

Welcome to Middle McIntyre Creek!

McIntyre Creek is located within the traditional territories of the Ta'an Kwäch'an and Kwanlin Dün First Nations. The creek starts on the upper slopes of Mt. McIntyre, flows through the wetlands west of the Copper Ridge residential area, across the Alaska Highway, Mountainview Drive and Range Road and into the Yukon River. Middle McIntyre Creek is the area between the Alaska Highway and Mountainview Drive.

McIntyre Creek and its associated wetlands and forests have been identified as the largest, continuous *Significant Wildlife Area* in Whitehorse, providing habitat for a diversity of wildlife including beaver, otter, fox, pine marten and water shrew. The area functions as a wildlife corridor for larger mammals travelling between the Yukon River and upland areas, including moose and bear. The creek supports Chinook salmon, Arctic grayling and (introduced) rainbow trout. Over 100 bird species have been observed along McIntyre Creek including waterfowl, eagles, swans, Gray Jays, magpies, juncos, robins, Bohemian Waxwings, hawks and Pine Grosbeaks.

Common trees: lodgepole pine, white spruce and trembling aspen.

Common plants: bearberry (kinnikinnick), soapberry (buffaloberry), labrador tea, mosses and lichens.

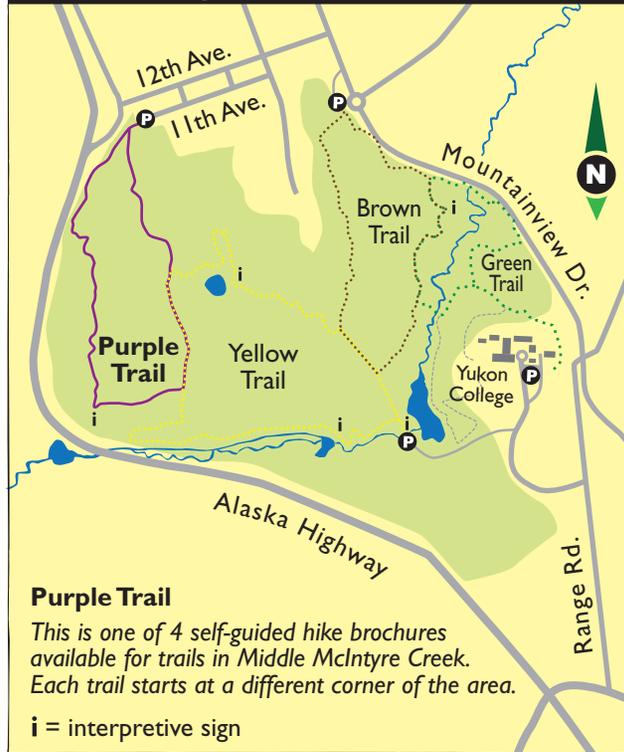
Common flowers: crocus, arctic lupine, elegant death camas, bluebells, wild rose, spotted saxifrage and Yukon beardtongue.

Trails are not maintained – use at your own risk.

Please:

- Do not feed or approach wildlife.
- Stay on the main trails. Vegetation grows slowly due to the dry climate, sandy soils and long winters. This makes the land prone to erosion.
- Stay away from the water's edge - this area is sensitive to disturbance and important wildlife habitat.
- Take out all garbage.
- Pick up after your dog.

Middle McIntyre Creek:



Want to learn more? www.friendsofmcintyrecreek.org
www.yukonconservation.org

This publication made possible with the assistance of:



Exploring Middle McIntyre Creek: **PURPLE Trail**



Time: ~1.5 hours

Distance: ~ 4 km

Difficulty: Moderate

Key Features: excellent views of city, surrounding mountains and McIntyre Creek marsh; eagle watching opportunities; meadows with seasonal wildflowers.

Safety Considerations:

Watch for mountain bikers on downhill sections and blind corners; exposed roots, loose rocks, sandy sections and steep hills; keep back from the edge of Rabbit's Foot Canyon.


Yukon Conservation Society



The green heart of a wilderness city

P Parking and Starting Point:

Park at the cul-de-sac at the end of 11th Ave. (do not to block any of the private driveways) and enter through the green gates visible from the cul-de-sac.



Fir St.

12 Ave.

11 Ave.



Centennial St.



Whitehorse Bus Directions:

- Route 1 Riverdale North – Porter Creek Express stop: 12th and Fir St.
- Route 4 Porter Creek – Crestview stop: Fir St.

Purple Trail

Yellow Trail

Bald Hill

Stinky Lake



i = interpretive sign

Along the Trail

(follow in anti-clockwise direction)

Walk up the trail until you reach a main junction.(1) Take the trail leading left uphill.

Go through a small clearing, then take the trail leading right. The trail will lead you along the top of Rabbit's Foot Canyon. For your own safety, do not approach the Canyon's edge.

Keep to the main trail, ignoring offshoots. After a while, the trail leaves the canyon edge and wanders, mostly uphill, through the forest.

Continue following this main trail as it levels out and then wanders downhill. You will arrive at an overlook (2) with a view of McIntyre Creek Marsh on your right, across the Alaska Highway.

Turn left and follow the trail downhill and into the woods. Continue along until you reach a clearing with a T-junction.(3) Take the left trail.

About halfway up the steep hill, watch for a small, natural spring on your right.

After you finally crest this long hill, coast along sticking with the main trail until you reach a major 4-way trail junction just below Bald Hill.(4) *[The view from the top of Bald Hill is worth the climb!]*.

Take a left and follow the main trail straight back to the trailhead.

Alaska Highway

McIntyre Creek

3

Yellow Trail

4

2

i