

VISION, VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Vision Statement

The Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) plan area continues to be a thriving and long occupied landscape with space to wander and views that take your breath away. Whether Yukon First Nations peoples, residents, or visitors, we are all guests in this place where we gather, harvest, and live. Respect and stewardship are displayed through the thoughtful actions of all who come here, and we collectively foster healthy relationships with one another and the lands and waters.

Our intention is to protect and honour this remarkable place and our ancient connections to it by keeping it in a natural state.

Community Values

We value:

1. A natural environment with clean water, healthy fish and wildlife, and intact habitats;
2. That many generations of Yukon First Nations peoples have used, and continue to use, the Łu Zil Män area as a home and place of harvest, gathering and celebration;
3. The experiences and adventures that the land and water have to offer;
4. Scenic views of landscapes that remain much the same as what ancient people would have seen;
5. The ability to respectfully and sustainably harvest and gather from the Fish Lake area;
6. A sense of place to connect with ourselves, friends and family, and nature;
7. Sharing Yukon First Nations culture between communities and across generations;
8. The opportunity to live and be self-sufficient in a quiet rural setting with close ties to neighbours and the land;
9. The richness of heritage and heritage resources, whether artifacts, places, knowledge, memories, stories, or other; and
10. Sharing this place with locals and tourists in a respectful way that doesn't create significant environmental impacts.

In the context of a Local Area Plan, Vision, Values, and Guiding Principles can be defined as follows:

Vision is the preferred or ideal future that the plan sets out to achieve.

Values are the things that are most important to people about the planning area.

Guiding Principles provide direction on how land use decisions will be made, both during and after the planning process.

Guiding Principles

- 1. Implementation of Final Agreements** - The Final and Self-Government Agreements are respected and understood not only as a legal obligation, but as a foundation for opportunity for all Yukoners.
- 2. Sensitivity to Place** – The unique characteristics of the Fish Lake area as a near-urban rural wilderness area with high visitation are recognized, and decisions must satisfactorily answer the question, *“Does it make sense here?”*
- 3. Two Ways of Knowing** – Yukon First Nation ways of knowing and what is broadly referred to as “Western” science both contribute to a richer understanding of the world and planning issues.
- 4. High Stakes Mean Hard Choices** – Accommodating all needs and interests is a possibility to consider, not an inevitable outcome. The significance and vulnerability of this place demand the courage to make hard choices where needed.
- 5. Nature Comes First** – The health of ecological systems is prioritized, and the natural laws that govern the relationship between the land, water, and animals are followed.
- 6. Recognition of Inter-relationships** – Broader regional ecological connectivity is recognized and impacts both from and on places outside of the planning boundaries are considered.
- 7. Keep a Light Touch** – A place-sensitive, low impact, and aesthetic approach is applied to any physical improvements (i.e., public infrastructure, spaces, or amenities).
- 8. We Are All Part of the Solution** – Promoting personal and collective responsibility for minimizing negative environmental or other impacts is a cornerstone of decision-making and action.
- 9. Collaboration and Cooperation** – Planning, implementation and decision-making should promote cooperation between people and governments.
- 10. Protection of Subsistence Rights** – The subsistence rights of Kwanlin Dün First Nation beneficiaries to hunt, fish, and pick berries and other medicines will be upheld.
- 11. Considering Those Who Come Before and After Us** - All land use and decision-making must consider the area’s millennia-long human occupation and the ability of future generations to benefit from the land.
- 12. Reconnection and Reconciliation** – The planning process is recognized as an opportunity to take action towards reconciliation and seek support for decisions that foster reconnection of Yukon First Nations peoples with the Fish Lake area.