

# I. Values-based Guiding Principles

## 1. Thriving Environment

- *Ask First Nations in the Yukon Territory*
- *Paramount!*
- *Please finish the policy on ATV's (Like! X 2)*
- *Please take out the old trees they cause fire*
- *Protection as a designation is meaningless without baseline data and active protection of ecological values through education and enforcement*
- *Thriving Environment is especially important to me. That's the bottom line that will keep it valuable*
- *Within the constraints expressed (about 'wilderness') I concur. For instance the statement Regional Parks provide spaces and places for a range of recreational opportunities and experiences is too wide open. I am sure you don't envisage a supervised deduced drag racing track but it would fit. There are activities that are appropriate within the limits posed by other objectives and any new activities need to be assessed within the lens of appropriateness and the degree of future change (LAC again) that this activity would generate. The creativity of people to find new ways to recreate is unlimited. I refer to the Vision Statement 1.2, which is quite appropriate with exceptions noted above and below.*
- *Like! X 16*

**Co-existence:** → We recognize that humans and other species share Regional Parks and adjacent areas

**Education:** → Through related programs, we strive to inform, inspire and involve residents and to increase understanding, respect, and connection to nature

**Integrity:** → The City will protect and improve ecological health and resilience

- Stewardship:**
- *The question we would have is "resilience" to what? It is a somewhat confusing sentence that needs some clarification.*
  - The City will work with all citizens to responsibly care for and manage Whitehorse's Regional Parks system
  - *This means that individual need to have same legitimacy as groups such as snowmobiles and mountain bikes. An individual is more likely to be ecological than might an ATV enthusiast who only sees their right to ride unfettered. A walker is more likely to be ecological because they travel slowly. Interesting because currently official stewards are vehicle groups: mountain bikers and snowmobiles.*

## 2. Vibrant Citizen and Community Development

- *Lots of environmental education for all ages*
- *Like! X 5*

**Citizen Engagement:** → Whitehorse residents have opportunities for meaningful input into a decision-making process that is inclusive and transparent

**Collaboration:** → Through collaboration and partnerships with citizens, neighborhoods, communities of interest, the private sector and other governments including First Nations, we increase value and achieve common goals

- *What do you mean by "increase values?" Does that refer to items 1,2, and 3? These are principles not values, I thought. It is not clear to me what the values are.*

**Health & Wellness:** → **Regional Parks support emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual health and wellness**

**Recreation:** → **Regional Parks provide the spaces and places for a range of recreational opportunities and experiences**

- *Not too sure what this means? Could we end up with areas being cleared for baseball pitches and golf courses? That's not something I could support.*
- *After the word "experiences" we would add the following: which enhance our connection to nature. Some recreational opportunities and experiences may not be appropriate in Regional Parks because they fail to enhance our connection to nature.*

**Sustainable Prosperity:** → **Regional Park decisions reflect a commitment to wider community environmental, social, and economic sustainability**

- *Economic sustainability means many things to many people - and sometimes it trumps environmental sustainability (quite a few mines are defined as 'sustainable')*
- *The "Sustainable Prosperity" statement is incomprehensible. "Integrated Management" covers it better.*

### 3. Excellence in Planning and Management

- *Planning is crucial!*
- *Planning and civic engagement is good; listening is too!*
- *Like! X 6*

**Accountability:** → **Milestones and deliverables are established and Whitehorse residents receive timely information about progress in achieving desired Outcomes**

**Improvement & innovation:** → **We seek to improve our Regional Parks system by proactively monitoring, evaluating and implementing innovative parks management strategies**

**Collaborate with First Nations** → **The City will strive to collaborate with First Nations in areas of mutual interest**

- *Delete "Collaborate with First Nations" as this is already stated above under "Collaboration"*

**Integrated management:** → **Park management decisions consider the combined impacts of environmental, social and economic factors**

**Knowledge-based decision-making:** → **Decision-making is informed by natural science, social science, local knowledge, and traditional First Nations knowledge**

- *Whatever the reason, having no public FN presence on city trail/greenspace committees make me feel this is a very flawed process.*

**Leadership:** → **Regional Park management and operations demonstrate environmental leadership and showcase best practices in energy and water efficiency, environmental design, construction practices and products**

Public comments in *ITALICS* and **BLUE**

- *"Leadership" - The City does not have the expertise or resources to "demonstrate" or "showcase" - perhaps leave this to YG.*
- *'Leadership' bullet rocks!*

**Respectful & responsive:**

- **The City respects and responds to the diverse needs of residents and visitors**
- *After the word "visitors" we would suggest adding the following: as long as those needs do not detract from the ecological health of Regional Parks.*

General Comments:

- *I think it's very good.*
- *Agree. I like the holistic approach. Very complete.*
- *I agree with the draft values as stated.*
- *I like them*
- *The values are too heavily weighted toward protection and restriction for a municipal park.*
- *I agree with most of the principles, but they need to mean something. People and other species 'share' the parks, but some forms of use drive out or eliminate species. Improving ecological health will requires rules and active enforcement.*
- *What about mining development? I don't see anything about protection*

## 2. Vision Statement

**“The vision for Regional Parks is to inspire and motivate residents and visitors to enjoy, discover, and value the natural world and the benefits it provides for current and future generations; to protect the integrity of its ecosystems and biodiversity; and to provide the foundation of Whitehorse’s unique wilderness character and quality of life.”**

- *Add the promotion Whitehorse’s unique wilderness character and quality of life.*
- *I like it!*
- *Pretty good. Only that I would place the order in line 2: “discover, enjoy and value....” because you can’t enjoy and value what you haven’t discovered.*
- *Love it. Including biodiversity and integrity of ecosystems is key. Present and future generations - of course.*
- *The OCP vision is the preservation of green spaces for environmental and recreational values. The protection role should come first in the vision statement rather than “inspire and motivate”.*
- *The amended draft vision is fine but I believe there needs to be a broader scope that encompasses all forms of outdoor recreation.*
- *This vision statement will work as a direction to a mandate.*
- *I like it*
- *The vision statement is actually a mission statement. It describes a set of actions. This is a common mistake. In planning, a vision is a vivid image of a desired (static) future state.*
- *For Riverdale access 1 bridge is not enough. Poor planning.*
- *Don’t water this down! I bought a house in Riverdale because of the proximity of parks!*
- *Take out last sentence and put “integrity of ecosystems...” first*
- *As development of the Yukon River Valley continues it is essential to preserve significant pieces for people to experience*
- *Especially important and valuable in light of youth becoming lost in video monitors: options to easily access natural settings*
- *I agree with this it is important to take care of the environment*
- *Perfect, this is so important! To recognize that we need livable spaces where we live. The environment is all around us, not just ‘out there’, not just wilderness*
- *85% of Yukon’s population gets their exercise through walking (YTG Stats). These are recreationalists who actually have time to stop and enjoy the natural environment, so it is essential that ecosystems and biodiversity in there for them to enjoy (Like! X 3)*
- *I like it. For ‘future generations’: must be protected from future development pressures*
- *The vision is great. I’ll believe it when I see it.*
- *Great vision statement. It’s nice and short. Straight to the point. The only thing I would add is recreation. It is identified in the guiding principle #2 but is missing from the vision statement. Many of the parks, in the vicinity of Whitehorse, are more about recreation than conservation and ecological integrity. I would add something like: Provides a variety of outdoor recreational activities.*
- *Lastly, I feel like the vision statement is missing something to the effect of representative landscapes. I’m not sure how the parks were initially selected but it would be good to ensure that representation of a range of ecosystems is included in the process of selecting future parks.*
- *We would change the statement to read as follows: The vision for Regional Parks is to protect the integrity of its ecosystems and biodiversity and to inspire and motivate residents and visitors to*

*enjoy, discover, and value the natural world and the benefits it provides for current and future generations.*

- *Writing the Vision Statement in the above manner emphasizes that ensuring the integrity of our Regional Parks' ecosystems and biodiversity is of primary importance. If this is not done then residents and visitors alike will find little to enjoy, discover, and value within our Regional Parks.*
- *We think that the last part of the draft Vision Statement should be dropped. The "unique wilderness character" of our City is not the result of what we find within the City's boundaries, but rather what surrounds those boundaries.*
- *The term "quality of life" is extremely difficult to define as it means something different to each one of us. In fact, there are citizens who may well feel that their "quality of life" would be improved if they did not live in a community which is surrounded by wilderness, but rather in one that was not.*
- *The vision for Regional Parks is to inspire and motivate residents and visitors to enjoy, discover, and value the natural world and the benefits it provides for current and future generations; Missing is a concept of how. Let me suggest that walking trails will be my answer in lots of places here.*
- *If you continue to use the word 'Wilderness' as applying to the entire park area I suggest you exclude most of the uses you envisage.*
- *I would also add making this heritage and these experiences readily accessible to where people live (and possibly work)*
- *Like! X 6*

### 3. Goals, Strategies, and Priority Actions

#### General Comments:

- *Good*
- *I like the goals and associated strategies.*
- *Covers the guiding principles nicely.*
- *The goals and strategies are workable however I believe that the current regional park land mass is more than adequate. The focus should be to enhance the park areas and on the diversity of each and how that can be better enhanced.*
- *The focus needs to be more than just non-motorized access and day use. The introduction of larger group excursions with motorized access will attract more of the boomer generation and provide a greater understanding and appreciation.*
- *Good*
- *There should be no new park area designated unless some existing areas are un-designated. The entire 400 km<sup>2</sup> can't be parkland*
- *Some goals of this draft are straight forward, speaking to associate strategies e.g. 1.1.1 directs the completing of an inventory. Where as some goals are so vague, I am not sure what is meant e.g. 1.1.3 pursue a more permanent process to regulate motor -boat use, or 2.1.3. Embrace simplicity to reduce initial cost and future maintenance. So what are the strategies of these vague and meaningless goals?*
- *Very good but will create a lot of work to accomplish all of them. What are the timeline? what are the most important for the next 5 years? All of them?*
- *The Priority Actions look okay.*
- *A note of concern about the cost of some actions. The focus on partnering is evident, but it seems like a full plate.*
- *I think some more work needs to be done in this area and some discussion surrounding how each park will individually contribute to the overall strategy moving forward.*
- *Through out this document Goals, Strategies, Actions, Outcomes are not prioritized, as this can be deemed as premature - so the title should read "Actions" rather than Priority Actions. I see Priority of Actions coming into play once the foundation of a regional park policy has been laid. At this point Actions make sense, not Priority Actions*
- *Good*
- *Actions are over-ambitious and not feasible in the stated term with the assumed budget.*
- *Lots of promote, support but no do, create, build...*
- *VISION and STICKING TO IT IS CRITICAL- more on this in 5 but clearly defying what a Regional Park is versus a Tot lot, Playing Field, "Mud Bog Track", Horse Riding Stadium or whatever.*

## Goal 1: *Promote environmental health*

- *I agree with all, but ecosystem health has to be the framework for the others. We can't afford further degradation.*
- *If resourcing and rules are not addressed, the risk is that the parks will be declared a success based on number of visitors and hectares 'protected' rather than true attention to ecological health and the greater benefits to people and wildlife from intact landscapes*
- *Add identify areas that could be used for research. College may be able to provide feedback on that and may be interested*
- *1.1, 1.2 Here's where we pretend that recreational vehicles are not a problem. Walkers are not wrecking wetlands. By not allowing this to be said you're ignoring problems. Some places can be fixed if the city and vehicle organizations worked to get their groups to stay away. Aside: A topic I don't see addressed is ethics. During ATV By-law process we couldn't say don't do things. Rather it came under the heading of education or a code of conduct. Of course, the ATV people didn't see that they were any different than other trail users so didn't like Codes of conduct for ATVs, for mountain bikes, for walkers, etc. Wanted just one code of conduct. But the Task Force recommended we have one, and that's the last I've heard of it. I believe peer pressure could help stop wrecking trails if the official clubs frowned on this and brought the weight of the club to repair damage, rather than fight restrictions.*
- *I see lots of inventory but no ongoing monitoring. Natural agree management usually involves adaptive management both because the environment is dynamic and also the users are. To achieve this you need to set objectives, monitor against them and take corrective action and at times reconsider the original objectives.*

<b>Strategies:</b>	<b>Priority Actions:</b> <i>The City, with the help of partners, will...</i>
<b>1.1 Protect and improve ecological health of Regional Parks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Need ecological biophysical baseline study of vegetation and soils in each park</i></li> <li>• <i>Protect the fish (E. age 6)</i></li> <li>• <i>Paramount</i></li> <li>• <i>Yes, management of them too; wildlife coordinator position back?</i></li> <li>• <i>Ban ORVs!</i></li> <li>• <i>Indiscriminate motor vehicle use has devastated areas around McIntyre Creek. Without limiting access and active enforcement the Park will continue to degrade (Like! X 1)</i></li> <li>• <i>Like! X 11</i></li> </ul>
	<p><b>1.1.1 Complete sensitive ecosystem inventory mapping for Regional Parks and adjacent lands, and create a mapping catalogue of habitats and corridors in the municipality with high ecological value.</b></p> <p><b>1.1.2 Identify damaged and debilitated ecosystems within Regional Parks and implement conservation activities and projects to restore and enhance ecological health.</b></p>

- *Our Paddy's Pond wetland was redefined for the winter to be not environmentally sensitive. Done to address a long-standing claim by snowmobiles that they don't cause problems. The snowmobile map removed the wetland from the city's environmentally sensitive map. I think this was the only area where that happened in the city. I never got any answer back when I challenged this. Now the summer ATV map uses the winter map telling ATVs that there are no motorized trails they can be on. But the area is shown as not environmentally sensitive. So the rogue drivers continue to chew up the trails. Doesn't help a parent who might flaunt the law and send kids out to play on the family ATV but might say, don't go into the wetlands. Very annoying is then the city says that it's not a sustainable thing to fix our trails because they are in wetlands! Catch 22!!!*

### **1.1.3 Pursue a more permanent process to regulate motor boat-use in Regional Parks**

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- *What about ATV's, skidoos and dirt bikes? They should be included.*
  - *This is very important (Like! X 3)*

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### **1.2 Improve trail and facility location, design, development, and maintenance to minimize environmental degradation**

- *This seems a little ambitious for the tax base. Maybe start with regular litter cleanup along the Chadburn Lake Rd or enforce littering fines so the crocuses can be enjoyed without refuse from Starbucks, Tim Horton's and McDonalds. Keep the green space as natural as possible by limiting City signage and refrain from paving the trails.*
- *No need to go on building trails yet. Use conservation biology principles and park management. Maybe there are zones / core places where no development is done to ensure ecological integrity*
- *Ban ORV's or channel away (tight channels)*
- *Don't build trails that are actually paved roads (Like! X 2)*
- *Yes, keep paved trails to an appropriate wide for wheelchairs and child carriers, but not motorized vehicles please!*
- *Add a 1.2.3 to Priority Actions. What we need in this City is a Trails Classification System. The City does not follow its own 2007 Trail Plan when it comes to the classification of its trails. Even if it did, that system is not well designed. The result is confusion for all trail users. We would encourage the City to look at the Alberta Recreation Corridor & Trails Classification System. (See ISBN: 978-0-7785-5731-9 Print Version or 978-0-7785-5732-6 Online Version) This system could be easily adapted for our purposes.*
- *Like! X 11*

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### **1.2.1 Develop and maintain inventories of physical, historical and natural assets to support sustainable park use and natural resource planning.**

- 1.2.2 Limit public access to sites that are too environmentally sensitive for human use while seeking ways to provide alternative viewing opportunities including, re-routing trails, off-site interpretation, and education opportunities.**

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**1.3 Protect Regional Parks from natural disturbances**

- *Why is it necessary to protect parks from natural disturbances? Aren't they, by definition, part of natural processes?*
- *Educate and enforce existing fire regulations. No fires are permitted in the Hidden Lakes area*
- *Connection / link to outside the City Boundary! (Like! X 2)*
- *Responsible forestry*
- *Any measures should mimic nature (i.e.: controlled burns)*
- *No need to protect from natural disturbances*
- *Only natural disturbances that threaten infrastructure (houses etc.) should be controlled. Consider mimicking natural disturbances on a small scale (Like! X 1)*
- *Zone based: protect and leave ecological integrity and manage in a way to mimic fire and use only where threatens infrastructure*

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- 1.3.1 Conduct a natural disturbance risk analysis and explore reduction measures including forest fires and pest management.**

- 1.3.2 Seek ways in which Regional Parks can support the Whitehorse Climate Change Adaptation Plan**

## **Goal 2: Promote outdoor recreation for human health and wellness**

- In general ... this is very appropriate to my vision of a Regional Parks- but not (true) "wilderness".*

### **Strategies:**

### **Priority Actions:**

*The City, with the help of partners, will...*

#### **2.1 Provide safe and sustainable options for various forms of outdoor recreation, ranging from multi-use to single-use facilities and trails**

- Merry go round*
- The fun things!*
- Will people still be able to fish in the parks? Important still.*
- Ensure some of this promotion is aimed at visitors. There is an increasing growth in 'soft wilderness tourism'. Should capitalize on this. (Like! X 1)*
- Add historical elements to the paths and parks. Celebrate the Yukon past and present (Like! X 1)*
- Outdoor recreation to ensure that parts of Parks do not have 'development'; trails keep people from destroying the land (Like! X 1)*
- No ATVs!*
- Vehicle users are Parks users too (I am not one of them but I believe in sharing)*
- Multi-use can be difficult to 'control' as some user groups may abuse the privilege, i.e.: motorized access (Like! X 2)*
- There is a need for balance. Some places should have no development. Some are OK. Mixing ATVs and snowmobiles with others does not work. We see it.*
- Enforcement: how will 'safe' use be enforced? Right now it is not. Cars and trucks drive through McIntyre Park, and ATVs, dirt bikes without regard for habitat, hiking, trails or people*
- Amusement Park!*
- An interactive outdoors park (similar to Fort Edmonton Park) where visitors and locals can experience history and be outside. Have get-fit activities at this location as well.*
- Strategy 2.1 is a breath of fresh air! It recognizes that "single-use facilities and trails" should not necessarily be considered exclusive creations, but rather inclusive creations as their existence may be beneficial to all users, something which both our City and some user groups are loathed to recognize. For example, it may be better to designate a particular trail only for mountain bikers, as it may have built playground structures that enhance the trail's enjoyment for such users. The safety of those riders would be increased if the trail were only open to them. As well, their enjoyment would be greater as they would not have to worry about other users on the trail. Other recreationalists might benefit because they would not be exposed to these playground structures when walking, hiking, or running. Nor would they be exposed to the safety concerns present when sharing such a trail with mountain bikers. As well, the quality of their experience would be enhanced because they would have a greater possibility of experiencing nature free from the disruption caused by mountain bikers, and perhaps from (in their view) the eyesore structures built by bikers on trails, as well as the*

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	<i>dangers playground structures present in particular to trail runners.</i>
<b>2.1.1 Give high priority to the replacement and upgrading of facilities that are now reaching the end of their useful life.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Facilities? In my walking stuff I refer to boardwalks, bridges, staircases and trail surfacing as walking trail infrastructure. Walking trail infrastructure should be here also.</i></li></ul>
<b>2.1.2 Increase system capacity by identifying lands with high outdoor recreation potential.</b>	
<b>2.1.3 Embrace simplicity to reduce initial cost and future maintenance.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Simplicity: great!</i></li></ul>
<b>2.1.4 Upgrade and develop facilities and trails where needed to accommodate neighborhood locations, and changing demographics and preferences while maintaining ecological integrity.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Maintaining ecological integrity: great!</i></li><li><i>Yes!</i></li><li><i>This is super important</i></li><li><i>We are glad to see in 2.1.4 that in the "[upgrading] and [development of] facilities and trails" ecological integrity will be maintained.</i></li><li><i>Integrated community sustainability plan, 2007 says: Preserve green spaces; Five minute walking distance to green space from residence; Plans are done before development. I suggest that a minimum distance to access a Park be looked at. Example, Arkell and Ingram's use of McIntyre Creek Park is hampered by Arkell wetlands. The neighborhoods were built without planning walking trails. People are still buying new homes in Ingram. If we're serious about wanting residents to get out and recreate then a boardwalk across wetland to connect to city-made trails needs to be important. The city should want to do it. They should insist on doing it. They should fund doing it. Certainly they can ask residents to help apply for funding like CDF, but it should be a city-led project. See my page on this issue Snowshoe, Hike in Mount McIntyre Recreation Area: <a href="http://whitehorsewalks.com/_docs/MountMcIntyreRecreationArea.pdf">http://whitehorsewalks.com/_docs/MountMcIntyreRecreationArea.pdf</a></i></li></ul>
<b>2.2 Facilitate inclusion to enhance user experiences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Safe places for small children to explore without vehicles</i></li><li><i>An off-leash dog park (Like! X 1) (Only with Pooper Scoopers!</i></li><li><i>Accessibility is important too! (Like! X 1)</i></li><li><i>Recognize the harm that can be done by dogs, cyclists, ATVs and even hikers / walkers in sensitive habitats</i></li><li><i>Inclusion can often result in exclusion</i></li><li><i>2.2 is important but mixed-use is key. Not everything should be fully 'universal' access (Like! X 1)</i></li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Yes to places for youth, children and mobility reduced; not sure about inclusion of motorized vehicles everywhere</i></li><li>• <i>Like! X 4</i></li></ul>
	<hr/> <b>2.2.1 Implement an inclusion strategy to increase opportunities for, and invite full participation of, all residents where feasible.</b> <hr/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>All residents where feasible. (Why) meet with friendly accessible organized user groups but ignoring the unorganized.</i></li></ul>
	<hr/> <b>2.2.2 Increase universal access to park facilities through implementation of an incremental barrier removal strategy including use of accessible design approaches and re-fits wherever possible.</b> <hr/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Watched a mountain biker pulling a trailer with 2 kids try to get thru our barrier that theoretically is to keep out motorized vehicles. We helped lift the trailer over the barrier. If motor vehicle culture would stop saying 'you can't tell us what to do' there would be less need for barriers.</i></li></ul>
<b>2.3 Promote the physical and mental health and wellness benefits of Regional Parks and outdoor recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Yes! And with that cultural connection with land for First Nations (Like! X 6)</i></li><li>• <i>I like the mental health bit (Like! X 1)</i></li><li>• <i>Toboggan hills</i></li><li>• <i>Like! X 3</i></li></ul>
	<hr/> <b>2.3.1 Develop and deliver a communication and education strategy to promote physical and mental health benefits of parks and outdoor recreation in the City's Active Living Guide</b> <hr/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Interesting to look at city's active living fun flyer: summer 2014. Think walking. Think trails. Problem is that most of parks and rec is about organized things. How about a how many trails have you walked this week or this week's featured trails is, or something.</i></li></ul>
	<hr/> <b>2.3.2 Collaborate with a broad range of partners to expand opportunities, programs and services within Regional Parks that promote physical activity, social interaction and healthy lifestyle choices.</b> <hr/>
	<b>2.3.3 Develop relationships with health authorities and social service agencies to incorporate the health benefits of parks into public policy, programs and research.</b>
	<b>2.3.4 Seek ways in which Regional Parks can support the Whitehorse Transportation Demand Management Plan</b>

### Goal 3: *Support community stewardship, education, and partnerships*

<b>Strategies:</b>	<b>Priority Actions:</b> <i>The City, with the help of partners, will...</i>
<b>3.1 Increase opportunities for citizen, visitor and organization involvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>'Adopt a trail' days / seasons to clean up litter etc.</i></li> <li>• <i>Volunteer cleanup crews</i></li> <li>• <i>Encourage visitor / tourist responsibility</i></li> <li>• <i>Like! X 4</i></li> </ul>
	<p><b>3.1.1 Support, engage, and train organizations and individual volunteers to design, develop and implement effective stewardship activities such as habitat restoration, heritage restoration, species recovery, and other activities aligned with the Regional Parks Plan.</b></p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Change order to: engage, train and support</i></li> <li>• <i>Get real! The City does not have employee specialists in habitat or heritage restoration and species recovery.</i></li> <li>• <i>Other activities aligned. Again, walking, health?</i></li> <li>• <i>Good but there needs to be resources included in the word "support".</i></li> </ul> <p><b>3.1.2 Integrate low-impact eco-tourism strategies into facility and program planning, development and operations, as consistent with park settings, the City's sustainability goals, and the Regional Parks Plan.</b></p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>There is a publication called "Ten great places to go birding in Whitehorse" now out of print. Reprint this pamphlet!</i></li> </ul>
<b>3.2 Provide education programs to foster stewardship, health and wellness, personal safety and social responsibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"Neighborhood watch" for trails</i></li> <li>• <i>A place to learn about lynxes, horses, coyote's habitat! Kindergarten class (Like! X 2)</i></li> <li>• <i>Have free get fit program for families and visitors, i.e.: dance lessons in the park, yoga etc. / feature local businesses! (Like! X 1)</i></li> <li>• <i>Stewardship is important so that people take care of the space (Like! X 3)</i></li> <li>• <i>I like the safety bit!</i></li> <li>• <i>Offer to all citizens</i></li> <li>• <i>Children in the wood street program / wildlife viewing / wildlife and ecosystem monitoring with youth and elders</i></li> <li>• <i>Like! X 5</i></li> </ul>
	<p><b>3.2.1 Develop or adopt programs with emphasis on children, youth and under-represented demographic groups such as new Canadians.</b></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Bit repetitive but walking, health, seniors, adults with no interest in sports or organized activities, over stressed screen-bound workers needing nature time</i></li></ul>
	<b>3.2.2 Offer educational programs such as bear and dog awareness, backcountry safety, dressing for weather, and recreating with a partner(s) to promote safe outdoor recreation.</b>
	<b>3.2.3 Explore volunteer Trail Steward and BioBlitz programs.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>What about walk leaders for regular walking events, community/neighbourhood trail steward training, Trail wardens, a system for reporting trail problems.</i></li></ul>
	<b>3.2.4 Adopt and communicate the principles of Leave No Trace.</b>
	<b>3.2.5 Improve and develop new interpretation.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Makes no sense - interpretation of what?</i></li></ul>
	<b>3.2.6 Develop a central online repository for information.</b>
	<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>How about connecting local citizen scientists.</i></li></ul>
<b>3.3 Seek partnerships to deliver new and existing programs and provide special facilities where others have expertise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>CPAWS Yukon can help!</i></li><li>• <i>Change culture to eliminate bush parties and value wilderness for its sake</i></li><li>• <i>Like! X 4</i></li></ul>
	<hr/> <b>3.3.1 Identify potential enhancements to services and programs consistent with park setting and municipal goals, and seek partnerships with the private sector and other public sector entities.</b>
	<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Does this include ENGOs? Like SOYBO, YBC, YCS, et al?</i></li><li>• <i>Commercial operations, yes but need criteria: fair process, public access, good environmental design, question of tenure...if you give a bit of security they will invest and not allow to go derelict like float planes on Schwatka Lake</i></li></ul>
	<b>3.3.2 Partner with and give recognition to non-profit societies to provide and maintain appropriate specialized facilities and programs in Regional Parks, where this is preferable to the use of public funds.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>I like 3.3.2 but it doesn't mean no public \$, just good use of public \$ through partnerships</i></li></ul>
	<b>3.3.3 Partner with educational institutions to use Regional Parks for research, curriculum instruction and occupational training.</b>

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<b>3.4 Encourage philanthropy to support programming and facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Business sponsored mini centers in the woods</i></li> <li>• <i>Great! Ask the profit makers and profit takers to contribute to community wellness (Like! X 1)</i></li> <li>• <i>Not a big fan of corporate sponsored 'public' facilities...I know it's a good source of \$ but...</i></li> <li>• <i>Caution, sponsorship can mean advertising, no advertising in the woods!</i></li> <li>• <i>Invisible support...maybe. No corporate names, influence or control</i></li> <li>• <i>Philanthropy - maybe but hard to keep long-term goals of preservation, education and maintenance when you have to be an employee always asking for funding. It is time that people living outside Whitehorse start to contribute to taxes here especially when they drive everyday to come to work, use CGC, take a shower and ski at Mt. Mac</i></li> </ul>
<b>3.4.1 Explore the development of a Foundation to better enable private citizens and corporations to donate money and gifts-in-kind to the Regional Parks system and nurture a stewardship ethic among citizens.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Disagree with COW creating a Foundation to administer as well as tax dollars. Add to the existing Jan Montgomery Fund instead.</i></li> </ul>
<b>3.4.2 Develop an annual set of priorities for projects and programs for consideration for fundraising by philanthropic organizations.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>It would be useful to be a public process. And to fit disadvantaged groups like walkers or neighborhoods without strong community associations into this.</i></li> </ul>

## **Goal 4: Improve accountability, planning, and management**

<b>Strategies:</b>	<b>Priority Actions:</b>
<i>The City, with the help of partners, will...</i>	
<b>4.1 Engage First Nations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Yes, they should in some way drive the plan regarding the traditional use they have with the area</i></li> <li>• <i>So much, YES!</i></li> <li>• <i>Look at CTFN has done with Mountain Biking. Turned their natural areas into an economic asset / revenue generator. CoW should seek similar partnership with its First Nations</i></li> <li>• <i>Thank you for asking</i></li> <li>• <i>Signs explaining traditional use of plants. Share the Elders knowledge</i></li> <li>• <i>Like! X 11</i></li> </ul>
<b>4.1.1</b>	<b>Build relationships with First Nation communities to identify, inventory and protect significant cultural and traditional-use sites within Regional Parks, and to collaborate on initiatives of mutual</b>

	<b>interest.</b>
<b>4.2 Develop a process for nominating new Regional Park areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This isn't "it"?</i></li> <li><i>Let's add a waterfront park where the old refinery was opposite Walmart</i></li> <li><i>Yes, we need to protect pockets of ecological significance outside the current Regional Parks system (Like! X 2)</i></li> <li><i>Yes! And ways to rehabilitate degraded areas of existing parks</i></li> <li><i>I agree the park system may need to grow or in some cases shift as new issues or ecological considerations are identified.</i></li> <li><i>Like! X 2</i></li> </ul>
<b>4.2.1 Develop a clear process and set of criteria for residents to nominate new Regional Parks or the expansion of existing Regional Parks.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>I like the idea of including people in the process of nominating new parks. That's very inclusive. Very progressive. How about including people in the process of naming the parks? I can see an online engagement platform as being an ideal way of crowdsourcing suggestions for the location of new parks</i></li> <li><i>Especially interconnections to other parks and wilderness. Interim protection for expressions on interest (rock gardens) Yukon river Walking Trail. The problem will be under staffing, poor prioritizing where it could be decades before there's time to look at these. Meanwhile, developers can come in rezone and carry on.</i></li> </ul>
<b>4.3 Further entrench Regional Parks and adjacent lands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Great</i></li> <li><i>Yes if it means not to dilute ecological integrity values of the Parks</i></li> <li><i>If the Parks are in good shape ecologically, people will take more pride in them</i></li> <li><i>Add signage to further entrench current Regional Parks (Like! X 2)</i></li> <li><i>Yes but more than that planning must consider all linkages</i></li> <li><i>Like! X 6</i></li> </ul>
<b>4.3.1 Ensure that Regional Parks and the Green Space Network Plan are better integrated into the Land Use Designations map in the next OCP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This type of legitimization and coherence is important</i></li> </ul>
<b>4.4 Foster evidence-based decision-making</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Great</i></li> <li><i>There is tremendous evidence of harm by motorized vehicles</i></li> <li><i>If you are looking for some evidence contact the Takhini North group, we have witnessed a great amount of harm done to trails and habitat by motorized vehicle users, and interpretive signage</i></li> <li><i>4.3.2 add citizen scientists</i></li> <li><i>Yes, citizens and residents of community have lots of</i></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>knowledge and 'corporate' knowledge on ecological integrity and health of their neighborhoods...use them!</i></li> <li><i>Like! X 9</i></li> </ul>
	<b>4.4.1</b>	<b>Develop a strategy that facilitates natural and social science, as well as local and traditional knowledge by the academic community, City staff, volunteers, First Nations and others to inform planning and management.</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Deliverables: my fear is that those who don't value parks and protected areas will continue to intentionally undo rehabilitation work and drive off road and regular on road vehicles through greenspace. How will this be prevented, stopped, and enforced?</i></li> <li><i>Like! X 5</i></li> </ul>
<b>4.5</b>	<b>Ensure accountability through milestones and deliverables</b>	
	<b>4.5.1</b>	<b>Develop a set of key themes and indicators to provide strategic management direction and measure progress linked to specific goals and outcomes.</b>
	<b>4.5.2</b>	<b>Communicate information to help residents better understand the Regional Parks system and track progress of initiatives.</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This is essential for buy-in</i></li> <li><i>As we know each park would have a management plan which hopefully would be developed in part by the citizens of Whitehorse. Management plans are of varying lengths, but in our view the initial plan(s) should be for a period of three years. At the end of three years, the City would undertake a major review of the plan(s), which would involve the citizens of Whitehorse. A new management plan would be written. The next major review would take place after a five-year period.</i></li> <li><i>Each year the City would hold at least one public meeting where the successes and failures of the current plan(s) would be discussed. In other words, the public would find out why certain things are going well and why others are not. Such yearly meetings would keep the public better connected with its Regional Parks. Those who are truly interested in Regional Parks would take the time to attend the meeting(s) or to at least send in their written comments. Please, do not create Regional Parks Advisory Council. (Instead, as mentioned later create a separate City department dedicated to the management of our Regional Parks.)</i></li> </ul>
<b>4.6</b>	<b>Embrace current planning and management practices</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Will this allow for true implementation? Or will current management practices need to be changed / improved?</i></li> <li><i>Embrace current planning and management through adaptive management with reasonable opportunities to facilitate change where deemed necessary and / or important promote management tools as adaptive flexible and as plans as 'living' documents</i></li> </ul>
	<b>4.6.1</b>	<b>Practice the concept of Adaptive Management.</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Did not understand "adaptive management" until I found the glossary. Maybe put glossary at the beginning of the document?</i></li> </ul>

- *I would add participatory planning.*
- 4.6.2 Continue to provide uniformed operating staff at Regional Park sites with broad roles including maintenance and regulatory compliance.**
- *Is this meant to be bylaw, trail crews? If we can get parks and rec to include walking trails as a legitimate activity, then walk leaders, interpreters, liaison staff with neighborhood steward groups*
- 4.6.3 Incorporate carbon sequestration strategies into park plans whenever appropriate.**
- *I like this one*
- 4.6.4 Develop a City parks classification system so that residents can easily understand which recreation and conservation activities are supported in each park and why.**
- *Classification system is a good idea, may avoid conflict in future.*
- 4.6.5 Review the Parks and Protected Areas Bylaw.**
- 4.6.6 Develop Park Management Plans for the five Regional Parks including establishing activity zones appropriate to different environmental areas.**

## 4. Outcomes

### General Comments:

- *Nice!*
- *Again, comprehensive and links well to the principles.*
- *Each park area should have a vision, theme, management regime and specific outcomes with timelines*
- *Good*
- *Not a bad start but need to be more empirical*
- *There are certainly a lot of outcomes, which is fine. How might these outcomes be achieved? Should the outcomes not be ranked in terms of priority?*
- *I would add to represent the range of key landscapes, ecological features and sensitive ecosystems*
- *Tele-communications- one park is already cut by a power line- are there limits- i.e. no new ones. How about cell towers- there is at least one on the edge of a park. How about service access to these utilities? If located should they be whenever possible on the edge at a location where visitors access a park or should they be disguised? I.e. again it will be difficult to maintain a wilderness character under these situations. Will you try and influence the water regime in McIntyre Creek, which is part of the Fish Lake Project?*
- *The big issues- Extractive activities- will they be excluded? If so will you allow horizontal drilling or tunnelling to remove resources from under the parks. (There is at least one national park where horizontal drilling occurred). Again need to involve YG.*
- *On a lesser issue bio prospecting? I would suspect that you should as long as the various YG experts are involved, there will be no loss of biodiversity and that a share of economic benefits flow back to support the park and possibly First Nations) according to the relevant Benefit Sharing Provisions of the UN Biodiversity Convention agreed to by Canada and YG.*
- *How about harvesting of traditional plants or plant products by First Nations. Again it seems within the constraints of protecting biodiversity.*

### **1. Healthy ecosystems and environment: performance measured by...**

- *Should be the primary goal*
- *It seems to me that non-intrusive science that does not support ground disturbance is acceptable. How about the installation of a weather station or a study plot- I would suggest that is probably OK. I suggest all science within the area require a Science and Explorers Permit even if done for commercial or educational purposes or by a Yukoner- need to involve YG. Permitting will also provide a mechanism for the city to comment. After all of this I need to suggest I also support extractive archaeology research.*
- *Like! X 8*

#### **1.1. Quality of ecosystems and biodiversity**

- *1.1 and 1.2 need assessment now for a baseline to measure any future changes. Does CoW have a dedicated environmental coordinator?*

**1.2. No net-loss of flora or fauna**

- *Why not increase flora and fauna?*
- *What about an increase in flora and fauna? This could be done through expanding the park system beyond what is currently proposed (this expansion could be done over time, not now).*

**1.3. Quality trails and facilities designed and maintained to minimize environmental impact**

**1.4. Total Regional Park system area has not decreased**

- *What about a possible increase? Like expand to include the Rock Gardens?*
- *I do see mention somewhere that an objective is that the total land allocation for Regional Parks will not be reduced. This suggests trading and boundary realignments is possible. Some guidance under what would be acceptable criteria is needed.*

**1.5. Users follow a high level of trail-use compliance**

**1.6. Users adopt the principles of Leave No Trace principles**

**1.7. Green Connections are considered between Regional Parks in planning and management**

- *Neighbourhood connections and 5 min sustainable connection rule needs to also be an issue.*

**1.8. All Regional Parks have effective Park Management Plans in place**

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**2. People-friendly communities and recreational opportunities: *performance measured by...***

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- *Too much dog poo!*
- *Non-motorized!*
- *No ATV's*
- *Shit bags and rubbish bins*
- *Please refer to the following statement: Diverse, enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities that contribute to healthy lifestyles. We suggest you place "active" in front of the word "outdoor." (Please add a definition of active recreation to your present Glossary.)*
- *Like! X 6*

**2.1. Diverse, enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities that contribute to healthy lifestyles**

**2.2. High level of sustainable outdoor recreation participation rates by all residents**

- *Obligation by city to make this happen. Weak community association or no community association should trigger public forum events.*

**2.3. Condition of park assets, such as trails, facilities, and web-based infrastructure**

**2.4. Opportunities to learn about, appreciate, and care for natural and cultural heritage**

**2.5. Accessible and up-to-date information**

## **2.6. Number of volunteers and the outcomes they achieve**

- *Allow for volunteers by individuals not just be recognized groups*

## **2.7. Progress on removing barriers to participation so all residents may enjoy Regional Parks**

- *Start on outside where people live, apply 5 minute rule and see whether a neighbourhood can get to their park. We have cliffs, rivers, wetlands that act as barriers. Then throw in roads (mountainview, Hamilton in particular) and highways (alaska hwy) and they can just as effectively block access.*

## **3. Sustainable prosperity supported by our Regional Parks: performance measured by...**

- *Green spaces are gone forever if developed. Parks that support habitat and wildlife provide opportunity for people to grow up with / close to the land is priceless! Paramount for quality of life*
- *Like! X 4*
- *Sustainable prosperity sounds nonsensical and is hardly measurable*

### **3.1. Citizens recognize and value Regional Parks as public assets that define our community's wilderness character and lead to a higher quality of life**

### **3.2. Quantity and quality of sustainable, nature-based experiences for residents and visitors that contribute to the economic and social fabric of Whitehorse**

- *Not sure this fits here but it sure fits somewhere. There should be significant areas where quiet can be had. Yup. No motorized vehicles. They should not be allowed to go everywhere. Otherwise our 'parks' are just vehicle playgrounds. Park needs to have some degree of sanctity. Council wrong in not allowing this to even be discussed. Aside: No time to fit this, but it seems that if we found a rare plant or a nesting bird that stronger rules apply against disturbance than for people out for a walk could be protected against being buzzed by a snowmobile.*
- *The Only reference I see to industry is some suggestion in 3.2 and 1.5 to Tourism. These parks can become a significant attraction to the city. There needs to be some thought again to level of appropriate use and if the city will allow specialized facilitates or activities to cater specifically to tourists versus visitors in general. (My preference is not). Are you ready for bus tours and the possibility of having large groups at once? Are you considering concessions? (I would hope not but is that part of the vision. How about walking tours like what the Yukon Conservation Society runs- seems to make sense. But how about large-scale tours? i.e. again concessions? And if there are to be concessions is there a cost recovery or and source of revenue or capital to improve park infrastructure- a very slippery slope*
- *Are there acceptable commercial First Nation cultural or cultural tourism opportunities.*

### **3.3. Visitors recognize Whitehorse as a desirable nature-based tourism destination that contributes to diversifying the local economy and provides economic benefits to the City, the private sector, not-for-profits and community groups**

- *Residents. ie neighbourhood trail benefits a resident and a tourist. Why should a business get to make profit selling a vehicle that gets used to wrecking a wetland, but a resident doesn't get to claim*

*value after paying \$xxx,000 for a home?*

**3.4. Connections to City-wide trail, active commuting, and transit networks**

**3.5. Conduits for partnerships and strengthened relationships between citizens, organizations and First Nation, Territorial and Federal governments**

**3.6. Regional Parks planned and managed within existing resources**

- *We need a true parks and greenspaces organization with a budget and a baseline task of environmental and walking trails. We're starting from a disadvantaged point. Unfair. Trail people can't keep up servicing snowmobile and mountain bikes. Hardly able to talk to residents. Add in all Park infrastructures and progress on parks is lost.*

**3.7. Planning and management activities follow best practices**

## **5. Roles, Responsibilities, and Partnerships**

The City of Whitehorse is and will continue to be the lead administrator of Regional Parks. Planning and management will be the responsibility of various City Departments.

The City has traditionally focused its recreation efforts on providing or supporting facilities for active sports with nature-based outdoor recreation making up an important but minor portion of City services (namely through trails and classes). Similarly, the City has also traditionally played a small role with respect to habitat and biodiversity conservation.

The Green Space Network Plan, which formed the basis of the five Regional Parks, was the first major citywide land conservation planning initiative. The Regional Parks Plan recognizes the need for greater internal connections and commitments to advance the outdoor recreation, environmental stewardship and conservation opportunities afforded through the Regional Parks system.

To be successful in fulfilling the Vision, Goals, Strategies and Priority Actions outlined in the Regional Parks Plan, the City recognizes the fundamental need to creatively partner with a variety of organizations so that capacity and resources may be identified and pooled towards mutual interests embodied by Regional Parks. *We are only limited by our willingness to be creative!*

Accordingly, the City will seek partnerships with various organizations, governments, and individuals who will contribute towards developing, maintaining and sustaining Regional Parks.

Potential partners include:

- **Kwanlin Dün First Nation**
- **Ta'an Kwäch'än Council**
- **Yukon Government**
- **Government of Canada**
- **RCMP**
- **Air and Army Cadets**
- **Yukon College**
- **Schools**
- **Conservation organizations**
- **Neighbourhood Associations**
- **Non-governmental organizations**
- **Youth organizations**
- **Service clubs**
- **Tourism authorities**
- **Recreation interest groups**
- **Businesses**
- **Visitors**
- **Interested citizens**

General Comments:

- *Good list of partners...very good start!*
- *Looks good.*
- *Does "internal connections" mean within CoW departments? Creative partnerships probably mean that CoW is looking for partners to share costs?*
- *In theory, I like it. Still a bit concerned about the resources needed to get work done.*
- *Don't let planning get too "creative" and nature will look after itself.*
- *Gathering input from various groups can be a positive approach but can also lead to special interest groups monopolizing the dialogue. Managing the input and effectiveness of the decision making will be challenging and will need strong resolve from the lead Department and City Council.*
- *I would like to see a regional parks board, with representatives, from First nations, conservation groups, business, etc. If this is done well good partnerships can be forged by means of a parks board. Next a board as such should have distinct roles and responsibilities.*
- *Good*
- *OK*
- *As suggested in the draft document the management of Regional Park or parks is going to be a unique experience for the City of Whitehorse. The document states, "planning and management will be the responsibility of various City Departments." We are somewhat concerned that this will become a rather inefficient way of looking after these parks. It sounds like a piecemeal approach to park management. There needs to be a new department dedicated to this task. It needs to be staffed with people who have the education and experience required to effectively manage these types of parks. As has been pointed out Chadburn Lake Park alone is nineteen times the size of Stanley Park. Some 30% of the area of Whitehorse is dedicated to Regional Parks. The management of an area this size is such a daunting task that it requires a body of people dedicated to that role. Certainly those in this new department would draw upon the knowledge of those in other applicable City departments, but the overall management of Regional Parks should rest with those in this new Regional Parks department. The initial size of this new department would depend on how many Regional Parks are going to be established within the next year. If we start with Chadburn Lake then one would assume that a larger number of people would be required to staff such a department. If the City truly cares about successfully managing its Regional Parks then it must come up with the funds to establish a new Regional Parks department dedicated to that goal.*
- *Thank you!*
- *Friends of McIntyre Creek wants to be a partner*
- *The City has traditionally focused its recreation efforts on providing or supporting facilities for active sports.... trails and classes. Walking needs help. Just because it doesn't lend itself to programming or sports stuff doesn't mean it can be ignored. Too much trail stuff is around vehicles: mountain bikes, ATVs, snowmobiles. There's only me talking walking. So unless you consider me an organization, then there's no walking voice...I see an obligation on part of city to create a walking voice in the city, not a part of general trails or sidewalks but a higher-level ethical position with clout. Someone who can argue with engineering or parks and rec or zoning or sustainable city and say 'hold on, that's not acceptable' Where do we come off thinking a person driving a car should have more rights than individuals walking? This is a dinosaur viewpoint.*
- *If this is an ordered list it's telling that citizens are last, way after army cadets!*
- *A wise Council will plan before moving. Thanks for hearing our concerns.*

## 6. Decision-making framework

**Section 1.0 is the full Decision-Making Framework, complete with Values-based Guiding Principles, a Vision, Goals, Strategies and Priority Actions, Outcomes, and Roles, Responsibilities and Partnerships. This Decision-making Framework will provide the foundation for future park-specific Management Planning.**

### General Comments:

- *I like it!*
- *Looks okay. Not too sure how flexible it is. It might not be able to react quickly in the event a decision is needed in a hurry.*
- *Future decisions should include council members, staff AND a member of the public as the trails and greenways committee does.*
- *Solid.*
- *A little lengthy and convoluted but perhaps that is the norm. Hopefully the park-specific plans are not too repetitive or costly.*
- *It should be clearly articulated that ultimately the final decisions are to be made by City Council on recommendations received from the Regional Park working group.*
- *This framework is a good starting point to have City Council, City staff and public think in terms of regional parks.*
- *Good*
- *Cut out this section if it's just a repeat of verbiage above.*
- *Our response to the framework is positive.*

## 7. Additional Comments

- *I believe in a strong community/NGO and other parties such as clubs, First Nations, Institutions of Public Government established by Final Agreements, the College/schools etc. all have a role for supporting parks but I also believe with a program of this scale the city needs to get into something like a Parks Board to facilitate coordination and provide leadership.*
- *I believe there needs to be an overall Regional Park Plan and this needs to tie in with other plans including Transportation, schools, other parks etc. but also individual Park Management Plans. As stated plans also must work with neighbours.*
- *Nope! Lets create these parks!*
- *Overall the plan is quite impressive. Would be nice to see a section devoted to further regional park expansion (e.g. how to include the Rock Gardens into it).*
- *Very specific: I really like the idea of a central web repository of information. Downloadables such as GPS data, Google Earth files, etc. would be useful.*
- *P 24. 2.6 delete the word "growth" also 2.6 how can natural features be enhanced? Seems if they are natural they should be left untouched. Most important sentence in the document: "The key challenge...amenities." no mention of dogs in the parks. Dogs: leave poop, sometimes frighten people, may chase, catch, eat wildlife or disturb wildlife so life is threatened. Dogs should be banned from some sensitive wildlife areas. AND more poop bag dispensers accompanied by collection bins should be deployed. P 25 Protecting..."the challenge...development." And "enforcement of the rules" good statements. p 26: limit human impact: must explain why to gain compliance. 3.2 p 27 did not understand the statement "Having.... values." 4.0 do not like the definition of Environmentally Sensitive Areas. They do not support or protect the environment. They ARE areas needing extra protection. How can "land" include air? Include the alphabet soup of abbreviations in the glossary. SOMETIMES THE BEST MANAGEMENT IS NO MANAGEMENT while allowing for protection.*
- *Let's form the regional parks and get the ball rolling! One can theorize about policy, but nothing is better than practice. So let's push this policy through and make adjustments as required - there will be adjustments; regardless of whatever shape the final draft will take!*
- *The only concern I have is that the numbers of trails affect some of the essential needs of animals such as cover and carrying capacity. The trail is heavily user focused. As stated in the challenges section, the tradeoff between human use and the environment is hard to balance.*
- *Accessible in some areas, wilder in others for true mixed use*
- *The Plan does not seem to address the changing demands for parkland use and potential conflicts. For example if the City leases parkland to a commercial venture (i.e.: mountain biking tours with yurts, orienteering, sport fishing, picnic rental), will revenue generation supersede public use?*
- *Section 2.3 is a good history and demonstrates extensive City Parks Planning in existence already. There has also been considerable recent discussion in the passing of City Bylaws affecting Regional Park lands (motorized use, helmet use etc.) and the pertinent Bylaws could be listed in the Regional Parks Plan for cross-referencing purposes. This would assist the citizens of Whitehorse in navigating all the applicable rules*
- *There are also a number of YG regulations i.e. fishing permits, campfires that could be listed or referenced to avoid duplication of City enforcement efforts.*
- *Overall the City of Whitehorse staff should practice "Leave No Trace" with the Regional Park Plan that will generate a successful outcome for long term Whitehorse green space.*
- *Non-motorized for sure*

- *Initially, I thought that the statement about "What is Regional Parks" was missing but then I saw that you included it in section 2. I would bring it up to the forefront. It would be good to have a short description of what constitute a regional park and how it is managed.*
- *I would add some Regional Context (key facts): area, population, private versus protected areas...*
- *This is just a thought but planning, even for parks, is about strengthening the connection between people and places. What if we included places in the process of building and designing the network? In other words, create a park network that also considers important places. The idea is to facilitate activities and connections (ecological, social, cultural even) that define a place and supports it. It takes a place to create a good community. So how about creating small spaces scattered around parks that would promote interactions. I know of a one place around the Hidden Lakes where someone (a friend of mine) built a bench and had it choppered to a beautiful knoll overlooking one of the lakes. It's a beautiful place and provides hikers with an option to rest, chat, and enjoy the landscape. I think that there could be more places like that. The Schwatka boat launch area is another example. People and groups use the area to connect but there aren't any facility/infrastructure that promote connections/interactions (picnic tables...).*
- *I would add a section that describes the process for updating and amending the plan.*
- *As mentioned previously, please add a definition of Active Recreation to your Glossary. The OCP has a definition of Active Transportation to which one can refer when defining Active Recreation.*
- *The draft plan seems to have lost the emphasis on connectivity between the parks/green spaces for wildlife, at a watershed level. That was one of the visions raised at the 1st public workshop. The linkages mentioned seem too human-centric.*
- *Walkers and walking not represented at appropriate city level. Is there a voice speaking for walking. Walking trails are not generally environmental problems. It's usually vehicles that cause problems*
- *Meetings: You need feedback but the process to get it needs to be better. I'll draw in examples from recent city processes so you see what doesn't work. That's what I see as a walker and neighbourhood resident. I'm sure it's complicated but I really think that charettes would be the thing to try. Feedback on PDF documents is hard to do. We as citizens have been burned by putting a lot of effort into city processes only to have it ignored, or incorporated into the plan and the plan later reinterpreted because of revisiting/ revisioning by the city. If you don't want input, better to not ask for it. Cheaper and less aggravating for all. Two-hour roundtable meetings are too fast to be of great value. Doesn't allow time for reflection. Dependant on skills and bias of note takers. City people shouldn't chair a meeting, nor sit at round table as a participant, nor puts up dots to choose what priorities should be. Too much philosophy and not enough actual problem solving because meeting has been visualized as part of some process most of us don't believe in. Map-based meetings should have maps that are usable. True minutes need to be quickly posted from committees. Some minutes seem like they are top secret. And then some minutes seem like they say nothing. Dot process is bad. These issues are often complex and solutions need to be broad in scope, not one sided. The herd mentality of putting dots on motherhood issues often leaves the interesting and critical ideas dropping off the table, not even being recorded as important. The dot placers may well not understand the point, or the recorder may have botched the phrasing, or the dot placers may be exposing their bias. Wordsmithing ideas into fitting into slots, getting as many possible items under few headings; then allowing the dot process to drop them means a very short sighted approach and most of the idea gathering goes out the window.*
- *City needs to be neutral: Some current process does not take point of view of residents. Membership at meetings needs to be appropriate. If there's neighbourhoods involved then they need representation. Or cancel the meeting or hold a separate meeting for neighbourhoods. It's*

*too easy to just get the user groups who have representatives focussed on making their needs paramount. So the takeaway message for engagement on parks planning, need to have neighbourhood/regional meetings open to individuals. We can't count on community associations to speak because they can only help inform members about happenings.*

- Initial parameters: It would be useful for initial parameters to be part of this document. Trying to avoid the mess with motorized vehicles by not allowing motorized discussion into this process seems underhanded.*
- I have lived in Whitehorse for about 25 years in a few areas: Riverdale, Porter Creek, Logan, Copper Ridge, and now in Takhini North. In these areas, I have seen an increase in the use of ATV and other motorized vehicles (motorcycles, even cars and trucks) traffic in green area around these and other subdivisions. These motorized vehicles create a lot of damage to the ground surface, and this should be prevented in my opinion. Everyone should have a right to use the parks and green areas, and each group should be assigned certain areas and trails that they can use. The motorized vehicles should be assigned gravel roads and hard trails where they do not do any further damage to the ground surface. These assigned areas and trails for each user groups should be advertised, and be subject to education and communications campaigns. As necessary, certain trails should be gated and posted to keep motorized vehicles out of certain areas. I have attached a number of photographs that show some of the damage created by ATVs and other vehicles.*
- Whitehorse has been somewhat proactive (I actually boast about the city in some venues though there have been examples where good starts seem to still have lost the path along the way) in terms of land use planning as it relates to park planning in terms of acquiring some of its needed base line in terms of an ecological land classification at a scale that can be used to understand some of the ecosystem units necessary to ensure the integrity of "natural" area planning and management. It is critical that this input feeds any and all strategic and operational management plans and actions with respect to regional park plans including the step already completed, which is boundary setting.*
- Several of these natural areas encompass watersheds either natural (example Wolf Creek) or a combination of natural and artificial (McIntyre Creek) that extend beyond the Municipal boundaries. It is critical that the city work closely with the responsible jurisdictions beyond the municipal boundaries to maintain the integrity of the watershed and its values the city is managing for.*
- I realize that the City markets itself as the Wilderness City. Few places within the cities boundaries would I classify it as wilderness utilizing some of the accepted definitions of the term- natural areas yes. I know this is a very subjective comment but to make my point I will refer to a couple of North American accepted examples. The US Wilderness Act defines the criteria that lands must meet to achieve wilderness designation. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilderness\\_Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilderness_Act). In Canada, Parks Canada has a Declared Wilderness within its Zone II Natural Areas- if you wish a sub zone for- within its land use zoning system. "2.2.3.2 Zone II – Wilderness: Extensive areas which are good representations of a natural region and which will be conserved in a wilderness state. The perpetuation of ecosystems with minimal human interference is the key consideration. Zones I and II will together constitute the majority of the area of all but the smallest national parks, and will make the greatest contribution toward the conservation of ecosystem integrity. Zone II areas offer opportunities for visitors to experience, first hand, a park's natural and cultural heritage values through outdoor recreation activities which are dependent upon and within the capacity of the park's ecosystems, and which require few, if any, rudimentary services and facilities. Where the area is large enough, visitors will also have the opportunity to experience remoteness and solitude. Opportunities for outdoor recreation activities will be encouraged only*

*when they do not conflict with maintaining the wilderness itself. For this reason, motorized access and circulation will not be permitted, with the possible exception of strictly controlled air access in remote northern parks, as specified in 4.4.3. Parks Canada will use a variety of other direct and indirect strategies for managing public use, and will evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies on a regular basis." the above is an excerpt is from*

*<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/docs/pc/poli/princip/sec2/part2a/part2a4.aspx>. An example of its application <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/docs/v-g/bc/glacier/pd-mp/sec13.aspx>. Obviously there are other classifications and some consider this a purely subjective comment but I would argue that like many other technical, social science, scientific, medical, engineering and other fields some of the best minds in the study of wilderness- a field that includes aspects of social and experiential sciences, conservation biology ecosystem classification, wild land use etc. have come up with these definitions- not as accurate as Pi ( $\pi$ ) but useful. I would argue that there are few areas within any of these Whitehorse Regional Parks that could be considered wilderness.*

- *The concept of Regional Parks in Canada and from the best of my knowledge in North America and possibly the world came out of the work of the Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board between the early 1950's and late 1960's and culminating in the 2 following key documents which subsequently resulted in the establishment of the Regional Parks System - in some cases incorporating existing park lands and but in many cases adding to the system. B.C. subsequently passed a Regional Parks Act that extended the concept province wide beyond what in the late 60's became the 4 Lower Mainland Regional Districts after the dissolution of the original LMRPB. A key attribute of the Regional Parks was to provide large natural areas within easy access to population- increasingly important in many areas of the modern Lower Mainland since vehicle ownership in certain demographic sectors is dropping and despite access to natural areas in the Coast Range to the north, the Cascades to the east and the ocean to the west (and shopping to the south- sorry- I just had to say that). Remember when these documents were written much of the forested lands in BC had restricted access as a result of the privileges granted large commercial resource industries such as the timber industry. Forest roads hadn't yet been forced to be unlocked by the courts. A. **Land for Leisure** 1961 systematically recognized the need for parklands meet various types of needs including larger natural areas within easy reach of the population. **A Regional Parks Plan for the Lower Mainland Region** (May 1966) went on to recognize that there are different types of "Parks"- at that time from "Tot Lots" to National Parks, recognize the role of each and the appropriate activities that could occur in each, propose a system of Regional Parks would play in a family of "park types" and then go onto identify within the appropriate roles and activities for regional parks what would seem to be appropriate for each of the Parks that the individual park propose. Today there are obviously many more types of Parks and Protected Places such as Biosphere Reserves, Marine Parks, World Heritage Sites ( BC also has Ecological Reserves). In addition the range of Human Heritage sites have in most places been added or in many examples combined. We also have a few unique land classifications resulting from Final Agreements here in the Yukon. Good Stuff. IN terms of designation they tried to establish areas within a reasonable reach of all Lower mainland populations. I could be critical and suggest they should have been more aggressive in securing areas but knowing the opposition from vested interests in the 60's it is amazing the system was secured. They have subsequently had to go back a revert many developments to secure various objectives such as day lighting or restoring streams to restore salmon runs which if had been built into the objectives of a regional conservation / recreation plan / corridor plan may have resulted in better final products and much lower costs. Knowing what our future may look at I think Whitehorse has been even more aggressive that the Lower Mainland and all I can say is again- Good Stuff! One thing you might want to look at is an approach championed by Parks Canada in*

*the mid 1970's when (the Minister at the time was Jean Chretien) known **Byways and Special Places** (there was a publication outlining this produced and then specific documents on specific initiatives such as the CORTS agreements). There were a few major successes under it - particularly the Heritage Canals in 3 provinces (Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia) and there were some interesting attempts to link national, provincial and sites under the jurisdiction of other entities such as municipalities and First Nations on the Prairies. While not a direct product the Trans Canada Trail could be considered a descendent. First I can say as having spent 28 years as a senior National Park manager I recognize there have often been blurring of lines of appropriate uses within different levels of Parks- especially at the provincial and national parks levels. There are also many uses that Park lands are now targeted for that were not considered at that time- the off road bicycle hadn't yet been invented and many of the off road vehicles there use by recreationalists weren't even imagined. Even the BC Lower Mainland there were only 2 outdoors stores that sold a minimal of mountaineering equipment and MEC (Mountain Equipment Coop) wouldn't be invented for another half decade. Tents were still for the most part canvas or high tech cottons such as Oxford Cloth. Hiking Boots. Skiing was Alpine skiing- not Nordic. While we all had bicycles the 10 speed wouldn't hit the market big for 4 years. There were a couple of canoe outlets but kayaks- they were mostly for the Arctic. Sport parachuting yes but the other form of suicide hand gliding? OK - I have pushed this to the limit. The Result: Every time I am down in the Lower Mainland I make a point of having a look at what has happened with the Regional Parks System. I am impressed- they really have managed to avoid catering to all pressures and have stayed true to the purposes for which they were established - despite what I can imagine are intense pressures. One of the parks that I was partially instrumental in securing against a major residential development is luckily near where I grew up (and recreated in before it was a park) and I can say I am impressed in how the program has stayed true to its VISION. In many ways it has similarities to both Wolf Creek and McIntyre Creek in that it is involved in partnerships to maintain salmon runs and also provides a home for a small fish hatchery. Natural areas catering to for the most part passive recreation.*

- The Need to manage all City Lands not just the urban landscape and the Centennial Trail Loop. I feel the City falls down here. They seem to do a good job either by doing it themselves or in partnership with groups such as the 2 Ski Societies, The Horsemen etc. where there are specific interest groups but I do not see little action in areas such as Hidden Lake (maybe you are still looking for it- sorry) or the various Green Belts. Regional Parks require active management or they will attract inappropriate use. Obviously the hot issue are concerns such as motorized use and "bush parties" (which can also result in the potential risk of wildfire) but in many areas I see signs of trampling because of over use or the establishment of new trails/ trail braiding. Also the natural environmental values may require a certain degree of monitoring and active management. One thing I need to say is there are often techniques that can be employed to increase "appropriate" use capacity (I often term it "bush ape technology") but at the same time we need to also consider the appropriate level of use to maintain the desired visitor /user experience and also various conservation biology objectives. One approach used successfully is known as Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) and obviously the LAC objectives in most of a Regional Park may be quite different than parts of these land units that you may want to maintain as wilderness. The degree of effort in many cases may not be much but living on a green belt area with a major trail that will potentially connect with one of these Regional Parks I know it is all but none now.*
- All city planning should factor in how to connect subdivisions with regional parks through passive transportation means. For instance the Whistlebend Drive Cut if not modified has excluded the north-eastern part of the Porter Creek to what would have been their closest Regional Park- a*

*connection that originally existed by a walking trail. The Remediation will be a challenge but I know that during the Whistlebend Visioning Charrets was identified as an issue.*

- *Regional Parks should also be interconnected.*
- *Activities that by their very nature (either intentionally or unintentionally) damage or destroy the experience of others need to be relocated to their special areas or not allowed. My vision of a Regional Parks for instance would only allow off road vehicle use for operational purposes I recognize these machines may be a useful tool in these areas). On the other hand I would suspect there would be opportunities for various sorts of wheelchairs including in places where the landscape is compatible motorized wheel chairs.*
- *Careful talking about Stanley Park- it actually is Ordinance Lands and legally administered by Parks Canada for Canada but operated by Vancouver by an agreement. That is why when major projects occurred related to the access to the Lions Gate Bridge it triggered CEAA. There are other examples across Canada- examples Belcarra Regional Park in Port Moody, Point Pleasant Park and McNabs Island in Halifax.*
- *Have you discussed the concept of regional parks with the Yukon Government? Are there candidate areas they should be considering in or near other Yukon Communities? Should there be overall regional Park enabling legislation as there is in BC- possibly a way of dealing with issue of resource extraction.*
- *Last word - I am a big supporter of the role Regional Parks play I the mosaic of protected and recreational spaces but feel strongly that they need to stay within their space in that continuum.*
- *I am proud of CoW for putting this parkland aside. This is why I live here: trails and trees, and lost of both.*