

2.6



# 2.6

## An enhanced built, archaeological and natural heritage

Montréal's rich heritage reflects the City's different periods of urbanization and the various ways of building that characterized them. The widespread recognition of this heritage is largely the accomplishment of the citizens who, for many decades, have been playing an active role in heritage preservation. This role is primarily a collective effort achieved through the vigilance of conservation, information and public awareness groups concerned with the fate of old buildings and properties. It has also been carried out through the individual efforts of residents who care about their property and neighbourhood.

The Ville de Montréal recognizes the value of its heritage. Not only does it reflect the City's history and culture, it also contributes to cultivating a stronger sense of belonging among Montrealers. This heritage also contributes to the City's tourist appeal and to real estate investments. These investments concern mainly the recycling of buildings of interest, the revitalization of older neighbourhoods and the consolidation of sites with heritage or landscape value.

The City views its heritage from a broader and more integrated perspective. Thus the Master Plan recognizes the following dimensions of Montréal's heritage:

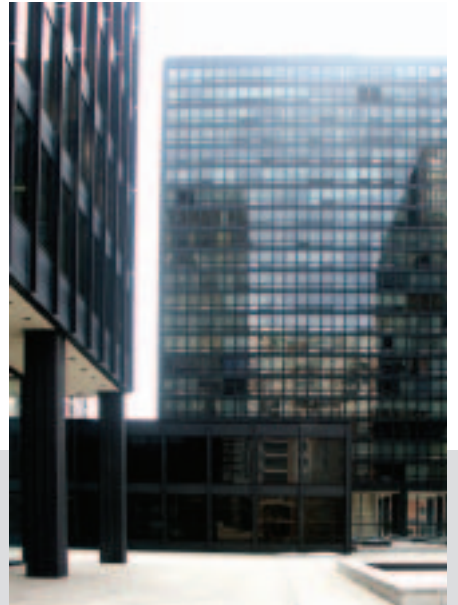
- Built heritage, both old and more recent;
- Archaeological heritage;
- Commemorative heritage;
- Natural, landscape and scenic heritage.

Heritage conservation and enhancement must also be integrated into all urban development efforts, both private and public, beyond concerns of a strictly regulatory nature.

To complement the goals and objectives pertaining to the urban landscape and architectural quality described in Section 2.5, the City intends to encourage the expression of each borough's identity through intensified efforts in heritage preservation and enhancement as well as by exemplary action.

Accordingly, the Master Plan sets the following two objectives:

- 15** Preserve and enhance the built and archaeological heritage.      **16** Preserve and enhance the natural heritage.





## objective

15  
Preserve and enhance  
the built and archaeological  
heritage

Today the value, richness and diversity of Montréal's heritage are widely recognized and the conservation of its components can rely on solid foundations. A large number of properties and areas are protected or recognized by the Québec or Canadian governments. In addition to the historic district of Old Montréal and the Mount Royal historic and natural district, Montréal has designated seven heritage sites.

In the realm of heritage preservation and enhancement, the historic district of Old Montréal already serves as a model, both for the measures taken to control its development and the quality of the efforts made in renovating old buildings, integrating modern structures and designing public spaces.

The Master Plan supports the value of these various heritage components, as well as the protective measures associated with them.

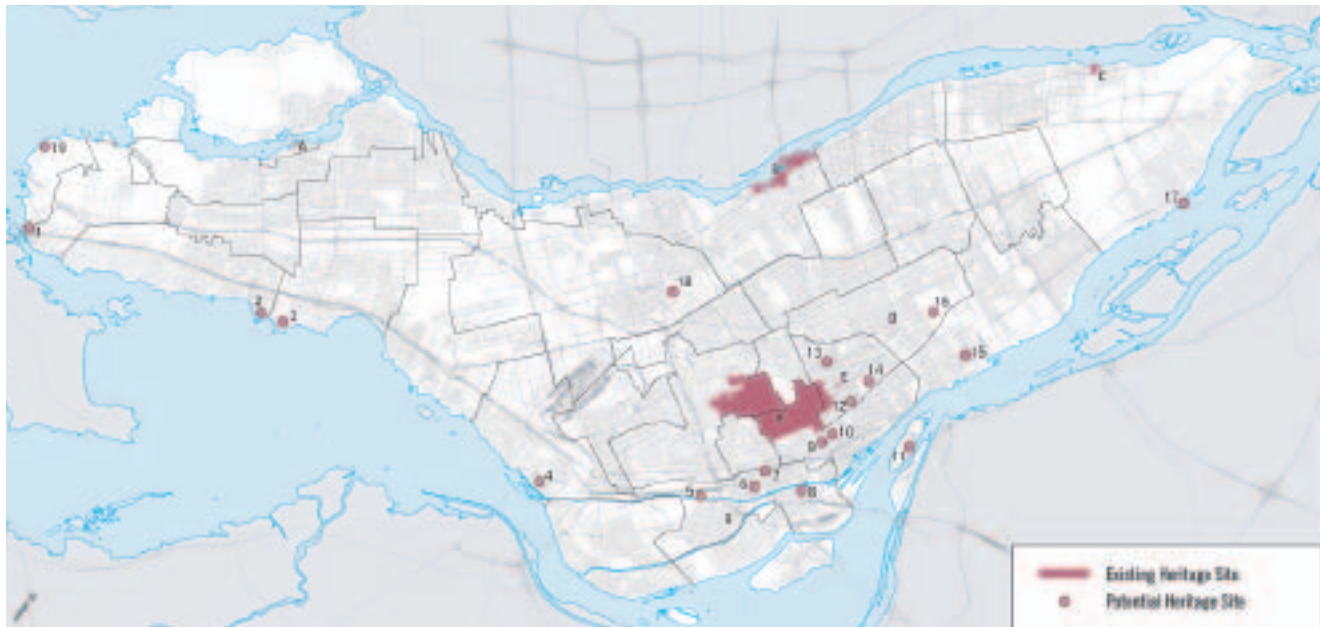
Montréal's heritage is not limited to historical elements of exceptional value or of a monumental nature. It also includes more recent buildings and areas of interest from the modern or industrial eras, which reflect a borough's character and specific history, as well as individual elements such as works of art on public or private property. The Ville de Montréal intends to ensure the conservation of all these heritage elements in order to preserve their integrity while ensuring the harmonious integration of new building, renovation and urban design work in heritage areas.

Moreover, the Master Plan confirms the City's desire to continue public awareness efforts to highlight the richness and potential of Montréal's heritage. Increased awareness on the part of stakeholders – be they municipal officials, property owners, real estate developers or construction experts – helps ensure that actions will be more sensitive to heritage. Similarly, a better knowledge of the history of the City, its boroughs and its buildings leads to a greater appreciation of its heritage and strengthens Montrealers' sense of belonging.

It is equally important to note that the protection and enhancement measures included in the Master Plan will be supported by the Politique du patrimoine (Heritage Policy) and the work of the Conseil du patrimoine (Heritage Committee). The roles of planning advisory committees and the Comité d'architecture et d'urbanisme (Architectural and Planning Advisory Committee) in overseeing the architectural quality of projects, particularly in areas with heritage value, should also be emphasized.

## HERITAGE SITES

Under Québec's *Loi sur les biens culturels* (Cultural Property Act), the establishment of a heritage site is a specific protective measure to ensure the preservation and enhancement of an architectural landscape of aesthetic or historical value. So far the City has created seven heritage sites and intends to undertake studies in order to determine the relevance of creating new ones, particularly regarding the potential sites listed below.



## EXISTING HERITAGE SITES:

- A. Pères de Sainte-Croix Monastery
- B. Old village of Sault-au-Récollet
- C. Old village of Rivière-des-Prairies
- D. Saint-Esprit de Rosemont Church
- E. Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church
- F. Mount Royal
- G. Côte Saint-Paul

## POTENTIAL HERITAGE SITES:

1. Old village of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue
2. The Grove in Beaconsfield
3. Old village of Pointe-Claire
4. Institutional core of Old Lachine
5. Lachine Canal
6. Georges-Étienne-Cartier Square
7. Saint-Henri Square
8. St. Gabriel's and Saint-Charles churches
9. Dorchester Square and Place du Canada
10. Phillips Square
11. Île Sainte-Hélène
12. Saint-Louis Square
13. Saint-Enfant-Jésus-du-Mile-End area
14. LaFontaine Park
15. Maisonneuve Market
16. Botanical Garden
17. Old Pointe-aux-Trembles
18. Institutional campus of Old Saint-Laurent
19. Senneville Village

# action 15.1

## Protect areas of heritage value



The value of heritage areas is related to their period of construction, their architecture and the characteristics of their built environment, as well as to the quality of the relationship between the landscape and the surrounding buildings.

In identifying the heritage areas shown in Map 2.6.1, the Master Plan aims for consistent recognition of all of the City's heritage areas while respecting each borough's specific character. Based on their historical value, as well as the consistency and quality with which their architectural and urban characteristics have been preserved, these areas will be subject to measures designed to oversee any new construction, renovation or landscaping. These measures are also aimed at optimizing the integration of new buildings. They favour creativity and architectural innovation rather than mimicry of the existing form. Detailed studies may also be conducted on some heritage areas to determine the relevance of creating new heritage sites.

### ILLUSTRATION 2.6.1 INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

The Master Plan acknowledges the historical value of Montréal's industrial heritage, consisting mainly of buildings and engineering works (structures, machines and other installations). The main industrial complexes of interest are shown below. Some buildings located within these complexes are also identified in the heritage building lists and will be subject to the protective measures described in Action 15.2.

Documenting or enhancing this heritage will however require a better knowledge of the sites and production activities that have heritage value, before well-informed and innovative actions can be taken to make Montréal's industrial heritage a more valued part of contemporary urban life.





### Implementation measures

- Designate new heritage sites.
- Protect the heritage areas of exceptional value shown on Map 2.6.1 by tightly controlling construction, renovation and demolition work. Depending on the area's characteristics, by-laws on Site Planning and Architectural Integration Programs (SPAIP) will prescribe, for example:
  - Parcelling;
  - Building bulk and volume;
  - Treatment of facades that can be seen from public thoroughfares;
  - Landscaping.

Depending on the context, some characteristics of these areas could be governed by standards rather than evaluation criteria.



- Protect the heritage areas of significant value shown on Map 2.6.1 by applying, depending on local conditions, standards on parcelling, building volume, landscaping and relevant architectural elements (for example, the shape and size of openings, projections and facade compositions).
- Foster public awareness of the heritage value of significant urban settings indicated in Map 2.6.1.
- Promote consideration of industrial heritage by documenting industrial complexes of interest in order to assess their preservation or improvement potential.
- Undertake detailed planning for Mount Royal aimed at conserving and enhancing its built, institutional, natural, landscape and archaeological heritage (see Chapter 4).



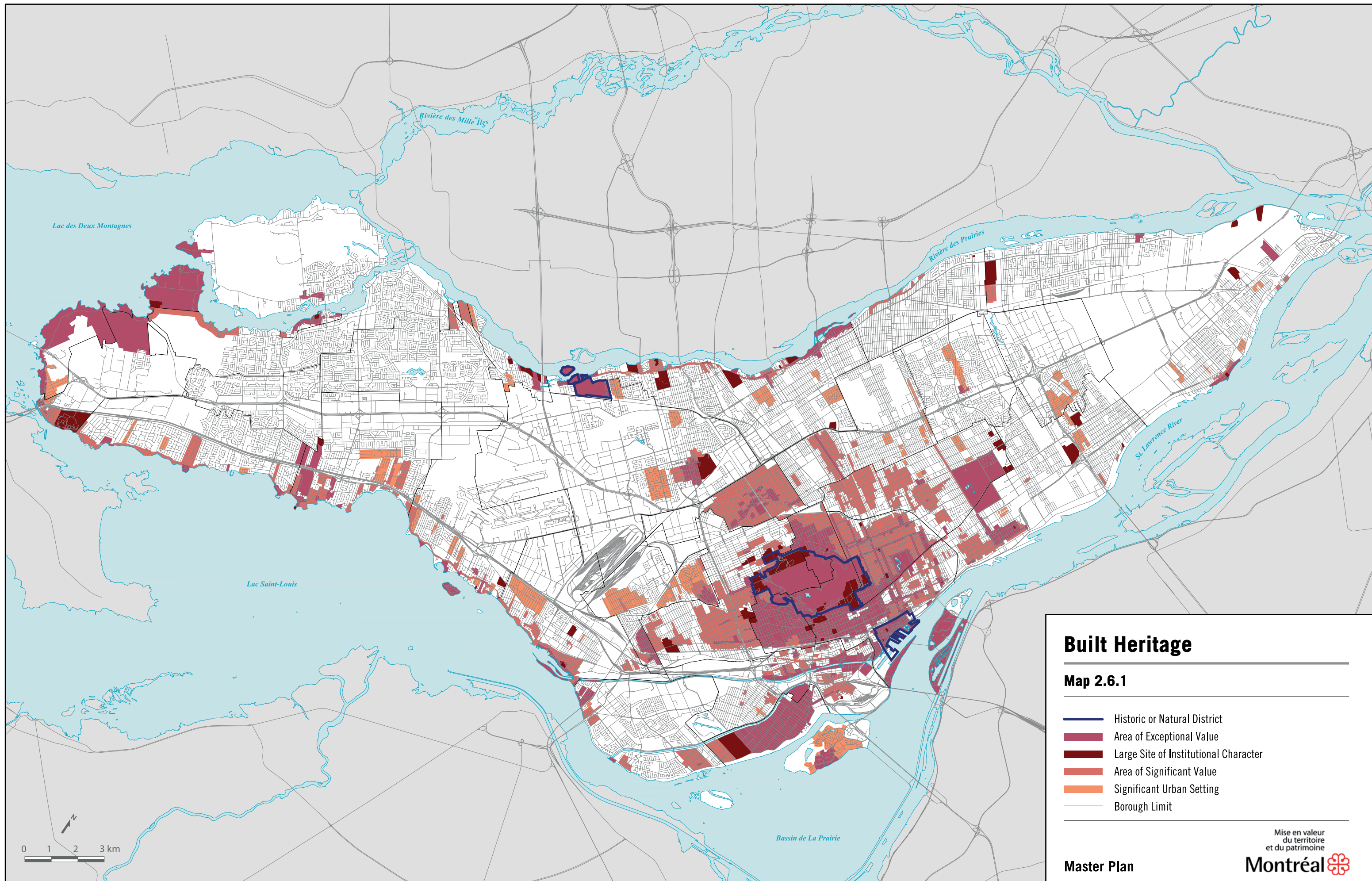
## CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION IN AREAS OF HERITAGE VALUE

Recognition of an area's heritage value must not be considered an obstacle to construction and architectural innovation. Nonetheless, appropriate regulatory measures must control the insertion of new buildings into heritage areas to ensure they contribute to the area's improvement and respect its overall character. Similarly, these measures must seek to conserve characteristic architectural elements when work is done on existing buildings.

Depending on the area's characteristics, regulatory measures must primarily ensure preservation of the following characteristics:

- Building layout and siting;
- Cladding materials;
- Type and location of building entrances;
- Proportions of the openings (doors and windows);
- Typical architectonic or volumetric elements such as balconies, stairs, cornices, roof shapes and modulation of facades;
- Trees, shrubs and other vegetation that contributes to the overall landscape.





# action 15.2

## Protect heritage buildings



Part II of the Master Plan identifies heritage buildings that should be conserved in each borough.

These buildings will be subject to appropriate regulatory measures designed to oversee actions and alterations that could damage their architectural integrity, as well as to prevent their deterioration or demolition. In addition, some buildings may be granted official recognition by either the Ville de Montréal or the Québec government.

### Implementation measures

- Proceed with further designation of heritage buildings.
- Evaluate the possibility of giving every borough regulatory control over demolitions and pay special attention to proposals affecting buildings of architectural or heritage value through the establishment of a demolition committee.
- Ensure the conservation and enhancement of City properties of heritage interest.
- By means of appropriate regulatory instruments, particularly by-laws on Site Planning and Architectural Integration Programs (SPAIP), ensure the conservation of the heritage buildings listed in Part II of the Plan.
- Confirm the institutional vocation of large sites of institutional character and places of worship of heritage interest through an appropriate land use designation (see Table and Map 3.1.1).
- Analyze the large sites of institutional character shown in Map 2.6.1, as well as the places of worship identified in the lists of buildings of architectural or heritage interest in Part II, in order to ensure a regulatory framework adapted to their characteristics, such as by-laws for Special Planning Programs (SPP). In addition, analyze their current state and their potential to be recycled or transformed.
- Ensure the protection of the large sites of institutional character shown in Map 2.6.1, as well as the places of worship identified in the lists of buildings of architectural or heritage interest in Part II, by using appropriate control measures such as SPAIP by-laws.



### MONTRÉAL'S MODERN HERITAGE

For more than twenty years, the heritage value of modern urban design and architecture has been gaining recognition by experts around the world as an emerging heritage category.

Montréal has a particularly rich modern built heritage. The construction of its “new” downtown in the 1950's and 1960's permitted the creation of several excellent examples, such as Place Ville-Marie, the CIBC Tower, La Tour de la Bourse, the Château Champlain, Westmount Square and Place Bonaventure. During this period, all of these new buildings contributed to make Montréal a great modern city.

Montréal's modern heritage can also be found in a number of its boroughs, where many residential neighbourhoods still bear witness to the City's economic and demographic growth in the post-war period. This heritage includes several churches, schools and public facilities which sometimes boast daring designs.

The Master Plan recognizes numerous elements of modern heritage and highlights the importance of deepening the understanding of these less-recognized components of Montréal's urban landscape. This work will enable the City to adapt its heritage preservation measures to the particular requirements of modern heritage elements as well as to increase public sensitivity to their significance.

- Establish a partnership between the City, religious orders, the boroughs, the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec and other partners to define a common vision and an action plan for the preservation and enhancement of the City's religious heritage properties.
- Favour the emergence of projects for places of worship that have been or are likely to be abandoned. The City intends to accomplish this by studying the establishment of fiscal incentives and examining ways to connect the supply of available buildings with the demands of the property market. To favour the maintenance of community or institutional uses in these buildings, the City is also proposing measures facilitating their restoration, renovation and adaptation.
- Promote the preservation and integration of works of art, especially those located on private property, while respecting artistic intentions and the evolving nature of some creations.



### LARGE SITES OF INSTITUTIONAL CHARACTER AND PLACES OF WORSHIP OF HERITAGE INTEREST

The evolution of large sites of institutional character, often hospitals, universities or other educational institutions and convent complexes, is of concern to the City, as is the preservation of places of worship of heritage interest.

Throughout Montréal's history, these large institutions and religious orders have made major contributions to the City's social evolution and living environments. Places of worship and large sites of institutional character mark the urban landscape and count among Montréal's most significant architectural and heritage monuments.

Some 80 large sites of institutional character and more than 400 places of worship, presenting differing degrees of heritage significance, can be found in Montréal. First-rate architecture and exceptional green spaces on those properties are assets to be preserved and enhanced.

The City intends to pay close attention to potential land use changes on these properties, by confirming their institutional vocation (see Table and Map 3.1.1).

The City will also ensure that the institutional sites shown in Map 2.6.1 and the places of worship identified in the lists of buildings of architectural and heritage interest in Part II retain the integrity of their heritage elements and their character as ensembles. Any project involving transformation, construction or subdivision on these properties will be evaluated along criteria that aim to:

- Ensure the monumental character and siting of these buildings;
- Ensure the harmonious integration of any new construction with the existing campus;
- Consider the characteristics of the surrounding urban fabric (height, density and typology) and the compatibility of proposed uses;
- Protect broad and narrow views of buildings or other elements that contribute to the character of the ensemble, especially those visible from streets and public places;
- Favour the protection of scenic or landscape characteristics, such as landscaping patterns, tree alignments or clusters, gardens or basins;
- Protect and enhance woods, streams or other natural environments of interest on the properties;
- Ensure public access to green spaces and natural environments.

The City recognizes that the diminished use of many places of worship and the aging of the members of religious orders will have an inevitable impact on Montréal's religious heritage buildings. The effects of these trends are already being felt: parish mergers, church closures, the reuse of church buildings for purposes more or less compatible with their architectural envelope and the sale, subdivision and transformation of convent complexes. Because religious heritage is a primary concern of the Politique du patrimoine (the Heritage Policy), the City intends to move actively and preventively to address these changes, as they seriously compromise the historic and heritage value of these buildings and sites as well as their public vocation.





# action 15.3

## Protect and enhance Montréal's archaeological heritage



### PROTECTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

The Ville de Montréal, like most large urban centres around the world, has acknowledged the importance of preserving its heritage. For over 20 years, the City has been planning and intensifying its actions to protect, manage and enhance the archaeological heritage on its territory.

The protection of archaeological heritage, however, remains a mandatory government requirement established primarily by Québec's Loi sur les biens culturels (Cultural Property Act). Thus, under the Act:

*"Whoever, during excavation or construction work undertaken for other than archaeological purposes, discovers an archaeological property or site must inform the Minister of it without delay. The latter may, to permit the examination of the place by experts, order the suspension, for a period not exceeding fifteen days, of any excavation or construction that might compromise the integrity of the property or site discovered."* (s. 41).

Over the years, the application of this provision to accidental archaeological discoveries during construction projects has resulted in work stoppages, lost time during archaeological appraisals as well as delays and costs associated with managing these unexpected events.

To minimize these adverse effects and in the interest of both archaeological heritage conservation and urban development, the Master Plan recommends the development of administrative information and coordination mechanisms to enable:

Prior identification of areas likely to harbour archaeological remains (see Map 2.6.2);

Sharing, with the developers and owners of the sites concerned, the costs associated with any characterization studies that may be required under the existing subsidy programs.

Like its built heritage, Montréal's archaeological heritage reflects the history of the City and constitutes a collective asset worth documenting, preserving and enhancing.

A number of boroughs have major archaeological potential, having been occupied successively from the time of the First Nations to the earliest stages of Montréal's urbanization and industrialization. The protection and enhancement of Montréal's archaeological heritage can already count on practices and accomplishments that are exemplary in many respects. Thus the work done to date has made it possible to document the archaeological potential of numerous sites through inventories and searches. Given their importance, some archaeological remains have also been enhanced in urban development projects or through the creation of museums.

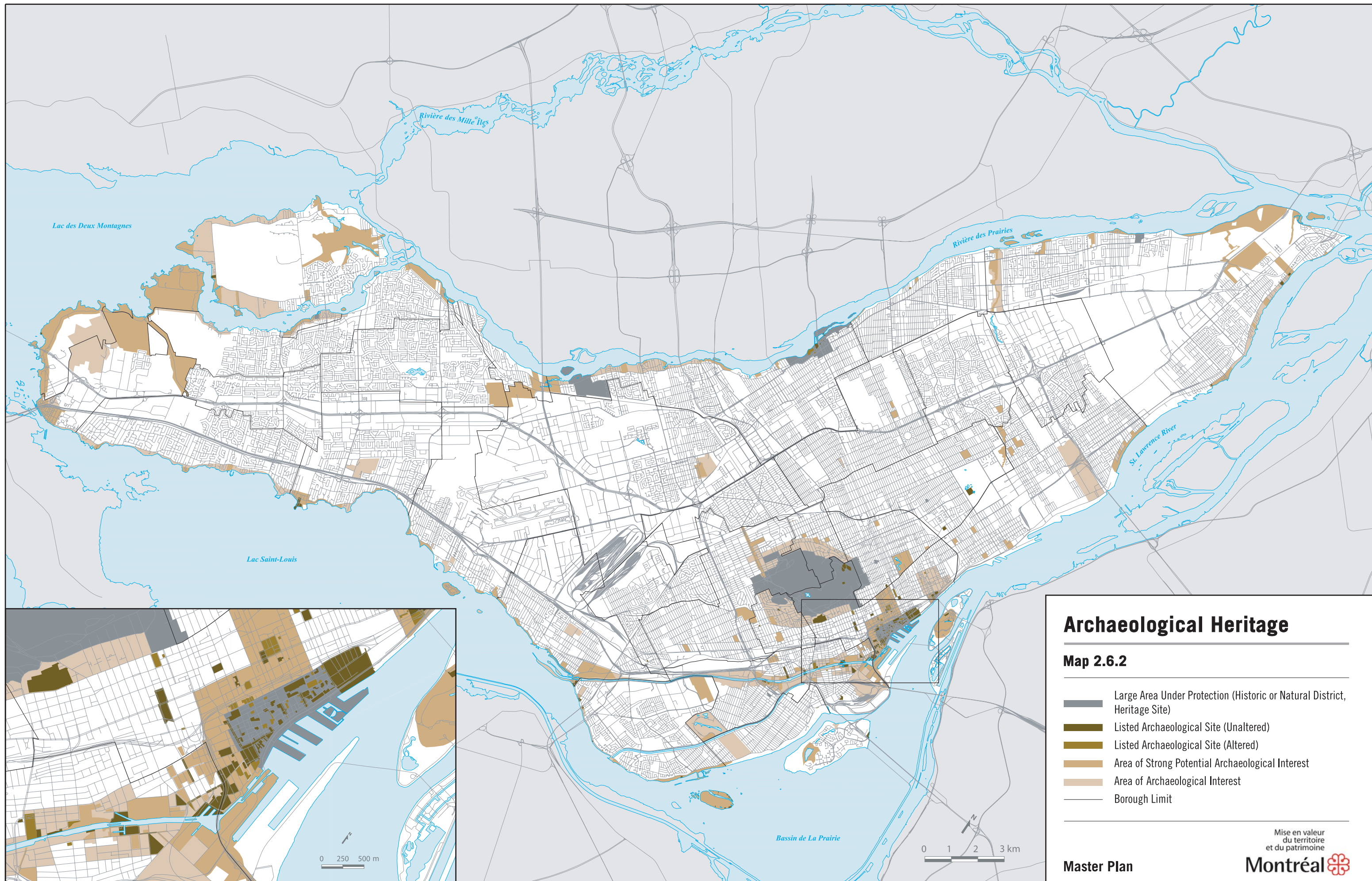
At present, the territory of Montréal counts 191 sites listed in Québec's inventory of archaeological sites. A number of archaeological properties and sites are also classified under Québec's Loi sur les biens culturels (Cultural Property Act). Similarly, many archaeological sites are located in Montréal's various national historic sites, historic or natural districts and heritage sites.

The City recognizes the importance of these assets and supports the protection given to these archaeological resources. The City also intends to inform and educate public stakeholders and Montrealers about their archaeological heritage. Thus the Master Plan emphasizes the importance of assessing archaeological potential and protecting the archaeological remains of interest found in the areas shown in Map 2.6.2.

### Implementation measures

- Take the required measures to assess archaeological potential and, if appropriate, to protect archaeological remains during public and private excavation work done in the following areas, shown in Map 2.6.2:
  - Large properties under protection and cultural properties;
  - Listed archaeological sites;
  - Areas of strong potential archaeological interest.
- In the areas of archaeological interest shown in Map 2.6.2, inform those responsible for excavation work of the possible presence of archaeological remains and the measures to take in the event of a discovery.
- Promote consideration of remains of high archaeological value in designing and undertaking construction projects, notably by adapting the project or incorporating the remains.
- Provide funding for archaeological searches in Montréal by expanding the territory eligible for the Programme de soutien financier aux fouilles archéologiques (Archaeological Search Financial Aid Program).





## Archaeological Heritage

Map 2.6.2

- Large Area Under Protection (Historic or Natural District, Heritage Site)
- Listed Archaeological Site (Unaltered)
- Listed Archaeological Site (Altered)
- Area of Strong Potential Archaeological Interest
- Area of Archaeological Interest
- Borough Limit

Master Plan

Mise en valeur  
du territoire  
et du patrimoine  
**Montréal**



# action 15.4

## Maintain and intensify heritage education and enhancement efforts

The City intends to maintain and intensify efforts aimed at enhancing Montréal's heritage and raising awareness of its richness and potential.

In this regard, activities such as the Opération patrimoine architectural de Montréal (Montréal Architectural Heritage Campaign), the launching of the Montréal Heritage Internet site and the discovery tour of Old Montréal's archaeological sites are eloquent examples of the reach and popularity of existing measures.



### Implementation measures

- Develop and implement the Politique du patrimoine (Heritage Policy) governing all municipal efforts to preserve and enhance heritage resources and to increase public awareness.
- Evaluate incentives to protect and enhance the built heritage.
- Incorporate heritage concerns in municipal subsidy programs that do not specifically target built heritage.
- Increase educational efforts, particularly by developing and distributing technical guides, holding educational workshops, presenting awards to single out conservation and enhancement efforts and organizing media events such as the Montréal Architectural Heritage Campaign.
- Support local efforts aimed at enhancing, interpreting and raising awareness of the built, archaeological and natural heritage.
- Enhance the heritage elements through the Plan lumière de Montréal (Montréal's Lighting Plan) by lighting exceptional heritage elements in the urban landscape (see Objective 11).

### HERITAGE POLICY

The Ville de Montréal has begun developing a Politique du patrimoine (Heritage Policy), which it will submit to public consultation at the end of 2004, thereby fulfilling one of its commitments from the Montréal Summit in June of 2002.

As the notion of heritage continues to expand to encompass different dimensions, heritage preservation and enhancement will require a comprehensive vision. By establishing a Heritage Policy, the City intends to provide exemplary leadership, favouring development based on collective vision and shared responsibility. The City also intends to use its heritage to drive cultural, social and economic development and, in doing so, to contribute to the quality of its living environments.

The Policy proposes that all municipal action be centred around two efforts:

- The establishment of a system to organize action founded on a partnership and the sharing of responsibilities between the City and different actors;
- The concrete application of this organizational model so that the City acts as an exemplary property owner and manager.

The Master Plan and the by-laws based on it will be the primary policy instruments for the implementation of the Heritage Policy.



## objective

16  
Preserve and enhance  
the natural heritage**BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Biological diversity, or biodiversity, refers to the variety of species living on Earth.

The concept of biodiversity encompasses three levels that influence each other:

- Genetic diversity within species;
- Diversity of species;
- Diversity of ecosystems.

Biodiversity is known to play a vital ecological role in the production of biomass, the regulation of water, the maintenance of ecosystem balance, etc. The diversity of species and ecosystems contributes to the planet's biological equilibrium.

Natural heritage and the scenic and landscape value it brings are essential elements of Montrealers' quality of life. Shaped in part by human actions, this heritage has even greater value in a highly urbanized city such as Montréal.

Natural heritage consists of natural areas of interest, namely woods, streams, riverbanks, wetlands and the numerous islets of the archipelago. Some of these natural settings are already protected and enhanced in Montréal's nature parks. The City's accomplishments in protecting, preserving and improving natural environments make it possible today for residents as well as visitors to enjoy nature, interesting scenery and places for relaxation and recreation.

In addition to contributing to environmental quality, these natural settings play a significant role in the viability of ecosystems and the maintenance of biological diversity: they are habitats for fauna and flora as well as feeding, nesting and breeding grounds.

Since Montréal is largely built up, the scarcity of sites available for development puts pressure on the preservation and improvement of existing natural environments and the survival of ecosystems. In this context, the City intends to preserve and improve natural environments of interest and foster their harmonious integration into urban development.



# action 16.1

Preserve and enhance natural environments by ensuring their harmonious integration into urban development



The City recognizes that, apart from currently protected areas, there are natural, ecological and scenic assets worth preserving, such as woods, streams, riverbanks and wetlands. As viable ecosystems and habitats for a variety of fauna and flora, these natural environments help increase the biodiversity of Montréal's territory. By contributing to Montrealers' quality of life and enriching the urban landscape, these areas also play an active role in Montréal's economic vitality, notably by making it more attractive as a place to live and play.

The City therefore intends to attach more importance to natural environments in designing urban development projects. It will seek to reconcile the environmental, social and economic benefits stemming from their enhancement. Thus the Master Plan supports the Politique de protection et de mise en valeur des milieux naturels (Policy respecting the Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment). In this regard, it recognizes the ten ecoterritories identified in Map 2.6.3 as well as the associated conservation and development objectives (see Table 2.6.1).

Four ecoterritories are also taken into account in the Detailed Planning Areas discussed in Chapter 4: L'Anse-à-l'Orme, the Saint-Jacques escarpment, Mount Royal and the Louis-H.-La Fontaine corridor.

Moreover, the City intends to pay special attention to ensuring the sound management of stormwater runoff on its territory and maintaining the integrity of the water regime of its streams. In recent years, water quality along riverbanks has greatly improved. Nonetheless, it remains affected by the condition of some storm and sanitary drainage infrastructure (see Objective 18). Also, the viability and quality of Montréal's streams is greatly affected by the channelling and relocation of waterways, as well as by the uncontrolled increase in paved surfaces. Map 2.6.3 shows the main streams and wetlands within Montréal's territory.

## ILLUSTRATION 2.6.2 NATURE PARKS

Between the late 1970's and 1992, the Communauté urbaine de Montréal (Montréal Urban Community) acquired large natural spaces in order to create a network of regional parks. The City's network of nine nature parks benefits from ecosystem and landscape management:

- 1 Bois-de-la-Roche agricultural park
- 2 L'Anse-à-l'Orme nature park
- 3 Cap-Saint-Jacques nature park
- 4 Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard nature park
- 5 Bois-de-Liesse nature park
- 6 Bois-de-Saraguay nature park
- 7 Île-de-la-Visitation nature park
- 8 Bois-d'Anjou nature park
- 9 Pointe-aux-Prairies nature park

The mission of nature parks is to preserve, enhance and provide access to Montréal's natural and cultural heritage. Most provide a variety of educational and recreational activities that foster contact with nature. Only the Bois-d'Anjou and Bois-de-Saraguay nature parks and the Bois-de-la-Roche agricultural park remain unopened to the public. Among other assets, Montréal's nature parks comprise:

- 657 hectares of forest;
- 448 hectares of fields;
- 233 hectares of fallow land.







### Implementation measures

- Implement the Politique de protection et de mise en valeur des milieux naturels (Policy respecting the Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment).
- Encourage, using appropriate regulatory measures, the protection and enhancement of natural environments, especially those located within ecoterritories and woodlots identified in Map 2.6.3, in order to meet the conservation and development objectives described in Table 2.6.1.
- Create ecological and recreational corridors using existing natural environments.
- Open the Bois-de-Saraguay and Bois-d'Anjou nature parks as well as the Bois-de-la-Roche agricultural park to the public.
- Determine the ecological value of the riverbanks, wetlands and aquatic environments on Montréal's territory and develop adequate protective measures as part of the Policy respecting the Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment (see Objective 19).
- Maintain streams and watersheds within the territory by overseeing the design of development projects so as to:
  - Build retaining ponds or other catch basins;
  - Limit paved surfaces, particularly by reducing the size of parking lots and the width of roadways;
  - Avoid channelling and redirecting streams.
- Implement a program aimed at restoring and replanting riverbanks to reduce erosion problems, clean up runoff water and restore ecosystem diversity and productivity.
- Protect and create views on rivers, streams and islands (see Objective 11).
- Protect and enhance the islands, islets and shallows of the Montréal archipelago, notably in collaboration with concerted regional initiatives with other cities, regional county municipalities and concerned organizations.
- Take appropriate corrective action on storm and sanitary sewer systems (see Objective 17).
- Maintain the natural areas of the ecoterritory of the corridor écoforestier de l'île Bizard and of the Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard nature park located in the present Highway 440 right-of-way which crosses the Bizard island.

#### POLICY RESPECTING THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The City is developing a Politique de protection et de mise en valeur des milieux naturels (Policy respecting the Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment), which it expects to adopt during 2004. With a view to preserving and increasing Montréal's biodiversity, the Policy will also help to improve the quality of living environments and increase the City's appeal. It is based on an innovative approach designed to encourage initiatives and collaborations aimed at establishing the coordinated, integrated management of natural spaces with high ecological value.

The Policy pursues the following three objectives:

- Maximize biodiversity and expand the area of protected natural environments;
- Ensure sustainability of the natural environment in City parks and promote the consolidation and viability of park ecosystems;
- Foster better integration of ecosystems and natural landscapes into the built environment.

The Policy involves six action items:

- Concerted action to sustain viable ecosystems;
- A regulatory framework, policies and municipal actions to support the protection of the natural environment;
- Ecological management of the natural environment in City parks;
- Strategic real estate interventions;
- Partnerships;
- Active citizen involvement.

A total of 36 million dollars is earmarked to implement the Policy by 2006.

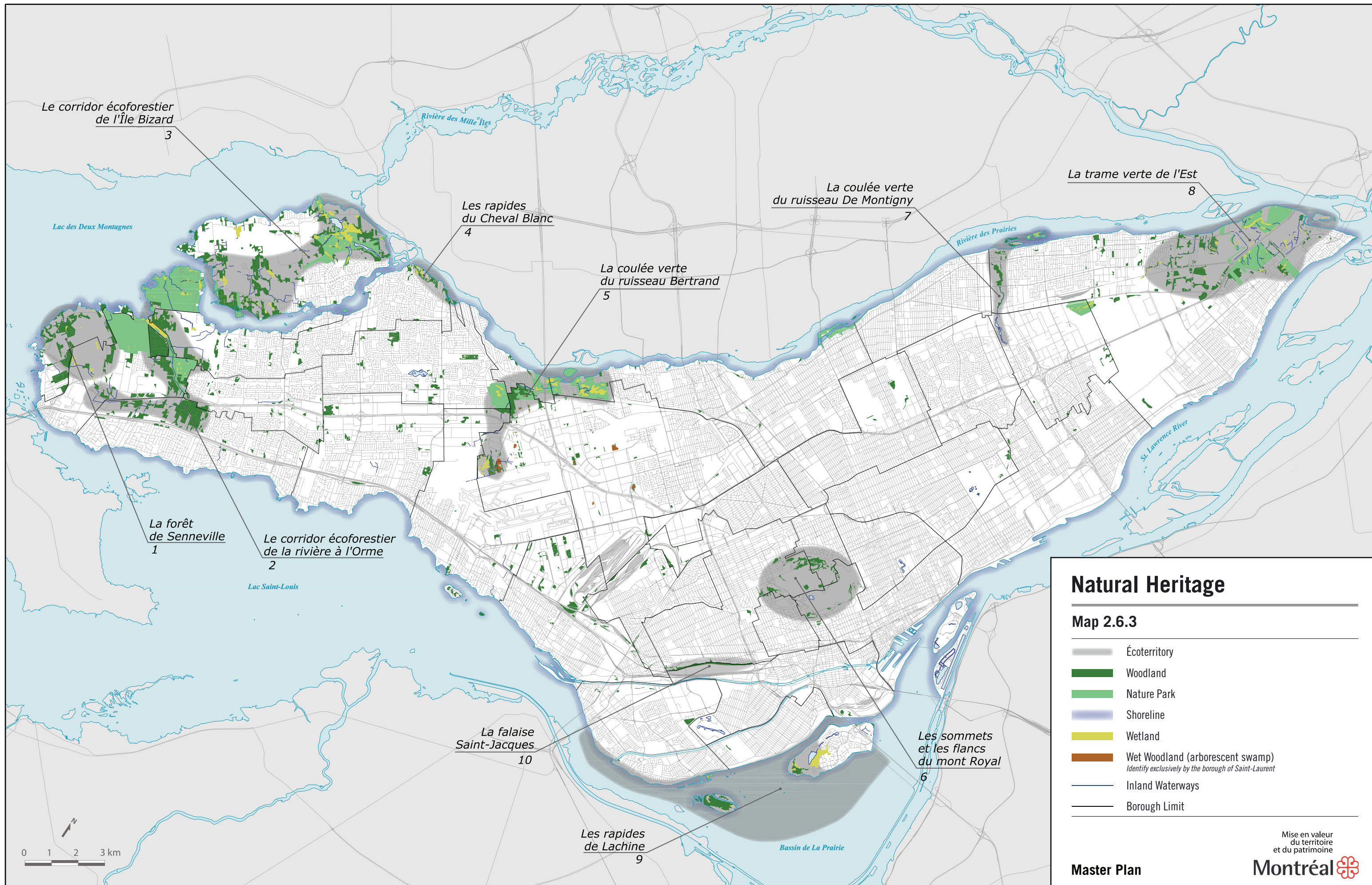
table  
**2.6.1**  
 Ecoterritory conservation  
 and development objectives

General objective

Protect natural environments of interest by taking them into account when planning development projects

ECOTERRITORY	CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES
1. LA FORÊT DE SENNEVILLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Preserve the biodiversity and integrity of wooded landscapes.</li> <li>» Establish wildlife corridors between Lac des Deux Montagnes, Senneville Woods, the Ecomuseum and the Bois-de-la-Roche agricultural park without compromising the privacy of lakefront properties.</li> <li>» Preserve the ponds located north of the Ecomuseum, given their scarcity on the Island and potential as wildlife habitats.</li> </ul>
2. LE CORRIDOR ÉCOFORESTIER DE LA RIVIÈRE À L'ORME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Create a viable ecological corridor with extensive biodiversity along the only inland river on the Island of Montréal.</li> <li>» Create a recreational corridor from Beaurepaire Station to the Cap-Saint-Jacques nature park and Bois-de-la-Roche agricultural park.</li> <li>» Maintain Rivière à l'Orme's watershed and improve its water quality.</li> <li>» Consolidate the boundaries of the L'Anse-à-l'Orme nature park and the Bois-de-la-Roche agricultural park through the conservation of natural environments with high ecological value along their edges.</li> </ul>
3. LE CORRIDOR ÉCOFORESTIER DE L'ÎLE BIZARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Preserve viable and diversified ecosystems around wetlands and woodlots of very high ecological value and those located in areas under development.</li> <li>» Consolidate the boundaries of Cap-Saint-Jacques and Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard nature parks through the conservation of natural environments with intrinsic ecological value or playing an important role as wildlife habitats.</li> <li>» Create an ecological and recreational corridor between Pointe Théorêt (an extension of the Cap-Saint-Jacques nature park), Lac des Deux Montagnes and the Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard nature park.</li> <li>» Conserve an important portion of the natural environment north of the Bois-de-l'Île-Bizard nature park for wildlife habitat (especially birds of prey and white-tailed deer).</li> </ul>
4. LES RAPIDES DU CHEVAL BLANC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Preserve a viable ecosystem around a unique scenic site overlooking Rivière des Prairies that has the potential to be a regional park.</li> <li>» Preserve the extensive wildlife and plant biodiversity in the area while maximizing access to riverbanks.</li> <li>» Maintain a link between the conservation areas and the three existing riverside parks (Île Roxboro, Cheval Blanc and Des Arbres).</li> </ul>
5. LA COULÉE VERTE DU RUISSEAU BERTRAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Control Bertrand Stream water quality and quantity.</li> <li>» Redirect water runoff from the Technoparc in the borough of Saint-Laurent to Bertrand Stream.</li> <li>» Develop and enhance the natural environments to restore an ecosystem along the portion of the stream between the airport and the Bois-de-Liesse nature park.</li> <li>» Consolidate the boundaries of the Bois-de-Liesse nature park by including the woodlots of ecological value south of the park.</li> <li>» Establish a green corridor between Lac Saint-Louis and the Bois-de-Liesse nature park.</li> </ul>
6. LES SOMMETS ET LES FLANCS DU MONT ROYAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Update Mount Royal's Enhancement Plan by incorporating objectives related to ecological management as currently practised in nature parks.</li> <li>» Preserve the emblematic value of the mountain's summits and green slopes.</li> <li>» Protect the forested areas consisting of three layers of vegetation (herbaceous, shrubbery and trees) on the summits and slopes as feeding and nesting grounds for a wide variety of birds.</li> <li>» Take special care to preserve the exceptional forest stands on the mountain's north slope, which are rare vestiges of Mount Royal's original forest cover.</li> <li>» Maximize views and opportunities for contact with nature on all sides of the mountain.</li> <li>» Foster green links between the natural areas on the three summits both within and outside the existing parks.</li> <li>» Preserve the wooded corridor bordering Camillien-Houde Road.</li> </ul>
7. LA COULÉE VERTE DU RUISSEAU DE MONTIGNY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Maintain a viable ecosystem along this exceptional stream, located in a highly urbanized area with a shortage of natural space.</li> <li>» Preserve the extensive biodiversity of Boutin, Rochon, Lapierre and Gagné islands by permitting recreational activities compatible with the protection of their natural surroundings.</li> <li>» Ensure an adequate supply of good-quality water for De Montigny Stream.</li> <li>» Create a linear park linking the area extending from Rivière des Prairies to the retention pond in Anjou.</li> </ul>
8. LA TRAME VERTE DE L'EST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Remedy the shortage of natural spaces in the east end of the Island of Montréal.</li> <li>» Preserve biodiversity by protecting the few remaining natural areas of ecological value.</li> <li>» Maximize the natural areas' connections and accessibility for both residents and wildlife.</li> <li>» Consolidate the boundaries of Pointe-aux-Prairies nature park.</li> <li>» Ensure an adequate water supply for Pinel Creek, Grou Basin and headwater marshes.</li> <li>» Conserve the woodlots along Highway 40 as a noise barrier and a feature with visual appeal in a heavily industrialized area which serves as a gateway to Montréal.</li> </ul>
9. LES RAPIDES DE LACHINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Maintain ecosystem integrity.</li> <li>» Preserve cultural heritage.</li> <li>» Develop the recreational and tourism potential.</li> </ul>
10. LA FALAISE SAINT-JACQUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Prepare a plan for the protection and enhancement of this area, in collaboration with the boroughs concerned.</li> <li>» Identify the interventions required to curb the erosion of the escarpment.</li> </ul>





## Natural Heritage

Map 2.6.3

- Écoterritory
- Woodland
- Nature Park
- Shoreline
- Wetland
- Wet Woodland (arborescent swamp)  
*Identify exclusively by the borough of Saint-Laurent*
- Inland Waterways
- Borough Limit