

# Walks and hikes in Whitehorse, Canada's wilderness walking trail city

## Top 10 trails (try 1!)

- 2 Towers
- Millennium Trail
- Schwatka Lake
- Airport
- Long Lake
- Dam Hill
- Hidden Delight
- Arnell - McIntyre Wetlands
- Hidden Lakes
- Miles Canyon

- Forest Science
- Elders
- Upland Route

- Kettle Lake
- 3 Ponds
- Porter Creek Roads

- Whistle Bend
- Porter Creek
- Porter Creek Roads

- Whistle Bend - Middle McIntyre Creek
- Eagle Bay
- Boreal Worlds
- MC Green
- MC Brown
- MC Yellow
- MC Purple

- Whistle Bend - Middle McIntyre Creek
- Range Point - Marwell
- Baxter's Flats
- City Operations

- Whistle Bend - Middle McIntyre Creek
- 4 RPAY Walks
- Downtown
- Broken Truck
- Long Lake
- Hospital
- No Shirt Momma
- Millennium Trail
- Schwatka Lake\*
- Hidden Lakes
- Hidden Delight
- Lake Views
- Chadden Lake
- Up and Down
- Mad Friends
- Chadburn Lake
- A Taste of Blue
- Chadburn Blue
- Canyon City\*

- Whistle Bend - Middle McIntyre Creek
- Chadburn Red\*
- Chadburn Yellow South\*
- Chadburn Green\*
- Miles Canyon\*
- Mystery Flats\*
- Wolf Creek Campground
- Wolf Creek - TransCanada
- Valerie Lake

Open this document in a PDF viewer like Acrobat or Preview; labels on front map link to individual walks. Maps are for discussion, not to claim safe trails. Improvements will come as routes are proofed, by walking them, describing them and waymarking them! Have a printed map if possible. Note: Trails with an \* show seasonal constraints such as wetland crossings or groomed ski trails.

**Winter walking in Chadburn Ski Trail area:** Please try to walk and snowshoe next to - not on - groomed ski tracks.  
**Winter walking in WCCS area:** There is unrestricted access for snowshoeing, walking and snowbiking on the peripheral trails that do not cross ski trails. There is restricted access to single track trails that are within the perimeter of the ski trail system. (<http://www.xcskiwhitehorse.ca/fees.html#tryourtrails>)

### Background - Legend

#### Takhini River - Whitehorse North

- 1: Forest Science, 7.2 km
- 2: Kettle Lake, 1.0 km
- 2: Elders, 0.5 km
- 3: Upland Route, 6.8 km
- 4: 3 Ponds, 7.2 km
- 5: Porter Creek roads, 5.0 km

#### Whistle Bend - Middle McIntyre Creek

- 6: Eagle Bay, 4.7 km
- 7: Range Point - Marwell, 6.1 km
- 8: Boreal Worlds, 2.5 km
- 9: MC Green, 4.1 km

#### Mount McIntyre Recreation Area

- 10: MC Brown, 4.0 km
- 11: MC Yellow, 5.1 km
- 12: MC Purple, 4.0 km
- 13: Canada Games Centre Track, .215 km
- 14: Raven's Access, 7.4 km
- 15: Dog/24 Hour\*, 10.8 km, no winter use
- 16: McIntyre Creek Views\*, 14.3 km, no winter use
- 17: Arnell-McIntyre Wetlands\*, 11.1 km, no winter use
- 18: Arnell Wetlands\*, 9.0 km, no winter use
- 19: Ingram Crossing\*, 6.6 km, winter only!

#### Beyond Copper Ridge

- 20: Hawk Ridge, 6.4 km
- 21: Sparky - Arnell, 3.8 km
- 22: Quickie - Magic Carpet, 3.6 km
- 23: Rock Gardens - Copper Ridge, 7.9 km

#### Paddy's Pond - Ice Lake Park

- 24: Rock Gardens - Ice Lake, 8.1 km
- 25: Paddy's Pond - Ice Lake, 6.6 km
- 26: Orchid Alley, 3.2 km
- 27: Paddy's Pond\*, 1.3 km, winter only!

#### Airport Flats - Downtown

- 28: Airport, 8.0 km

#### Riverdale - Dam - Hidden Lakes

- 29: City Operations, 2.2 km
- 30: Baxter's Flats, 1.7 km
- 31: Downtown, ~7 km
- 32: 4 Walking Routes, ~1.5 km
- 33: Long Lake, 8.1 km
- 34: Broken Truck, 4.0 km
- 35: Hospital, 2.6 km
- 36: Inner Fat Tire, 10.1 km
- 37: Lower Magnusson, 6.8 km
- 38: Magnusson - Yellow Brick, 8.4 km
- 39: No Shirt Momma, 8.2 km

#### Miles Canyon - the lakes

- 40: Millennium Trail, 4.4 km
- 41: Schwatka Lake\*, 12.1 km
- 42: Dam Hill, 1.9 km
- 43: Heartbreak Hill\*, 4.7 km
- 44: Hidden Lakes, 4.1 km
- 45: Hidden Delight, 2.9 km
- 46: Mystery Flats\*, 4.5 km
- 47: Miles Canyon\*, 3.5 km
- 48: Chadburn Yellow South\*, 4.8 km
- 49: Chadburn Red\*, 4.6 km
- 50: Chadburn Green\*, 4.2 km

#### Yukon River West, south end

- 51: Canyon City\*, 12.6 km
- 52: Chadburn Blue, 12.6 km
- 53: A Taste of Blue, 4.2 km
- 54: Chadden Lake, 11.2 km
- 55: Chadburn Lake, 15.0 km
- 56: 2 Towers, 3.2 km
- 57: Lake Views, 13.8 km
- 58: Mad Friends, 12.0 km
- 59: Valerie Lake, 11.7 km
- 60: Wolf Creek Campground, 5.6 km
- 61: Wolf Creek - TransCanada, 12.7 km





Peter, pjl@whitehorseWalks.com

0.215 Canada Games Centre Track, p. 13  
 0.5 Elders, p. 2  
 1.0 Kettle Lake, p. 2  
 1.3 Paddy's Pond\*, p. 27  
 1.5 4 Walking Routes, p. 32  
 1.7 Baxter's Flats, p. 30  
 1.9 Dam Hill, p. 42  
 2.2 City Operations, p. 29  
 2.5 Boreal Worlds, p. 8  
 2.6 Hospital, p. 35  
 2.9 Hidden Delight, p. 45  
 3.2 2 Towers, p. 56  
 3.2 Orchid Alley, p. 26  
 3.5 Miles Canyon\*, p. 47  
 3.6 Quickie – Magic Carpet, p. 22  
 3.8 Sparky – Arkell, p. 21  
 4.0 Broken Truck, p. 34  
 4.0 MC Brown, p. 10  
 4.0 MC Purple, p. 12  
 4.1 Hidden Lakes, p. 44  
 4.1 MC Green, p. 9  
 4.2 A Taste of Blue, p. 53  
 4.2 Chadburn Green\*, p. 50  
 4.4 Millennium Trail, p. 40  
 4.5 Mystery Flats\*, p. 46  
 4.6 Chadburn Red\*, p. 49  
 4.7 Eagle Bay, p. 6  
 4.7 Heartbreak Hill\*, p. 43  
 4.8 Chadburn Yellow South\*, p. 48  
 5.0 Porter Creek roads, p. 5  
 5.1 MC Yellow, p. 11  
 5.6 Wolf Creek Campground, p. 60  
 6.1 Range Point – Marwell, p. 7  
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 7.0 Downtown, p. 31  
 7.2 3 Ponds, p. 4  
 7.2 Forest Science, p. 1  
 7.4 Raven's Access, p. 14  
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 11.1 Arkell–McIntyre Wetlands\*, p. 17  
 11.2 Chadden Lake, p. 54  
 11.7 Valerie Lake, p. 59  
 12.0 Mad Friends, p. 58  
 12.1 Schwatka Lake\*, p. 41  
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 12.6 Chadburn Blue, p. 52  
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 14.3 McIntyre Creek Views\*, p. 16  
 15.0 Chadburn Lake, p. 55

I like to walk. I like to hike in the woods, in the hills and especially, in the alpine. While I like bushwhacking, a nice trail is a joy to use. I've been interested in our trails for a number of years and do what I can to make them better.

Healthy living calls for daily walks, in almost any weather; think of walking for sanity or for air or peace or nature, and even to walk the dog (dogs like 2-5 walks a day, every day.) Healthy walking calls for intervals — and we've got lots of hills to get our heart rates up.

Daily walking also means winter walking, and for some, it means they are not so fearful of wildlife. Who knows what climate change will bring but generally, winter walking trails stay open with regular use.

*whitehorseWalks.com* aims to help develop our Whitehorse walking community, that we have a culture of walking. Having walked in Europe and seen the neat walking there, I think we can aspire to be a walking place.

### Loop walking trails

To further this, I've been choosing loop walks/hikes in Whitehorse; Yukonhiking.ca and Hikes and Bikes are 2 good resources outside Whitehorse!

So far I've selected over 60 loop walks; almost 400 kms of walking! Exact routes change as I learn constraints or better viewsapes, or better routes in an area. These maps are not meant for replacing a printed map, a compass or GPS. They are to suggest ideas for walks only. (A good intro to what I'm doing is an Irish pamphlet *Loop Walks Key Criteria*.\*)

In picking loops I look for:

- short and long loops, obvious ones where possible.
- short neighbourhood loops, morning- and afternoon-long walk/hikes, and day-long hikes.
- where possible, trails in parts of the city mapped on the *Whitehorse Trails* App, the paper *Whitehorse Trail Guide* and the *Whitehorse Nordic Centre* trail map.
- a choice of experiences, such as urban sidewalk or paved trail or back country trails, different terrains; longer, diverse walks. In reality, most trails I've chosen are in the woods.
- views, neat forests, creeks, ponds, hillsides, alpine, nice trails.
- trails that work well in winter as well as the shoulder spring season of icy, slippery mud trails.
- meaningful short names to identify loops that use a variety of named and unnamed trails.

\* [http://www.failteireland.ie/FailteIreland/media/WebsiteStructure/Documents/2\\_Develop\\_Your\\_Business/3\\_Marketing\\_Toolkit/6\\_Food\\_Tourism/7\\_Hiking\\_Walking/Loop-Walks-Key-Criteria.pdf](http://www.failteireland.ie/FailteIreland/media/WebsiteStructure/Documents/2_Develop_Your_Business/3_Marketing_Toolkit/6_Food_Tourism/7_Hiking_Walking/Loop-Walks-Key-Criteria.pdf)

I see that in this draft I've many trails with restrictions (marked with an \*) This mostly happens for ski trails, both WCCSC and Chadburn Lake Red, Yellow, Green trails, and also places where a loop is only possible when a wetland is frozen.

Some loops and areas will be addressed as I get time: for instance, Up and Down, Crestview, Sima.

There are many things, both big and little, that can improve our community's walking. I'll address these in a separate document I'm calling *Walking opportunities*.

### How can you help?

My selection of trails, is a starting point. This is a large project and a constantly evolving one. Eventually, each loop map should show trail names and features, distances for trail segments, evocative photographs, an elevation graph, contour lines ...

Relying solely on electronic devices isn't a good idea; use the excellent local paper maps.

As part of ensuring each of the loops is a good choice, loops need verifying. This includes GPS proofing and assessments. Walking each loop more than once, and in each direction, by different walkers would be ideal.

Do you like to write? Come up with some short pieces for the whole trail, or even for spots along the trail. What about you artists? Each trail needs a simple logo for waymarking. Something distinct, yet simple.

As you walk the loops, there's many things to think about. Put yourself in the shoes of a foreign visitor, or pretend you have knee troubles, or take a couple of kids with you. Does that change your perceptions of the trail?















Following are some things to take note of:

- Please GPS your walk, either with a dedicated GPS, or perhaps using the free MapMyWalk app on your phone.
- Was the trail easy to follow? Would you recommend for a visitor? Was it confusing at intersections? What priority would you give for waymaking? Were all intersections shown?

- Were parts of the trail slippery from clays? tree roots? boggy? Were there spots where a bit of trail work would make the trail more accessible? boardwalk, switchback, bridge,...
- Were there spots where a better routing would make a more compelling hike?
- Were there dangerous spots which should signed? Were parts of the loop designated one way for mountain bikes? Were there blind downhills?
- Were there any awe-inspiring spots along the trail? Was it a must-do hike, or just a nice outing, or boring?
- Were there spots where there were interpretation opportunities?
- Was the trail being used in the winter, ie, generally packed down? Was it often used by snow bikes?
- Access: Was it family friendly? (Places to quit mid hike?) Was the trail easily accessible from a roadway? Was there parking? Could a regular car access it? A motorhome? Is it a rough road: Grey Mountain upper, Haeckel Hill, Mount McIntyre Road.
- How long did it take you to walk the loop? What is your skill level in walking? Would you rate this as easy? Medium? Hard? Lots of hilly pieces, or maybe just 1 big hill? Did you need to be sure-footed?
- Are there other side trails that should have been shown, trail names not shown?

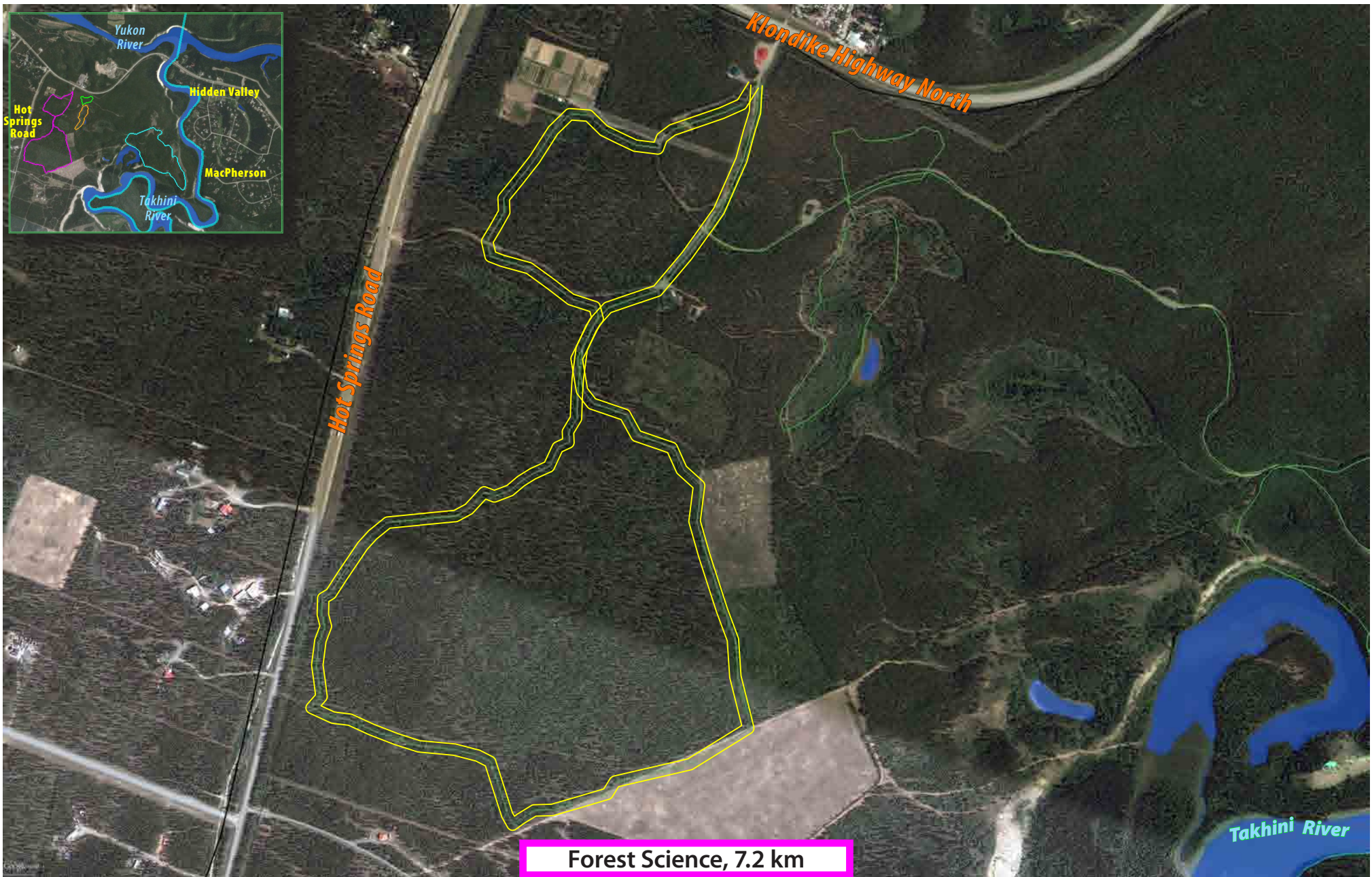


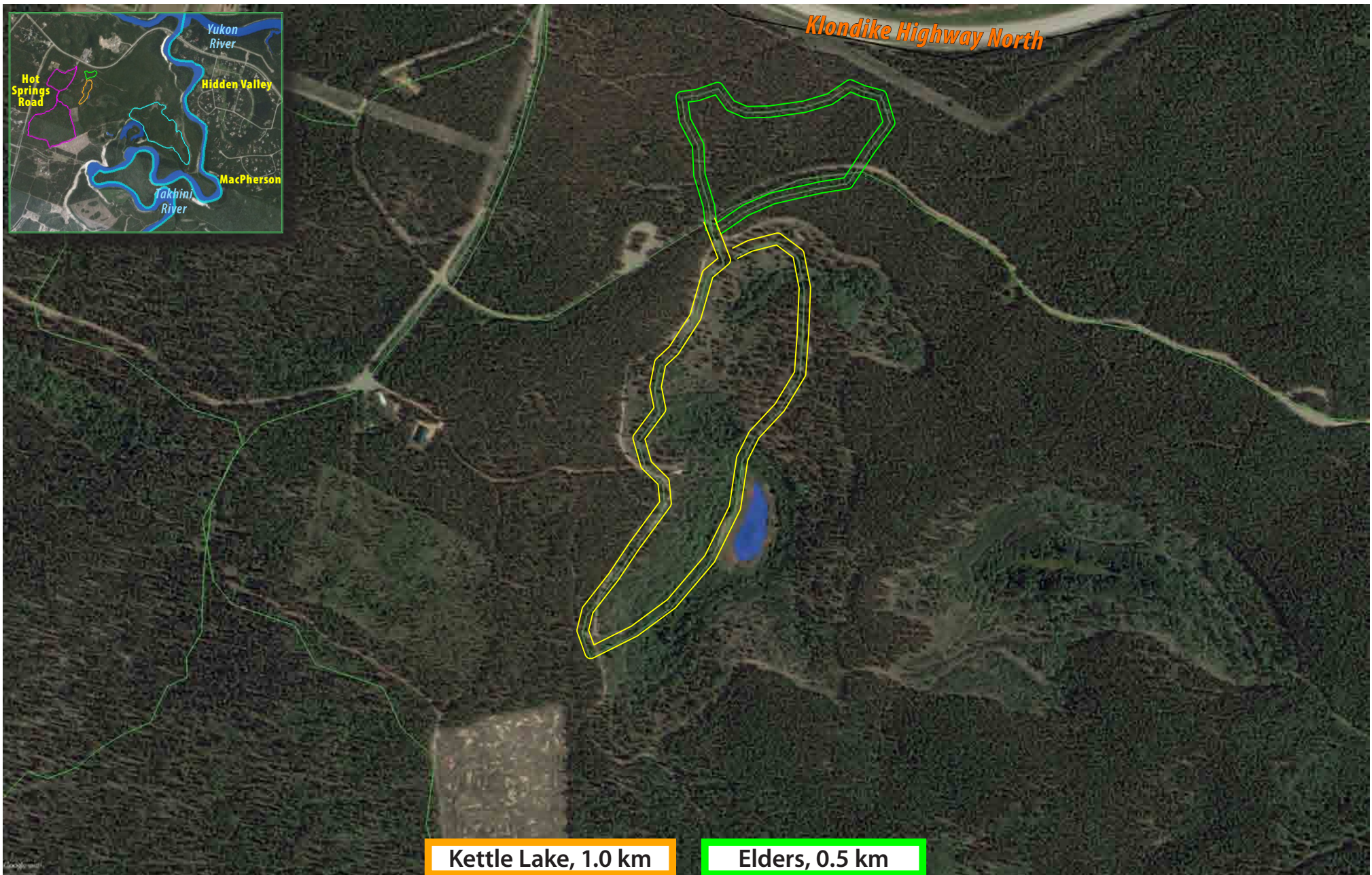
### Legend: Lines

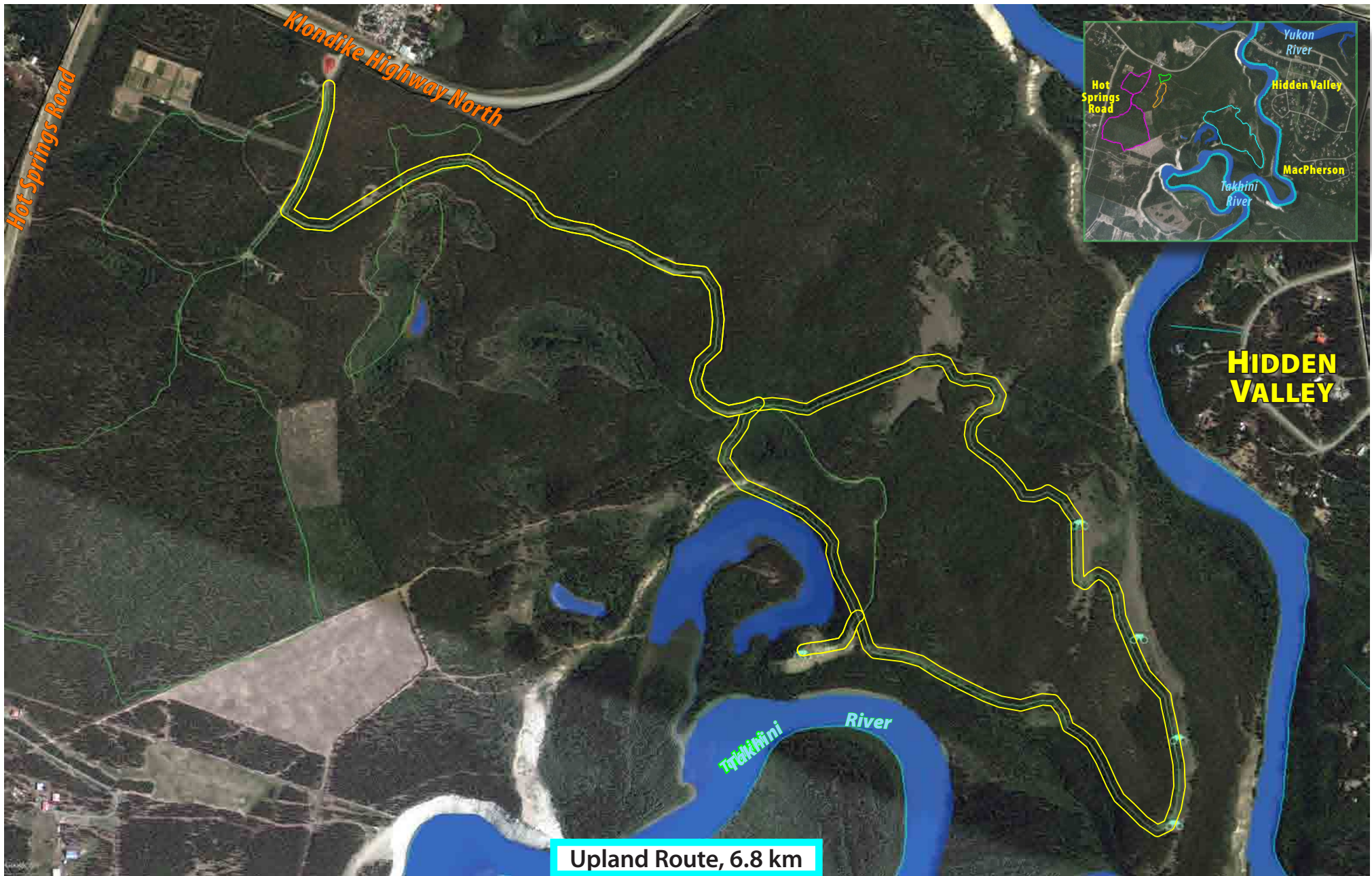
- These 4 colours     are used to highlight loops.
-  Wide cyan line is City of Whitehorse boundary
-  Thin orangeish- yellow lines are power lines
-  Thin blue lines and blue areas are streams and wetlands
-  Medium greenish line is White Pass & Yukon Route rail line
-  Medium black lines are the motorized routes authorized by atv and snowmobile by-laws
-  Cyan/turquoise lines are winter ski club trails requiring a paid WCCSC pass. When crossing, don't step in the ski tracks. Trail names are in cyan/ turquoise. Free public use at other times of year.
-  Thin orange lines are official city trails that intersect with WCCSC trails. They are free, community-use, for most of the year; however, they require a paid WCCSC pass for snowshoeing or skiing in winter.
-  Thick pinkish-grey lines are paved city trails or sidewalks (not all shown).
-  Medium thick bluish-green lines are public right-of-ways in neighbourhoods.
-  Green lines are public trails. Trail names are in yellow.

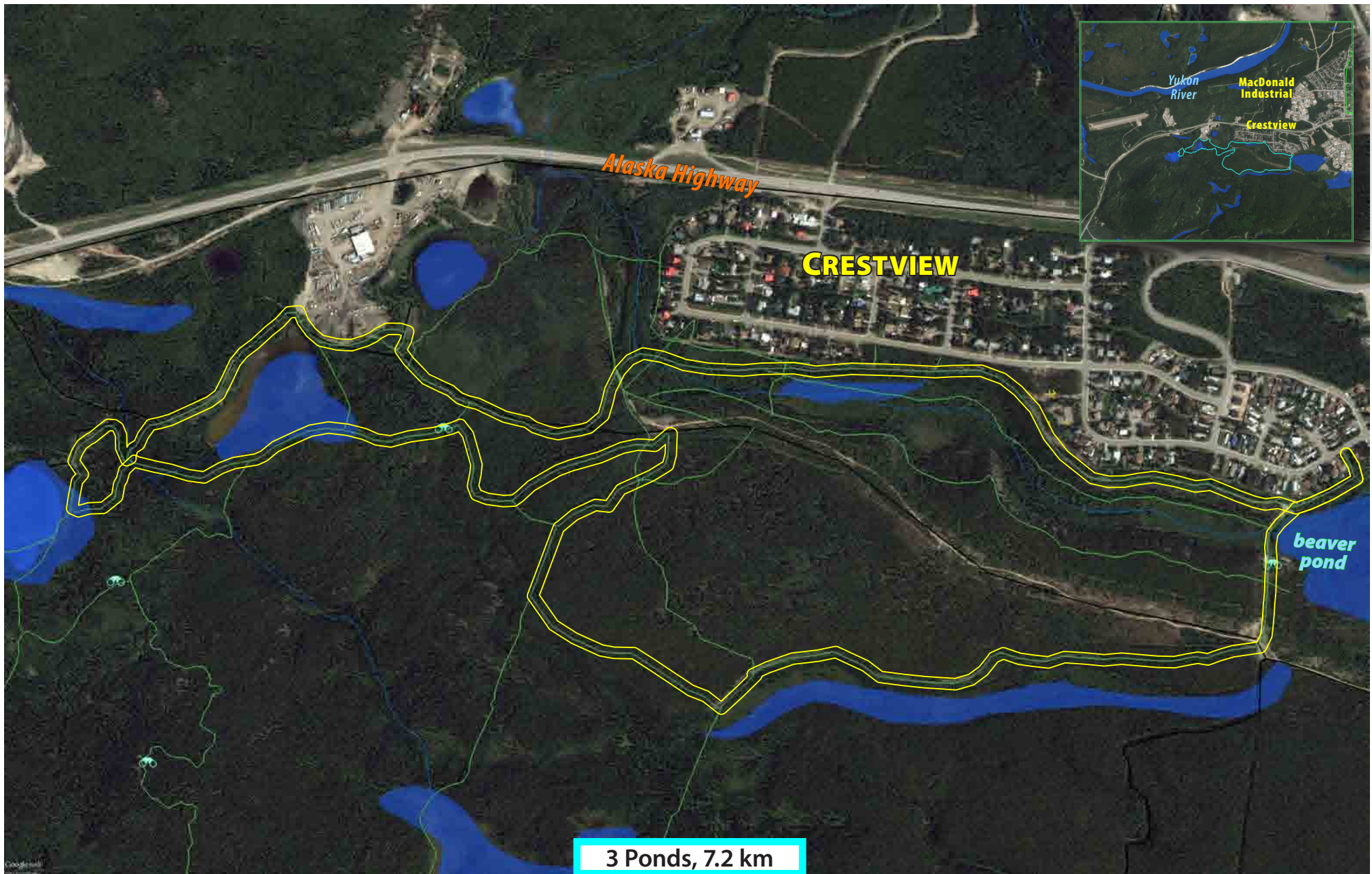
### Legend: Icons (not all these are used on these maps yet)

-  : un-signed crossings; be wary, look both ways, lobby for better crossings like safety islands
- Green:
  -  school
  -  crossing (crosswalk, light, zebra, signage)
- Red:
  -  electrical installation
  -  city utility (pump houses, reservoirs)
  -  RV parks
  -  float plane docks
  -  trail infrastructure
  -  commercial
  -  parking
- Pink: (community)
  -  performance space, theatre
  -  community centre
  -  scenic spots; a place of awe!
  -  visitor information
  -  museum
- Yellow: (recreational)
  -  playground
  -  outdoor exercise station (purple proposed)
  -  beach volleyball
  -  rink
  -  frisbee golf
  -  tennis court
  -  tobogganing spot
  -  broomball
  -  kayaking spots
  -  soccer field
  -  basketball court
  -  swimming pool, wading pool
  -  ball diamond
  -  off-leash dog park
  -  rock climbing
- (Many icons courtesy icons8.com, www.flaticon.com)











Porter Creek roads, 5.0 km

This urban walk is all on sidewalks with street lights, perfect for nighttime walking. A good place for an after supper stroll.





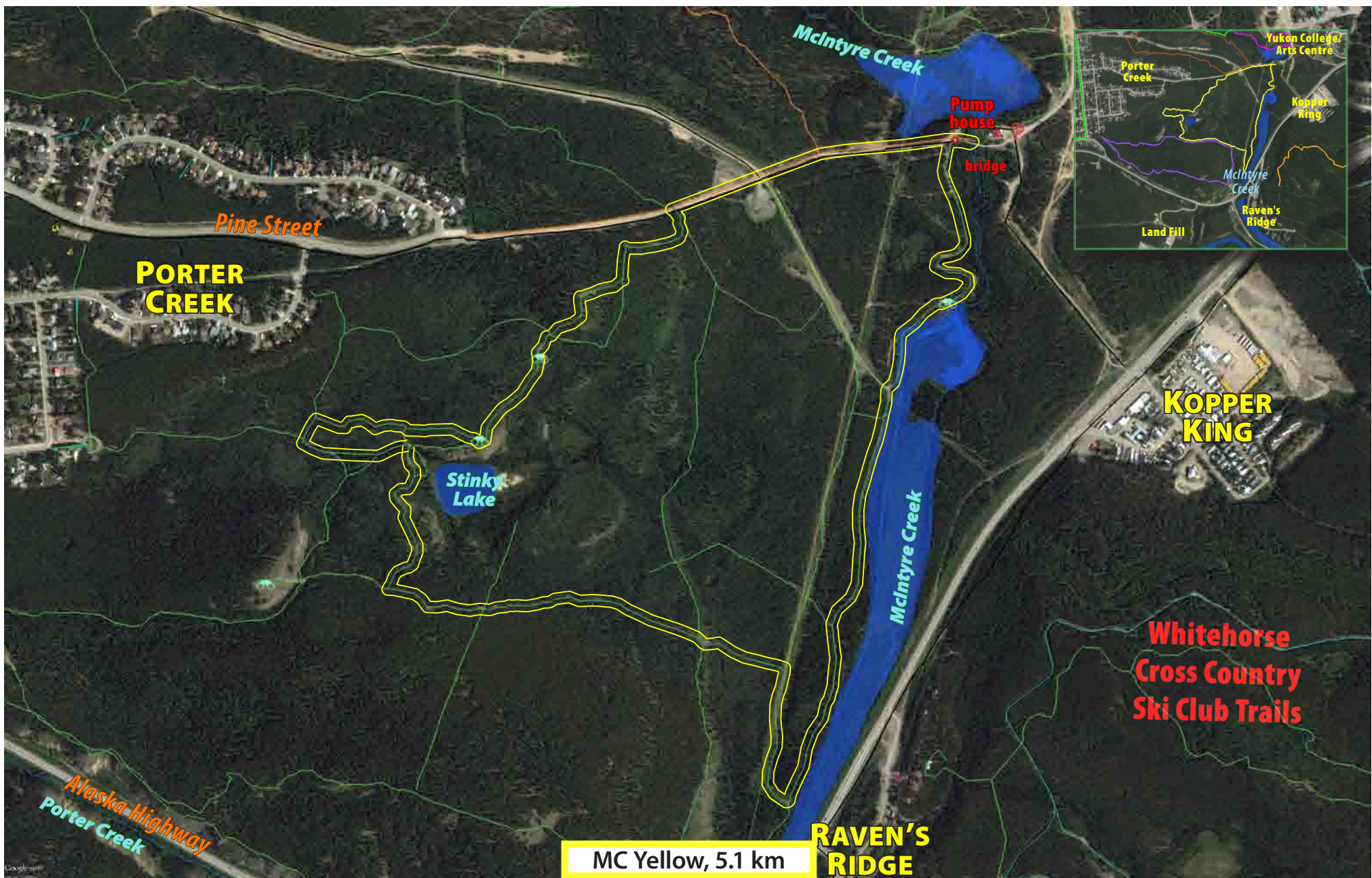
Range Point - Marwell, 6.1 km

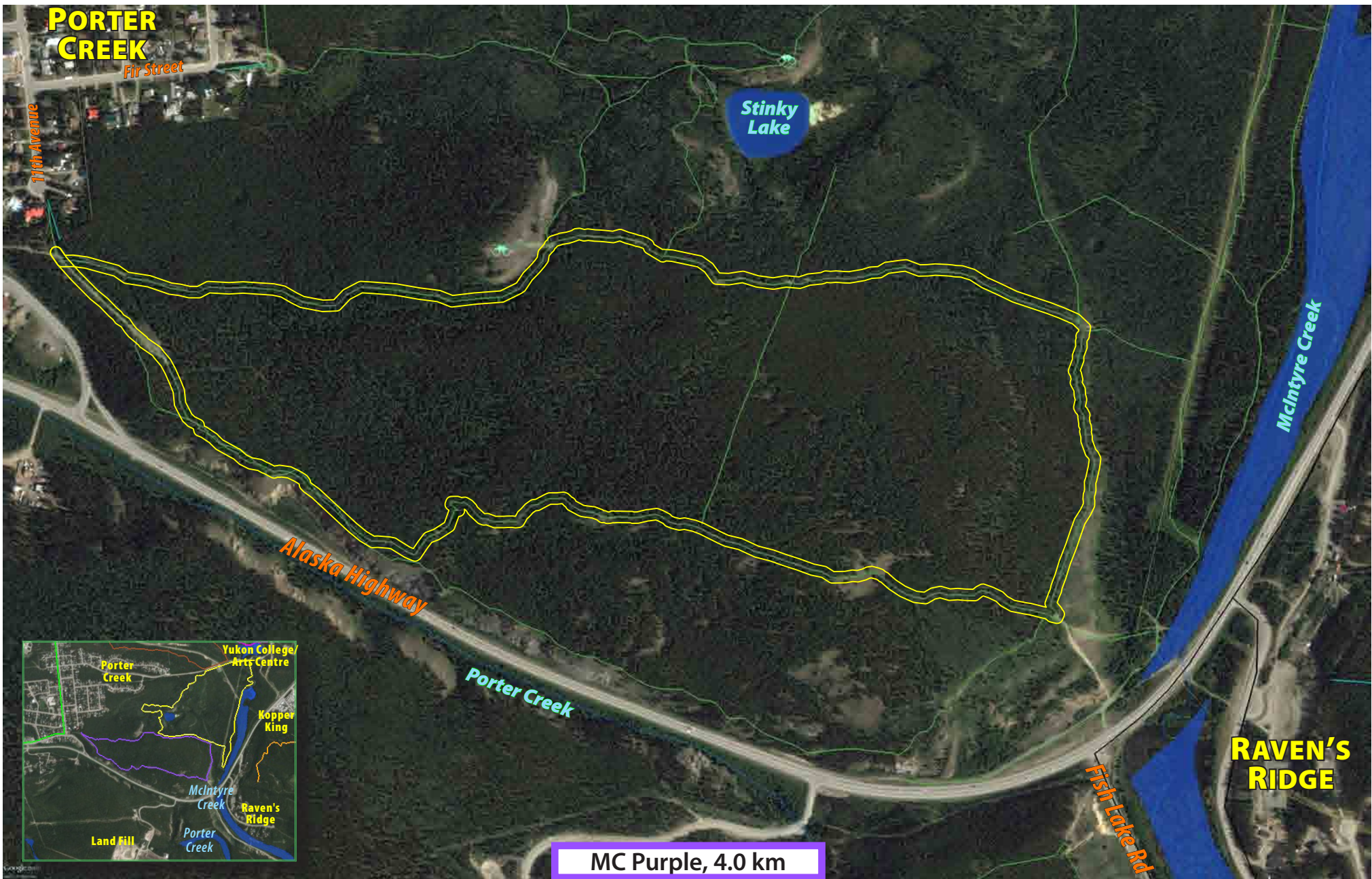


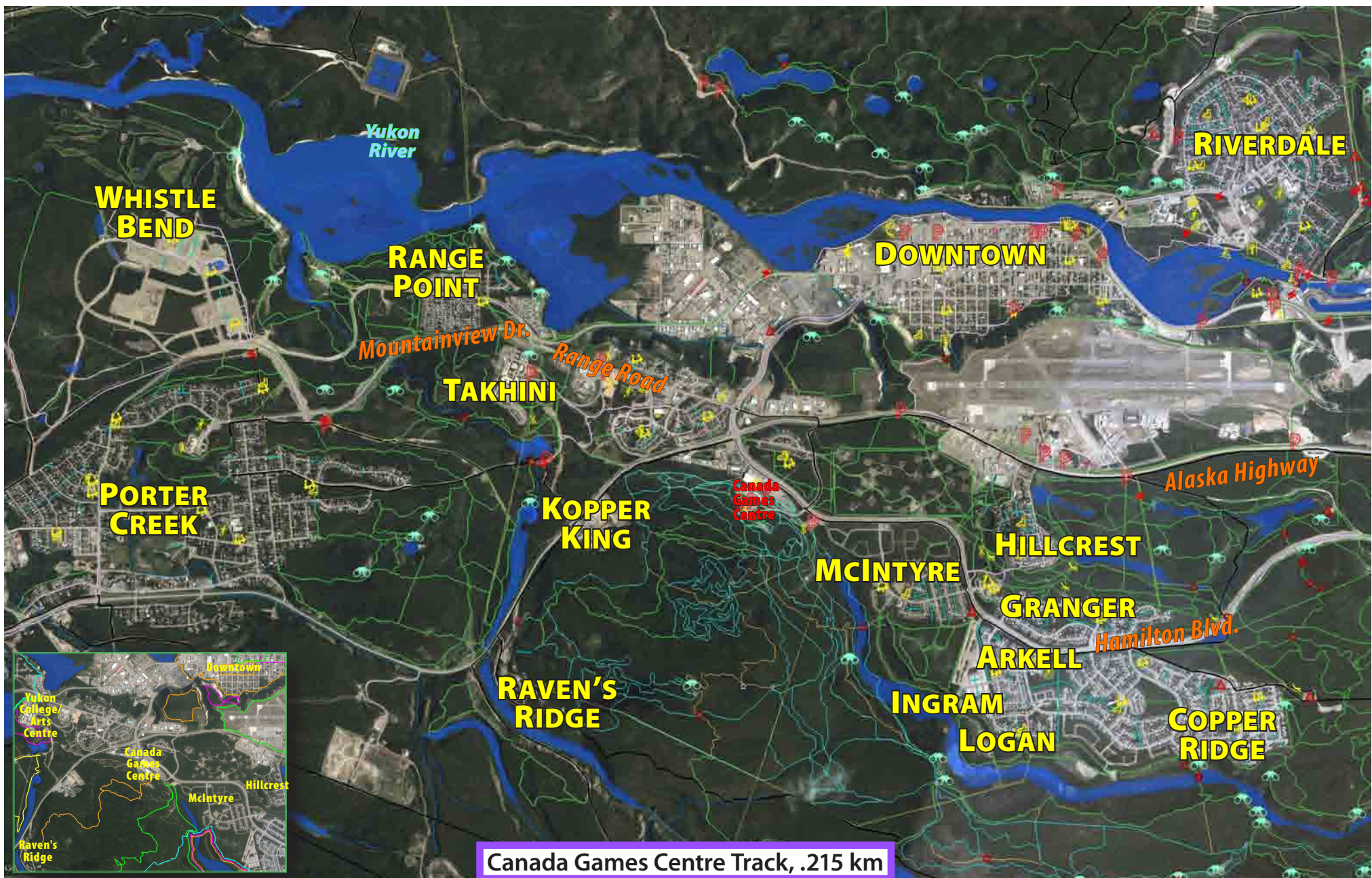




MC Brown, 4.0 km





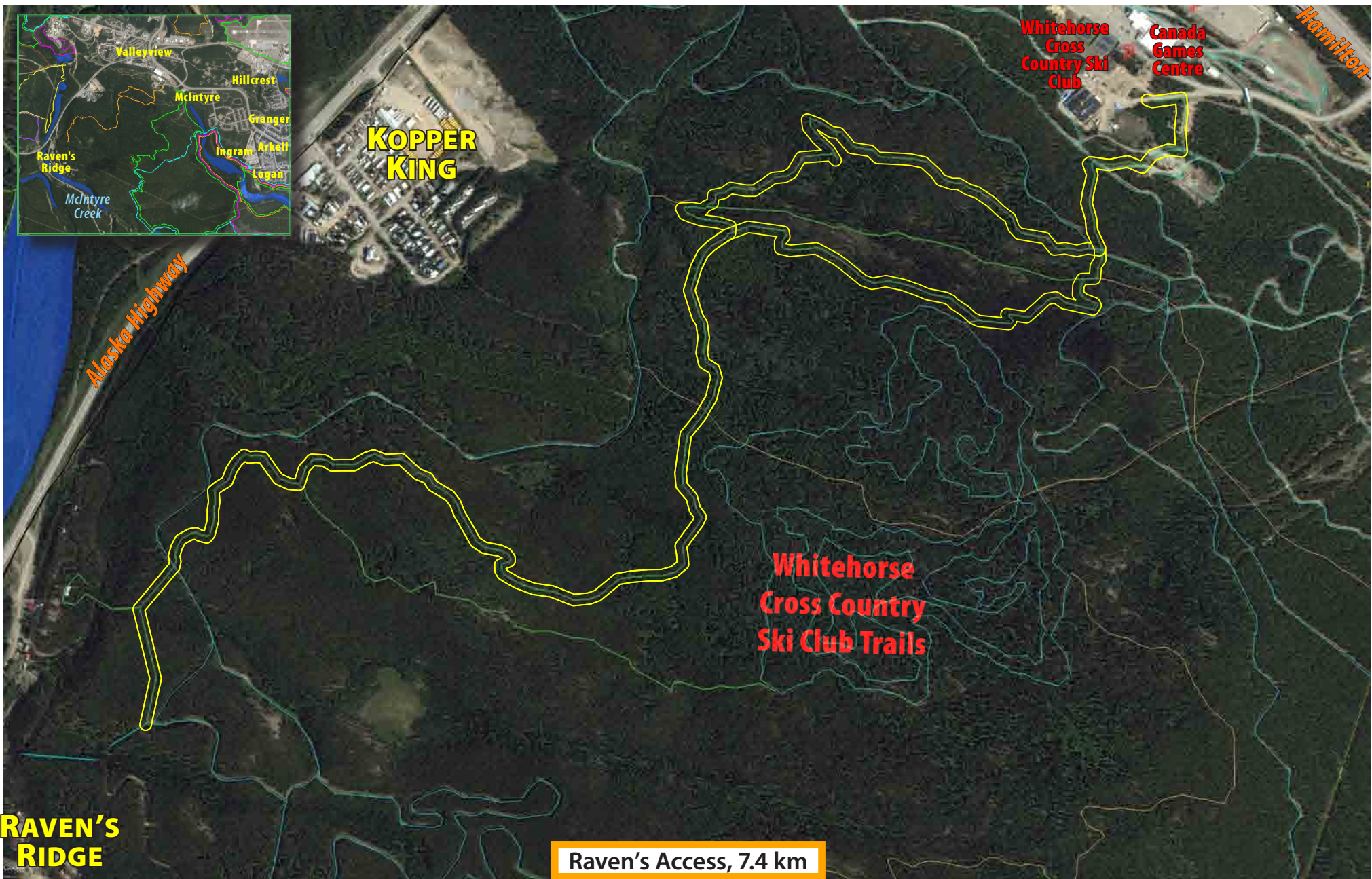


Canada Games Centre Track, .215 km

The Dasani® Running Track is a 215m track. The track offers a spectacular view overlooking Whitehorse, several cardio machines and stretching areas, 3 lanes to accommodate a variety of speeds, and a forgiving walking surface. Open daily, 5:30 AM - 10:00 PM

Usage guidelines: <http://www.whitehorse.ca/home/showdocument?id=2376>

Team training: <http://www.whitehorse.ca/home/showdocument?id=2377>



**RAVEN'S  
RIDGE**

**Raven's Access, 7.4 km**



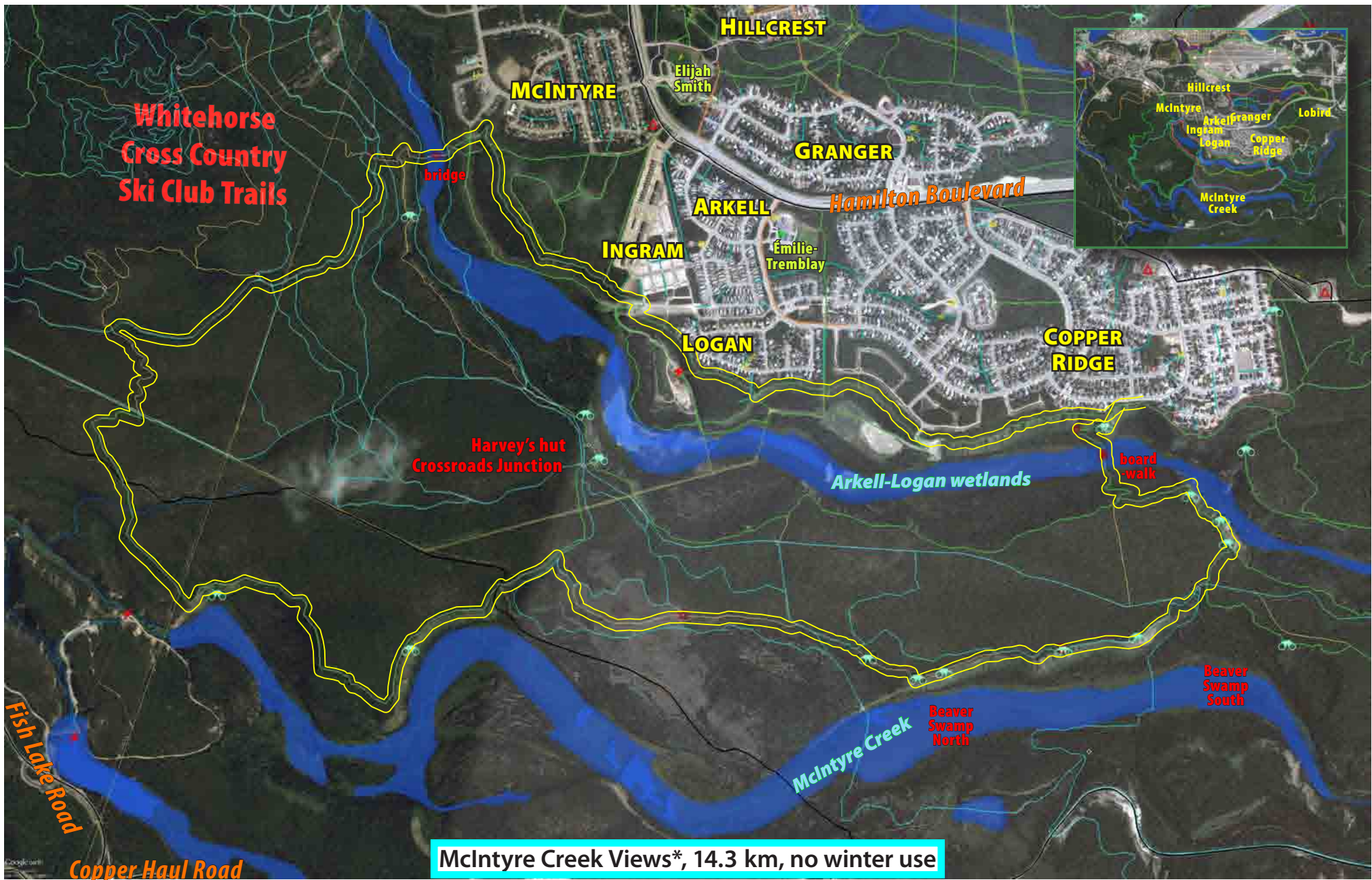
Whitehorse recreational Trail Guide: <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/whitehorse-recreational-trail/id872909893?mt=8>

Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club: <http://www.xcskiwhitehorse.ca/trailmaps.html>

A year of weekly hikes in Whitehorse, Canada's wilderness walking trail city GoogleEarth image ©DigitalGlobe

DRAFT October 22, 2015





**McIntyre Creek Views\*, 14.3 km, no winter use**



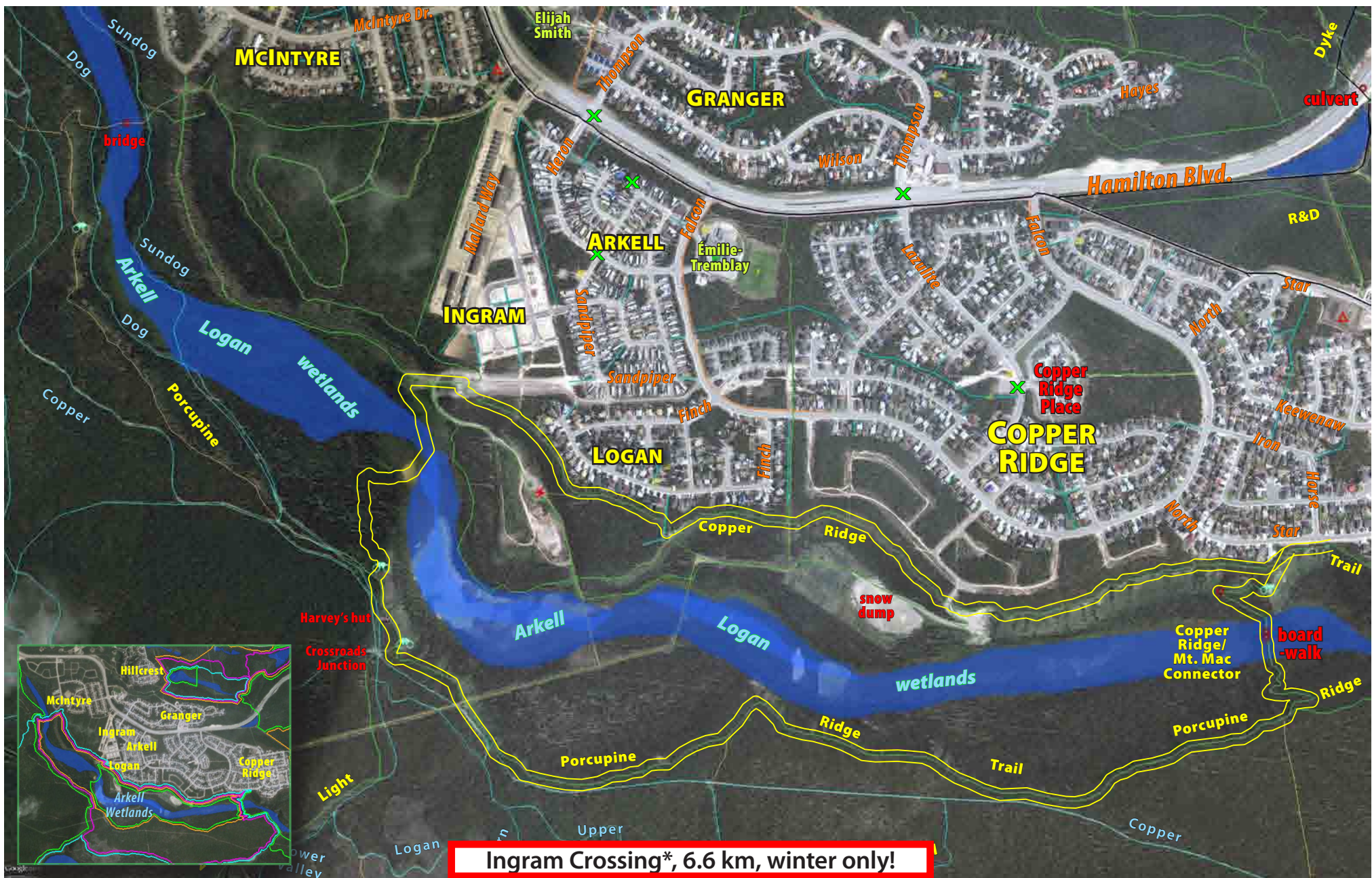


Arkeil Wetlands\*, 9.0 km, no winter use



Whitehorse recreational Trail Guide: <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/whitehorse-recreational-trail/id872909893?mt=8>

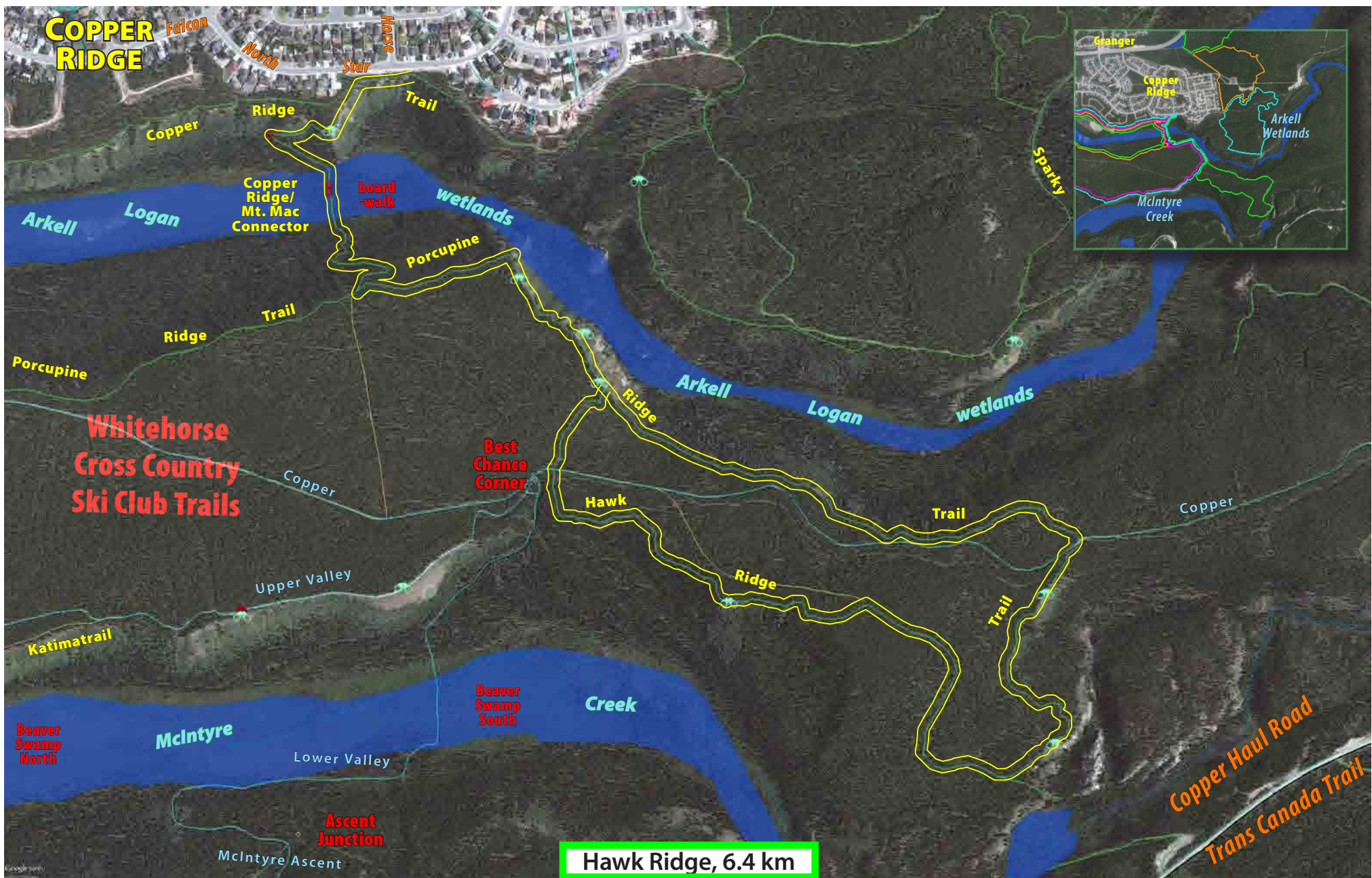
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 Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club: <http://www.xcskiwhitehorse.ca/trailmaps.html>

Note that the wetlands have to freeze before crossing between Harvey's Hut and Ingram can be done. First couple of times require will snowshoes, route finding and a slog!

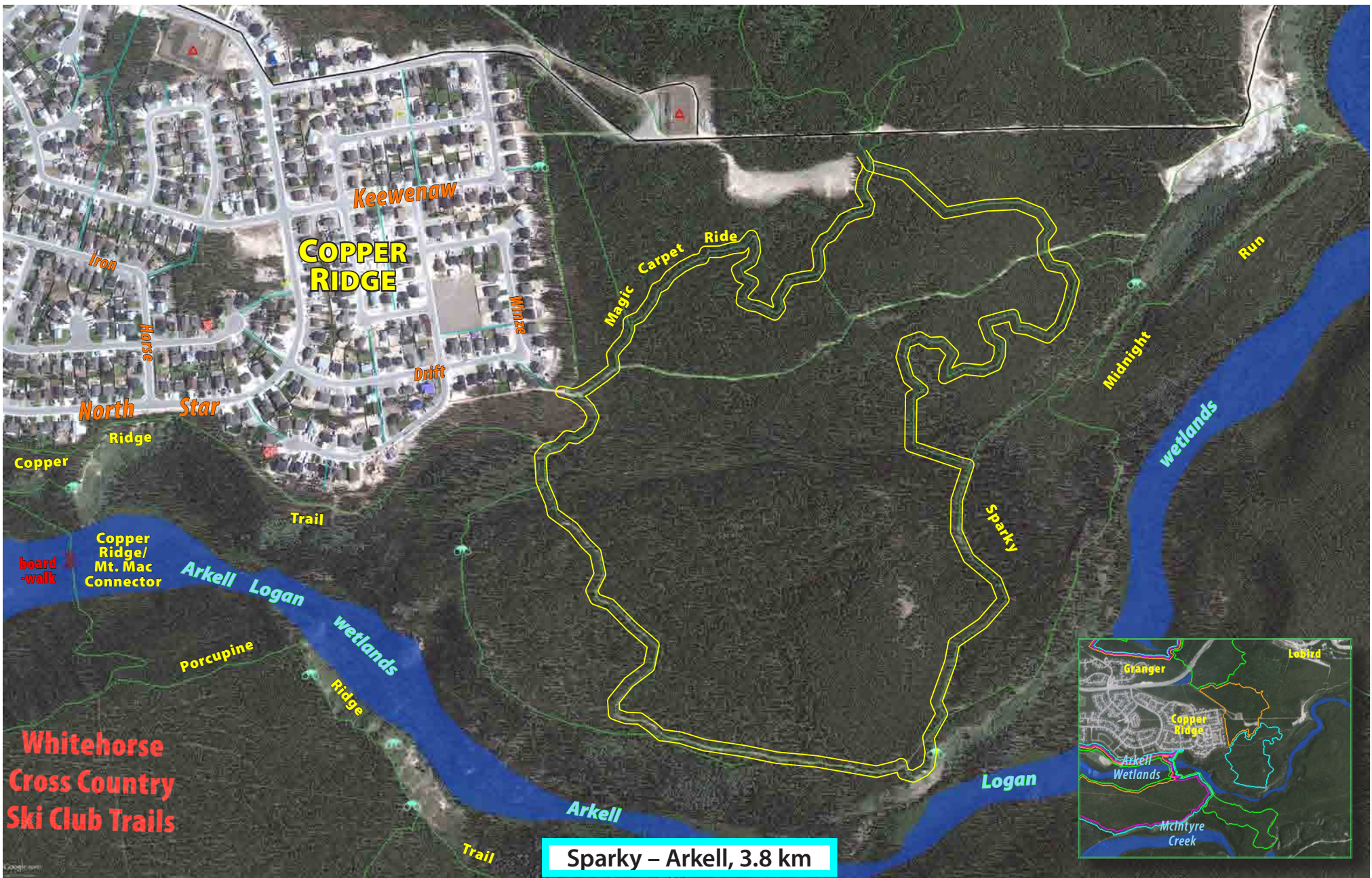
**WWW**  
 whitehorsewalks.com  
 Return to front map

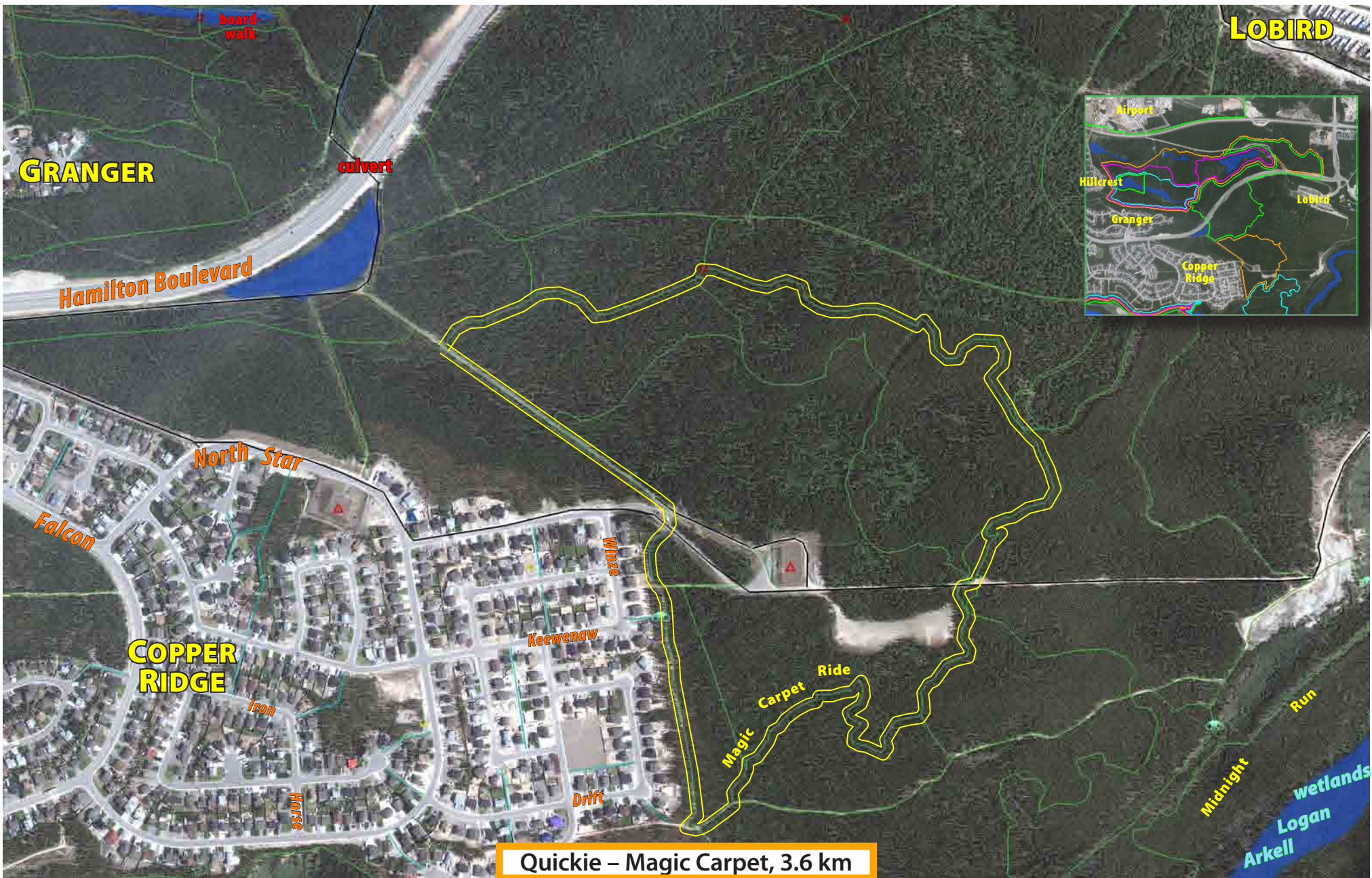


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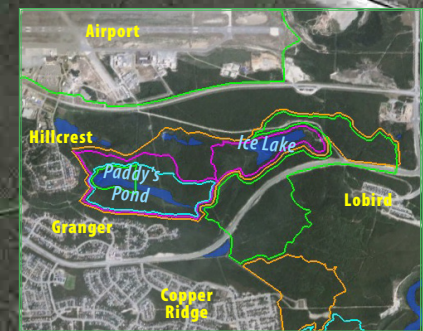
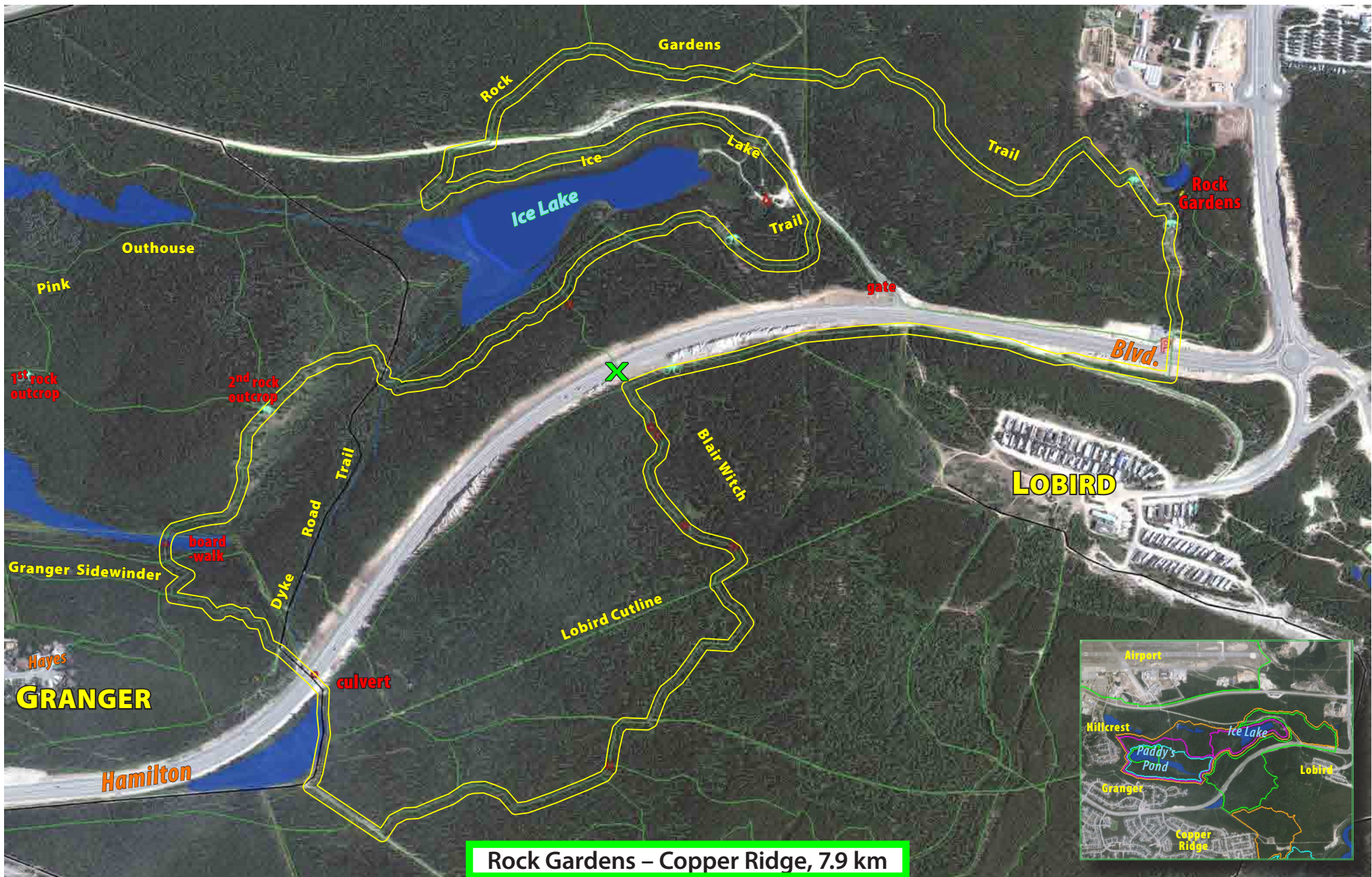
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whitehorsewalks.com  
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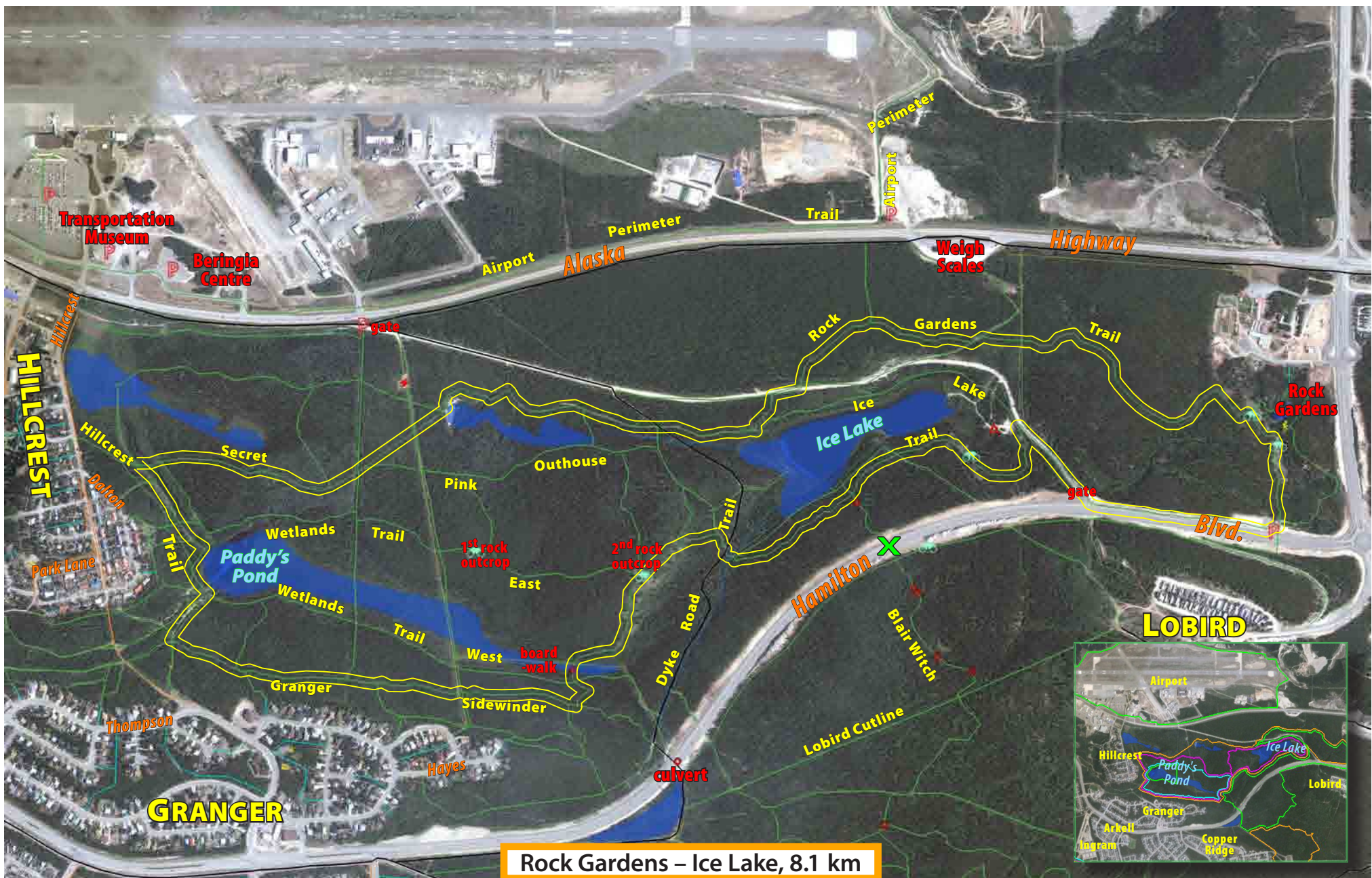




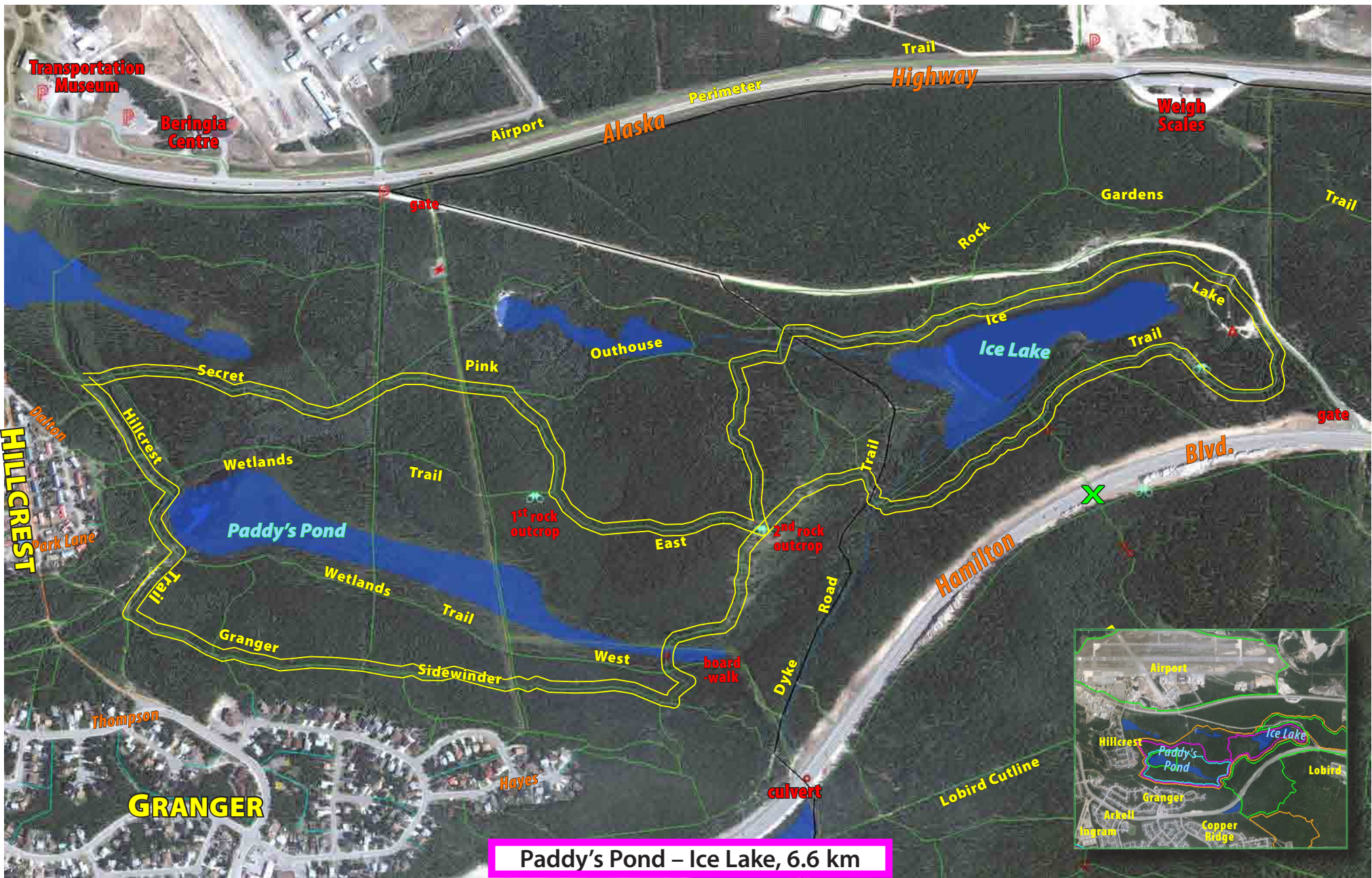
**Quickie – Magic Carpet, 3.6 km**



**WW**  
 whitehorsewalks.com  
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Rock Gardens - Ice Lake, 8.1 km

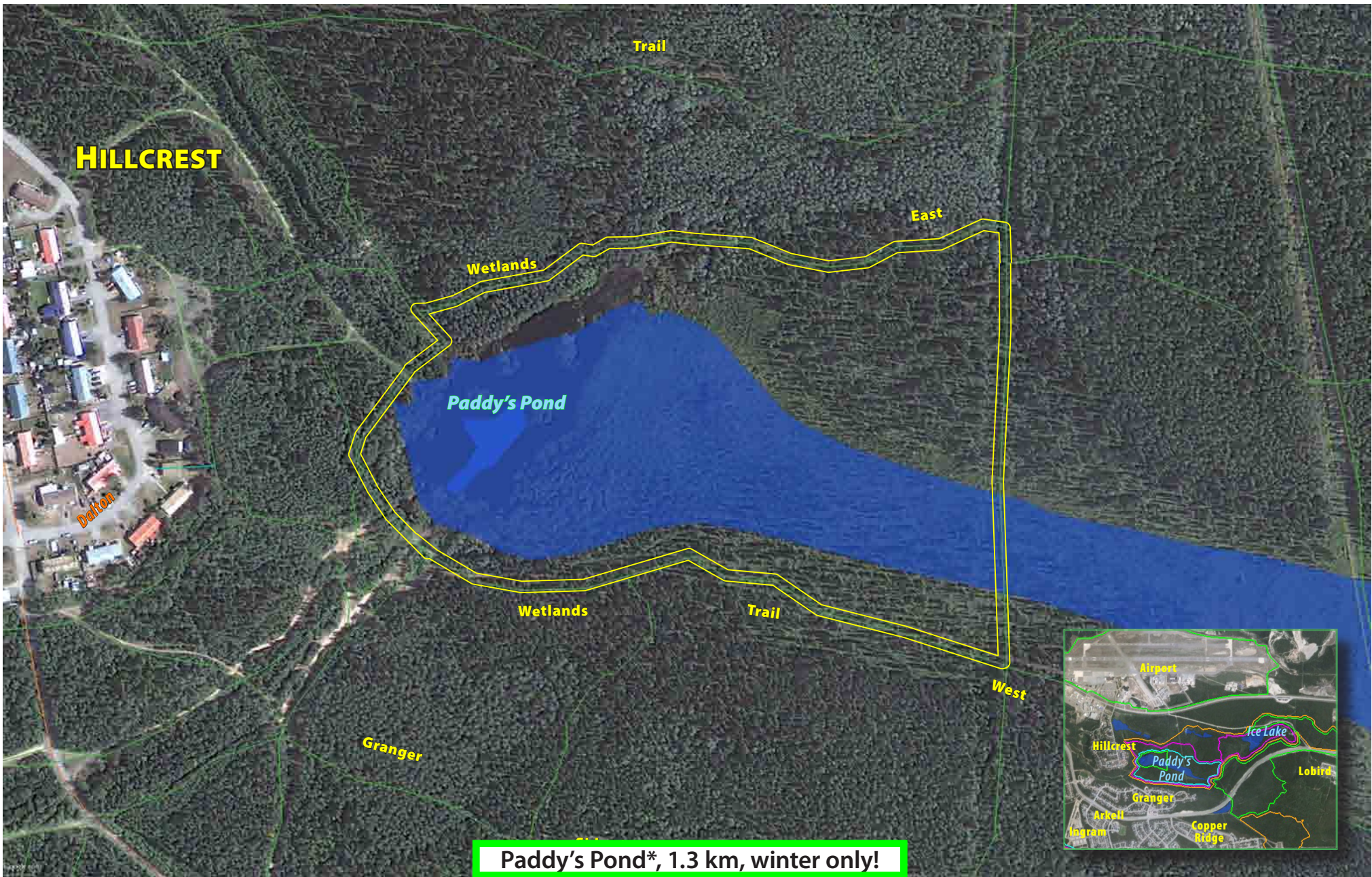


Paddy's Pond - Ice Lake, 6.6 km



Orchid Alley, 3.2 km





**Paddy's Pond\*, 1.3 km, winter only!**









Construction at south end of town and routing thru Industrial north end still rough.  
 Perhaps stay on streets?





Welcome to the Workplace Walking Routes Map! These four short walking routes are each about 1½ kilometres long. These routes have been designed to encourage walking from your workplace, as they go past many of the larger employers. If your workplace is not right on one of the routes then you get even more fitness benefits!

These routes are suggestions to get you started. Each of these routes will take you about 15-20 minutes to do, depending on your pace.

**Orange:** 1.5 km takes in the Municipal Services Building and the Worker's Compensation Health and Safety Board Building

**Green:** 1.6 takes in the Worker's Compensation Health and Safety Board Building, Health and Social Services, the Elijah Smith Building and City Hall

**Cyan:** 1.6 km takes in the Elijah Smith Building, the Law Courts, City Hall and the main YG Administration Building.

**Magenta:** 1.6 takes in Sport Yukon and the main YG Administration Building.

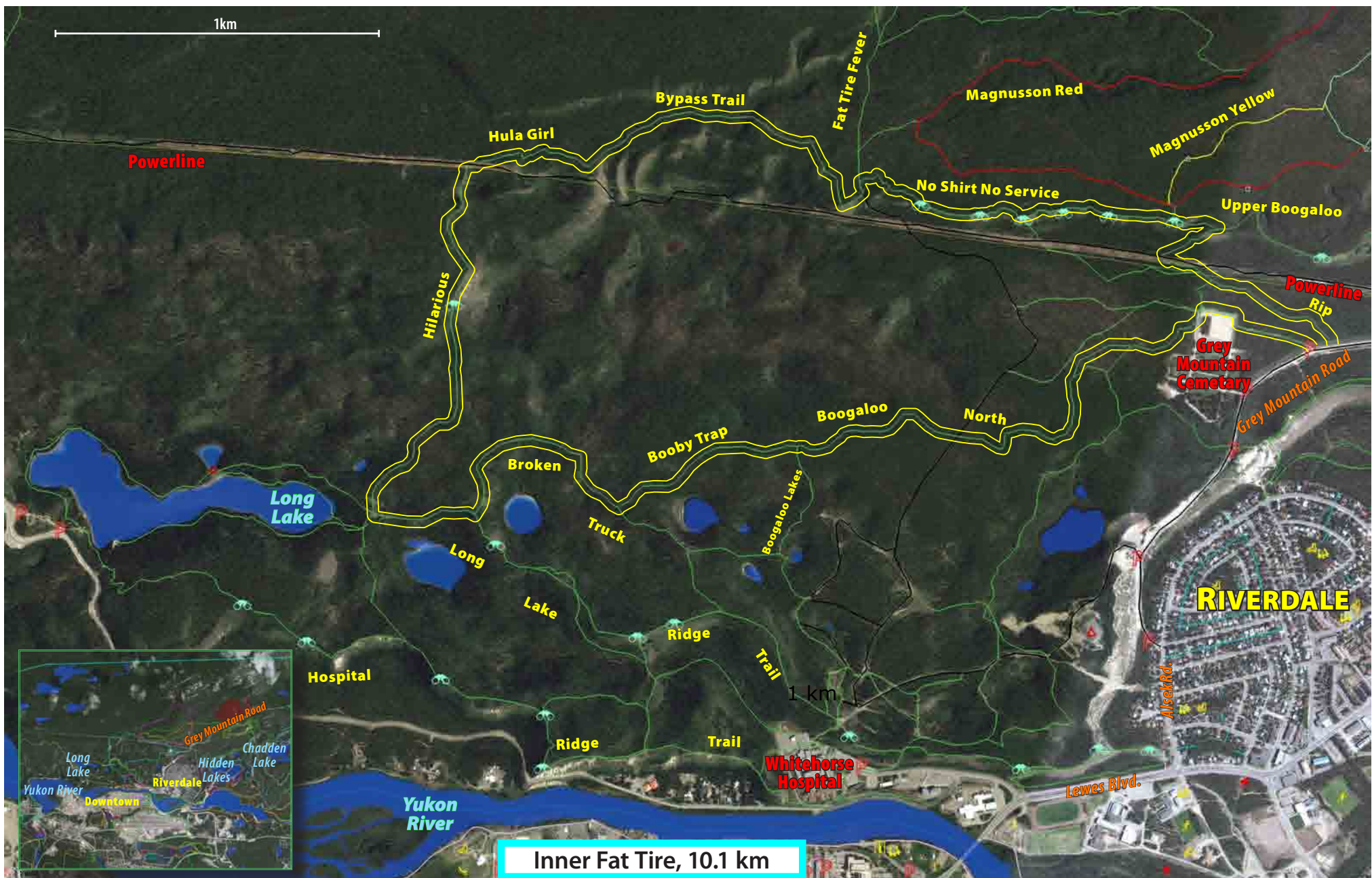


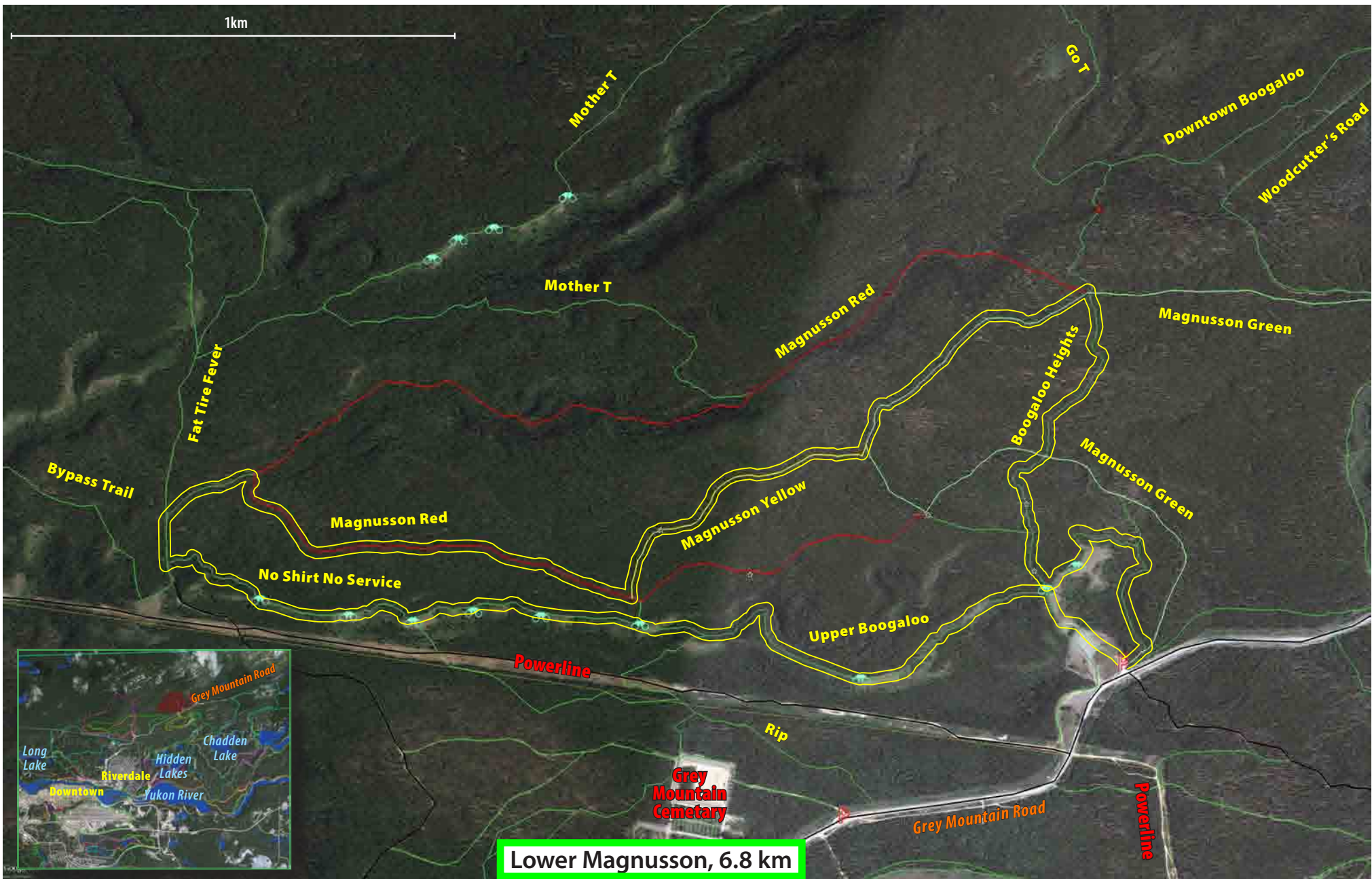


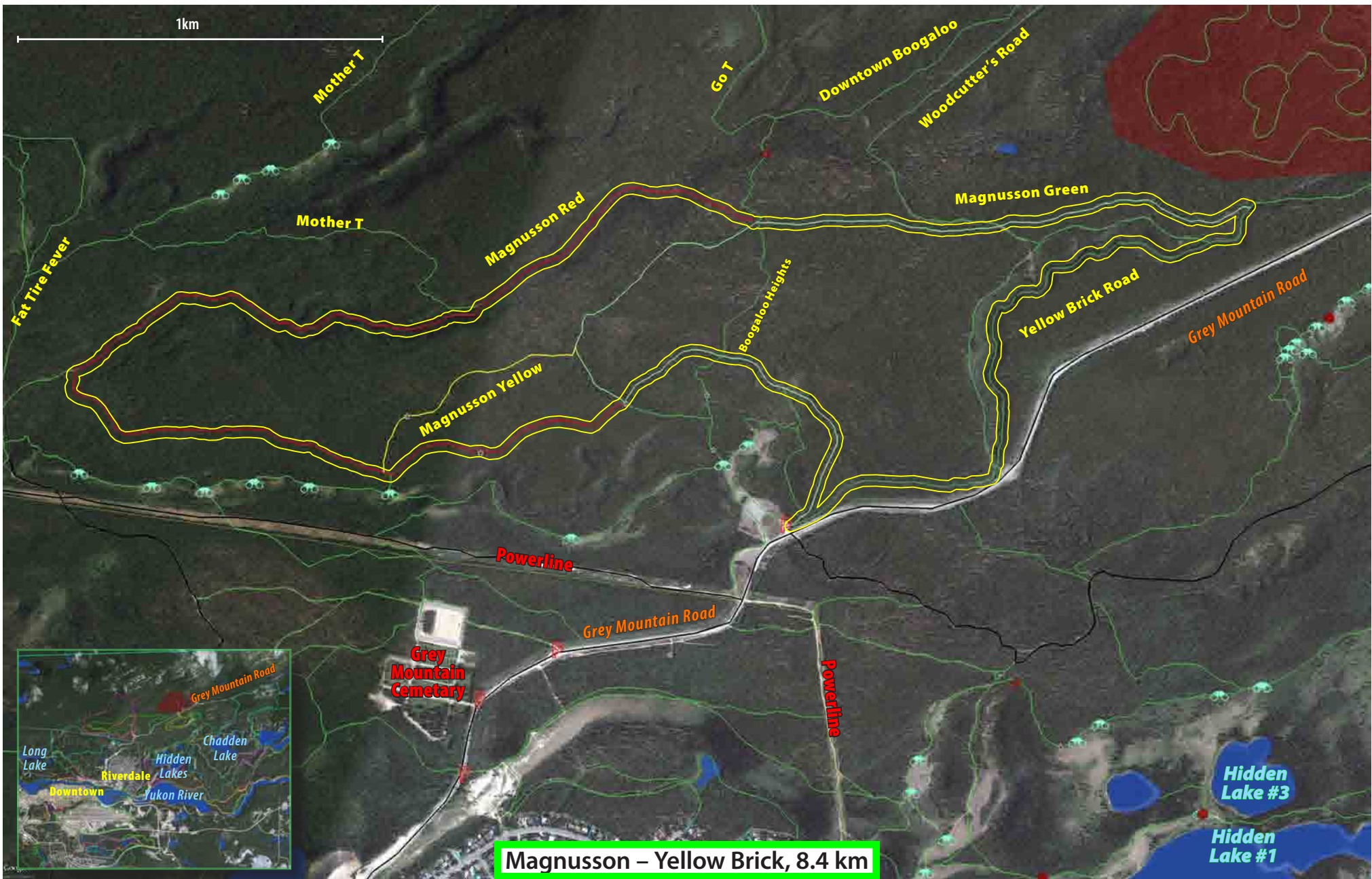
**Broken Truck, 4.0 km**

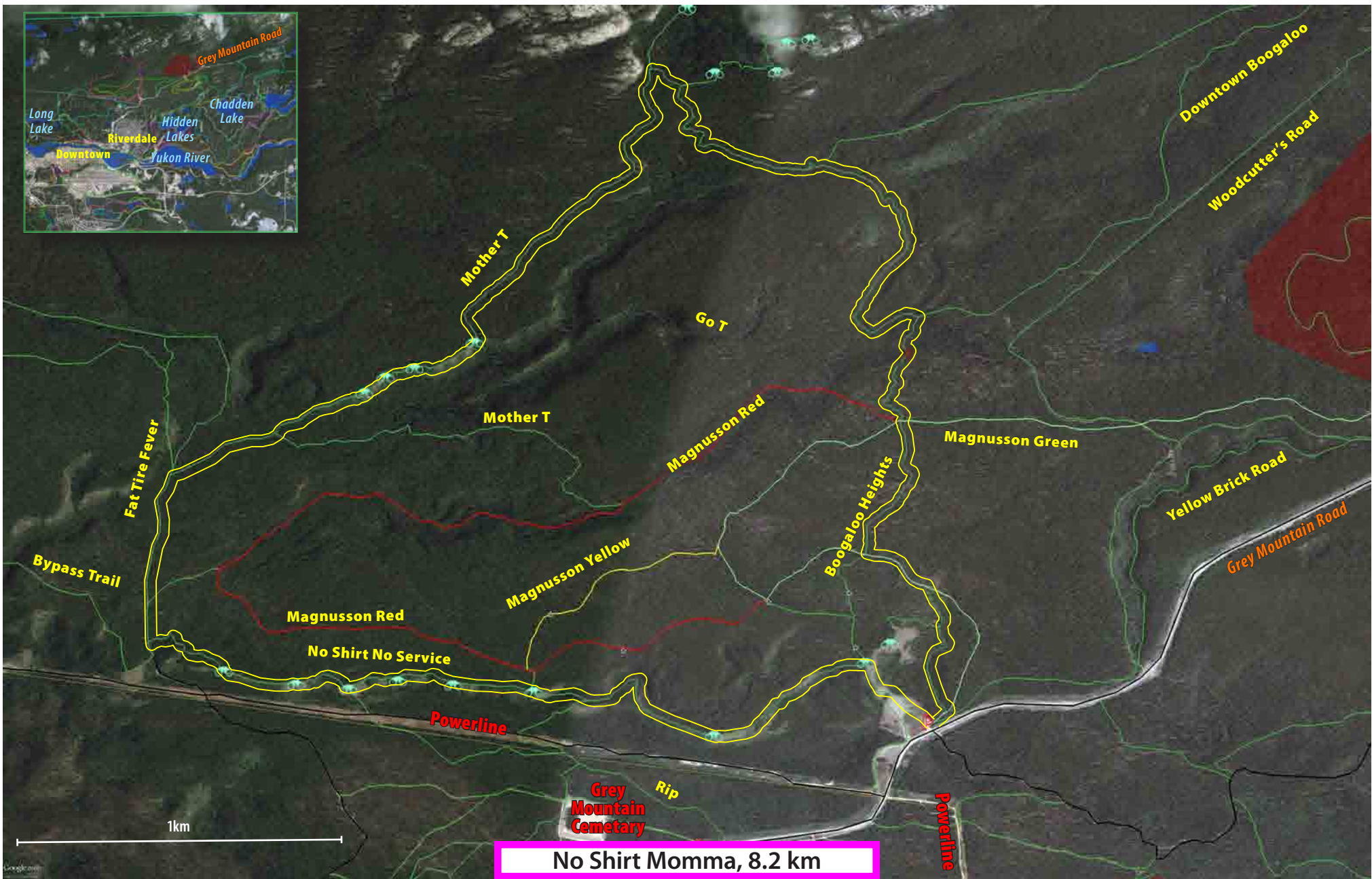










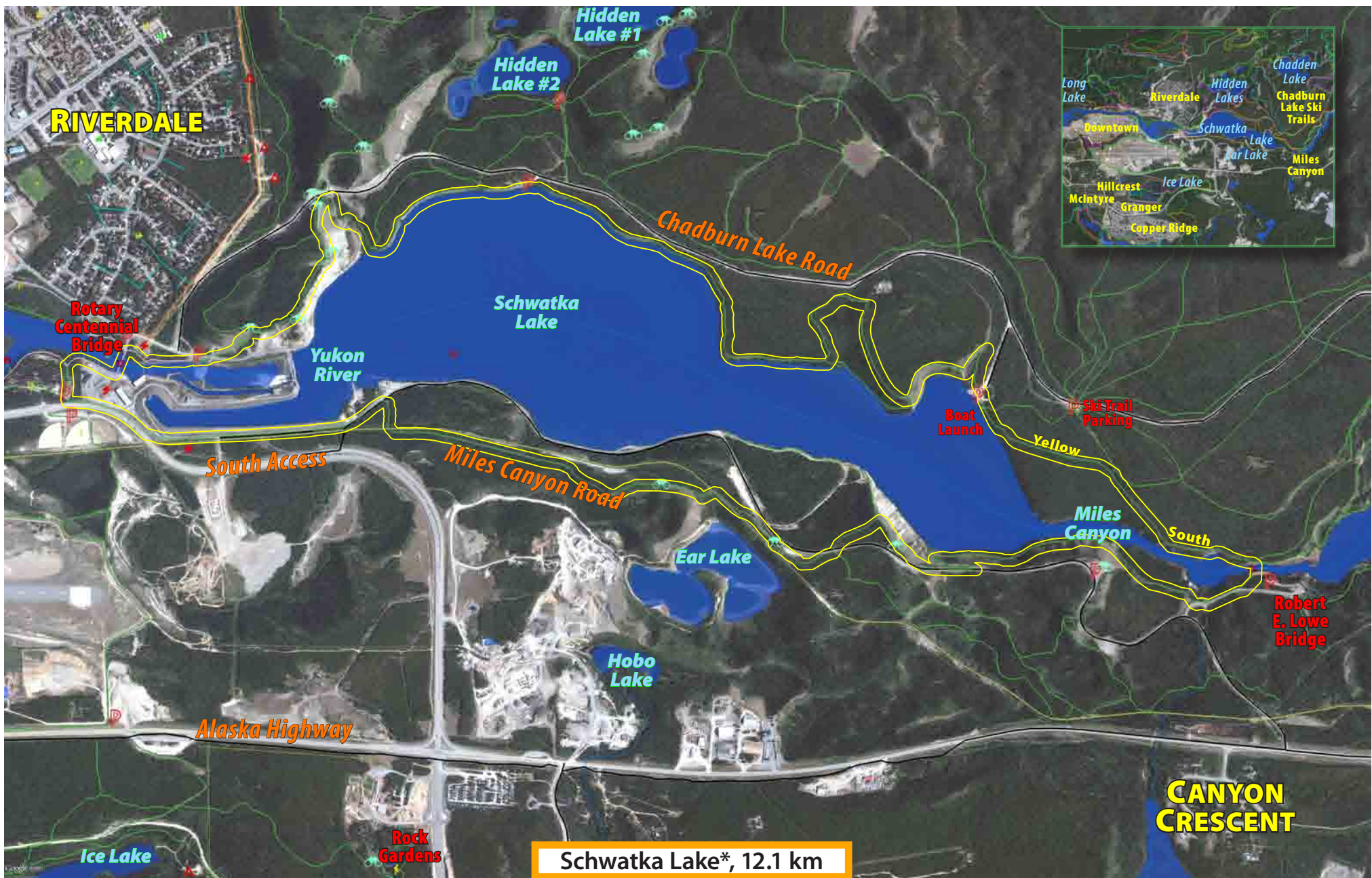


**No Shirt Momma, 8.2 km**



This urban walk is a paved trail.





Schwatka Lake\*, 12.1 km

Millennium Trail and Rotary Centennial Bridge: <http://yukonenergy.ca/in-your-community/sponsored-events-projects/millennium-trail-and-rotary-centennial-bridge/>

Whitehorse recreational Trail Guide: <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/whitehorse-recreational-trail/id872909893?mt=8>

**WWW**  
whitehorsewalks.com  
Return to front map



Whitehorse Mountain Bike and Recreational Trails Guide

Millennium Trail and Rotary Centennial Bridge: <http://yukonenergy.ca/in-your-community/sponsored-events-projects/millennium-trail-and-rotary-centennial-bridge/>

Whitehorse recreational Trail Guide: <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/whitehorse-recreational-trail/id872909893?mt=8>



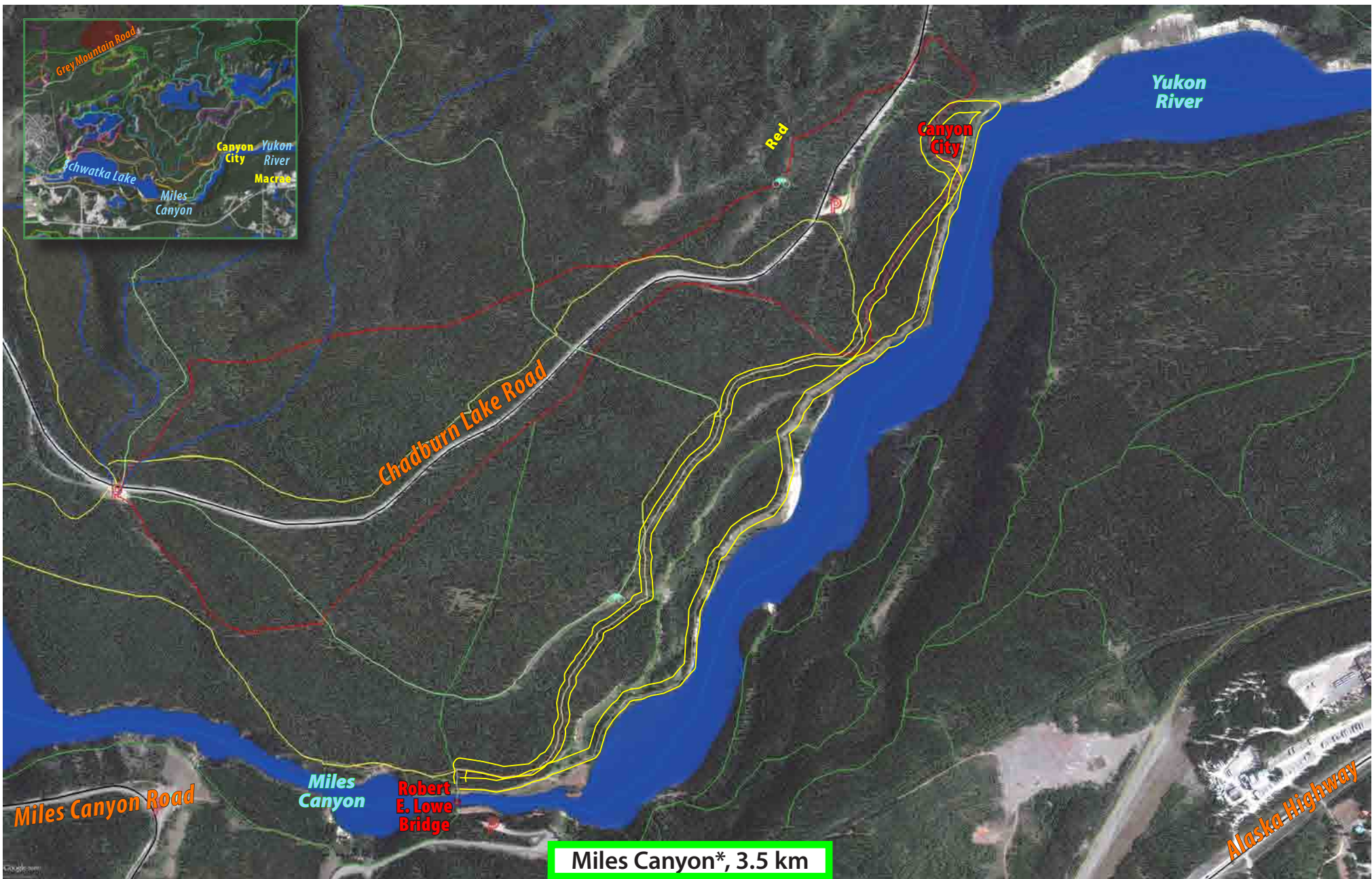


Heartbreak Hill\*, 4.7 km









Whitehorse Mountain Bike and Recreational Trails Guide

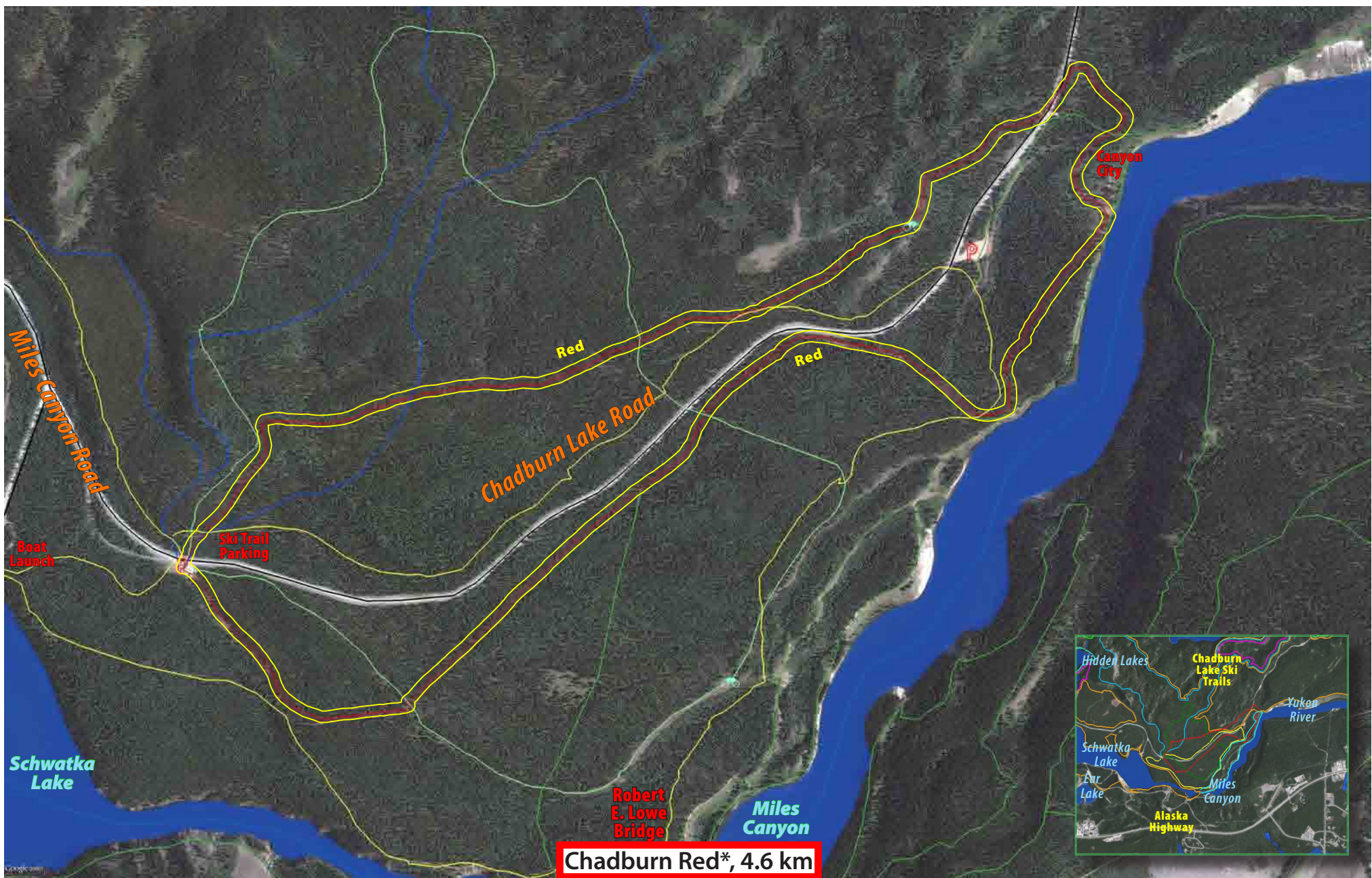
Millennium Trail and Rotary Centennial Bridge: <http://yukonenergy.ca/in-your-community/sponsored-events-projects/millennium-trail-and-rotary-centennial-bridge/>

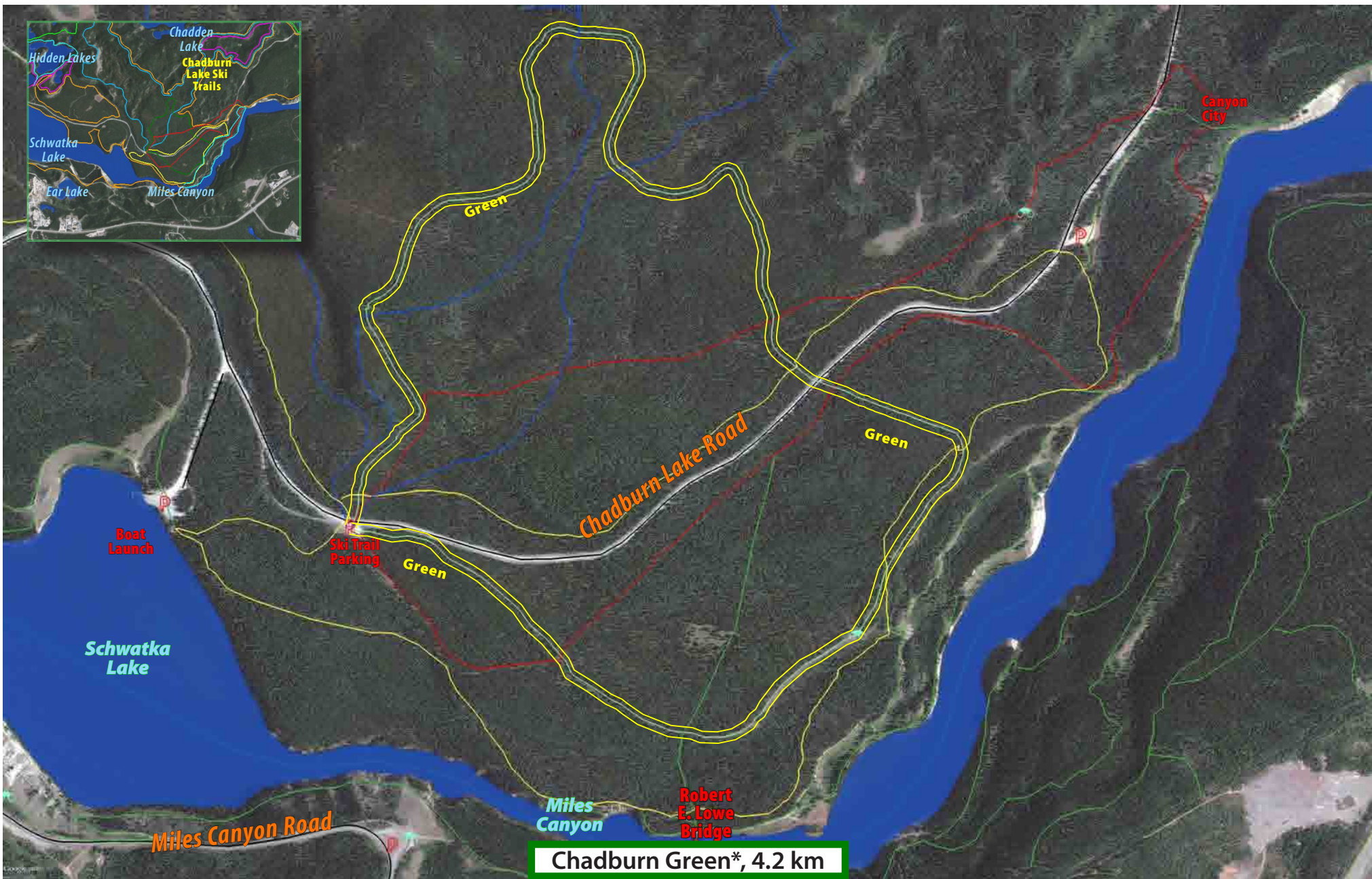
Whitehorse recreational Trail Guide: <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/whitehorse-recreational-trail/id872909893?mt=8>





Chadburn Yellow South\*, 4.8 km







Canyon City\*, 12.6 km





**Chadburn Blue, 12.6 km**





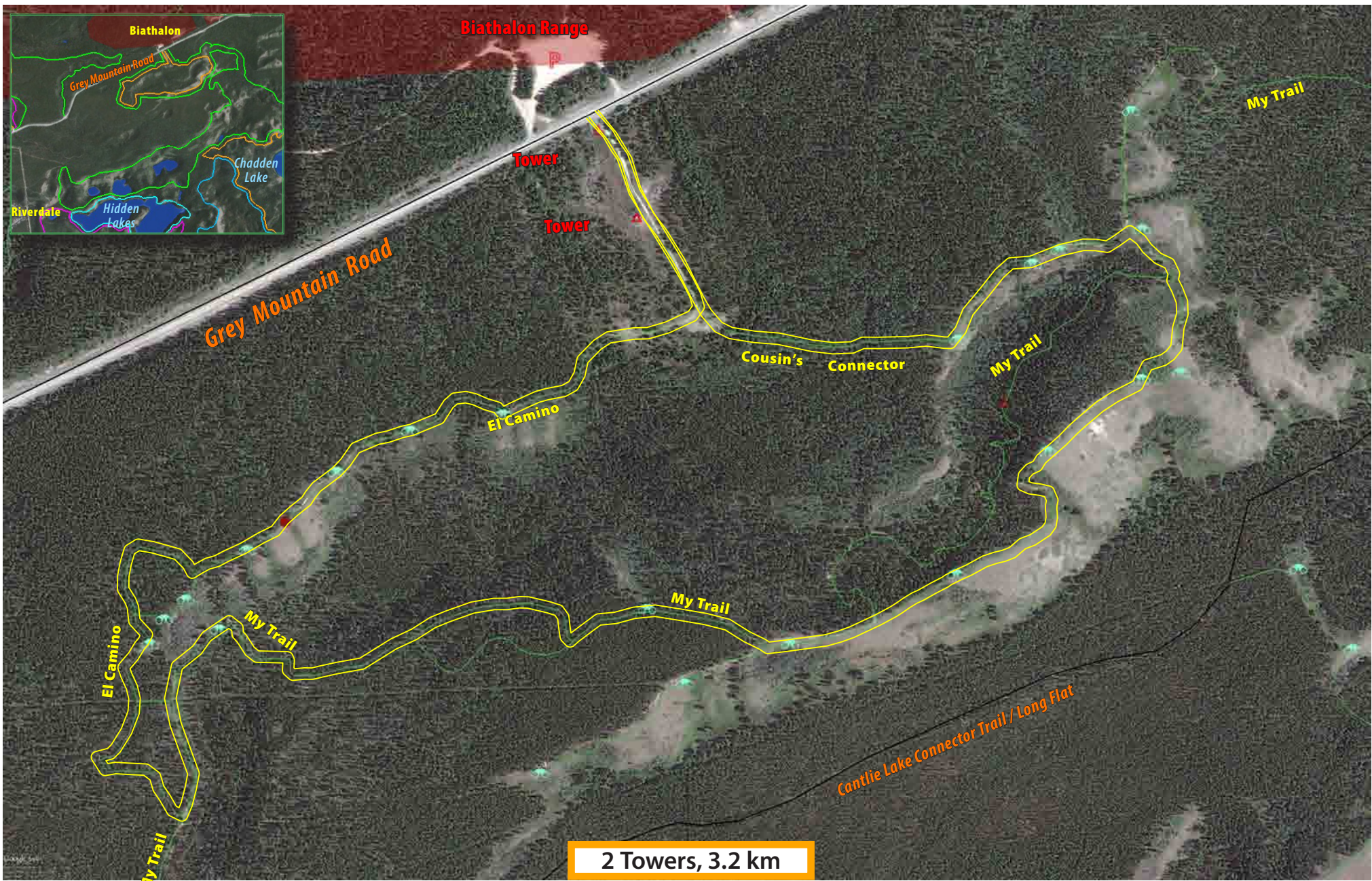
A Taste of Blue, 4.2 km



Chadden Lake, 11.2 km



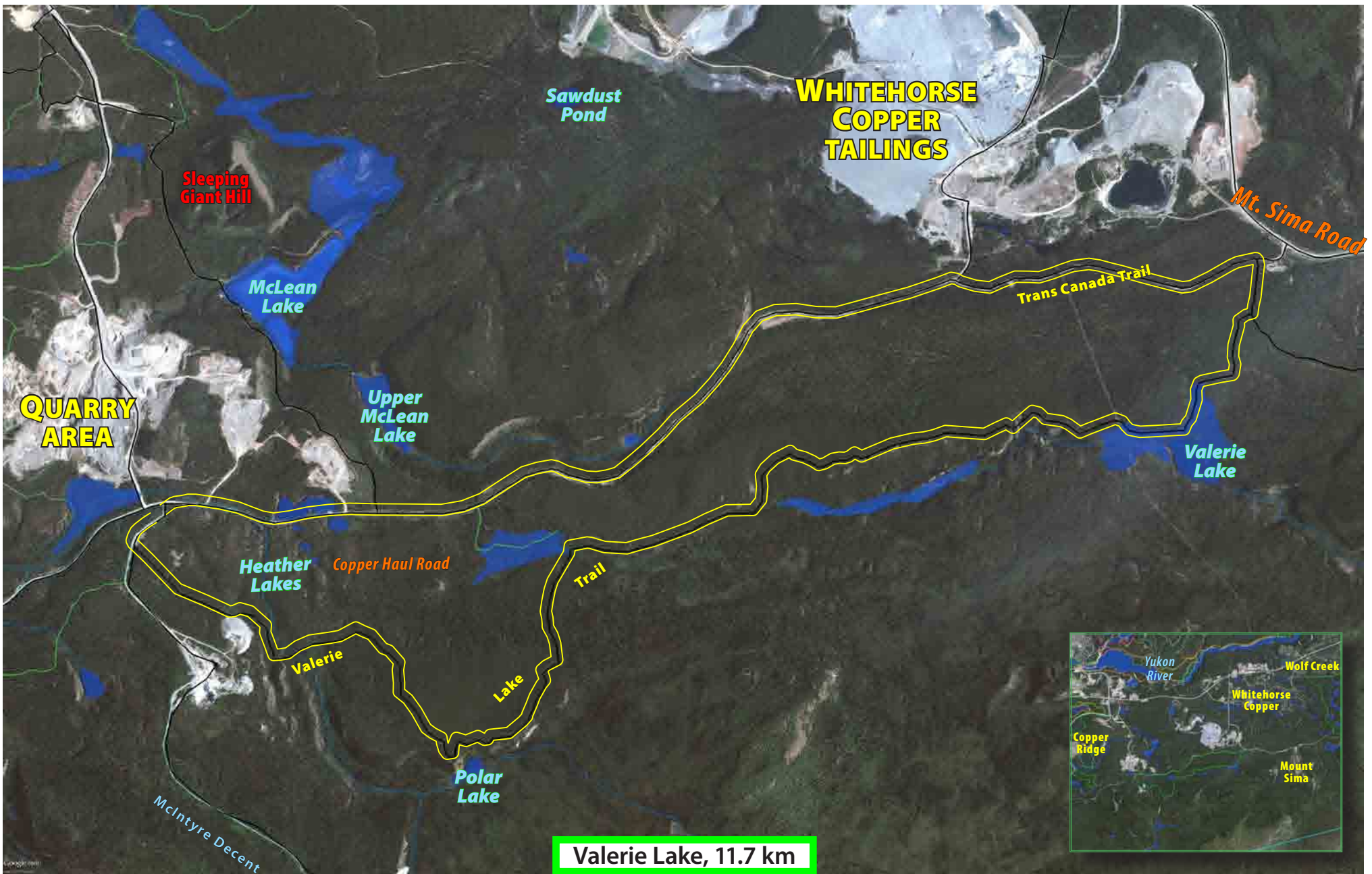
**Chadburn Lake, 15.0 km**





Lake Views, 13.8 km



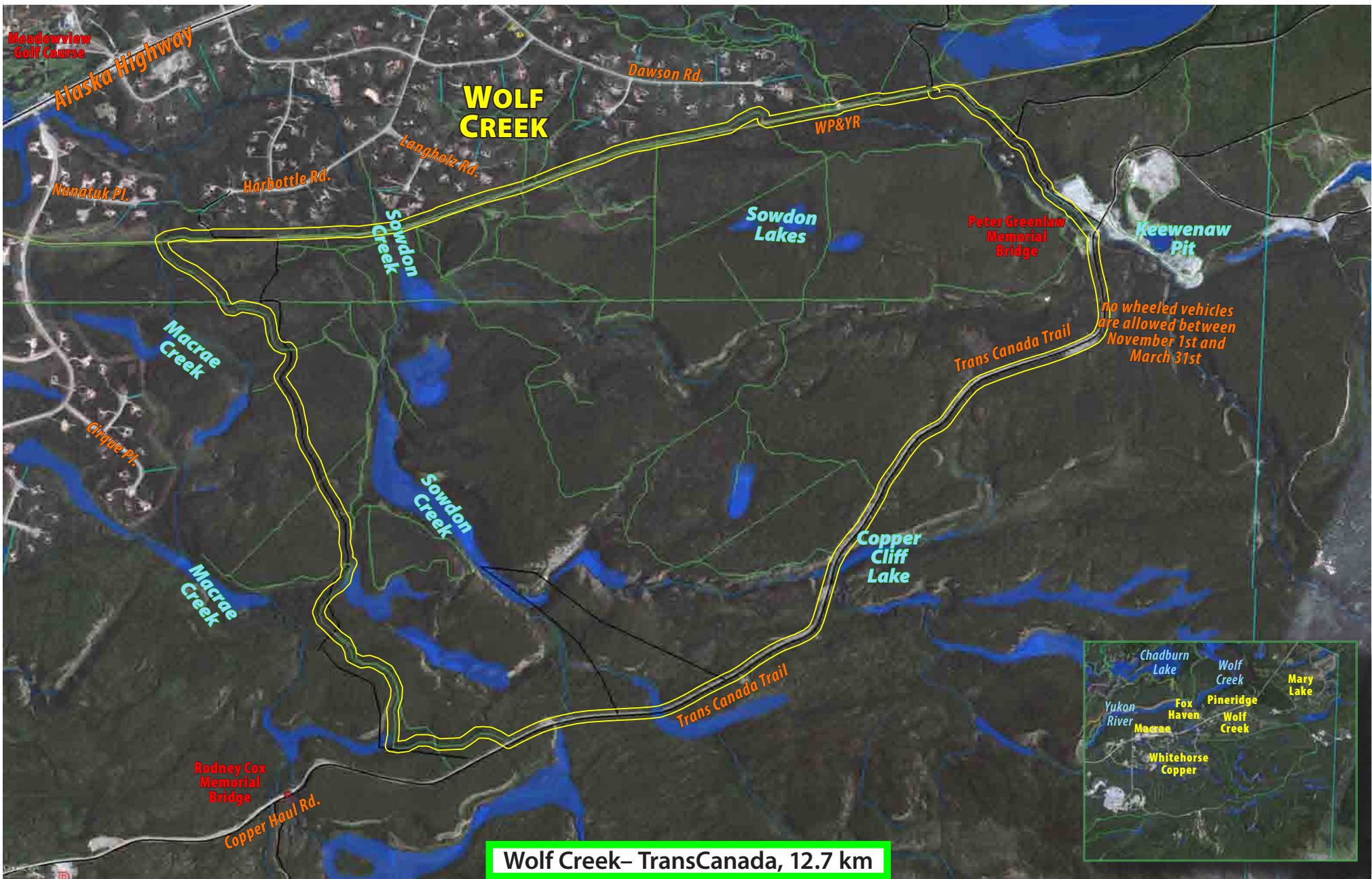


Valerie Lake, 11.7 km



**Wolf Creek Campground, 5.6 km**

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 Return to front map



**Wolf Creek- TransCanada, 12.7 km**