

Good practices for biodiversity

# Environmental Action Days



## Preserving our collective wealth

Over the last few decades, a hundred environmental action days have been held in our large parks. These days are designed to engage citizens with Montrealers' natural heritage through concrete action and collective effort. Mentored by Montréal experts, the participants – volunteers of all ages – contribute to picking up garbage left behind, controlling invasive plant species and planting native vegetation, based on the day's objective.

For example, an environmental action day took place in fall 2019 at the Cap-Saint-Jacques nature park. More than 130 secondary school students took part in the fight against the buckthorn, a particularly invasive shrub that threatens the biodiversity of our natural environments. Under the guidance of the Biodome (Montréal's Space for Life) and Montréal's large parks, Mount Royal and sports department, the students uprooted some 20,300 buckthorn stems in a part of a forest covering just over a square kilometre.

## Ambassadors of biodiversity

Citizens who take part in these days have an opportunity to contribute directly to the protection of ecosystems in their large parks while acquiring new knowledge, thanks to the presence of biologists and other park specialists. So, in addition to the concrete effects of their in-situ actions, the Initiative promotes environmental education, particularly on local ecology, as well as the training of change agents within the Montréal community, volunteers who become ambassadors of biodiversity.



## Tips for project success

- Plan the project several months in advance;
- Make sure to have the required equipment;
- Foster collaboration with volunteer networks and non-profit organizations;
- Be sure to have municipal experts on the spot to supervise work teams;
- Explain the objective and tasks clearly to volunteers;
- Produce a report to highlight the achievements.

### This initiative contributes to the 2030 biodiversity objectives, particularly:

- the protection of biodiversity through a network of protected areas (target 2);
- the control of invasive alien species (target 3);
- pollution reduction (target 4);
- increased public access to green and blue spaces and ecosystem services (target 10);
- the promotion of sustainable behaviours (target 20).

\* 2030 Action Targets set in the Zero Draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework