



Progress Report

Yukon Parks Strategy

September 2024

Yukon

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Tony Gonda.

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Introduction

Published in September 2020, the Yukon Parks Strategy sets long-term direction for the Yukon’s territorial parks system through to 2030. It provides strategic guidance on how to sustainably deliver the benefits of parks: healthy land, healthy people and healthy economy. The Strategy commits to 24 strategic actions to address 10 strategic priorities and report on implementation.

This is the first progress report on the implementation of the Yukon Parks Strategy. It describes the status of each of the 24 actions: what we have done so far, and what is coming next.

What we have done so far

After four years of implementation, 10 (42%) of the 24 strategic actions are in place, 12 (50%) are in progress, and 2 (8%) are planned for future implementation. See Figure 1.

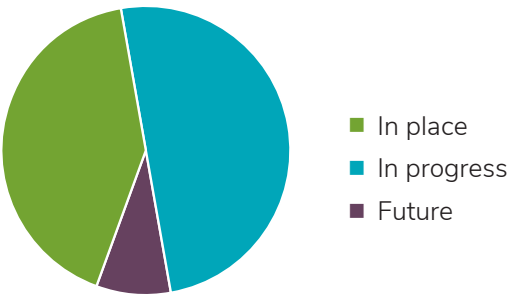





Figure 1. Progress on implementation: 24 strategic actions

The status of strategic actions is categorized in one of three ways; see Table 1.

Table 1. Status of strategic actions

 In place	 In progress	 Future
These actions have been implemented. They include both one-time actions that are done and ongoing actions whose implementation will continue.	These actions are underway. We have started to work on them but there is more work to do.	These actions are planned for future work between now and 2030.

Some results that park visitors may notice include new and improved trails, a longer serviced camping season and a pilot campsite reservation system. Other results are less visible to park users, such as completing public, stakeholder and First Nations engagement on the new park regulations and working with First Nations partners on park management plans.

This report summarizes the progress made to implement actions under the Yukon Parks Strategy as well as information on our plans between now and 2030.

Overall progress on strategic actions

The Yukon Parks Strategy, Section 4, identifies ten categories of strategic actions to be taken from 2020 to 2030:

- 4.1 Keep doing what's working
- 4.2 Develop a parks system plan
- 4.3 Welcome year-round park use
- 4.4 Enrich and diversify park experiences
- 4.5 Make it easier to get a campsite
- 4.6 Establish and operate new parks
- 4.7 Ensure protection
- 4.8 Advance reconciliation
- 4.9 Modernize regulations
- 4.10 Financially sustain our parks

4.1 Keep doing what's working

Status of strategic action:



In place

Our commitment

The Yukon Parks Strategy recognizes that much of what Yukon Parks is doing today is working. The Yukon is a leader in Canada in managing parks collaboratively with Indigenous governments. Front country and backcountry activities are both popular and highly valued by park users.

In the strategy, we commit to continuing to make decisions and actions regarding the management of Yukon parks and campgrounds through the four building blocks that we highlight in the strategy: protection, reconciliation, public service and public benefits.

Our progress

Since 2020, Yukon Parks has reflected these building blocks in decision making and actions in what we do, how we do it and why we do it.

Viewing the work of Yukon Parks through a protection lens means we recognize the intrinsic value of the territory's natural ecosystems, healthy wildlife and clean air and water.

We are continuing to do our part to advance reconciliation by managing parks collaboratively with First Nations and Inuvialuit partners to honour and celebrate Indigenous rights, languages, harvesting and traditional uses of the land. (For example, see highlight box on facing page about the Herschel Island Qikiqtaruk Internship Program.)

Our dedication to public service means that we manage parks in a way that ensures visitor safety and quality park experiences. It also means involving and engaging First Nations and the public in park planning and management. For example, Yukon Parks continuously manages Tombstone Territorial Park in partnership with a management committee as outlined in the management plan, and in 2022–2023, Yukon Parks held an extensive stakeholder, First Nations and public engagement on the new regulations project. We continue to reflect on the public benefits our parks and campgrounds offer. We remain dedicated to offering clean, safe and enjoyable campgrounds in beautiful locations.

Our next steps

As outlined in the Yukon Parks Strategy, we will continue to do what's working. We will continue to be guided by our four building blocks — protection, reconciliation, public service and public benefits — in all of our efforts, projects and partnerships.

Herschel Island Qikiqtaruk Internship Program

This program connects Inuvialuit youth to Qikiqtaruk and provides valuable mentorship opportunities to familiarize them with the role of a park ranger. The internship, a collaboration between Yukon Parks and University of British Columbia's Team Shrub, gives Inuvialuit youth opportunities to gain experience in park management and monitoring and engages them directly in stewardship and protection of ecological and cultural values on the landscape.



4.2 Develop a parks system plan

Status of strategic action:



In progress

Our commitment

We committed to creating 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 is to ensure that Yukon parks are in the right places with the right facilities and services.

Our progress

The Yukon territorial parks system plan will serve as a living document to help guide planning and decision making. The plan aims to ensure that we have the right types of parks in the right places and will support development and operation of Yukon parks as an integrated system. The parks system plan is informed by the Parks Strategy, in addition to the expertise of Parks Branch staff and input from the public and our partners. Opportunities for public input included:

- 2019 public engagement on the draft Yukon Parks Strategy;
- 2018 Talking Yukon Parks public engagement;
- 2009 and 2016 survey of campground users;
- hundreds of comment cards collected every year from park users; and
- conversations with First Nations and Inuvialuit park management partners, park users and stakeholders.

Our next steps

Once finalized, the system plan will be used to help balance the various demands placed on Yukon's territorial parks and to guide an organized approach to the establishment of new parks. It will also help guide planning and management activities to ensure protection while managing park use and development over the long-term. It will be used to ensure that the Yukon's growing territorial parks system continues to meet our goals for conservation, protection, reconciliation, recreation, tourism, economic diversification and quality of life for Yukoners and visitors. In addition, the system plan will be used as a framework to support the implementation of several strategic actions in the Yukon Parks Strategy and will help guide the Department of Environment's Parks Branch in a strategic shift from operating facilities and parks to managing a parks system.

The right types of parks, in the right places, with the right experiences

The new parks system plan is currently being developed and will guide planning and decision-making.



4.3 Welcome year-round park use

Status of strategic action:



In place

Our commitment

We committed to expanding the full-service season, enhancing the level of essential services during the off-season and exploring opportunities for partnerships to provide services.

Our progress

In 2021, Yukon Parks introduced a longer camping season, with campgrounds open and fully serviced from early May to the end of September. New winter recreation opportunities were created at Pine Lake, Wolf Creek, Fox Lake, Lake Laberge, Klondike River, Yukon River, Five Mile Lake and Tombstone territorial parks through the enhancement of services such as maintaining parking, outhouses and garbage, and grooming winter trails. Winter servicing is contributing to local economies through tourism, improving health and wellbeing through outdoor recreation and supporting community-building by providing spaces for local groups to host events and activities.

New winter recreation opportunities

Yukon Parks often partners with local organizations to maintain quality groomed trails and increase opportunities for winter recreation. In Dawson City, KATTS (Klondike Active Transport and Trails Society) shares resources and expertise to groom and track set Yukon River and Klondike River campgrounds. In Mayo, a similar agreement exists with the Silver Trail Outdoor Recreation Society to maintain winter trails in the area, including Five Mile Lake. In Haines Junction, Yukon Parks supports the St. Elias Ski Club to maintain trails at Pine Lake.



Our next steps

Yukon Parks will continue to engage with park users and partner with stakeholders to support enhanced winter recreation in parks in the years to come. The longer serviced camping season is here to stay.

4.4 Enrich and diversify park experiences

Status of strategic actions:

	4.4.1 Develop recreation destinations	In progress
	4.4.2 Accommodate a range of activities	In progress
	4.4.3 Offer a good night's sleep	In progress
	4.4.4 Repair and maintain park roads, docks and boat launches	In place

Our commitment

To enrich and diversify park experiences, the Government of Yukon committed to developing recreation destinations in Yukon Parks, accommodating a range of activities, offering a good night's sleep by increasing quiet areas and repairing and maintaining park roads, docks and boat launches.

Our progress

Progress in this area has been and will continue to be guided by meaningful engagement with First Nations. Since 2020, Yukon Parks has:

- developed new trails, improved signage and completed maintenance on existing trails at Twin Lakes, Wolf Creek and Conrad campgrounds;
- updated day-use areas and playgrounds in parks including Fox Lake, Kusawa Lake, Watson Lake, Yukon River, Five Mile Lake, Klondike River, Pine Lake, Congdon Creek, Kookatsoon Lake, Marsh Lake and Wolf Creek;
- improved park information including website updates, producing new publications, enhancing trail markers, providing maps, and increasing interpretation and information kiosks;
- collaborated with land users, including First Nations and Inuvialuit, hunting outfitters, tourism operators and park visitors, to manage activities in parks;
- improved servicing of recreation and camping facilities on the Yukon River Thirty Mile section/ Tágà Shāw Jädalĭ, in collaboration with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council;
- implemented a no-generator policy in the new walk-in tent sites at Marsh Lake;
- replaced or repaired boat launches at Dezadeash Lake, Pine Lake, Tagish River, Twin Lakes, Otter Falls, Aishihik Lake, Ethel Lake, Frenchman Lake, Tatchun Lake, Nunatuk, Frances Lake, Little Salmon Lake and Simpson Lake;
- replaced docks at Twin Lakes, Squanga Lake, Pine Lake, Watson Lake, Tatchun Lake, Simpson Lake, Frenchman Lake and Nunatuk; and
- developed a partnership with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Community Development Corporation to develop a trail at Charcoal Ridge in Tombstone Territorial Park.

Our next steps

Yukon Parks will continue to work on trail improvements and developments in parks across the territory. In addition to moving forward on the Charcoal Ridge trail in partnership with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Community Development Corporation, Yukon Parks will seek additional opportunities to partner with First Nations for trail design, construction, development and cultural interpretation.

We will also work collaboratively to plan for increasing the number of boat-in and hike-in campsites throughout the parks system.

Work to accommodate a range of activities and offer a good night's sleep is ongoing. Through a combination of innovative facility design and the development of modernized parks regulations (see section 4.9), Yukon Parks will ensure that park users can enjoy a diversity of activities in a way that maintains ecological integrity, cultural continuity, public safety and quality park experiences.

In the coming years, park users will see additional quiet (generator-free) areas in campgrounds and updated campground designs to better manage noise.

Yukon Parks infrastructure upgrades will continue to be made in parks, including playground, dock and boat launch replacements and other facility upgrades to support enhanced park experiences and recreational opportunities.



Łèitú Déi "Butterfly Trail"

In 2022, Yukon Parks partnered with Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) and Singletrack to Success to develop the Łèitú Déi "Butterfly Trail" at Conrad Campground. The non-motorized trail connects to the walk-in tent sites and provides campers with an opportunity to safely hike around the campground and take in the area's beautiful scenery. C/TFN and other youth worked on the trail and hand-carved benches. Trail markers feature a Tlingit-style butterfly by artist Keith Wolfe Smarch, and a Tlingit name provided by Colleen James in memory of time spent with family in the area.



4.5 Make it easier to get a campsite

Status of strategic actions:

	4.5.1 Build a bigger and better campground near Whitehorse	In progress
	4.5.2 Add campsites to some existing campgrounds	In progress
	4.5.3 Test campground reservations	In place

Our commitment

To it make it easier to get a campsite, the Government of Yukon committed to build a bigger and better campground near Whitehorse, add campsites to some existing campgrounds, and test campground reservations.

Our progress

Yukoners and visitors value the high-quality recreational and camping opportunities available in the Yukon's parks and campgrounds. Since the release of the Yukon Parks Strategy, Yukon Parks has been working with Yukon First Nations to explore opportunities for the development of a new campground near Whitehorse. The Government of Yukon is committed to continuing this work to enrich and expand recreational and camping experiences near Whitehorse in a way that respects cultural continuity and ecological integrity.

While Yukon Parks is still exploring options for a new campground through dialogue with First Nations, we continue to focus on improving existing campgrounds and camping experience across the Yukon.

Since 2020, the Government of Yukon has invested in creating 69 new front country and backcountry campsites across the territory at campgrounds including Congdon Creek, Ethel Lake, Little Salmon Lake, Marsh Lake, Wolf Creek, Frenchman Lake and Grizzly Lake.

Yukon Parks has also engaged with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation to plan for a redesign and enhancement of Tatchun Lake Territorial Park. The goal is to work collaboratively on a park vision and facility design that celebrates the cultural significance of the area and highlights First Nations language, stories and connection to land.

Through dialogue with Carcross/Tagish First Nation and working with Carcross Tagish Limited Partnership, a small-scale revitalization project has been in the planning stages for Snafu Lake campground to help address unmanaged camping in the area. In 2024, ten new campsites were added, in addition to waste management, toilet facilities and new kiosks to inform and educate park users about the cultural significance of Ágáy Méne'/Ghooch Áayi (the Tagish and Tlingit names for the lake).

The new campground reservation service pilot was launched in 2024, with reservable sites made available at Marsh Lake, Wolf Creek, Pine Lake and Tombstone Mountain campgrounds. In addition, backcountry campsite reservations were moved to this new online platform. As of August 31, 2024, 7,601 front country campsite nights have been booked since the reservation service launch in April. To support the effective rollout of the campsite reservation pilot program, a campground host service was

piloted in the 2024 camping season at Marsh Lake, Wolf Creek and Pine Lake campgrounds. Hosts facilitated campsite check-in, offered assistance with reservations and provided information and education about park facilities, rules and regulations.

Congdon Creek Campground expansion

In 2023, Yukon Parks expanded the Congdon Creek campground by adding an additional 41 campsites. These campsites brought the total number of sites at the campground to 103, making it one of the largest campgrounds in the Yukon.

These additional sites include 14 pull-through sites, firewood stations, a cook shelter and accessible outhouses. In addition, playground equipment at the campground has been replaced with safe, modern equipment for families to enjoy.



An evaluation plan was developed to monitor and gather information about how the new service is working for Yukoners and to help the Government of Yukon determine the best approach for managing campsites and camper experience in the Yukon. Preliminary results from a survey designed to gather feedback from reservation system users indicate a high degree of satisfaction with the system. For example, 90% of respondents said that their overall experience with the Yukon Parks reservation system was either “average,” “good” or “excellent,” and 88% of respondents said they would “definitely” recommend the system to a friend.

Our next steps

Yukon Parks will continue to work collaboratively with Yukon First Nations to expand and enhance camping opportunities in the territory. This includes feasibility studies and discussions with First Nations partners to identify potential options for a new territorial park and campground within two hours of Whitehorse. As this work continues, Yukon Parks will focus on improving existing parks and campgrounds to increase access to camping opportunities for both Yukoners and visitors alike.

4.6 Establish and operate new parks

Status of strategic actions:



4.6.1 Operationalize emerging parks

In progress



4.6.2 Establish new parks through land-use planning and other discussions

In progress

Our commitment

The Government of Yukon committed to operationalize emerging parks, including those established in Yukon First Nations Final Agreements or identified in regional land use planning. The Parks Strategy also commits the government to establish new parks through land-use planning and other discussions.

Our progress

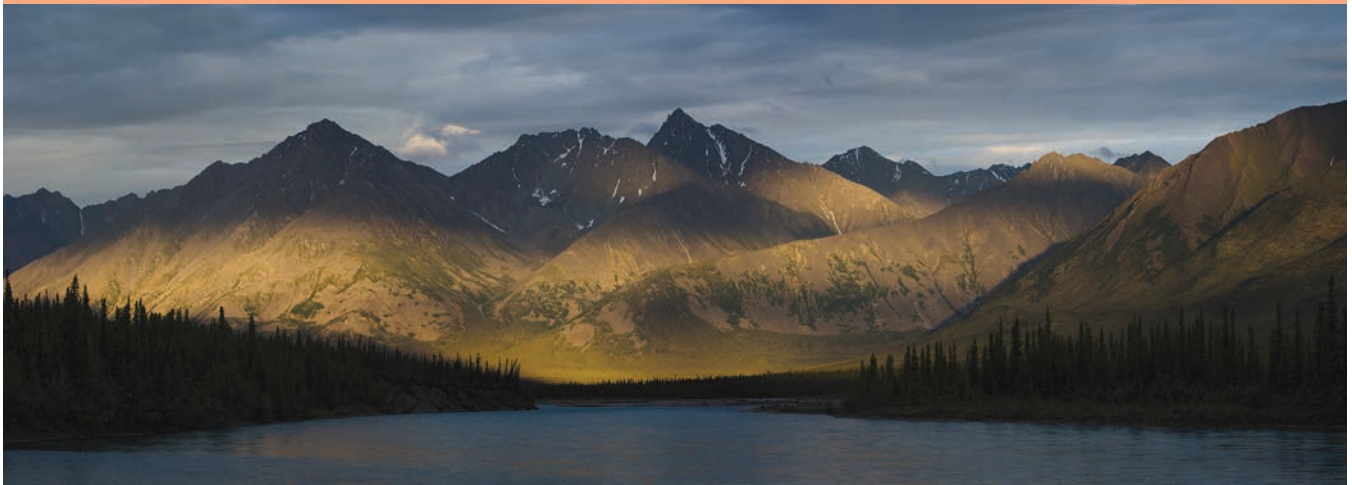
The Asi Keyi Management Planning Steering Committee, which includes representatives from Kluane First Nation, White River First Nation and Yukon Parks, held community and public engagement on management issues, proposed goals and potential management approaches between November 2023 and January 2024. The Steering Committee has begun working on the management plan.

Yukon Parks has continued working with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation to advance North Yukon Regional Land Use Planning commitments for Dàadzàii Vàn Territorial Park through management planning.

The Kusawa Territorial Park Management Planning Steering Committee has also reconvened and is working to recommend a final management plan. Once the management plan is approved, Yukon Parks looks forward to working with the Kusawa Territorial Park Management Committee to implement the plan and work collaboratively on ongoing park operations.

Peel Watershed Land Use Plan

The Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan identified special management areas for legal protection. The Peel Plan Implementation Committee agreed to designate two of these special management areas as territorial parks, including 29,838 km² of land within the Wind, Snake, and Bonnet Plume watersheds and 1,614 km² of land around the Richardson Mountains and the Vittrekwa River. The Government of Yukon is working with the Peel Plan Implementation Committee to establish these areas as natural environment parks. Together with the proposed national park, the Peel territorial parks will form a protected area network of 35,308 km².






Our next steps

Ongoing work to establish new protected areas will continue collaboratively with First Nations partners through regional land-use planning and Yukon First Nation Final Agreements. The Government of Yukon will work with First Nations partners to designate the Peel territorial parks and support feasibility studies for other protected areas in the Peel Watershed. To support full operationalization of these parks, we will work collaboratively to develop management plans with respective Yukon First Nations and the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

4.7 Ensure protection

Status of strategic actions:

	4.7.1 Prioritize ecological integrity and cultural continuity	In place
	4.7.2 Manage consistently	In progress
	4.7.3 Apply evidence-based planning and management	In place
	4.7.4 Green park operations	In place

Our commitment

To ensure the protection of parks, the Government of Yukon committed to prioritize ecological integrity and cultural continuity, apply evidence-based planning and management, manage consistently and green park operations.

Our progress

Yukon Parks has developed and implemented tools, policies and plans to support and protect ecological and cultural values in Yukon Parks. In 2022, Yukon Parks developed an ecological integrity policy and a system-wide monitoring plan, which are now in place to ensure consistency in park management and support the collection of data and information to inform evidence-based decision-making and planning. Yukon Parks has continued to approach program and infrastructure through a protection lens, while forging partnerships with Indigenous governments to enhance park monitoring. This has helped ensure that Yukon Parks has the data and knowledge needed to inform decisions regarding park operations and management. Yukon Parks works with First Nations partners to ensure that we protect cultural values in parks on an individual park basis. This includes working together to implement monitoring programs and managing park uses that could compromise cultural continuity.

One of the ways that Yukon Parks works collaboratively to gather data in parks is through iNaturalist, an online platform designed to promote community involvement in biodiversity monitoring. To date, more than 600 observers have recorded 26,000 observations of 2,120 species in our parks, including 200 species of conservation concern.

Yukon Parks has also been working to green park operations through a number of initiatives, including:

- upgrading solar power systems on the Qikiqtaruk ranger cabin;
- increasing the number of recycling containers in campgrounds;
- reducing vehicle emissions by introducing higher capacity waste receptacles (resulting in fewer vehicle trips to and from parks);
- replacing gas powered tools such as chainsaws with electric tools; and
- launching a proactive awareness campaign to reduce overuse and waste of firewood in Yukon campgrounds (see highlight box in section 4.10).

A safe space for everyone

In 2024, a pair of nesting northern flickers decided to call a Congdon Creek campsite home. To give them space during this important time in their life cycle, Yukon Parks temporarily closed the campsite. This effort was well-received by both campers and the birds, and the birds successfully raised their young.

The northern flicker is a migratory woodpecker that arrives in May to spend the summer nesting in the Yukon. With its loud voice, animated behaviours and flashing yellow underwings it rarely goes unnoticed.

Yukon Parks thanks park users for the many ways they respect and help protect the wildlife that inhabit our parks.






Our next steps

Ecological integrity and cultural continuity will continue to be prioritized in everything that Yukon Parks does. We look forward to continuing to develop new tools, processes and programs, and partnerships to ensure protection of territorial parks across the Yukon. Yukon Parks will continue to look at innovative ways to green park operations, such as exploring the replacement of fleet vehicles with hybrid or electric vehicles and looking at opportunities to reduce the number and duration of vehicle trips. We look forward to implementing new approaches to increase environmental stewardship and reduce greenhouse gases.

4.8 Advance reconciliation

Status of strategic actions:

	4.8.1 Co-develop a collaborative management framework	Future
	4.8.2 Partner with Indigenous guardians	In progress
	4.8.3 Explore Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas	Future

Our commitment

The Government of Yukon committed to advancing reconciliation through collaborative management of parks with First Nations and Inuvialuit, celebrating Indigenous Knowledge and culture, welcoming traditional uses of parks, and building meaningful relationships.

Our progress

Reconciliation is one of the pillars of Yukon Parks's work. Over the past several years, a primary focus has been on building relationships with Indigenous governments in aspects of park management, operations and planning. For example, collaborative management planning with First Nations has continued for a number of natural environment parks, including our work with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in for Tombstone Territorial Park, and with Kluane First Nation and White River First Nation for Asi Keyi Territorial Park. For Tombstone Territorial Park, implementation of the park management plan and ongoing park operations are also done collaboratively with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in through a park management committee. Partnerships and collaborations have been built with First Nations to develop interpretive signage and to highlight Indigenous place names on campground maps. We prioritize reaching out to First Nations to find opportunities to work together meaningfully.

Yukon Parks has made focused efforts to partner with Indigenous guardians and other land based First Nations staff in parks and on meaningful land-based monitoring and stewardship activities. For example, in July 2024 Yukon Parks collaborated with Water Resources Branch to co-host a two-day course on monitoring water quality, attended by eight staff from four First Nations. Water Resources Branch and Living Lakes Canada (a charitable water stewardship organization) provided expert instruction and facilitated learning activities suited to our Yukon context. We intend for this course to be a starting point for water quality monitoring activities between Yukon Parks and Indigenous guardian programs.

In 2023, Yukon Parks hired a dedicated cultural coordinator based in Dawson City to work collaboratively with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to find opportunities to partner in Tombstone Territorial Park. For example, in the summer of 2023 a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Youth and Elder Camp was held at Cache Creek. Yukon Parks supported and participated in the planning and delivery of the camp, sharing and learning stories and skills with Tr'ondëk Elders, youth and other citizens.

The reserved use of park facilities, such as campsites and kitchen shelters, is often requested by Yukon First Nations to support cultural events and practices. Feedback from First Nations has indicated that our accessible facilities are high-quality and desirable to support Elder, youth and citizen engagement in land-based cultural activities across the territory. As a new initiative in the summer of 2024, Yukon Parks made a focused effort to adapt operations to accommodate eight requests for Indigenous uses of park facilities, which contributed to the continuation of cultural practices and learning on the land.

Yukon Parks also regularly hosts First Nation speakers and artists in park programming and events at Tombstone and many other parks throughout the territory. In 2024, Parks Day events at Congdon Creek and Wolf Creek featured Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and storytellers who were invited to share Traditional Knowledge and stories with park visitors in recognition of the important role that Indigenous Peoples have in protecting and safeguarding the land.

Our next steps

We look forward to continuing to work with First Nations and Inuvialuit to co-develop a collaborative management framework, applying key approaches from successful collaborations for park management, such as the Tombstone Territorial Park management committee.

Yukon Parks will continue to explore topics and activities of mutual interest with Indigenous guardians and other land-based staff. The Department of Environment will continue to work to find water quality monitoring and joint land patrol opportunities with First Nations, especially as more territorial parks advance through management planning processes.

Yukon Parks will continue to collaborate with First Nations on management planning and implementation for the proposed parks in the Peel watershed, Dàadzàii Vàn Territorial Park, Kusawa territorial park, and Agay Mene territorial park. Yukon Parks will also support ongoing conversations with Indigenous partners and other Government of Yukon branches to explore how Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas may apply in Yukon.

Indigenous guardians partnership: water monitoring

First Nation land guardians calibrated sampling instruments during a water monitoring course that brought together Indigenous land guardians and staff from Yukon Parks and Water Resources branch.



4.9 Modernize regulations

Status of strategic action:



In progress

Our commitment

The Government of Yukon is committed to updating park fees and park regulations under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act* to support the implementation of the Yukon Parks Strategy.

Our progress

Yukon Parks engaged with the public and stakeholders on the proposed modernized park and campground regulations from April 29 to July 4, 2022. Engagement with First Nations, Inuvialuit and transboundary Indigenous organizations was held from April 29 to December 5, 2022. A summary of the input gathered during this engagement was published in a *What We Heard* document in March 2023.

The ten thematic areas discussed during the public engagement and Indigenous consultation were:

- noise;
- domestic animals;
- liquor;
- smoking, including cannabis;
- on-road and off-road vehicles;
- aircraft use, including drones;
- park zoning;
- activities requiring permits;
- other general park regulations; and
- campground and recreation site regulations.

The new regulations will address operational concerns and will help preserve and enhance many of the environmental, economic, social and health benefits of territorial parks that Yukoners enjoy.

As mentioned in section 4.10, Yukon Parks also updated the fees and fee categories under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*.

Modernizing regulations

During the engagement period in 2022–2023, Yukon Parks received input from 11 First Nations, Inuvialuit and transboundary Indigenous organizations. We heard that all were supportive of modernizing regulations under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*. There were 1,443 people who responded to the public online survey, and the majority of respondents agreed with all of the regulation proposals. Support ranged from 63% to 79% for each of the 10 areas of proposed regulations.



Our next steps

The Government of Yukon is developing the new regulations based on the results of First Nation and public engagement. A public education campaign will be developed to inform Yukoners of the new regulations under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*.

4.10 Financially sustain our parks

Status of strategic actions:

	4.10.1 Update park fees	In place
	4.10.2 Update core budget	In place
	4.10.3 Modernize capital asset management	In place
	4.10.4 Pursue efficient operational excellence	In progress

Our commitment

Recognizing the need to shift to a more financially sustainable parks system, the Government of Yukon committed to addressing four elements of financial sustainability: revenue from park fees, appropriate core budget, responsible asset management, and efficient operational excellence.

Our progress

To better sustain park services, and improve convenience and efficiency while maintaining affordable access, Yukon Parks introduced new payment options and modest camping fee increases in the 2022 season. A new permit application fee was also introduced for park use permits such as commercial activity and special event permits.

Over the past several years, Yukon Parks has also focused on updating its core budget, and sought opportunities to achieve operational efficiency to improve service while reducing cost. For example, the new online daily camping permit system has modernized and streamlined the administrative process for camping permits. To address the increasing costs of firewood while ensuring that firewood remains available free of charge for park users, a new firewood public education campaign aimed at reducing firewood consumption in campgrounds was launched in 2024.

In the area of capital asset management, capital planning and capital budgeting, Yukon Parks has improved its asset management system and has taken a strategic approach to capital planning with ongoing implementation of park infrastructure upgrades since 2018.

Our next steps

Yukon Parks is committed to further exploring opportunities to increase operational efficiency through innovative and adaptive approaches. We will continue to encourage park users to reduce firewood consumption in campgrounds. We anticipate that several of the other actions associated with greening park operations (see section 4.7), including potentially switching to hybrid or electric vehicles and improving the efficiency of vehicle use, will have cost-saving results as well.

Firewood campaign

Due to increasing costs, firewood has become a major expense in the parks core operating budget. In summer 2024, Yukon Parks rolled out an education campaign aimed at reducing the use of firewood in campgrounds and encouraging park users to be mindful of firewood consumption.

Don't be a log hog.



Please use firewood sustainably and be mindful of your consumption.

- Keep your campsite stockpile smaller than the fire ring.
- Fires and flames should not be larger than the fire ring.

Yukon



Tell us what you think

We welcome your thoughts on this progress report.

Please send any comments by email to
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or by mail to
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