

# PLAN IT! Whitehorse

Photo: Darren Bartsch

## Porter Creek D and Long Range Planning:

In January 2013, City Council voted in favour of delaying planning and design work for the proposed residential development of the Porter Creek D/Middle McIntyre Creek area. The delay will last until the Whistle Bend neighbourhood reaches 75% of its build-out.

To accommodate growth, the City has entered into long-term planning agreements with Yukon Government to undertake preliminary investigation of the McLean Lake and Long Lake areas. The goal will be to determine the potential of the areas for residential development

and examine potential impacts.

Background work will include:

- contour mapping;
- geotechnical assessment;
- wildlife study;
- environmental mapping;
- traffic analysis;
- servicing assessment; and
- heritage investigation.

The resulting information will help to inform the next review process of the *Official Community Plan*. For information, contact [mike.ellis@whitehorse.ca](mailto:mike.ellis@whitehorse.ca).

## Incentives:

In June 2012, Council adopted the *Development Incentives Policy* to encourage strategic development, particularly in downtown. The policy supports projects that provide rental units, supportive housing, mixed-use buildings, and other amenities. Three levels of funding are available:

- Minor Incentive, up to \$10,000;
- Standard Incentive, up to \$50,000; and
- Major Incentive, up to \$500,000.

In November 2012, the City awarded a Major Incentive to Options For Independence – the non-profit is now in the construction phase of 14 new supportive living units at the south end of 4th Avenue. The City additionally waived \$61,000 in fees for permits and water and sewer connections to make the project feasible.

Incentives and waived fees are just two ways that the City is helping to make non-profit housing possible. For information visit [www.whitehorse.ca/incentives](http://www.whitehorse.ca/incentives).

## Hillcrest Neighbourhood Planning Process:

The City has awarded a contract to Inukshuk Planning & Development Ltd to engage Hillcrest residents and property owners in a neighbourhood planning process. Three day-time events have been scheduled which will be held at Elijah Smith School:

**Saturday, April 6th: Visioning Workshop.** The goal will be to develop a guiding vision for the neighbourhood.

**Saturday, April 20th: Charrette #1** Discussion will focus on Local Improvements, Traffic Calming, and

Beautification.

**Saturday, May 11th: Charrette #2.** Discussion will focus on Zoning, Redevelopment, and Infill.

Visit [www.whitehorse.ca/hillcrest](http://www.whitehorse.ca/hillcrest) for information on times and background documentation.

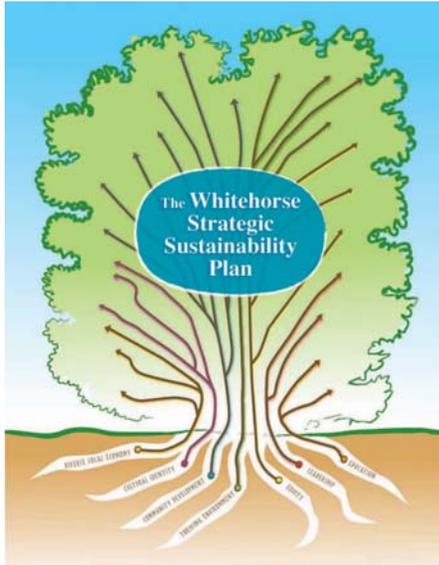
The input generated at these events will feed into a neighbourhood plan for Hillcrest, and other planning processes. If you are interested to attend one, two, or all three of the events please send your RSVP to [erica.beasley@whitehorse.ca](mailto:erica.beasley@whitehorse.ca).



NEIGHBOURHOOD  
PLANNING PROCESS



## Strategic Sustainability Plan Highlights, 2011 - 2012:



A recent report outlines the City's progress on the *Whitehorse Strategic Sustainability Plan* (SSP) for the period between 2011 and 2012. The SSP was adopted by Council in 2009 to provide a broad vision for sustainability through 7 key principles and 53 specific actions. To view the plan and report, visit [www.whitehorse.ca/sustainability](http://www.whitehorse.ca/sustainability).

**Thriving Environment.** To ensure a thriving environment, the City promotes stewardship of the natural environment and recognition of its intrinsic value. The City has made progress on all actions under this principle, with highlights including work on a *Wellhead Protection Plan*, *Solid Waste Action Plan*, and *Green Procurement Policy*. The challenge now is to implement these plans, monitor progress, renew the City's anti-idling directive, and improve efficiency of the vehicle fleet.

**Community Development.** The City's goals for community development include taking an integrated approach for decisions on land use, infrastructure, development, energy, and transportation. The City continues to encourage sustainable land use through changes to zoning and by providing development

incentives geared at strategic growth. Other highlights include completion of the *Energy Management Plan*, progress on district heating projects, implementation of the City EnergyTracker database, improvements to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, improvements to the transit schedule, and ridership promotion campaigns. Future challenges include integrating climate change knowledge into decision-making.

**Leadership.** The City has made progress in becoming a leader in sustainability. Re-organization of City services merged the departments of Environment and Sustainability to increase effectiveness, and an Events and Outreach Department was created for in-house expertise in public consultation. Leadership was demonstrated in project-specific initiatives, such as implementing a sustainable purchasing policy and enhancing energy efficiency requirements in the *Building and Plumbing Bylaw*.

**Diverse Local Economy.** The SSP envisions a diverse local economy that encourages self-sufficiency and efficient resource use. Notable actions include the introduction of an agricultural zone in the City's *Zoning Bylaw*, and allowing for chickens in some residential zones.

**Equity.** The SSP envisions fairness and inclusiveness in community relationships. The City has made gains in accessibility through new zoning specifications that require accessible units in multiple-housing developments and in hotels. Transit buses remain fully accessible, and bus stops see ongoing upgrades. Some areas of the Municipal Services Building remain a challenge for access, though a new building

is being explored which will incorporate universal design.

**Cultural Identity.** The SSP identifies partnerships in culture and recreation, and creating a vibrant downtown as elements of cultural diversity. The City installed sculptures outside of the new Public Safety Building. Additionally, Parks and Recreation partnered with residents as stewards of the Chadburn Lake ski trails to carry out trimming and grooming. A partnership was also made with the Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club to enhance 15 km of trails at Mount McIntyre, and develop 10 km of trails in other areas.

**Education.** The SSP recognizes education as a sustainability tool. Public education was provided on all major initiatives that involved updates to City policies and bylaws, including the *Zoning Bylaw* rewrite, *Building and Plumbing Bylaw* update, and revisions to the *ATV and Snowmobile Bylaw*. The City also supports environmental education through partnerships and direct funding through the Environmental and Recreation Grants.

### Contact Us:

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