

Le regroupement des citoyens de Saraguay
Saraguay Citizens Group

**A brief to the
Office de consultation publique de Montréal (OCPM):
NOUVEAU PARC-NATURE DANS LA COUR TURCOT**

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Text:

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Le regroupement des citoyens de Saraguay – Saraguay Citizens Group

Affiliation:

Group-member: Coalition Verte - Green Coalition

Partenaires du Parc Écologique de l'Archipel de Montréal (PPÉAM)

INTRODUCTION:

Saraguay Citizens Group - a 40 year history and mission....

In 1977, Saraguay Citizens Group helped to save Bois-de-Saraguay from being lost to urban development: the nature-park was created. Then, the Citizens became co-founders of the Green Coalition, that persuaded the Montreal Urban Community to adopt its \$200 million program in 1989 to acquire natural green spaces and to consolidate a nature-park network across Montreal Island. The Group has joined Green Coalition's efforts to create a greenbelt for Montreal and Southwestern Quebec. In 2003, the *Partenaires du Parc Écologique de l'Archipel de Montréal* was founded (precursor of the *Mouvement Ceinture Verte*). There are now more than 100 partenaires, including 17 municipal partenaires, such as, the City of Montreal and its agglomeration.

SARAGUAY CITIZENS - IN SUPPORT OF "SAUVONS LA FALAISE!":

Saraguay Citizens Group insists that:

- a) the Falaise Saint-Jacques be part of the grand parc (LE NOUVEAU PARC-NATURE DANS LA COUR TURCOT)
- b) the public be consulted as to what will happen with the falaise

Note that, in June, 2018, the environmental community saluted Valérie Plante's administration for reclaiming nature for all Montrealers to enjoy. "Vast green spaces and natural milieux are being conserved - a new grand parc in the east, a parc national urbain in the west. And the Grand parc-nature Turcot-La falaise with its Dalle-parc will be a Green Gateway to welcome visitors to the Metropolis." (*Green Coalition*)

Saraguay Citizens support the efforts of our fellow Green Coalition member group "Sauvons la falaise!" and insist that:

- the falaise be an integral part of the proposed "Grand parc-nature Turcot-La falaise" (already so named in June 2018).
- the falaise must not be removed from any plans for a park in the Cour Turcot. Plans to create a park at the falaise have been ongoing for 36 years.
- Montreal still ranks dead last of any city in Canada for protected per capita green space. 100% of the falaise, ecologically valuable in its own right, must be granted real protected status to help offset Montreal's deficit.
- Connectivity (green corridors to restore urban and periurban biodiversity) is a principle becoming ever more important as the planet combats climate change. Its unique location makes the falaise essential for connectivity at Cour Turcot.
- The falaise is at the heart of proposed green corridors westward to the future parc Meadowbrook; southward to parc Angrignon, parc des rapides and the Fleuve; and, via bicycle paths eastward to Mont Royal. The Dalle-parc makes this vision possible - it must become a reality!
- Public access to green and natural spaces is desirable. But, any efforts to provide access to the falaise must only be taken with great caution - it is very fragile. No more trees must be cut down.

CONCLUSION:

"Sauvons la falaise!" - Merci