

Brief presented to the Commission sur le schema d'aménagement et de développement de Montréal

Re: Meadowbrook, green space, and the future of Montreal

The city of Montreal is considering how it will evolve in the future, and it is with surprise and shock that I have learnt that it is considering developing on Meadowbrook green space.

Meadowbrook is a green space straddling the boroughs of Cote-St-Luc, Lachine and Ville-St-Pierre, a rare emerald amid a neighbourhood of highly dense housing and empty parking lots. The 57-acres are currently being used as a golf course in the summer, and as recreational land for cross country skiers, dog walkers and snow-shoers in the winter months. There is simply nothing like it for miles around, and yet the city is still considering development on it.

When I was young, my family used to go cross country skiing at Meadowbrook. I still remember the wintery days where we'd grab our skis, trek over from our home in western NDG and spend the afternoon in the tranquility of nature. We lived too far away from Angrignon or Mount Royal to be able to go there, and we were so grateful that there was a place nearby where we could be in nature.

Now, my family spends their winter days writing petitions, drafting questions to ask at City Hall, meeting with like-minded citizens, all to try to fight against the threat of development on Meadowbrook.

I miss the winters where we could go to Meadowbrook and enjoy it, where we didn't have to worry and fight for it, where we didn't have to spend so much energy wondering how the City of Montreal could consider decreasing our greenspace from the abysmal amount we have left (when compared to the UN standard greenspace for urban cities, or compared to any other major city in Canada).

What I find shocking is why Meadowbrook is still threatened.

There are no tax-paying citizens petitioning to build condos on the green space.

There are no citizens demanding LESS green space.

There are no citizens who feel that ANY development of housing on Meadowbrook would be a good idea. None. No one wants this.

What I do see are citizens who desperately want to maintain whatever little tract of green space we still have left.

If you build on any of the 57-acres of Meadowbrook, there is no coming back from this. WE cannot create more green space once we've destroyed it. The wildlife, the rare trees and birds, the foxes that call Meadowbrook its home will die out.

So why do you want to build on Meadowbrook? Why won't this committee listen to what the citizens want?

We want the 57-acres of Meadowbrook zoned as recreational as a whole (it's partially zoned recreational now). We want it turned into a park. WE want to preserve it as a green space. We want it to be accessible to all.

Please listen to what us, the tax-paying citizens, want. This decision is so critical, because there is no coming back, because it has taken years of our lives to fight for, because we have no choice but to plead with you to not develop on the last few bits of green space this city has. Please listen to us because it is the right thing to do.

Thank you.

Deborah Hayek

Citizen of Montreal

Winter skier