

My name is Daniel Boulerice and I have a very strong connection to the green space now referred to as l'Anse-à-l'Orme. I grew up on Gaston Crescent in Pierrefonds – west of St. Charles Boulevard. My friends and I spent days and days discovering the green spaces west of our homes. In the 1970's the West Island had a lot of green spaces. It was possible to go from St. Charles Road to Sources Boulevard on your bike just through fields and forests and not touch asphalt. Children growing up on the West Island today do not have that opportunity. Houses, houses, houses.... Can we go back in time? No. Can we knock down the houses? No. What can we do for the children? We can protect the little remaining green space on the West Island.

Like most development projects, there is a promise to protect some of the existing green space.

There are calls to be reasonable. There are calls to compromise. If you look at the map of the island of Montreal, you can see the effect of reasonable compromise on green space. Compared to almost every other North American city, we have a scandalously small amount of green space. How is it that we are not a leader in this area? The answer: past city councils were "reasonable". Past city councils were too willing to compromise when pressured by developers. In every major city that has a decent amount of green space there were politicians who stood up to developers and said: "No". In every city that has an appropriate amount of green space there were politicians who were not afraid to change the zoning. I hope that for the sake of current and future West Island residents, that this consultation leads to a clear recommendation to rezone 100% of the territory as recreational and that the recommendation gives all politicians who have a say in this matter the backbone needed to say no to any development.