



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

New studies show that the North Sector of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue is home to many endangered species and must be preserved in its entirety

June 7, 2018 (Montréal) - Two scientific reports published today by the citizens' coalition Sauvons L'Anse-à-l'Orme show that the North Sector of the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue is home to numerous animal and plant species classified as being at risk within the meaning of the Federal Species at Risk Act. The North Sector must therefore be integrated into the L'Anse-à-l'Orme Corridor and preserved in its entirety.

The study [Évaluation écologique du Secteur Nord de Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue](#), prepared by researchers Marie-Ève Roy and Jérôme Dupras of the [Institut des sciences de la forêt tempérée de l'Université du Québec en Outaouais](#), Patrick Gravel of the [Coopérative de solidarité des Forêts et des Gens](#), Xavier Francoeur, a biogeographer and doctoral student at the Université du Québec à Montréal and Maria Dumitru, a research professional at McGill University, emphasizes that the residential development of this sector rich in biodiversity and rare species would result in a direct loss of terrestrial habitat and a decrease in the size of the remaining habitats. It would also increase the potential for habitat degradation and loss of habitat connectivity on a range of scales.

The authors of this study recommend to "avoid the development of this area because of the risk of serious or irreversible damage," and specify that "the conservation of the remaining undeveloped areas in Montreal would be a means to prevent the degradation of the environment and to protect species with at-risk status."

This recommendation is reinforced by the results of the study [Analyse préliminaire de la connectivité écologique et des îlots de chaleur pour la municipalité de Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue](#), prepared by Jérôme Dupras, Maria Dumitru and Andrew Gonzalez, Professor in the Department of Biology at McGill University, which highlights the impact of habitat fragmentation and the increase in heat islands - two direct consequences of development - on the fauna and flora found in the study area.

The researchers have identified many threatened and vulnerable species in the North Sector, including one of the iconic animals found in the area slated for development, the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx orzivorus*), which was listed as a threatened species in 2010 by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Also identified are the Barn Swallow, Bank Swallow, Brown Snake, Milk Snake, Shagbark hickory, Black Maple and others.

Sauvons L'Anse-à-l'Orme also publishes today the results of the [analysis of DNA samples taken from the Rivière à l'Orme in Pierrefonds West](#). These results demonstrate yet again the great wealth of the biodiversity in the L'Anse-à-l'Orme Corridor.

The City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue recently modified its urban plan to reduce the size and impact of the development zone in the North Sector, which was a widely appreciated and applauded initiative.

the development zone in the North Sector, which was a widely appreciated and appreciated initiative. However, the City is strongly encouraged to do more and save the whole area.

Statements:

"These studies demonstrate what we have always said: The L'Anse-à-l'Orme Corridor is a natural unit with a unique biodiversity that includes the entire North Sector of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. It must therefore be protected in its entirety."

Sue Stacho, citizen of Pierrefonds and co-founder of Sauvons L'Anse-à-l'Orme

"For the Green Coalition, the creation of a parc national at L'Anse-à-l'Orme and environs is a vision that has been 30 years in the making - since the 1980s. All the milieux naturels in Sainte-de-Bellevue's North Sector are included in this vision!"

David Fletcher, Vice President and spokesperson for the Green Coalition

"Nature does not recognize municipal boundaries. It has its own integrity and its ecological niches have their own limits, which we ignore at our peril. The L'Anse-à-l'Orme Corridor is a functional ecological unit that should be respected and preserved for future generations."

Thomas Bradley, President of the Association générale des étudiantes et des étudiants du CÉGEP Gérard-Godin

"The protection of the entire North Sector would bring us one step closer to achieving the objective of protecting 10% of terrestrial areas as specified in the Urban Plan. It would also be an opportunity to consolidate the territory of the Corridor in order to provide the metropolitan area with an urban national park."

Coralie Deny, Executive Director of the Conseil régional de l'environnement de Montréal

"Habitat loss and loss of connectivity are the main causes of declining biodiversity in the city. The North Sector of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, part of the Anse-à-l'Orme Corridor, is a key element of the of Greater Montreal's Green Corridors on the island. Its complete preservation is essential for the maintenance of biodiversity in this part of the island."

Sylvain Perron, Coordinator of the Mouvement Ceinture Verte

"The achievement of Aichi targets of protecting 17% of land areas to preserve biodiversity also apply to southern Québec, where the flora and fauna are the most diversified in the province. The western part of the island, including the North Sector of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue and the western part of Pierrefonds, are key locations for biodiversity on the island and must be protected."

Karel Mayrand, Director General, Quebec and Atlantic Region, David Suzuki Foundation

"Tree felling and asphalt paving are not necessary. The LandeMTL.com and Entremise.ca initiatives show that we have a surplus of space in the city. These are the places to develop in order to build a low-carbon city with a good quality of life."

Matthew Chapman, President of Climate Coalition Montreal

"It is important to protect an area rich in diverse ecosystems and providing habitats for the survival and recovery of many species at risk."

Alain Branchaud, biologist and Executive Director of the Québec Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, (SNAP Québec)

"It is extremely important that the whole of the North Sector of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue be preserved – as proven in these studies – both for the protection of biodiversity on the Island of Montréal and in Québec generally."

Isabelle Bisson, Co-President of Sierra Club Québec

"Les Amis du Parc Meadowbrook supports Sauvons L'Anse-à-l'Orme and the creation of two national urban nature parks on the Island of Montréal, as well as the Green and Blue Corridors of

Meadowbrook is a part.”

Louise Legault, Chair of the Coordinating Committee, Les Amis du Parc Meadowbrook

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