

Quebec must do more to protect park land, Greens say

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The Quebec Green Party is accusing the province of neglecting green spaces, saying Montreal is one of the worst Canadian cities when it comes to protecting park land.

The Greens held a campaign event in Angell Woods on Montreal's West Island on Monday, a highly contested green space that's been subject to a longstanding tug-of-war between private developers and environmentalists.

Home to rare snake species and wild leeks, Angell Woods is mostly owned by private developers and is zoned for residential use.

It's an example of West Island green space that is falling to development, said Ryan Young, a Green candidate in the West Island riding of Jacques-Cartier.

"There are many areas now that I used to birdwatch in, and I used to take walks in the woods, and they're all concrete and houses now," Young told CBC News.

His party is calling on the Quebec government to do more to protect urban green spaces, especially in Montreal, a city that Young said was falling behind other Canadian cities.

"We are at the bottom of the list. The Quebec government has never in the last 10 years put money into Montreal's budget to purchase green space. The City of Montreal cannot afford to do it on its own," he said on Monday.

The West Island in particular is rich in green space but time is running out, Young said.

"This is the last chance, these are the last ones that are left."

The Greens also want stricter provincial rules to govern the use of endangered green zones.