

Welcome to Middle McIntyre Creek!

McIntyre Creek is located within the traditional territories of the Ta'an Kwäch'än 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.



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

This publication made possible with the assistance of:



Exploring Middle McIntyre Creek: **YELLOW Trail**



Time: ~ 2 hours

Distance: ~ 5.2 km

Difficulty: Hard

Key Features: excellent views of McIntyre Creek wetlands, Stinky Lake, the city and surrounding mountains.

Safety Considerations:

Watch for mountain bikers on steep hills and blind corners; some long climbs and descents; steep hills; sandy and rocky sections (hiking poles are recommended).



The green heart of a wilderness city

P Parking and Starting Point:

Park at the blue pumphouse behind the Yukon College. To reach this parking area, turn left onto a dirt road about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up College Drive and follow this road to its end.

Along the Trail

(follow in clockwise direction)

Cross McIntyre Creek via the multiuse bridge to the left of the pumphouse and take the first left. (1)

Follow this main trail, keeping left. The trail winds up a hill to reach a picnic table and a good view of one of the many wetlands along McIntyre Creek. (2)

Stay on the left main trail that runs parallel to the wetland.

Please do not use the smaller, less established trails closer to the wetland – this is sensitive habitat.

You will come to an intersection – continue straight through under the powerlines. (3)

Keep to the main trail – a deeply rutted dirt road really – until you come to a clearing and another set of powerlines. (4)

Turn right and follow the powerlines. At the second power pole, take the trail on your left. (5) *[The trail difficulty increases at this point – for a shortcut, follow the powerlines back to the pumphouse parking lot.]*

This trail will take you into the woods and up a steep hill (stay left for better footing). Once at the top, the trail lets you rest awhile before starting to climb again. This is quite a long hill. Watch for a small, natural spring on your right almost halfway up.

After the climb ends and the trail leads you downhill for a bit, watch for a trail on the right. (6) Take this small trail. It will meander through the woods and gradually lead you down to Stinky Lake.

You will come to a dirt road that accesses the lake. (7) Take the road to the left and downhill. Turn onto the first trail that appears on the right. (8)

Follow this trail downhill to a junction with another dirt road. (9) Turn right and follow that road until the first trail on your right leading uphill. (10)

Take that trail uphill, going right at the junction.

After a long climb, you can once again overlook Stinky Lake. (11) Keep left and follow the trail left along the ridge and then downhill.

Keep straight on this trail, passing straight through a 4-way intersection, until you reach an opening with a log bench and a view of Yukon College and downtown Whitehorse in the distance. (12)

From there, take the right trail leading downhill. Keep to the main trail until you reach the bottom of the hill. Take a left at the junction which will lead you to a dirt road (Pine St. extension). (13)

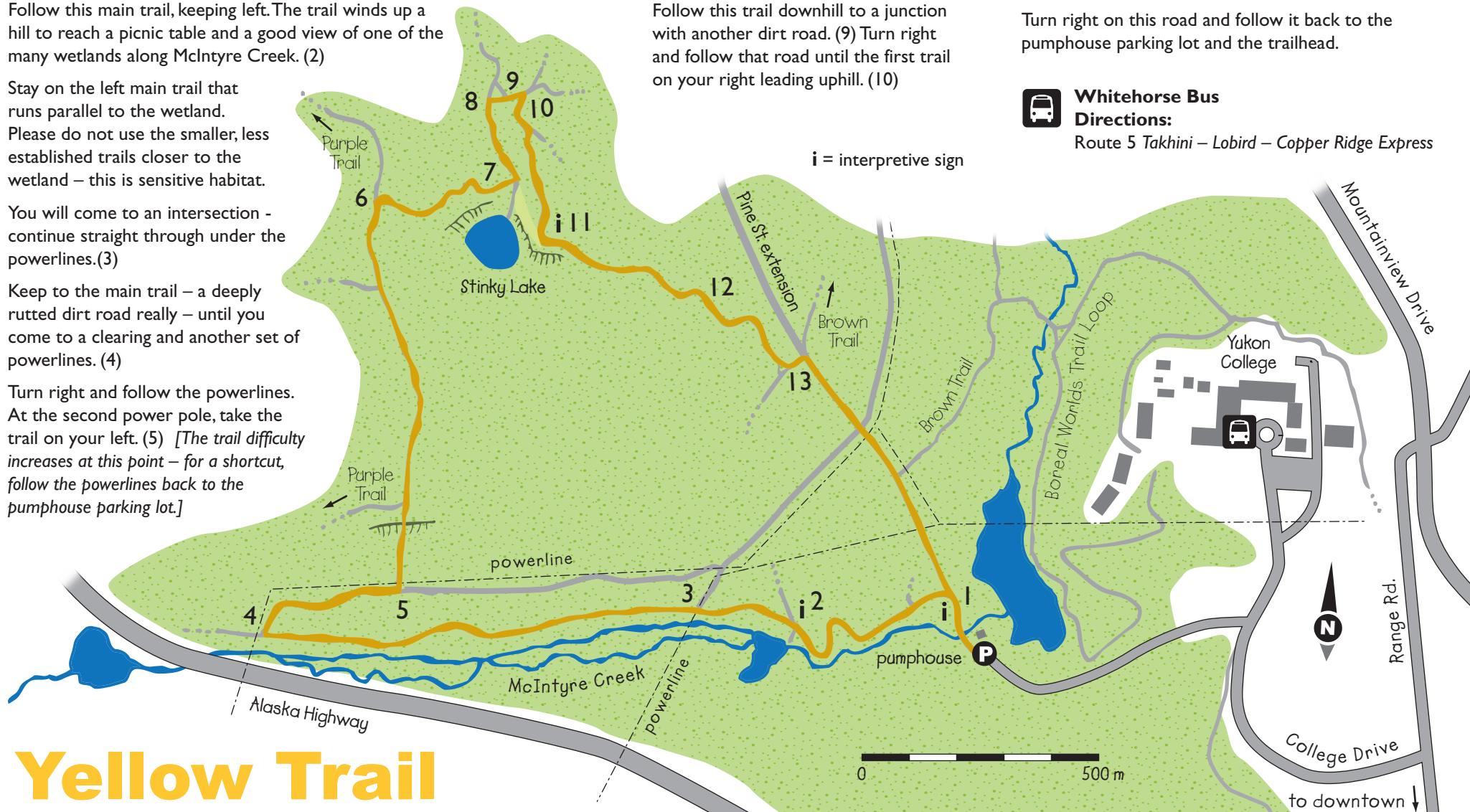
Turn right on this road and follow it back to the pumphouse parking lot and the trailhead.



Whitehorse Bus

Directions:

Route 5 Takhini – Lobird – Copper Ridge Express



Yellow Trail