

CONSERVING THE NATURAL HABITATS OF L'ANSE-À-L'ORME, A PERMACULTURE
AND TRANSITION TOWN PERSPECTIVE

A BRIEF BY THE COOPÉRATIVE DE SOLIDARITÉ TRANSITION NDG TO THE

OFFICE DE CONSULTATION PUBLIQUE DE MONTRÉAL

IN REGARDS TO

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 185 HECTARES OF L'ANSE-À-L'ORME

INTRODUCTION

The Coopérative de solidarité Transition NDG is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating more resilient communities through pursuing less fossil fuel dependent lifestyles, disseminating related knowledge and information and creating and supporting opportunities to live and learn sustainable practices.

OUR APPROACH TO GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

As the world increasingly experiences the impacts of climate change and as extracting oil reserves becomes more difficult and less sustainable, we work to increase community resilience and self-sufficiency. We know that the protection of local ecosystems is a critical factor in our transition to more sustainable lifestyles. Whether we are raising awareness, openly discussing issues, pooling our resources, sharing skills and solutions, or supporting other groups whose work reflects our ethics of earth care, people care and fair share, our priority is the improvement of the quality of life and health of the community.

WHY WE ARE SUBMITTING THIS BRIEF

As students and practitioners of permaculture, many of our members are acutely aware of the importance of biodiversity and of the interrelatedness of all life. L'Anse-à-L'Orme is a pristine natural environment providing ecosystem services essential to maintaining life both locally and globally. These include sequestering carbon, storing and filtering water, cooling the atmosphere, forming soils and cycling nutrients. It also provides cultural services that support human well-being, such as recreational, spiritual and other nonmaterial benefits. Furthermore, L'Anse à-L'Orme is a critical wildlife habitat. Not only does it provide nesting grounds for several species of migratory birds, it also harbours many species of animals and plants year-round.

Nature has taken centuries to develop wild spaces such as L'Anse-à-L'Orme that serve a unique and specific purpose in the flow and cycles of life. Humans cannot recreate such spaces. In fact, should they be subjected to human interference, they are lost forever. Furthermore, several of the adjacent natural spaces would severely suffer from the development of this area.

On the other hand, this particular part of the Island of Montreal has an abundance of abandoned industrial and commercial buildings already equipped with the infrastructure (transportation routes, electricity grid, sewers, telecommunications cables, etc.) required to accommodate larger populations. Focusing on refurbishing these sites is much more economically and ecologically sound.

WHAT WE ASK AS REGARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF L'ANSE-À-L'ORME

We hereby ask that all 365 hectares of L'Anse-à-L'Orme be preserved and protected and that it be legally declared a nature park or wildlife refuge.

We hereby request that a complete moratorium be declared on the development of all wilderness, wetlands, farmland, and green spaces remaining on the island of Montreal.

CONCLUSION

We oppose the proposed development of 185 hectares of L'Anse-à-L'Orme and fully support the document entitled A Common Vision for the Preservation of the L'Anse-à-L'Orme Corridor as a Natural Space.

Respectfully submitted, this 26th day of April 2017.

Coopérative de solidarité Transition NDG