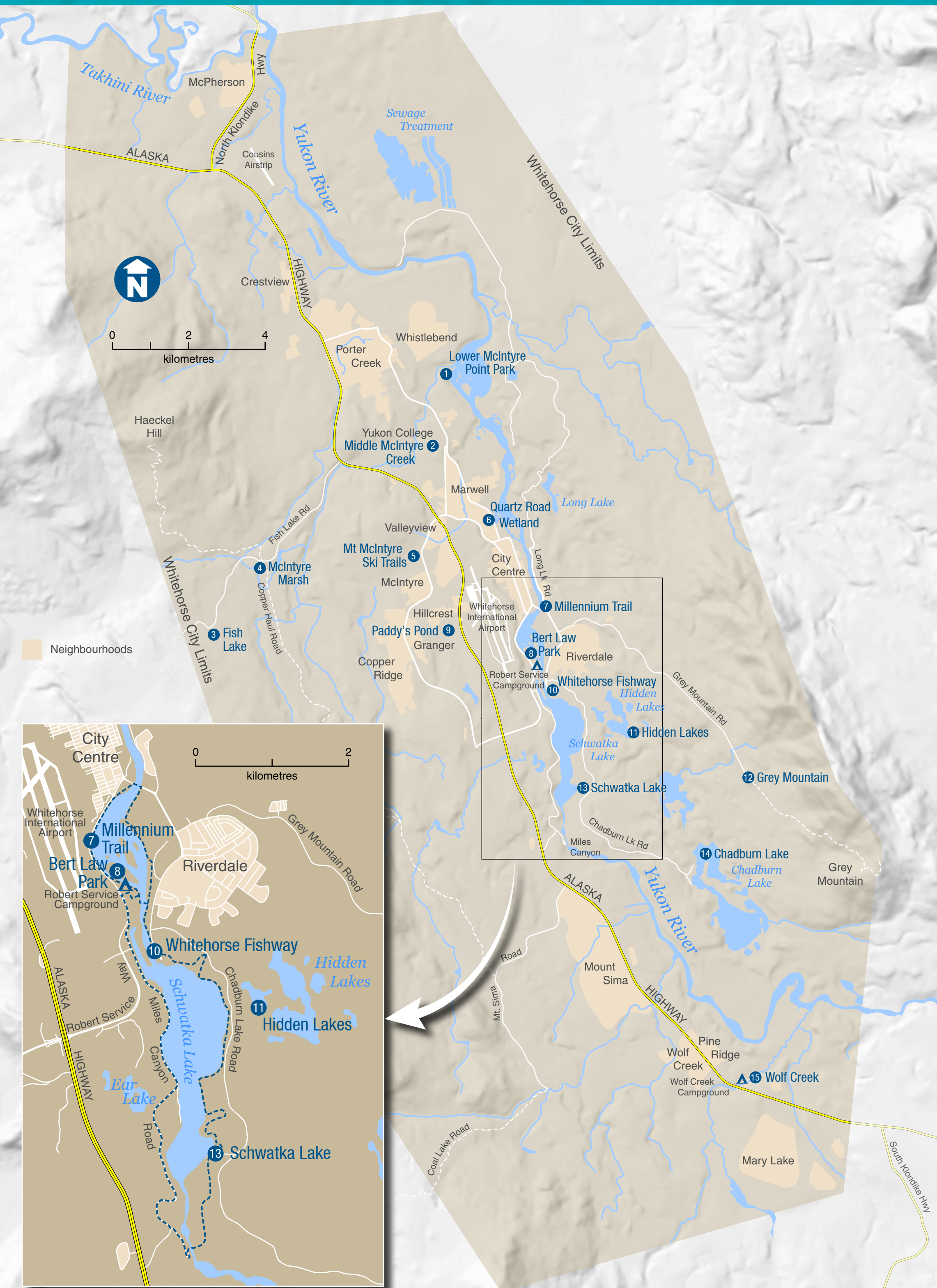


Wildlife in Whitehorse

A Guide To Our Natural Areas



- 1 Lower McIntyre/Point Park**

Follow Range Road past Mountainview Place. When the road bends to the left, take the right fork to an unmaintained gravel road. Follow the road as long as you would like and then get out and explore.
- 2 Middle McIntyre Creek**

Drive up Yukon College Drive until the unmarked dirt road on the left. Follow the road to the pumphouse for parking. RVs should continue up College Drive and park in the student parking lot at Yukon College, where an interpretive panel will get you oriented.
- 3 Fish Lake**

Follow the 15-km long Fish Lake Road to the end.
- 4 McIntyre Marsh**

Follow the Fish Lake Road for 3.4 km to the junction with the Copper Haul Road. On the left, there is a wide parking area and gazebo overlooking the wetlands.
- 5 Mount McIntyre ski trails**

Take Hamilton Boulevard to Sumanik Drive. Follow it to the large parking lot.
- 6 Quartz Road Wetlands**

Park at Walmart and cross Quartz Road to access the riverbank. The trail connects to the paved riverfront and Millennium Trail to the south. The wetlands are a two-minute walk from the end of the trolley line at Spook Creek Station.
- 7 Millennium Trail**

Free public parking at Rotary Park or the S.S. Klondike. You can also access the trail from the Whitehorse Fishway in Riverdale.
- 8 Bert Law Park**

Access the island via a short footbridge from the Millennium Trail. Quickest access is from Robert Service Campground, following the trails to the island.
- 9 Paddy's Pond**

Follow Hillcrest Drive until the end and park at the gate. Head left and downhill as you enter the greenspace to find the pond.
- 10 Whitehorse Fishway**

In Riverdale, follow Nisutlin Drive to the parking area by the fish ladder.
- 11 Hidden Lakes**

From Riverdale, follow the Chadburn Lake Road for 1.8 km to a rough, unmarked road on your left. This 300 m access road takes you to the parking area for Hidden lakes.
- 12 Grey Mountain**

From Riverdale, follow the unpaved Grey Mountain Road for 6 km to a small view point where the maintained road ends. You can continue up the road by foot or mountain bike to better explore the trails.
- 13 Schwatka Lake**

You can access the lake from many points, but the most popular point is from the boat launch 3.6 km down the Chadburn Lake Road. There are many unmarked picnic areas close to the lake on the way to the boat launch.
- 14 Chadburn Lake**

From Riverdale, follow the 8-km long Chadburn Lake Road until it ends at the boat launch and parking lot.
- 15 Wolf Creek**

Leave downtown via Robert Service Way and take the Alaska Hwy south for 11 km. The campground is on your left with day-use parking at the entrance.



3 Fish Lake
The trails around Fish Lake are popular for hikers and hunters. Follow the main trail on your right to hike up into the alpine. Be sure to practice bear safety; you are further from the city and more likely to run into wildlife such as bear, moose, Dall's Sheep, and caribou.

2 Middle McIntyre Creek
This popular urban greenspace provides a great introduction to Yukon's wildlife. Explore trails that wander through a variety of habitats including a still pond, a swift creek, and dense spruce and pine forest. The different trails allow you to go for a quick run or spend hours exploring. Interpretive panels introduce you to the plants and animals of the boreal forest.

1 Lower McIntyre/Point Park
This greenspace completes a wildlife corridor from Fish Lake to the Yukon River. As a result, you can spot a variety of animals passing through. Watch for songbirds and waterbirds around the wetlands. The lucky wanderer might spot a caribou, moose, or bear heading down to the river.

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5 Mount McIntyre ski trails
This is a haven for small forest animals and an important travel corridor for larger animals such as moose, coyote, lynx, and bear. The extensive trail network will lead you through a variety of terrain, from old burns to low valleys. Pick up a map or download it from www.xcskithorse.ca. A trail pass is required during the ski season.

6 Quartz Road Wetlands
This series of gravel bars and shallow river channels is home to numerous fish and bird species. Scan the islands for nesting gulls and watch for ducks and swans during migration. Interpretive panels describe the wildlife and history around this important urban wildlife area.

4 McIntyre Marsh
This is a great place for a quiet lunch and bird watching. A gazebo with interpretive panels will tell you about the wetland and its residents. In the spring, visit in the early morning to witness bird banding demonstrations and to learn about migration.

11 Hidden Lakes
These kettle lakes are a popular walking and fishing spot for locals. The small, quiet lakes are great for spotting waterbirds and shorebirds. Wildflowers can be found on the open slopes, and foxes and Coyotes in the sheltered forests.

12 Grey Mountain
Overlooking the city, Grey Mountain provides easy access to alpine trails. Explore the mountaintop to see alpine flowers and song birds, and watch along the edges for Golden Eagles. Sheep and caribou have been spotted on occasion by the adventurous hiker.

10 Whitehorse Fishway
The world's longest wooden fish ladder was built here in the late 1950s. Chinook Salmon use the ladder to get around the power dam on their way to spawning grounds. An interpretive centre is open all summer, along with a viewing platform and interpretive panels.

9 Paddy's Pond
Many trails wind through this greenspace. Visit the pond and surrounding marsh for a chance to spot wetland creatures. Wood Frogs can be heard singing in the early spring, even when ice is still on the water. Moose wander, muskrats feed, and ducks make their home on the pond.

8 Bert Law Park
This small island in the Yukon River is teeming with remarkable plant diversity. Enjoy the berries but beware: bright red clusters of Baneberry are abundant on the island - and poisonous.

7 Millennium Trail
This 5-km paved trail makes the outdoors accessible to many people. The trail follows the banks of the Yukon River from downtown to the Rotary Centennial footbridge just below the dam and back to the Robert Campbell Bridge from Riverdale. Watch for Bald Eagles fishing in the river or building a nest by the nearby clay cliffs. On the east side you can see evidence of a local beaver working on his lodge.

13 Schwatka Lake
Schwatka Lake was created by the Whitehorse dam in the 1950's which flooded the 'white horse' rapids. During spring migration, you can see many different waterbirds here, including grebes, loons, and swans. The 15-km Yukon River Loop Trail is a great way to explore this lake.

14 Chaburn Lake
Chaburn Lake day-use area has a large parking area, boat launch, hiking trails, and picnic gazebo for spending the day outside. Explore the many sheltered bays of the lake to look for loons and mergansers. The water is so clear that you can see fish below. At dusk, watch for Little Brown Bats feeding on insects in the forest and over the lake.

15 Wolf Creek
Nestled in an old growth spruce forest, Wolf Creek features a territorial campground and day-use area. At the entrance, visit a small fish ladder and viewing deck to learn about Chinook Salmon that return to the creek to spawn in August. Explore the short trails surrounding the campground for excellent views of the Yukon River and surrounding forests.

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Additional resources

At some of these locations a site map can be found at the entrance describing the trails. However it is easy to get turned around, even close to town. Consider purchasing an additional trail map to help orientate yourself.

Whitehorse, The Wilderness City:
A guide to the popular trails of Whitehorse
Produced by the City of Whitehorse, you can download the PDF from their website for free, or purchase the booklet from a local bookstore.
www.whitehorse.ca/trails

Whitehorsewalks.com
Made by a local volunteer keen to get people excited about walking, you can view maps and tips for safe and healthy exploring around Whitehorse.

Whitehorse Recreation Trail Guide App
Purchase and download this locally made guide. It shows the variety of trails and their difficulty in Whitehorse, and is GPS enabled so as to pinpoint your present location.

Yukonhiking.ca and yukonbiking.ca
These grassroots websites offer trail descriptions and maps for popular mountain biking routes and longer hiking routes surrounding Whitehorse.

Keep urban wildlife wild and alive

Whitehorse is the wilderness city and it's not uncommon to have large animals wandering through. Animals that become habituated to and reliant on humans for food can be dangerous. Many animals lose their lives each year due to the actions of humans.

Here are some tips on how you can stay safe and help keep our wildlife healthy and wild:

- ➔ Maintain a respectful distance - use binoculars for a close look.
- ➔ Never approach, harass, or feed wildlife (including birds).
- ➔ Keep dogs on a leash and under control, and pick up after them to prevent the spread of diseases.
- ➔ Pick up and carry out any litter so that animals don't eat it.
- ➔ Always practice bear safety, even in urban greenspaces. Bears are not uncommon in Whitehorse neighbourhoods, and you should carry bear spray on your walks.
- ➔ Leave flowers for all to enjoy. Take a picture or draw a sketch so others can see them too.
- ➔ If you find a young animal, move away quickly. The parent is likely nearby and waiting for you to leave.



Wildlife Viewing Program
Environment Yukon
Box 2703 (V5N)
Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C6
867-667-8291

wildlife.viewing@gov.yk.ca
wildlifeviewing.gov.yk.ca



ISBN 978-1-55362-788-3
Revised 2017