

# What We Heard

## Pop-up Engagement “Your City Today” and “Your Community: Your Plan”

Location	Date
Municipal Service Committee Meeting, City Hall	June 18, 2018, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Farmer’s Market, Somba K’e Civic Plaza	June 19, 2018, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. July 03, 2018, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Festival on Franklin	June 22, 2018, 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
PlaceSpeak Website	June 19, 2010, - On-going

The purpose of the “Your City Today” and “Your Community: Your Plan” pop-up events was to provide the public with early introduction information to the 2018 City of Yellowknife Community Plan update, and an opportunity to give feedback about their impressions of the City and opportunities for improvement.

A series of posters were used to explain:

### What is a Community Plan

- Why a Community Plan is important
- How a Community Plan impacts residents
- What is the planning process
- Inform the public of milestone events



Two additional posters provided the public an opportunity to respond to the following questions:

*“What types of activities or land uses are missing in Yellowknife” and*

*“What area(s) do you think could be put to better use? How?”*

The pop-ups were well attended with written feedback recorded on over 100 post-it notes. Staff from the City of Yellowknife and consultants from Dillon Consulting Limited facilitated the pop-ups. All comments have been grouped in themes, below.

## Pop-Up Engagement Results

### Question 1: “What types of activities or land uses are missing in Yellowknife?”

#### Land Uses

- Residential area
  - Areas for tiny homes
  - Compact development
  - Seniors residences
  - Residential infill
- Waterfront residential
- Recreational trails
  - Waterfront trails
- Recreational area
  - Downtown park
  - Sport facilities
  - Additional golf course
  - Dog parks
- Mixed-use
  - Downtown multi-use space
- Agricultural area
  - Urban agricultural land in residential and commercial areas
- Natural areas
  - More waterfront park space



#### Infrastructure

- New library
- Cultural centre downtown
- Music and art facility
- Treatment centre
- Sidewalks in Old Town
- Underground parking
- Sailing / boat facilities
- Boat storage for lake access



- Fire hydrants
- Longer recreational trails
- Dock at Great Slave Lake
- Outdoor splash pad
- Outdoor pool
- Public washrooms
- Music recording and production facilities
- Playgrounds
- Bike lanes
- Bike storage
- Trail connections between subdivisions
- Skateboard park
- Parking
- New visitors centre
- Fencing around recycling areas
- Trampoline park



**Question 2: “What area(s) do you think could be put to better use? How?”**

### Areas That Can Be Put to Better Use

- Encourage more rental units in the Downtown
- Encourage improvement of the Centre Square Mall
- Encourage more retail food outlets
- Keep Joliffe Island Public
- Old Town (Back Bay) – create a public waterfront with park development and playground
- Space beside Multi-Plex – relocate the library to this space
- Old Town could use more development
- Increase public access to the waterfront
- Use the downtown 50/50 lot for a new Library
- Use the downtown 50/50 lot for food trucks
- Infill the space between the Multi-plex and Fieldhouse
- Use boat launch in Old Town for parking
- Any vacant City owned land in the Downtown
- Include summer uses for Bristol Pit



Other comments were summarized and grouped into other categories that did not fit within the initial two questions.

## OTHER

### General City of Yellowknife Feedback

- Improve signage around the City
- Preserve existing levels of service
- Provide infrastructure justification
- Revisit Special Interest Leases
- Encourage more affordable housing
- Affordable and accessible public transit
- Increase public safety downtown
- General Maintenance of the City
- Remove Canoes from Rotary Park
- Remove Boats from the Streets
- Trim brush around City blocking trails and park space
- Curbside recycling pick up
- Organic and Composite bins throughout the City
- Outreach Programs
- Improve transit routes and wait times
- Vacant lot tax



### General Community Feedback

- Public boat refill station at the Government Docks
- Add sign language school to the mall
- More clothing stores
- Open locked part of Centre Square Mall
- Clean up lakes
- Port Authority for Old Town
- Pilot school at Aurora College
- 911 emergency services
- Nothing needs to be updated
- People should not complain about Kam Lake





- Old Town should not be the place where all the house boats anchor
- Everything I need is here
- Overall I like the City as is
- More respect toward any cultural items put up around town
- I like this town
- Maintain heritage and stop tearing buildings down
- Correct past decisions that usurped and displaced Dene for development
- Stop moving the dog mushers
- Close Old Town boat launch

## Questions

- Are node parks a good idea?
- Are the growth assumptions for the City false?
- Why is the Government Dock full of bikes year round?
- Why is the mall so empty?

## Pool Related Feedback<sup>1</sup>

- Outdoor pool
- Waterslides
- Adult hot tub at the pool
- Dry sauna
- Wet sauna
- Indoor water park



## PlaceSpeak Feedback

**Question 1: “What types of activities or land uses are missing in Yellowknife?”**

Land Uses

---

<sup>1</sup> Feedback related to the pool has been provided to the Aquatics Centre consulting team

- Residential and industrial mixed usage in Kam Lake area. Should be only one or the other.
- Mixed land use activities are more sustainable than segregating them. (example: [http://healthyplaces.org.au/site/mixed\\_land\\_use.php](http://healthyplaces.org.au/site/mixed_land_use.php))
- Uses and activities that demonstrate and reflect forward thinking and a shift to a low carbon economy: some/more pedestrian oriented areas where private developments contribute to a public realm that supports active transportation, non-discriminatory social interactions, and beauty.
- Waterfront lots should be converted to and remain public access only.
- Agriculture and animal husbandry.
- Agriculture with affordable lease models
- Safe and clean public spaces. Places that people can sit in the downtown core without being harassed for money. A stop light at the corner of 48th Street and 49th Avenue. As the four way stop is dangerous for people crossing. A sidewalk along the full length of 49th Avenue to Niven Drive. In the winter, it is very unsafe walking along there and I have had to leap out of the way of cars.
- The big one is agriculture and farm use. This should be a no-brainer given that there are food shortages in the North and a clear need for food sovereignty.

## Infrastructure

- There needs to be investment in boardwalks on much of the trails bordering Rat Lake and on parts of Tin Can Hill trails. Use of these sites has increased markedly over the years and it shows. There is major erosion and root compaction. There are important and well-loved green spaces that now need to be protected from their own popularity.
- Is a line down the middle of the Frame Lake trail being considered to encourage safe multi use? I fully appreciate the upgrade that the in-town section of this wonderful connecting trail received recently however increased traffic year round has created some close calls for pedestrians, dog walkers and cyclists. A simple, solid line down the middle and signs posted indicating traffic stay on the right and pass on the left would alleviate guesswork and collision risk. (Traffic rules would be the same as on roads so intuitive for any drivers and an early learning opportunity for children and youth etc.)
- More trails for walking and cycling. Especially nature trails. If you look at a city like Whitehorse, they have an extensive network of trails, which has been the result of sustained funding over time. We have never had that here. Not only are these a low-cost recreational investment, they are also an investment in tourism infrastructure. I highly encourage anyone reading this to look at a trail map of Whitehorse and compare it to Yellowknife.



- More public spaces downtown, including more seating. I would also like to see more bike lanes to connect Yellowknife in the most efficient way for cyclists to commute to work from all parts of town. (i.e. all of Franklin avenue, Kam lake road, etc.)
- Yellowknife is in need of a splash park. We also really need an off leash dog park that is safe, as the current one is awful. More public places that are kept clean and well maintained, and where people don't harass you for money
- Decent off leash Dog Park.
- Better access to Yellowknife Bay for boating, so excellent and large boat launch, top quality parking area for vehicles and trailers, much bigger marina for motorboats, sailboats, canoes, and float planes, short term docking in old town so you can get a meal, shop, pick up camp supplies from Weaver and Devore.
- Bike Park.
- Not enough trails and cycling lanes.
- Cycling lanes which are in a complete network, and efficient/safe for riders. Many people commute and want to get from Point A to Point B as quickly as possible. This means safe routes along the main corridors such as Franklin, Kam Lake and Old Airport Road, etc.
- We should be focusing on the low cost / high impact expansion of tourism infrastructure. Especially where it adds diversity of experience.
- City should bring in an anti-loitering law and more police presence on the down street. Until the problem with homeless is improved, there will never be a vibrant downtown. More parks are not the answer. We need more merchants in the downtown.

#### **Areas Put to Better Use**

- Consider an alternative future for the downtown where gathering and educational/social/recreational/cultural activities are prominent and mixed in with business/retail. The conventional pattern of concentrated business and retail is shifting with changes to market and personal choice. Social/cultural/education activities have been locating on the fringes promoting more vehicle travel, less casual social interaction, and greater segregation of different interest groups: all things that don't contribute to positive community growth."
- Do something with the downtown core so it is not such an eyesore.
- Downtown - so many vacant spaces and derelict buildings that make the space unattractive. Offer incentives for businesses/organizations to occupy the spaces, incentives to property owners to make commercial rents affordable and available, utilize the space for community groups, etc. Restrict permits for new office building development. Promote arts, music, etc. in the core to bring people in. Address the issues around congregation of homeless people in those areas.

- A fenced off leash dog park that is not in a back alley and large enough to run the dogs. The existing one is a joke with harmful weeds and hidden behind the arena with an almost impassable road.
- Would be nice to turn the reclaimed Con Mine site into a large outdoor sports and recreation common that could consist of community water park, ball diamonds, soccer pitches, track and field, small bike track, obstacle course etc. The Con and Giant sites could be possible areas as well for large scale solar and wind energy fields.
- If it were feasible, I would like to see the city, maybe with some key stakeholders/partners, purchase the old Johnson's Building Supplies property and turn it into a multi-use public space.
- I think the development at Grace Lake is good. If we do not continue support those types of developments then as the GNWT begins to develop more of Ingraham Trail you will see more families move out there and the City will begin to lose tax base.
- It is time to redevelop the waterfronts of our city and make them dynamic spaces.

### Landscaping or Design

- Are there landscaping standards that must be followed post-construction or development of a site? If so, are they enforced within a time frame? There are a couple of terrible eyesores around town that persist long after the building/project is operational. Unfortunately, I fear that gravel is considered landscaping here, but although it might look neat and tidy for a year or so, soon it is just a messy, unkempt weed bed. There are construction projects around town where the site isn't completely cleaned up; laying gravel in public green space is done instead of replanting and properly landscaping. Would be nice to see higher landscaping expectations from contractors when they work on public property. Note that followed: "I agree, it is like the whole city looks like a trailer park in Nevada."
- I think it is important to require developers to contribute to creating public space and enhancing community.
- Improve bylaws so that developers actually have to follow rules and have consequences for when they break them. Better protection of our green spaces and improve trail systems (for hikers and cyclists).
- Development standards should protect trees. When we have natural capital in the form of intact ecosystems, it does not make sense to mow them down flat and then plant a couple of token trees as an afterthought. Landscaping is costly and reduces the quality of the environment. It will take two generations for planted trees to regrow up here in Yellowknife. We should have development plans that respect and attempt to preserve as much natural environment in our city as possible.





- I think the time has come where the City will have to make decisions on some kind of policy or plan for outdoor advertising such as billboards and where they may or may not be allowed to be placed.

## Other

- Just to make it clear – I am not suggesting that private developers are responsible for everything - the public government also plays a role in setting out development regulations. For example, a number of downtown blocks are now taken up by parking lots that developers have been provided to meet zoning bylaw requirements. The unintended consequence is an unappealing pedestrian environment, and one that demonstrates no thinking about a future low carbon economy.
- Expanding our campgrounds is a good idea, but not inside City limits. It is the GNWT's a GNWT problem, not a municipal issue.
- We need to respect the smart growth plan, it had a lot of really great ideas that I feel have been ignored. I also feel strongly about this issue. I feel that the smart growth plan is a strategy that has just been tacked on to the General Plan and is often not given much thought. It needs to be incorporated right into the General Plan instead of being an afterthought.
- We really need to provide diverse options outside of Aurora tourism to attract tourists who are actually interested in sleeping under the stars before we consider those investments meaningful, especially inside of City limits.
- Integrating plans for a Yellowknife University, which take advantage of the incredible opportunity that the 50 Ave / 49th St / 51st / 51st Avenue represent as this is our downtown core.
- We should be focusing on developing our tourism industry in cost effective ways which benefit Yellowknifers as well as tourists."
- City owned or privately owned campground for all year round use. It doesn't have to be huge. It could go out at Giant Mine maybe at some point. Camping in summer and aurora viewing in the winter.
- "With the number of dogs & dog owners in our city a fenced dog park ought to be planned. Recently one individual in YK picked up 350 lbs of dog poop at the tin can hill area, this spring the city capital newsletter cited that parasites & viruses from dog fecal matter (even after scooping) can stay in soil for up to 3 years, the idea of concentrating dog walking in a fenced area/areas has merit just based on managing dog feces. Since most city services are based on a user pay model, one would expect a future fenced dog parks/parks to be a user pay as well. For safety & sanitation a consideration would be that dogs are not permitted in playgrounds, schoolyards nor on city greenspace unless the space is designated as a dog park. The City of YK and its residents use a number of resources and take great care in processing human fecal

matter through the sewer system and sewage treatment lagoon while dog fecal matter is considered acceptable to be in contact with our soil, ground and air. Consider some estimated numbers, if a pet dog was owned by every third household (of 3 people), so 1 dog per 9 people in YK ,  $20,000/9 = 2,200$  pet dogs that is a lot of dog poop every day, say at approx 0.5 lbs/day/dog , its over 1000lbs of dog poop daily. Even with many dog owners cleaning up/scooping the poop , there is still contact with the soil and the question of how the dog poop that is scooped is disposed of (regular garbage or honey bucket dump or elsewhere) is a concern. A fenced dog park/off leash area located well away from the source of Yellowknife's drinking water (YK river & Great Slave Lake) would address dog safety & comfort, the containment of parasites & viruses from dog fecal matter and provide dog owners an better environment to exercise their dogs."

- I'd like to know how much of the campground space is actually being used by tourists vs. Yellowknifers. Right now our tourism industry is disproportionately aurora based. Those tourists aren't looking for a place to pitch a tent, and they are especially not looking for a powered spot at Fred Henne to park their RV.

