

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: #0072bc; 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>			
Objectives	Protect	Connect	Sustain	Experience	Deliver
Objectives What we aim to accomplish	Protect, restore and enhance Island Lake Conservation Area to sustain a healthy, resilient environment	Develop and nurture relationships to cultivate a strong sense of place that makes Island Lake Conservation Area a point of pride in our communities	Conserve and manage Island Lake’s water resources considering the impacts of climate change	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	Lead by example and demonstrate our commitment to quality, fiscal responsibility and the natural environment to local communities and watershed residents
Outcomes The desired results	<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>
Directions What is required to achieve the outcomes	<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>