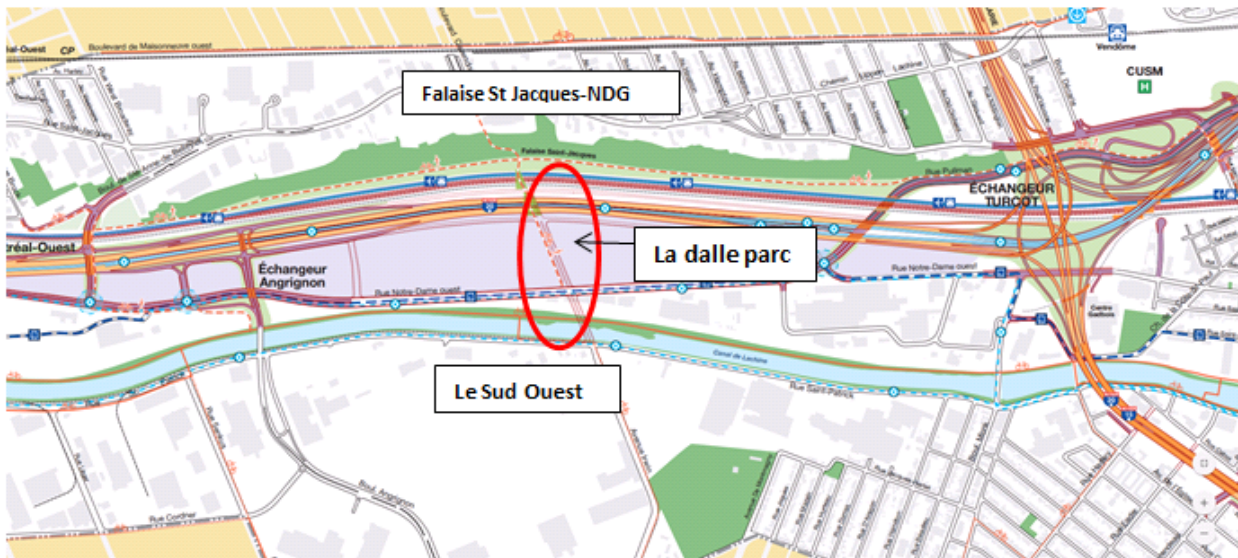


Sauvons la Falaise! Talking Points for Autumn 2021 Clean-up Weekend

1] Dalle Parc on back burner while REMs and Champlain Bridge fast tracked to support unsustainable suburbs

The Dalle Parc which has been the poster child for the Turcot Project, as an environmental enhancement seen on the front page of the Gazette years ago, is still not started. It is to be a green parkland bridge with cycling and walking pathways. It will connect the Falaise St Jacques, the Bande Verte, the new Parc Turcot, and the Lachine Canal parklands. In the meantime, multi-billion dollar projects such as the REM and the new Champlain bridge have been fast tracked and fully funded. They will take citizens to far flung suburbs and beyond. The organization 'Vivre en ville' has shown that these outer suburbs produce on average 2.5 times more greenhouse gases than le Plateau neighborhood (source: Le Devoir 9 octobre 2021, page B6). Unsustainable distant suburbs and urban sprawl are being underwritten by tax dollars, and NDG and the South West are being shunted off to the sidelines. Greta Thunberg's 500,000 young Montrealers are not being heard.



2] Sauvons la Falaise! and UrbaNature animate the escarpment park

Through many guided activities Sauvons la Falaise! animates the escarpment park. It maintains bird feeders and has a dedicated website for their identification. It clears and maintains a woodland pathway along its complete length. It has been signposted it for way finding. Sauvons la Falaise! with UrbaNature has sponsored a number of events on the escarpment. The highlights are the New Year's Day snowshoeing fest, backcountry cross-country skiing, firefly viewing evenings, insect identification summer afternoons, introduction to tree identification, nature photography, and holiday bird counts. Our partner organization, UrbaNature, teaches environmental education in the falaise.

3] Sauvons la Falaise! is the spokesperson for local citizens in all decisions about the Falaise and the “Turcot grand parc”.

The Falaise St Jacques has suffered decades of ecological disaster from dumping. It is citizens who out of frustration have taken on the task of tackling this problem. This clean-up will be the sixth weekend of hard work by citizens. They are the heroes of the Falaise, and their participation this weekend shows their dedication to defending this woodland escarpment park. Sauvons la Falaise is a grass-roots movement that has the pulse of surrounding neighborhoods and has solid design ideas and comments to make concerning the whole ‘ecoterritoire’, including the Dalle Parc and new Parc Turcot. Citizens must be involved in the design process, at the design table on a regular basis. Sauvons la Falaise are the representatives of long record for the forgotten and abused Falaise St Jacques. They have brought life back to the Falaise St Jacques

4] Loss of the Bande Verte’s central feature - its wetland - and the promised observation pavilion

We are approaching an important election. The Bande Verte is being completed with the loss of its central feature, the wetland, with its biodiversity and the observation pavilion that was promised. There was a grand presentation of the Bande Verte wetland in 2018. It was required by a ministerial decree in 2010 (Ministère de l'Environnement Decret 890-2010_Condition 8). No engineering documents supporting this loss of wetland have been made public. It was presented as a ‘fait accompli’ in one evening of November 2019. Citizens who knew the original plans feel that they have been deceived.



Mission Statement of Sauvons la Falaise!:

To ensure:

Protection and cleanup of the Falaise St. Jacques Eco-territory; Creation of the Turcot la Falaise grand parc including the Dalle Parc; Connection with other green spaces including the future Meadowbrook park.

About: the Falaise St. Jacques is located just south of St. Jacques street stretching more than 3 km from the Montreal West Interchange to Decarie Blvd.

Why the falaise St-Jacques is important:

- 1) It is very valuable to wildlife, notably serving as a bird migration corridor
- 2) It is central to any green belt which could be created on Montreal Island
- 3) Its vegetation reduces erosion
- 4) Mental and physical health are linked to the preservation of wilderness