

VALUES AND VISION WORLD CAFE

“WHAT WAS SAID” (as written by participants on table cards)

March 11th, 2014, Mt. Mac Rec Centre

Final thoughts:

- parks have spiritual and economical value
- a lot of common ground was shared tonight. Everybody wants to access these parks and values nature. Potential is great both for conflicts and for learning
- I heard a story a long time ago about a newcomer to Canada who couldn't understand why Stanley Park had not been developed. Years later the same man said he would 'kill' anyone who touched that park
- how do we ensure our parks are protected from the pressures of economics?
- stewards <create> parks <create> stewards
- importance of putting 'wilderness city' motto into practice and action by creating regional park system
- everyone here is here because they believe in the value of parks. But is this interest enough to defend their existence in our uncertain future?
- nature is where I belong
- keep it green, intact, and connected with real protection
- needs protection to be able to offer easy and accessible recreation for everyone for many years
- everyone 'pro-preserving wilderness' but I'm not sure everyone is ready and willing for the cost (higher density, in-town living etc.)
- what is a park within city of whitehorse definition? How protected is the land?
- save these spaces forever. Give every child in the future of whitehorse a chance to see natural areas, wildlife, birds, and walk on natural ground. Finalize good boundaries
- exciting prospect that we will have a huge, interconnected park system for future generations
- easy, almost immediate access of the front porch to wilderness and nature seem to be the primary asset to folks who live here. They want to show it off, share it
- there has to be an acceptance that wilderness can change. We are living in a city that will grow. Density will preserve the wilderness values but will also have a big impact. Protection cannot be about preserving
- find a way to make parks valuable to all residents
- tonight was a great opportunity for participants to share ideas and reflect upon the importance of parks. Planners, please keep this input in mind
- the five regional parks run through the city. As a result, how they're used affects everyone, including city departments (planning, bylaw, parks and trails), first nations, yukon college, schools, businesses. Sustainable management will require a coordinated effort and a commitment to a participatory, innovative, and inclusive approach to

information gathering and management

- wildlife, outdoor recreation, connectivity, sustainability, health (body and mind), and gathering places
- our parks can provide a wonderful source of education, of physical fitness through active forms of recreation, and well being
- experiential classroom right here; healthy activity; teach us to respect nature
- history, inventory, description, bird's eye view; what are 'we' looking at with these five parks?
- For me I find great comfort in daily walking in the woods. It feels right. I'm always looking at things and trying to understand them; feeling healthy
- keep it meaningful, adaptable, and maintain ecological integrity
- value will appreciate exponentially to citizens visitors, business as nature and wilderness are gone 'outside': priceless
- importance of preserving the interaction between people / society and nature and recognizing and not compromising that value. We have to avoid discussion of monetary value of parks. There is no win in this discussion only opens the door to exploitation

Values

- have a place or places that provide peace and quiet and a break from the urban areas, a place to recharge
- they surround our city; don't let economics destroy; inspire arts
- most important thing about these spaces is that they provide citizens with areas they can exercise, connect with nature, and renew themselves spiritually. In other words they are important for the health and well being of citizens
- important because they are close to where I live; to enjoy, to breath the fresh air they create, drink the clean water they create, see and hear the animals they nurture
- when people value and understand the nature in their backyards, they understand and care about the greater environmental crises our planet is facing and learn to live more lightly on the planet and teach others to do the same. Whitehorse's parks can teach our city and visitors how to do this
- peace, quiet, pure nature nearby. Connection to life-giving systems
- space to get away that is at our doorstep
- large wild green spaces within walking distance of everyone's back door
- provide opportunity to exercise, meditate, and experience being a small part of the vast fabric of nature
- protection through use. They are city parks and the city is growing, doubling over last thirty years. Technology means this will continue to be a great place to live. People here are from non-outdoor city lives and they all want to feel safe and learn more about the parks
- recreation
- accessible wilderness is a way to feel satisfied with life, adventurous and healthy

- intact ecosystems and habitats for birds, fish and wildlife; that is, biodiversity
- grow these areas and keep them to improve them for wildlife and people
- valuing the way it is now
- most important to me is the authenticity (wilderness) of the parks
- wildlife need corridors to mingle from north to south. People need places to relax and exercise that are economically viable
- large, intact, connected; ecologically and space
- maintaining and enhancing intact wilderness corridors
- peace and quiet place to reflect and healthy lifestyles
- preserving the natural environment
- accessibility
- access to these green spaces. And yes I would pay to use them, along with everyone else
- connection to wilderness
- parks = pride (unique community, economic diversification, esthetic beauty, get to tell all your friends in Toronto that you ski out your door!
- these parks contribute immeasurably to the physical and mental health of us all

Vision

- close proximity to wilderness, park, nature for every whitehorse citizen
- first nation values should be included to share wisdom and ensure conflicts are reduced in future
- continuity of trails and green spaces
- interconnectedness of the park areas with the greater wilderness
- build connections so park systems become part of the identity of city residents
- integral to every citizen of whitehorse
- keeping the areas as natural as possible
- maintain and enhance wildlife viewing opportunities
- linked green spaces, accessibility from all areas in city, not disturbed by roads or other man made objects
- natural spiritual feeling in these parks
- legacy for future generations; wilderness access still few minutes away from home and work
- teach our population to live these areas as their own yard. To have nature centers, guided walks, picnic areas, interpretive signage, and lots of natural areas
- synonymous with whitehorse is our parks. Well interpreted, strong trails, trailheads, perhaps a daily bus going around city trailheads, visitors who come and walk. Strong bed and breakfasts, cafes, stronger arts and music. First nations have bought in to sharing their culture and in fact their lifestyles will mesh well with maintaining these parks, their on the land values 100% in sync with parks and tourist desires to see them
- our park system is so integrated into our psyche as whitehorse citizens. We cannot

contemplate being without them

- stewards <create> parks <create> stewards
- nurture a city and citizenship that fully values a significant and intact park system
- need a vision; need to start now; develop pride and stewardship
- since their conception, the regional parks have enhanced the natural environment because they have facilitate greater understanding and appreciation of the environment by all citizens, and they continue to do so
- balanced use: no total protection but allows and manages varied uses. This needs to persist
- lookin forward the most important thing is to have the spaces as much in their natural state as possible, to have species diversity and healthy expanses of connected areas that also connect to the greater outer wilderness
- our park system in 2034 needs to be informed by the local ecology; where is the critical habitat? How do our watersheds function? Where are the wildlife corridors? We need to invest in understanding this now to ensure an ecologically sustainable parks system into the future
- how do we learn as a society to protect these green spaces? We will need to shift many of our values and lifestyles so that we can accommodate greater population, and still be able to protect green spaces
- keep it large, connected and managed. Be responsive and adaptable. All things including wilderness change
- equitability amongst all users as all users regardless of how they use it or what they like about it, and how they value parks
- intense and careful management
- define and stick to protection
- still have wildlife coming into the city, e.g. eagle's nest, coyotes, wolves, and hawks along two mile hill
- connectivity to parks outside of city limits and connectivity to parks within city that have yet to be marked on the map
- they are connected to other natural areas to allow animals and people and water to move between them
- interconnected park system with viable and vibrant ecosystems; places with the city that 'feel wild'
- expanding and connecting the parks