

THE PARC NATIONAL DES ÎLES-DE-BOUCHERVILLE EXPANSION PROJECT

Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville at a glance

Created in 1984, Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville is a protected area spanning 8.14 km², composed of five islands, and crisscrossed by channels. The mosaic of terrestrial, aquatic, and semi-aquatic environments makes the national park a place of great biodiversity. Its mission is to protect a representative area of the natural region of the St. Lawrence Lowlands, while making it accessible to the public. It welcomes over 415,000 visitors annually.

How would the park boundaries be modified?

The purpose of the Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville expansion project is mainly to include a 0.2 km² piece of land, bordering the park entrance, commonly known as Île Charron. This piece of land, mostly covered by mature forest, is inhabited by the Dekay's Brownsnake. The presence of this designated threatened species further justifies the conservation and integration of this land into the national park.

In addition, a small parcel of land (0.0045 km²) located on Île Charron, would be excluded from the boundaries of the national park. This exclusion would rectify the current configuration coming from the previous cadastral division as this parcel currently extends to the Longueuil wastewater treatment plant. Finally, a 0.00086 km² lot would be excluded from the park boundaries to rectify an irregularity.

At the end of the process, the surface area of Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville would be 8.34 km², an increase of 0.2 km².

Consultation Process

The consultation process is an integral part of the national park expansion process. It allows stakeholders to comment on proposed changes to the national park's boundaries and zoning at various points during the process, to promote social acceptability.

Furthermore, specific consultations are conducted with the concerned Indigenous communities to ensure their interests and concerns are considered.



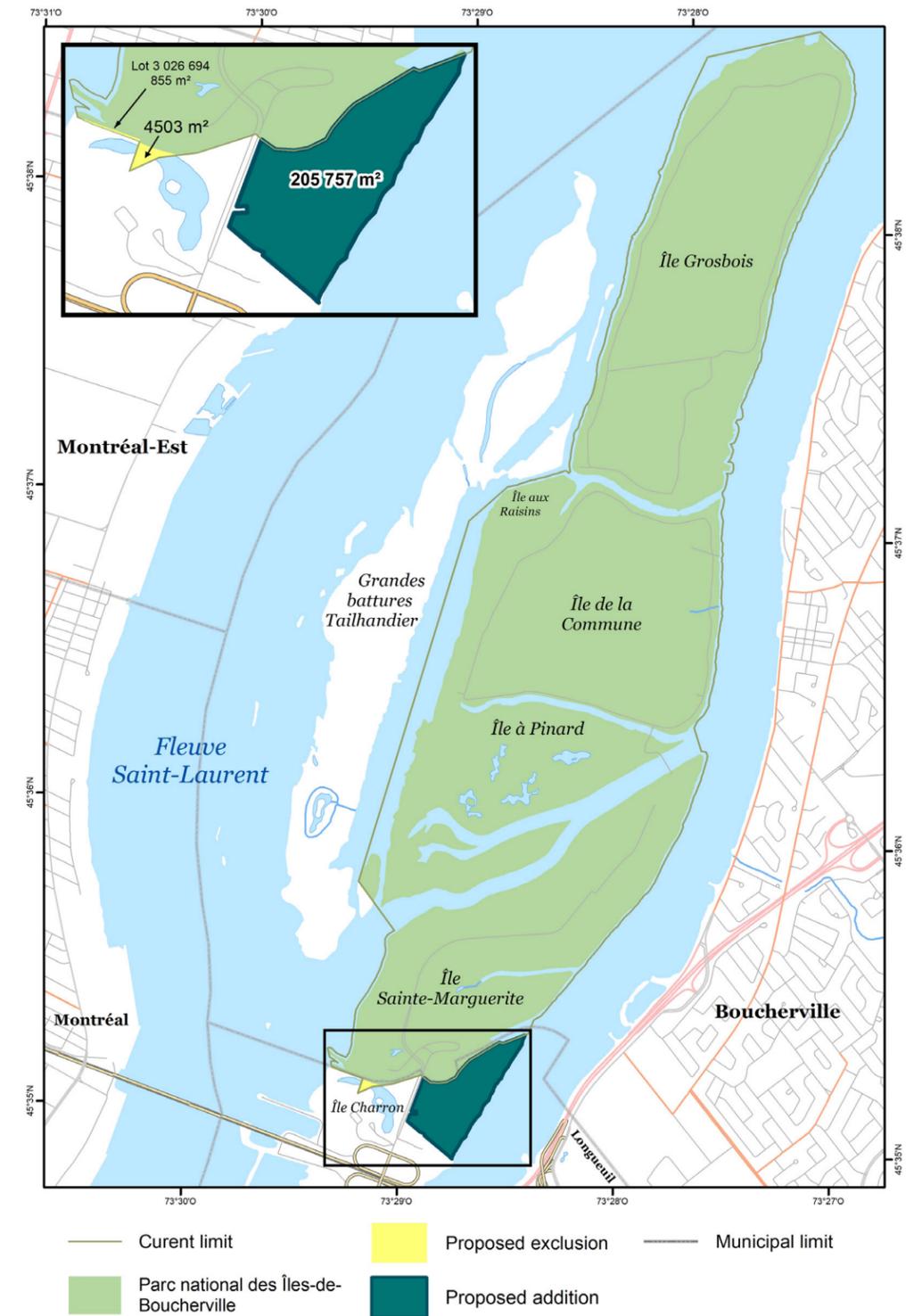
Rehabilitation of Île Charron

Environmental characterization studies carried out on the Île Charron lot and the adjacent area of the national park, corresponding to the former Canal Molson, have shown the presence of contaminated soil and left over materials (including mainly wood, concrete, mortar, metal, glass, tires). This landfilling was done in the 1960s, mostly during the construction work of the Pont-Tunnel Louis-Hippolyte-La Fontaine. It covered part of the Canal Molson, a small section of Île Sainte-Marguerite, and the lot to be integrated into the national park, located on Île Charron. A rehabilitation process is underway in this sector in accordance with the terms of the Environment Quality Act to ensure their safe use by park visitors.

To date, several rehabilitation scenarios have been proposed to the Ministère, and the one with the least impact on the natural environment has been selected. The rehabilitation process is ongoing, and the completion of the work is scheduled for 2027–2028.

After the rehabilitation process is complete, la Société des établissements de plein air du Québec (Sépaq) will build a footpath and rest areas, for people to enjoy the beautiful landscape. The recreational vehicle campground in the Molson sector will be rebuilt and will include a comfort station for campers and park visitors.

PROPOSED BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS



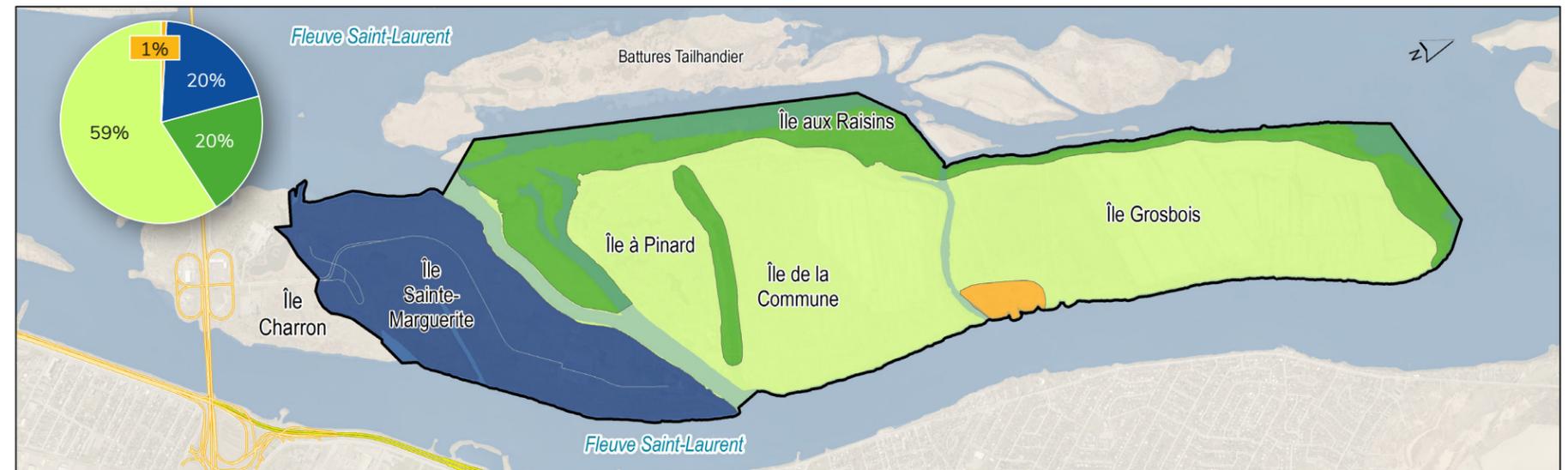
PROPOSED ZONING MODIFICATIONS

What does zoning mean in a national park?

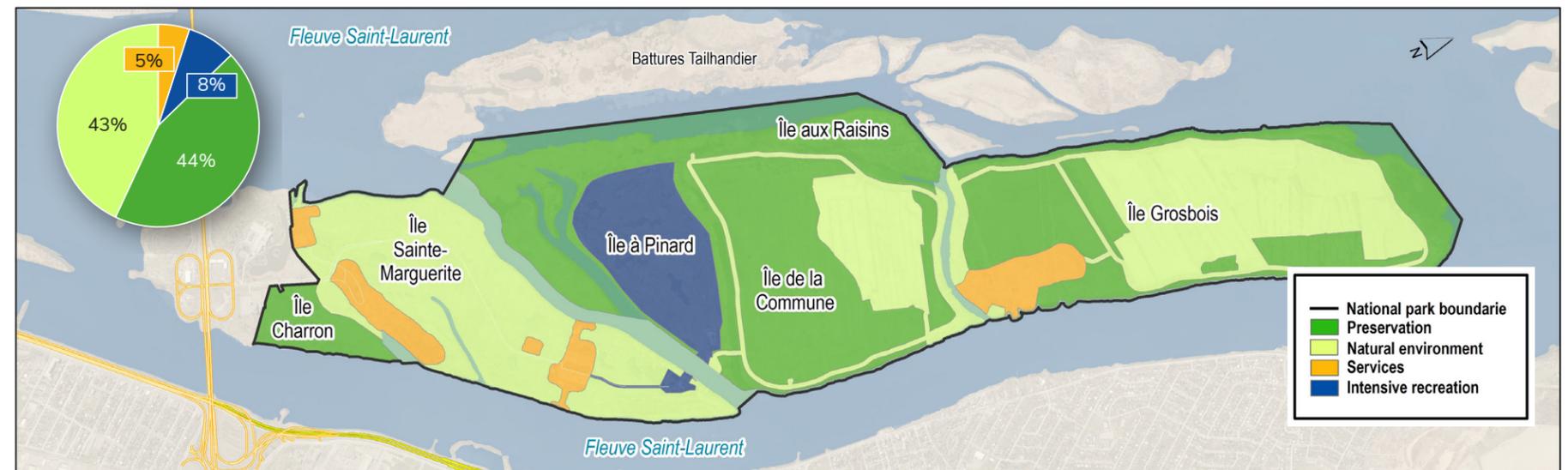
Zoning is an essential planning and management tool to fulfill the national parks' conservation and accessibility mission. The allocation of a zone type to a sector reflects knowledge about natural, cultural, and landscape heritages, as well as the current or proposed use of the land. Therefore, zoning guides interventions with a long-term conservation perspective. The expansion process of Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville offers an opportunity to update the current zoning, which includes four of the five types of zones defined in the Parks Regulation, and these are preservation, natural environment, services, and intensive recreation zones.

Types of zones in Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville	Definition	Examples of layouts and permitted activities
Preservation	Zone primarily dedicated to the protection of natural, cultural, and landscape heritage and only accessible by means that have little impact on the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiking and snowshoeing Canoeing and kayaking Lookout
Natural environment	Zone dedicated to the enhancement of natural, cultural, and landscape heritage, characterized by a layout that promotes its accessibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Path for vehicles or bicycles Agriculture (Unique to Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville)
Services	Zone primarily dedicated to reception, accommodation or administration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service centre Main parking lot Campground
Intensive recreation	Area occupied by a golf course, such as the one in Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville, or by an alpine ski centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alpine ski centre Golf course

CURRENT ZONING



PROPOSED ZONING



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit the Gouvernement du Québec's website for information on the [Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville expansion project](#). To submit your comments, please write to the following email address: consultation-parcs@environnement.gouv.qc.ca.