

## **Mount Royal Charter**

The Mount Royal Charter was drafted for the 125th anniversary of Parc du Mont-Royal by Les Amis de la Montagne, Heritage Montréal and Centre de la Montagne and presented at the Mount Royal Summit on March 14, 2002.

Visible from afar and accessible from every side, Mount Royal, with its three summits, its neighbourhoods and its parks and institutions, is central to Montreal's geography, history, and identity. Along with the St. Lawrence River, the mountain dominates the landscape, a major landmark that makes a unique contribution to the quality of the city's environment and way of life.

Mount Royal is home to a dense and diverse natural, historic, landscape, architectural and archaeological heritage. Its geology, topography and flora and fauna reflect the birth of the St. Lawrence Valley, the Monteregian Hills and the Hochelaga Archipelago.

Amenities, buildings and vestiges bear witness to the successive cultures that have frequented Mount Royal over the centuries, from aboriginal peoples to the city's current inhabitants. Jacques Cartier named it; Maisonneuve and the pioneers of Ville-Marie marked it with a cross and surveyed the first lots. Its history is that of the farms, villages, religious communities, people, hospitals, institutions of learning, cemeteries and public facilities it has been home to over the years.

As handed down to us, the mountain is also a testimony to a great civic undertaking. Amidst rapid industrialization, Montrealers, with the support of the Quebec legislature and American landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead, protected part of Mount Royal by transforming it into a large park inaugurated in 1876. Since then, successive laws, by-laws and plans have paid heed to ongoing public support for expansion of the protected area and stronger protective measures. This undertaking continues today, as interest in sustainable urban development sweeps cities worldwide. As we strive to balance conservation with new urban needs, Mount Royal constitutes a shining example of a place dedicated to civic and environmental education.

Mount Royal stands at the heart of a city of multiple, complex interests. Creativity and commitment are crucial if we are to develop and pool the knowledge, talents and means required to protect and enhance this resource for the benefit of present and future generations. This is both an individual responsibility and a collective duty.

Inspired by national and international documents, the Mount Royal Charter sets forth the general principles to which any person or organization interested in the mountain and its conservation, protection and development may voluntarily subscribe.

## MOUNT ROYAL CHARTER

A combined work of nature and diverse cultures, Mount Royal is an exceptional monument that contributes to the vibrant identity of Montreal and to the quality of the city's environment and way of life.

Individually and collectively, we are all guardians of the natural, landscape, architectural, archaeological and historic heritage of Mount Royal, not only for ourselves but also for future generations.

### **Accordingly, we set forth the following principles:**

- Increase our personal and public awareness of Mount Royal, from both a scientific and cultural perspective, in order to gain a better appreciation of the site, ensure the appropriateness and quality of any measures we take in harmony with this site and its unique attributes, and derive the necessary lessons, for our own benefit and that of future generations;
- Protect Mount Royal from activities or negligence that could be detrimental to the natural, developed or built features that contribute to its value and its presence in the urban landscape;
- Work together to conserve and enhance the diversity of Mount Royal's landscape, heritage and urban values, by adopting measures that meet the highest quality standards.