



Draft Yukon Parks Strategy

For Public Review

July 2019

Contents

1	About this document.....	3
2	Executive summary	4
3	Context.....	6
3.1	Yukon's parks system	6
3.2	Strategic opportunities and challenges, 2020-2030	8
3.2.1	Growing use of territorial parks	8
3.2.2	A young and growing parks system.....	10
3.2.3	Reconciliation and partnership.....	10
3.2.4	Biodiversity, wilderness, and Yukon's place in the world	10
3.2.5	Climate change	11
4	Long-term direction.....	12
4.1	Where we are going	12
4.2	Making a strategic shift.....	14
4.3	Our priorities for 2020-2030.....	15
5	Strategic actions, 2020-2030.....	16
5.1	Keep doing what's working.....	16
5.2	Develop a parks system plan.....	17
5.3	Begin to operate emerging parks	18
5.4	Enrich and diversify park experiences	19
5.4.1	Build a bigger and better campground near Whitehorse.....	19
5.4.2	Offer a good night's sleep	20
5.4.3	Test campground reservations	21
5.4.4	Develop recreation destinations	22
5.4.5	Accommodate a range of activities.....	22
5.4.6	Welcome year-round park use	23
5.5	Ensure protection.....	24

5.5.1	Prioritize ecological integrity and cultural continuity	24
5.5.2	Manage consistently.....	24
5.5.3	Apply landscape conservation science	25
5.5.4	Green park operations.....	26
5.6	Advance reconciliation	26
5.7	Modernize regulations.....	27
5.8	Financially sustain our parks.....	28
5.8.1	Update park fees	28
5.8.2	Update core budget.....	30
5.8.3	Modernize capital asset management.....	31
5.8.4	Pursue efficient operational excellence.....	32
6	Implementation.....	33
6.1	Resources.....	33
6.2	One-government approach.....	33
6.2.1	One-government approach to land use planning and parks	33
6.2.2	One-government approach to park roads and boat launches.....	33
6.3	Implementation plan	34
6.4	Participation and accountability.....	34
7	Appendices.....	35
7.1	Glossary - definitions of key terms	35
7.2	Current and proposed park fee structures.....	37

1 About this document

Note: This document is a draft which Government of Yukon is sharing to invite comments and feedback from First Nations and Inuvialuit, stakeholders, and the public. Feedback on this draft will help us develop a final Yukon parks strategy.

The purpose of a Yukon parks strategy is to set long-term direction for Yukon's territorial parks system, and to provide strategic guidance on how to sustainably deliver the environmental, economic, social, and health benefits of parks and campgrounds. The strategy does this by:

- Describing the context, opportunities and challenges of the decade ahead (part 3);
- Setting long-term direction and identifying priorities (part 4); and
- Committing to specific actions that we will take in the next decade and explaining why (part 5).

Part 6 describes how the final Yukon parks strategy will be implemented.

Key terms are defined in appendix 7.1.

This draft strategy incorporates extensive public input gathered in 2018. More information including a summary of that public input can be found at: <https://engageyukon.ca/en/2018/talking-yukon-parks>

Please see www.EngageYukon.ca for more information on how to share your comments on this draft, or contact Jean Langlois at the Department of Environment's Parks Branch at jean.langlois@gov.yk.ca or (867) 456-6761.

The deadline for comments is September 29, 2019.

We will consider all feedback as we prepare a final Yukon parks strategy. We anticipate that the final strategy will be complete in the winter of 2019-2020.

2 Executive summary

The purpose of a Yukon parks strategy is to set long-term direction for Yukon's territorial parks system, and to provide strategic guidance on how to sustainably deliver the environmental, economic, social, and health benefits of parks and campgrounds.

Strategic opportunities and challenges for the parks system in the next decade include:

- Growing use of territorial parks
- A young and growing parks system
- Reconciliation and partnership
- Biodiversity, wilderness, and Yukon's place in the world
- Climate change

The Draft Yukon Parks Strategy proposes a long-term direction for the parks system based on four elements:

- Protection
- Reconciliation
- Public Service
- Public Benefits

The strategy identifies eight priorities for the period from 2020 to 2030:

1. Keep doing what's working
2. Develop a parks system plan
3. Begin to operate emerging parks
4. Enrich and diversify park experiences
5. Ensure protection
6. Advance reconciliation
7. Modernize regulations
8. Financially sustain our parks

The strategy commits the Government of Yukon to taking 21 specific strategic actions to advance these priorities. For example, we will:

- Update park fees
- Build a bigger and better campground near Whitehorse
- Test options for campground reservations
- Prioritize ecological integrity and cultural continuity

- 
- Welcome year-round park use

Implementing this strategy will involve collaboration with First Nations and Inuvialuit, opportunities for public participation, and a one-government approach. Implementation will require new human, financial, and capital resources.

We will be accountable by publishing a brief report every three years describing our progress in implementing the approved parks strategy and related commitments.

3 Context

3.1 Yukon's parks system

Yukon territorial parks are legally established and managed by the Government of Yukon according to the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*. Many were established directly by First Nations and Inuvialuit Final Agreements. Territorial parks are managed by the Department of Environment's Parks branch (shortened in this document to Yukon Parks) in collaboration with First Nations and Inuvialuit.

Parks play a big role in protecting Yukon's environment and cultural heritage. They also contribute to Yukon's economy through tourism, recreation, local employment and entrepreneurship. Local businesses supply a range of goods and services including firewood, vehicles, fuel, communications equipment and services, and more.

Today we have 57 territorial parks classified into four types (natural environment parks, recreation parks, wilderness preserves, and ecological reserves). The types of parks differ in their emphasis on providing recreation opportunities, ecosystem preservation, or a mix of the two. Together, our parks represent a world-class system of recreation and protection encompassing 15,152 km² or 3.1% of Yukon (see Figure 1).

More than one-quarter of Yukon's population camp in our campgrounds every year. In 2018 we provided over 57,000 nights of camping for over 89,000 people.

For more information about Yukon's territorial parks system visit:

<https://yukon.ca/en/outdoor-recreation-and-wildlife>



Figure 1. Map of Yukon territorial parks

3.2 Strategic opportunities and challenges, 2020-2030

Five key themes emerge as we consider the strategic context, opportunities, and challenges of the decade ahead.

3.2.1 Growing use of territorial parks

- Use of territorial parks, by both residents and visitors, has grown dramatically in the past decade. From 2008 to 2018:
 - The number of people camping in our campgrounds increased by 80% to more than 89,000 (see Figure 2a).
 - The use of our campground facilities more than doubled. The occupancy of campsites increased 103% to over 57,000 nights.
 - Backcountry camping in the popular backpacking areas of Tombstone Territorial Park increased by 137%.
 - The number of visits to the Tombstone Interpretive Centre increased by 176% to more than 27,000 (see Figure 2b).
- Growth will continue. Campground use is growing steadily at about 12% annually. If growth continues at the same rate, as compared to 2018 the demand for campsites will double by 2024 and triple by 2028.
- Yukon's population, including park users, is growing, aging, and urbanizing. The Yukon Bureau of Statistics reports that our population grew by 22% between 2008 and 2018, and projects that it will grow by 17% between 2020 and 2030. Most of this growth is projected to be in Whitehorse. People 65 and older are projected to make up a growing proportion of Yukon's population.
- Tourism in Yukon is growing. It is estimated that overnight visits to Yukon grew by 22% between 2013 and 2017. The *Yukon Tourism Development Strategy* has set a goal of doubling tourism revenue by 2028, by means including growing wilderness tourism and encouraging residents to travel within the territory in a way that preserves our natural environment for future generations.
- Remote backcountry experiences will be a significant growth area for Yukon's parks system over the next decade. Backcountry use is growing steadily in some parks, and we will begin to formally operate a number of parks in the coming years. We will need new tools and capacity as we manage significantly more land and more recreation over the next decade.
- Use of parks outside of the traditional summer season is growing and this trend is expected to continue.

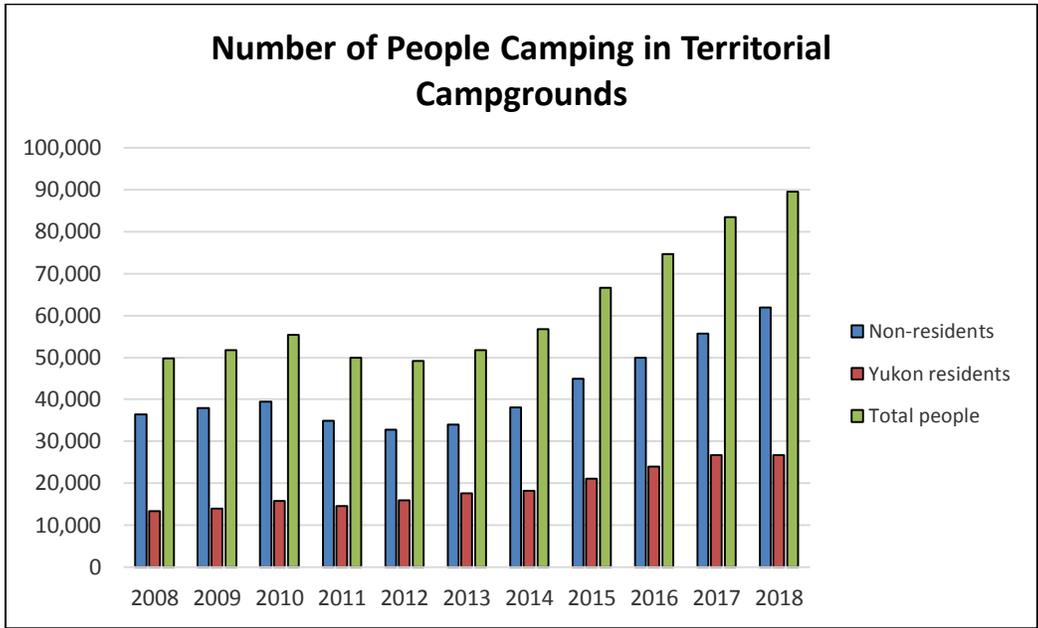


Figure 2a. Number of people camping in territorial park campgrounds each year

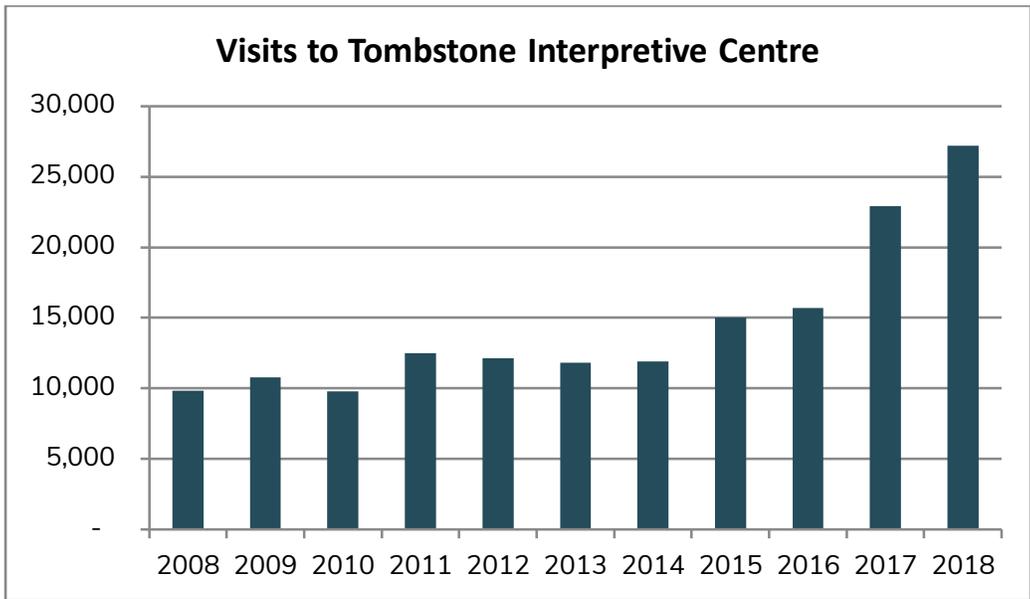


Figure 2b. Visitors to the Tombstone interpretive centre each year

3.2.2 A young and growing parks system

- Yukon's parks system is relatively young compared to others in Canada. Our first campgrounds evolved from simple camps built for highway work crews in the 1940s. Several larger territorial parks were established through Final Agreements, beginning in 1987 when Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk was established as a result of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. The Ni'iinlii Njik (Fishing Branch) wilderness preserve was established in 2002 through the Yukon protected areas strategy, and Tombstone Territorial Park was formally established in 2004. Three Final Agreement parks are expected to become formally established and operational in the coming years: Kusawa, Agay Mene and Asi Keyi.
- Yukon's parks system is growing. Regional land use planning, pursuant to Chapter 11 of Yukon First Nations' Final Agreements, is now an important mechanism for identifying new parks. For example, Dàadzàii Van Territorial Park is being established as a result of the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan. The Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan, when approved, could more than triple the size of the parks system, from 15,000 km² to 52,000 km². Regional land use planning is resuming for the Dawson region and will be done in other regions of Yukon in the future.

3.2.3 Reconciliation and partnership

- Reconciliation, according to Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, means "coming to terms with events of the past in a manner that overcomes conflict and establishes a respectful and healthy relationship among people, going forward. [...] reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in this country."¹
- Yukon territorial parks are managed by the Government of Yukon in collaboration with the First Nations or Inuvialuit in whose traditional territory each park is located. Joint steering committees develop and review park management plans, and park management committees help guide ongoing park management. Many of our parks owe their existence to First Nations' or Inuvialuit Final Agreements.
- From this foundation there is an opportunity to strengthen these relationships and further develop these partnerships. The decade ahead presents an opportunity for Yukon to be a leader in reconciliation in Canada and the world.

3.2.4 Biodiversity, wilderness, and Yukon's place in the world

- Yukon is not immune to the global biodiversity crisis. The 2018 *Living Planet Report* indicates that global wildlife populations have fallen by 60 per cent in the last four decades. In Canada, half of all

¹ Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. 2015.



monitored species are on the decline, primarily due to habitat loss and climate change. These 451 species showed population declines of 83 per cent on average.

- The number of species at risk of extinction in Yukon has increased over time to 42, and is expected to continue to increase as more species are assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). The Yukon Conservation Data Centre reports on the level of risk for Yukon wildlife and identifies 134 critically imperilled taxa (species, subspecies, or varieties), and a further 850 that are imperilled or vulnerable.
- Wilderness is becoming scarce around the world. Global research published by the University of Queensland shows that over the last two decades the world lost 3.3 million square kilometers of wilderness – nearly seven times the size of Yukon. There are six major wilderness regions left on Earth: northern Canada and Alaska; northern Russia; the Amazon rainforest in South America; the deserts of central Australia; the Tibetan plateau in central Asia; and northern Africa.
- Wilderness is essential for long-term conservation of biodiversity and also a highly valued destination for sustainable tourism. This makes Yukon's wild landscapes an increasingly precious resource in the global fight to reverse the loss of biodiversity and in the global tourism market.
- Yukon is in a rare position in the world, with the opportunity to be an unmatched global leader in both conservation and wilderness tourism.

3.2.5 Climate change

Climate change affects parks in several ways:

- Park infrastructure like roads, trails, and buildings will face increased climate-related risks such as melting permafrost, flooding, and fires.
- Conserving Yukon's biodiversity in the face of climate change will require conservation planning on a landscape-scale, to ensure that protected areas, buffers, and corridors work together to allow wildlife to adjust their ranges as their habitats change.
- The times of year that people visit our parks are already changing and will continue to do so. Examples include a longer camping season at campgrounds, cruise ships coming later in the season at Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park, and increasing numbers of people coming to Yukon to experience our winter.

4 Long-term direction

4.1 Where we are going

The fundamental purpose of Yukon's territorial parks system is set out in the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*. That purpose is "to establish parks:

- to implement obligations under settlement agreements
- to provide for the protection and management of representative areas of territorial significance and other special places in the Yukon
- to provide recreational opportunities for Yukoners and visitors
- to encourage public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the Yukon's natural environment as a legacy for future generations"²

In this context, here is how we see Yukon's parks system from now to 2030 and beyond

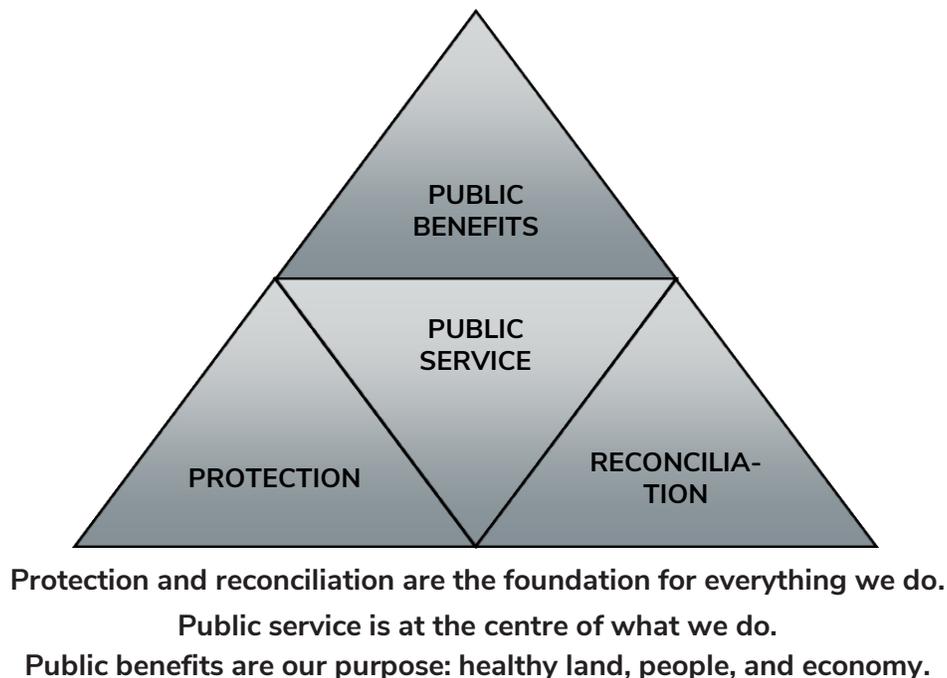


Figure 3. Yukon's parks system from now to 2030 and beyond.

² *Parks and Land Certainty Act*, 2002, section 1.

For the public, the diagram shows that the services that people enjoy rest on the building blocks of protection, reconciliation, and public service. For the Parks Branch, the diagram describes who we are, and will guide what we do, how we do it, and why. Our decisions and actions will be guided by the four building blocks, described in more detail below.

Protection	<p>Yukon parks protect for all time some of the most intact natural landscapes on Earth. Cultural values are inseparable from these places. We take a territory-wide approach to conservation network planning, and manage uses in parks to protect ecological integrity and cultural continuity.</p>
Reconciliation	<p>Yukon parks advance reconciliation through collaborative management with First Nations and Inuvialuit, celebrating Indigenous knowledge and culture, welcoming traditional uses of parks, and building meaningful relationships. This is a source of strength for all.</p>
Public Service	<p>Yukon parks are a sustainable public service and a valued public asset.</p> <p>We manage responsibly, efficiently, and accountably, recognizing that the parks system exists to provide the complementary benefits of healthy land, people, and economy.</p> <p>We are good partners.</p>
Public Benefits	<p>Communities across Yukon experience the benefits of parks, including:</p> <p>Healthy land: Yukon continues to enjoy wild land, intact ecosystems, thriving wildlife, clean air and water, and resilient biodiversity sustaining all life including us. This has intrinsic value for Yukon and the world.</p> <p>Healthy people: People of all abilities, from near and far, have easy access to unforgettable experiences in Yukon parks. Being active and connecting with nature and culture support a healthy body, mind, and spirit.</p> <p>Healthy economy: Yukon parks help develop and diversify Yukon’s economy. Parks provide local employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, and far-reaching economic benefits through tourism, recreation, public health, and quality of life.</p>

4.2 Making a strategic shift

In order to follow our long-term direction in an evolving context, Yukon Parks will gradually make a shift over the coming decade.

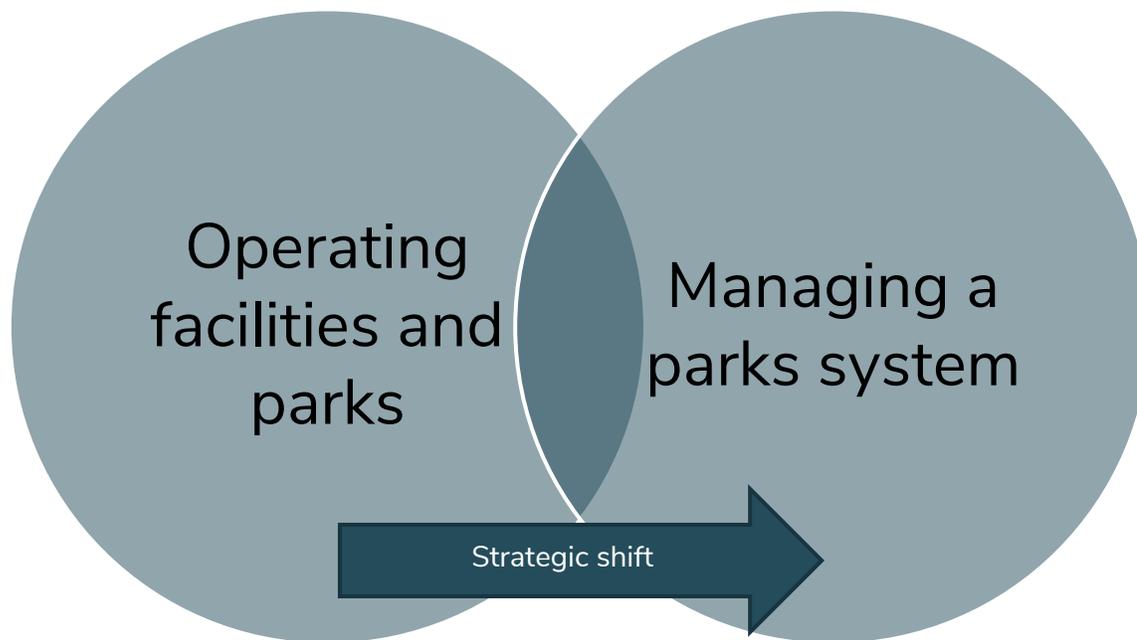


Figure 4. Strategic shift.

To meet new challenges of managing a modern and evolving parks system, Yukon Parks must shift towards a more mature parks organization.

This will be a shift, not a wholesale change. Many things about Yukon territorial parks will remain the same over the coming decade. During public engagement, we heard that people wanted us to make some changes, but also to do more of what we are already doing well.

Here are some examples of things that will evolve as we make this shift:

From:	To:
Operating a collection of campground facilities and protected areas	Managing a cohesive, modern and evolving parks system
Case-by-case artisanal park planning, establishment, and management	Systematic park planning, establishment, and management
Thinking of parks as separate protected places	Thinking of parks and other protected areas as one conservation network
Adhering to Final Agreements	Advancing reconciliation (including adhering to Final Agreements)
Thinking of places as either “campgrounds” or “real parks”	Thinking about road-accessible frontcountry services and more remote backcountry services across a range of park types
A few protected areas and many small campgrounds	A growing number of protected areas and larger campgrounds
Meeting the recreational needs of RV campers and wilderness backpackers	Meeting needs of a growing number of people with a range of abilities and interests
Offering services in the summer, with a seasonal workforce	Offering appropriate services in all seasons, with the appropriate workforce
Protected area goals peripheral to land use planning and other relevant processes	Protected area goals integral to land use planning and other relevant processes
Effective staff teams: rangers, officers, attendants, interpreters, maintenance staff, planners, workshop, managers, etc.	Staff teams working together to manage parks
Reactive management that solves problems	Proactive management that prevents problems

4.3 Our priorities for 2020-2030

In order to make this shift we will focus on 8 priorities:

1. Keep doing what's working
2. Develop a parks system plan
3. Begin to operate emerging parks
4. Enrich and diversify park experiences
5. Ensure protection
6. Advance reconciliation
7. Modernize regulations
8. Financially sustain our parks

The following section describes the strategic actions associated with each priority.

5 Strategic actions, 2020-2030

This section identifies the strategic actions we will take in the timeframe from 2020 to 2030.

Strategic actions are: key actions that we commit to taking over the next decade that together will make the most difference to implementing our long-term direction.

Strategic actions build on each other to most efficiently and effectively achieve a result that is greater than the sum of the individual actions.

These actions were developed with the expertise of Yukon Parks staff, considering approaches and lessons from other jurisdictions, and based on the substantial amount of input we have gathered over the past several years. For example, we considered input from the 2018 Talking Yukon Parks public engagement, a 2016 public survey of campground users, the hundreds of comment cards we collect every year from park users, and many conversations with First Nations and Inuvialuit park management partners, park users, and stakeholders.

These actions will be implemented in partnership with First Nations and Inuvialuit, and in most cases with opportunities for public input.

5.1 Keep doing what's working

An important strategic action is to recognize that much of what Yukon Parks is doing today is working. Yukon is a leader in Canada in establishing and managing parks collaboratively with Indigenous governments. Frontcountry and backcountry use are both growing steadily, and we have an 84% satisfaction rate among our campground users. This signals that we are already getting many things right. Here are a few highlights of what we will continue to do:

Protection

- Recognize the intrinsic value of natural ecosystems, healthy wildlife, clean air and water.
- Maintain Yukon's high standard of meeting or exceeding international benchmarks in parks and protected areas design, establishment, protection, operation, and management.

Reconciliation

- Identify new parks and protected areas in collaboration with First Nations and Inuvialuit.
- Honour Indigenous rights, languages, and traditional uses of the land.
- Manage parks collaboratively with First Nations and Inuvialuit partners.

Public Service

- Manage parks to ensure visitor safety and quality visitor experiences.
- Engage the public in park planning and management.

Public Benefits

- Offer clean, safe, enjoyable campgrounds in beautiful locations featuring
 - Well-spaced campsites with a rustic atmosphere,
 - Simple facilities including picnic tables, fire rings, pit toilets (outhouses), bear-proof garbage bins, supplied firewood, and in most cases access to raw untreated water,
 - “No frills” camping – no power, no Wi-Fi, no showers. Yukon’s private sector provides camping options with such services, and
 - Ongoing improvement to universal accessibility of facilities.
- Offer world-class wilderness experiences, active recreation opportunities, fishing, hunting, interpretation programs and services.
- Support local employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

5.2 Develop a parks system plan

What we will do

- In the short term we will develop a Yukon territorial parks system plan to guide the development of existing and emerging parks, and the establishment of future parks. The goal of the system plan will be to ensure we have the right types of parks in the right places with the right facilities and services, in order to best meet Yukon’s goals for conservation, reconciliation, quality of life, recreation, tourism, and economic diversification.

Why

- A parks system plan will provide a framework to help us implement a number of the other strategic actions in this document, so it should be implemented early.
- A system plan will guide our decision making on what parks, facilities, interpretation and education programs, maintenance standards, monitoring, and compliance and enforcement programs are needed across the territory.
- During public engagement, people asked how, where, and when new parks will be established to help meet Yukon’s needs for long-term landscape conservation, recreation, and tourism.

- Canada and 195 other nations have committed to establish protected areas networks under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Currently 11.7% of Yukon is protected in various kinds of parks and other protected areas (including territorial parks, national parks, habitat protection areas, etc.), while Canada has a national goal to protect 17% by 2020. In 2020, nations will adopt new goals and targets for 2030 and beyond. This makes it an ideal time for Yukon to set out its own goals and a plan to reach them.

5.3 Begin to operate emerging parks

What we will do

- We will begin to formally operate a number of “emerging parks” that have been established in First Nations Final Agreements or identified in regional land use plans. When we assign human and financial resources to manage each new park, we will do it in a way that builds a sustainable organizational model for the long-term management of our parks system as a whole.

Why

- “Emerging parks” are those that have been established in First Nations Final Agreements or identified in regional land use plans, but require some additional steps in order to become operational parks. Additional steps typically include legal designation under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*, a park management plan, and staffing.
- No services are offered until a park becomes operational.
- We anticipate most of the following emerging parks will become operational during 2020-2030.
 - Kusawa Territorial Park was established in Final Agreements and was designated under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act* in 2017. Formal park operation will begin with the approval of a park management plan.
 - Dàadzàii Van Territorial Park was identified through the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan, and has yet to be legally designated. A park management plan is under development, which will guide formal park management.
 - Protected areas identified in the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan may be designated as territorial parks. Management planning, legal designation, and operation are anticipated as part of land use plan implementation.
 - Agay Mene Territorial Park was established by the Carcross/Tagish Final Agreement, but has yet to be designated under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*. Legal designation and

development of a park management plan will enable formal protection and park operation to begin.

- Asi Keyi Territorial Park was established by the Kluane Final Agreement but has yet to be designated under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*. Legal designation and development of a park management plan will enable formal protection and park operation to begin.
- In addition to these emerging parks, other new territorial parks may be established as a result of the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan and other future land use plans.

5.4 Enrich and diversify park experiences

Generations of traditional knowledge and growing scientific evidence tells us that spending time in nature is good for our mind, body and soul. That is why one of our priorities is to enrich and diversify the experiences offered at Yukon parks, including both road-accessible frontcountry activities and more remote backcountry activities. Below are the strategic actions we will take between 2020 and 2030 to advance this priority.

5.4.1 Build a bigger and better campground near Whitehorse

What we will do

- In the medium to long term, we will develop at least one recreation park within two hours of Whitehorse with the following features:
 - a larger campground with more than 100 campsites
 - a rustic atmosphere with well-spaced campsites
 - a quiet area (see next section for details)
 - active recreation opportunities like hiking trails and access to a water body

Why

- The current network of campgrounds evolved mostly as highway stops, rather than as recreation destinations for the resident Yukon population. The current pattern of small disparate campgrounds is inefficient to service, maintain, operate, and monitor. It is not well suited to meet the needs of our increasingly urban population.
- Demand for camping is highest within approximately two hours driving distance of Whitehorse, where approximately 87% of Yukon's population live, and where we currently offer just over 400 campsites. By our best estimates, there could be a demand for approximately 800 additional campsites in the Whitehorse area by 2030.

- Building a substantial number of new campsites is one element of our response to this growing demand. Other elements aim to improve the availability of campsites, including a regulation change to prevent the “holding” of unoccupied sites implemented in 2018, marketing to encourage people to choose less-used campgrounds, and considering campground reservations.
- Adding new campsites in a few larger campgrounds is a much more efficient way to meet the needs of Yukoners in our most populated region. With a few larger campgrounds (over 100 sites), economies of scale make it feasible to design and operate campgrounds that offer enhanced experiences such as segregated quiet areas, maintained trails, improved accessibility, site reservations, interpretive programs, campground hosts, and accommodating different kinds of users and events.
- Updating campground design and scale also offers the opportunity to address other requests we heard during public engagement, such as improvements to tent sites, large-RV sites, trails, and playgrounds.
- Yukon’s parks system currently includes one campground with more than 100 campsites, at Yukon River Campground across from Dawson City, which is well used and operates efficiently. Campgrounds within two hours of Whitehorse are all smaller, ranging from 9 to 59 sites.
- This added capacity needs to be within an hour or two driving time from Whitehorse, however a precise location remains to be determined. This will be considered in consultation with local First Nations and the public.

5.4.2 Offer a good night’s sleep

What we will do

- We will update campground designs for new or expanded campgrounds to better manage noise and create quiet zones. For example, users could choose between a zone where generators are allowed and a quiet zone with no generators. Other design features would include separate areas for tenting, walk-in tenting areas, and sufficient space and vegetation between campsites.
- Where feasible, we will implement these quiet-friendly design elements at existing campgrounds (for example campgrounds with two or more loop roads).
- We will update regulations regarding generators and quiet hours. (See section 5.7 Update Regulations for related details.)

Why

- It can be challenging to get a good night’s sleep under the midnight sun. Growing use of parks requires more active management of noise.

- Noise is one of the most common complaints from campground users, and most noise complaints are about generators and parties. During public engagement people asked us to do more to manage noise in campgrounds.
- Quiet zones are common in other jurisdictions and expected by many users.

5.4.3 Test campground reservations

What we will do

- We will test online reservation options to improve fair access to some campsites in some road-accessible campgrounds. We will begin by doing a pilot project, to test a system for people to reserve some campsites at a few busy campgrounds at the busiest times of the summer. In the longer term we may establish an online reservation system as an ongoing service, shaped by lessons learned from the pilot project.

Why

- An online reservation system is currently in place for three hike-in campgrounds in Tombstone Territorial Park. This has proven to be a useful tool to manage the availability of tent sites that are in high demand.
- During public engagement an overwhelming majority of people expressed a desire to be able to make online reservations of campsites in road-accessible frontcountry campgrounds as well, as is common in other parks systems around the world. We heard that these campground users value the certainty of knowing they will have a campsite before they leave town.
- We also heard that some users value the spontaneity of being able to go camping without having to reserve in advance. Some people expressed concerns about not being able to get a campsite due to mass-booking.
- To meet the needs of users who prefer certainty and those who prefer spontaneity, our intention is that some campsites in a campground could be reserved online and others would be available on a first-come-first-served basis.
- A full-time reservation system across all territorial park campgrounds is not needed. It would also be prohibitively expensive because of the on-site personnel required, especially with our current network of small campgrounds spread out over large distances. We will use the pilot project approach to learn how to make reservations work efficiently as our campgrounds evolve.

5.4.4 Develop recreation destinations

What we will do

- Guided by our parks system plan, we will offer a broader range of active recreation opportunities at parks in several regions of Yukon. This will likely be accomplished by adding recreation infrastructure to enhance existing parks. For example, we will develop and communicate options like:
 - Frontcountry day-hike trails and accessible trails
 - Backcountry land and water routes, trails, and camping destinations

Why

- Public benefits related to healthy people, communities, and economy all rely on safe access to quality frontcountry and backcountry recreation.
- During public engagement, people told us they want a wider range of opportunities for active recreation. They want active things to do when they are staying in our campgrounds, and they want a range of options for people of all abilities. People especially asked for more walking and hiking trails.
- Wilderness paddling routes will be growing in importance as a recreational resource as the parks system incorporates lake and river destinations in the Peel watershed, Agay Mene, and Dàadzàii Van.
- Some of our existing recreation parks have a lot of potential. In some cases the current facilities are limited to a campground, but nearby are some truly spectacular places to walk, hike, bike, paddle, etc. In other places we can unlock recreation opportunities by reopening old unmaintained trails.

5.4.5 Accommodate a range of activities

What we will do

- Guided by our parks system plan and individual park management plans, we will work to accommodate a range of activities in ways that maintain ecological integrity, cultural continuity, public safety, and park experiences.
- We will improve regulations and where necessary we will more actively manage uses in parks to reduce conflicts that can arise when people try to do different activities in the same place at the same time. (See section 5.7 Update Regulations for related details.) This could include the following:
 - Identifying appropriate zones for specific activities
 - Restricting where or when some activities can occur
 - Sharing information with tourism operators, outfitters, and large groups to allow them to choose low-conflict itineraries

Why

- As more people use our parks, it becomes more important to proactively manage uses to reduce ecological impacts and conflicting uses. As recently as 20 years ago there was little need for proactive



management due to the small number of users spread out over the landscape. This has changed with growing use, and will continue to change in the decade ahead.

- Uses of our parks are also becoming more diverse. For example: some people value a good night's sleep while others want to be up in the night to experience the northern lights, people need to know where and when to avoid crowds so they can hunt safely and successfully, larger groups need information on when and where group facilities are available.

5.4.6 Welcome year-round park use

What we will do

- We will better match the services we provide at various parks with the times of year that parks are being used for various activities. This will include:
 - Reviewing the start and end dates of when staff operate park facilities and services, with a view to expanding this season where warranted,
 - Considering the appropriate level of essential services like access, garbage and visitor safety at other times of year, and
 - Exploring opportunities for partnerships to provide services.

Why

- Territorial parks are not currently accommodating the growing use for recreational activities during the fall, winter, and spring seasons. The effective summer season for camping is getting longer and more variable due to climate change.
- The operating season is meant to correspond to the peak-use season when park visitors require services. Services during this period include managing garbage, servicing outhouses, supplying firewood, patrolling campgrounds, and offering interpretation. The peak-use season is expanding as more visitors use parks earlier in the spring and later in the fall. It is time to adjust the operating season to better match the peak-use season.
- As growing numbers of people use parks year-round, there is a need for a modest level of service in the off-season to deal with basic management issues like garbage and visitor safety.
- During public engagement, many people told us they would use campgrounds earlier in the spring and later in the fall for activities like camping, hiking, skiing, or ice fishing. A number of people are increasingly looking for parks to provide year-round recreation opportunities.

- While summer tourism in Yukon is growing at 5% per year, winter tourism is growing at 20% per year (2012-2017 tourism data). The Yukon Tourism Development Strategy aims to promote Yukon as a year-round tourism destination in the coming decade.
- Extending the operating season is one of the most cost-effective ways to offer more opportunities for outdoor recreation, for both residents and visitors.
- The timing of when people use parks is changing. For example, cruise ships visit Herschel Island later in the summer than they used to, due to the changing climate and sea ice conditions.

5.5 Ensure protection

One of our foundational priorities for 2020-2030 is to ensure the continued protection of ecological integrity and cultural continuity in our parks. The following actions address this priority.

5.5.1 Prioritize ecological integrity and cultural continuity

What we will do

- We will protect ecological integrity and cultural continuity by considering these first and foremost when making park management decisions.
- We will better analyse emerging park management challenges to better direct monitoring and active management.

Why

- This is fundamental to the purpose of managing parks as a public good for present and future generations. It is what enables us to offer all the other benefits of parks.

5.5.2 Manage consistently

What we will do

- We will develop guiding policies to support a more consistent and effective approach to park management planning.
- We will apply a more formal park management planning approach to recreation parks.

Why

- Park management plans are developed for individual parks in collaboration with First Nations and Inuvialuit. Joint committees tasked with these plans often need guidance on management plan tools



and techniques, and need to balance visitor needs and expectations with local circumstances and customs.

- Park users, both residents and visitors, expect uniformly predictable rules and procedures when they visit different territorial parks in Yukon.

5.5.3 Apply landscape conservation science

What we will do

- We will apply landscape conservation science to parks system planning, park establishment, zoning, and management. This will include using well-established international standards and concepts such as protected area design, ecological buffers, and landscape connectivity.
- We will adopt methods to make better use of available local biodiversity data to ensure that parks help conserve species at risk, rare species, and endemic Yukon species found nowhere else on Earth.
- Planning for new territorial parks will take into account other conservation lands such as national parks, habitat protection areas, Canadian heritage rivers, and First Nations protected areas, as well as other current and potential land uses.

Why

- Integrating conservation science and traditional knowledge is essential to managing Yukon's parks. See Section 5.6 Advance Reconciliation for more.
- Conservation science makes it clear that we can no longer think of parks as “islands of conservation”. To meet conservation goals, we need to think about parks, protected areas, and conserved lands working together as a network across the landscape.
- Like other parks systems across Canada and around the world, one of the goals of Yukon's parks system is to reflect Yukon's unique landscape diversity by protecting areas within each of our ecological regions. Landscape-level conservation planning will inform the thoughtful selection of future parks as we work toward this goal.
- Parks and protected areas networks are recognized as one of the best tools we have to conserve wildlife in the face of climate change.
- The Yukon Conservation Data Centre provides a central, reliable, and continually updated source for information on all Yukon animals, plants and ecological communities, and maps known localities of those that are of conservation concern. This information has much untapped potential as a resource for conservation planning.

5.5.4 Green park operations

What we will do

- We will ensure that our own park operations meet high standards of environmental stewardship and support protection of parks. For example, we will build on our work to date to:
 - Design and develop facilities in ways that avoid impacts to sensitive species and habitats, nesting birds, heritage resources, and other values
 - Reduce risks related to invasive species and wildlife attractants
 - Explore how our facilities and services can better support park users to keep recyclable and organic wastes out of landfill

Why

- Park management involves significant on-the-ground operations. We need to be mindful of the impacts of our facilities, services, operations, access, and visitor activities.

5.6 Advance reconciliation

What we will do

- As part of finalizing this draft strategy, we will work directly with First Nations and Inuvialuit to develop specific strategic actions related to reconciliation. Our discussion might include some or all of the following:
 - Improving how we manage collaboratively
 - Improving how we use traditional knowledge, Indigenous languages and place names, welcome traditional uses of the land, and celebrate Indigenous culture in parks
 - Establishment and management of protected areas
 - Integrating guardian programs and park management
 - Increasing collaboration opportunities in parks operations, interpretation, and use of facilities for events
 - Other items to be discussed and developed together

Why

- Establishing and managing parks and protected areas have been key elements of Final Agreements and land use planning pursuant to Final Agreements. Parks will continue to offer opportunities to implement the spirit and intent of these agreements.
- Parks present meaningful opportunities to advance the spirit and practice of reconciliation with all First Nations and Inuvialuit.

5.7 Modernize regulations

What we will do

- In the short term, in tandem with approving a final Yukon parks strategy, we will significantly update regulations under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*.
- In the medium term, we will consider updating regulations under the *Wilderness Tourism Licensing Act*.
- In the longer term, we will consider whether amendments to the *Parks and Land Certainty Act* itself are required.

Why

- Current park regulations consist of outdated campground regulations. Regulations to manage larger wilderness parks and activities outside of campgrounds are largely absent.
- The Government of Yukon now has park management responsibilities that require general regulations that apply throughout all territorial parks, like other park jurisdictions, as well as updated campground regulations.
- Parks and facilities are being used more intensively, so we need to manage them more proactively, to protect the environment and the quality of the visitor experience.
- During public engagement, people told us they wanted better management of issues that affect their enjoyment of parks. Many of these issues are at least partly managed through regulation. Some of these day-to-day management issues facing Yukon parks today include the following:
 - Noise
 - Firewood
 - Liquor, cannabis, and smoking
 - Domestic animals
 - Park zoning
 - On-road and off-road vehicles
 - Discharge of firearms
 - Use of drones
 - Administrative matters
 - Park fees
 - Offences and fines

- During public engagement we heard suggestions regarding the *Parks and Land Certainty Act* itself, and the *Wilderness Tourism Licensing Act* regulations. While these matters are outside the scope of this strategy, we will consider appropriate action in the future.

5.8 Financially sustain our parks

Our final priority is to move to a more financially sustainable parks system. Strategic actions to accomplish this address the four elements of financial sustainability of a public service: revenue (from park fees), appropriate core budget, responsible asset management, and efficient operational excellence.

5.8.1 Update park fees

What we will do

- We are proposing new payment options and modest increases to fees for camping at territorial park campgrounds beginning in 2021. These updated fees will better sustain park services, improve convenience and efficiency, and maintain affordable access with some of the lowest camping fees in Canada. We are proposing the following fees:
 - A night of camping will cost \$18 per campsite if paid online in advance (a new option), or \$20 if paid by cash on site. This is a change from \$12 per accommodation unit (trailer, RV, tent), set in 2002.
 - A year of camping will cost \$200 for a Yukon resident or \$100 (50% off) for a Yukon senior citizen. This annual permit will continue to be available only to Yukon residents. This is a change from \$50 or free for seniors, set in 2002.
 - There will continue to be no additional fees for firewood, day use, parking, vehicle access, boat launch use, or interpretive programs.
 - Camping fees will apply all year. This is a change from the promotion started in 2002 that offered free camping to Yukon residents during the month of May.
 - Camping at backcountry campgrounds like Grizzly, Divide, and Talus lakes in Tombstone Territorial Park will cost \$20 per tent pad per night plus \$10 per reservation. This is a change from \$12 per tent per night, set in 2002.
- We will continue to study park fees, and adjust them when warranted, to ensure:
 - Ongoing financial sustainability of park services, including accounting for the impacts of inflation on the cost of providing services; and

- Alignment with Government of Yukon policies and directives, including Government of Yukon's response to the Yukon Financial Advisory Panel.
- A clear connection from fee to service, enhanced revenue predictability, and increased cost recover and sustainable program management.
- A more detailed comparison of all current and proposed fees is presented in the tables in Appendix 7.2.

Why

- An updated park fee structure will better sustain parks as a public service and help manage parks by:
 - Encouraging efficient and responsible use of park facilities to improve their availability,
 - Offering convenient ways to pay fees,
 - Maintaining affordable access to parks,
 - Better recovering some of the costs of providing services from those who use the services, and
 - Offering and encouraging the use of more non-cash payment options, to reduce the volume of cash collected and associated processing costs.
- As part of government's response to the Yukon Financial Advisory Panel report, the Department of Finance conducted a review of all fees and fines across the Government of Yukon. It was found that we are below the national average in most areas and in many instances we lag behind standard cost of living increases.
- Government of Yukon is developing a principled approach for the setting and collecting of fees, fines and charges across government. Our goal is to ensure government fees reflect society's shared values, individual and collective benefits, sustainable program management, cost recovery, a clear connection from fee to service, simplicity, and predictability.
- The Government of Yukon charges fees and fines in order to provide a consistent quality of service and ensure compliance with Yukon's acts, regulations and the Umbrella Final Agreement. Fees and fines are developed and applied in a consistent manner across government. Their application in the territory helps preserve Yukon society, its economy, the environment and its culture while also supporting sustainable government.
- Park user fees help governments around the world finance parks operations. The Government of Yukon currently recovers 10.6% of the costs of operating the parks system through camping fees. According to the Yukon Financial Advisory Panel, one option to improve Yukon's public finances is to adjust user fees to better reflect the costs of providing services.
- Until now, park fees have been limited to camping fees and have not enabled government to recover costs of providing services for other permitted activities, such as commercial filming and land use.

- Park fees are not just a source of operating funds, but also an important management tool. A good fee structure creates incentives that encourage efficient and responsible use of parks.
- During public engagement we heard that Yukoners view parks as an important public service that needs to be funded by government with a reasonable amount of cost recovery from park users. People expect to pay a fair share of the cost when they use facilities and services, but also expect basic park management to be publicly and adequately funded.
- Receiving cash payments at remote locations across Yukon incurs significant logistical costs. Every year we collect, store, transport, count, and deposit over \$400,000 in small bills and coins.
- Yukon currently has among the lowest camping fees in Canada at \$12 per night or \$50 per year for Yukon residents. The proposed new fee structure improves financial sustainability and still offers some of the most affordable camping in Canada.

5.8.2 Update core budget

What we will do

- In the short term, in tandem with finalizing a parks strategy, the Government of Yukon will review the human and financial resources allocated to Yukon Parks in light of the costs of servicing current levels of use.

Why

- Use of territorial parks by both residents and visitors has grown by 103% in the past 10 years (see section 3.2.1). This growth, combined with changing visitor expectations, has resulted in significant increases in the cost of operating parks. Some examples of these costs include staff time, vehicles and fuel, training, supplies, and firewood.
- During the same period, the human and financial resources to operate parks have not kept up with this growth. From 2008 to 2018 total expenses grew 77% to approximately \$5.4M while the core budget grew 63% to \$4.8M.
- Every year, operating the parks system now depends on the Department of Environment being able to reallocate funds from other budgets and temporarily extend the employment of seasonal staff. Core budget covered approximately 96% of expenses in 2008 and 89% in 2018.
- During public engagement, we heard that Yukoners view parks as an important public service that needs to be funded by the government with a reasonable amount of cost recovery from park users.



People expect to pay a fair share of the cost when they use facilities and services, but also expect basic park management to be publicly and adequately funded.

- Revenue to the Government of Yukon from camping fees has increased 94% over the last 10 years to over \$570,000 in 2018. As a percentage of total expenses to operate the parks system, revenues grew from 9.7% in 2008 to 10.6% in 2018. Revenue from park fees will continue to offset part of government expenditures to operate parks. Revenue is expected to grow significantly due to both growing use and updating park fees.
- According to Yukon's 2019-2020 Fiscal and Economic Outlook, the territorial budget is forecasted to return to a surplus in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, when implementation of the Yukon parks strategy will begin.

5.8.3 Modernize capital asset management

What we will do

- We will modernize our asset management, capital planning, and capital budgeting. This will include:
 - Implementing a new asset management system, to better monitor the condition of facilities like campgrounds, buildings, playgrounds and outhouses, to more accurately forecast repair and replacement needs, and to maintain a high standard of clean, safe, and enjoyable facilities.
 - Ongoing implementation of the recapitalisation project that began in 2018 to replace and upgrade park infrastructure, add campsites to existing campgrounds, and replace aging playgrounds.
 - Managing the risk of damage or degradation to capital assets due to changing climate and its effects, including changes to permafrost and water levels.

Why

- Responsible public service requires a modern approach to asset management, capital planning, and capital budgeting. This can provide operational efficiencies, reduce costs, and prevent costly liabilities due to asset degradation.
- During public engagement, we heard requests for parks to better meet the specific needs of a range of different users. For example:
 - Larger campsites and drive-through sites to accommodate larger RVs,
 - Tent-friendly campsites with a sand or soil surface rather than packed gravel,
 - More and improved playgrounds, and
 - Upgraded boat launches and more dock space at popular lakes.
- Operationalizing emerging parks will require some new capital investments.

5.8.4 Pursue efficient operational excellence

What we will do

- We will take a critical look at how we do things and make the changes that can most significantly improve service, reduce costs, or allow staff to focus on higher priority tasks. As part of this we will pursue opportunities to:
 - Modernize and streamline some of our administrative systems, such as how we process and issue permits and licenses.
 - Modernize software tools, particularly databases that we use for monitoring, compliance, and enforcement.
 - Offer more online information resources and e-services, such as purchasing camping permits, campsite reservations, permit applications, and reporting.
- We will pursue opportunities to share costs and pool resources with other governments, and explore the potential for partnerships to help deliver new services.

Why

- During public engagement people told us they wanted to see reasonable efforts to keep operating costs modest.
- As Yukon's parks system grows this creates opportunities for efficiency through economies of scale.
- During public engagement we heard ideas for possible partnerships. For example, potential partners could include: First Nations, guardian programs, youth programs, cultural centres, volunteer organizations, visitor information centres, researchers, or others.
- Territorial parks share objectives in common with others, including federal, municipal, and Indigenous governments. We can accomplish shared objectives by working together and sharing costs.

6 Implementation

6.1 Resources

Implementing a parks strategy will require new resources, so part of its approval will require the Government of Yukon to ensure that human, financial, and capital resources are allocated to implement strategic actions.

6.2 One-government approach

A Yukon parks strategy will be implemented primarily by Parks Branch of the Department of Environment. Several measures, however, will be a shared responsibility with other government departments. The Government of Yukon will take a one-government approach to delivering these results for Yukon citizens. Two areas in which it will be particularly important to work together are described below.

6.2.1 One-government approach to land use planning and parks

What we will do

- Government of Yukon will clearly identify landscape level conservation and park establishment objectives among Yukon's interests and objectives for each land use planning process.

Why

- During public engagement people asked Government of Yukon to do a better job of incorporating parks and protected areas objectives, along with other objectives, into its approach to regional land use planning.
- The Government of Yukon has taken a new approach with the resumption of work on the Peel and Dawson regional land use plans, with the Minister of Energy Mines and Resources and the Minister of Environment jointly representing Government of Yukon interests.
- Forethought and preparation through parks system planning will support better and timelier park-related land use decisions when they arise through processes like regional land use planning.

6.2.2 One-government approach to park roads and boat launches

What we will do

- Government of Yukon will identify short- and long- term priorities for improving and maintaining access roads to parks, park roads, and boat launches in parks.

Why

- During public engagement people identified a need to improve the quality of some of the access roads that lead to parks and of boat launches in parks.
- While the Department of Environment typically has responsibility for campground roads, access roads to campgrounds are the responsibility of the Department of Highways and Public Works.

6.3 Implementation plan

We will develop and periodically revise an implementation plan to guide our annual work to implement the Yukon parks strategy. The implementation plan will guide when and how each strategic action will be implemented.

6.4 Participation and accountability

This strategy will be implemented in partnership and consultation with First Nations and Inuvialuit. As we implement various strategic actions over time there will be a need for more detailed consultation and/or opportunities for partnerships and collaboration.

There will be opportunities for public participation as various strategic actions are implemented over time.

We will publish a brief progress report every three years, to report progress in implementing the Yukon parks strategy and related commitments. We will share the report and seek feedback from First Nations, Inuvialuit, partners, stakeholders, and the public.

Before 2030, we will review this strategy and determine what updates are required.

7 Appendices

7.1 Glossary - definitions of key terms

Biodiversity: The variety of species and ecosystems in a park and the ecological processes of which they are a part. (*Parks and Land Certainty Act*)

Backcountry: Backcountry areas and activities are those that are not accessible by road. They typically require access by aircraft, boat, or a considerable distance of walking, hiking, skiing, or cycling.

Campground: a facility built and maintained to facilitate overnight camping. Frontcountry campgrounds are road accessible and can accommodate tents, trailers, and recreational vehicles. Backcountry campgrounds provide basic tenting facilities at popular wilderness camping locations that are accessible by foot or boat.

Cultural continuity: the transmission from one generation to another of the heritage and values characteristic of a culture, including language, traditions, stories, history, and places. In the Yukon context, Indigenous cultures are inseparable from the land.

Ecological integrity: In plain language, ecosystems have integrity when they have their native components intact, including: abiotic components (the physical elements like water, rocks), biodiversity, and ecosystem processes (the engines that make ecosystem work, like fire, flooding, and predation).

Ecoregion: A section of the landscape characterized by relatively uniform and distinctive physiography and ecological responses to climate as expressed by the development of vegetation, soil, water, fauna etc. (*Ecoregions of The Yukon*)

Ecosystem: a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

Emerging parks: territorial parks that have been established in First Nations Final Agreements or identified in regional land use plans, but require some additional steps in order to become operational parks. Additional steps typically include legal designation under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*, a park management plan, and staffing. No services are offered until a park becomes operational.

Final Agreement: Final Agreements are constitutionally-protected modern treaties that outline First Nations' rights within their Traditional Territories. Eleven of the 14 Yukon First Nations have Final Agreements with the governments of Canada and Yukon.

Frontcountry: frontcountry areas and activities are those that are accessible by road or a very short distance from a parking area.

Landscape: includes the land, air, water, and all forms of life.



Park: In this document the word park(s) refers to territorial parks established and managed pursuant to the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*. There are four types of territorial parks:

Ecological reserve: A park established to protect an area of unique natural significance, unique ecological characteristics or importance for a population of rare or endangered flora or fauna which is intended to remain in its natural state. (example: Coal River Springs)

Natural environment park: A park established to protect a representative or unique landscape that displays ecological characteristics or features of one or more of the Yukon's ecoregions. (example: Tombstone)

Recreation park: A park established to provide outdoor recreation or environmental education opportunities for the public. (example: campgrounds like Wolf Creek and recreation sites like Five Finger Rapids)

Wilderness preserve: A park established with a view to protecting an ecological unit or representative core area by conserving biodiversity and ecological viability. (example: Ni'iinlii Njik)

Park facilities: include campgrounds, picnic sites, buildings, visitor centres, roads, and trails.

Parks system: the whole of all our territorial parks and the way they are managed together. While individual parks differ in their specific objectives, degree of protection, facilities, and services, a well-managed parks system holistically meets many objectives across Yukon. A parks system is more than the sum of its parts.

Protected area: a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. (IUCN)

Reconciliation: Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission approached reconciliation as "coming to terms with events of the past in a manner that overcomes conflict and establishes a respectful and healthy relationship among people, going forward. To the Commission, reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in this country. In order for that to happen, there has to be awareness of the past, acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour."

Recreation site: a road-accessible facility built and maintained to accommodate day use recreation such as picnics, swimming, and boating.

Trails and routes: Trails and routes are two different tools to support and manage recreation in parks. Trails are easily visible on the ground, often cleared and marked, and easy to follow. Routes are invisible on the ground and are suggested itineraries for independent wilderness travellers with more advanced orientation and route-finding skills. Both are tools to reduce environmental impacts depending on the context: trails concentrate visitor use where it is most appropriate while routes disperse visitor use to reduce impacts.

7.2 Current and proposed park fee structures

Table 1. Campground fees at 42 road-accessible frontcountry campgrounds

ITEM	CURRENT	PROPOSED	WHY	COMPARISONS*
What the camping fee applies to	Fee is per "accommodation unit" (RV, trailer, tent)	Fee would be per campsite	Similar to other jurisdictions. Simpler for users to comply. Simpler to administer and enforce. Eliminates interpretation issue related to family units.	Paying per campsite is the standard among jurisdictions.
Camping fee	\$12 per night	Cash self-registration onsite: \$20/night Prepaid online permit: \$18/night (available online to both residents and non-residents)	Better reflects the costs of providing services while still offering some of the most affordable camping in Canada. Reduces government's significant cash handling costs by extending prepaid options to non-residents and by offering incentive pricing of prepaid options.	Comparable fee in other jurisdictions (dry campsite plus firewood) range from \$20 to \$45 per night. Inflation alone = \$16 per accommodation unit. Current users typically have 1 or 2 units per site, so equivalent would be to \$16 or \$32 per site.
Yukon resident annual frontcountry campground permit	\$50 (costs about the same as 4 nights)	\$200 (costs about the same as 11 nights)	The resident annual permit will be an affordable option for residents camping more than 11 nights per year. New prepaid permit will be an affordable option for those camping fewer nights. Annual permit helps reduce cash handling costs.	No other jurisdiction has an annual camping permit. Inflation alone = \$66.

ITEM	CURRENT	PROPOSED	WHY	COMPARISONS*
Yukon resident senior's annual frontcountry campground permit	\$0	\$100 (50% discount)	The senior's resident annual permit is an affordable option for Yukon seniors camping more than 5 nights per year. New prepaid permit will be an affordable option for those camping fewer nights. Annual permit helps reduce cash handling costs.	Where seniors pricing is offered in other jurisdictions, it is a % discount rather than free. A 50% discount is common.
Firewood	Included in camping fee	No change	Administratively and operationally more efficient to include firewood in the nightly camping fee. Nearly all campground users use firewood, making a separate fee redundant. Not cost-effective to sell wood by the bundle in our campgrounds.	NWT includes firewood with camping fee of \$22.50; Parks Canada charges \$9/night for unlimited firewood (in addition to \$15.70 for camping); other jurisdictions often have personnel selling firewood by the bundle.
Camping in May	Free for Yukon residents from May 1 to 31.	Nightly camping fee will apply at all times.	Better reflects the cost of providing services now that several campgrounds are open most of May. Enables extending the season earlier in May. Simpler to administer for all users.	No other jurisdiction has such a provision.
Site reservation fee	Not applicable	\$10 per reservation, non-refundable	Helps recover the cost of providing a reservation service. Enables future pilot projects to test campground reservation systems.	Where site reservations are available, most charge a fee per reservation in addition to the nightly site fee.
Miscellaneous fees	None	No change	Administratively more efficient to avoid miscellaneous fees.	Most jurisdictions charge other park fees such as for vehicle access, parking, boat launch use, etc.

*Based on a review in summer 2018 including Alaska, NWT, BC, Alberta. Inflation calculated from when current fees were established (2002) to 2018 based on Bank of Canada inflation data.

Table 2. Other park fees

ITEM	CURRENT	PROPOSED	WHY	COMPARISONS*
Backcountry campground nightly camping fee (e.g. at Grizzly, Divide, Talus lakes in Tombstone Territorial Park)	\$12 per "accommodation unit" (tent) per night	\$20 per tent pad per night (online or in cash) \$10 per reservation non-refundable reservation fee	Better reflects level of service provided.	Inflation alone = \$16 per tent
Entry fee or day use fee elsewhere in all parks, including recreations sites and day use areas in campgrounds	\$0	No change	Administratively more efficient to keep this service free.	Many jurisdictions charge entry fees or day-use fees.
Interpretive programs (currently offered at Tombstone and Herschel Island-Qikiqtaruk Territorial Parks)	\$0	No change	Administratively more efficient to keep this service free.	Typical fees are \$8 to \$30 per program.
Park permit application fee	\$0	\$40 per permit application, non-refundable	Reflects the level of service provided and contributes to streamlining permit application process.	Most jurisdictions have application fees ranging up to thousands of dollars depending on the scale of the application.
Schedule of service fees pursuant to a park permit	None	Establish a schedule of fees that can be charged to a successful permit applicant, to recover costs of providing services to execute their permit. For example a large special event requiring dedicated park staff time would pay a daily fee to cover this cost.	Helps ensure that those who benefit from services contribute to the cost of providing the services. Examples include large commercial film productions, major events, or customised interpretive programs.	Many jurisdictions have such a schedule of service fees pursuant to a park permit.

*Based on a review in summer 2018 including Alaska, NWT, BC, Alberta. Inflation calculated from when current fees were established (2002) to 2018 based on Bank of Canada inflation data.

