

Topic	IN - Minister briefing on campgrounds
Date assigned	2/7/2023
Due Date	
Assigned To	<input type="checkbox"/> Patrick.Huggins
% Complete	0%
Predecessors	
Priority	(2) Normal
Task Status	Not Started
Related Items	ADD RELATED ITEM
Branch	Yukon Parks
Info Note Status	Approved
Note Status	In Progress
Participant Input Complete	Initiated; Policy Analyst; Program Official; Program Admin; Program Director; Policy LC Manager; Comms Director; Policy Director; ADM Admin; ADM of Environmental Sustainability; ADM of Corporate Services and Climate Change; DMs EA; Deputy Minister
Routing Comments	<p>Mar 6 - Please add behind BN - MDeLaRosa</p> <p>Mar 6 - approved. Let's add to the session binder as a supporting note. MMoreau</p> <p>Mar 3 - Reviewed with minor edits incorporated - DGunter</p> <p>Mar 3 - OK ~Sali</p> <p>Mar 3 - Reviewed. After Diane &amp; Shehnaz, it can be routed to Mara. ~TCarter</p> <p>Mar 3 - reviewed, tagging Shehnaz to expedite. BStewart</p> <p>Mar 3 - just one small edit to identify I will be at the meeting instead of Bryna. H.Jirousek A/ADM.</p> <p>Mar 2 - To clarify, this will support the presentation prepared by parks, and it is needed, please send to DM no later than noon - MDeLaRosa</p> <p>Mar 2 - Reviewed with edits to formatting. (Fit signing block onto previous page). For Heather's urgent review, but Mara said may not be needed with a presentation in place. ~TCarter</p> <p>Mar 2 - Reviewed. Tagging Tanis for ADM review tomorrow AM. DEisinger</p>

March 1 - Info Note updated and comments addressed based on discussion. Back to you Dana as a final clean copy. NLuck

Mar 1 - Nicole/Dana, please call to discuss further. Not sure I'm understanding what answers your looking for. Attempted to respond in document. Strott.

Feb. 28 - Jean please see Dana's 3 questions to address before sending back to me. NLuck - this goes to Shannon. JLanglois

Feb 27 - Back to Nicole with comments and track changes. DEisinger

Feb. 27 - Accepted changes and made a few more edits. Please note that IN includes an additional status update on a related file - the online campground reservation system pilot. Can be removed if scope is limited to campground expansion only. To Dana for Manager of Policy review. NLuck

Feb 26 - reviewed and updated. Strott

Feb. 21 - Additional formatting and final questions for parks to confirm - NLuck

Feb 15 - Good to go. Over to Policy for review. JLanglois

Feb 14 - Reworking some areas with program folk. More to come. Also updated Meeting Details (date-per invite) above. JLanglois

Feb. 14 - I did some editing and answered Nicole's questions. VWolfe

Feb. 13 - Reviewed and updated. A few sections with some additional questions for you Veronique - NLuck

Feb 10- Draft is completed, need a review from Jean and Nicole. I add Rebecca Turpin in the loop as she acting for Shannon T. Thanks, VWolfe

Feb 8 - Nicole please work with Parks to prepare this info note to support the Feb 22 Minister briefing. Tagging Patrick as a flag that we should update the session note to be more specific about where we are adding new sites. Thanks, N. MacFadgen

Task Linked to Document    Info Note - Minister briefing on campgrounds.docx

Instructions                    An info note is required to support the a campground status briefing for Minister Clarke on March 3. Topics the note should include:

- Proposals of campgrounds where campsites can be added and an ETA – Minister wants work to happen this season and to adjust BNs language to reflect we are working on adding campsites to X, Y and Z.
- Update on conversations with FNs
- Budget clarity (How much are we investing to add additional sites capacity).
- Next steps (Action and timelines)

Date Sent

Action Required                      Information Note

Is this a joint note?                      No

Joint Departments

Meeting Details                      Parks Director, ES ADM and DM will brief Minister on campgrounds on March 3, 2023 at 2 pm.

Description

DocID

Content Type: Task  
Version: 21.0  
Created at 2/7/2023 1:28 PM by ☐ Mara.De La Rosa  
Last modified at 3/6/2023 9:14 AM by ☐ Mara.De La Rosa

Close





# Yukon Parks - What's Happening

March 2023



# Today's Talk



Cultural Connection



FN Engagement



Expansions and revitalizations





values. history  
passion language  
future  
stewards vision  
continuity  
people culture  
places  
cultural  
connection  
generation  
welcoming heritage  
resources  
proactive  
tradition  
stories  
action  
trails  
studies



# Changing Parks with a Vision



LSCFN

Tatchun Lake Park



TKC/KDFN

Lake Laberge reimagined



KDFN

Fish Lake partnership



CAFN

Million Dollar Falls destination



CTFN/TRT

SNAFU improvements

# Congdon

## Campground

2 1/2 HOURS FROM WHITEHORSE

# 10-15 Sites

## New playground

BEAR SITUATION MITIGATED





# Wolf Creek Campground

WHITEHORSE

## 4 New Walk-in Sites



# Ethel Lake

## Campground

KM 523.6

# 4 New camping Sites

## Leveling of current sites

### Moving maintenance compound





Wolf Creek site expansions

**\$8k**

Congdon Creek site expansions

**\$60k**

Ethel Lake site expansions

**\$79k**

Total estimated cost

**\$147,000**



# 79,620



Parks hosted 79,620 visitors at 57,886 road accessible campsites in 2022

# 55%



Increased number of people camping from 2021 to 2022

# 69%



2022 campground visitors who are non-residents, this is similar to pre-covid numbers







REPLAY



SHANNON.TROTT@YUKON.CA

MY FIRST PRESENTATION



OPTIONS ▼

# CONFIDENTIAL

## Information Note

### Campground expansion and campground planning

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Environment

#### Issue:

- The purpose of the note is to review the following topics that were discussed with Minister Clarke on Thursday, March 2:
  1. Adding campsites to existing campgrounds
  2. Campground expansions and improvements
  3. Campground reservation system pilot

#### 1. Adding Campsites to Existing Campgrounds

##### Plans for 2023:

- Yukon Parks is planning to add **18 to 23** camping sites in three territorial campgrounds in 2023. These include:
  - **Wolf Creek** - Four new walk-in tenting sites. Anticipated to open July 2023.
  - **Congdon Creek** - 10 to 15 sites. Anticipated to open summer 2023.
  - **Ethel Lake** - Four new campsites. Work will occur in the fall so that the campground can remain open during the summer. Anticipated to open fall 2023.

##### First Nations engagement:

- **Wolf Creek** - Parks will be meeting with Ta'an Kwach'an Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation again shortly, and will inform about Wolf Creek additional walk-in sites.
- **Ethel Lake** - Yukon Parks has informed Na-Cho Nyäk Dun First Nation of the planned work at Ethel Lake and invited their input. The concept/design has been submitted to YESAB for evaluation.



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## Information Note

### Campground expansion and campground planning

Environment

- **Congdon Creek** - Yukon Parks has advised Kluane First Nation and White River First Nation of our plans to open additional sites at Congdon Creek campground and invited their input. YESAB evaluation may also be required.

#### Budget:

2023/24 Campground Expansions					
Campground	Number of Sites	Cost per Site	Total for Sites	Other infrastructure	Grand Total
Wolf Creek	4	\$2,000	\$8,000	-	\$8,000
Ethel	4	\$13,000	\$52,000	\$27,000	\$79,000
Congdon Creek	10-15	\$2,000	\$20,000 - \$30,000	\$40,000	\$60,000 - \$70,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>18 – 23</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$80,000 - \$90,000</b>	<b>\$67,000</b>	<b>\$147,000 - \$157,000</b>

#### Next Steps:

- **Winter 2023 (now):** Complete First Nations engagement
- **Winter 2023 (now):** Build facilities such as outhouses, wood bins, and platforms for walk in tenting sites
- **March 2023:** Finalize site designs
- **April 2023:** Tender construction
- **Spring – Fall 2023:** Construction and installation of facilities
- **2024:** Complete plans for adding sites at four additional locations (Little Salmon, Wolf Creek, Snafu, and Pine Lake) subject to First Nations engagement, YESAB, and budget.

## 2. Campground expansions and improvements

#### Status update:

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## Information Note

### Campground expansion and campground planning

Environment

- 
- Four existing campgrounds and one Land Reserve have been identified as candidates for significant expansions to become bigger better campgrounds:
    1. Tatchun Lake
    2. Million Dollar Falls
    3. Lake Laberge
    4. Twin Lakes
    5. Scout Lake (Land Reserve)
  - The expansion concepts include treating these more as full parks and not just campgrounds, including a focus on First Nation collaborative management and cultural continuity.

#### First Nations engagement:

- 76(1)

. As discussed at the November 2022 DM briefing, Parks is now looking at existing campgrounds where there are possibilities to add a significant number of new camping sites, and/or expand campground boundary if possible.

- In January 2023, Yukon Parks met with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations to discuss the possibility of developing a new campground and/or expanding existing campgrounds in their Traditional Territory.
- A total of five sites were discussed, including:
  - Two in Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation Traditional Territory - **Twin Lake and Tatchun Lake,**
  - Two in Kwanlin Dün First Nation Traditional Territory - **Lake Laberge area and Scout Lake,** and



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## Information Note

### Campground expansion and campground planning

Environment

- Three in Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Traditional Territory - **Million Dollar Falls, Scout Lake and Twin Lake.**
- A contract for the feasibility assessment and conceptual designs has been awarded. A final report will be submitted to Yukon Parks at the end of April 2023.

First Nation	Potential Location	Feedback from First Nations
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN)	Twin Lake	76(1)
	Tatchun Lake	
Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN)	Lake Laberge Area	
	Scout Lake	
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN)	Million Dollar Falls	
	Scout Lake	
	Twin Lake	

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## Information Note

### Campground expansion and campground planning

Environment

#### Next Steps:

- **April 2023:** Feasibility studies and conceptual designs for up to all five potential sites completed
- **Spring - Fall 2023:** Engagement with First Nations, present conceptual designs and collaboration on cultural connection and continuity.
- **Fall 2023 – Winter 2024:** Environmental and cultural assessment(s)
- **Winter 2024:** Final plan(s) developed
- **Spring - Summer 2024:** Tender for campground construction
- **Fall 2024 – 2025:** Construction
- **Spring 2026:** Anticipated project implementation

### 3. Campground reservation system pilot

#### Status update:

- As a commitment in the Yukon Parks Strategy, a two-year pilot campground reservation system is planned for summer 2024 and 2025.
- A reservation system will help provide certainty for campers seeking a campsite and will streamline operations by reducing cash transactions and automating data gathering.
- The tendering process for the software is in its final stages, with the expectation that the contract will be in place for April 1, 2023.

#### Next Steps:

- **April 2023 – January 2024:** Develop an operational plan addressing staffing, job descriptions, training, infrastructure, communications, finance, enforcement, etc.

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## Information Note

### Campground expansion and campground planning

Environment

- **April 2023 – March 2024:** Work with the software contractor to develop, customize, integrate, and test the software.
- **January 2024:** Public roll-out for the Tombstone backcountry reservations.
- **April 2024:** Public roll-out for the selected road-accessible campgrounds.
- **Spring 2025:** If the first year of the pilot program is successful, a management board submission will be prepared seeking support for a permanent reservation system beginning in 2026.

#### Background:

- Yukon Parks has experienced considerable growth in campground and recreation site attendance over the past decade. The increased use is associated with a number of factors, including but not limited to: marketing/awareness of sites and opportunities; increased Yukon population, and; increased out-of-territory visitation.
- The Yukon Parks Strategy, 2020 (<https://yukon.ca/en/yukon-parks-strategy>) identified a high demand for additional camping/recreation opportunities near Whitehorse and designed to meet the needs of a variety of users and an increasingly urban population.
- The Strategy includes Action Item 4.5.1: “Build a bigger and better campground near Whitehorse”, Action Item 4.5.2: “Add campsites to some existing campground, and Action Item 4.5.3: “Test campground reservations”.
- In 2021-2022, a first feasibility study for the bigger, better campground was completed in which three 3 locations were evaluated. However, development costs, the topography of the selected locations, and the engagement with First Nations led Yukon Parks to start the exercise over, and select new locations for the bigger better campground.
- In the fall of 2022, a second selection of potential locations for the bigger, better campground was made.

Approved by:



Deputy Minister of Environment

2023.03.06

Date approved