



BEACONSFIELD

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Exceptional forest ecosystems in Angell Woods

City of Beaconsfield asks for official protection from Quebec government

Beaconsfield, April 29, 2014 – As committed citizens concerned for the protection of Angell Woods, Beaconsfield’s elected Municipal Council officials have asked the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment Ministry (MDDEFP) for official protection of the two exceptional forest ecosystems (EFE) that have been identified in this privately owned forest, one of the largest on Montreal Island.

At the Municipal Council meeting held in April, Beaconsfield Mayor Georges Bourelle and the Municipal Council officials passed a resolution asking the Ministry of Natural Resources to proceed without delay with the protection of these two exceptional forest areas, with the approval of the MDDEFP. Government recognition will make it possible to protect Angell Woods’ sugar maple groves, with their bitternut hickory trees, and the red ash plantation, two forest populations considered rare in Quebec.

“We are committed to protecting Angell Woods because it is an exceptional private forest with significant and widely recognized environmental value. With its two exceptional forest ecosystems, Angell Woods is a natural treasure for Beaconsfield, and it is our duty to ensure that the Woods are preserved,” said Mayor Georges Bourelle.

The Municipal Council reiterated that the Sustainable Forest Development Act recognizes that forests play a crucial role in maintaining ecological processes and the ecological balance, in particular by helping to counter climate change and preserve biodiversity.

Historical recognition

The Beaconsfield Council reminded us that the exceptional ecological value of Angell Woods has been well documented historically.

Three independent studies conducted by biologists have recommended the legal protection of Angell Woods because of these two forest systems. In 2011, the Ministry officially recognized a portion of Angell Woods adjacent to the private EFES as a natural reserve. An expert technical committee, which included Ministry representatives, recognized the special ecological value of Angell Woods’ exceptional forest ecosystems in 2005.

As early as 1990, city officials had identified the importance of protecting Angell Woods. The Montreal Metropolitan Community designated Angell Woods as a natural area of



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interest in its metropolitan land-use and development plan, and then expressed its vision for the protection and enhancement of the Woods.

The City of Montreal also adopted a Policy on the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitats, pledging to protect 8% of its overall territory.

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Information: Office of the Mayor
514 428-4410