristics: its unique relief, and the presence of typical Monteregian plant communities such as red oak stands, which have great ecological value. Even today, the Mountain is a vast green space encompassing a variety of invaluable natural habitats in the heart of a highly urbanized city.

Changes in wooded areas on Mount Royal

1931



1964



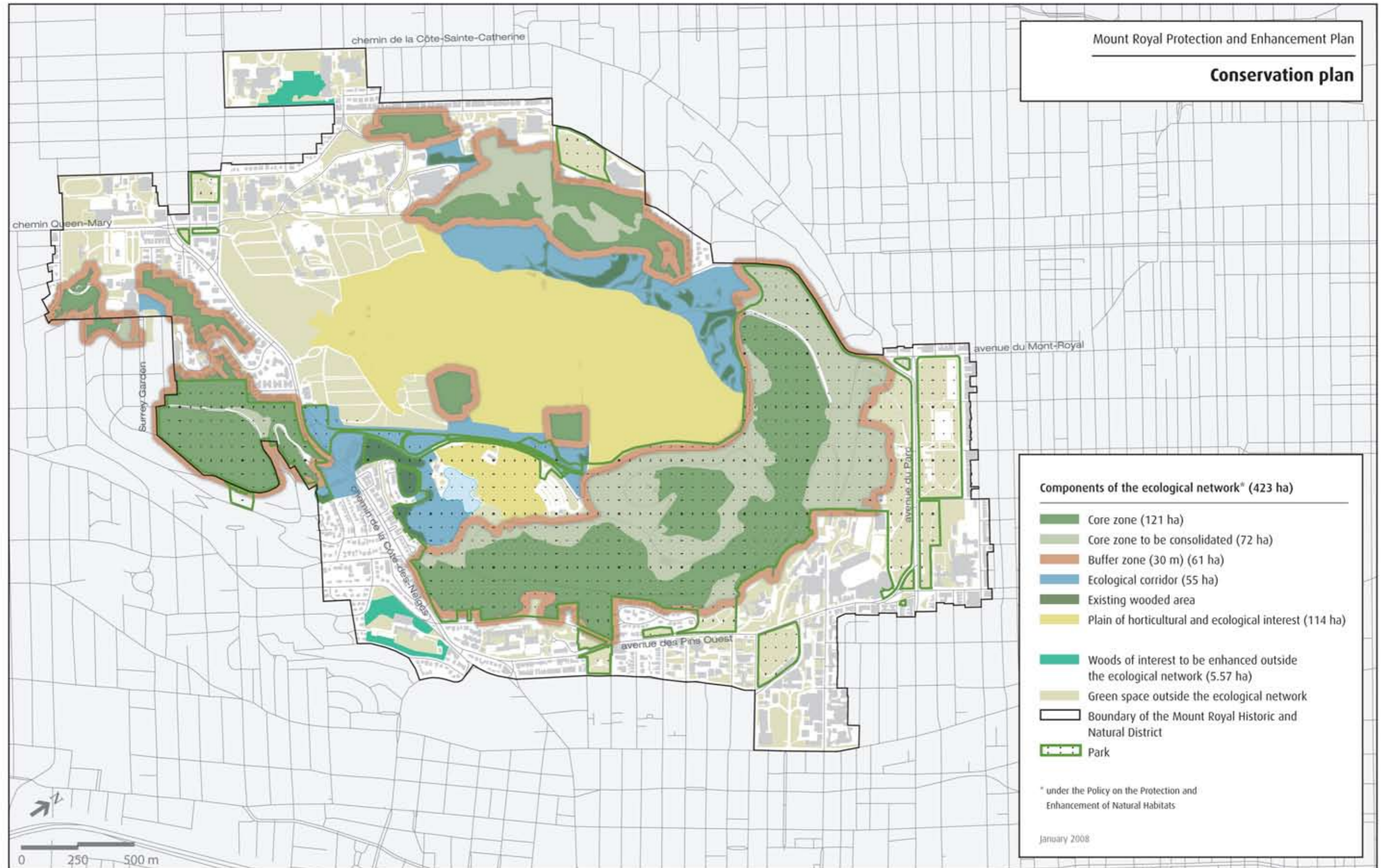
1983



2002



The wooded areas shown in green correspond to three strata of vegetation (herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees). Stands of trees on grass were not considered. The boundaries of the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District are marked in red.



Different parts of the Mountain's plant cover have changed in different ways over the past forty years. In Mount Royal Park, the amount of open space and grassy areas planted with trees has shrunk considerably, especially since 1992, occasionally giving way to open spaces covered by invasive weeds and ruderal (wasteland plant) species, while wooded or naturalized spaces have expanded considerably. Elsewhere on the Mountain, natural spaces have disappeared and been replaced by new buildings or parking lots.

Protecting and enhancing Mount Royal's various features must be a priority, given their value in ecological, environmental and landscape terms. The resulting conservation plan is based on encouraging biodiversity and adding to biomass.

## Biodiversity

Mount Royal's biodiversity lies in the wealth of its ecosystems, its species and their genetic material. Its biodiversity can also be seen in the variety of natural habitats, from clearings to open land, woodlands and wetlands. To preserve Mount Royal's ecosystems, the first steps must be to protect its summits, slopes, rock walls, piedmont, plains and valleys (its biotopes), which support the flora and fauna (biocoenosis) found there.

Maintaining the biodiversity of Mount Royal is a major issue for the entire Montréal metropolitan area. There are a number of considerations:

- while Mount Royal's hydrological system is almost non-existent today, water is an essential factor in maintaining biodiversity;
- certain plant species, such as wild leek, and animal species, such as American toads and wood frogs, have disappeared or become rare in recent decades, impoverishing the ecosystems;
- the division of natural habitats into smaller units is threatening the viability of the ecosystems that support animal life.

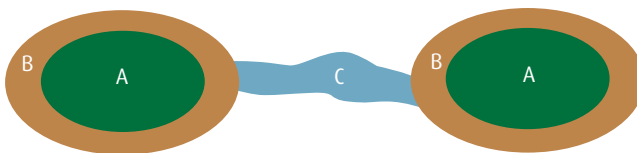


Wood frog

## APPROACH

In order to devise a conservation plan, the ecological features of the territory were studied. The planned approach focuses on protecting spaces of superior ecological integrity and value, in particular because of the presence of mature woodlands, and representing pockets of biodiversity. These are termed *core zones*. The protection of these *core zones*, in turn, relies on identifying other spaces of less intrinsic interest, but which are just as important for the ecosystemic health of Mount Royal because of their characteristics or location, and linking them in a network. This approach is inspired by the *ecological network* model outlined by the city in its *Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats*, and stems from an approach recognized by different ecological experts in Europe and North America.

### The ecological network



- A ) Core zone: pocket of biodiversity to be protected**  
**B ) Buffer zone: to protect a core zone**  
**C ) Corridor linking the core zones**

Where Mount Royal is concerned, the *network* comprises, in addition to the *core zones*, four types of zones: *cores to be consolidated*, where some work is required; *buffer zones*, which act as transition zones between *cores* and urbanized areas, *ecological corridors* linking the *cores*, and *plains of horticultural and ecological interest*, where the rich vegetation provides food and shelter for wildlife. The conservation plan identifies actions allowing each of these zones to play its particular role within the *ecological network*.

At the same time as the conservation plan is being implemented, it is also important to establish an overall water run-off management strategy, calling for the creation of wetlands and bodies of water in areas where drainage conditions allow, and which are of strategic importance for wildlife; in addition, the protection of endangered plant and animal species must be given special attention.

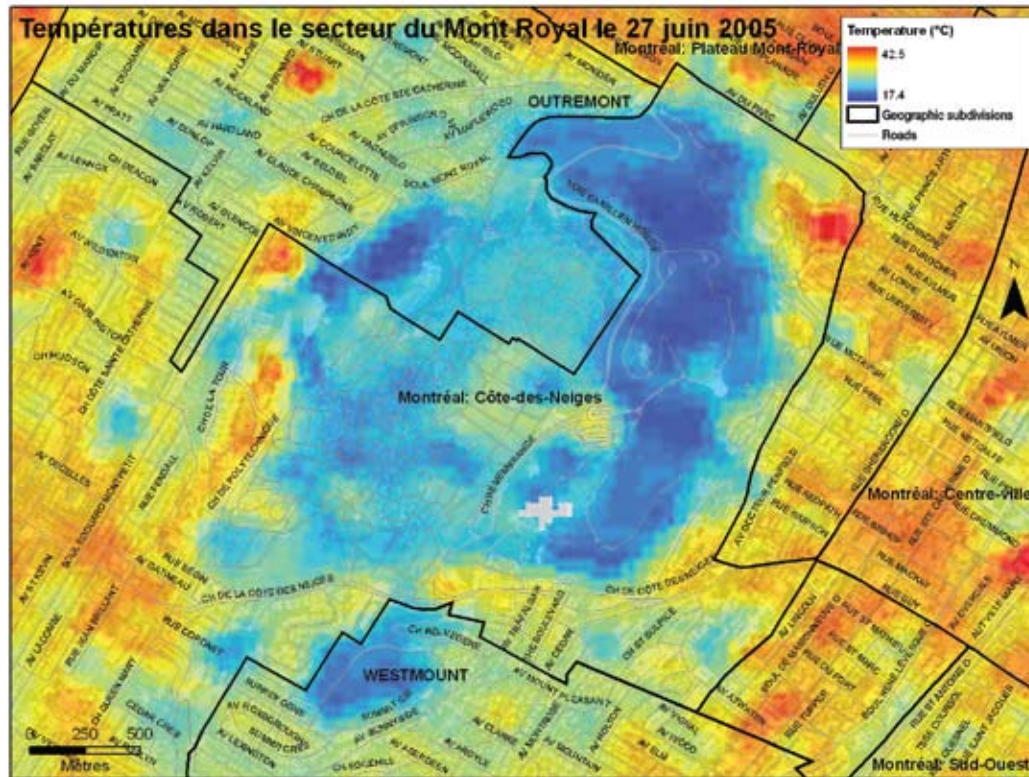
## MEASURES

1. Take measures to ensure that each zone plays its particular role within the *ecological network*:<sup>1</sup>
  - include regulatory measures (by-laws) in the *Complementary Document* to the *Master Plan*;
  - as part of the Mount Royal Heritage Pact, conduct concerted planning with institutional property owners whose property is affected by the conservation plan;
  - implement an ecological management approach applying to the entire conservation plan;
  - implement a financial partnership program to support institutional property owners in their efforts to consolidate biodiversity;
  - apply awareness and monitoring tools for the entire territory covered by the conservation plan.
2. Develop a water run-off management strategy.
3. Set up a monitoring and intervention program for protecting endangered plant and animal species.
4. Continue studies aimed at expanding knowledge of Mount Royal's natural habitats.

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix 1 - Biodiversity

## Biomass

Plant biomass refers to the mass of living plant matter at a given time in a given environment. It shades cities from the sun, encourages evapotranspiration and reduces air temperatures, thereby limiting heat islands and effects linked to climate change. Maintaining and increasing the plant cover on Mount Royal, an island of greenery in the heart of the city, is worthwhile not only in terms of ambiance and scenery, but also offers obvious benefits in terms of environmental quality and public health.



Temperatures in the Mount Royal sector on June 27, 2005

Expanding the biomass on Mount Royal calls for increased vigilance, on the one hand, regarding both the variety of actions that could directly affect its quantity (paving surfaces, levelling properties, etc.) and such natural factors as insect pests and fungal or bacterial diseases. In this connection, the city has already set up a monitoring network in co-operation with higher levels of government.

It would be unrealistic to hope to preserve all the green spaces in the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District, however. This option would offer property owners very little flexibility in developing or redeveloping their properties. Even the requirement that one green space be replaced by another of identical size does not necessarily ensure that the same biomass will be preserved, since it depends on the quality and density of each of the three strata of vegetation (herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees).

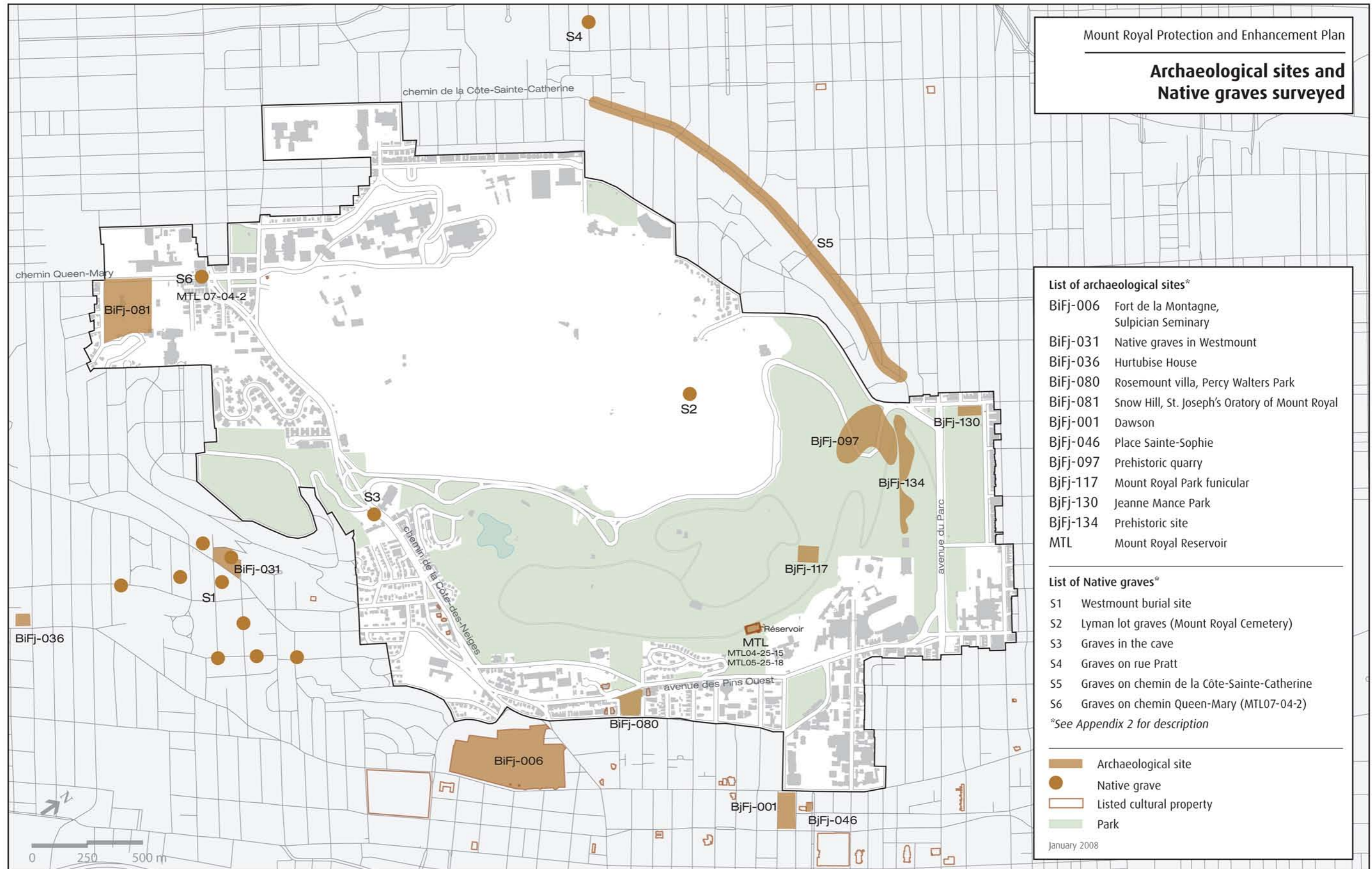
## APPROACH

The planned approach is designed to ensure that each development or redevelopment initiative in the district has a positive impact on the Mountain's biomass, over a 15-year horizon. Thus any action affecting the plant cover should be accompanied by compensatory measures (planting new vegetation, or a green roof, for example) to increase biomass in the long run. This kind of approach means that methodology will need to be developed for measuring the plant biomass of the properties in question.

At the same time, the city will have to remain on the lookout for diseases and insect pests, and be careful to limit the vulnerability of the plant cover by diversifying the species and families planted.

## MEASURES

1. Develop a reference tool for quantifying and qualifying the plant biomass of the properties in the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District.
2. Establish criteria for analyzing development or redevelopment projects for the properties concerned, so as to evaluate the effectiveness of compensatory measures proposed, in keeping with the objective of expanding biomass over a 15-year horizon.
3. Develop a management framework.
4. Pending the availability of such tools:
  - introduce regulatory measures into the *Complementary Document* to the *Master Plan*, with a view to limiting the paving of new surfaces;
  - as part of development or redevelopment projects, agree with the property owners concerned on voluntary measures for expanding biomass.





### 2.1.1.2 Built and landscaped environments

As far back as can be traced in recorded history, Mount Royal has played an exceptional role. It has been viewed as a symbolic site, key to Montréal's identity, as well as a place to rest or relax away from the city, and a prestigious location. All these roles have led to the Mountain being occupied and used for a series of different purposes since prehistory. Its exceptional features influenced the establishment, form and character, as can be seen today from archaeological remains, of residential, institutional and burial complexes, landscaping, works of art and commemorative monuments.

These different components of the built and landscaped environment combine to form a distinctive and varied ensemble that adds to the Mountain's characteristic profile as part of the Montréal landscape.

This section looks at the protection schemes applicable to these different components, including artificial landscaping, which is considered here as a separate aspect resulting from planned initiatives, while its contribution to more complex landscapes is discussed in subsection 2.1.1.3, on landscapes.

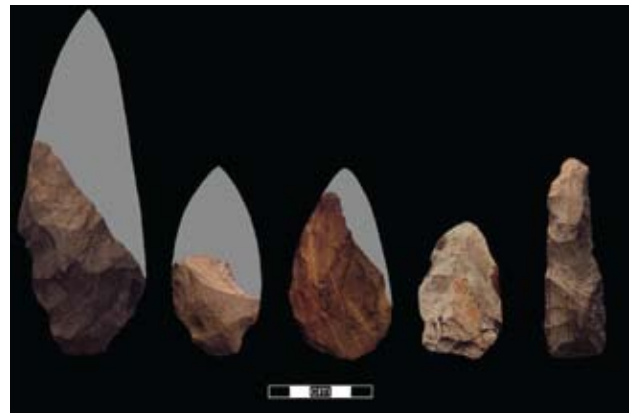
### Archaeology

The Mountain's archaeological heritage was not addressed in the 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan*, but since then the city's 2004 *Master Plan* identified the Mountain as an area of archaeological interest with strong potential, and its great archaeological value was specifically mentioned in the decree establishing the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District.

Since 1992, a variety of archaeological research work (inventories and digs) has been carried out on Mount Royal, particularly in Mount Royal Park and Jeanne Mance Park.<sup>2</sup>



W.W. Ogilvie's residence, "Rosemount,"  
rue McGregor, 1894 (since demolished)



Prehistoric rough outlines of bifaces from the Mount Royal quarry site

Recent discoveries (a prehistoric quarry in Mount Royal Park, for instance), along with older ones including the many prehistoric graves unearthed on the slopes of Mount Royal in the 19th and 20th centuries, show how the landscape has influenced the way the Mountain has been used over the past thousand years, as distinct from the rest of the Montréal plain.

Despite the indisputable interest of these archaeological discoveries, the significant prehistoric and historic archaeological potential of Mount Royal remains largely undocumented and unexplored to date, thereby limiting the scope of measures to protect and enhance these invisible – and hence fragile – resources.

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 2 - Archaeology

## APPROACH

Protecting and enhancing archaeological resources calls for strategies for gathering information, including both the identification of the overall theoretical archaeological potential of the area (potential studies) and its exploration (inventory program). The approach must also include means of updating management tools, to take account of the knowledge acquired (potential maps and management framework for actions including preventive conservation measures).

With a view to developing an integrated approach for Mount Royal's archaeological heritage, research must focus on the interrelation between the Mountain's particular physical environment, especially as compared with the rest of Montréal's landscape, and the ways in which successive populations have taken it for their own and transformed it, from prehistory through the different phases in its history.

## MEASURES

1. Conduct a study of the archaeological, prehistoric and historic potential of the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District, covering the territory corresponding specifically to archaeological aspects of research.
2. Prepare and launch an archaeological inventory program on this territory, based on the scientific priorities established in the potential study.
3. Based on the knowledge gained, develop a management framework for the archaeological heritage, so that public- and private-sector actions include preventive protection measures.
4. Make the different partners aware of the importance of archaeology in understanding the evolution of the Mount Royal landscape, and explore with them the most promising means of contributing to enhancing its archaeological heritage (*in situ* conservation, interpretation and dissemination).

## Built environment

Up to the mid-19th century, there were only a handful of landowners on the Mountain, using it for agriculture, vacation properties and recreation. There are still a few remnants from those days, including the Hosea-Bonen-Smith House (1858).

It was the construction of the McTavish reservoir (1852-1856) that launched residential development on the south slope of the Mountain, in the “Golden Square Mile.” Religious, educational and health institutions soon followed: McGill University (1843-1872), the Grand Séminaire (1854-1857), Hôtel-Dieu (1858-1860), the Collège de Montréal (1868-1871), Collège Notre-Dame (1881) and the Royal Victoria Hospital (1893).

Development came to the north slope a bit later, in particular with St. Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal, started in 1922, and the Université de Montréal (1928-1943). The area was gradually developed more and more densely over the years, with the expansion of the universities and hospitals and the consolidation of neighbourhoods.



Postcard showing the McTavish reservoir before it was covered with a concrete slab in 1947.

With the city’s creation in 1987 of the Mount Royal heritage site, followed by the adoption of the 1992 and 2004 *Master Plans*, processes, rules and criteria were gradually introduced to make it possible to evaluate the quality of proposed construction, expansion, alteration and other projects on Mount Royal – firstly by municipal authorities and then, since the decree adopted by Cabinet in 2005 to create the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District, by Quebec’s Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women. The increase in construction, along with its impact on the character of the Mountain, means that today people are questioning not only the quality of projects but also the Mountain’s capacity to accommodate new buildings.

The *Master Plan* and its *Complementary Document* include general guidelines on the quality and integration of new construction, but do not provide strict criteria governing the built environment, in terms of authorized heights and building coverage ratios; urban planning by-laws vary from one borough to another.

Lastly, generally speaking, the lack of maintenance threatens the longevity of buildings on the Mountain.

## APPROACH

The planned approach involves developing and applying the concept of the Mountain's "limited capacity" to accommodate new construction, on the one hand, and on the other hand, emphasizing maintenance as a way of safeguarding its built heritage.



## MEASURES

1. Introduce rules in the *Complementary Document* to the *Master Plan* aimed at limiting the coverage ratios and heights of buildings.
2. Establish a strategy for using available subsidies for the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District, based on an inventory of the condition of existing buildings.
3. Develop a program to make people aware of the importance of proper maintenance.

## Landscaping

Landscaping is the result of combined efforts by nature and humans, where such components as vegetation, topography, paths, uses, furniture and structures are arranged to meet specific purposes.

Landscaping may be based on a design (e.g. the St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal garden, by Frederick Gage Todd) or simply the outcome of the evolution and use of a site over the years (Jeanne Mance Park). As with other heritage components, the interest and value of landscaped features are measured using recognized criteria.

The landscaped components of different properties on the Mountain are not as well documented as the built components and are not well known, especially those outside of Mount Royal Park. Their relative anonymity has contributed in part to the disappearance of such significant features as the row of poplars along Chemin Remembrance, and an overall decline in the quality of landscaping for the various sites and complexes.



Tomlinson Square, McGill University

### APPROACH

Protecting and enhancing the landscaping of the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District calls first of all for recognition of its importance, in particular Mount Royal Park itself as one of Olmsted's masterpieces, and its contribution to the overall value of Mount Royal. Next, comprehensive documentation is needed on existing landscaping, so as to develop the appropriate measures for protecting and enhancing it where necessary.

### MEASURES

1. Conduct an inventory and assessment of the landscaping in the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District, including in particular the identification of significant or vulnerable components (trees, woods, structures, walls or other built elements) and the measures necessary for their immediate protection.
2. Pending the completion of this inventory:
  - integrate an assessment of the value and condition of existing landscaping into preliminary studies for property development or redevelopment.
3. Expand financial assistance programs to include landscaping.

## Works of art and commemorative monuments



Detail of a sculpture by Louis Parent for the stations of the cross at St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal

Mount Royal is home to the largest concentration of works of art and commemorative monuments in Montréal. These sculptures, monuments, busts and contemporary pieces, located mainly in its cemeteries and institutions and Mount Royal Park, reflect our history and values. They inspire relaxation and contemplation, and help to shape our environment.

The nature, size and condition of this body of work are not fully known, and indeed the same applies to the related conservation and enhancement issues.

### APPROACH

The planned approach is in line with the goals set in 1989 in the city's public art action plan and in its 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan*. On the one hand, it involves completing the inventory of works of art and commemorative monuments in the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District, and on the other hand, preparing an action plan for protecting and enhancing them, in co-operation with the various stakeholders.

### MEASURES

1. Complete the inventories of works of art and commemorative monuments, including those in the cemeteries, specifying their condition and any threats to their integrity.
2. Draw up an action plan, in co-operation with the various stakeholders, to include the necessary resources and means to be implemented to protect, maintain, restore and enhance works of art and commemorative monuments in the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District, with particular attention to:
  - necessary measures to take account of the specific features of works of art and commemorative monuments in the cemeteries;
  - the possibility of introducing incentives or by-laws to protect public art on private property.
3. Update the parameters governing the integration of public art on city-owned public property, in particular by ensuring that temporary work in Mount Royal Park takes account of the Mountain's natural character.

### 2.1.1.3 Landscapes

Mount Royal's twofold designation as a historic and natural district is a reflection of the goal of protecting this treasure with its unique built and natural heritage and encouraging its harmonious development, with a view to preserving it for future generations. This dual legal status shows how the concept of heritage has expanded to include a concept increasingly popular in urban planning issues, i.e. landscape.

The Mountain's charms and its superb landscapes result from a complex balance between its natural (plants and rocks) and cultural (built or landscaped) components, its different views, the way it is perceived from downtown, surrounding neighbourhoods and other parts of the Mountain, and the way in which it changes from day to day and throughout the seasons.



Montreal in 1832, watercolour by James Duncan

The *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan* is based on the European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000), which defines landscape as "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors." The concept of landscape encompasses aspects much wider than the simple question of visual quality; it touches on many different values (relating to symbolism, identity, nature and heritage) that people assign to a given territory.

Although over the years different studies have looked at landscape components typical of certain parts of the Mountain, none of these studies focused on its overall landscape. The studies conducted to date have instead addressed specific aspects of the landscape, often as a secondary consideration or without taking their interrelationships into account.

The nature and components of the Mountain's landscape and the issues involved in protecting and enhancing it are not well known or recognized, but the regulatory tools and management approaches for the territory do have an impact on the landscape components and shape them in different ways. Although views from and of Mount Royal have received more attention, the protective measures based on the *Master Plan* and the 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan* have had varying degrees of success in protecting and enhancing them.



Ice-covered rock wall in Rutherford Park

## APPROACH

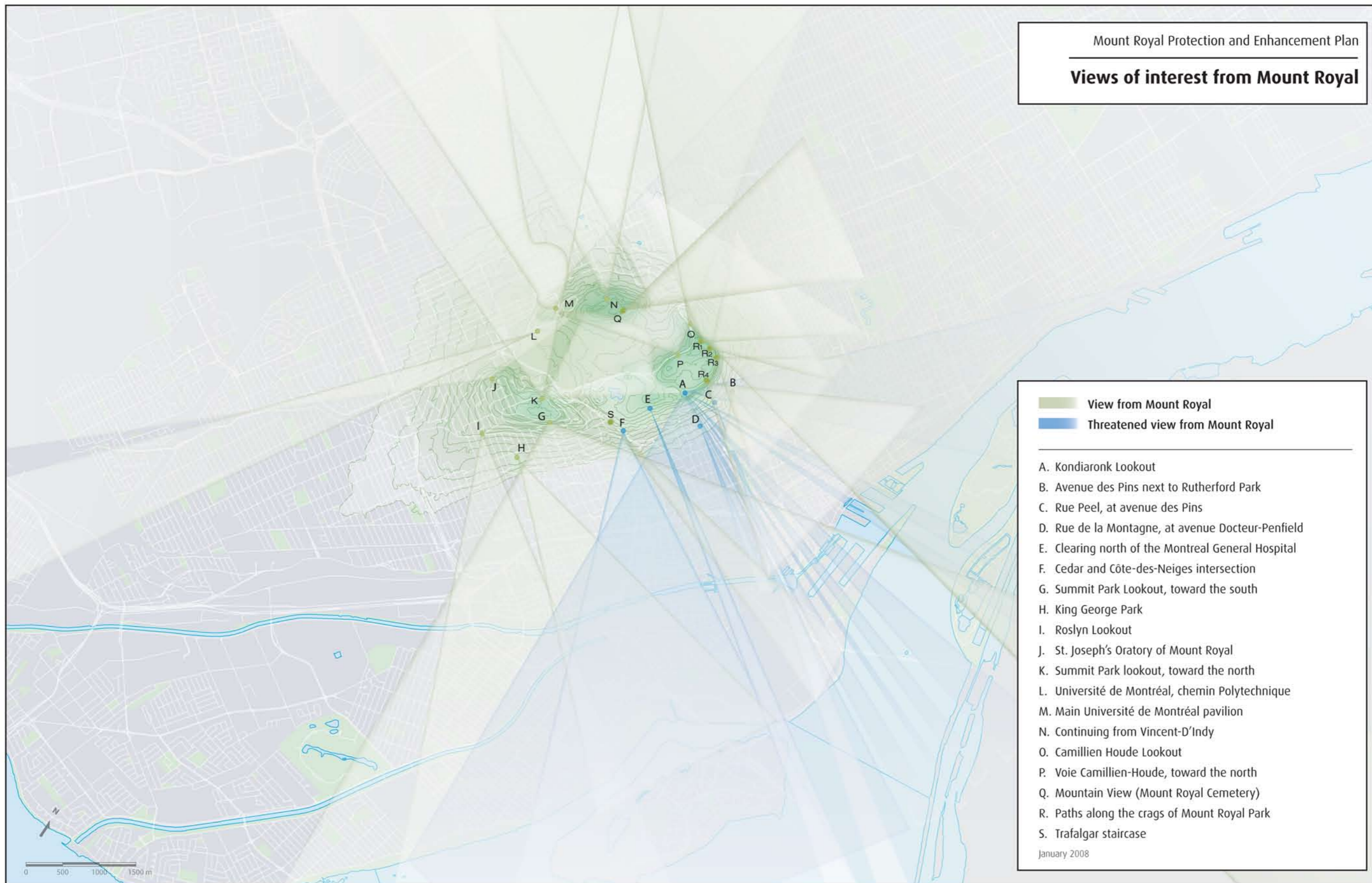
The planned approach involves preparing an overall description of Mount Royal's landscape, so as to better identify and understand its components and develop and implement means and ways of doing things to protect and enhance them in the longer term.

At the same time, the city must remain vigilant, both in its own actions and in assessing actions proposed by other parties, regarding the protection or enhancement of components of known interest, and continue developing its tools to protect and enhance views and sightlines.

## MEASURES

1. Based on conventions, methods and practices observed elsewhere in North America and Europe, build on knowledge specifically regarding the landscape components of Mount Royal, in particular by:
  - describing, analyzing and assessing the outstanding landscape components of the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District and its impact on the regional landscape, and studying its key natural features and structures;
  - describing, analyzing and assessing, on a smaller scale, the landscape components that characterize the different spaces in the territory of the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District.
2. Pending the completion of this study:
  - establish a standardized set of specifications for landscape studies that should be conducted before actions on the territory of the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District are designed or assessed, and identify the circumstances in which such studies are needed.
3. Following the completion of this study:
  - develop and implement the appropriate protective measures.





## Views

The need to maintain sightlines between the Mountain and the St. Lawrence, the other bodies of water and the surrounding urban environment has been noted by many stakeholders since the late 1980s. This concern was addressed first of all in 1992, in the *Master Plan* and the *Mount Royal enhancement plan*, and then in the 2004 *Master Plan*, which emphasized the importance of protecting and enhancing these views.



View from the Kondiaronk lookout

These objectives are complicated by the expanding and increasingly dense urban environment, in particular for sightlines through areas slated for major real-estate development, such as the business district and institutional properties on the mountainside. From the Kondiaronk lookout, a popular tourist destination, views of the River have shrunk over the years and are now partly obscured, although the *Master Plan* and borough urban planning by-laws contain measures to protect these views.

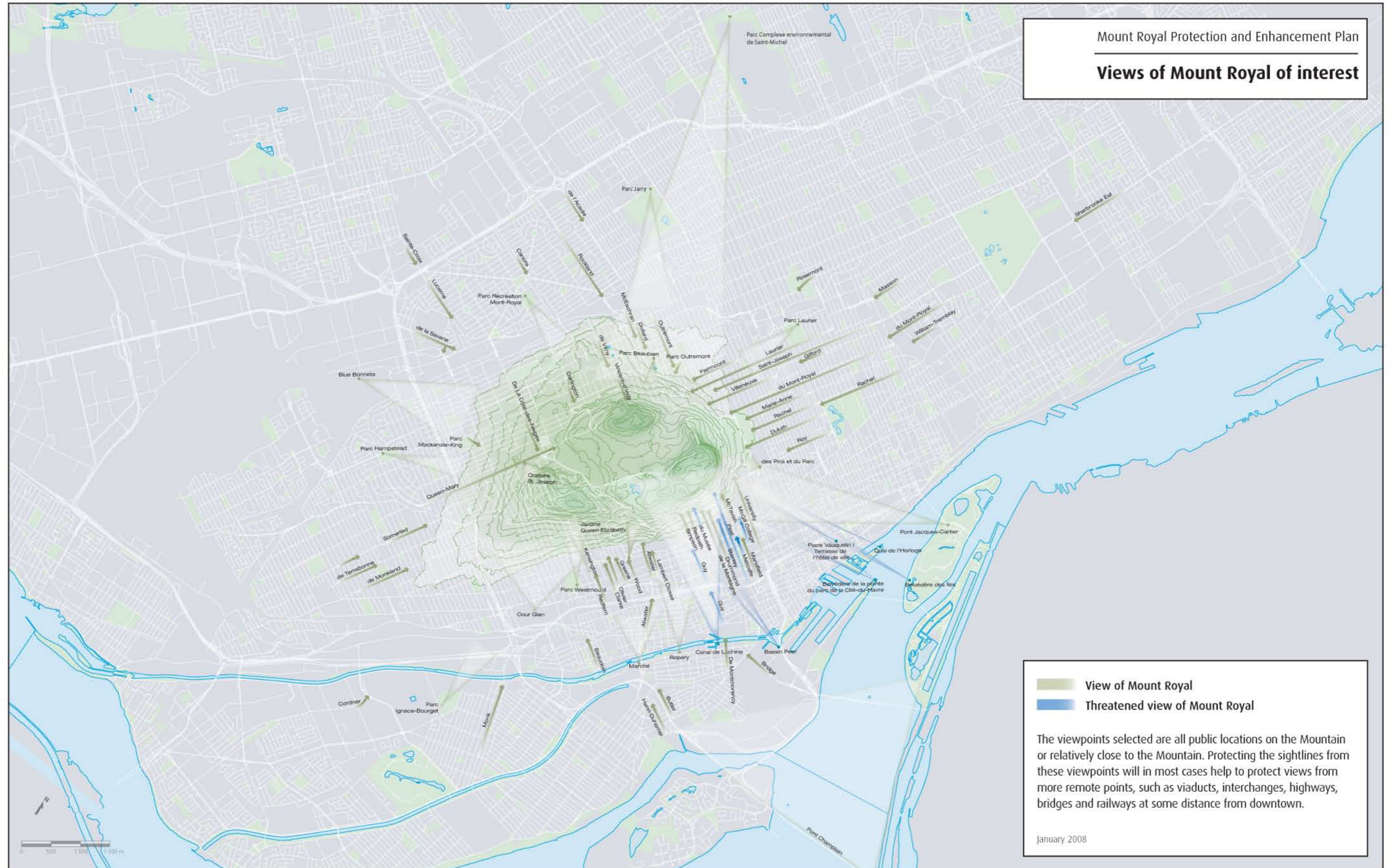
Furthermore, despite their visibility from the Mountain, not a great deal of thought is given to the appearance of the “fifth facades” (i.e. roofs and rooftop equipment) of buildings on and around the mountainside, and the results are sometimes less than esthetically pleasing.

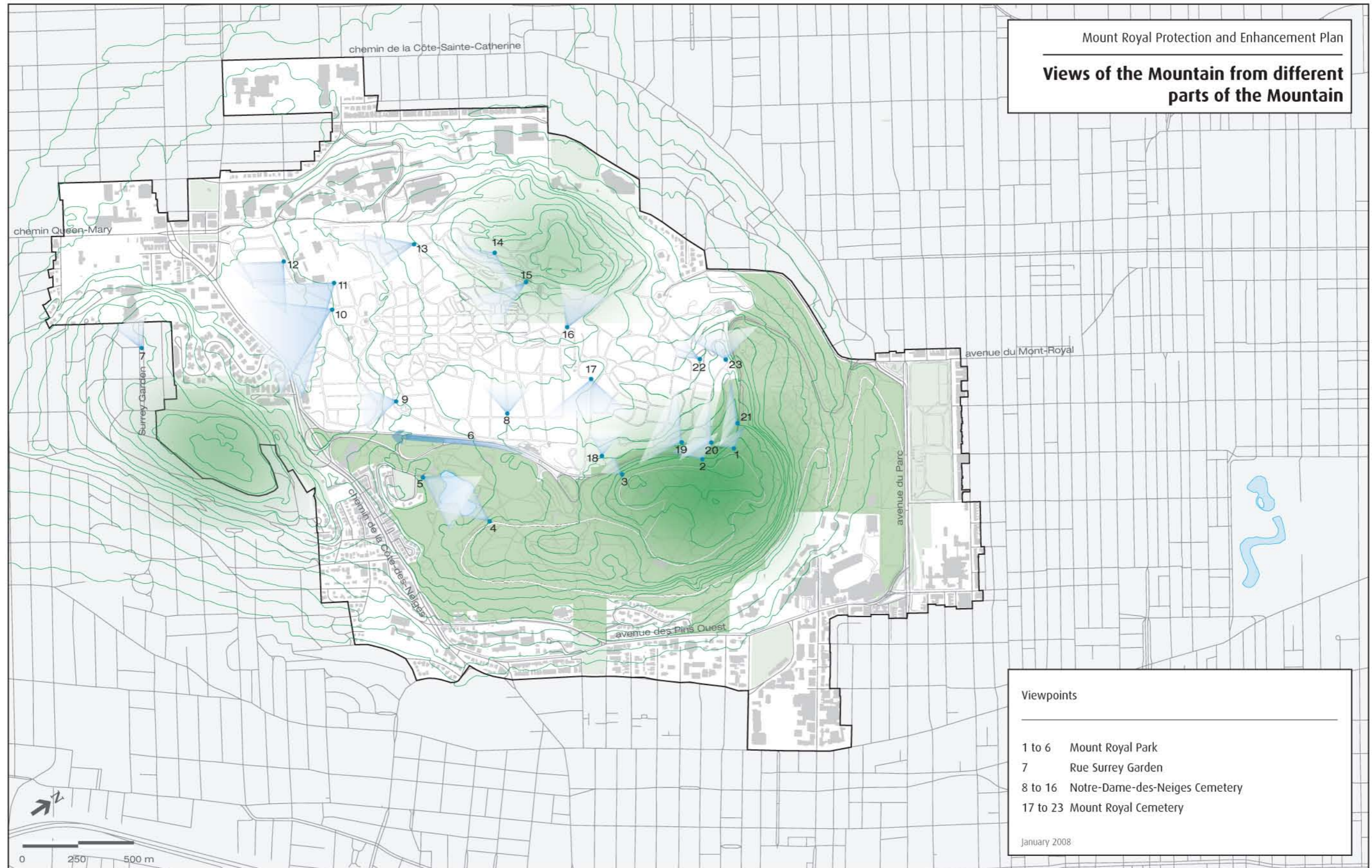
## APPROACH

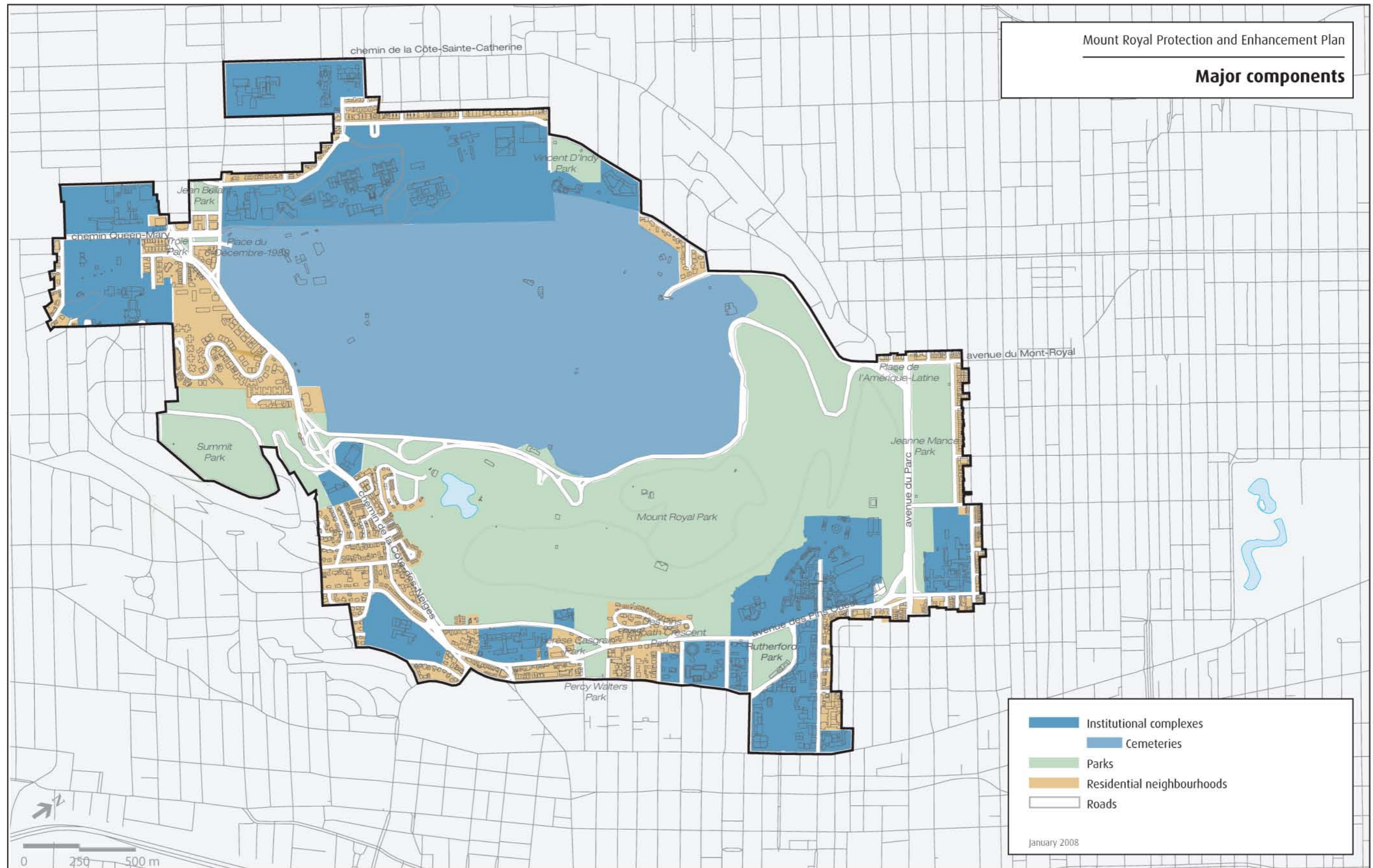
Based on updated inventories of views from and of the Mountain, and of views of other parts of the Mountain, the planned approach involves improving the effectiveness of existing protective tools and developing means of enhancing these views, which are such a significant part of Montréal’s identity.

## MEASURES

1. Harmonize and improve the effectiveness of existing regulatory tools, by supplementing the criteria in the *Complementary Document* to the *Master Plan* in such a way as to:
  - specify the location of viewpoints;
  - rank, within the territory on the sightlines from these viewpoints, elevations above which the criteria for assessing a project's impact on views apply.
2. Develop means of improving the quality of views and ensure that they are enhanced, in particular through:
  - standards and criteria relating to the appearance of building roofs and cornices;
  - improvements to the design and maintenance of lookout points.
3. Identify viewpoints on the Mountain offering views of other parts of the Mountain, so that they can be enhanced.







### 2.1.2 Applying the protection and enhancement schemes

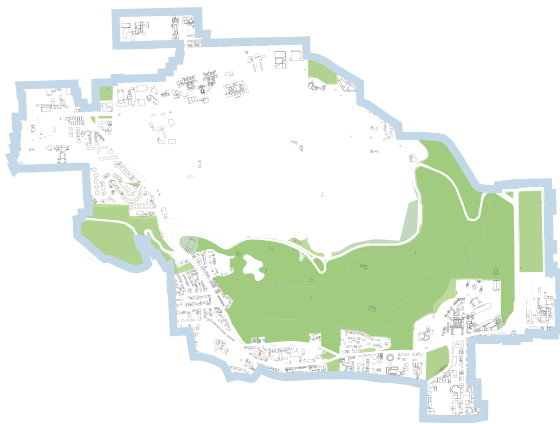
The territory of the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District is divided into three major functions: the parks belonging to the cities of Montréal and Westmount, occupying close to one-third of the district, the major institutional properties – of which 28% is taken up by cemeteries – representing about half of the District, and residential neighbourhoods, covering the remaining 17%. In addition to these major sectors there is the road network serving them, which is also municipal property.

The protection schemes apply differently to each of these major functions, and are based largely on three kinds of actions:

- municipal actions with respect to public property and parks;
- introduction of regulatory measures;
- co-operation with partners, and more specifically with institutional partners, with a view to establishing the Mount Royal Heritage Pact.

Establishing the protective schemes will make it possible to entrench in the *Master Plan* those regulatory measures already in effect, resulting from joint planning by the city and certain institutions.

#### 2.1.2.1 Parks



Although Mount Royal Park, one of designer Frederick Law Olmsted's masterpieces, is the park most closely associated with the Mountain, the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District actually includes two other large parks, Jeanne Mance and Summit, as well as a half dozen smaller parks.

It is important to acknowledge and specify the contribution made by each of these green spaces to the ecology and landscape of Mount Royal, and to identify, where necessary, measures for protecting and enhancing them.

## Mount Royal Park

Mount Royal Park is one of the most significant parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. The 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan* recognized the value of this exceptional heritage and later modifications, and focused on conserving this park, in particular its natural heritage.

The plan proposed a number of initiatives for this purpose:

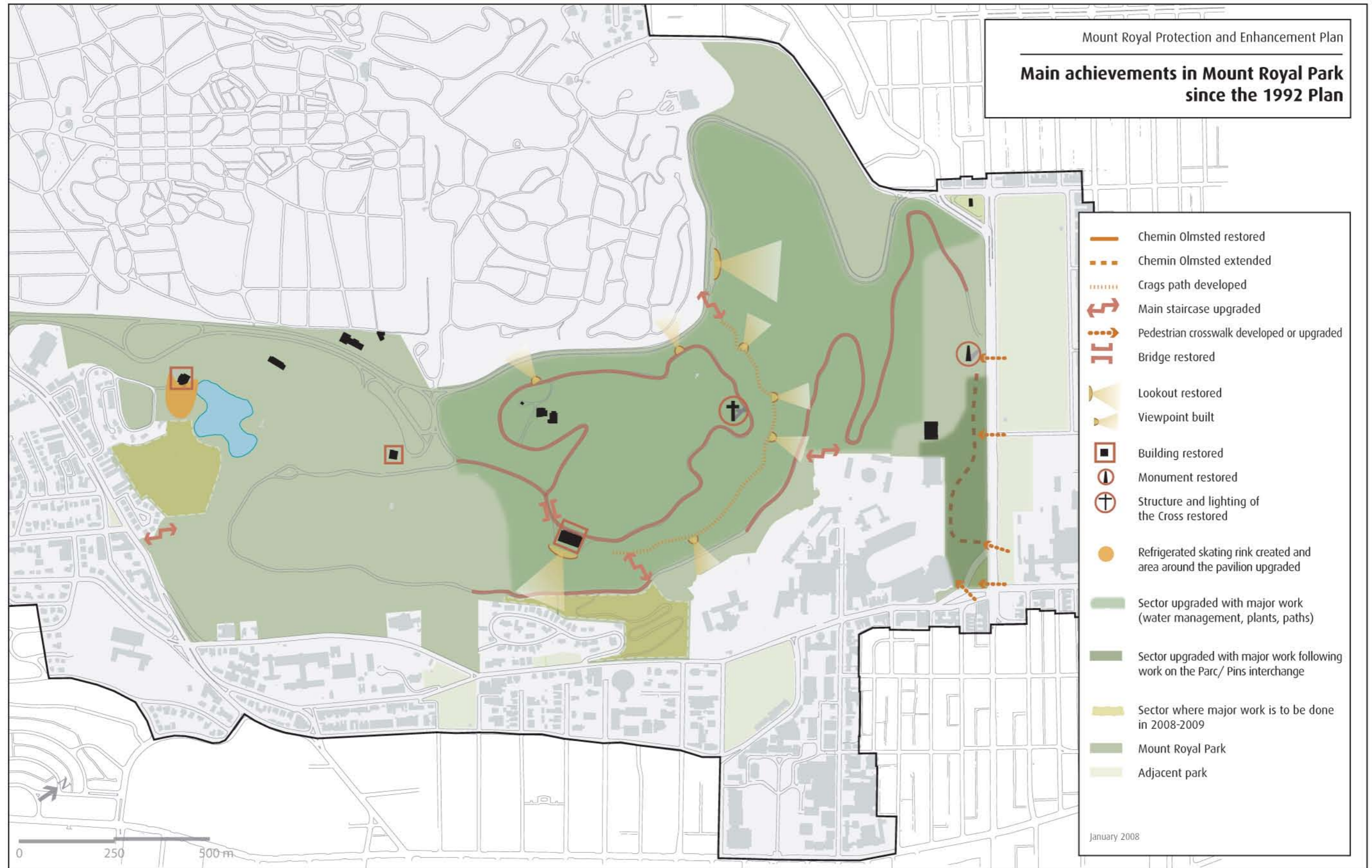
- restoring natural habitats damaged by erosion and sedimentation caused by surface run-off, the large number of improvised paths and the increasing number of people trampling through the undergrowth, and the declining ecological diversity of the forest;
- redeveloping and restoring Chemin Olmsted and the entire network of paths through the Park, and installing signage;
- recognizing the importance of views and sightlines from the Mountain and of other parts of the Mountain itself;
- restoring and enhancing components of the built, landscaped and artistic heritage, which at the time were in a relatively abandoned state;
- upgrading Voie Camillien-Houde and Chemin Remembrance, and the parking lots;
- consolidating low-impact recreational activities on the Mountain and, in particular, prohibiting mountain biking because of its negative impact on the natural environment.



Boundaries of Mount Royal Park superposed on Olmsted's 1877 plan, showing eight topographical divisions:

- |                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Côte Placide                  | 5. The Cragfoot / Le Serpentin |
| 2. Piedmont                      | 6. Brackenfell / La Fougeraie  |
| 3. Underfell / La Pente Rocheuse | 7. The Glades / La Clairière   |
| 4. The Crag / L'Escarpement      | 8. Upperfell / Le Sommet       |





Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan  
**Main achievements in Mount Royal Park since the 1992 Plan**

- Chemin Olmsted restored
- Chemin Olmsted extended
- Crag's path developed
- Main staircase upgraded
- Pedestrian crosswalk developed or upgraded
- Bridge restored
- Lookout restored
- Viewpoint built
- Building restored
- Monument restored
- Structure and lighting of the Cross restored
- Refrigerated skating rink created and area around the pavilion upgraded
- Sector upgraded with major work (water management, plants, paths)
- Sector upgraded with major work following work on the Parc/ Pins interchange
- Sector where major work is to be done in 2008-2009
- Mount Royal Park
- Adjacent park

January 2008

## THE RESULTS

### Natural habitats

- The problem of surface run-off called for priority treatment of higher areas, so a *Master plan for the Summit and Craggs sectors* was drawn up; the natural habitats in these sectors were fully restored;
- the principles established for work in the Summit and Craggs sectors were used to guide the same kind of actions for natural habitats in the Piedmont and côte Placide sectors;
- no significant initiatives were taken in the Brackenfell sector, the Peel access sector and the Outremont slope section of the Piedmont sector in this connection.

### Vehicle and pedestrian traffic

- The network of paths in the central and eastern parts of the Park was restored;
- Chemin Olmsted, the main remaining aspect of the designer's original plan, is now bordered with granite paving stones and two-thirds of it has been restored;
- most of the main staircases, such as those at the Trafalgar entrance and Craggs sector, have been rebuilt;
- Voie Camillien-Houde and Chemin Remembrance and the parking lots were to have been landscaped; that work has not been done.



Path along the Craggs

### Views and landscapes

- A path was created along the Craggs, linking a number of small lookouts;
- the Kondiaronk lookout esplanade and the Camillien Houde lookout were completely restored;
- new lookout points were created on the north slope of the Summit sector.

### Built and artistic heritage

- The Beaver Lake pavilion was fully renovated, including the work of art incorporated in its exterior;
- the Mount Royal Chalet, its decks and staircase were restored;
- the first phase of restoration work was completed on the Smith House, now converted into a Park reception centre;
- the lighting system for the Cross was modernized;
- the Sir George-Étienne Cartier monument was entirely restored, along with the bases of several pieces from the 1964 International Sculpture Symposium.



Renovated Beaver Lake pavilion

### Activities and services

- Low-impact recreational activities have been encouraged and delimited by zoning different sectors of the Park to reflect their ecological fragility. Mountain biking has not been banned, however, and is causing more and more damage to the underbrush.

All in all, just over half of the actions called for in the 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan* have been carried out.

## APPROACH

New actions are required in some parts of the Park to consolidate the work done a decade ago and correct deterioration since then. It is important to give priority to completing the development work identified in the 1992 Plan and to continue in the same vein with the same concern and quality.

Olmsted's intentions and the principles behind the concept of the Park are now better understood. It is important that these continue to inspire development plans for the Park and its management, and be taken into account in creating a common vision shared by the many stakeholders involved in the future of the Park.

## MEASURES

1. Create a management unit dedicated to Mount Royal Park and to managing biodiversity in the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District.
2. Prepare an implementation plan for the work identified in the 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan* that has not been completed to date, in particular for the sections of Chemin Olmsted not yet restored.
3. Prepare sector restoration and enhancement plans, in connection with the three-year capital expenditure program, starting with the Brackenfell, Beaver Lake and Smith House sectors. This will call for studies of water run-off management, the protection and restoration of natural habitats and biodiversity, built and landscaped heritages, significant landscape features, and views.
4. Plan and begin work to upgrade the parking lots, so as to add more greenery and enhance the landscaping of the glades near the Smith House.
5. Plan the work required to update directional signage, replace missing or damaged components and add to it with informative and educational signs, particularly at the Park entrances.
6. Prepare a Park management plan focusing on its ecological management, the management of its landscape features and lookout points and its security and safety, and follow up on previous initiatives.

## Jeanne Mance Park



Jeanne Mance Park is an integral part of Mount Royal, serving as the “parvis” at the foot of the east slope of the Mountain. In topographical and landscape terms it is a continuation of the Côte Placide sector of Mount Royal Park, and together the two make up a remarkable landscape ensemble that adds to the public perception of the Mountain. These characteristics underscore the important role of the landscape aspects of this green expanse bounded by buildings along Mont-Royal and l’Esplanade avenues and the wall around the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph property.

The Park is an important outdoor recreation site for Montrealers and particularly those in the Plateau Mont-Royal and Ville-Marie boroughs; it has a wide variety of heavily used sports facilities. In the past decade, these facilities have been upgraded and a partially below-ground service pavilion has been built, but little has been done to improve the landscape.

More recently, the redevelopment of the Parc-Pins interchange restored large expanses to the southern part of Jeanne Mance Park and the Côte Placide sector. They were considerably upgraded, with new foot and bicycle paths, trees planted alongside public thoroughfares and landscaping.



Jeanne Mance pavilion

## **APPROACH**

Efforts to enhance Jeanne Mance Park and protect its features of interest must start with an exercise that takes account of the Côte Placide sector of Mount Royal Park.

In particular, the planned approach involves:

- adding access points to the Park at various intersections and an efficient network of paths linking its different parts;
- enhancing the Park's landscaped components and features and the most popular views for people walking through the Park, along with the views from the Côte Placide sector;
- striking a balance between sports, recreational activities and relaxation and one-time events, and also giving Montrealers access to the McGill University sports facilities next to the Côte Placide sector.

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## **MEASURE**

Adopt a master plan for the Park and the Côte Placide sector.

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## Summit Park

With its urban forest and bird sanctuary, Summit Park is sometimes thought of as a nature reserve. The land was acquired by Westmount in 1940, on the condition that it remain a wildlife and bird sanctuary.

Major upgrading work was done in the early 1990s on the natural habitat in the Park. A footpath along the north side of the road around the Park offers superb views of the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery and toward the north shore of the Island.



The Park will be expanded once two lots recently acquired alongside Chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges, at Chemin Remembrance, have been naturalized. This will also improve the visual and ecological continuity between the Westmount Summit and Mount Royal Park.

### APPROACH

The planned approach involves maintaining the Park's current status and conservation role. The most important consideration is to ensure that the Park's natural habitat is protected and to consolidate walking and birdwatching activities there.

### MEASURES

1. Continue the ecological management of the area, trim the trees along the paths as a safety measure and maintain the paths regularly.
2. Landscape and naturalize any new land acquired, to make it compatible with the site as a whole.

## Other parks

Aside from the three large parks mentioned above, a number of other parks, large squares and green spaces also contribute to the unique character of the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District.

These include Thérèse Casgrain and Percy Walters parks, adjacent to Mount Royal Park. They are fairly natural in appearance and act as an extension of Mount Royal Park to the more built-up areas to the south. Others, such as Jean Brillant Park and Place du 6-Décembre-1989, which are largely paved and more utilitarian in appearance, have become part of the urban fabric in their neighbourhoods.

The final group of parks consists of green spaces covering the drinking water reservoirs: Rutherford Park, home to the McTavish reservoir, and Vincent D'Indy Park, on the reservoir of the same name, along with the two reservoirs in Mount Royal Park, i.e. the Summit reservoir and the reservoir on the hill with a shelter. The presence of these underground infrastructures limits access to these parks and has led to a very different kind of layout, by creating vast flat grassy areas surrounded by abundant greenery. The grassy expanses of Rutherford and Vincent D'Indy parks are used for sports by McGill and Université de Montréal students, under agreements with the city.

## APPROACH

Despite their wide variety and sometimes small size, it is important that these green spaces contribute to the overall Mountain landscape, and that they be developed according to the same principles that apply to Mount Royal Park itself.

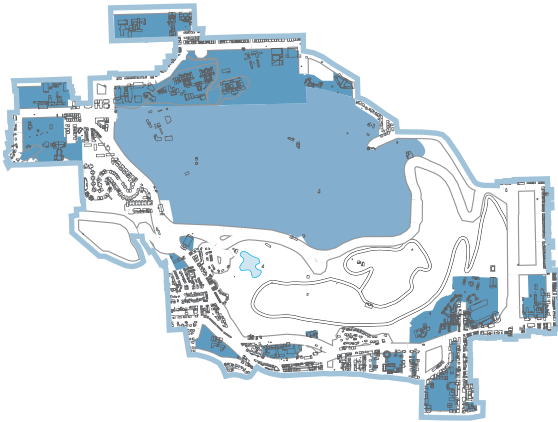
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### MEASURE

Conduct a study of these parks so as to:

- specify each one's character, role and contribution to the Mountain's overall landscape;
  - determine criteria for their use, design and maintenance.
-

### 2.1.2.2 Major institutional complexes



The wave of development in recent years, especially on the properties of educational institutions, raises some doubt about the capacity of these sites to accommodate new construction that respects their heritage components.

Some institutions will be leaving the Mountain, either because they are moving elsewhere or are no longer needed. Those buildings could then be freed up and perhaps used for new functions, or even divided up to better exploit their potential.

Others, such as some of the hospitals and educational institutions, find themselves forced to expand their services to meet new challenges in their missions and respond to their clients' growing needs.



Former Séminaire de philosophie

Moreover, many of the institutions located on Mount Royal are publicly funded. The government departments involved have a direct influence on their ability to maintain their buildings.

In 1992, the *Master Plan* and the *Mount Royal enhancement plan* called for joint planning with these institutions, to establish development agreements based on the development plans drawn up by the institutions and submitted for public consultation. It was in this context that institutions such as the universities located on the Mountain and St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal ended up discussing their development plans and the city adopted specific by-laws applying to their territories.



## APPROACH

A twofold approach is planned for the institutions in the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District:

- acknowledge and entrench measures found in specific by-laws applying to the institutions that have already carried out joint planning exercises that make it possible to implement the protection schemes;
- as part of the Mount Royal Heritage Pact, conduct a joint planning exercise with the other institutions, with a view to contracts or by-laws, as applicable, in the longer term.



Trotter pavilion at McGill University



Proposed work on the parterre outside the entrance to St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal is consistent with the planned approach (picture on the right).

Many institutional properties boast features of exceptional quality. They play a major role in the visual signature of these institutions and the Mountain itself, and must be preserved. It is also important to preserve the quality of the original campus grounds, which have a marked impact on the landscape in their sectors and the Mountain as a whole.

Lastly, locations with excellent views of the Mountain should be identified and their owners encouraged to fully exploit this potential, if possible by making these points accessible to the public.

## MEASURES

1. For institutions that have already prepared joint plans, include regulatory provisions in the *Complementary Document* to the *Master Plan*, to protect natural habitats, the built heritage and landscapes.
2. For other institutions, conduct joint planning exercises, if applicable, with attention to consolidating biodiversity, adding to biomass, studying built and landscaped components, and enhancing works of art on their property.
3. Pending these agreements, include in the *Complementary Document* to the *Master Plan* provisions limiting development on institutional properties to work required to bring buildings up to current standards.

## Cemeteries

Of all the institutions on the Mountain, the cemeteries have unique heritage value derived as much from their enduring use as from their specific landscapes.

Given their location on the Mountain, their huge expanses, their vast wooded areas and the diversity of plant life growing there, the cemeteries are central to the conservation plan for the natural habitat. The agreement resulting from the planning exercise for Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery is already proving valuable in carrying out this conservation plan. It will take the support of all the property owners, however, to meet the goals set.



Protecting the rich collections of funerary art in the cemeteries and integrating new forms of burial and commemoration, with respect for Mount Royal's landscape, are daunting challenges.



**Commemorative monuments are suffering damage and some of their significant components are being lost.**

## **APPROACH**

The planned approach for the major institutional complexes applies to the cemeteries as well. However, the addition of graves and the cemeteries' evolving function must take account of the unique natural and landscape features of these areas.

More thought must be given to the question of funerary monuments, their protection and conservation.

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## **MEASURES**

In addition to the measures recommended for the major institutional complexes:

1. Implement the conservation and enhancement measures planned for the Saint-Jean-Baptiste woods, as stipulated in the development agreement with the Fabrique of the Notre-Dame de Montréal parish for the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery.
  2. Support and contribute to heritage inventories for the cemeteries and grantees, and to the design of action plans for protecting, restoring and enhancing heritage components, including a specific action plan for preserving metal and bronze art that is part of funerary monuments.
  3. In co-operation with the cemeteries, continue research to encourage commemorative monuments that fit in with the surrounding landscape, in both their form and materials.
-

### 2.1.2.3 Residential neighbourhoods



The residential sectors of the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District boast a variety of styles, types of configuration (detached, semi-detached or row) and density that has evolved through different periods of subdivision and development. On Avenue de l'Esplanade, for instance, there are row triplexes built at the turn of the 20th century, while Avenue Ridgewood has more modern apartment buildings located on the mountainside.



Avenue de l'Esplanade



Avenue Ridgewood

These sectors are an essentially fully developed territory where few significant changes are made. The large number of minor changes made here and there to the properties (alterations, expansions, replacement of architectural elements) is gradually transforming the landscape, however. The gradual paving over of spaces around the buildings, as well as the addition of laneways and parking lots, decks and swimming pools, and frequent resulting changes to the topography, have considerably reduced the amount of vegetation and greenery in the area, and dried out the soil because of excessive drainage.



## APPROACH

Given the characteristics of these neighbourhoods, the planned approach is to maintain the size, density and types of buildings in the existing neighbourhoods, and limit paving.

## MEASURE

Include in the *Complementary Document* to the *Master Plan*:

- measures to ensure that the coverage ratios and heights stipulated in by-laws correspond more closely to those of existing residential sectors;
- measures to restrict construction in wooded areas of high ecological value and limit paving.

### 2.1.2.4 Road network

The 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan* called for the major peripheral roadways around Mount Royal to be redesigned, with the goal of improving access to the Mountain for pedestrians and better integrating these roadways into the natural landscape.



On Chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges where it meets Chemin Remembrance



At the intersection of Chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges and Avenue Cedar

The layout of the public thoroughfares around and across Mount Royal still resembles a series of highways, a legacy of a vision that sought maximum flow and speed for automobile traffic – to the detriment of pedestrians and cyclists who must contend with uninviting and at times dangerous conditions. In addition, with its extensive paved surfaces and inconsistent appearance and urban furniture, the road network conflicts with the Mountain's landscape.

Although the interface with adjacent neighbourhoods has not yet been completed, the work done to date on reconfiguring the Parc-Pins interchange is the most noteworthy accomplishment with regard to the road network, under the 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan*, along with the rebuilding of part of Avenue du Parc (south of the Sir George-Étienne Cartier monument) and a section of Avenue des Pins.

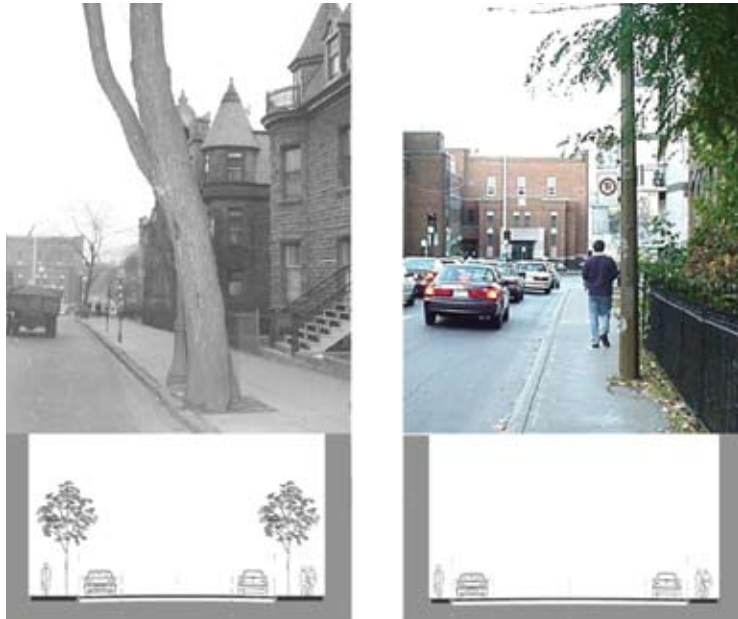


At the intersection of Avenue du Parc and Avenue des Pins in 2003 and following the demolition of the interchange

## APPROACH

The layout of the road network must strike a balance between its functional roles (local and through traffic, access to neighbourhoods) and the enhancement of the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District. Consequently:

- the paved portions should be narrowed to make more room for pedestrians and cyclists and allow them to appreciate the surroundings, safely;
- landscaping, sidewalks, plants and urban furniture should complement and respect the Mountain's heritage character and landscape features, in particular those of Mount Royal Park.



Avenue des Pins in 1953 and today: the same width, two contrasting results

Furthermore, the paved sections of Voie Camillien-Houde and Chemin Remembrance must be adjusted to reduce high-speed through traffic, and ensure greater comfort for the many pedestrians using them.

## MEASURES

1. Define design principles for the roads, based in particular on their original design.
2. Establish a strategy for systematically incorporating enhancement initiatives in public works carried out under different programs, such as making intersections safer, upgrading sewer and water main infrastructures, and burying power lines.
3. Continue work on projects to improve the road network identified in the 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan*, emphasizing three priorities:
  - reconfiguring the Côte-des-Neiges-Remembrance interchange;
  - reconfiguring the Parc-Mont-Royal and Côte-Sainte-Catherine intersection;
  - reconfiguring the Côte-des-Neiges-Cedar intersection.
4. Complete the Parc-Pins interchange project.

## 2.2 Making the Mountain an accessible and welcoming place

Aside from its role in defining Montréal's image and identity and its practical functions, Mount Royal is also a place for people to relax, play and enjoy nature; as such it must be both accessible and welcoming.

The *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan* addresses the Mountain's accessibility from the viewpoints of public transit, parking and approaches and entrances to Mount Royal Park, and also considers traffic on the Mountain itself. With regard to making it a more welcoming place, the Plan looks at the quality and variety of services and information available in Mount Royal Park.

### 2.2.1 Accessibility

Given the Mountain's location in the heart of the Island, it can be reached by a variety of means: on foot, or by car, bicycle or public transit. Cars, it is clear, are a very popular way of getting to Mount Royal Park, and public transit is much less used.<sup>3</sup>

One of the key recommendations of the 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan* was better access to the Mountain from the surrounding urban area and a pedestrian and vehicular traffic network covering the entire Mountain, linking its three summits. The plan essentially recommended the following actions in this regard:

- reduce the predominance of automobiles on the Mountain and give preference to public transit as a means of access to Mount Royal Park;
- develop more efficient connections from adjacent neighbourhoods and metro stations, in particular by developing new access points from the areas immediately surrounding the Mountain;
- improve or redesign existing pedestrian and bicycle access points;
- connect the Park's internal traffic network to the network serving the entire Mountain by means of a ring road acting as a sort of extension of Chemin Olmsted, and a north-south road crossing the Mountain.

The accomplishments to date can be summarized as follows:

- the development of more efficient connections has involved building sidewalks on the north side of Avenue des Pins between Peel and Cedar, upgrading Rue McTavish and building its staircase and identifying the right of way to be used for a new pedestrian access point to the Park, at the top of Rue University;
- on the south and east slopes, upgrading the Redpath, du Musée, Drummond and Peel staircases, and redesigning pedestrian crosswalks on Avenue du Parc from Pins up as far as the Sir George-Étienne Cartier monument and, more recently, the landscaping of the new Parc-Pins interchange have led to major improvements in existing access points;
- the first step in building the ring road and the north-south road has been taken with the identification of routes through the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery and the Université de Montréal, with development work planned for 2007-2009;
- no significant progress has been made with regard to the predominance of automobile traffic, public transit ridership and service, the use of neighbouring metro stations or opening the north and west slopes to pedestrians and cyclists.



McTavish staircase

<sup>3</sup> Impact Recherche study, December 7, 2007



The *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan* is intended to encourage and improve access to different parts of the Mountain – primarily to Mount Royal Park – by offering a variety of routes and means of getting around to all potential users, including those with reduced mobility, without compromising the integrity and maintenance of its natural habitats, its various heritage and landscape features, the primary role of its parks and the nature of the different spaces that make up the Mountain.

## Public transit

There is public transit service on all the main roads around Mount Royal. In fact, there are reserved bus lanes on Chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges and Avenue du Parc, allowing users to reach the edges of the Mountain quickly from outlying neighbourhoods, and a bus route cuts across the heart of the Mountain.

Yet relatively few people use public transit, allegedly because of inconvenient transit routes and schedules, infrequent service, lack of information in the transit system on access to the Mountain and Mount Royal Park, and the lack of links or signage between bus stops and metro stations and access points to the Mountain.



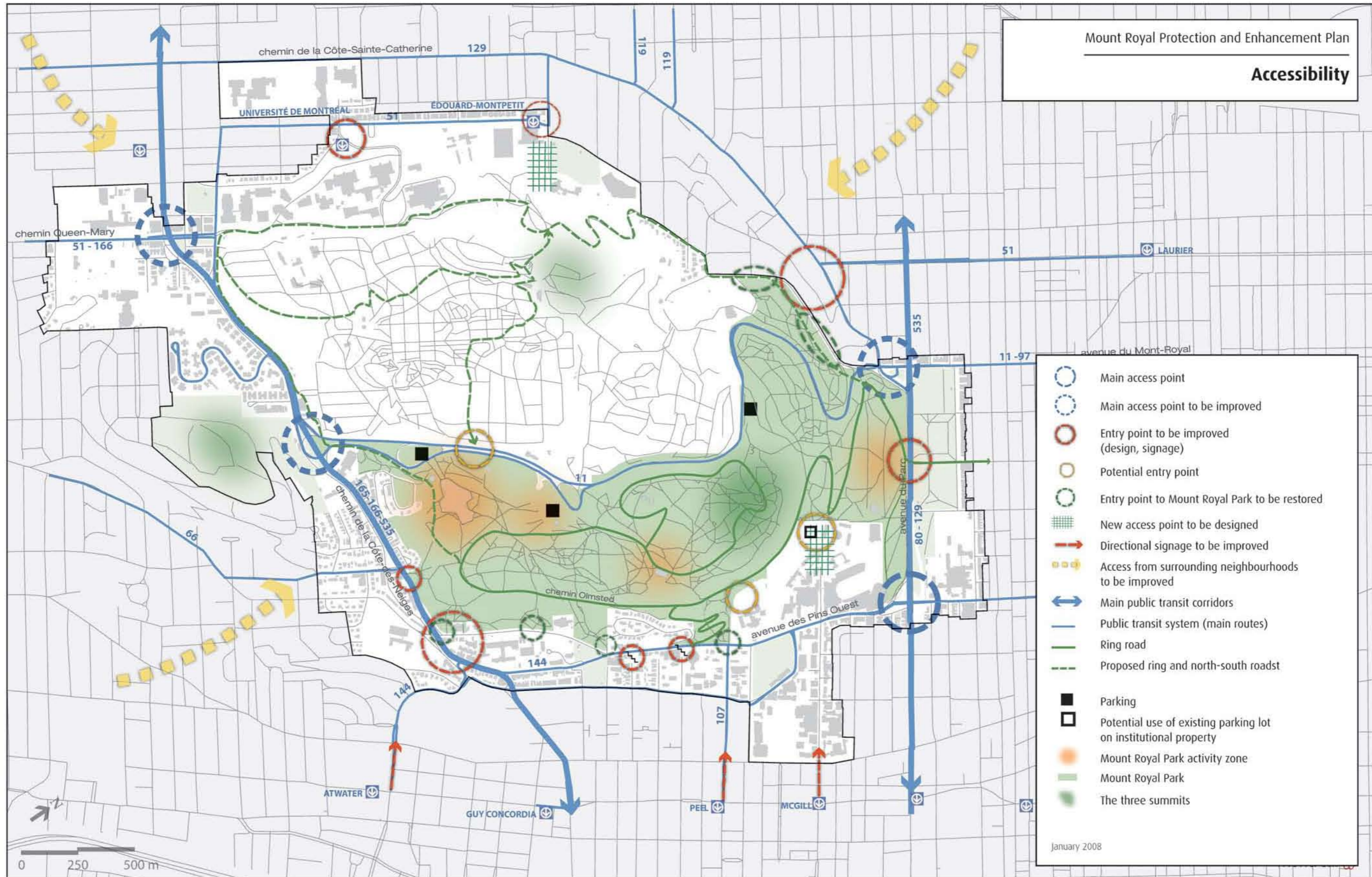
Given the need for access to the attractions in the Historic and Natural District, and the regional role of Mount Royal Park, it should enjoy exceptional public transit service. In addition, the Mountain’s natural setting makes it the perfect place for adopting more environmentally friendly means of transportation, promoting physical fitness. Moreover, wider use of public transit to reach the Mountain should logically lead to a reduction in automobile traffic and parking on the Mountain and in the Park, and greater respect for the natural surroundings.

## Parking

Cars remain the preferred means of transportation for visitors planning family, recreational or sports activities that require such cumbersome equipment as baby strollers, coolers, barbecues, toboggans or skis, as well as for reduced-mobility visitors. There must be parking available to accommodate them.

The use of the parking lots in Mount Royal Park varies with the seasons, in fact, and especially with the day of the week. The parking lots normally fill up on Sundays and holidays, but are largely empty on weekdays. On the other hand, it can easily be seen that the parking lots for some institutional properties on the Mountain are mostly unused when the Park is busiest.





Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan  
**Accessibility**

- Main access point
  - Main access point to be improved
  - Entry point to be improved (design, signage)
  - Potential entry point
  - Entry point to Mount Royal Park to be restored
  - New access point to be designed
  - Directional signage to be improved
  - Access from surrounding neighbourhoods to be improved
  - Main public transit corridors
  - Public transit system (main routes)
  - Ring road
  - Proposed ring and north-south roadst
  - Parking
  - Potential use of existing parking lot on institutional property
  - Mount Royal Park activity zone
  - Mount Royal Park
  - The three summits
- January 2008

Consequently, the 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan* suggested that the overall issue of parking within the Park be re-evaluated, the number of spaces be reduced and drivers be offered other parking options – such as nearby institutional parking lots, including the Royal Victoria Hospital lot. This goal is just as valid today, but nothing has yet been done. Parking lots should be integrated with respect for the goals of protecting and enhancing natural habitats, built environments and landscapes.

### Approaches and access points

Although Mount Royal has been recognized as a key part of the urban fabric, its sometimes irregular topography, the layout and features of some of the roads around it and the presence of vast private properties bordering it all limit access to the Mountain.

The lack of signage and facilities helping users to identify safe and convenient routes between the different neighbourhoods around the Mountain and its different points of interest also restricts access. In particular:

- there is no specific route between metro stations and the Mountain, especially from the two metro stations on the north slope;
- there is little access from the Côte-de-Neiges neighbourhood;
- there is a general lack of signage for routes to the Mountain's parks and its various attractions, and between them, as for instance the lack of signage clearly directing pedestrians from Vincent-d'Indy and Peel avenues (even though the Mountain is clearly visible). Only a few locals are familiar with the existing practical routes;
- the lamentable condition of some entrances to Mount Royal Park, from the surrounding public streets.



Pedestrians have made themselves a sidewalk.

The attached map shows the approaches to the Mountain and entrances to Mount Royal Park and highlights the main obstacles to optimal accessibility.

## APPROACH

The various aspects of access to Mount Royal – public transit, parking and approaches – are all inseparable and complementary and must be addressed with an overall strategy. Reducing the amount of parking in the Park, even coupled with the possible use of institutional parking lots, is unlikely to work without better public transit service. This in turn calls for a significant improvement in the design and signage of the different routes leading to the Mountain. All these measures must be accompanied by a strategy for increasing awareness of the different means of access to the Mountain.

Consequently, an overall diagnosis of access to the Mountain should be conducted, the actions required identified and their implementation planned; a similar exercise will be carried out for the entrances to Mount Royal Park.

Lastly, priority must go to completing work to improve access to Mount Royal from the areas around it, as recommended in the 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan*, i.e. the development of the northern entrance from Avenue Vincent-D’Indy and the pedestrian entrance from Rue University.

## MEASURES

1. Conduct a more detailed diagnosis of existing access to the Mountain and Mount Royal Park, with respect to public transit, parking, approaches and entrances to Mount Royal Park.
2. Draw up a traffic management plan for Mount Royal, and develop a strategy for identifying measures to be adopted, upgrading required, signage to be erected on the territory and, finally, publicize the available means of access by means of a map and other communications tools.
3. Carry out work to restore the Park entrances in the Peel, Cedar, Côte-des-Neiges and Outremont sectors.

### 2.2.1.1 Internal traffic on the Mountain

The 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan* called for a traffic network that would ring and cross the Mountain. Work on developing that network began with the extension of Chemin Olmsted, conducted as part of work on the Parc-Pins interchange.

## APPROACH

It is important to continue working on the network designed to link the summits on the Mountain and its points of interest, and to encourage and support institutional involvement in that regard.

## MEASURE

Through agreements with institutions, continue developing the ring road and the north-south road.

### 2.2.2 Visitor reception and services in Mount Royal Park

Ever since Mount Royal Park was created, it has been popular with Montrealers, regional day-trippers and tourists from farther afield. Many people come to enjoy it every year; a 2006 study estimated that there are over 3.4 million visitors a year.<sup>4</sup>

A significant asset for the Park and the Mountain is the partnership agreement struck in 1992 between the Centre de la montagne and the city, which made it possible to establish reception services for users and visitors, offering information, rental equipment and access to a gift shop and a café. In 2006 the Smith House welcomed 55,000 visitors to its permanent exhibition, 21,500 to its outdoor café and over 10,000 to its gift shop. Through a varied program of activities, the Centre also works to educate and boost the awareness of users, especially young people.



The Smith House–Beaver Lake axis is the most important access point to the Park, used by 43% of visitors (34% in spring, 62% in winter). The other access points, in decreasing order of use, are the Camillien Houde lookout (25%), the Côte Placide sector (23%; 32% in spring, 13% in winter) and the one from downtown (9%).<sup>5</sup>

The Smith House is the only reception facility open year round, however; in winter, there is also the Beaver Lake pavilion. Its location in the centre of the Park means that it is far from a fair number of the main activity zones, in particular the Côte Placide sector, which is where most pedestrians and cyclists enter the Park.

The Park has four activity zones:

- Beaver Lake: a recreation and outdoor area for families;
- Smith House: an educational area;
- Mount Royal Chalet: a cultural area; and
- Côte Placide: a meeting and gathering place.

The study of the Mountain's clientele was an opportunity for users to speak out about aspects of the Park that need improvement:

- cleanliness of grounds and buildings;
- signage;
- maintenance of paths;
- availability of urban furniture in some sectors – benches, picnic tables, bicycle racks, trash cans for ashes;
- quality of food services;
- for some respondents, the number of parking spots and parking rates.

Lastly, information on the Park is now offered by telephone and over the Internet by a number of organizations in addition to the Amis de la montagne, by means of Websites. Unfortunately, these many sources are no guarantee that the information provided is all accurate.

<sup>4</sup> Impact Recherche study, December 7, 2007

<sup>5</sup> Idem

## **APPROACH**

With the goal of offering better service for Park users and visitors, it is important on the one hand to consolidate these four activity zones, keeping the ecological fragility of the various sectors in mind, and on the other to improve information services and reception facilities.

There is also a need to more closely monitor and control nighttime comings and goings in the Park.

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## **MEASURES**

1. Produce a more detailed diagnosis of the Park's reception services, by examining the relevance and feasibility of adding a reception facility in the Côte Placide sector, and analyzing the performance of each of the activity zones in terms of reception and information, signage, maintenance and facilities and furniture available for users, so as to identify issues and appropriate solutions to be suggested, or work required. Priority must be given to installing adequate signage.
  2. Draw up and implement a "maintenance – cleanliness" strategy based on public participation, mainly through awareness building and education.
  3. Draw up a security plan for the Park and update relevant measures in the Park's emergency response plan.
  4. Ensure that the different Websites and telephone information lines provide centralized, up-to-date information.
-

## 2.3 Creating the appropriate conditions to protect and enhance Mount Royal

The success of the *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan* depends on a number of factors. Sharing and publicizing its underlying vision and objectives, and fostering a sense of belonging regarding its various heritage features, in particular among property owners, users and students and tourists visiting the Mountain, are all essential to safeguarding this treasure. It is also important to come up with the financial resources required to implement the planned protection and enhancement measures.

### 2.3.1 Promoting, publicizing and building awareness

#### 2.3.1.1 Property owners



There are three main categories of property owners on the Mountain: the cities of Montréal and Westmount, educational, health and religious institutions, and homeowners. They own various forms of property (buildings, natural features, landscapes, documents, etc.) that contribute in different ways to the Mountain's wealth.

Some of these property owners are not aware of the importance of this contribution, or even of the intrinsic value of what they own. This results in a lack of maintenance or certain actions on their part with negative consequences.

#### APPROACH

The planned approach involves encouraging property owners to conserve and enhance the significant features belonging to them, and to make these elements known and accessible.

#### MEASURES

1. Inform property owners about the specific nature of the Mountain's heritage features, the related issues and the protection and enhancement schemes laid out in the *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan*.
2. Offer property owners more expert advice to guide them in making informed decisions about alterations to their property and inform them of the approval criteria and processes to be respected, as applicable, for such work.
3. Encourage owners of heritage property to make it more accessible to the public.
4. Support managers of institutional properties, and more specifically of the cemeteries, in developing efficient and judicious approaches to signage so as to highlight their points of interest (e.g.: historic graves and monuments, landscaped features, etc.).

### 2.3.1.2 Users

The people who use Mount Royal are among the first to benefit from measures to protect and enhance it. However, they are not always well informed of the nature of the Mountain’s significant features, the related issues and the efforts made to preserve its assets, despite the potential impact of some of their behaviour on the Mountain’s future.



Damage caused by mountain bikes

#### APPROACH

It is important that users be properly informed and made aware of Mount Royal’s assets so that they can truly contribute to their protection and enhancement.



#### MEASURES

1. Improve access to information on the Mountain’s significant features, by means of different communication tools (folders, brochures, Website), including information on the *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan* and its implementation.
2. Continue supporting partner institutions and associations, such as the Amis de la montagne, in their educational and information activities concerning Mount Royal, and support new initiatives in this regard.
3. Continue providing information aimed at discouraging behaviour with an adverse impact on the Mountain (e.g. mountain biking, feeding squirrels, pigeons and seagulls).



### 2.3.1.3 Students

Education and awareness-building efforts must directly target school-age users, since young people will have to take responsibility for protecting and enhancing Mount Royal in years to come. This objective of boosting young people’s knowledge and awareness is part of the mission of certain stakeholders, such as the Amis de la montagne, through their educational activities.



#### APPROACH

The planned approach involves strengthening ties with the school network, so as to carry out educational and awareness initiatives to help students appreciate the Mountain’s various heritage features.

#### MEASURES

1. Continue supporting partner institutions and associations, such as the Amis de la montagne, in their educational and information activities for students, and support new initiatives in this regard.
2. Over the next five years, double the number of elementary and secondary students reached by Amis de la montagne programs designed to make them aware of Mount Royal’s heritage features.
3. Improve access to information on the Mountain’s significant features, through different communication tools adapted specifically to young people (folders, brochures, Website).

### 2.3.1.4 Tourists

Mount Royal is one of Montréal's top tourist attractions, with Beaver Lake and the Kondiaronk Lookout especially popular points of interest.

Tourists represent 13% of Mount Royal Park users (4% from France, 3% from the United States, 3% from other Canadian provinces, and 3% from other countries) and most often get there from downtown.<sup>6</sup>

Park users are generally very satisfied, with an average satisfaction rate of 8.6 out of 10. This suggests that it should be promoted more effectively to tourists.<sup>7</sup>



#### APPROACH

The planned approach is designed to make the Mountain figure more prominently in what the city offers tourists.

#### MEASURES

1. Continue developing tools for promoting Mount Royal and its heritage features to tourists, and make sure that the Mountain is properly represented, in particular in information distributed through tourist information centres.
2. Develop indicators to measure the number of tourists visiting Mount Royal Park.

<sup>6</sup> Impact Recherche study, December 7, 2007

<sup>7</sup> Idem

### 2.3.2 Securing the necessary funding

Meeting the objectives of the *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan* and the Mount Royal Heritage Pact requires substantial investment. Financial contributions by outside parties are a promising means of maintaining an acceptable pace of investment to meet the objectives of the Plan and the Pact.

#### APPROACH

Given the renown and symbolic value of the Mountain, it is to be hoped that leading corporate citizens will make substantial contributions to help fund capital projects.

#### MEASURES

1. Continue, in co-operation with the Amis de la montagne, producing and following up on the investment program and the search for financial partners to invest in protecting and enhancing Mount Royal.
2. Inventory existing means of funding and identify other types of support (technical, legal or financial) appropriate to Mount Royal's specific needs.
3. Implement a financial partnership plan to support partner institutions in their efforts to consolidate the Mountain's biodiversity.



There are four dimensions to implementing the *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan*: expanding knowledge, establishing a management framework, carrying out the projects, and ensuring an ongoing role for the Table de concertation du Mont-Royal.

## 3.1 Expanding knowledge

Knowing about and understanding the Mountain's various aspects, heritage features and sectors is a prerequisite to taking well-informed and carefully considered action. In that connection, there is a rich and varied body of documentation concerning Mount Royal, one that continues to grow. Drawing up the *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan* necessitated further studies, but it was also an opportunity to identify those areas in which documentation is lacking. In addition, the information on Mount Royal must be brought together, organized and made accessible.

### STUDIES AND INVENTORIES TO BE CARRIED OUT

1. Protecting and enhancing natural habitats:
  - study of reptile life in the cemeteries and of certain target species;
  - study of vegetation in the cemeteries, leading to an action plan for invasive species (eradication and replacement);
  - study of insect life to identify the families present and insect pests;
  - complementary study of bird life;
  - hydrological study;
  - study of the history of the Monteregian Hills;
  - geological study.
2. Protecting and enhancing built and landscaped environments:
  - study of prehistoric and historic archaeological potential;
  - inventories of works of art and commemorative monuments;
  - inventory and assessment of landscaping;
  - in co-operation with property owners, inventories of the heritage features belonging to the cemeteries;
  - study documenting the condition of the built components of the Historic and Natural District.
3. Protecting and enhancing landscapes:
  - study of the landscape features of the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District.
4. Accessibility:
  - study of current access to the Mountain and Mount Royal Park.



## **3.2 Establishing a management framework**

The territory of the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District falls under the jurisdiction of many parties: two cities, four boroughs and a number of government departments are all involved, often dealing with the same issues at the same time. Implementing the planned protection and enhancement measures will call for a co-ordinated approach on the part of municipal authorities and the use of common work tools. In the short term this has the advantage of simplifying procedures; in the longer term it could facilitate the eventual transfer of management authority between the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine and the cities, as stipulated in the addendum to the *City Contract* dealing with the transfer to the city of responsibility for managing the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District and the establishment of a specific budget for its conservation and enhancement.

Consequently, it is essential to establish a structure for co-ordinating efforts by the different parties, and to come up with a solid set of tools, including some original and innovative instruments.

### **3.2.1 The standing management co-ordination committee for the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District**

The management framework to be established for the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District must be supported by a permanent co-ordination body.

The mandate of the committee, consisting of one representative of each of the four boroughs, a representative of the City of Westmount, and representatives of the central city departments concerned, including the Bureau du Mont-Royal (which will act as committee secretary), will be to ensure that the parts of their respective territories located within the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District are managed according to a framework founded on common and shared principles, leading to balanced, harmonized and co-ordinated by-laws, procedures and administrative rules.

Lastly, it will be responsible for reporting to the boroughs, the cities and the Table de concertation du Mont-Royal on the effectiveness of the management framework and to suggest changes as necessary.

### 3.2.2 Management tools

Implementing the *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan* calls for a wide range of tools, instruments and procedures, including such traditional urban planning tools as the *Complementary Document* to the *Master Plan*, but also joint planning, financial assistance programs and the development of different plans, programs and sector strategies tailored to the specific needs of the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District, with a separate management framework for Mount Royal Park.

#### 3.2.2.1 The *Complementary Document* to the *Master Plan*

The *Complementary Document* to the *Master Plan* is an instrument provided in the *Charter of Ville de Montréal* to ensure that borough urban planning by-laws are consistent with the municipal policies laid out in the *Master Plan*. Section 88 of the Charter provides that the *Master Plan* must include a complementary document establishing the rules and criteria constituting minimal guidelines for borough by-laws. The *Complementary Document*, then, is the most appropriate instrument for guaranteeing that the goals of the *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan* are reflected in the urban planning by-laws applying to the Historic and Natural District.

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE *COMPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT*

1. Protecting and enhancing natural habitats:
  - introduce provisions relating to possible construction and landscaping in the conservation plan zones;
  - introduce provisions relating to prohibited plants;
  - add provisions for limiting paving.
2. Protecting and enhancing built and developed environments:
  - introduce provisions limiting the height and coverage ratios of new, expanded or altered buildings.
3. Protecting and enhancing landscapes:
  - add provisions relating to the appearance of mechanical equipment and other rooftop structures;
  - identify new views that should be protected and enhanced and add criteria;
  - introduce more specific criteria for views at risk of being obscured;
  - introduce provisions relating to the lighting of buildings and signs.
4. Mount Royal Heritage Pact:
  - entrench regulatory measures stemming from joint planning exercises between the city and institutional property owners.

### 3.2.2.2 The Mount Royal Heritage Pact

Institutional properties cover most of the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District. Accordingly, it is essential that institutional property owners commit to protecting and enhancing the heritage features on their property. The *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan* recommends that these commitments be part of the joint planning exercises and then be translated into amendments to the *Complementary Document* to the *Master Plan*, or to the urban planning by-laws of the borough concerned, or contractual commitments, as applicable. The main subjects of such commitments have already been identified<sup>8</sup> and each of the institutional property owners has been informed. Together, all these commitments make up the Mount Royal Heritage Pact. Each planning exercise must take account of all the heritage features involved.

### 3.2.2.3 Financial assistance programs

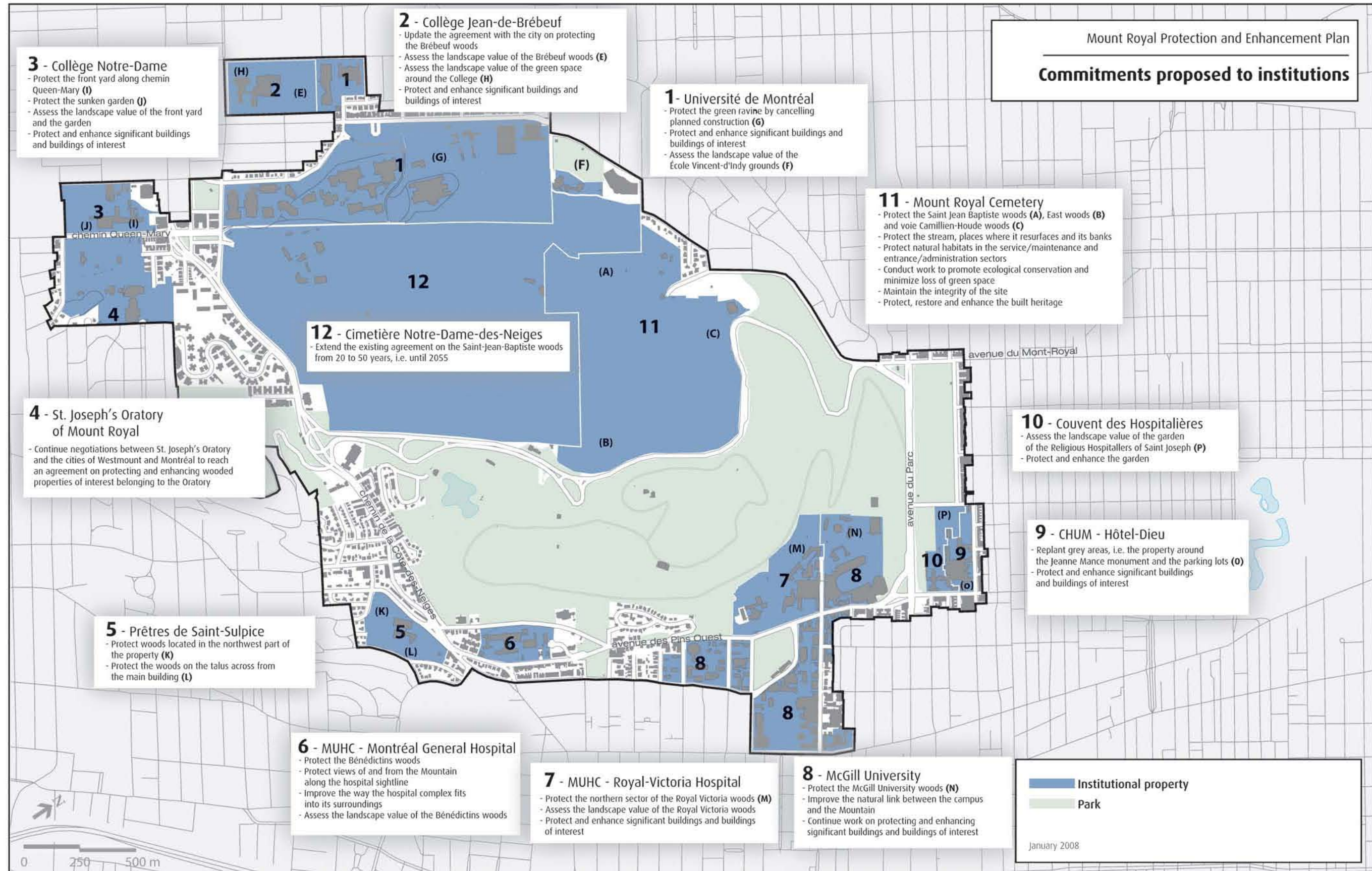
Properties located in the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District are already eligible for financial assistance under the *Agreement on the cultural development of Montréal*, and existing programs could be adjusted to support the achievement of the goals of the *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan*.

#### STRATEGY FOR USING SUBSIDIES IN THE MOUNT ROYAL HISTORIC AND NATURAL DISTRICT

Establish a strategy for using available subsidies, with the goal of targeting:

1. In the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District:
  - natural habitats;
  - the conservation and enhancement of buildings' heritage features;
  - the most badly deteriorated built components;
  - landscaping;
  - removing visual "irritants" such as antennas.
2. Around the Historic and Natural District:
  - improve the appearance of mechanical equipment and other rooftop structures.





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### 3.2.2.4 Developing management and regulatory tools

Putting the *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan* into practice will call for a series of management and regulatory tools. Some of them stem from the innovative nature of the proposed measures, such as those relating to managing biomass and assessing natural landscapes; others are related instead to specific characteristics of the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District, including the significant concentration of works of art and commemorative monuments in the cemeteries, and the issue of access to the Mountain. The following table lists the different tools developed; some apply to the entire territory, others only to parts of the territory or specific elements.

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#### MANAGEMENT AND REGULATORY TOOLS TO BE DEVELOPED

1. For the entire territory:
    - a reference tool to be used to quantify and qualify the plant biomass on properties located in the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District;
    - analysis criteria for development or redevelopment projects on properties of interest, to be used to assess the efficiency of measures proposed with regard to the objective of adding to biomass;
    - standardized specifications for landscape studies to be carried out before the design or assessment of any actions;
    - an archaeological inventory program;
    - a traffic management plan for Mount Royal, and a strategy for identifying work to be done to improve access to the Mountain, in particular:
      - work required;
      - directional signage to be erected on the territory;
      - information tools required to publicize access points;
    - a security plan for Mount Royal.
  2. For the institutional properties (cemeteries):
    - in co-operation with the cemeteries, continue research into ways of encouraging commemorative monuments that fit in with the landscape there;
    - develop criteria for the erection of commemorative monuments;
    - an action plan, in co-operation with the other stakeholders, for identifying the resources required and steps to be taken to protect, maintain, restore and enhance works of art and commemorative monuments.
  3. For public property:
    - update parameters governing the integration of public art on public property;
    - define design principles for the roads, based in particular on their original design;
    - establish a strategy for systematically incorporating enhancement initiatives in public works carried out under different programs;
    - through agreements with institutions, continue work on the ring road and the north-south road.
  4. For Jeanne Mance Park:
    - a master plan for the Park and the côte Placide sector.
  5. For the other parks:
    - a study of the parks to:
      - specify each one's character, role and contribution to the Mountain's overall landscape;
      - determine criteria for their use, design and maintenance.
-

### 3.2.2.5 The management framework for Mount Royal Park

Mount Royal Park occupies an exceptional place in the heart of the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District. As such, it requires a specific management approach and tools, designed to strike a balance between protecting and conserving natural habitats and providing services and activities for users.

#### **MANAGEMENT AND REGULATORY TOOLS TO BE DEVELOPED FOR MOUNT ROYAL PARK**

- a park management plan, covering its ecological management, the management of its landscape components and viewpoints, and follow-up on work already done;
- a water run-off management strategy;
- a monitoring and intervention plan for protecting endangered plant and animal species;
- an implementation plan for the work identified in the 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan* that has not been completed to date;
- sector restoration and enhancement plans, starting with the Brackenfell, Beaver Lake and Smith House sectors;
- a plan for the work required to update directional signage, particularly at the Park entrances;
- a program of activities that respects Mount Royal's role as a heritage treasure to be protected;
- standards for managing large-scale events;
- assurance that the different Websites and telephone information lines provide consistent, up-to-date information;
- analysis of the performance of each activity zone in terms of reception and information, signage, maintenance and equipment and furniture available for users, so as to identify issues and appropriate solutions to be suggested, or the work required;
- a "maintenance – cleanliness" strategy based on public participation, mainly through awareness building and education;
- a security plan for the Park and updated measures for this purpose in the Park's emergency response plan.

### 3.3 Projects

The *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan* identifies a number of development projects required to enhance the heritage features of the Historic and Natural District.

#### PROJECTS

1. For the entire territory:
  - improve the layout and maintenance of lookouts.
2. For the institutional properties:
  - implement conservation and enhancement measures for the Saint-Jean-Baptiste woods;
  - develop the ring road and the north-south road on all rights of way allocated for these purposes on the property of the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery and the Université de Montréal.
3. For public property:
  - continue work on projects to improve roadways identified in the 1992 *Mount Royal enhancement plan*, emphasizing three priorities:
    - reconfiguring the Côte-des-Neiges-Remembrance interchange;
    - reconfiguring the Parc-Mont-Royal and Côte-Sainte-Catherine intersection;
    - reconfiguring the Côte-des-Neiges-Cedar intersection;
  - complete the Parc-Pins interchange project.
4. For Mount Royal Park
  - plan and undertake work to upgrade the parking lots;
  - carry out work to restore the Park entrances in the Peel, Cedar, Côte-des-Neiges and Outremont sectors.
5. Summit Park
  - landscape and naturalize land acquired alongside Chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges.

### **3.4 Ensuring an ongoing role for the Table de concertation du Mont-Royal**

The Table de concertation du Mont-Royal must continue its operations and follow up on the implementation of the *Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan*.

The Table will be useful for assessing the achievements of the Plan once it has been implemented, using indicators for assessing progress in protecting natural habitats, built and landscaped features and natural landscapes, as well as expanding knowledge and developing the appropriate management tools, actions carried out and efforts to build awareness.

#### **SOME INDICATORS FOR ASSESSING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *MOUNT ROYAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN***

1. Protecting and enhancing natural habitats:
  - changes in the size of conservation zones that are protected by agreements or by-laws;
  - actions taken to eliminate invasive species;
  - changes in biomass;
  - list of authorizations granted for felling trees;
  - funding program.
2. Protecting and enhancing built and landscaped environments:
  - subsidies granted to protect and enhance buildings;
  - subsidies granted for landscaping;
  - subsidies granted for removing visual irritants.
3. Protecting and enhancing landscapes:
  - changes in views to be protected and enhanced.
4. Expanding knowledge:
  - studies conducted.
5. Actions carried out:
  - actions carried out.
6. Awareness:
  - changes in programs for students;
  - changes in the tourist clientele.

# Appendices

### Biodiversity Protection Measures

Zones	Management criteria	Building construction <sup>1</sup>
<p><b>Core zone*</b></p> <p>Ecological integrity zone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain standing deadwood and implement an ecological management program similar to the one for nature parks</li> <li>- Add wetlands</li> <li>- Maintain the three strata of vegetation</li> </ul>	No
<p><b>Core to be consolidated**</b></p> <p>Site associated with a core zone, requiring renaturalization or enhancement work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain standing deadwood and implement an ecological management program similar to the one for nature parks</li> <li>- Take priority action in this zone to maintain the three strata of vegetation</li> <li>- Add wetlands</li> </ul>	No
<p><b>Buffer zone</b></p> <p>30-metre protective zone around a core zone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implement an ecological management program similar to the one for nature parks</li> <li>- Use indigenous plants</li> <li>- Do not reduce green areas</li> <li>- Improve the interface between human activities and the core zone</li> <li>- Suggest actions respecting the ecological integrity of the core zone</li> <li>- Keep a plant screen between the core zone and the built environment</li> </ul>	Avoid all new construction
<p><b>Ecological corridor***</b></p> <p>Link between core zones, allowing movement and dispersal of flora and fauna</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implement an ecological management program similar to the one for nature parks</li> <li>- Maintain wooded areas</li> <li>- Consolidate at least two strata of vegetation (high herbaceous plants/shrubs or shrubs/trees) in a continuous system within vegetation axes to be defined, so that small animals and reptiles can safely move about and plant species can disperse</li> <li>- Avoid creating crosswise interruptions</li> </ul>	<p>Not in wooded areas and vegetation axes to be consolidated</p> <p>Elsewhere yes, with certain criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize the loss of green areas</li> <li>• Limit crosswise interruptions</li> </ul>
<p><b>Plain of horticultural and ecological interest</b></p> <p>Bird nesting and feeding area; popular with raptors</p> <p>Complements the forest environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implement an ecological management program similar to the one for nature parks</li> <li>- Maintain and improve wildlife habitats</li> <li>- Maintain open spaces</li> </ul>	<p>Yes, with certain criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain biomass on the properties concerned</li> <li>• Protect the landscape character of the plain</li> </ul>

\* The two wooded areas (east and centre) of the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery are covered by an agreement specifying low-impact burials at those locations. This should be taken into account when determining conservation objectives for this type of habitat.

\*\* The same protection measures apply to woods of interest to be enhanced outside the ecological network.

\*\*\* The ecological corridor to be created along Chemin Remembrance will have to be taken into account in the planning of road networks.

<sup>1</sup> Building: a construction or part of a construction used or intended to be used to shelter or accommodate persons, animals or things

# Appendix 1

## Biodiversity



Work for purposes other than enhancing or protecting natural habitats	Alteration of topography for purposes other than enhancing or protecting natural habitats	Planting of non-indigenous (non-invasive) plant species
No	No	No
No	No	Yes, with certain criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only in spaces already landscaped with horticultural plants</li> <li>• Non-landscaped spaces (lawns and bare ground) should be planted with indigenous plants</li> <li>• Invasive plants present should be removed</li> </ul>
Yes, with certain criteria: For institutional properties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize development</li> <li>• Maximize opportunities for plant landscaping throughout the buffer zone</li> </ul> For non-institutional properties next to a core zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain an intact green zone (herbaceous plants or shrubs) at least 2 m deep on the edge of the lot</li> </ul>	Yes, with certain criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize changes to existing topography</li> </ul>	Yes, with certain criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only in spaces already landscaped with horticultural plants</li> <li>• Non-landscaped spaces (lawns and bare ground) should be planted with indigenous plants</li> <li>• Invasive plants present should be removed</li> </ul>
Yes, with certain criteria: In wooded areas and vegetation axes to be consolidated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize development</li> </ul> Elsewhere: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize the loss of green areas</li> <li>• Limit crosswise interruptions</li> </ul>	Yes, with certain criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasize conserving the existing topography</li> </ul>	Yes, with certain criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only in spaces outside of the vegetation axes to be consolidated and wooded areas</li> <li>• Use indigenous plants in vegetation axes to be consolidated and wooded areas</li> </ul>
Yes, with certain criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain biomass on the properties concerned</li> <li>• Protect the landscape character of the plain</li> </ul>	Yes, with certain criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain biomass on the properties concerned</li> <li>• Protect the landscape character of the plain</li> </ul>	Yes



## List of archaeological sites

### **Fort de la Montagne, Sulpician Seminary (site BiFj-006)**

**Location:** Ville-Marie borough (outside the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District)

**Legal status:** Tours du Fort-des-Messieurs-de-Saint-Sulpice, a classified historic monument with a protected area, and a classified historic site

A Sulpician mission was founded here in the mid-1670s, comprising a palisaded village and representatives of various Native American nations, mainly Iroquois, Huron and Algonquin. The fort was rebuilt after a fire in 1694 and ceded to the Séminaire de Saint-Sulpice in 1696. The Natives were then gradually moved to the new Sault-au-Récollet mission until the Fort de la Montagne mission was permanently closed in 1705. The Sulpicians then created a vast country estate here with various buildings, surrounded by a stone wall with four corner towers.

Archaeological research to date on this vast property (potential studies and inventories) has shown that the archaeological context is still intact, and highlighted the importance of preserving the evidence of a lengthy occupation of the site (Bisson and Laroche 1975, Archéotec 1984, Ethnoscop 1986, 1987, 1990, 1997, 2006).

### **Prehistoric Native graves in Westmount (site BiFj-031)**

**Location:** City of Westmount (outside the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District). Block formed by Argyle, Montrose, Aberdeen and The Boulevard

During the second half of the 19th century, many prehistoric Native graves were unearthed during construction work to integrate the sides of the Westmount hill into the urban fabric. The space, known as the Westmount burying ground, contained some twenty graves. Summary details were recorded, in particular by William D. Lighthall (1898, 1899, 1922, 1924).

In 1989 and 1990, an archaeological inventory was done of the lot next to St. George's School, site BiFj-031, where five graves had been unearthed in 1898. Although the site had been extensively disturbed by recent development, the remains of one individual were found.

### **Hurtubise House (site BiFj-036)**

**Location:** City of Westmount (outside the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District)

**Legal status:** Classified historic monument and classified historic site

The Hurtubise House, built by Pierre Hurtubise in 1739 on Chemin de la côte Saint-Antoine, is one of the oldest rural homes on the island of Montréal. It was owned by the same family for many years, and the site, previously much larger, is remarkably intact (Remparts 2001).

In the mid-1980s, various archaeological work was done as the building was being restored, and highlighted the great documentary value of the archaeological contexts on the site (Ethnoscop 1994).



### **Rosemount, Percy Walters Park (site BiFj-080)**

**Location:** Ville-Marie borough

**Legal status:** Mount Royal Historic and Natural District and protected areas of the Ernest Cormier and Charles G. Greenshields houses, classified historic monuments

Rosemount, built around 1850 by lawyer and politician John Rose, is a perfect example of the sumptuous homes erected by the Montréal upper class in those days on the south side of Mount Royal. The area is now known as the Golden Square Mile. The house was purchased in 1871 by Montréal businessman William Watson Ogilvie, and underwent extensive work that changed its appearance considerably. It was one of the most prestigious homes of its time. Rosemount was demolished in 1933, and is now the site of Percy Walters Park.

Archaeological research has recently been conducted on the Rosemount site, and has documented the main elements of the built environment and the associated archaeological contexts (SACL, 2006).

### **Snow Hill, Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal (site BiFj-081)**

**Location:** Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce borough

**Legal status:** Mount Royal Historic and Natural District

A vast site on the north side of the Westmount hill, at the foot of Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal. The space encompasses a number of lots, including the estate where John Molson Jr built his house, Terra Nova, in 1848 (known as Snow Hill in the mid-19th century). The Neo-classical residence designed by George Browne, now part of the Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal building, is another example of the splendid homes built by the Montréal upper class starting in the mid-19th century on the slopes of Mount Royal.

In 2005, as part of infrastructure work at Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal, a potential study was done on the site, along with an initial archaeological inventory. A number of parts of the site were found to be of particular interest, including the Snow Hill (Terra Nova) estate. The inventory turned up remains associated with the former outbuildings (Archéotec 2005).

### **Dawson (site BfJj-001)**

**Location:** Ville-Marie borough (outside the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District)

**Legal status:** Protected area of the University Club of Montreal building, a classified historic monument

The Dawson site is where earthmoving work in 1860 turned up many prehistoric Native remains: graves, traces of dwellings, clay pots, stone and bone tools, fire pits and some objects of European origin. The analysis of the findings by John William Dawson, a McGill University geologist, determined that this was an Iroquoian village from the Late Woodland that might have been occupied at the time of contact with Europeans (latter half of the 16th century). The site was long considered to be the village of Hochelaga, visited by Jacques Cartier, but that hypothesis has now been questioned by many experts (Trigger & Pendergast 1972). It is likely a different village from Hochelaga, although the two may have been contemporaneous.

The archaeological contexts found by Dawson have now mostly been lost. Digs conducted in the neighbouring streets, however, found stratigraphic levels similar to those described by Dawson (SANM 1989, Ethnoscop 1997). In 2004, an archaeological inventory conducted as part of restoration work on infrastructure beneath Rue Metcalfe turned up a number of prehistoric potsherds in

contexts similar to those from the Dawson site. The analysis of these items showed similarities to items from the impressive collection discovered in 1860. It seems that part of the site may still exist under the western half of Rue Metcalfe, between Sherbrooke and De Maisonneuve (Arkéos, to be published).

### **Place Sainte-Sophie (site BfFj-046)**

**Location:** Ville-Marie borough (outside the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District)

**Legal status:** Protected area of the University Club of Montreal building, a classified historic monument

The Place Sainte-Sophie site is located near the Dawson site (BfFj-001). Place Sainte-Sophie was laid out in 1859, some twenty years after the district was first subdivided. At the time, it consisted of a series of three-storey brick buildings; sheds and other outbuildings were gradually added in the rear yards. Around the turn of the 20th century, commercial buildings radically transformed the urban fabric of the area.

In 1989, an archaeological inventory documented the organization and composition of the natural soil and found important similarities with the contexts observed at the Dawson site.

### **Prehistoric quarry (site BfFj-097)**

**Location:** Ville-Marie borough

**Legal status:** Mount Royal Historic and Natural District

In 1993, during a visual inspection by the Centre de Référence Lithique du Québec, bedrock outcrops of hornfels were observed on the northeast side of Mount Royal (Codère 1996). This discovery was followed in 1997 by a potential study and an inventory that showed that this natural resource had been used by prehistoric Native groups (Ethnoscop 1998). Signs that stone was extracted and broken up here and the discovery of stone flakes and tools at various stages of completion indicate that the natural quarries on Mount Royal were used as sources of raw material and workshops for the production of stone tools.

The presence of Mount Royal hornfels in the form of tools and flakes at many sites in southern Quebec provides indirect evidence of how widely the Mount Royal quarry was used. This stone may have been in use for very long periods, perhaps even throughout the prehistory of Montréal.

### **Mount Royal Park funicular (site BfFj-117)**

**Location:** Ville-Marie borough

**Legal status:** Mount Royal Historic and Natural District

In 1875, in the run-up to the official opening of Mount Royal Park (1876), three developers suggested to the city that a funicular be set up on the east side of Mount Royal, so as to make it easier for visitors to reach the summit. The funicular was built in 1885. The initial phase, very visible from the provincial exhibition grounds (north of Jeanne Mance Park), was at first confined to the rocky crags; two later phases extended it as far as Avenue du Parc, where a ticket office was located. The funicular remained in operation until 1918, and was dismantled between 1919 and 1921.

In 1992, an archaeological inventory found remains of the funicular at the top of the crags. Some masonry traces associated with the building and anchors projecting from the ground were identified (Ethnoscop 1993). The easily accessible remains, visible from the path along the crags, offer interesting *in situ* display potential.

### Jeanne Mance Park (site BjFj-130)

**Location:** Plateau-Mont-Royal borough

**Legal status:** Mount Royal Historic and Natural District

Between 1730 and 1870, what is now Jeanne Mance Park comprised a number of properties used mainly as farmland. In 1870, the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph, who were in charge of the Hôtel-Dieu de Montréal hospital and owned a vast property on the site, began dividing up and selling off lots on the south side of Avenue du Mont-Royal. These lots quickly filled up with stone or brick homes, along with various outbuildings. The buildings remained next to the facilities on the Provincial Exhibition grounds (1878–1896), but apparently disappeared in the early 1890s, when they were replaced by the bleachers for the racetrack in the exhibition park.

In 2004, an archaeological inventory conducted as part of work to restore the facilities and infrastructure in Jeanne Mance Park turned up many remains associated with the buildings that had stood on the south side of Avenue du Mont-Royal in the last quarter of the 19th century. The work also showed the integrity of the archaeological contexts in this sector and the possibility of unearthing some remains of the Provincial Exhibition facilities (Ethnoscop, to be published).

### Prehistoric site (site BjFj-134)

**Location:** Ville-Marie borough

**Legal status:** Mount Royal Historic and Natural District

In 2004 and 2005, an archaeological inventory and digs were carried out as part of restoration work on the Sir George-Étienne Cartier monument in Mount Royal Park. A number of potsherds, bone tools and food scraps were unearthed at that time, in various places. At least one potsherd could be associated with the St. Lawrence Iroquoian culture (1300-1534 AD).

Although there were not many artifacts and they were spread over a large surface, they might point to the use of the site by small groups in prehistoric times on their way to nearby cultivated fields, a village, cemetery or quarry. Since there are still a number of sites in this sector to be explored, it can be assumed that this location corresponds to the edges of a larger archaeological site that has yet to be examined. In any case, these remains all suggest that the Mountain was used by prehistoric groups (Ethnoscop, to be published).

### Mount Royal reservoir (site MTL04-25-15 and MTL05-25-18)

**Location:** Ville-Marie borough

**Legal status:** Mount Royal Historic and Natural District

Up to the mid-19th century, problems with water supply delayed the development of the areas at the foot of the Mountain. After the water supply network was redesigned following a fire that destroyed substantial parts of the Saint-Laurent and Sainte-Marie faubourgs in 1852, two reservoirs were built on the south side of Mount Royal: the McTavish reservoir, completed in 1856 and still in use, and the upper or Mount Royal reservoir, built in about 1872 and abandoned in 1930.

The remains of the Mount Royal reservoir lie within the boundaries of Mount Royal Park, near the Peel staircase. Recently, two archaeological inventories were conducted to determine its exact position and the condition of the remains. Parts of walls and the piping system were unearthed, suggesting that most of the structure is still in place, including the main mechanical elements (Ethnoscop, to be published). Aside from its documentary interest, it offers interesting *in situ* display potential.

## **Native graves**

From the mid-19th century to the early 20th century, many prehistoric graves were unearthed in different places on Mount Royal.

One specific site, known as the Westmount burying ground (S1), comprised the graves of some twenty individuals. Graves were also discovered around 1850 on the Lyman lot, in the Mount Royal Cemetery (S2), and on the important Dawson site (BjFj-001), the only St. Lawrence Iroquoian village identified to date on the Montréal plain. In the early 20th century, some graves were discovered in a small cave north of the Westmount burying ground (S3). On the north or Outremont side, a number of graves were found on Rue Pratt (S4), along Chemin de la Côte-Sainte-Catherine (S5) and, more recently, on Chemin Queen-Mary (S6).

Reinterpretation of these data shows that the graves might be associated with prehistoric populations from the Late Archaic period (4000 to 1000 B.C.), but also the Late Woodland (1000 to 1550 A.D.). In any case, the distribution of these many discoveries shows that Mount Royal and its slopes were used as sacred places by the prehistoric peoples who visited and lived on the Island of Montréal.

(Larocque 1990, Tremblay 2004)

## **Sources of illustrations**

- Page 9: Ville de Montréal Archives, Jacques Viger Fonds, cote BM99, S1, D1, p 266
- Page 10: 1931, 1964, 1983 aerial photographs: Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine (MCCCF)
- Page 13: Wood frog: Raymond Belhumeur
- Page 14: Heat islands research group, Geography department, Université du Québec à Montréal
- Page 18: W.W. Ogilvie's residence: Wm. Notman & Son, McCord Museum, VIEW-951.1
- Page 21: Postcard: Daniel Chartier
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- Page 24: Watercolour by James Duncan: McCord Museum, M30612980-001-612-002-0
- Page 28: Path along the Crag: Alain Chagnon
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Sections: Christian Thiffault architecture design
- Page 43: Alain Chagnon

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