

## **Nature-based solutions in Montreal : innovative initiatives and new projects to reconnect the city to nature**

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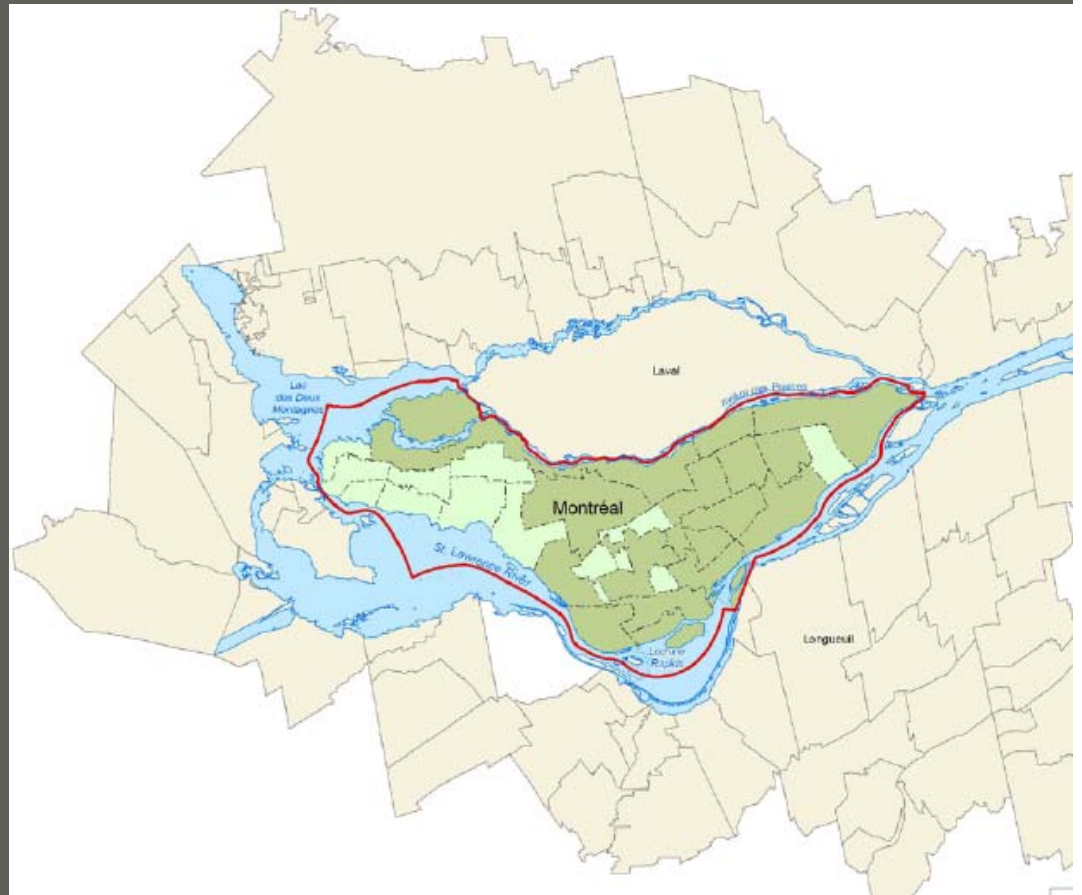
Service des grands parcs, du verdissement et du Mont-Royal

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# Montréal

Montreal is part of an archipelago, surrounded by lakes and rivers. The Montreal agglomeration comprises more than 90 islands. It is home to nearly 2 millions inhabitants. There is a ratio of more than one tree per inhabitant. The City manages a municipal tree nursery since the 1950s, which is a major player in the greening of the city.



# Montréal

Montreal has many parks and green spaces. The downtown area is marked by the presence of Mont-Royal Park, a valued « green lung » for Montrealers. The agglomeration hosts a network of terrestrial and aquatic protected areas covering 17.8% of the territory.



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Montreal's municipal administration has gradually integrated nature protection and biodiversity concerns into urban planning and management, reinventing the city and its relationship to nature. Montreal recognizes the importance of biodiversity and the precious benefits nature provide. In the early 2000s, natural habitats protection became a priority and important budgetary and technical means were mobilized to increase protected areas.



## VILLE DE MONTRÉAL BIODIVERSITY REPORT | 2013



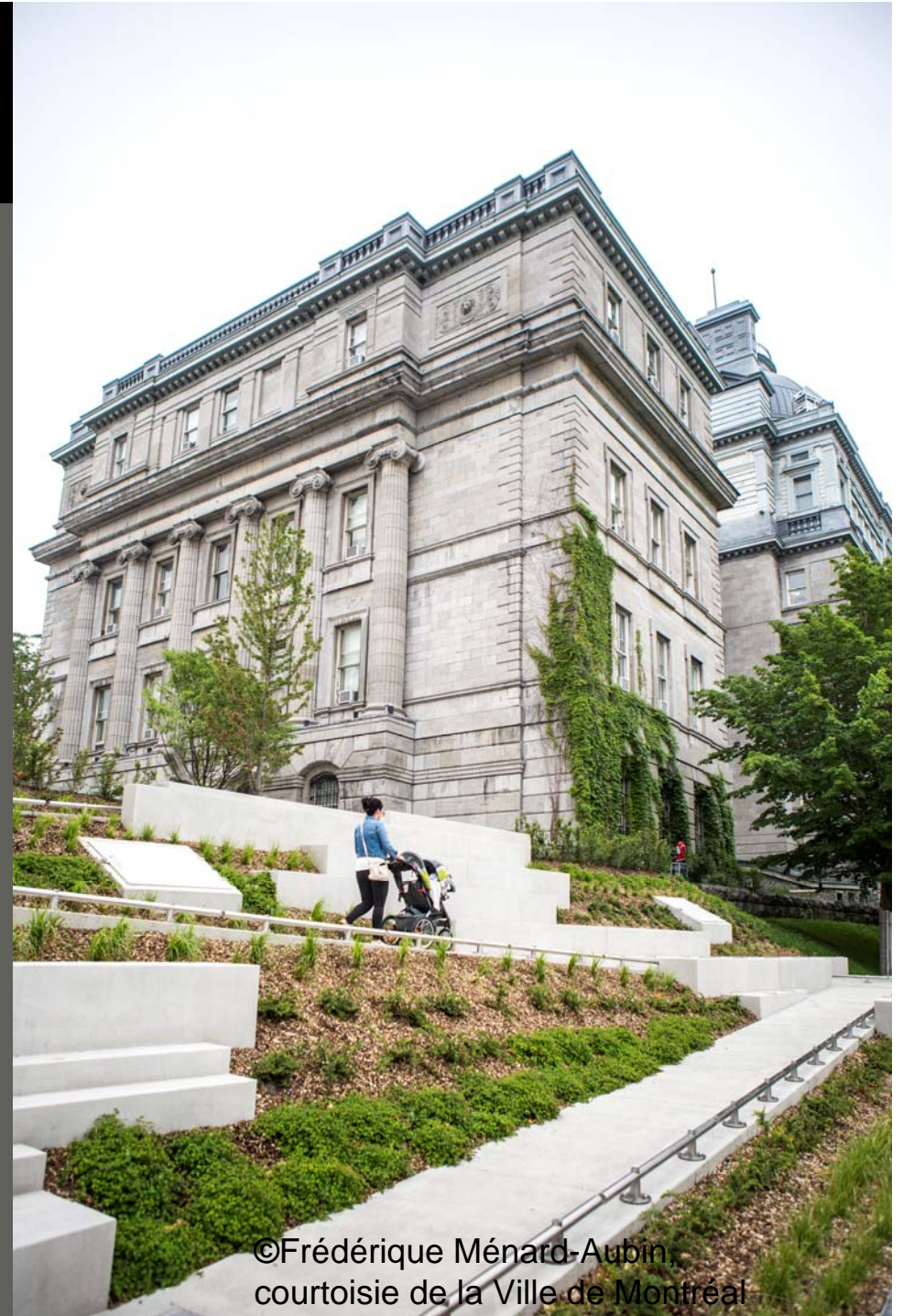
ENHANCING URBAN NATURE THROUGH A GLOBAL NETWORK OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



# Montréal



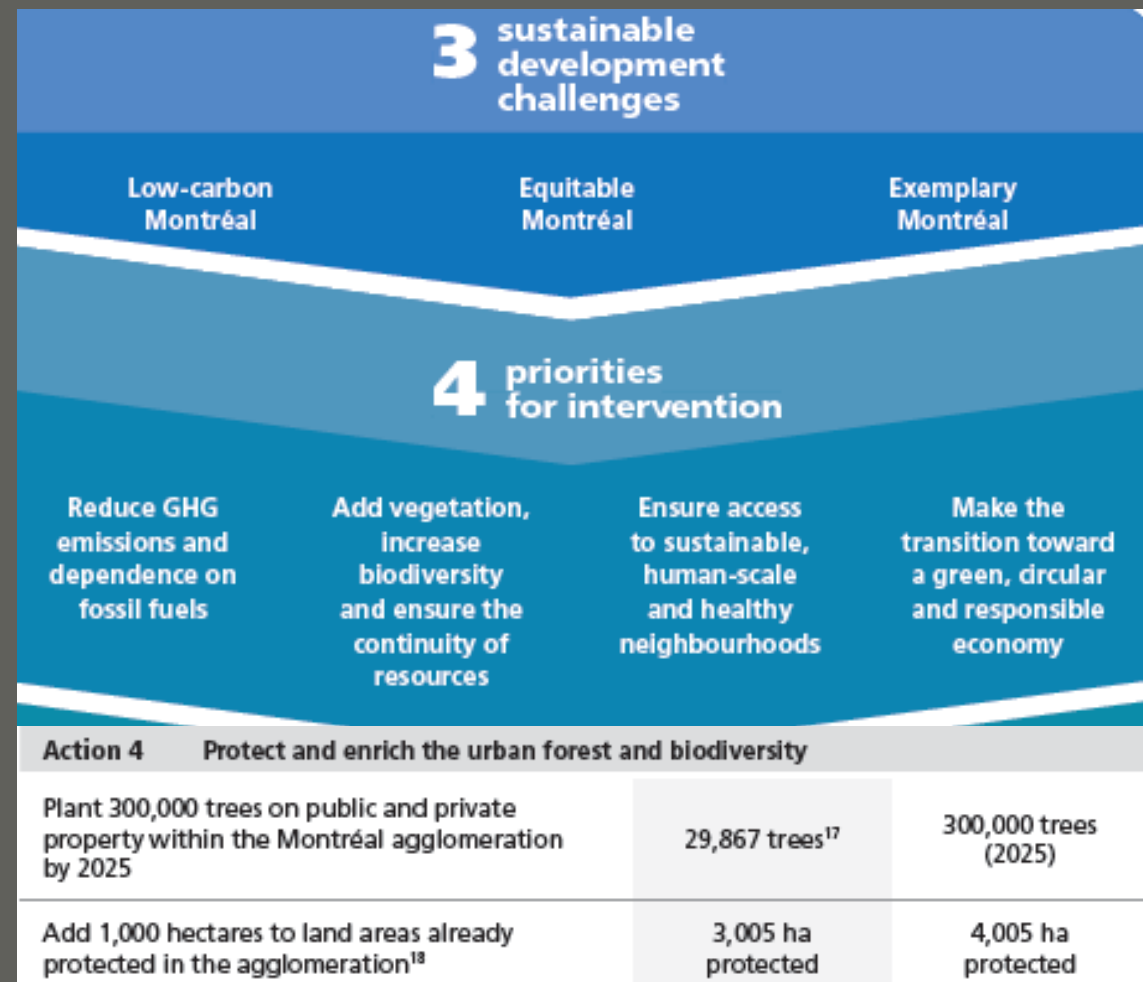
Urbanism now addresses ecological considerations. Putting nature at the heart of urban development and management, through a socially inclusive approach, allows the city to rebuild itself in an innovative and ecosensitive manner. Ecosystem functions and services need to be taken into consideration. Humans are part of nature and depend on healthy ecosystems: recognizing this leads to finding new solutions to urban issues. Green infrastructures are becoming increasingly important in the city.



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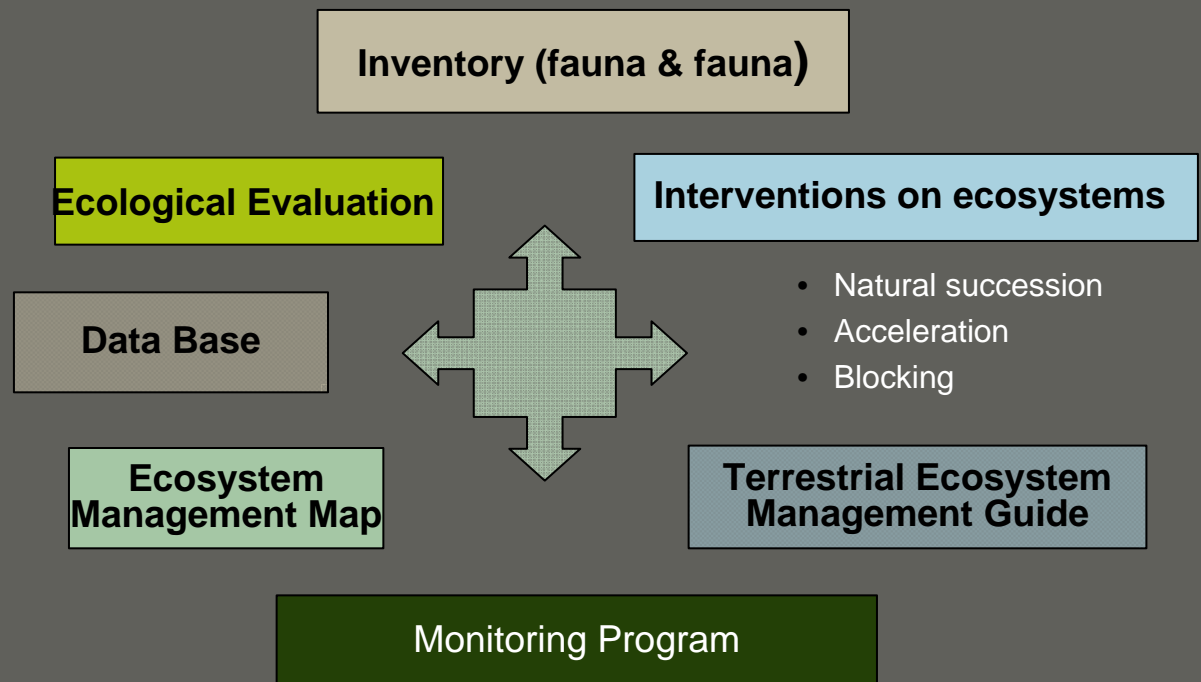
Montreal's Sustainable Development Plan illustrates this tendency with its focus on biodiversity related issues and tree planting. The Climate Change Adaptation Plan highlights the role of green infrastructure in enhancing urban resilience.

## Sustainable Montréal 2016-2020 Together for a sustainable metropolis



Montreal has been implementing an ecological management program since the nineties to ensure the sustainable management of ecosystems in large parks. This program allows public access to nature parks while protecting the ecological integrity of natural habitats. It is based on differentiated management principal.

## Ecological Management Program



Montreal is committed to restoring ecosystems and renaturalizing sites of interest. One of the most striking examples is the transformation of the Saint-Michel Environmental Complex into a park, and the inauguration of Frédéric-Back Park last year. This unique metamorphosis from an old quarry and a landfill to a vast green space is a project that spans more than 20 years. Once completed, this park will occupy 153 hectares and comprise a number of different types of landscapes. It will be one of the largest green spaces in Montreal.

## Restauration and renaturalisation





## Urban Wildlife Management

Increased biodiversity in an urban setting can sometimes come with emerging complex situations, like the rise in deer numbers and coyotes within neighborhoods. Through best cohabitation practices, Montreal addresses these issues and focuses on information dissemination to the public and awareness raising as well as specific actions when public safety is at stake.

**COHABITER  
AVEC LE  
COYOTE**



## Canopy Enhancement Program

The canopy enhancement program is a good example of public, private and community involvement. The City works with the boroughs and numerous organizations gathered under the auspices of the Urban Forest Alliance. Private owners are also required to contribute to the collective effort: the City offers financial support to help citizens fight against the emerald ash borer, an insect that kills ash trees.





## Urban Agriculture

Montreal is among the most advanced cities in the field of urban agriculture.

Urban agriculture can promote biodiversity and human well-being by fostering healthy eating habits, outdoor physical exercise and social cohesion.

Multiple initiatives are taking place in Montreal, including around hundred of community gardens and many collective gardens, as well as numerous public and private projects within the city's core and on the outskirts of the territory.





Espace pour la vie brings together four nature museums : the Biodome, the Insectarium, the Botanical Garden and the Planetarium. Espace pour la vie significantly contributes to biodiversity conservation, research, education, and outreach. In 2013, Espace pour la vie launched the My Space for Life Garden program to encourage citizens to “green” their environment and boost biodiversity.

## Citizen Involvement



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# Montréal

The City is part of a movement to reinvent Montreal by placing citizens and nature at the heart of the process. We invite you to come and discover this city in transformation next June.



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