

DRAFT Island Lake Conservation Area Management Plan Guiding Statements

<div style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Our Vision</div> <p>A resilient environment that nurtures the health and wellbeing of our communities, connects people to nature and culture, and inspires an appreciation for the headwaters of the Credit River</p>		<div style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Our Commitments</div> <p><i>To Stewardship of Land and Water</i> We are thoughtful and principled stewards of CVC’s publicly held land and water</p> <p><i>To Accountability</i> We are accountable to the residents of the Credit River Watershed, conservation area visitors, donors, our partners and above all the environment</p> <p><i>To Indigenous Communities</i> We are committed to partnering with Indigenous communities to advance the goals of truth and reconciliation along with the sharing of traditional knowledge and culture with our visitors</p> <p><i>To Service</i> We are dedicated to providing our visitors with customer focused services that connect people with nature through recreation, education, culture, and tourism</p>			
	Protect	Connect	Sustain	Experience	Deliver
Objectives	What we aim to accomplish				
Outcomes	The desired result				
Directions	What is required to achieve the outcomes				
	<p>Protect, restore and enhance Island Lake Conservation Area to sustain a healthy, resilient environment</p>	<p>Develop and nurture relationships to cultivate a strong sense of place that makes Island Lake Conservation Area a point of pride in our communities</p>	<p>Conserve and manage Island Lake’s water resources considering the impacts of climate change</p>	<p>Offer accessible, inclusive and engaging natural experiences that make Island Lake Conservation Area a destination of choice to explore, discover and appreciate the headwaters of the Credit River</p>	<p>Lead by example and demonstrate our commitment to quality, fiscal responsibility and the natural environment to local communities and watershed residents</p>
	<p>Significant natural heritage features and functions are protected</p> <p>As much as possible, impacts to natural heritage features are avoided or minimized</p> <p>Best practices for natural resource management are employed</p> <p>Site design will demonstrate an overall ecological net gain principle</p> <p>Priority invasive species are actively managed, and establishment of new invasive species are prevented</p> <p>Island Lake’s fishery is healthy and sustainable</p>	<p>Community groups have a deep connection to ILCA and feel inspired to participate in a variety of events and activities</p> <p>Indigenous cultures, traditions, histories and teachings are celebrated</p> <p>ILCA conveys a friendly, approachable atmosphere</p> <p>Partnerships support local business and unique visitor experiences</p> <p>ILCA’s trail system connects to surrounding communities and supports active transportation</p>	<p>Adequate capacity to Orangeville’s Water Pollution Control Plant and downstream communities is provided</p> <p>Island Lake’s ecological functions are protected, resulting in healthy and resilient aquatic and wetland habitat</p> <p>The cold-water fisheries of the Credit River downstream from ILCA are protected</p> <p>Island Lake access and water-based recreational activities are maintained</p> <p>Water quality and quantity support a healthy aquatic system</p>	<p>ILCA is regarded as a desirable all-season destination by watershed residents and visitors</p> <p>Site design and programming improves opportunities for physical and mental well-being, and economic and cultural accessibility</p> <p>Parking and concerns about overuse by visitors are diminished</p> <p>Visitors have opportunities to explore and appreciate the park through self-guided opportunities and programming</p> <p>A variety of year-round events provide meaningful opportunities to explore ILCA and the surrounding area</p> <p>Environmental and climate change literacy of park visitors is enhanced</p>	<p>Property and facilities are safe and secure</p> <p>Conservation area operations are financed through secure, sustainable, and innovative means</p> <p>Essential facilities and amenities serve the needs of visitors and staff</p> <p>Onsite partner groups continue to use, steward, and enjoy ILCA</p> <p>Signage and branding are consistent throughout ILCA</p> <p>Improved facilities for trail access, programming and special events contribute to better park experiences and service staff needs</p>
	<p>Develop and implement a Restoration Plan to enhance natural features and create wildlife habitat</p> <p>Implement priority actions from CVC’s Invasive Species Strategy including project plans for Phragmites and Dog-strangling Vine</p> <p>Develop and implement a Salt Management Plan for the internal road network and parking areas</p> <p>Monitor the health of the environment in ILCA and apply adaptive management</p> <p>Maintain and improve forest health by implementing priority actions outlined in CVC’s Sustainable Forest Management Plan</p> <p>Develop a Fisheries Management Plan that outlines the actions required to maintain a health and sustainable fishery</p> <p>Conduct a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment on species found at ILCA to determine management actions</p> <p>Explore and pursue land acquisition opportunities to expand and enhance ILCA</p>	<p>Empower the Friends of Island Lake and other community groups to plan and participate in a full range of park activities</p> <p>Identify and foster strategic, mutually beneficial partnerships with local businesses and regional tourism partners</p> <p>Host an annual open house for members, visitors, partners and conservation area neighbours</p> <p>Cultivate relationships with Indigenous communities to improve cultural competency, encourage the use of ILCA and specifically CVT Key Site #1</p> <p>Position ILCA as a community hub and meeting space for non-profits and community groups</p> <p>Collaborate with the local CVT Chapter to implement the CVT Strategy and Experience Plans</p> <p>Identify opportunities to align community initiatives with existing programming and spaces</p> <p>Cultivate new relationships with community groups to reduce barriers and make ILCA more inclusive and welcoming to all</p>	<p>Improve and protect water quality through integrated water management and low impact design</p> <p>Ensure outflow requirements for Island Lake’s Permit to Take Water are met</p> <p>Evaluate options for South Dam operations that will result in a more natural downstream flow regime</p> <p>Work with partner agencies to encourage stewardship practices with the goal of reducing erosion upstream of ILCA</p> <p>Undertake an updated sedimentation study for Island Lake and implement recommendations</p> <p>Develop and implement a water management plan for the Island Lake Reservoir</p>	<p>Implement the ILCA Trail Plan and continually assess and monitor the trail system</p> <p>Using the preliminary ILCA Programming Framework as a guide, develop a comprehensive programming strategy for ILCA that informs detailed design of new park facilities</p> <p>Design and undertake a Visitor Capacity Study for ILCA and implement recommendations</p> <p>Undertake a review of park operating hours and seasons to assess feasibility of season extension and expansion</p> <p>Develop interesting, dynamic displays for interpretive programming in the visitor centre</p> <p>Where practical, ensure all new visitor amenities and materials meet or exceed accessibility standards</p> <p>Integrate a flexible, affordable pricing structure into the new fee schedule</p> <p>Launch a 'Trail User Etiquette' education campaign to reduce visitor conflict and ensure safe and enjoyable visitor experiences</p>	<p>Implement infrastructure development identified in the Management Plan through a phased approach</p> <p>Integrate CVC’s Climate Change Mitigation Design Principles into infrastructure design, construction, and maintenance</p> <p>Establish a capital reserve for emergency works and repairs for significant infrastructure</p> <p>Indigenous public realm elements are constructed by Indigenous owned or partially owned firms</p> <p>Support the Upper Grand District School Board in providing quality outdoor education programming</p> <p>Work with the Island Lake Rowing Club to support their continued use and enjoyment of ILCA</p> <p>Collaborate with Dods & McNair Funeral Home to continue their sponsorship of the Memorial Forest</p> <p>Prioritize enforcement to reduce visitor conflicts and ecological degradation</p> <p>Inventory, access, monitor and schedule land care needs</p>