



PROJECT FOR THE CREATION OF A PROTECTED AREA AND REINFORCEMENT OF AN ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR

STATUS REPORT

Climate change and the biodiversity crisis pose a direct threat to the health of ecosystems and communities. In December 2022, Quebec signed on to the new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, whose flagship target is to protect 30% of the world's land and oceans (Target 3) by 2030.

In order to reach this new target, municipalities are called upon to play a strategic role and Lac-Tremblant-Nord is part of this movement by being strongly motivated by the urgency to act in order to protect the ecological integrity of natural environments on its public and private lands.

PROJECT FOR THE CREATION OF A PROTECTED AREA AND REINFORCEMENT OF AN ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR

As early as 1915, the protection of Lac-Tremblant-Nord's landscape was ratified in the charter at the origin of its creation, thus enshrining the protection of its natural heritage, which continues to this day. The municipality wishes to pursue its conservation efforts and respond to the concerns expressed by its citizens regarding the protection of the environment and biodiversity.

This is why, within the framework of the *Plein aire - Pour des territoires vivants et protégés*¹ initiative, the municipality has initiated, jointly with *Les Amis de Lac-Tremblant-Nord*², a **project aimed at creating a protected area and strengthening an ecological corridor on its public territory.**

Benefiting from strategic guidance and financial support from SNAP Québec, this project's **mission** is to ensure the **protection of biodiversity, preserve the integrity of ecosystems (notably the water quality of lakes, rivers and fish habitats) and conserve the integrity of landscapes.**

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. **Obtain a protected area status under the *Loi sur la conservation du patrimoine naturel* - i.e., biodiversity reserve status - for all public lands west of the municipality, including the Lac Tremblant white-tailed deer containment area and the existing protected areas of the Lac-Tremblant old-growth forest and biological refuge 06152R002 (see annex 1);**
2. **The recognition of five (5) lots held by the municipality (1.21 km²) as a « nature reserve » or « voluntary conservation areas ».** The recognition of these lots will be done through the creation of a conservation land trust (social utility trust (SUT));
3. **Contribute to the regional ecological connectivity effort by strengthening the ecological corridor** linking Parc national d'Oka to Parc national du Mont-Tremblant, in partnership with *Éco-corridors laurentiens*, which will consolidate connectivity between the two major national parks and protect biodiversity.

These actions would allow a gain of 2.63 km² of protected territory, the equivalent of 9.5% of the municipality's territory, and ultimately, more than 68.8% of the territory of Lac-Tremblant-Nord would be protected.

¹ « *Plein aire - Pour des territoires vivants et protégés* » is an initiative of the [Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society \(SNAP Québec\)](#), financially supported by the ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP), which aims, among other things, to support strategic projects for the creation of protected areas or ecological corridors south of the 49th parallel, in collaboration with local and regional stakeholders.

² *Les Amis de Lac-Tremblant-Nord* is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect the integrity of the natural environment and to conserve, for future generations, the biological diversity, forests, lakes, wetlands and wildlife on the territory of the municipality of Lac-Tremblant-Nord.

SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF THE TERRITORY

The municipality's public and private land is home to lakes with excellent water quality, stands of maple trees, the majority of which are over 80 years old, and species with precarious status that are currently unprotected (notably the garter snake, wood turtle, snapping turtle, barn swallow and black ash). Being contiguous to the Mont-Tremblant National Park, its protection would allow the preservation of an exceptional biodiversity, while protecting a part of the peripheral zone of the park.

Moreover, the territory of the municipality is a « core element of conservation interest » on the route of the Oka-Tremblant eco-corridor of *Éco-corridors laurentiens*, aimed at linking the national parks of Oka and Mont-Tremblant to facilitate the movement of fauna and flora.

Finally, the area's central location, being close to urban centers, Mont-Tremblant and Mont-Tremblant National Park, as well as the presence of renowned hiking trails (Montagne Verte and Nez de l'Indien) on its territory, makes it a natural environment of great interest for the community.

REGIONAL MOBILIZATION AND SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT

The municipality benefits from the technical expertise and support of numerous conservation partners and an advisory committee (SÉPAQ, Éco-corridors laurentiens, CRE Laurentides, Conservation Laurentides, OBV-RPNS, MRC des Laurentides and SNAP Québec).

The municipality has already received tremendous local and regional support for its protection project, including support from environmental associations in and around Lac-Tremblant-Nord, reputable conservation organizations, the MRC des Laurentides, the SÉPAQ, and the Member of Parliament for Laurentides-Labelle, Mrs. Marie-Hélène Gaudreau. Lac-Tremblant-Nord can also count on resolutions of support from the MRC des Laurentides as well as from the municipalities bordering its territory, namely the municipalities of Labelle and La Conception as well as the Ville de Mont-Tremblant.

WHY CREATE A PROTECTED AREA: THE EXPECTED BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

- **Perennialize the quality and integrity of the landscapes, guarantee the nature experience at the base of the recreational tourism offer and secure investments in terms of infrastructure and continuous improvement** (hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, non-motorized outdoor activities). The public lands, visible from the Mont-Tremblant ski resort, are part of the panorama that is the pride of the Laurentian regional tourism industry and our international reputation;
- **Ensure ecological connectivity** by helping to link the Mont-Tremblant National Park to the Oka National Park, which is essential for the movement of wildlife;
- **Preserve the integrity of forest stands likely to shelter species of precarious status and protect old-growth forests** (more than 80% of the area targeted by the protected area project is composed of old-growth forest);
- **Ensure the protection of biodiversity and monitor the status of species of interest, including species of precarious status;**
- **Preserve the integrity of wetlands and water environments** to maintain their excellent water quality;
- **Establish a regulatory umbrella** to help manage usages, conflicts, and encourage the development of a common vision for the territory. Within the protected area, zoning and regulations will be proposed to establish a conservation plan to regulate compatible activities (incompatible activities: mining, gas, oil, forestry development, etc.);
- **Avoid the impacts of activities that are harmful to the ecological integrity of the territory** : the protected area status and the attached conservation plan will serve to better manage the territory's high number of visitors and to sensitize them on the importance of protecting the natural environment;
- **Value the protection of public land to allow significant gains** in both the maintenance of biodiversity and its associated ecological services;
- **Preserve the quality of life of the citizens** of the municipality and cottagers who have settled there and protect this natural heritage for future generations.

ANNEX 1 – LAC-TREMBLANT-NORD PROTECTED AREA PROJECT PROPOSAL

