

Workshop 2.3

Protection and enhancement of the natural heritage

Montréal's green spaces, which include Mont Royal as well as the riverbanks and the water surrounding the island, give a unique character to this city. These spaces represent one of the solid foundations on which to build a city of sustainable development and to improve the quality of the environment in which the citizens live. The natural heritage of Montréal calls for action to protect vulnerable areas and, as well, to make quality green and blue spaces accessible to all Montréalers. Further, over the past few years the various consultations regarding Mont Royal have made it clear that it is now urgent to achieve a just compromise between the imperatives of developing the institutions on the one hand and of protecting this irreplaceable natural and cultural resource on the other. In this context, this workshop must decide on the actions to take that will ensure the survival of these spaces. It must also decide on the actions and subsequent commitments aimed at establishing real green and blue networks.

1. PROPOSALS

1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL 1: Give Montréalers access to waterfronts and bodies of water and views of them, along with a variety of activities that meet their needs.

The blue network includes all bodies of water, shorelines, and spaces at the water's edge, including urban development.

PROPOSAL 2: Give Montréalers access to a network of large parks (nature parks, metropolitan parks, and large urban parks) enabling free outdoor activities while protecting natural environments.

PROPOSAL 3: Guarantee the protection and enhancement of the historical, natural, landscape, built and cultural heritage of the Mont Royal territory, within the framework of municipal jurisdiction.

The review of protection measures must result in clear rules for planning and management.

1.2 GOALS AND ACTIONS

1.2.1 Proposal 1: Give Montréalers visual and physical access to waterfronts and bodies of water, along with a variety of activities that meet their needs.

Goal 1/5: Allow for a better knowledge of the blue network so as to encourage greater participation of the population and thus ensure protection of the resource. To achieve this goal:

- 1) Promote sites, trails, and activities;
- 2) Develop a program for sensitization and education, with special emphasis on outdoor activities;
- 3) Create an identifying image based on the metropolitan region's cultural, historical, and environmental attributes;
- 4) Create signage and an integrated communication strategy for the entire metropolitan region;
- 5) Coordinate projects and tours with those of other groups interested in the development of recreational tourism.

Leadership	Montréal and partners together
Principal financial partners	CMM, Tourisme Montréal, Organizations
Scope of costs 2002–2005	\$1.5M in operating costs

Goal 2/5: Allow a greater variety of activities on riverbanks and in the water. To achieve this goal:

- 6) Set up the necessary facilities and infrastructures for access to shoreline spaces and bodies of water and make activities such as boating and completion of Phase II of the Canal de Lachine possible;
- 7) Give priority to sectors with poor access to bodies of water and to service infrastructures;
- 8) Encourage, support, and develop partnerships for riverbank animation and to manage facilities.
- 8a) Take measures to ensure that the quality of water is fit for recreational purposes (see 2.1).
- 8b) Reconsider the issue of making more accessible the bodies of water around the island.

Leadership	Montréal and partners together
Principal financial partners	CMM, Organizations*, Governments
Scope of costs 2002–2005	\$3.0M in capital expenditures \$1.5M in operating costs

(does not include Phase II of the Canal de Lachine)

*Management of facilities and activities is above all under the jurisdiction of partners, to whom the City may provide some support.

Goal 3/5: Improve the quality of the riverbank environment (water, habitats, wildlife and flora) so as to allow for greater biological diversity, an attractive environment, and enriched observation activities, by the following means:

- 9) Evaluate the condition of all of the island's riverbanks and the sectors that require intervention;
- 10) Identify priorities with regard to areas to be restored;
- 11) Establish and implement a program to improve shorelines (methods, sequencing of work);

Goal 3a/5: Guarantee the protection and the enhancement of the natural, cultural and landscape heritage of the Lachine Rapids region.

- 12) Complete development of Parc des Rapides.

Leadership	Montréal
Principal financial partners	Provincial/Federal
Scope of costs 2002–2005	\$16.8M in capital expenditures (including \$10.8M for Parc des Rapides planned for in the CIWP)* \$0.3M in operating costs

- Development of the Parc des Rapides (\$10.8M) is proposed within the framework of the Canada-Québec Infrastructure Works Program: \$3.6M City, \$3.6M Québec, and \$3.6M Canada

Goal 4/5: Increase the availability of public riverbank spaces close to neighbourhoods and increase visual and functional access to bodies of waters for the population as a whole. To achieve this goal:

- 13) Ensure the permanence of existing public spaces by zoning them as required and developing them according to needs;
- 14) Establish a list of spaces needed and make acquisitions or enter into agreements to use them;
- 15) Improve existing trails and excursions along shorelines and rivers (cycling, footpaths, cruises) by creating links;
- 16) Support integration of shoreline concerns when there is urban development bordering the water;
- 17) Agree with partners on sites having intervention priority.

Leadership	Montréal
Principal financial partners	Provincial/Federal, CMM, Boroughs
Scope of costs 2002–2005	\$24.0M in capital expenditures* \$3.0M in operating costs

*Capital expenditures could be included in a cost-sharing program.

Goal 5/5: Get coherence of intervention with effective mechanisms for joint action and partnership in order to ensure better service to the population. To achieve this goal:

- 18) Set up joint-action mechanisms as well as mechanisms to support local initiatives, to be agreed upon with partners;
- 19) Obtain the formal agreement of the boroughs on orientations for the blue network;
- 20) Persuade the other levels of government to support regional efforts through concrete actions and commitments;
- 21) Encourage the formulation of action strategies specific to each basin;
- 22) Integrate with an initiative at the level of metropolitan Montréal to deal with the problems related to the St. Lawrence River, especially with regard to issues related to water levels, intended use (activities, security, etc.), and the environment.

Leadership	Montréal, CMM
Principal financial partners	CMM
Scope of costs 2002–2005	\$0.6M in operating costs

1.2.2 Proposal 2: Give Montréalers access to a network of large parks (nature parks, metropolitan parks, and large urban parks) enabling outdoor activities while protecting natural environments.

Goal 1/4 Give priority to the consolidation of existing spaces, facilities, and activities while continuing to develop the network especially through acquisitions of natural areas of major interest. Action to be taken:

- 23) Assign adequate and recurring budgets for security, operations, animation, upgrading, and maintenance while recognizing the limits of self-financing;
- 24) Carry out work to restore sites to their natural state, using indigenous species, in order to increase the biological diversity and rustic character of these sites;
- 25) Sensitize citizens and corporations to the environment, to urban ecosystems, and to the naturalization efforts;
- 26) Implement a plan to protect, acquire or exchange natural spaces of interest (see reference in Workshop 2.2).
- 26a) Reinforce the legal status of the large parks so as to prevent any development that is likely to reduce their size.
- 26b) Consider the possibility of buying or exchanging for suitable private sites so that they are available for outdoor activities year round, including golf courses.

Leadership	Montréal
Principal financial partners	Provincial/Federal
Scope of costs 2002–2005	\$10.0M in capital expenditures*

	\$1.0M in operating costs
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* The resumption of acquisitions as a result of the lifting of the moratorium could necessitate additional investments of \$50M in shared funding.

Goal 2/4: Promote the health benefits of the outdoors and counter sedentary lifestyles by making significant investments in the development of large urban parks that would encourage outdoor recreation activities. To achieve this goal:

- 27) Establish reception infrastructures, set up new and attractive facilities, and provide animation activities in large urban parks;
- 28) Respect the status, mission, and character of each park, as well as its use capacity, while respecting local communities.
- 28a) Work to get coordinated action by the joint-action and partnership mechanisms so as to ensure better service for users;

Leadership	Montréal
Principal financial partners	Provincial (Urban renewal) *
Scope of costs 2002–2005	\$18.0M in capital expenditures \$4.8M in operating costs

* A program for access to the urban outdoors could be part of the urban renewal agreement, with shared funding: \$11.4 M City and \$11.4 M Québec.

Goal 3/4: Set up integrated management for all the large parks with a focus on people, with careful attention to quality service and with cost control, making it possible to:

- Facilitate operations and ensure coherence by adopting an integrated approach to managing buildings, landscaping, maintenance, animation, marketing, customer service, and the ecology.
- Offer accessible entertainment for individuals or groups at a low cost or for free by developing a partnership well adapted to serving the people while working jointly with the unions concerned, the community organizations, and the general population;
- The City extends the integrated approach developed in the management of nature parks to all of the large parks;
- The unions concerned agree to cooperate by allowing the inclusion of partner organizations in service offerings.

Leadership	Montréal
Principal financial partners	Organizations – Partners, Unions
Scope of costs 2002–2005	-----

Goal 4/4: Facilitate access to large parks and green spaces by instituting the master plan for the green network through the following actions:

- 29) Create multiple-use trails (bicycle paths, a pedestrian network, green strip, white strip, borough parks) between and to the large parks and the blue network, and improve the entire bicycle network, in partnership with corporate owners of industrial brownfields and unused institutional land, and with local and regional associations.
- 30) Improve access by public transit.

Leadership	Montréal
Principal financial partners	Québec/Canada/CN, CP *
Scope of costs 2002–2005	\$7.8M in capital expenditures ** \$1.0M in operating costs

* The owners of railways cooperate fully by making the required spaces available to the City at no cost.
 **Capital expenditures for the bicycle network (\$7.8M) could be part of the CIWP shared as follows: \$2.6M City, \$2.6M Québec, and \$2.6M Canada

1.2.3 Proposal 3: Guarantee the protection and the enhancement of the natural heritage, landscape, built environment and cultural and historic heritage of the Mont Royal territory, including the green core, the institutional belt and the urban ring, within the framework of municipal jurisdiction. The review of protection measures must result in clear, specific and integrated rules for planning and management.

- 31) Ask the Québec Government to grant the mountain provincial status confirming that it is under municipal jurisdiction.

Goal 1/4: Standing joint-action committee

Set up with partners a formal, permanent joint-action mechanism to be written into the City of Montréal charter.

Actions

- 32) Collaboration of partners in the process of planning with regard to the protection and enhancement of the built and landscape frameworks of the new protected territory of the mountain.
- 33) This joint-action mechanism will have a recurrent and adequate budget.

Costs:

- Operating: 2002: \$90,000
2003: \$175,000
2004 and beyond: \$15,000 per year

Role of the City and partners:

- The City of Montréal commits itself to setting up the mechanism and seeing to its effective operation, by guaranteeing the required logistic support and personnel from the City services to assist in its work.
- Partners are institutional and private owners, associated and scientific communities, citizens renowned for their expertise as well as representatives of the boroughs and of the appropriate services of the City of Montréal and of the Governments of Québec and Canada—all participate actively in the work of the committee.

Goal 2/4: Commitment of partners

Obtain the commitment of governments, based on their respective jurisdictions, to provide the required financial resources and to coordinate their actions for the conservation and the enhancement of the heritage of the institutional sites on Mont Royal.

Actions

- Conserve and enhance the built, natural, historic and landscape heritage of the institutional domains.
- Promote the adequate maintenance, restoration and reuse of the existing buildings and sites.
- Ask the governments to give priority to the protection of Mont Royal in their management of government-owned heritage sites on the mountain.

Costs:

- Operating: 2002: \$85,000
2003: \$165,000
2004: \$165,000

Role of the City and partners

- The City communicates with the Ministères that finance these institutions on the mountain—such as, for example, the Ministères of health, education and national defence—and this for the purpose of getting improved budgets more adequate to the needs of these institutions.
- The governments, based on their respective jurisdictions, commit themselves to reviewing the standards and levels of financing.

Goal 3/4: Rules of protection, and property tax policy

Define the rules for the protection of Mont Royal (built, natural, historic and landscape heritage); they must be clear and adapted to the issues; and, further, develop a municipal property tax policy for protecting the Mont Royal green space as well as its built and landscape heritage.

Actions:

- 34) Review the rules of protection with regard to the new status of the protected territory, as it will have been defined by the City as project manager, in cooperation with the CBC and the MCCQ
- 35) Define mechanisms appropriate to the specific problems and issues. Among these, one can foresee:
 - Purchase of rights (air rights or development rights): In order to preserve the green spaces of institutions having financial difficulties, encourage them to sell their land. This mechanism could prevent construction on a green space.
 - Land exchange: For example, a developer with a construction project who enabled us to keep Parc des Pins/Redpath-Crescent by accepting in exchange city property located elsewhere.
 - Right of first refusal: An institution wishing to sell its property must first offer it to the City and to other institutions before putting it on the market.
 - Financial assistance programs
 - Etc....
- 36) Establishment of a property tax reserve

Costs:

- Operating: 2002: \$40,000
2003: \$120,000
- Ongoing operations: \$2,000,000 - Reserve to be established so as to permit quick reaction (divided into four equal parts among the other cities and partners)

Role of the City and partners:

- The City develops the property tax policy, approaches the institutions in question, and builds a reserve fund in partnership with governments and public and private organizations. (For certain kinds of problems, the agreement MCCQ-City already makes available the amount de \$1.5M).

Goal 4/4: Capital Expenditures Budget

Adopt capital expenditures budgets needed to carry out the priority projects of the Mont Royal enhancement plan and the master plan of the Parc du Mount Royal (to be updated)

- 37) Update the Mont Royal enhancement plan taking into account the main values underlying the definition the new status and the territory of protection.
- 38) Update the park's master plan

Carry out priority projects of the enhancement plan:

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| 39) The roads surrounding and crossing the Parc; | \$4,200,000.00 |
| 40) Taking down the traffic exchanges; | \$19,050,000.00 |

Carry out the priority projects of the restoration plan:

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| 41) Restoration of Lac aux Castors and its periphery; | \$6,700,000.00 |
| 42) Redevelopment of the Peel entrance and stairs; | \$2,500,000.00 |
| 43) Redevelopment of the play area and its surroundings; | \$650,000.00 |
| 44) Redevelopment of the periphery of the Maison Smith; | \$750,000.00 |
| 45) Restoration of the cross and the landscape and redevelopment of the surrounding sector. | \$550,000.00 |

Costs

- Operating: \$2,175,000
- Capital expenditures: \$34,400,000.00 (2002 to 2008)

Role of the City and partners:

- The City acts as the project manager to carry out the Mont Royal enhancement plan and the master plan of the Parc du Mount Royal
- The City and its partners (governments and the foundation Amis de la montagne) will invest in priority projects by means of existing programs (PTRIU) or in accordance with specific agreements.
- Some institutions will allow their land to be used for the necessary circle routes around the mountain.

Workshop 2.4

Protection and enhancement of the heritage and development of a quality urban planning and development approach

The heritage represents a collective wealth and helps affirm the City's identity and heighten interest in this identity. It is therefore important to promote a quality-based approach to urban planning and development. The summits raised diverse viewpoints regarding the need to implement both a policy and programs aimed at enhancing heritage resources and ensuring quality architectural and urban developments. From this perspective, this workshop will have to define the concrete actions to be undertaken in order to protect and enhance this resource and to determine how the various partners will be able, through formal commitments, to contribute to the success of these actions.

1. THE PROPOSALS

1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSALS

Proposal 1

That the City of Montréal endorse the international principles and definitions with regard to heritage, particularly as expressed in the Déclaration québécoise du patrimoine.

Proposal 2

Protect and enhance the heritage, as defined in the Déclaration québécoise du patrimoine, by recognizing, supporting and enhancing the unique identity of the City and its boroughs.

Proposal 3

Develop an integrated urban planning and development approach, geared to the attainment of quality in the urban environment and architecture.

1.2 GOALS AND ACTIONS

1.2.1 Proposal 1

That the City of Montréal endorse the international principles and definitions with regard to heritage, particularly as expressed in the Déclaration québécoise du patrimoine.

1.2.2 Proposal 2

Protect and enhance the heritage, as defined in the Déclaration québécoise du patrimoine, by recognizing, supporting and enhancing the unique identity of the City and its boroughs.

Goal 1/10

Adopt and implement a heritage policy in collaboration with the boroughs and the appropriate legislative bodies involved, a policy that is in harmony with the cultural policy and urban planning of the City of Montréal.

Goal 2/10

Set up in 2002 the Conseil du patrimoine de Montréal, a qualified advisory body of the City with the specific mandate of coordinating the planning and implementation of the heritage policy.

Goal 3/10

Develop and carry out a heritage study program of significant sites and buildings, in cooperation with local historical societies and other organizations involved in promoting heritage, with a view to analyzing the urban heritage entities, villages, and buildings so as to ensure knowledge and enhancement of this heritage and the distinct identity of each of the boroughs.

Goal 4/10

Disseminate knowledge on the built heritage, promote the importance of preserving and enhancing this heritage, and develop a network and adequate tools for attaining these objectives.

Goal 5/10

Recognize the significant sites, and grant international, national and municipal protection status, or apply for such status if need be. Establish, with the Ministère de la culture et de communications du Québec, a list of sectors and buildings to be classified, designate new heritage sites, and designate new heritage buildings at the municipal level.

Goal 6/10

In partnership with the governments according to their respective jurisdictions, consolidate and develop heritage protection and enhancement incentives allowing for financial assistance to be offered to organizations, private owners and corporations.

Goal 7/10

Recognize the traditional trades and contribute to training in conjunction with trade schools and professional associations. Promote the development of training for those working in the field of built heritage in order to ensure adequate quality.

Goal 8/10

Develop, in conjunction with the Centre de sécurité civile, the boroughs, municipal departments, government partners, and public and private organizations involved, a joint prevention, protection, and emergency intervention program with regard to the movable, immovable, and documentary heritage, including mainly vulnerability studies and the integration of specific measures into emergency measures plans.

Goal 9/10

Acknowledge that the boroughs would like to exceed the standards and criteria established for the City as a whole in matters pertaining to heritage.

Goal 10/10

Develop preventive strategies focused on joint action and on procedures and standards for the redeployment of the public, parapublic and institutional sectors, with or without legal status.

1.2.3 Proposal 3

Develop an integrated urban planning and development approach geared to the attainment of quality and function of the urban environment and architecture

Goal 1/6

In conjunction with the professional teams and the boroughs' urban planning advisory committees, develop the tools, expertise and criteria for an urban-design intervention framework in order to ensure the quality of planning, development and management of the public domain.

Goal 2/6

In conjunction with the boroughs, institute a Montréal program for protecting, enhancing, creating, and managing municipal public art.

Goal 3/6

In conjunction with the boroughs and in partnership with the governments and the private sector, develop and implement investment programs that will promote the carrying out of quality urban projects.

Goal 4/6

Promote the development of expertise and the holding of urban development, architecture, landscaping, design and signage competitions for all large-scale projects piloted by the City, and encourage the involvement of partners in this practice.

Goal 5/6

Introduce mechanisms for facilitating and encouraging the owners of public and private immovables to upgrade the architectural quality of their projects, mainly through:

- specific development programs;
- partnerships in the private and public sectors;
- interventions pertaining to by-laws;
- programs aimed at integrating art into architecture.

Goal 6/6

Develop partnerships with educational institutions that have programs focused on the quality of urban developments, and involve both governments and the private sector in these partnerships, in order to conduct innovative urban planning, development, and design studies.