

TRIANGLE

GREENERY, SOCIAL DIVERSITY AND EASY MOBILITY

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MONTREAL'S NAMUR-JEAN-TALON area was the subject of an urban design competition, as part of an ambitious revitalization plan for the broader neighbourhood. Because of the proximity of two metro stations, the area was identified several years ago as a high-priority renewal zone, and the revitalization process is now advancing rapidly: the 40-hectare sector is to be the site of 4,200 new housing units.

Nevertheless, at present the neighbourhood can be characterized as disjointed, with a preponderance of automobile-oriented spaces. In the next few years, the area's transition from predominantly industrial to residential land use will lead to the arrival of thousands of new residents. This shift will force a rethinking of the neighbourhood's green spaces, which will play an increasingly important role as the population density rises.

A UNIFYING PARK

Catalyse Urbaine is the agency that won the urban design competition, held this fall by the design bureau of the City of Montreal. Our proposal's core idea is the creation of a unifying park in the centre of the neighbourhood. The jury, chaired by architect and urban designer Ken Greenberg, found this idea particularly appealing. With a central place in residents' daily lives, the park will provide a common thread to the diversity of the future neighbourhood's population, and give the area a strong identity. This is to be a park that people pass, but where they also linger. They gather on its lawn (sculpted into a series of terraces) to play ball, have family picnics, or just to relax and enjoy the water displays in the square.

The creation of a park in the middle of the neighbourhood frames views of Mount Royal and St. Joseph's Oratory, and helps spur property development by encouraging the construction of large buildings around the park's curved side.

ROAD CLOSINGS

A new pedestrian zone, created by closing Victoria Street north of Jean-Talon, is bolstered by the curve formed by the park. This is the convergence point for movement: bike paths, trams and pedestrian areas all meet here.

This gathering place and convergence point for diversity also functions as the starting point for luxuriant vegetation that will spread out into the area's transportation corridors and semi-public spaces, connecting with islands of green space in other neighbourhoods.

From the park, a view framed by large rows of trees is enhanced by a concrete surface extending the geometry of the square's market

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1+5 AN OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE PARK WITH ACCESS FROM MULTIPLE ENTRIES
2 THE GRAND PROMENADE ENCIRCLES THE PARK **3** THE PLAN **4** A MARKET WELCOMES PRODUCERS **6** THE 40-HECTARE AREA OF INTERVENTION
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stalls and following the line of trees, and channels runoff to the park's sculpted lawn. The corridor culminates in water displays surrounded by quotations about water, sourced from different world literary traditions, symbolizing the Earth and its cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity.

GREEN SQUARES

The tree-lined walk is punctuated by densely planted squares that improve soil permeability and inhibit the formation of heat islands. The first two squares, starting at Jean-Talon, are planted with large-canopied trees and indigenous shrubs, creating a setting that encourages urban biodiversity. Ideal for conversation, reading or quiet observation, these small "living rooms" under the trees are equipped with tables and chairs that can be reconfigured by users. These spaces can also be rented for private functions such as picnics, community association gatherings, weddings, and block parties.

PARÉ AND BUCHAN STREETS

Heavily used by local children as a route to Lavoie high school and des Nations elementary school, Paré Street is currently a dangerous route, a hellish corridor for both pedestrians and cyclists. Our proposals includes a significant narrowing of Buchan and Paré streets, creating a true student corridor, making their daily walk or ride pleasant, fun and educational, inspiring a true desire to go to school. Along the route, integrated with the park, are playgrounds, basketball courts, bocce-ball courts and a library kiosk. A bio-retention garden gathers and filters runoff. The walk also includes interpretive elements celebrating the neighbourhood's rich cultural tapestry and linguistic diversity.

THE MOUNTAIN SIGHTS ENTRANCE TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

More than a simple entrance, the intersection of Mountain Sights, Paré and Buchan streets gives Montrealers a setting for sampling and exploring a lifestyle in which pedestrians come first. The intersection becomes a space shared by pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. It shows the neighbourhood's colours as a place where the best things are set aside for life in all its human, animal and plant diversity.

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