

## Letter from Dr. David Bird to Mayor Tremblay

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Avian Science and Conservation Centre  
McGill University

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Dear Mayor Tremblay and others:

Since 1978, I have served as a professor of Wildlife Biology on the Macdonald campus of McGill University and I teach courses in ornithology, wildlife management and wildlife conservation, including emphasis on the importance of saving green spaces not just for our wildlife but also for our fellow citizens. When I discuss with my students the situation concerning the amount of green space we have in our city per capita compared to the international norm and even to the City of Toronto, Montreal does not fare well. I am hoping that this can be changed.

The purpose of this letter is to ask the City of Montreal to conserve Meadowbrook as a green space to be enjoyed by all. As you are no doubt aware, Meadowbrook is situated at the extreme western end of the falaise Saint-Jacques, on the bird migration corridor extending from Lac Saint-Louis to les îles de Boucherville, passing over Lachine, Montreal West, NDG, Mount Royal and the Botanical Gardens. Meadowbrook, with its natural streams and vernal ponds, is an important element in this corridor. Even a minimum of re-naturalization work would increase its potential enormously.

I understand that the City of Montreal recently rejected the plan by the developer Groupe Pacific to build 1,500 condos on Meadowbrook. Thank you for taking this very important step.

However, the future of Meadowbrook requires that the City go a bit further. It must be put permanently out of reach of destruction. As an urgent first step, please take steps to change the zoning of the Lachine portion of Meadowbrook to recreational. Only once this is done can the real potential of Meadowbrook be addressed, as a nature park hospitable to migratory birds.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

David Bird, PhD  
Professor

cc: Claude Dauphin, Borough Mayor of Lachine  
Alan DeSousa, Vice President of the Executive Committee  
SOS Meadowbrook