



## Infrastructure and Public Spaces

### Population growth projections vs. public services and infrastructure

Based on current statistical projections, Westmount's population is expected to increase to just over 21,000 in 2031, a 4.7% growth from 2016. In comparison, the population of Greater Montreal is expected to grow at a much higher rate (16%).

Westmount's public services and infrastructure will need to meet this growth and the needs of an aging population.

Reference: Montreal Metropolitan Community Observatory

### Universal Accessibility

The Canadian Disability Survey (2017) estimates that one in five Canadians aged 15 years and older lives with at least one activity-limiting disability. Among this group, four out of 10 people have a severe or very severe disability. Thus, it is possible to extrapolate that approximately 4,500 people in Westmount live with some type of disability.

In Westmount, all municipal buildings that are open to the public are considered accessible, although improvements can certainly be made. An Accessibility Advisory Committee was established in 2020 to help guide the City's actions in terms of universal accessibility.

Reference: Statistics Canada, 2017

### Public Spaces

The year 2020, greatly marked by the Covid pandemic, has forced cities to rethink public space. The following actions have been carried out as part of a pilot project to contribute to Westmount's economic recovery and social distancing efforts:

- Withdrawal of a traffic lane on Greene Street and transformation of the reclaimed area into a public space with street furniture
- Creation of public parklets on Sherbrooke Street over the equivalent of six parking spaces



Reference: City of Westmount

## Rehabilitation projects



### CURRENT MAJOR REHABILITATION PROJECT

#### CONSERVATORY AND GREENHOUSES

The project includes the complete restoration of the exterior envelope as well as a redesign of the interior spaces



### REHABILITATION PROJECT UNDER CONSIDERATION

#### WESTMOUNT TRAIN STATION

(currently decommissioned)  
A new use must be identified

## Leisure and Sports Infrastructure

### WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Westmount Public Library is the first public library in Quebec. Since its inauguration more than 100 years ago, the building designed by Robert Findlay has undergone several restorations and expansions.



#### Westmount Public Library in numbers:

- Over 1 000 daily visits
- Nearly 350,000 documents borrowed each year
- Over 7 600 members

Reference: Westmount Public Library, 2017

### VICTORIA HALL

Westmount's main community center, the Victoria Hall Building was built shortly after the Westmount Public Library by the same architect. After several successful restorations, Victoria Hall is now used as a community center, an art gallery and hosts a number of public recreational activities.

### WESTMOUNT RECREATION CENTRE

Inaugurated on September 19, 2013, the Westmount Recreation Centre includes:

- Two NHL-sized underground rinks used for hockey, figure skating, free skating and other ice sports
- A fully accessible outdoor competition pool (20 x 25 meters), a paddling pool and an enlarged terrace
- Three multi-purpose rooms used for activities such as fitness classes, events, and meetings
- A youth centre



**SHORTCOMING – AQUATIC AND SPORTS FACILITIES**

The YMCA pool is the only indoor pool able to serve Westmount’s residents. Built in 1988, it no longer meets current standards. However, with an indoor pool for its approximately 20,000 residents, Westmount surpasses normally considered adequate rate of a pool for every 27,000 residents.

A 2017 Westmount survey on residential interest towards an indoor pool project showed that a significant majority of respondents (81%) want the City to examine the feasibility of an indoor pool project. In addition to the pool itself, the presence of abundant natural lighting was identified as the main factor in the project’s success.

There are six single gyms in Westmount, for a ratio of one gym for every 3,387 residents, which is below the standard suggested by many experts of one gym for every 2,554 residents. As the City does not own any gymnasiums, the survey’s respondents also identified the addition of a gymnasium as desirable.

<sup>1</sup> Survey response rate – 13%  
Reference: City of Westmount

**Parks and Green Spaces**

Westmount’s network of parks and green spaces constitutes a very rich heritage, which includes 12 parks, 22 green spaces and a wooded nature reserve, totaling just over 4% of Westmount’s territory.

**SOUTHEAST SECTOR**

Although located in a city that is generally blessed with parks and green spaces, the Southeast sector is lacking in this regard. It has only one green space, the Dorchester-Clarke Park, totalling 1.4% of the sectors territory.

Reference: AGIL Study



**WESTMOUNT PARK REVITALISATION**

Westmount Park, established in 1892, is the City’s oldest green space. Originally a rustic woodland with ravines and streams, it has been expanded and developed over the years to become a popular green haven for the City’s residents.

However, certain aspects of the park have deteriorated with time and use. Westmount is committed to restoring this heritage jewel while improving its accessibility, inclusiveness and sustainability. The City is developing a restoration plan with the support of citizens.

### SUMMIT WOODS

Westmount also has the Summit Woods, a major green space that is an integral part of the Mount Royal Heritage Site. However, because of its conservation status, it serves more as an ecological haven than a recreational area. Moreover, its location at a good distance from Westmount's densest areas and its landlocked location in the northeastern limit of the City do not make it a regular place of use for a large majority of the community.

Reference: AGIL Study

### TREES AT THE END OF THEIR NATURAL LIVES

The typical lifespan of an urban tree is approximately 60 years. Considering that the majority of Westmount's trees (Norway maples) are between 60 and 80 years old, a good number of them will have to be felled in the coming years.

The impact of the emerald ash borer on the many ash trees in Westmount also contributes to the problem of dangerous, diseased and end-of-life trees. Westmount's canopy index (37.2%) is therefore likely to decrease in the coming years before new trees replace the lost tree cover.

Reference: City of Westmount

### URBAN AGRICULTURE

Residents wanting access to a cropland plot can register on a waiting list for one of the 86 community garden spaces in Westmount, located north of the athletic field between Hallowell Avenue and Hillside.

As of 2011, Westmount is also incorporating edible plants and vegetables into its public planters and flower beds to raise awareness about food security issues, encourage home vegetable growing and promote urban agriculture. Citizens are invited to harvest the available fruits and vegetables, while surpluses are donated to The Depot Community Food Centre in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

