

Vision

The draft Vision statement is a slight refinement of the original 2008 vision, adjusted based on input from staff, stakeholders, and the public.

“Whitehorse will be a well planned, self-sustaining, innovative community that leads in management and conservation of wilderness, energy and resources for the future. Whitehorse will strive for quality of life for all, a stable economy, and a socially diverse community.”

Whitehorse Residents Value:

- Sense of community
- Quality of life
- The beauty and closeness of nature
- Leadership
- Contributions of First Nations
- A vibrant and diverse arts and cultural community
- Local businesses

Key Themes

- 1. Leadership through partnership.** This plan shifts from the City as leader to the City leading by **partnering** with other organizations, governments, and **citizens**.
- 2. Building on success.** The updated Sustainability Plan builds on and synthesizes extensive work done since the 2008 plan.
- 3. Continuous learning, more ambition.** The updated Plan is considering clear, ambitious, long-term targets, so that the City and its partners can monitor progress and adjust action accordingly
- 4. Citizen stewardship.** For the City to move to new levels of sustainability, **citizens must be engaged like never before, as active partners in stewardship** of public infrastructure and natural resources.
- 5. Integration into City business.** The City is integrating sustainability into its daily business, helping staff and Council apply the **broad concept of sustainability in practical**, effective ways.
- 6. Focus on our existing assets.** The Plan attempts to focus on doing **more and better with the resources the City already has, such as downtown, existing neighbourhoods, the trail system**, roads, and infrastructure.

Feedback on Draft Updated Sustainability Plan.

- *A grand vision that sounds good.*
- *With my walking viewpoint, let me just look at walking opportunities and test how the Plan works for a process such as ‘develop a walking culture in Whitehorse’. This is a fast look and not in any way comprehensive.*
- *Making a vision happen comes from paper statements and also from a person who sees the vision as a personal mandate. I see a big lack is a central senior person with walking responsibility.*
- *As a walker I see Tourism, Parks and Recreation, Engineering, Planning, and various sub committees as pieces of city walking. The delineation of responsibilities is not clear to the public. Bringing these together and then looking at walking opportunities only makes sense. I have little sense that there is a lot of joint communication around walking within the city.*
- *as a walker, I see that having no walking organization hampers participation on trail related initiatives.*
- *the city encouraged bicyclists to organize so it could work with them*
- *walkers are harder to pigeon-hole: parent and stroller in subdivision; seniors on Millennium Trail; after supper family walkers; hikers; people who walk to work; daycares walking their charges along a paved path; lunch-time people who walk to Black Street stairs to use them for exercise*
- *engaged like never before implies changing some of the existing methods. Possibly best discussed in person!*
- *active partner implies more than fill in a survey and attend an open house.*
- *doing more with existing resources: recreation as a sport has often tapped the city purse for projects, making our recreational opportunities often second-to-none.*
- *walking as a non-sport recreational activity and not just active transportation, isn't able to easily influence the city.*
- *how does all this fit with the integrated community sustainability plan or the strategic sustainability plan ? Not clear.*

PRINCIPLES

A principle describes a fundamental norm, rule, or value that guides action. The draft principles below were drawn from common sustainability principles

Integration: Social equity, economic vitality and environmental health are interrelated and mutually interdependent. Decisions should seek to maximize net benefits in each of these areas.

Mutual Dependence: Land, water, air and all living organisms including humans are integral parts of the ecosystem. Each community is linked with the (ecological, social and economic) well-being of the Yukon, Canada, and the world.

Adaptive Approach: Plans and activities must be adaptable and able to respond to external pressures and changing social values. Plans should work toward maintaining the capacity to recover from adversity, and infrastructure and systems should be durable and minimize risks.

Equity: All individuals, communities, regions must be able to meet their social, economic and environmental needs. In particular, all people should be able to participate fully in the life of their community.

Leadership: Leadership is a necessary element of sustainability, acting by encouraging and enabling others to adapt leading practice.

Learning and Evolution: Sustainability is a long journey. In the short-term, the elements of sustainability may not always be in balance. Regular feedback provides a basis for learning what works and adjusting what does not, leading to more effective action and faster improvement.

Collaboration and Coordination: Sustainability is a shared responsibility, because everyone has social, environmental and economic impacts. Coordinated, collaborative action is essential to effectively address issues that are affected by many jurisdictions, individuals, and organizations.

Long-term Thinking: Recognizing that sustainability involves responsibility for future generations and that the future is essentially unpredictable, decision-making should acknowledge and respond to uncertainty and associated risk.

Engagement: Recognizing that sustainability involves changes to complex systems that affect all members of the community, decision-making processes should engage people across the diversity represented in the community through credible, open methods, and should ensure participants are fully informed and able to engage effectively.

Stewardship: A healthy environment is necessary for our communities to survive and thrive. Global resources are limited, as are local and regional resources.

Sustainable lifestyles are those that do not reduce the amount of non-renewable resources nor increase the levels of toxins in the environment.

SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

These 12 draft goals developed based on input from City staff, stakeholders and the public. The goals describe what the community wants to achieve in the long term. They are relevant to everyone, and everyone has a role to play in achieving them. The next pages list the targets and strategies associated with each.

• SEE COMMENTS ON NEXT PAGES

1. Strong downtown and livable neighbourhoods

A compact, vibrant urban core with complete neighbourhoods and a moderately more dense and livable city, especially downtown, with all neighbourhoods having access to supported by low-impact transportation, diverse services and diverse housing options.

2. Efficient, low-impact transportation

Efficient movement of people via transit, cycling, walking, and multi- and single-occupant vehicles.

3. Green buildings and infrastructure

Reduced environmental impacts of private and City-owned buildings and infrastructure.

4. Energy and Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Increased renewable energy; reduced greenhouse gas production.

5. Healthy Environment and Wilderness

Clean air, water, and soil; healthy habitat; and a sense of wilderness.

6. Strong Local Economy

A stable, diverse economy that is resilient to global change and features a strong labour force, entrepreneurship, local businesses, and a healthy City corporation.

7. Zero Waste

Minimize waste generation and maximize resource recovery through reuse, recycling, composting.

8. Resilient, Accessible Food Systems

Production, processing, distribution, and sales of local, healthy food to all residents.

9. Social equity: affordable housing and poverty reduction

Programs and initiatives to equitably provide for basic needs of the entire community.

10. Strong, engaged, participatory community

Citizens are involved in decisions that affect them; act as stewards of the environment; and are connected and responsible to each other, the environment, and their government.

11. Vibrant and diverse arts, culture and heritage

Richness of the visual arts and built heritage and recognition of cultural heritage and diversity.

12. Safe and Healthy community

Physical and mental health and safety from hazards such as fire, crime, and traffic.

1. Strong downtown and livable neighbourhoods

Description

A compact, vibrant urban core with **complete neighbourhoods** and a moderately more dense and livable city, **especially downtown**, with all neighbourhoods having access to supported by low-impact transportation, diverse services and diverse housing options.

Targets	2020	2030	2050
Increase livability of all neighbourhoods	Establish criteria and set targets		
Increase downtown population density	10%	20%	40%
Increase population of the neighbourhoods closest to downtown (Hillcrest, Takhini, Riverdale)	1%	1%	2%

Rationale

A **strong, vibrant, mixed-use downtown** encourages active transportation, thriving local businesses, civic pride, and tourism. **Livable neighbourhoods** attract residents and businesses and have a mix of housing to suit different ages, abilities and incomes, as well as amenities to meet most daily needs.

Jurisdiction: High

Through planning and development regulation, the City influences new development. City jurisdiction in existing built areas is low.

Progress: Good

Whitehorse has developed a **thriving downtown, and waterfront, despite dispersed development and steep areas** separating downtown from other parts of the city.

Approach

Start with a community dialogue about livability, and what types of infill and redevelopment are appropriate, then apply this to planning and development regulations.

Strategies

- With the community, define and describe livability criteria
- **Prepare new Downtown & Marwell Plan**
- Improving access from downtown to the waterfront **across Second Ave**
- Increase downtown commercial vibrancy
- **Improve biking, walking,** and transit linkages
- Create well-integrated, appropriate infill

- *livability means better access to recreational walking, hiking — this means innovative thinking*
- *promoting the airport perimeter trail and ball diamond stairs;*
- *pedestrian bridge near main street linking to the Hospital/Long Lake network of walking trails*
- *riverside trail through Marwell ascending to Range Point and on the Whistle Bend*
- *Yukon River east side trail out to Whistle Bend*

- *Excellent opportunities linking these elements, increasing Arts programming and linking the Hospital/Long Lake network of walking trails*

- *Escarpment offer opportunities as a significant high-profile destination.*
- *trails and parks below*
- *connect Waterfront Trail to the Escarpment Trail using Spook Creek Parkette*
- *connect escarpment trail to Millennium Trail following pedestrian needs .*
- *Airport Perimeter Trail above: link to Millennium Trail, Rotary Centennial Bridge and riverside/Schwatka Lake trails*

- *Ball diamonds stairs as more useful to above-the-airport and Riverdale users than Lambert/Rogers stairs. These would be a community resource, not just a downtown resource.*

2. Efficient, low-impact transportation

Goal Description

Efficient movement of people via transit, cycling, walking, and multi- and single-occupant vehicles.

Targets	2021	2036	2050
Increase active transportation and transit mode share.	35%	48%	
Maintain minimum intersection service standards.	100%	100%	100%

Rationale

Shifting to more active modes and transit improves physical health, reduces greenhouse gases and reduces City infrastructure costs and household transportation costs.

Jurisdiction: Medium/high

The City regulates design and speed limits for all roads except the Alaska Highway. The City designs, funds and operates transit and off-street pedestrian and bike paths. However, traffic rules, regulations and vehicle safety, and emission standards are largely not within beyond the City's jurisdiction.

Progress: Moderate.

A number of projects and plans have been completed and had success, but implementation of the next phase is in early days:

- 2004 Transportation Study
- 2008 Urban Transportation Showcase
- 2010 Downtown Parking Management Plan
- 2014 Transportation Demand Management Plan

Approach

Implement the Transportation Demand Management Plan, which includes improving transit and active transportation infrastructure

Strategies

- Develop and implement a Transit plan to improve funding, scheduling, fares, promotion, infrastructure, the customer experience, and partnerships.
- Refine the Trail Plan to enhance links between recreation and commuter networks
- Enhance the bicycle and foot network, especially linkages to downtown
- Consider reducing intersection level of service standards??????
- Adopt a comprehensive "green" fleet management program for the City

- much better pedestrian crossings at lights. Example at Farmers Market one need to push the walk button for a turn or (which most do) walk with green light but against don't-walk signal.
- Canada Games crossing Hamilton Blvd. Walk signal is so short that you almost certainly are crossing the far two lanes under a don't-walk signal
- Hamilton Blvd crossings have what feels to be non-standard pedestrian lights.
- The whole Alaska Highway widening project seems to ignore this. Only 7 pedestrian crossings in first public draft of plans?????!!\$!#@
- maybe I'll come to it later in the strategy but it would seem that this 'improves physical health' offers tremendous opportunities for partnerships and leadership.
- this off-street pedestrian paths seems to acknowledge recreational walking. How do we get this onto city trail agendas?
- What about the 2002 Whitehorse Moves Community Transportation Workshop process that seemed so great to those of us who attended?
- In reality, more people will start walking recreationally and then do the generally longer walks that active transportation routes for most neighbourhoods require.
- Seems to be little done under the guise of recreational walking. Paved paths are usually active transportation linkages, City Trails and Greenspaces committee is often motorized trails, running trails mountain bike trails
- With future KDFN lands near Lobird and Beyond Copper Ridge, importance of weigh scales, Airport Perimeter Tail/ Ball Diamond route will increase.
- Southern rural subdivisions will be well served if City and community worked with Whitepass and Yukon Route Railway to treat the old railway as a community asset and make it the off-highway route to town.

3. Green buildings and infrastructure

Goal Description

Reduced environmental impacts of private and City-owned buildings and infrastructure.

Targets	2020	2030	2050
Make new City buildings 50% more efficient than the national energy code, and retrofits of City buildings with a 20 year lifespan 30% better	50%	50%	50%
Adopt and enforce national standard for energy efficient construction requirements	100%	100%	100%
Reduce per capita water consumption	10%	20%	30%

Rationale

Improving the performance of the City's buildings and infrastructure reduces operating costs and environmental risks.

Jurisdiction: High.

The City manages its public infrastructure and buildings. The City regulates new private building construction, but has low influence over existing private buildings.

Progress: Good

- Energy efficiency building standards required through the Building and Plumbing Bylaw.
- New Building Consolidation Project will increase overall energy efficiency of new buildings.
- The City is in the early stages of establishing an asset management program.

Approach:

Continuously improve City buildings and strong standards for private buildings, and maximize efficient use of **existing natural and physical assets**

Strategies

- Build new municipal buildings 80% more efficient than National Energy Code
- Conduct energy assessments and upgrades to City buildings
- Adopt and enforce regulations to ensure national building energy standards are met or exceeded
- Establish a long-range infrastructure asset management system that includes natural assets like trees, green space and groundwater
- Manage water use by City operations and reduce system losses
- Reduce community water use starting with education and incentives, and moving to metering
- Strengthen measures to minimize watershed contamination

- The City's new operations building needs to accommodate existing and future pedestrian use so as to not add more cars to the area.
- needs to be a pedestrian right-of-way to the highway near Baxter's Gulch/Spook Creek Headwaters and connecting to the Airport Perimeter Trail
- On the lands around the new operations building there needs to be an defined escarpment trail along the side overlooking Two Mile Hill. Trail is currently used by area residents. This will also become a downtown destination for walking.
- needs to be pedestrian crossing to Valleyview/ Hillcrest/McIntyre residents. SEE Alaska Highway widening ideas.

- Green infrastructure: much better website reporting. Take Trails as an example. So far out of date with what Parks and Rec is actually doing that activities feel like secrets!.

4. Energy and Greenhouse Gas Reduction

- Increased renewable energy; reduced greenhouse gas production.

Goal Description

Increased renewable energy; **reduced greenhouse gas production.**

Targets	2020	2030	2050
Expand non-fossil fuel energy production by the City	5%	10%	25%
Reduce City greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (tonnes of CO ₂ /yr) from 2014 level	10%	25%	80%
Reduce per capita GHG emissions from 2014 levels	4%	10%	50%
Reduce total GHG emissions from 2014 levels	0%	5%	25%

Rationale:

Reducing GHGs is part of Whitehorse's commitment to global sustainability and reduces anticipated risks to the community from long-term climate change. Reducing energy use also reduces operating costs.

Jurisdiction: Medium.

The City manages the landfill and its own energy-consuming facilities and infrastructure. The City sets energy efficiency requirements for new buildings, operates transit, and educates on some GHG reduction activities. However, the City has less influence on commercial transportation and existing buildings.

Progress: Moderate

Some systems implemented for energy and GHG reduction, including transit investments, stricter efficiency requirements for buildings, various actions to encourage transportation mode shift, and creation of an energy tracker for City facilities.

Approach

- Focus on reductions from the most significant emissions sources: transportation, buildings and water and sewer infrastructure.

Strategies

- Incorporate renewable energy production into the new Municipal Services Building and encourage their use elsewhere
- Reduce landfill emissions
- Develop and implement anti-idling strategy
- Implement TDM Plan (see Transportation)
- Support green building and infrastructure strategies (See Buildings and Infrastructure)

- *Again, better website use means fewer trips to attend meetings, less paper use....*

5. Healthy Environment and Wilderness

Clean air, water, and soil; healthy habitat; and a sense of wilderness.

Goal Description

Clean air, water, and soil; healthy habitat; and a sense of wilderness.

Target	2020	2030	2050
Reduce number of days when air quality exceeds Yukon Ambient Air quality standards	6.4	6.4	6.4
Meet the national standard for drinking water quality	100%	100%	100%
Maintain current wilderness areas	100%	100%	100%
Retain or increase area of Regional Parks	100%	100%	100%

Jurisdiction: High.

The City manages land use and parks, influences transportation-related emissions, and influences ground and surface water use, treatment, and disposal.

Rationale

Protecting and enhancing the environment has intrinsic value and is important to a high quality of life for residents. A healthy environment provides ecological services (e.g. clean water to drink, clean air to breathe, clean soil to grow, a stable climate) and economic benefits (e.g. recreational activities, tourism).

Progress: Good.

- Five Regional Parks established
- Green Space Network Plan identified in 2010 Official Community Plan
- Citizens consulted in ongoing planning work.

Approach

Build on past foundations, enhance management planning, and increase airshed and watershed protection.

Strategy

- Implement TDM Plan to reduce transportation-related air emissions
- Partner with the Yukon Government to accelerate conversions to clean-burning wood stoves
- Focus development within the Urban Containment Boundary
- Protect and rehabilitate greenspace and limit its fragmentation
- Manage Regional Parks

- There's an idea floating around that putting trails along busy roads will encourage more people to walk. People walk in the woods where there is this sense of wilderness.
- Make a city policy on using 'dark sky lighting on lights. Work to replace non-conforming lights; ensure new alaska highway project uses these lights ; partner with our two energy giants to make this happen

• Somehow this flies in the face of the road network proposed to go from the KK over to the college, Porter Creek, Whistle Bend and Porter Creek D.

• Healthy environment has a value for tourism, not only so they can drive by and see it, but because many want to get out and recreate, to be a part of nature. Not only is walking tourism an activity with low impact on the environment, trails designed for walking tourism will also be trails for residents. Another added feature of walking: it's a free activity that takes time to do and offers great satisfaction, making it an ideal stay-another-day activity.

• Nice trails attract more use. Better trails become an attraction, as we like well built, well designed trails. Building these nice trails takes effort and costs money. But then the nice trails becomes part of the broader walking trail network. Trail building becomes an economic activity.

• Serious consultation was certainly part of the 2007 Trail Plan and 2007 Parks and Recreation master plan. But with no broader city focus on recreational walking, there's no way of focussing on consultation around this.

6. Strong Local Economy

Goal Description:

A stable, **diverse economy** that is resilient to global change and features a strong labour force, **entrepreneurship**, local businesses, and a healthy City corporation.

Target	2020	2030	2050
Maintain a surplus of City assets to liabilities on a 5 year average	100%	100%	100%
Increase the economic diversity index	90	90+	90+
Increase number of business licenses annually (% increase year over year)	4%	3%	2%

Rationale

A diverse and thriving local economy **creates jobs and income** that **allow all residents** to meet their basic financial needs.

Jurisdiction: Low.

The City has **some influence** over the local economy, land use planning and development control, and **promotion of Whitehorse**. However, the economy is strongly driven by regional, national, and global shifts and by the local business community.

Progress: Good.

- **Partnership with YG to promote Whitehorse as a tourism destination**
- **Economic Development Strategies** completed in 2011 and **2015**
- New Economic Development Officer position created.
- Partnerships strengthened between the City and the business community

Approach:

Follow recommendations in the 2015 Economic Development Strategy, focusing on partnerships and leveraging existing tools and resources.

Strategies

- Increase awareness of costs and opportunities related to City infrastructure
- Pursue Asset Management
- **Complete and implement Economic Development Strategy**
- Explore City role in promoting local food production and consumption
- Coordinate and align with key partners

- *our economy seems to be heavily government, mining, construction, tourism*
- *we are very heavily dependent on federal transfer payments, world mineral prices*
- *What if tourism was less focussed on advertising and more on infrastructure creation?*
- *by enabling community stewardship over walking trails and greenspaces, community groups would act as entrepreneurs, leveraging city leadership on things like trail creation, maintenance with volunteer activity.*

- *There is a need for on-the-land jobs. Often these pay less than some white-collar jobs. These lower paid jobs are exactly what some workers need.*

- *The wilderness city: let's celebrate it and make it a core value in a walking tourism package.*
- *get YG tourism to take an approach of inviting visitors to stay in Whitehorse and walk as an alternative to driving to Kluane or the Dempster for a walk.*

- *I tried hard to get the City's Economic Development Strategy to recognize walking as an economic driver but was told it was too visionary for this update cycle.*
- *I was pleased to see mention of a pedestrian bridge downtown in the strategy, but I think the corresponding activity of 'fix up the Long Lake/hospital Trail network as a destination at the other end of the bridge' may not have made it.*

7. Zero Waste

Goal Description:

Minimize waste generation and maximize resource recovery through reuse, recycling, composting.

- *Trailheads need garbage cans and doggie bag dispensers*

Targets	2020	2030	2050
Increase waste diversion to be zero waste by 2040	55%	65%	95%

Rationale

Reducing waste saves money, benefits the environment, and fosters responsible consumption and production.

Jurisdiction: High.

The City manages the Waste Management Facility, funds some recycling services, and educates the public about waste diversion practices. The City has low control over consumption patterns. Partners collect and process materials.

Progress: Good.

Ambitious Solid Waste Action Plan (SWAP) completed in 2013, with goals of 50% diversion by 2015 and zero waste by 2040. A significant motivating factor is the landfill closure and liability.

Approach

Build on successful implementation of the SWAP, monitoring progress and adjusting as needed. Work with key partners to address systemic issues beyond the City's influence.

Strategies

- Work with key partners on waste diversion and program development.
- Develop long term viability/economic development plan for waste management
- Increase organics diversion
- Educate the public
- Focus on improved recycling solutions

8. Resilient, Accessible Food Systems

Goal Description:

Production, processing, distribution, and sales of local, healthy food to all residents.

Targets	2020	2030	2050
Increase consumption of local food	set targets		
Increase number of community garden plots	35%	70%	100%
Increase amount of finished compost produced by the City	10%	10%	10%

City jurisdiction: Low.

The City can influence food-based businesses and activities, but has little influence over production and regulation.

Rationale:

Increasing local food production, processing, and consumption makes Whitehorse less vulnerable to weather-related supply interruptions; creates more local, green jobs; and reduces food insecurity.

Progress: Fair.

Food has been recognized relatively recently as an important issue for communities, and work on food in Whitehorse is in its early days.

Approach:

- Develop a plan to define the City's role, potential actions, and key partnerships. Begin initiatives to encourage local production and processing, facilitate partnerships, and share resources.

Strategies

- Create Agriculture Plan for the City
- Build skills and knowledge to support food growing
- **Facilitate community gardens**
- Expand compost feedstock, maintain compost quality, and improve compost marketing.

- *as part of neighbourhood stewardship, community gardens, or even greenhouses could be a focus. Leadership, examples are needed.*

9. Social equity: affordable housing and poverty reduction

Goal Description

Programs and initiatives to equitably provide for basic needs of the entire community.

Targets	2020	2030	2050
Reduce percentage of households spending more than 30% of total income on shelter	5%	10%	20%
Reduce income disparity between the top and bottom 20% income earners	5%	10%	10%
Increase number of City-led and City-supported initiatives (programs, services, events) targeted to low income families	5%	5%	5%

Jurisdiction: Low

The City can influence housing through development regulations and advocacy, and has a voice with organizations and governments, but has limited ability to directly affect these targets.

Progress: Good

Strong focus on livability, community, and health in planning and development, and through emphasis on recreation services and wilderness access.

Pursued specific actions to encourage more housing options.

Approach

- Better define the City's role and position on equity issues, and focus on areas it can influence such as access to City services and availability of affordable housing.

Strategies

- Advocate for and partner on affordable housing projects with other governments
- Use planning, zoning, and development tools to facilitate more affordable housing
- Implement Economic Development Strategy to encourage an inclusive economy
- Use partnerships to increase access to City programs by low income residents

- Walking trails are free.

- A solid walking program offered throughout the city spreads out city offerings to low-income people

• Planning example: Look at Ingram. Access to the City's single track trails and the WCCSC groomed trails is blocked by wetlands. A boardwalk, switchback route could link these new homes to great trails. But they have no community association for a voice, no walking association has a voice. So City has meetings with with WCCSC and other sport groups and ignores neighbourhoods. So encouraging new homeowners to be active and fit doesn't make it on the agenda.

• Look at Whistle Bend. Again, lots of new housing. Opportunities for walking limited by steep cliffs, golf course, private land bristling with large "Warning, guard dog on duty signs"; no community Association. I've suggested a motorized foot bridge just past Whistle Bend to create a network of walking trails, to make a healthy neighbourhood that can grow into walking infrastructure, just as it grows into water, sewer, power and road infrastructure.

- I've no sense there's an initiative for walking at the city level

10. Strong, engaged, participatory community

Goal Description

Citizens are **involved** in decisions that affect them; act as **stewards** of the environment; and **are connected and responsible to each other**, the environment, and their government.

Targets	2020	2030	2050
Increase number of active and engaged community associations	35%	70%	100%
Increase number of City partnerships on special events and joint projects	5%	10%	15%
Increase percentage of population that regularly volunteers	5%	10%	15%
Increase number of new, unique, or annual opportunities for public participation increases	3%	5%	10%

Jurisdiction: Medium

The City determines its approach to public engagement and involvement in decision processes. The overall community connectedness is less determined by City action.

Rationale

Engaging community members is part of the City's democratic responsibility, fosters a greater sense of community and pride and leads to better and more strongly supported civic decisions.

Progress: Good.

- Whitehorse recognized as tight-knit with a strong sense of community.
- City provides opportunities for public involvement in many decision making aspects.
- The City aims for transparency and most decisions and documents are public.

Approach

- Focus on innovative 2-way engagement techniques at neighbourhood level, and encourage and enable citizen stewardship for public resources.

Strategies

- Improve knowledge and skills of community associations and improve opportunities for involvement
- Focus on localized and community special events
- Encourage volunteerism for and by the City
- Improve City communications methods and capacity
- Encourage and enable citizen stewardship of public spaces (e.g. citizen reporting on potholes, vandalism)

- the past few years of trail task forces and trail committee seems to be a divisive process with little opportunity for dialog between competing viewpoints. City is perceived as taking sides

- with a coalition of Community Associations we could share knowledge.

- Focus at first on Urban Containment neighbourhoods. More people, more problems, more opportunities. Neighbourhoods are often new, or lack strong ownership base (trailer courts) or are condominiums

- Rural neighbourhoods seem to want more autonomy

- Jane's Walks, walking passport, weekly health walks, more nature viewing activities,

- community connectedness is actually influenced by city decisions:

- Local trail task forces are overbalanced by strong representatives from organized trail groups (runners, mountain bikes, skiers, motorized) making decisions on neighbourhood trails

- having commercial interests such as vehicle dealerships represented on task forces seems wrong

- Stewardship: Trail Task forces should not finish without either building new group or strongly re-engaging displaced neighbourhood groups. Explain stewardship options, facilitate connections with other local neighbourhoods.

- Very little documentation of trail committee processes and task force processes make it to city website.

- When a public process like trails needs to go in-camera there's a basic problem

- the city website needs help. Some departments make a determined effort to be responsive and open. Others much less so.

- A big obstacle to community organizing is that as walking isn't a sport, and has no organization, insurance implications suppress possible group activities. Some groups get automatic event insurance coverage by membership in Sport Governing bodies.

- We need more than just reporting problems. Walkers need a say in trail and greenspace planning, both broadly and at the neighbourhood/area level.

11. Vibrant and diverse arts, culture and heritage

Goal Description

Richness of the visual arts and built heritage and recognition of cultural heritage and diversity.

Targets	2020	2030	2050
Increase participation in local arts, culture, and heritage events, including FN initiatives			

Rationale

Strong and diverse local arts and culture increase civic pride and quality of life, and attracts new residents, businesses and tourists to Whitehorse.

Progress: Good

- Strong, well supported arts and culture community.
- Adopted Arts Policy in 2000, focused on visual arts in public places and buildings.
- The City funds special events, and provides significant in kind support to various cultural initiatives

Approach

- Work with First Nations and the arts community to use existing assets to showcase Whitehorse arts, culture and heritage.

Strategy

- Focus on the aesthetic aspects of infrastructure (e.g. pump stations, transit stops)
- Take a more active role in diversity initiatives, in partnership with First Nations and existing groups.

Examples

- Work with cultural groups to increase participation in programming
- Integrate art into transit shelters and other infrastructure
- Integrate various cultural events into a festival

- FN culture is strongly based on the land; people want to live here because of attachment to the land; and tourism promotes the land. Having a strong focus on interpretation of the land is great cultural opportunity. This costs money, but then if the money is spent locally, it's an economic activity!

- Partner with college on stewardship issues, interpretation efforts

- The waterfront trail past Marwell is an excellent interpretive opportunity. KDFN land, linked to KDFN cultural centre; build capacity

- It builds the sense of downtown community

- Surely with all our glorious walking trails we could have a walking festival. But we need to work on walking leadership as the Outdoors Club has folded.

- my experience is at first it has large local attendance, and then visitors hear of it and start to come.

12. Safe and Healthy community

Goal Description

Physical and mental **health** and safety from hazards such as fire, crime, and traffic.

Targets	2020	2030	2050
Decrease percentage of residents with chronic illness	TBD		
Increase percentage of population that uses trails and pedestrian pathways	TBD		
Decrease number of traffic accidents	TBD		
Decrease number of vandalism incidence reports	TBD		

Rationale

Safety and security is a basic need and an important contributor to quality of life. Perceived and actual **sense of security** is important for individuals to function and for communities to be healthy. Pedestrians, cyclists and transit users are more likely to use cars if they don't feel safe.

Jurisdiction: Varied

High influence over traffic and road design, recreation, and fire protection. Medium influence over crime, personal safety, social services.

Progress: Good

Successful **recreation programs** and **outdoor recreation opportunities** provided. Quality fire protection services in place.

Approach

The City's primary focus of investment will continue to be on **physical health** and life safety. The City will continue its high level of investment in fire and water safety, and will emphasise investments in both recreation and active transportation to encourage physical health. It will work to support Mental health services provided by others.

Strategies

- **Minimize barriers** to a safe and enjoyable recreational experience
- **Encourage use of trails, commuter paths, and outdoor equipment**
- **Communicate active living values**
- Improve traffic safety for vulnerable users
- **Consider urban design solutions to safety**
- Increase citizen participation in monitoring and reporting
- Continue and increase water safety education programs
- Work with other agencies to address the root cause of emergency callouts
- Facilitate and advocate for social service provision
- Support facilities for group homes and mental health/addictions services,
- Support good community engagement on how to address these difficult issues

• People will use trails more as they become safe and more known. Wayfinding so it becomes difficult to get lost is a big missing link in trails.

• Again, safe pedestrian crossings on the Alaska Highway is an obvious goal.

• Part of sense of safety is other people on trails. Part of environmental protection is more people using trails, more people caring. Better trails means more use. Better mapping and signage/wayfinding makes better trails. Many of these goals loop around each other!

• here seems to be a good place to point out the missed opportunities around aquaft especially to really increase abilities of instructors. Then they would want to teach us, turnover would be less, workouts would be better. Having poorer instruction not fair to staff, not fair to clients.

• very diverse physical abilities in participants, 20-40 people attend, ~20% male, mostly seniors

• seriously involving participants in ways of improving classes is a badly missed opportunity. Survey of classes, group discussions, ... A number of participants are ex teachers!

• better classes, better promotion, means more attendance, happier participants, more revenue, less staff turnover.

• Active living guide a missed opportunity to encourage free recreational walking, trail talk, health walking meetups. It needn't only be about sports and CGC programming.

• Urban design says all public-right-of-ways should be well marked and passable.

• Planning should mark these specially on their mapping (like Zoning Bylaw maps)