

Milton-Parc, Montreal:



Historic City Neighbourhood as Sustainability Laboratory

Presented by:
Luc Rabouin
December 2009



Plan for talk



- Montreal Urban Ecology Centre overview
- Why a Green Lab?
- Lab interventions
 1. Imagine Milton-Parc Plan and Process
 2. Green Roof Pilot Project
 3. Cool Island project

Montreal Urban Ecology Centre

VISION:
a green and democratic city

- MISSION:
- participatory democracy
 - sustainable urban development
 - environmental protection
 - social justice



"... Changing the world, one city (one neighbourhood) at a time!"



Strategies

- Action research
- Demonstration projects
- Popular education
- Urban policy analysis and advocacy
- Organization of public debates and sharing of experiences
- Neighbourhood sustainability planning



Program examples

Milton-Parc Sustainable Development Laboratory:

- Developing alternative ecological approaches at the neighbourhood scale
- Milton-Parc as example of participatory sustainable urban planning

Montreal Citizen Summits

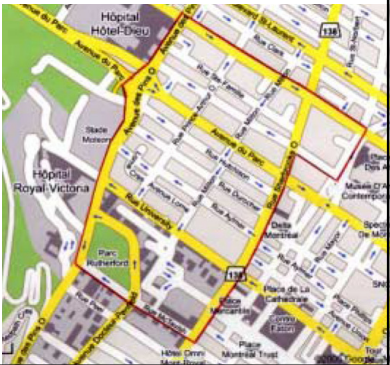
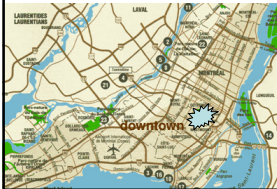
- a social forum open to all
- 5 summits between 2001-2009
- 5th : 1000 participants
- Citizen Agenda for a just, inclusive, green and democratic city: 40 proposals



Why a Green Lab?

Milton-Parc Neighbourhood

- 11,500 inhabitants
- Diverse population
- Two universities
- Rich social history



- Highly organized neighbourhood
 - History of urban activism
 - Housing cooperatives
 - Community groups
 - Citizens' committees
- Urban Ecology Centre has been active for over a decade



- Develop and implement a neighbourhood sustainability plan in collaboration with residents and researchers.
- Test sustainability interventions in a 'living lab'.
- Apply learning in other neighbourhoods and cities.

Green Lab objectives





- Workshop on neighbourhood-level indicators
- Applied research studies and 'citizen cafes'
 - transportation, waste, energy, water
- Draft sustainability plan
- Imagine Milton-Parc public process

Sustainability Plan Process



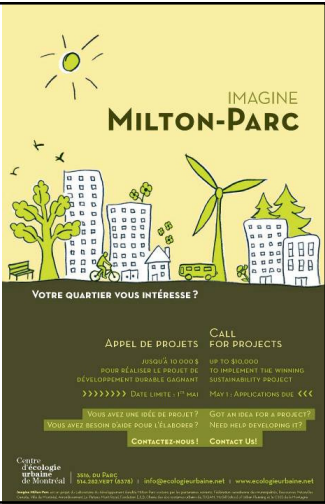


IMAGINE MILTON-PARC

1 - call for projects 2 - mobile exhibit 3 - community assembly

1. Call for projects

- to inspire people and capture imagination
- \$10k for winning neighbourhood sustainability project voted on by participants of community assembly
- eligibility criteria



2. Mobile exhibit

- to mix with people in their daily trips and incite proposal submissions
- to raise awareness and collect new ideas





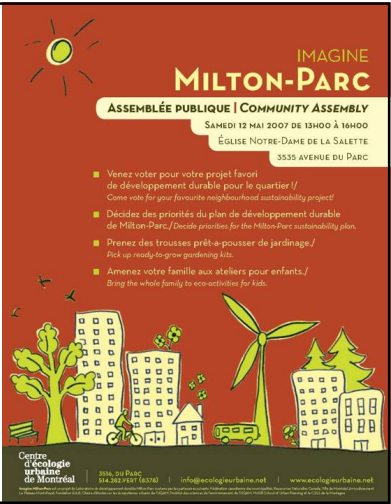
2. Mobile exhibit

- to engage people to think about their everyday environments and how they can be involved in changing them



3. Community assembly

- presented draft proposals for Neighbourhood Sustainability Plan



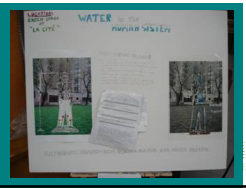
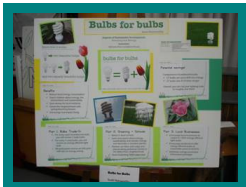
3. Community assembly

- decided priorities of Neighbourhood Sustainability Plan



3. Community assembly

- voted on sustainability project submissions



3. Community assembly
... and the winner is: a housing co-op of 23 families

IMAGINE
MILTON-PARC



IMAGINE
MILTON-PARC

Some benefits of process

- Link sustainable development with participative democracy
- Excitement for Green Lab and sustainability issues in general
- Social capital: housing coops, personal relations
- New ideas, new volunteers, new methods of engaging and inspiring people





CENTRE D'ÉCOLOGIE URBAINE DE MONTRÉAL

IMAGINE MILTON-PARC

A NEIGHBOURHOOD SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



Plan contents

- Vision Statement
- Goals (5)
- Principles & Issues
- Objectives (23)
- Actions (136)
- Indicators (29)



Example from Plan

Transportation chapter



GOAL:

People at the heart of transport, not cars

SAMPLE ACTIONS:

- Make Milton Street an 'active transport priority zone' (for biking and walking)
- Set up a public bike-sharing program
- Transform certain streets into *woonerf* 'living spaces'

BIXI

- 400 stations
- 5,000 bikes
- 10,000 members
- 1 million trips
- - 900 t CO2



Example from Plan

Energy chapter

SAMPLE SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLE:

Conservation programs must encompass older buildings, large-scale apartment buildings and co-ops; not just new, owner-occupied homes



Example from Plan

Water chapter

SAMPLE ACTION:

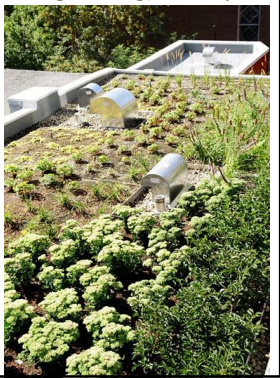
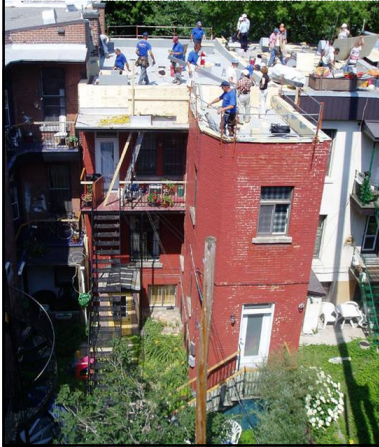
- Restore streams that once ran through the neighbourhood in a physical, visual or symbolic sense.



Green Roof pilot project

Plateau duplex :

Housing co-operative
Milton-Parc neighbourhood
Existing building, ± 100 years





Cool Island Project: some results

Vegetation: Planting of 70 trees, 260 shrubs, 86 vines, 200+ perennials





Greening committee: 35 members



Cool Island Project: some results



before



after

Cool Island Project: some results

Community composting centre
Planning charette for the Eco-backyard



Workshops:

- Combatting urban heat islands
- Gardening and composting
- Worm composting
- Green roofs



Cool Island Project: some results

Eco-backyard, Urban Ecology Centre



COMMUNAUTO

- the 3rd biggest car-sharing system in the world
- 1 000 cars
- 20 000 members
- Membership growing at +25 % per year
- 24 000 t CO2



some next steps:

- Communicate the plan and its actions to affect public policy
- Implement projects in collaboration with residents and other partners
- Apply learning in other neighbourhoods



Thank you!
for more info:
www.urbanecology.net
lrabouin@urbanecology.net

