

Good practices for biodiversity

Renewed and improved Wildlife Observatories

Observatoire Havre-aux-Tortues, parc-nature du Cap-Saint-Jacques

Observing without disturbing

Two wildlife observatories have been redeveloped in Montréal's nature parks in the past few years. Based on a renewed and improved concept, these facilities allow citizens to unobtrusively observe the wildlife, thanks to a wall equipped with viewing slots arranged at varying heights to accommodate visitors of all ages and physical conditions.

The materials used were selected based on principles of sustainable development. This also provided an opportunity to plant native vegetation and improve the biodiversity of the surrounding area.

Flourishing aquatic wildlife

The Havre-aux-Tortues observatory at the Cap-Saint-Jacques nature park looks out over a Lake of Two Mountains bay and permits visitors to discreetly observe the timid map turtles, a vulnerable species in Québec, as they sunbathe on logs installed for the purpose. The improvised shoreline access points, created by park users over time, have been replanted, discouraging encroachment that disrupts the turtles' habitat and behaviour.

The marshland observatory at the Pointe-aux-Prairies nature park, built on cantilevers, also favours protection of the environment and unobtrusive wildlife observation. A door allows access to be barred to part of the terrace during the breeding season of aquatic birds and amphibians. The wood duck, the northern leopard frog and the brook stickleback are among wildlife species that frequent the marshes.



Observatoire du marais, parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies

Tips for project success

- Promote collaboration among experts to design a facility that embodies interesting design while respecting wildlife and environmental imperatives;
- Take advantage of opportunities offered by construction work to green up degraded spaces and combat invasive species;
- Select construction materials and methods that meet aesthetic, sustainable development and durability considerations.

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);
- increased public access to green spaces and ecosystem services (target 10);
- the integration of biodiversity protection into planning processes (target 13);
- the promotion of sustainable behaviours (target 17).

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