

CITY OF WHITEHORSE
SPECIAL Council Meeting #2025-12

DATE: Thursday June 19, 2025
TIME: 1:00 p.m.

Mayor Kirk Cameron
Deputy Mayor Anne Middler
Reserve Deputy Mayor Dan Boyd

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER 1:00 p.m.

AGENDA Adoption

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Chasàn Chùà Park

ADJOURNMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO:	City Planning Committee
FROM:	Administration
DATE:	June 19, 2025
RE:	Chasàn Chùà Territorial Park

ISSUE

To obtain Council endorsement of the Chasàn Chùà Territorial Park and City participation on a multi-party committee to develop a management plan for the park.

REFERENCE

- [Whitehorse 2040 Official Community Plan](#)
- [Parks and Land Certainty Act](#)

HISTORY

Chasàn Chùà (McIntyre Creek) is a valued wildlife, cultural, and recreational corridor in Whitehorse. In April 2024, Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN), Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC), the City of Whitehorse (the City), the Government of Yukon (YG), and Parks Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaboratively protect the area. This led to the establishment of the Chasàn Chùà Steering Committee (the Committee), with representatives from all five parties, to recommend a park boundary, designation, and governance model.

From October to December 2024, the Committee led public and stakeholder engagement, receiving strong support for protection of the area. Key themes included preserving wildlife and ecology, supporting recreational use, managing mining, development and motorized access, and recognizing cultural values. Following engagement, the Committee submitted detailed boundary recommendations and preliminary recommendations to government.

The Minister of Environment considered the Committee recommendations and subsequently notified the parties of his decision on the boundary, designation, and governance model applied to protect the area. The parties could provide feedback on the decision until April 21, 2025. The City provided feedback on March 24, 2025 and highlighted the need to incorporate the City's infrastructure requirements into the park designation and future management planning, to ensure they are appropriately considered in the park's development and zoning. Both the park's environmental values and the City's infrastructure needs are essential to supporting the City's long-term growth and development plans.

YG will formally announce the designation of Chasàn Chùà as a territorial park under the Natural Environment Park designation on June 19, 2025.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Proceed with the endorsement of the park and City participation in future management planning; or
2. Do not proceed with the endorsement.

ANALYSIS

Park Designation and Boundary

The Government of Yukon is proceeding with designation of Chasàn Chùà as a Natural Environment Park under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*. Natural Environment Parks serve to protect representative or unique landscapes that highlight ecological features characteristic of one or more of Yukon's ecoregions. This designation is the most suitable option for Chasàn Chùà, as it supports the area's diverse cultural, environmental, social, and economic values, allows for effective interaction with municipal zoning, and maintains consistency with the OCP.

The announced park boundary will also generally align with the conceptual boundary set out in the OCP. Notable changes include extending the boundary in the southwest to the municipal boundary to provide ecological continuity with the Fish Lake area as well as protecting much of the McIntyre Creek headwaters. It also includes McIntyre Marsh, The Point, and an Environmental Protection zoned area along the Yukon River, in recognition of the areas' heritage, environmental, and recreational significance. Finally, it also excludes certain mineral claims to recognize the area's high mineral potential and balance economic interests.

Next Steps

For the time being, City bylaws will continue to apply within the area until completion of management planning. A central element of the management planning process is to develop a park management plan, which will define the park's long-term vision, land use framework, and management approach. The park designation requires YG to invite TKC, KDFN, and the City to participate in future management planning. City involvement in this process will help ensure the integration of municipal interests, particularly around infrastructure, recreation, and environmental protection, in the park's planning and long-term governance.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION for which a mover and a seconder is required is:

THAT Council endorse the Chasàn Chùà Territorial Park as will be announced by the Minister of Environment; and

THAT Council endorse Administration's participation in the Yukon Government's park management plan discussions for the Chasàn Chùà Territorial Park.

Appendix A – Chasàn Chùà Territorial Park

