



# IMPACT REPORT

2024-2025



Eco-corridors  
laurentiens



# ACT TODAY, FOR TOMORROW.

Climate change will radically alter all ecosystems over the coming years. Terrestrial and aquatic environments tend to be resilient if they are preserved in contiguous areas connected by natural spaces. Thus, maintaining the continuity of natural landscapes is one of the most effective strategies for adapting to climate change. The Laurentians region is home to 55 plant species and 41 wildlife species at risk, including twenty-three birds, two amphibians, eight reptiles, and eight mammals. It is crucial to conserve natural habitats by connecting them through ecological corridors to address the biodiversity crisis and enhance the region's resilience to climate change.

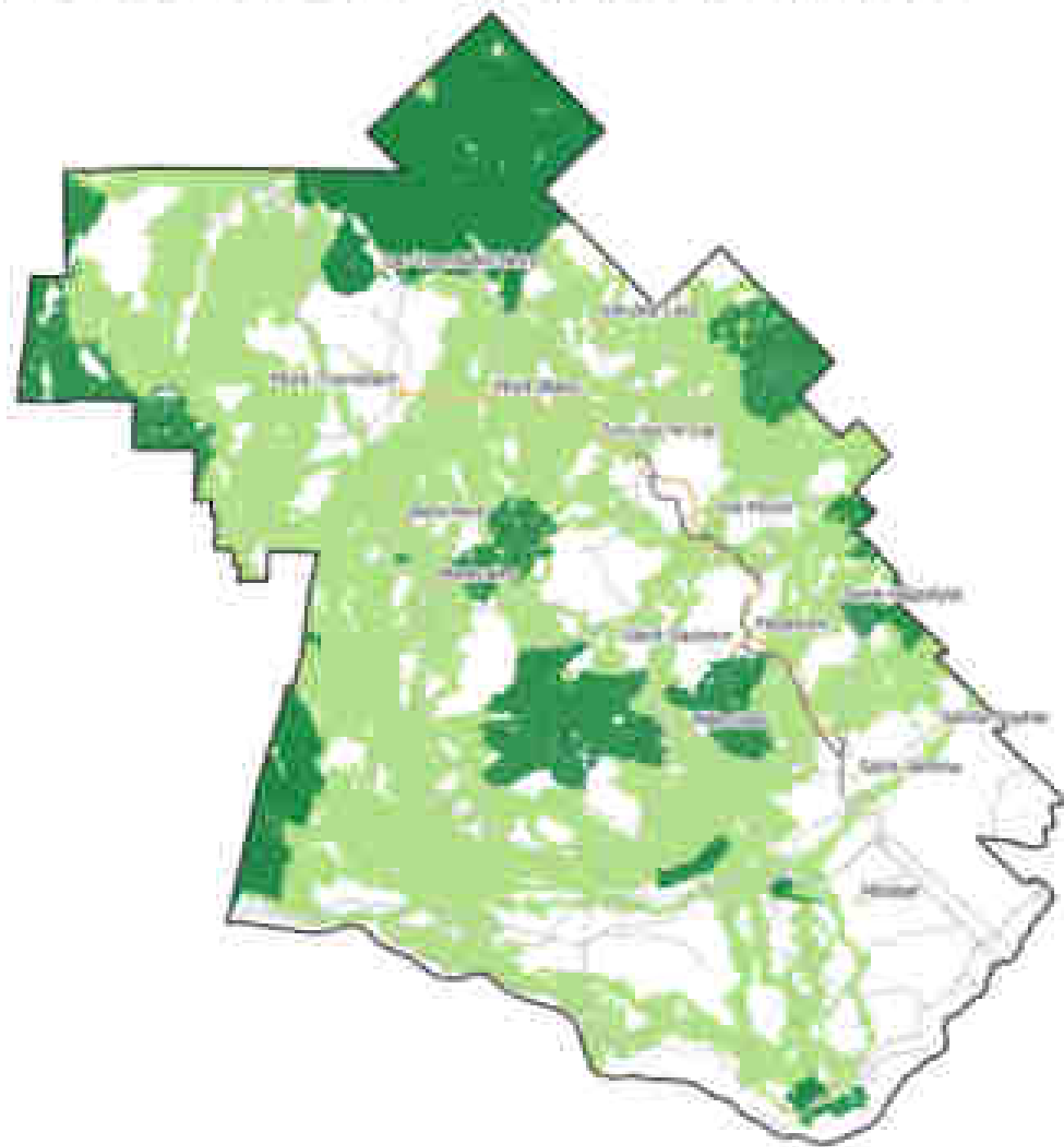
In addition to promoting ecological resilience, nature conservation helps protect iconic landscapes. These landscapes provide spaces for recreation, wildlife and plant observation, and the well-being of the population. Promoting equitable access to nature strengthens the connection between people and nature and encourages healthy lifestyles. Furthermore, nature conservation enables sustainable forestry, which is crucial for the health of forest ecosystems, combating climate change, and protecting biodiversity. Similarly, ecological connectivity relies on sustainable agriculture that promotes practices that preserve soil, water, and agricultural biodiversity, thereby ensuring long-term food security.

Sustainable land use planning is also essential for balancing development with the conservation of natural habitats. This includes planning cities and communities that incorporate green spaces, protecting sensitive areas, and adapting the built environment to environmental conditions.

More resilient and biodiversity-friendly regions require us to rethink our relationship with nature and all living beings, including humans. Nature and humanity form an inseparable whole. A more resilient future involves reconnecting humans with nature, breaking down silos and prejudices, and strengthening bonds between individuals. This includes reviewing our practices and enabling the active participation of all communities—particularly Indigenous peoples and marginalized groups—in decision-making, thereby ensuring more equitable and sustainable outcomes.

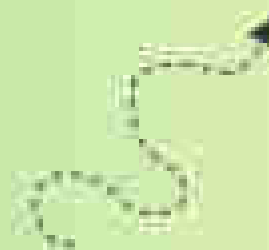
The creation and maintenance of eco-corridors and continuous protected areas is thus an integral strategy not only for the protection of biodiversity, but also for human well-being and the improvement of the quality of life in our communities.

## Ecological corridors and conservation areas between Oka and Tremblant



### Our vision

Connect Oka National Park to Mont-Tremblant National Park through a network of interconnected eco-corridors and protected areas spanning the Laurentian region.



### Our mission

Éco-corridors laurentiens is a nonprofit organization that implements a strategy to conserve natural habitats and protect ecological corridors in the Laurentians, working closely with organizations, institutions, and citizens.





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# President's Message



Éco-corridors laurentiens continues to establish itself as a pillar of ecological development for its partners in the Laurentians and as a model for other regions of Quebec. In late summer 2024, the organization adopted a new strategic plan that is both ambitious and realistic. Its title, "Acting Today for Tomorrow," is a call to action. The board of directors and the ÉCL team collaborated to define three areas of focus with measurable objectives, turning them into firm commitments.

As this activity report demonstrates, ÉCL began fulfilling its promises in its very first year. The projects presented here reflect the variety of our initiatives and the diversity of expertise within the team.

The Board of Directors met seven times and communicated regularly via email.

The Rendez-vous de la Conservation remains ÉCL's flagship event. It brings together more than 120 people who are all key players in the Laurentides region, including municipal council members, representatives of conservation organizations, and government officials, all gathered to develop and update an ecological vision for the region.



**Jean-François Perrault**  
President of Éco-corridors laurentiens



## A word from the director



The 2024–2025 period was marked by an unprecedented mobilization in support of protected areas in the Laurentians. The Quebec government's launch of a broad call for projects to create protected areas on public lands generated a historic response. In total, more than 40 projects were supported as part of a Comprehensive Strategy for Interconnected Protected Areas in the Laurentians, which would increase the region's protected land coverage to over 20% (currently at 8.9%). The region thus stood out as having the highest number of projects submitted in response to the call. This movement reflects the region's commitment to making the Laurentians a model for land-use planning that supports biodiversity and resilience.

The regional mobilization in support of 30% protected and interconnected territories has demonstrated that strong collaboration between environmental organizations, RCMs and cities/municipalities, as well as citizen groups, is not only possible but extremely beneficial for our region. This collective momentum has laid the necessary groundwork to replicate this collaborative model in the implementation of Guideline 2 of the new Government Guidelines on Land Use Planning (DGAT).

I sincerely hope that the companies and government departments active on public lands, as well as the private sector, will join this promising movement in 2025–2026. The coming year will be crucial for consolidating our achievements, deepening collaborations, and embedding conservation into land management practices. I invite us all to continue with the same energy, the same boldness, and above all, with this shared conviction that a sustainable future depends on interconnected natural environments that are accessible to everyone, while respecting their integrity.

**Marie-Lyne Després-Einspinner**

Executive Director of Éco-corridors laurentiens



# Tribute to Gilbert Tousignant

As a co-founder of Éco-corridors laurentiens, Gilbert Tousignant has been a pillar of our organization for over 15 years. We wish to highlight his role as a key builder, having supported the organization on a volunteer basis throughout all these years. He planned and led meetings, mobilized the community and recruited members, managed administrative matters, supervised staff, networked, sought funding, led committees, and chaired the board of directors. As he now takes a well-deserved "retirement," the board of directors and the team at Éco-corridors laurentiens express their deepest gratitude for his unwavering commitment.



*Thank you,  
Gilbert!*



# Éco-corridors laurentiens in brief!



More  
than

**500**

participants in  
our events

More than

**30**

projects carried out  
by the organization

Next to

**100**

regional and  
national partners  
and donors

---

A total  
of

**27**

organizations, citizens  
and groups supported in  
the establishment of  
private protected areas

---

A total of

**38**

partnerships with  
municipalities/cities/RCMs

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Next  
to

**3000**

trees planted

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# A territory mobilized!

## Discover the scope of the 2024-2025 projects:

Mont-Tremblant: Raising awareness among owners of land with high ecological value in the territory (p.33)

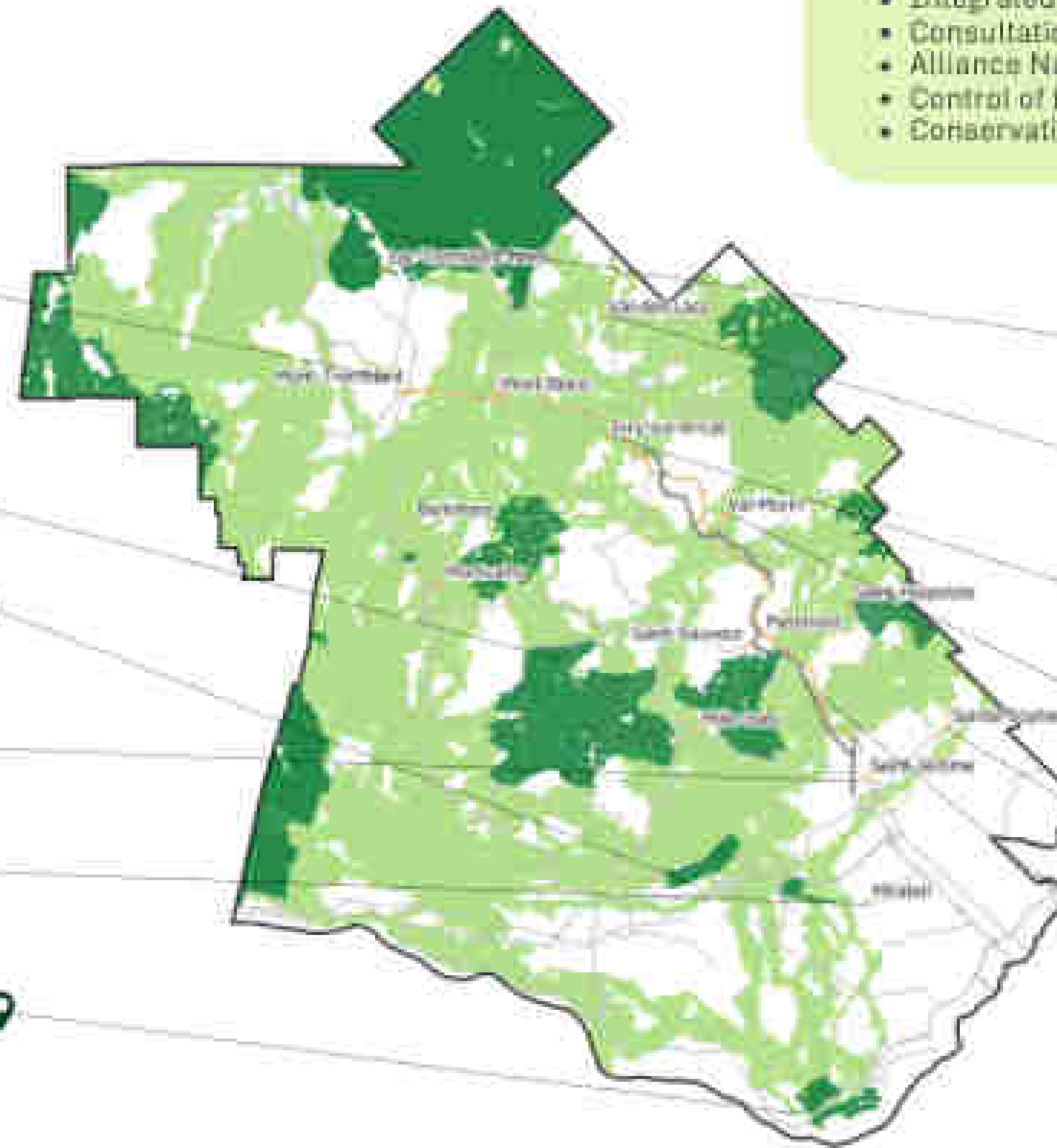
Acquisition in the Buck Mountain Reserve area (p.17)

Brownsburg-Chatham: Road traffic fatality tracking (TortuPass) (p.36)

Saint-Jérôme: Natural Environment Conservation Plan (p.24)

Mirabel: Agroforestry Project (p. 32)

Oka Hills: Coalition of Monteregian Hills (p.28)



### • The entire area of operation:

- Support for the creation of protected areas on public lands (p.15)
- Eco-connected Municipality Certification Program (p.21)
- Municipal training programs (p.22)
- Oka-Plaisance-Tremblant Regional Network (p.29)
- Integrated resource and land management table (p. 30)
- Consultation tables: OBV Rivière-du-Nord and OBV RPNS (p. 30)
- Alliance Nature Laurentides (p.31)
- Control of buckthorn and other invasive alien species (p. 38)
- Conservation Meeting (p. 40)

Lac-Tremblant-Nord: Conservation Plan (p.23)

Val-des-Lacs: Outreach for conservation on private land (p.18)

Ivry-sur-le-lac: Monitoring of wildlife passages (p.34)

Val-Morin: Support for the creation of private protected areas (p.16)

Sainte-Sophie: Agroforestry Project (p. 32)

Prévost: Plan for the conservation of natural environments (p.25)



# Team 2024-2025



MARIE-LYNE DESPRÉS-EINSPENNER,  
General Manager



SARAH-MAUDE CARON,  
Communication Specialist



JOSIANNE DION,  
Project Manager



JULIEN FORTIER,  
Project manager and researcher  
in agroforestry



FANNY DESCHÊNES,  
Project Manager



LISA PHUONG NGUYEN,  
Geomatics Technician





ANIE RIVARD-PARÉ,  
Project Manager



KIMY GUÉNETTE,  
Administrative Management  
Technician



DANIEL CHERUBIN,  
Project manager in sustainable land-  
use planning



ATHANASIOS MIHOU,  
Project manager in  
consultation



ISABEL MOSCATO,  
Environmental Technician



CLAIRE WEILAND,  
Environmental Technician



CHARLOTTE CÔTÉ-NOËL,  
Environmental Technician



VALÉRIE BOLDUC,  
Master's student

# Board of Directors



JEAN-FRANÇOIS  
PERRAULT,  
PRESIDENT, Individual  
Member



PIERRE COSSETTE,  
SECRETARY, Laurentians  
Conservation



ISABELLE BRISSETTE,  
ADMINISTRATOR,  
Individual member



KIM MARINEAU,  
VICE-PRESIDENT, Quebec  
Bryology Society



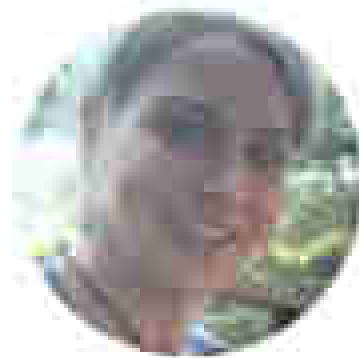
GILLES DUFOUR,  
ADMINISTRATOR,  
Biodiversity Initiatives



DAN KNEESHAW,  
ADMINISTRATOR,  
Individual member



ANNE LÉGER,  
TREASURER, CRE Laurentides



MARIE-FRANCE  
LAJEUNESSE,  
ADMINISTRATOR,  
Outdoor Society of the Upper  
Laurentians



ERIC GUERRA-  
GRÉNIER,  
ADMINISTRATOR,  
OBV Rivière-du-Nord



GILBERT  
TOUSIGNANT,  
ADMINISTRATOR,  
Regional Committee for  
the Protection of Cliffs



CHARLES CÔTÉ,  
ADMINISTRATOR,  
Individual member

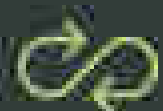


# Strategic Plan 2025–2028

This year, Eco-corridors laurentiens (ÉCL) published its 2025-2028 Strategic Plan! This document outlines a roadmap to conserve ecological corridors and protect the biodiversity of the Laurentians in order to build resilient and sustainable territories for the benefit of the population.

This plan is based on a collaborative approach that brings together the strengths and expertise of local, regional and national actors.

## ECL's key commitments by 2028:



### ENGAGEMENT #1

Legally protect natural areas of interest to promote ecological connectivity



### ENGAGEMENT #2

Promote land-use planning that respects ecosystems, biodiversity and ecological services, and that takes into account the needs of communities



### ENGAGEMENT #3

Supporting and catalyzing collaborative initiatives by strengthening partnerships, acquiring and sharing knowledge, and developing practical tools for conservation





## ENGAGEMENT #1

**Éco-corridors laurentiens is committed to working to ensure that the natural environments of interest in the region are legally and permanently protected in order to promote ecological connectivity.**

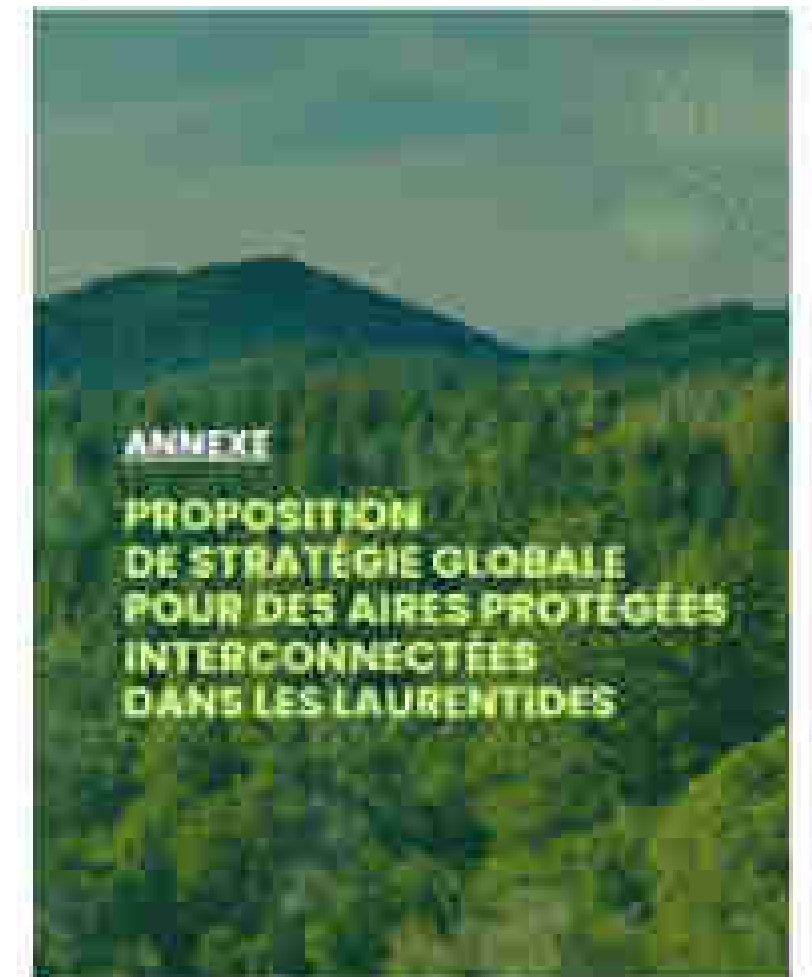
A1.1. By 2025, ÉCL and its partners will have protected 168,000 ha (28%) of natural areas in the Laurentians



## SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF PROTECTED AREAS ON PUBLIC LAND

To move closer to the goal of conserving 30% of Quebec's territory by 2030 (the 30x30 target), as outlined in the Kunming-Montreal Agreement signed at COP15 and announced as part of the provincial government's Nature Plan, the Quebec government officially announced in June 2024 the launch of a call for projects to create protected areas on public lands. Open to all, the call for projects was a unique process and a valuable opportunity to protect public land.

To support stakeholders in the Laurentians wishing to submit a protected area proposal under this call for projects, ECL offered turnkey support to organizations in the region. ECL supported over forty projects led by more than thirty partners, mostly municipalities. Among these projects, those of Barkmere-Montcalm, Val-des-Lacs, and Marie-Lefranc-Petite-Nation were also supported by SNAP-Québec as part of the Plein Air Initiative. All of the projects are part of a comprehensive strategy for interconnected protected areas and address both the climate change crisis and the biodiversity crisis.



**71 %**

**Municipalities that own public land in the Laurentians have submitted a project**

**40**

**projects submitted**

**More than 2200 km<sup>2</sup> proposed projects**

## SUPPORT FROM THE VAL-MORIN OUTDOOR CLUB (CPAVM)

Since 2022, ÉCL has been assisting the CPAVM (Centre de protection du territoire agricole du Mont-Saint-Michel) on various issues related to the conservation and long-term sustainability of the Nordic cross-country ski network (off-trail). In the past year, ÉCL has notably supported a landowner who wishes to protect land crossed by several Nordic ski trails, and participated in the annual meeting of the outdoor clubs that manage the off-trail ski network in the Laurentians to discuss conservation. This winter, ÉCL organized a meeting with the CPAVM for the municipality of Val-Morin to propose solutions for facilitating the conservation of private land and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Nordic cross-country ski network. We also volunteered our time to help with trail maintenance, including removing buckthorn!



## ACQUISITION IN THE BUCK MOUNTAINS RESERVE AREA

Since 2022, ÉCL has been taking concrete actions to protect natural environments and critical habitats of several species at risk in a conservation core located north of Lakes Saint-Victor and Saint-François-Xavier in Wentworth-Nord. The organization works in collaboration with the local community to implement these conservation efforts. Thanks to this collaboration and committed landowners, in July 2024, ÉCL acquired a one-hectare parcel of land to ensure its perpetual conservation. This land will serve as the dominant tenement for the establishment of future real and perpetual conservation easements in this area.



**14**  
protected species in  
precarious situations





In the summer of 2024, ÉCL conducted a outreach project in the territory of the municipality of Val-des-Lacs, with the aim of consolidating an ecological corridor of the Oka-Tremblant axis, located in the peripheral zone of the Mont-Tremblant national park.

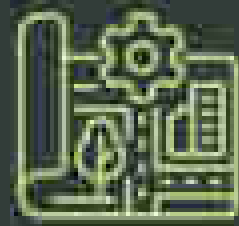
As part of this project, ÉCL visited and briefly characterized the natural environments of ten properties with the owners to gain a better understanding of the wooded areas within private forests in this targeted sector. During these meetings, the owners were made aware of the concepts of ecological connectivity, the environmental value of their land, and development opportunities. Ten owner's handbooks were distributed and presented.

In total, 217 hectares of wooded areas were characterized. Each notebook includes a general section on the connectivity of natural environments and biodiversity, as well as a personalized section describing the observations made during the visit to the owner's land, illustrated with popular texts, maps and photos.

## SOLICITING FOR CONSERVATION ON PRIVATE LAND IN VAL-DES-LACS

**10**  
owners were met and made aware of the issue.





## ENGAGEMENT #2

### **Promote land-use planning that respects ecosystems, biodiversity and ecological services, and that takes into account the needs of communities**

A2.1. By 2028, all RCMs within ECL's area of operation will have included provisions in their land-use plans to protect ecological networks and will have implemented an action plan or policy specifically dedicated to the conservation of these networks.

A2.2. By 2028, 75% of the municipalities within ECL's area of operation will have included ecological networks in their urban planning and implemented concrete measures to protect these corridors (adoption of policies, action plans and budgets, legal protection of territories and implementation of monitoring to measure the achievement of objectives).



## ECO-CONNECTED MUNICIPALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

In 2024, Éco-corridors laurentiens deployed the Eco-connected Municipality program to mobilize elected officials and municipalities around the conservation of ecological corridors.

A survey (38 responses) and online training helped to adapt the program and raise awareness among participants.

Officially launched at the Rendez-vous de la conservation 2024 in front of 140 people, the program has attracted the interest of some twenty municipalities. Three of them – Piedmont, Wentworth-Nord and Saint-Sauveur – obtained the first certification, marking a strong commitment to more resilient and interconnected territories.

These structured and targeted actions have made it possible to actively mobilize the municipalities of the region around the conservation of natural environments, with concrete results in terms of participation, awareness and initial certifications.



3

certified  
municipalities

## MUNICIPAL TRAINING

Incentives for voluntary conservation: What role for municipalities?

As the protection of natural environments becomes a priority, incentives for voluntary conservation are proving to be innovative solutions for ensuring their preservation. What role can municipalities play in promoting these initiatives?

This conference highlighted the tools, strategic partnerships and some levers available to municipalities to encourage and strengthen voluntary conservation in their territory.

**16** participant.e.s

Conférence municipale

**Les incitatifs à la conservation volontaire : Quel rôle pour les municipalités ?**

26 mars 2025

🕒 9h à 10h 📍 En ligne



Québec

**Présentée par ÉCL :**

Julianne Dion, chargée de projets

Daniel Charbon, chargé de projets en aménagement durable des territoires

**Billets**  
 Membre : 40 \$  
 Non-membre : 70 \$



## CONSERVATION PLAN FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAC-TREMBLANT-NORD

Concerned with protecting its ecosystems and ensuring sustainable access to nature, the municipality of Lac-Tremblant-Nord mandated Éco-corridors laurentiens in the summer of 2024 to develop a conservation plan for its territory.

This plan aims to preserve biodiversity, strengthen ecological connectivity between Oka and Mont-Tremblant parks, protect species at risk, and manage development in the face of tourism pressures. It also proposes creating protected areas, enhancing natural environments, and promoting education and awareness.

The plan defines six major strategies, broken down into 17 objectives and 45 actions, which will guide the interventions of the municipality and its partners over the next ten years.



## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF SAINT-JÉRÔME

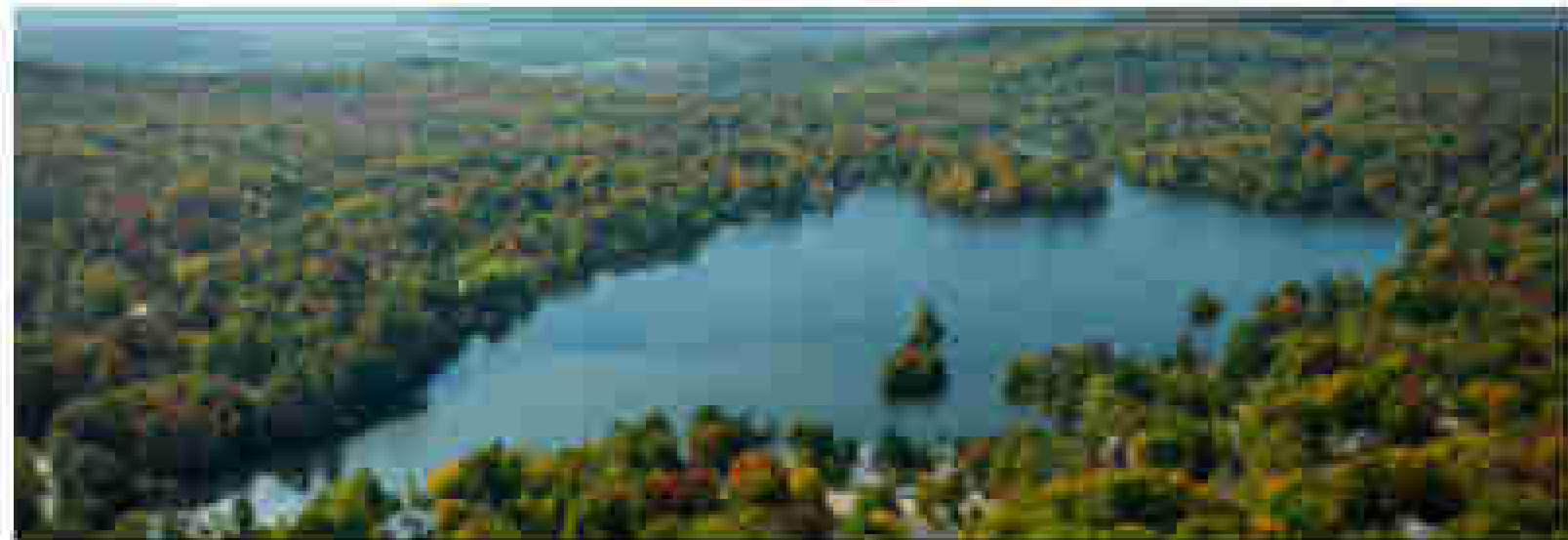
The City of Saint-Jérôme wishes to develop a strategic plan to identify the private and public green spaces within its territory that must be preserved to achieve the objectives of the Green Plan 2030, the safeguarding of biodiversity and the 2050 GHG reduction and carbon neutrality targets of the Government of Quebec.

Therefore, it has mandated ECL to assist in the development of a plan for the protection and enhancement of green spaces. This plan will establish conservation targets and objectives, identify a Green and Blue Network, and determine and quantify the actions to be implemented to achieve the development, land-use planning, and citizen well-being objectives set by the municipal council.

The targets and means of action will be considered with a view to preserving or restoring the connectivity of ecosystems and living environments.

Thus, a diagnosis of the territory and an analysis of ecological connectivity were carried out in order to identify a green and blue network composed of natural and recreational corridors that link Saint-Jérôme to neighbouring municipalities and that contribute to improving local and regional connectivity.





## PREVOST CITY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION PLAN

The City of Prévost has mandated ECL to assist in developing a conservation plan for its natural environments to guide actions to be implemented within its territory over the next 10 years. The plan will provide an overview of the natural environments within the territory, prioritize those to be conserved based on their ecological value, assess the issues and pressures, and establish conservation goals and objectives to guide the actions to be implemented by the municipality and its partners. Targets and action plans will be developed with a focus on preserving or restoring ecosystem connectivity. To this end, a local ecological connectivity analysis will be conducted to identify ecological corridors and conservation cores across the territory of Prévost. ECL supported the City in securing funding for the plan, which began in January 2025 and will conclude in December 2025.

**The City of Prévost obtained funding covering approximately**

**75 %**

**of the total cost of the project from the Quebec Wildlife Foundation (FFQ) via the Act for Wildlife program.**



## ENGAGEMENT #3

**Supporting and catalyzing collaborative initiatives by strengthening partnerships, acquiring and sharing knowledge, and developing practical tools for conservation**

A3.1. By 2026, the network of organizations and institutions involved in the conservation of natural environments is structured and collaborating towards a common vision.

A3.2. By 2028, ECL and its partners will have made available the necessary tools and resources to support the implementation of conservation projects in the Laurentians.

## QUEBEC INITIATIVE: ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS

Since 2017, Éco-corridors laurentiens has represented the Laurentians region within the Quebec Initiative Ecological Corridors (IQCE), made up of 10 organizations representing 11 regions of Quebec, which proposes a collective approach to land use planning in order to increase the conservation of natural environments connected by ecological corridors.

# CORRIDORS

LES VOIES DE LA NATURE



This year, the IQCE is launching its third phase (2024-2027). A documentary has been filmed and released to present the Initiative. First presented at the Summit on Landscape Connectivity in Northeastern North America / Turtle Island, "Corridors: Nature's Pathways" is now available online on the Savoir média platform.



Source: Humanized Landscape Project in the Hills  
<https://www.mtl.ca/fr/actualites/2023/05/16/le-projet-de-paysage-humanise-dans-les-collines>

## MONTEREGIAN HILLS COALITION

The Monteregian Hills Coalition was founded in 2021 by 13 conservation organizations seeking to unite their voices, visions, and efforts to revitalize and accelerate collaborative work aimed at protecting and gaining recognition for the Monteregian Hills and their connectivity corridors. This recognition stems from their intrinsic conservation value, the ecological services they provide, and their role as a hub of attraction. The Coalition brings together conservation organizations working on each of the hills, some of which have a national or regional reach, and others that have been active for over 50 years.

In 2024-2025, ÉCL continued implementing the Oka Hills Conservation Plan developed in 2022 as part of the Coalition initiative. As a member of the Coalition, ÉCL also participated in the Montreal Metropolitan Community's (CMM) efforts to obtain humanized landscape status for the Monteregian Hills within its territory.

**13** organizations partners

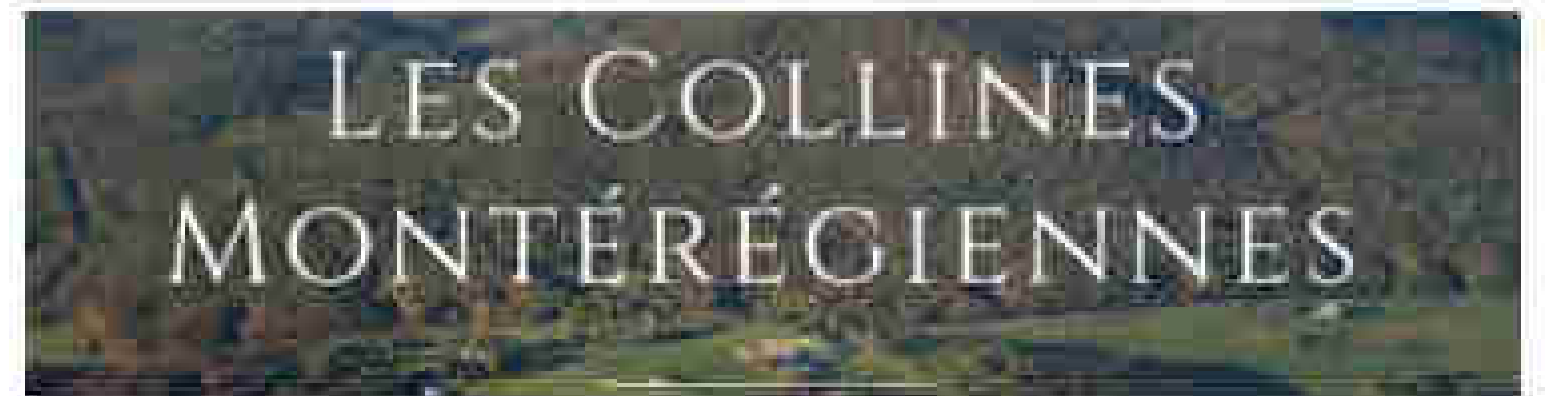


Photo: <https://www.mtl.ca/fr/actualites/2023/05/16/le-projet-de-paysage-humanise-dans-les-collines>

## OKA-PLAISANCE-TREMBLANT REGIONAL NETWORK

### Oka-Tremblant Connectivity Plan

In 2024-2025, ECL continued developing the Oka-Tremblant Connectivity Plan. The territory profile was completed, and engagement activities helped strengthen ownership of the project: a webinar held on October 30, 2024, brought together 55 participants, followed by a workshop on conservation tools for ecological connectivity on January 23, 2025, which was attended by 51 people. The complete Connectivity Plan will be finalized during the summer of 2025, with release planned for the fall of 2025.

### Plaisance-Tremblant Connectivity Plan

In parallel, the Plaisance-Tremblant Connectivity Plan continued in partnership with the Outaouais Regional Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CREDDO), with significant new developments planned for the 2024-2025 period. A project to ensure the long-term sustainability of the connectivity corridor, in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada, further enhanced the initiative thanks to the support of Parks Canada. Two mobilization activities marked this phase: a webinar held on February 19, 2025, with 24 participants, followed by a second workshop on February 28, 2025, bringing together 30 participants to discuss action and governance issues. These efforts aim to strengthen regional collaboration and lay the groundwork for a sustainable framework for action within the connectivity zone.



## CONSULTATION TABLE WITH ABRINORD AND OBV RPNS

ÉCL holds a seat on the consultation tables of two watershed organizations in the region. These tables constitute the main tool for consultation among water stakeholders in the development and implementation of the Water Master Plan (WMP). They bring together the main stakeholders involved in integrated water management in a way that reflects the different uses and interests present in the territory.



## INTEGRATED RESOURCE AND TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT TABLE (TGIRT)

ÉCL holds an observer seat on the TGIRT North and South. This allows the organization to monitor forestry operations and raise issues and concerns related to the ecological connectivity of public forests, as well as to inform or support our partners in participatory processes on the management and use of public lands.

**9** meetings



## ALLIANCE NATURE LAURENTIDES

The initiative to strengthen capacity and collaboration among organizations in the Laurentians continued in 2024-2025 under the banner of the Laurentian Nature Alliance, which brings together some fifty members actively involved in the region. Two regional meetings helped maintain a collective momentum with the participation of around thirty partners. Structuring tools were also developed for dissemination in 2025, including a member directory and an interactive map highlighting the expertise and areas of intervention of network members.

**50** members

**3** meetings



## AGROFORESTRY DEVELOPMENTS IN AGRICULTURAL AREAS

In the spring of 2024, agroforestry development work continued on seven farms in the Laurentians region, six of which were in the Lower Laurentians. The major ecological corridor project initiated in 2023 at Ferme Alary also continued with the reforestation of an 800-meter riparian strip, ranging from 10 to 40 meters in width, along the Achigan River in Sainte-Sophie. Approximately 3,000 trees of 22 different species were planted in agricultural areas, primarily in riparian strips, resulting in the afforestation of 3.1 kilometers of shoreline. Three experimental plots were established to gather data. We were also able to maintain and monitor the developments carried out during the summer of 2023, including formative pruning of several trees and collecting growth data.

In terms of partnerships and representation, ÉCL participated in 3 public consultations for the Mirabel PDZA. Our project manager and agroforestry researcher Julien Fortier is now vice-president of the Alus-Laurentides Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) (UPA) where he acts as an agroforestry expert.

ÉCL has also participated in several other events organised by regional agricultural partners (MAPAQ, Abrinord, Profiteausol) and sits on the IQCÉ Agricultural Toolbox Committee.

In terms of knowledge transfer, training, and information dissemination, ÉCL was also very active in 2024: 3 conferences and a webinar related to the management of agroforestry riparian buffer strips, facilitation of 3 field visits, and production of a lay article on riparian buffer strips. In addition, a riparian management guide is currently in production.



**3,1 km**  
of reforested  
riverbanks by 2024

Approximately  
**3000**  
trees planted

## RAISING AWARENESS AMONG LANDOWNERS OF LAND WITH HIGH ECOLOGICAL VALUE IN THE TERRITORY OF THE CITY OF MONT-TREMBLANT

Éco-corridors laurentiens (ÉCL) carried out an awareness project at the request of the City of Mont-Tremblant, as part of its Master Plan for the Conservation and Management of Natural Environments. The main objective was to inform landowners located in areas of high ecological value about the importance of preserving these environments. ÉCL designed a clear and accessible guide to highlight the ecological richness of these lands and to raise awareness of existing voluntary conservation tools. This guide was mailed to 125 landowners whose properties are located in the priority areas identified in the City's Master Plan. This project illustrates ÉCL's commitment to promoting the creation of tools that facilitate the establishment of protected areas on private land, by collaborating directly with the municipalities and local communities involved.



**125** engaged owners

**1** guide designed and distributed

## MONITORING THE WILDLIFE CROSSING AT IVRY-SUR-LE-LAC

Since January 2019, ECL has been monitoring a wildlife crossing protected by Manitou Conservation and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) located in Ivry-sur-le-Lac. Various species have been observed there: deer, moose, American porcupine, turkey, heron, hare, and fox! Some animals are regular visitors, and the entire team hopes to observe new species in the coming years! Curious to see the wildlife that uses the Ivry crossing? Visit the website.

**6 years** of data collection

more than **1 million** photos taken by the cameras





**80** Road fatality inventories carried out

**4166** Individuals of all animal species have been identified on the roads

**3** species with protected status (marsh frog and green whelp snake, as well as northern grass snake)

## TORTUPASS: TRACKING ROAD FATALITY IN BROWNSBURG-CHATHAM

This project aims to collect data on road turtle mortality in the Laurentians in order to develop recommendations for wildlife crossing design. Two areas were targeted for mortality surveys, from May to August 2024 and 2025. In 2024, the surveys took place in Brownsburg-Chatham.







## BUCKTHORN CONTROL AND TRAINING RELATED TO EEE

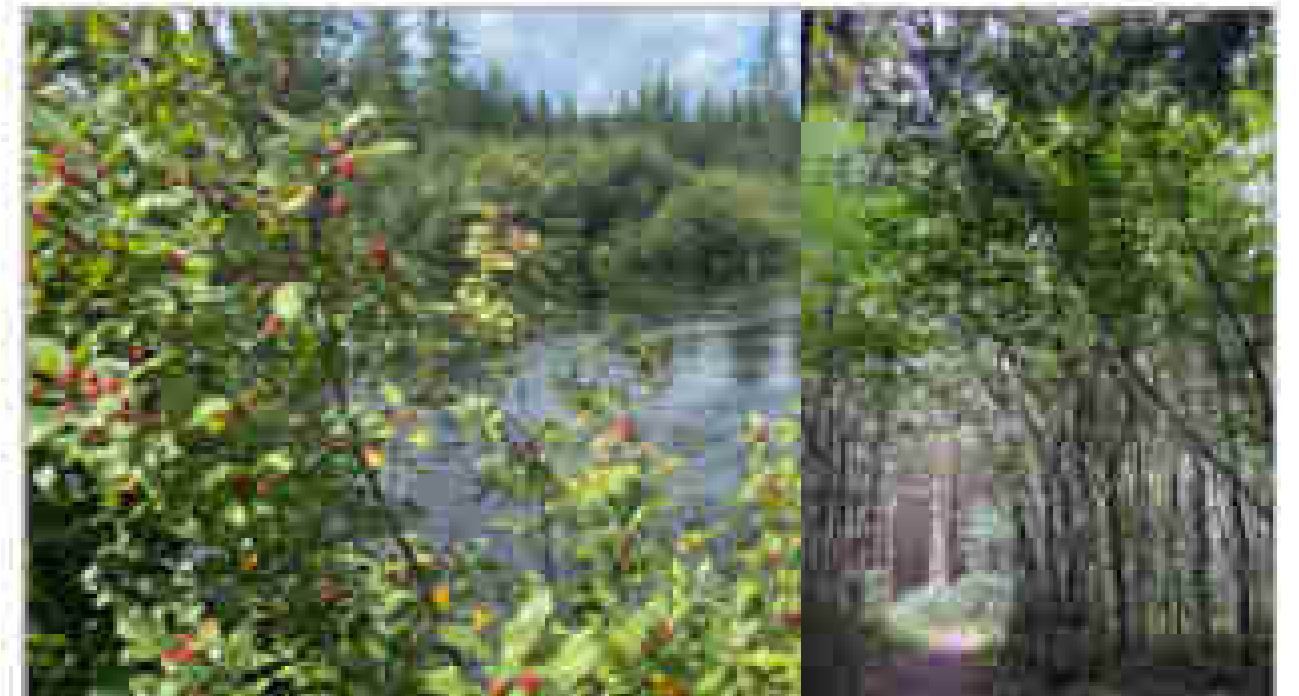
Three projects related to buckthorn were carried out by ÉCL this year. The first aimed to characterize alder buckthorn populations in three nature parks in the Laurentians region (Val-David/Val-Morin Regional Park, Ste-Agathe Regional Park and Petites Alpes) and to train regional stakeholders in the detection and control of colonies. A half-day training session was organized for this purpose in Val-David at the end of summer 2024, attended by various stakeholders from the region (municipalities, regional county municipalities, park managers, environmental organizations, etc.). A guide on buckthorn is also being produced for the specific context of the Laurentians.

Our buckthorn control activity also continued this year at Érablière Varin in Oka where approximately 300 plants were uprooted in about 1.5 km of forest edge where several vulnerable and threatened herbaceous species are found.

Finally, a field visit was organised by ÉCL at the end of summer 2024 to Oka National Park. Co-led by the park's conservation team, this activity allowed us to visit different areas invaded by different invasive alien species (buckthorn, garlic mustard, common reed, swallow-wort).

**1,5 km**

**forest edge where  
buckthorn has been  
controlled**



### LA MENACE DU NERPRUN BOURDAINE POUR LES ÉCOSYSTÈMES LAURENTIENS

Demi-journée de formation sur une espèce exotique envahissante

#### Contenu de la formation

- Identification du nerprun bourdaine en forêt et en milieu ouvert
- Visite de milieux forestiers et d'un réseau de sentiers présentant un début d'envahissement
- Visite d'un milieu ouvert fortement envahi par le nerprun (le Parc national du nord)
- Discussion sur les impacts écologiques et socioéconomiques du nerprun
- Connaître pourquoi la lutte au nerprun
- Démonstration des techniques de contrôle du nerprun avec divers outils
- Visite d'un projet de restauration forestière comme moyen de contrôler le nerprun

Animation : Julien Fortin, Ph.D., Chargé de projets et chercheur, Éco-corridors Laurentiens

Quand ? jeudi 19 septembre de 9h00 à 12h00

Où ? 400 av. 2025 (r. de Oka) sur, Val-David (stationnement dans la rue)

Pour qui ? Gestionnaires de territoires, aménagistes, propriétaires terriens, inspecteurs municipaux, CIV, employés des travaux publics, etc.

Cette formation est rendue possible grâce au soutien financier de la MRC des Laurentides



Rendez-vous de la biodiversité

**Les applications mobile au service de la biodiversité**

29 mars 2025

11h à 12h30 Saint-Sauveur




## PUBLIC CONFERENCES

The conservation of natural environments relies on a network of informed and equipped conservation partners. Citizen science presents an important opportunity for data collection, awareness-raising, and citizen engagement.

To this end, the City of Saint-Sauveur, in collaboration with ÉCL, organized a workshop on mobile applications for biodiversity. This provided an opportunity to present iNaturalist, Sentinelle, and Merlin, applications that allow citizens to identify and report species within the territory.

More than **12** participants

## RENDEZ-VOUS DE LA CONSERVATION 2024

In the fall of 2024, ÉCL held the 10th edition of the Rendez-vous de la conservation (RVCE) in Saint-Jérôme, to a packed house. Nearly 140 people participated, bringing together diverse stakeholders ranging from conservation organizations, outdoor groups, elected officials, municipal representatives, MRCs, and the provincial government.

The event began with a presentation by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on the new Government Guidelines for Land Use Planning (OGAT), which now take into account current issues such as combating climate change and conserving natural environments. Experts then explored various practical solutions: postdoctoral researcher Denis Blouin illustrated the benefits of protected areas for sustainable use (PASU) and human-modified landscapes, while Julien Fortier, project manager and agroforestry researcher, detailed the role of agroforestry riparian buffer strips in climate adaptation and the protection of agricultural ecosystems. Pascal Dubé presented the Grand Coteau Forest Corridor regional initiative, an inter-municipal collaboration aimed at counteracting biodiversity loss in densely populated areas. Jean-François Girard also presented an update on the new legislative obligations for protecting natural environments, particularly through municipal regulations. Furthermore, the impacts of recreational activities on wildlife were addressed by Marc-André Villard (Sépaq) and Jessica Bao (Université du Québec à Rimouski), who analyzed their effects on the spatial distribution of large mammals and the reproductive success of sensitive species. Finally, a panel brought together regional stakeholders to discuss the strategies needed to achieve 30% protection of natural areas in the Laurentians.





**140**  
people present



**1st**  
NATURE  
AMBASSADOR



# COMMUNICATIONS

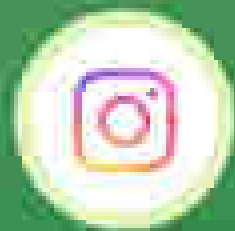




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**3 469**

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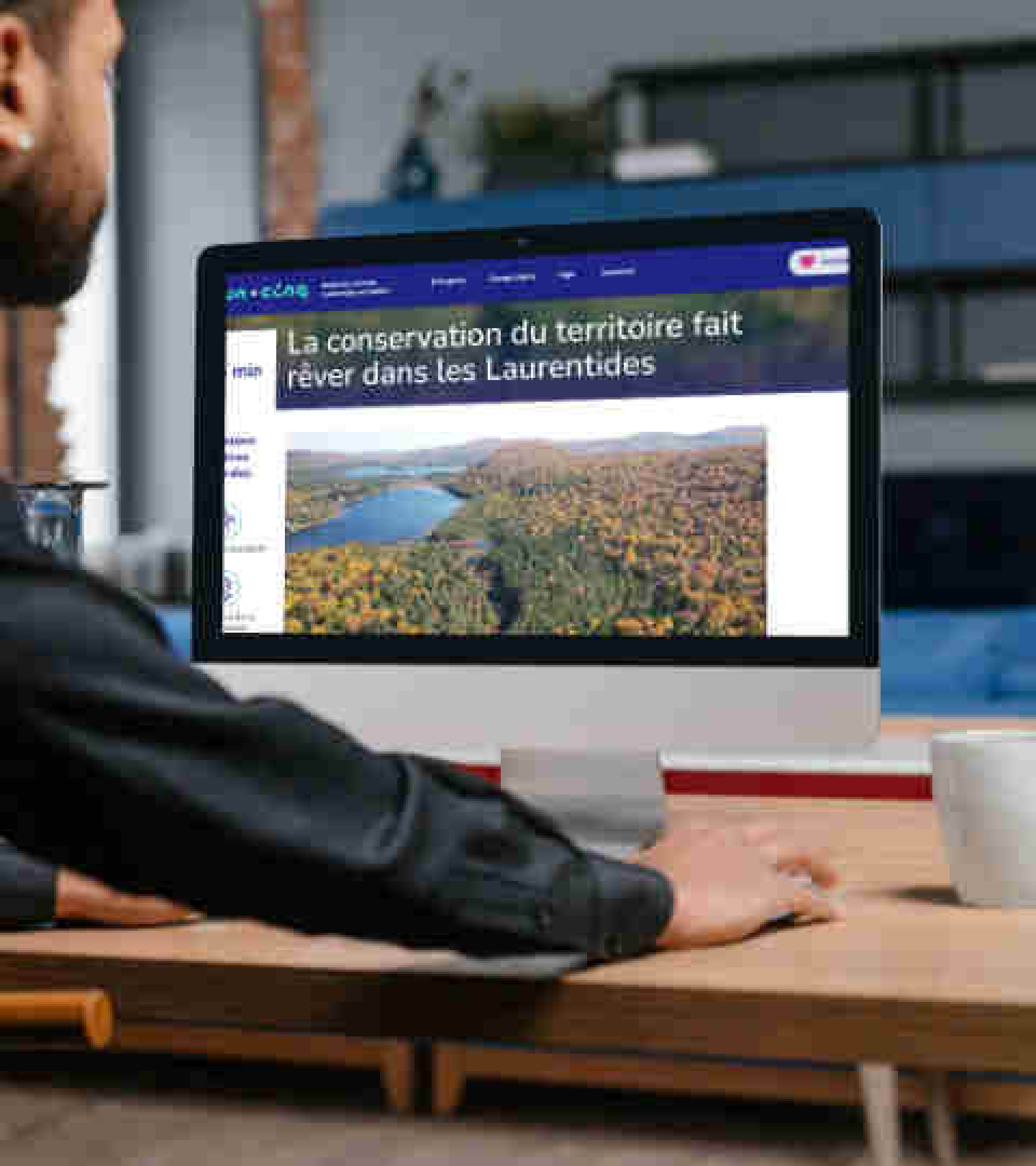
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18

## Media appearances



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Vers 30 % d'aires protégées :  
Des solutions concrètes pour agir  
en terres privées

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Conférence municipale

Les incitatifs à la  
conservation volontaire :  
quel rôle pour les  
propriétés ?

Présentée par ÉCL :

Julianne Guay, chargée de projets

Danielle Chénier, chargée  
de projets et aménagement  
des terres privées



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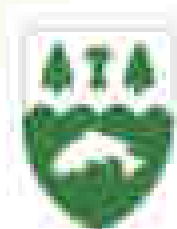
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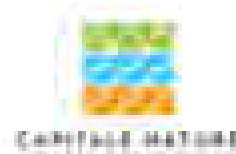
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