

My name is Jennifer Vrouvides, I lived on the corner of St Mathieu and de Maisonneuve for 2.5 years, then on Fort and Lincoln for 2 years on and off. I first moved to the area because of school. Once I graduated, I moved away from the area immediately despite my current place of work being next to my apartment. I currently have a daily commute of 40 minutes because I needed more green space and community than this area provided me.

I moved last year for a few reasons that I feel will be echoed by many of the people. Firstly, I am planning on having a family in the near future and there are no spaces for children to play. Furthering this, as an avid jogger, there were no places to run except on the mountain which is far too advanced for my level. For families, the mountain is not an option as getting a stroller, child, day bag etc up that hill and those steps is impossible. It is unfair to propose that the mountain is a reasonable answer to much needed green space as it is not accessible to anyone but able-bodied, fit people. The other park in the area is next to the Atwater metro and has nearly zero grass, often has broken glass, and mentally unstable people around. It is also always dirty, loud and dangerous for children because of the constant traffic and construction.

Another point is how there is no library or elementary school nearby. I was shocked to learn that while this area has some of the highest concentration of families in Montreal, that these issues were still not fixed; these issues have persisted for at least the 5 years that I was involved in the area and are still not rectified.

Lastly, there was an incredible lack of community in the area which could really be changed if there was a functioning community centre and library. These spaces are essential to a happy and connected community.

I used to think that the reasons none of these were happening was because there was no space, however, there is the opportunity for it all to happen with the new developments from the old Children's Hospital. I know that many more people would choose to stay in the area and move here if their needs were being met. Personally I would love to move back here as it would make my commute much less of a hassle and facilitate life in general as the downtown core is right there.

Thank you for your time and I hope that the decisions being made in the near future reflect the community and what the community is voicing as important.

Kindly,  
Jennifer