The Master Plan is the responsibility of Montreal’s City Council and presents a vision for developing and enhancing the City. It deals with issues affecting the City as a whole, such as enhancing the distinct character of each borough.

The Master Plan sets the main goals concerning the development of commercial, commercial and employment areas. Through an integrated approach, it addresses important City-wide issues such as transportation, the protection of natural areas and the improvement of the environment. By doing so, the Plan assists the City in reaching its vision of becoming a world-class city while maintaining its costs for residents.

The Master Plan is the most important official document produced by the City in terms of urban development.

With your help, the first Master Plan of the new City will soon be ready. It gives me great pleasure to ask you to look through this summary of the preliminary version. I invite you to find out more about the Plan by visiting www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/plan-urbanisme and to get involved with the public consultation process that will be held between May 17 and June 22.

The Master Plan is a social contract, a vision of the City's future. Montrealers now have the opportunity to voice their personal visions and shape that future, by participating in the upcoming public consultation. Based on this consultation, the Master Plan will be finalized and submitted to City Council for approval before December 31, 2004.

The preliminary version of the Master Plan addresses the key issues identified during the 2002 Montreal Summit. The more local context, which is currently being prepared by each borough, will be incorporated into the Master Plan next year. One of the main goals of the Master Plan is to improve Montreal’s architecture and design. I encourage you to join in this effort to beautify and enhance the quality of life of our City and its boroughs.

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN? THE MASTER PLAN’S CALL FOR IDEAS

Between November 2002 and June 2003, more than 3,400 Montrealers suggested improvements for their neighbourhoods. The City called for ideas enabling the City to engage public scrutiny, for example, Montrealers identified Montreal’s most significant urban areas.

Citizen responses were used to shape the Master Plan’s context with respect to the main issues of the City for ideas – quality of life, transportation, natural environments, heritage conservation and public facilities.

Students from 14 Montreal elementary schools also expressed their visions of the ideal urban environment, through drawing and writing.

To find out more, visit www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/urb.demo/concours-plan
The Master Plan represents a unique opportunity to reflect on building the new City. Its unique geography, the quality of its neighborhoods, the diversity of its population, its cultural and economic vitality and its transportation networks are all valuable assets for Montréalians as well as for the City’s future. To move towards a better Montréal, consistent planning choices must be made.

The City supports sustainable development. In urban development, its approach balances economic viability, social equity and environmental protection. Residents will be encouraged to participate in planning and development decisions.

Population growth in the metropolitan area in the coming years will be modest but significant, with a projected increase of 150,000 households between 2004 and 2014. In view of this, greater effort must be made to consolidate existing areas in order to make infrastructure more cost-effective and to cover maintenance and rehabilitation costs.

The City intends to consolidate the existing features of established areas, which cover most of Montreal’s territory. In addition, many areas are underused and ripe for transformation, such as the Hippodrome and Cavendish Boulevard areas, as well as land formerly occupied by petrochemical industries. The City intends to develop these areas by attracting new activities and building.

The City favours high-quality urban design and architecture and intends to change Montreal’s culture in this regard.

TOWARDS A BETTER MONTRÉAL

The Master Plan sets seven goals that constitute seven challenges for the Montréal of tomorrow.

1. High-quality, diversified and complete living environments
2. Structuring, efficient transportation networks fully integrated into the urban fabric
3. A prestigious, convivial and inhabited centre
4. Dynamic, accessible and diversified employment areas
5. High-quality architecture and urban landscapes
6. An enhanced built, archaeological and natural heritage
7. A healthy environment
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With your help, this first Master Plan of the new City will soon be ready.

Beyond the rules and the structures, the scales and lines, a city is a place with a human dimension: the environment in which we live. With your contribution, the Master Plan will have done justice to the many facets of our City. I am counting on you!

Montréal, a City for All

WHY A MASTER PLAN?

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