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## **Brief on the 'plan de conservation du site patrimonial du Bois-de-Saraguay'**

Presented to 'le Conseil du patrimoine culturel du Québec' on behalf of the Green Coalition/Coalition Verte by Gareth Richardson, President.

### **Introduction**

The Green Coalition/Coalition Verte is a non-profit association of grassroots volunteers comprising over forty member-groups and hundreds of individual members dedicated to the conservation, protection and restoration of the natural environment of the Montréal region.

The Coalition has been active for more than twenty five years and has a direct historical connection, via our founding president and still active board member, Sylvia Oljemark and her mother Mary Jackson, to the citizen led movement to preserve the Bois-de-Saraguay from development in the nineteen seventies.

Two of the Coalition's member groups the 'Saraguay Citizens Group/ Regroupement des citoyens de Saraguay' and more recently 'le Comité pour la mise en valeur du Bois-de-Saraguay' have been actively involved in ongoing efforts to protect and enhance the Bois-de-Saraguay.

The Coalition is pleased to see that progress is finally being made towards making the Bois-de-Saraguay accessible to the public and welcomes the 'plan de conservation' as a step towards this objective.

### **Recommendations**

The GCV generally endorses the views of our member groups and in particular recommends:

- Maintaining the integrity of the currently forested area, including the re-naturalised sections.
- Limiting the North-South trails through the main forest to the two currently under construction.
- Providing access to the river on the old Ogilvie property.
- Providing an interpretation centre.
- Re-developing the old Biodiversity Trail.
- Encouraging the public to visit using public and active transport and discouraging the use of private automobiles.
- Ongoing consultation with citizens.

In addition the Coalition suggests that the 'plan de conservation' recognise that the Bois-de Saraguay is an important element of Montréal's 'Écoterritoire de la coulee verte du ruisseau Bertrand' and acknowledge the objectives of the 'plan concept' for this ecoterritory.