

# Guide to Promoting a Shared Vision of The Green and Blue Belt of Greater Montréal

## Public Consultations on the MMC's New Urban Plan (the PMAD)

The Montreal Metropolitan Community's public consultations on its 2011 urban plan - Le plan métropolitain d'aménagement et de développement (PMAD) - are an essential step towards integrating the shared vision of a green and blue belt of Greater Montreal (see Appendix 1) into the upcoming revisions of the urban plans by all the cities of Montreal Metropolitan Community. If the vision of green and blue belt is not integrated into 2011 PMAD, this cannot be corrected for another 5 years. The protection of green spaces and agricultural land, as well as all the other elements of the green and blue belt, will be excluded. As a result, while international standards have progressed, Montreal will have moved backwards (e.g. in 2010 the minimum international standard for protected areas increased to 17%, while only 2.5% is currently protected on the territory of the MMC). It is therefore essential that as many individuals and organizations as get involved in the MMC's process. This document is designed to help you in your efforts to do just that, by participating in its public consultations on the PMAD.

### 1. The basics – what to know before starting

- **There are various ways to show support for the shared vision**  
The filing of a brief and presenting it personally at one of the consultation sessions is the most powerful method to demonstrate support for the shared vision, though it is not the only one. You can also file a written brief without presenting it at a consultation. You can also register to make an oral presentation at a session without submitting a written brief. Finally, ***your very presence*** as a spectator at the consultations will demonstrate your support for the cause. However you choose to participate, you can have an impact!
- **A brief can be as short as one page**  
What matters is not the length of the brief, but that your message be heard. If your brief presents the information you consider important in a single page, then your goal is achieved. A brief can cover a single point, or many: the choice is yours.
- **Never assume that someone else will mention what you consider important**  
Your personal knowledge is important. Do not assume someone else will cover important points! Too often important issues are forgotten because no one thought to mention them, or assumed that someone else would do so.
- **It is good to repeat what others have said**  
Many people avoid mentioning issue if they know they have already been covered in prior consultations or in another brief. This is a mistake. When an important subject is discussed by many, leaders at the consultation will realize that the topic is important, not just to an individual but to the whole community. They will then attach more importance to the issue.
- **Concentrate first on issues that affect you most**  
You may want to mention a number of concerns, but remember that you have limited time to prepare your brief, and especially if you are making an oral presentation at a public session, you should focus mainly on your main arguments based on your own personal knowledge, concerns and passions. Thus a farmer should first speak from a farmer's perspective; a biologist should speak of the concerns of his field, a birder watcher should speak as a citizen concerned for the protection of bird habitats, etc.

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## 2. The important steps to follow:

### • Making a brief and a presentation

- **On or before September 2<sup>nd</sup>, indicate your intention to present a brief during the consultations**

Provide your name and organization (if applicable) and the date of the session where you want to present. The earlier you do this, the better your chances of obtaining the date you want.

Note that a brief may be as short as half a page. A written brief will also secure you a confirmed date and time to speak.

To indicate your intention to present a brief, complete the registration form at:

<http://pmad.ca/consultations/comment-participer/> The date of your presentation will then be confirmed.

- **No later than 15 days prior to your presentation, submit your brief at: [pmad@cmm.qc.ca](mailto:pmad@cmm.qc.ca) or sent to Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal, 1002, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, bureau 2400, Montréal (Québec) H3A 3L6 by mail or directly to their offices.**

### • Speaking during the sessions

- **15 minutes before your public consultation session is scheduled to begin, you may sign up to speak without a written brief.**

You can register to speak at any one of the seven sessions scheduled, to provide comments or to ask questions. You will be assigned a place.

### • Making a brief without presenting it

- **On or before September 2<sup>nd</sup>, indicate your intention to do so, by completing the registration form.**

- **On or before September 14<sup>th</sup>, send your brief to: [pmad@cmm.qc.ca](mailto:pmad@cmm.qc.ca) or sent to Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal, 1002, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, bureau 2400, Montréal (Québec) H3A 3L6 by mail or directly to their offices.**

All sessions start at 7pm and will be recorded. You can obtain more information on registration at [www.pmad.ca](http://www.pmad.ca) or by contacting François Desrochers of the MMC at 514-350-2550.

## 3. Dates and times

Here is the calendar of the 7 sessions, each of them starting at 7:00 pm:

### Wednesday, September 28, 2011

Montréal sector  
Dollard-des-Ormeaux Civic Centre  
12001 boul. De Salaberry  
Dollard-des-Ormeaux  
(Québec) H9B 2A7

### Thursday, October 13, 2011

Couronne Nord sector  
Maison du citoyen de Boisbriand  
955, boul. de la Grande-Allée  
Boisbriand (Québec) J7G 1W6

### Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Couronne Sud sector  
Exporail Le Musée ferroviaire canadien  
110, rue Saint-Pierre  
Saint-Constant (Québec) J5A 1G7

### Thursday, September 29, 2011

Montréal sector  
Montreal Metropolitan Community  
1002 rue Sherbrooke Ouest,  
Suite 2400,  
Montréal (Québec) H3A 3L6

### Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Laval sector  
Centre communautaire Pavillon du  
Bois Papineau  
3235, boul. Saint-Martin Est  
Laval (Québec) H7E 5G8

### Thursday, October 20, 2011

Longueuil sector  
Sandman Hotel  
999 rue de Serigny  
Longueuil (Québec) J4K 2T1

### Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Montréal sector  
Auberge Royal Versailles  
7200 rue Sherbrooke Est  
Montréal (Québec) H1N 1E7

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#### 4. Elements to include in your brief

- **An abstract (2 pages maximum) is mandatory if your brief exceeds 15 pages**
- **An introduction containing the following:**
  - Your name or the name of your organization
  - Who are you? Take the time to mention your organisation's mission or your area of interest, whatever that may be (e.g. are you a farmer, involved in tourism, a birder, a resident concerned about some other particular issue?)
  - Identify your area of concern or intervention (e.g. "I work at...", "I birdwatch at...", etc.)
- **The heart of your brief:**
  - **State at the beginning of your brief that you support the creation of the Green and Blue Belt of Greater Montreal**

This is the shared vision referred to elsewhere in this document (see it in Appendix 1). This is the key strategy for getting the MMC to provide **real** protection of biodiversity rather than token patches of lawn here and there. This shared vision has been developed by a number of organizations including les Partenaires du parc écologique de l'archipel de Montréal, the Green Coalition, the Conseils régionaux de l'environnement of Montreal and Laval (which are umbrella groups representing hundreds of member organizations), as well as The David Suzuki Foundation, Héritage Laurentien and Les Amis de Meadowbrook. This view is further supported by....
  - Include one or more points that are important specifically to you. If possible, connect them to the five points listed in the shared vision. We invite you to check out the shared vision itself in Appendix 1, which includes examples you might find inspiring.
- **A conclusion that reiterates the important points you presented in the brief**

The length of this conclusion will of course vary depending on the length of your brief but may, for a short brief, be limited to one paragraph at the end.

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**APPENDIX 1: A Shared Vision of the Green and Blue Belt to be promoted during the consultations**

## **The Green and Blue Belt of Greater Montreal**

*A common vision to promote during the Metropolitan Montreal Community's hearings on its  
'Plan métropolitain d'aménagement et de développement (PMAD)'*

Le 'Plan métropolitain d'aménagement et de développement (PMAD)' must include the creation of a green and blue belt as one of its integral and essential elements. It must also contribute to the protection of our exceptional natural heritage, characterized by a biodiversity that is superior to any other sector of Quebec and by an agricultural zone that grows almost 50% of the food produced in Quebec. **The PMAD must set conditions favourable to the establishment of the green and blue belt by clearly identifying its components and by making setting aside the resources necessary for its creation.**

### **The Green and Blue Belt of Greater Montreal is:**

#### **An ecological park for the Montreal Archipelago, as proposed by the more than 80 partners of the 'Parc écologique de l'Archipel de Montréal' - including 15 municipalities and boroughs**

- Identified natural areas to be preserved and protected, including a minimum of 12% by 2015, and 17% by 2020, of the bioclimatic domain of maple-hickory forest of south-western Quebec, of which 15% is rehabilitated areas
- An urban and rural green belt, consisting of both natural corridors for biodiversity as well as trails and which enable communities to experience nature
- A blue network centred on the St. Lawrence River, as well as the other waterways located within the green and blue belt, which also permit a variety of recreational activities

#### **An agricultural heritage to discover, energize and protect**

- Agricultural land protected and revitalized in a sustainable manner while promoting agro diversity
- A network highlighting agricultural attractions
- A program promoting local products and the establishments which use them

#### **Hundreds of cultural, recreational and natural activities and events to explore**

- A program to promote attractions and events
- A network of natural and humanized landscapes for quiet contemplation
- A network of markets and other establishments selling local products

#### **A diverse and accessible network for active transportation**

- One of the largest networks of bike paths in the world
- A network of trails connecting various attractions as well as highly urbanized areas in the belt
- A blue route covering the St. Lawrence River as well as other major rivers of the MMC

#### **Investment in a sustainable future**

- A unifying project integrating the environment, agriculture, tourism and culture
- Promoting a healthy, active lifestyle focused on outdoor recreation and active transportation
- Creating a high quality living environment which is cleaner, more aesthetic and which suffers less from the heat island effect
- The creation of sustainable jobs based on both regional leisure activities, attractions and services, and on sustainable local investment
- The protection, rehabilitation and enhancement of natural environments as well as agricultural lands
- Respect for the carrying capacity of ecosystems, and the true economic value of ecosystem services

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### **APPENDIX 2: A guide to help you with topics for your brief and oral presentation**

This appendix suggests topics to be covered in your briefs. They are organized according to the five points presented in the shared vision. This is only a partial list! You must pick and present the issues that are important to you, or talk about sites or other specific items you think are important. Have fun!

#### **This Green and Blue Belt of Greater Montreal is:**

#### **An ecological park for the Montreal Archipelago, as proposed by the more than 80 partners of the 'Parc écologique de l'Archipel de Montréal' - including 15 municipalities and boroughs**

- "In my area, it is essential to protect..." "It is also essential to restore.... because..." (explain)
- "In my area:
  - the following areas may be connected by corridors or greenways... (specify)
  - the following site could become an arm of a green belt for (e.g. a trail or a path for people, or a green corridor that permits wildlife movement)..."
- "Our area includes the following blue areas (i.e. waterways) to protect / enhance / etc...."

#### **An agricultural heritage to discover, energize and protect**

- "We consider it essential work protect the MMC's agricultural lands because..."
- "We believe in working with our farmers to help them... (e.g. diversify their farming practices, increase their agro diversity, implement practices that increase productivity and protect, or even increase, biodiversity, etc.)..."
- "We see in our region an opportunity to develop an agricultural attraction ... to create discovery trails, etc..."
- "We want a program to promote local products and the local institutions which use them, etc...."

#### **Hundreds of cultural, recreational and natural activities and events to explore**

- "We believe that the following site (or the following activity, event, historical site or landscape) should be promoted as an attraction within the green and blue belt because..."
- "We consider it important to promote the consumption of local products because..."

#### **A diverse and accessible network for active transportation**

- "Our cycling network could benefit from a new link at the following location.... The benefits would be..."
- "We should create a path at the following location.... The benefits would be..."
- "A blue trail should be developed on the following portion of waterway.... The benefits would be..."

#### **Investment in a sustainable future**

- "I believe in the importance of projects that integrate a variety of elements ... Or that effect particular aspects (e.g. the environment? agriculture? tourism? culture?...)"
- "For me it is essential to promote an active and healthy lifestyle based on outdoor recreation and active transportation (specify)"
- "It is important for our community to enjoy a good living environment (less polluted? more aesthetic? suffering less from the heat island effect?...)"
- "I believe in the importance of creating sustainable jobs, and this Shared Vision makes this possible in my area by...)"
- "For me, it is important to protect, restore and enhance natural environments such as (specify)... or agricultural lands (specify) because..."
- "I believe it is essential that our activities respect the carrying capacity of our ecosystems, and take into consideration the economic value of ecosystem services because..."