

## **Maintaining a balance**

The Ecosystems Management Program in our large parks preserves an essential balance between the protection of environmental integrity and general public access to sites, so that citizens can continue to enjoy the physical and psychological health benefits of nature. The Ecosystems Management Program won the "2020 Biodiversity Sector Distinction" award from Québec's Réseau environnement (environment network) association.

## Protect them by knowing them

Inventories of the flora and fauna paint a portrait of the large parks' ecosystems. We monitor changes within habitats, whether due to natural disturbances or induced by a human presence, in order to intervene in the right way. When planning the development of a recreational space, such as a trail, the ecosystems portrait allows informed decision-making (for example, the choice of a suitable location).

Various actions are carried out in response to the inventories, such as: the removal of invasive alien plants and the subsequent planting of native vegetation;



the installation and maintenance of wildlife equipment such as floating platforms for turtles, wooden nesting boxes for wood ducks and shelters for snakes; the safe conservation of dead and decaying trees in natural environments to sustain wildlife that depends on them; the prevention of plant overgrowth aimed at maintaining open environ-

ments of importance to pollinating insects, snakes, birds of prey, etc. Illustrated information sheets on biodiversity are also displayed on screens at the reception chalets.

## **Tips for project success**

- Maintain inventories on a schedule determined on a scientific basis;
- Ensure the annual renewal of resources to guarantee action over the long term;
- Gather and secure the data collected in databases to ensure its integrity;
- Make the results available to stakeholders through consultation tools and foster collaboration.

## 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);
- resilience and climate change adaptation (target 6);
- increased public access to green spaces and ecosystem services (target 10);
- the integration of biodiversity protection into planning processes (target 13);
- the availability of reliable and up-to-date information for effective management (target 18);
- the promotion of sustainable behaviours (target 20).
- \* 2030 Action Targets set in the Zero Draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework







