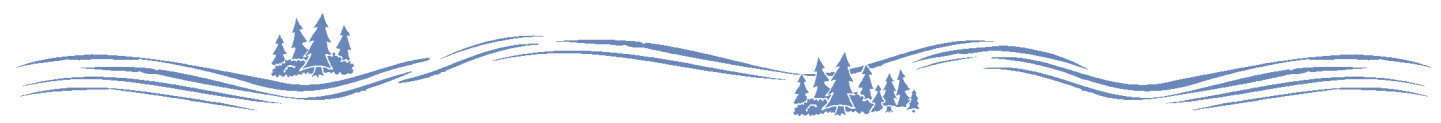


WILDLIFE

IN

WHITEHORSE

A Guide To Our Natural Areas



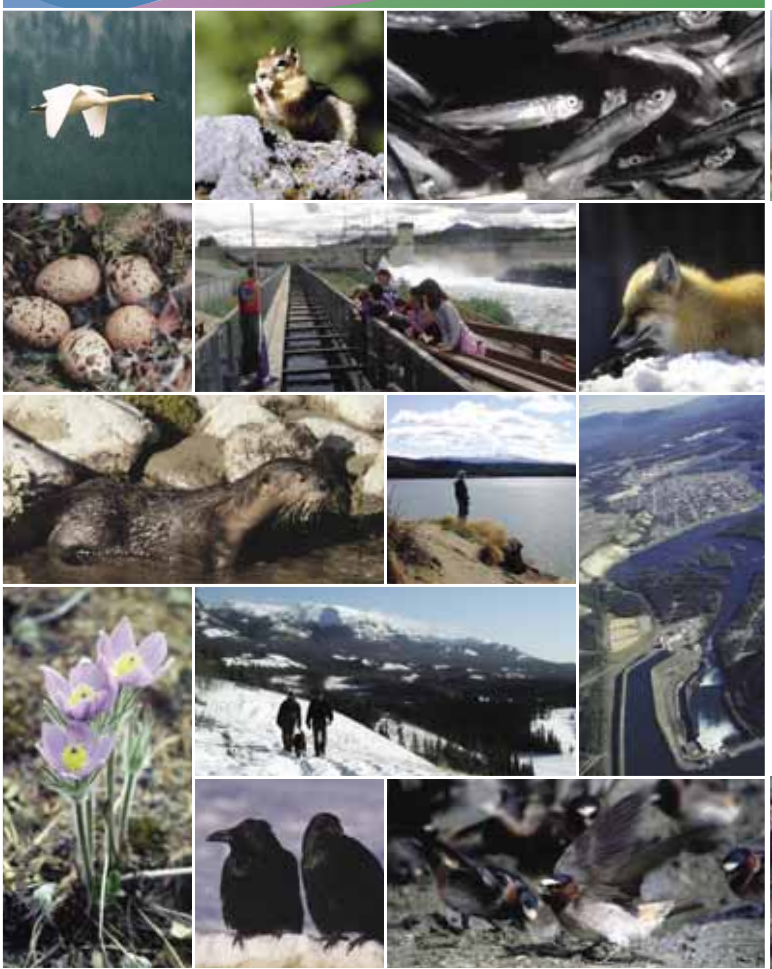
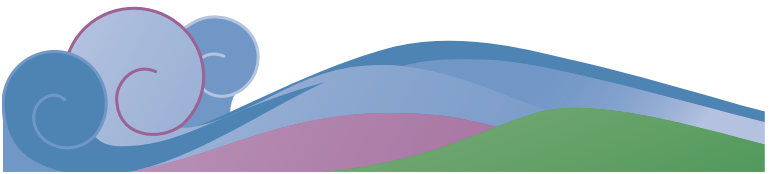
A Guide to Wildlife Viewing in the Wilderness City!

A number of other brochures, maps and guidebooks can provide you with more detailed information about these, and other, natural areas in Whitehorse and the southern lakes area of Yukon. These include:

Maps/Guidebooks:

- Whitehorse Trail Map
- Whitehorse The Wilderness City
- Hikes and Bikes
- Yukon Hiking Guide

This brochure highlights some of Whitehorse's best wildlife viewing and nature appreciation sites. Whitehorse has always been a stopping place for travellers both human and animal. While you are looking for lynx, salmon or swans, enjoy the variety of wildlife in this wilderness city.



Wildlife Viewing Tips

- Bring binoculars or a spotting scope for a closer look without disturbing the animals.
- Get to know the species you wish to see.
- Find out which habitat type it prefers, when it is active and where it is most likely to be found.
- Spend time quietly observing after your arrival. Animals that have hidden themselves from view may be revealed after they sense no danger.
- You may find what appears to be an "orphaned" bird or animal – please leave it behind. The parents are most certainly nearby, waiting for you to move away before coming back to retrieve their offspring.
- Never allow your pet to run at large.
- Don't let someone harass wildlife. Please report illegal hunting, trapping or fishing to the Yukon "Turn in Poachers" hot-line at 1-800-661-0525.

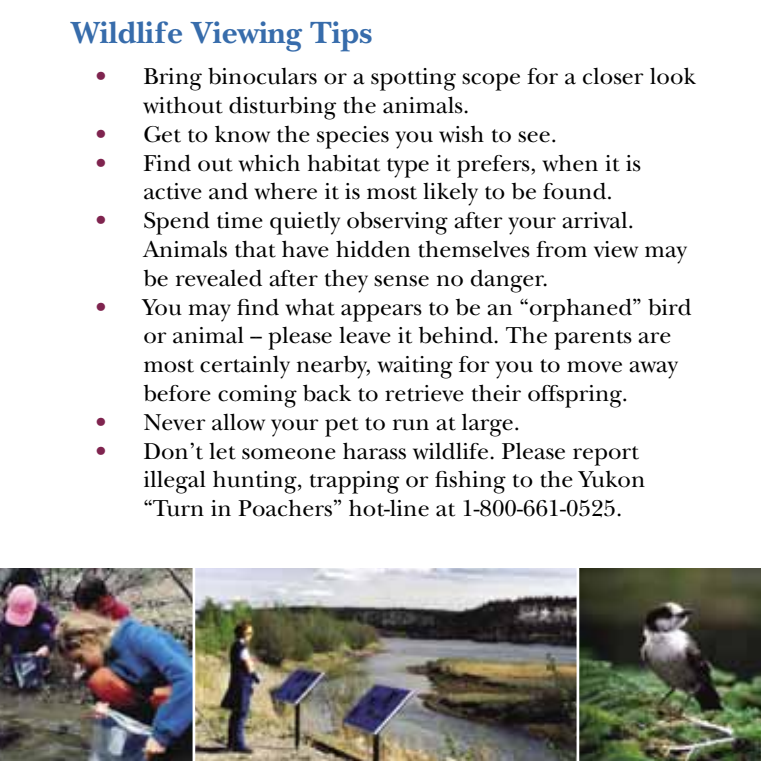
Brochures (free):

- Ten Great Places to go Birding in Whitehorse
- Enjoying Whitehorse Trails
- Exploring the Whitehorse Fishway
- Viewing Whitehorse from Above (Haeckel Hill)

These are available locally either through retail outlets or the offices listed below.

For more information about wildlife viewing opportunities in Whitehorse visit or contact –

- Whitehorse Visitor Reception Centre at 100 Hanson Street 667-3084
- Yukon Conservation Society at 302 Hawkins Street 668-5678
- Environment Yukon's Wildlife Viewing Program at #10 Burns Road 667-8291
- City of Whitehorse's Habitat Coordinator at 4210-4th Avenue 668-8347



Although these sites are fairly close to town, many of them are essentially "wilderness" so some care must be taken to ensure a safe, enjoyable outing. This includes:

- letting someone know where you are going and when you plan to return;
- taking appropriate clothing;
- taking note of trail junctions, and paying attention to distance and direction walked;
- staying on trails.

Whitehorse

The Wilderness City

1 • Boreal Worlds Trail (Yukon College)

This short (1.9 kilometre) well-marked nature trail starts at the south-west corner of the student parking lot at Yukon College. The trail takes you through a variety of habitats to the shores of a beaver pond on McIntyre Creek. An interpretive trail map is available free at the college bookstore.

2 • Long Lake

This popular day-use and swimming area is located about 3.5 kilometres along Wickstrom Road (off of Hospital Road). Located in a natural depression amidst the complex landforms created through glaciation, the picturesque forested setting is a great location for a quiet picnic, a short paddle or a hike along the 2.5 kilometre trail that encircles the lake. The road to Long Lake is not recommended for large RVs. Camping and fires are not permitted.

3 • Quartz Road Wetlands

The Quartz Road wetlands are a series of gravel bars, shallow river channels and small islands in the Yukon River across from the Chilkoot Shopping Centre. This quiet oasis is home to numerous fish and bird species and is considered one of the most significant wildlife areas in the city. The shallow channels are important habitat for about ten kinds of fish, including chinook salmon, northern pike, arctic grayling, three species of whitefish, longnose sucker, least cisco, slimy sculpin and lake chub. The islands support a large Mew Gull nesting colony and each spring hundreds of swans and other waterbirds use this area during migration.

4 • Kishwoot Island

A footbridge leads you across a short side channel of the Yukon River to Kishwoot Island – a great place for experiencing island ecology or looking for birds, while taking a stroll on the short, circular trail. The mix of forests (including, white spruce, alder and willow) on the islands and the numerous shallow side channels make this area important wildlife habitat.

5 • McIntyre Marsh

Located 3.4 kilometres along the Fish Lake Road, McIntyre Marsh is a great place to have a quiet lunch and do a little bird watching. The gazebo offers shelter and interpretive panels describe some of the birds that make this marsh their home. Watch for otters, beavers, muskrats, red foxes and coyotes. Because the marsh does not freeze, this is a year-round opportunity.

6 • Millennium Trail

This 5 kilometre paved trail takes you along both sides of the Yukon River, immediately upstream of Robert Campbell Bridge. On the east side of the river, the trail leads through forests of spruce, pine and aspen. On the west side the trail leads past the S.S. Klondike to Robert Service Campground,

and Bert Law Park. Even this close to town, you may be lucky enough to see coyote, beaver, mule deer or watch salmon in the shallows during August.

7 • Bert Law Park

Bert Law Park is a small island park in the Yukon River accessed from Robert Service Campground. It can also be reached along the Millennium Trail that starts at the S.S. Klondike. Accessed by a short footbridge, this park makes a great destination for bird watching, a quiet stroll and perhaps the chance to see a mule deer or beaver.

8 • Whitehorse Fishway

One of Whitehorse's premier natural history attractions, the world's longest wooden fish ladder was built in the late 1950's. Chinook salmon use the ladder to get past the Whitehorse dam on the way to their spawning grounds. Stop by the visitor centre (open during the summer) to learn more about the salmon and watch them negotiate the ladder. The fishway is located on the east side of the Yukon River, just below the dam, reached via Nisutlin Road in Riverdale.

9 • Schwatka Lake

Schwatka Lake was created by the construction of the Whitehorse dam in the 1950's, which flooded the "white horse" rapids. This lake is an important resting area for migrating waterfowl, while many mammals such as coyote, beaver and mule deer may also be seen. The lake can be enjoyed from many spots – The Miles Canyon Road runs along much of the western shore, while the Schwatka Lake day-use area, on the eastern shore, is reached via the Chadburn Lake Road. The 15 kilometre Yukon River Loop Trail is a great way to explore this historic area. It provides a well-marked circular route around Schwatka Lake and Yukon River, crossing on the Miles Canyon footbridge and the Robert Campbell Bridge near downtown.

10 • Hidden Lakes

The Hidden Lakes can be reached by traveling about 1.5 kilometres along the Chadburn Lake Road then turning left (east) onto a short access road. The Hidden Lakes are examples of "kettles" – large depressions created by left-over ice blocks when melting glaciers retreated. The hiking trails around the lakes provide great opportunities to see local wildflowers. Beavers are common and their lodges are easy to spot. Coyotes, red foxes and bears might also be seen in this area. The Chadburn Lake Road is not recommended for large RVs.

11 • Yukon River Loop Trail

The Yukon River Loop Trail offers a quieter, less developed route than the Millennium Trail. The trail can be reached from many spots – across from the Whitehorse Fishway, at Miles Canyon, or at the entrance to the Robert

Service Campground. The portion closest to downtown overlaps with the Millennium Trail. This 15 kilometre loop trail leads you through many different terrains and habitats on both sides of the river. The trail offers wonderful views and an opportunity to learn more about the natural and human history of Whitehorse. A number of interpretive panels along the route explain some of the features. The trail route is marked, although there are a number of side trails and alternate routes in some places. On the west side of the river, the trail follows the Miles Canyon Road. Allow about 4-5 hours to complete the whole route.

12 • Miles Canyon

Miles Canyon is accessible via the Miles Canyon Road, on the west side of the Yukon River. Here the river narrows into a canyon banked by black columns of basalt rock. You can cross the river on a footbridge that leads to many miles of hiking trails, including the Yukon River Loop Trail, which heads downstream towards town. Or hike upstream 1.5 kilometres to Canyon City, where stampedeers heading for Dawson City had to begin the portage around the rapids. This stretch of the river is a good place to see otters and beavers.

13 • Chadburn Lake

Chadburn Lake is at the end of the Chadburn Lake Road, about 8 kilometres from its junction opposite the Whitehorse Fishway. The lake is a great place to put in a canoe for a day of paddling. If you visit on an early summer evening you may be lucky enough to see little brown bats – the only commonly seen bats in Yukon and voracious eaters of mosquitoes! A number of trails lead both north and south from the boat launch area. There is a small dock and a covered picnic shelter, but facilities are limited. Camping and fires are not permitted.

14 • Grey Mountain

Grey (or Canyon) Mountain is the prominent landmark southeast across the valley. About 6 kilometres up the Grey Mountain Road (off of Alsek Drive in Riverdale), a small viewpoint overlooks the Yukon River Valley. You may want to continue up the road by foot or mountain bike to the sub-alpine areas and a chance to see Dall sheep or ptarmigan. The road is not maintained beyond the viewpoint and is not suitable for vehicle travel.

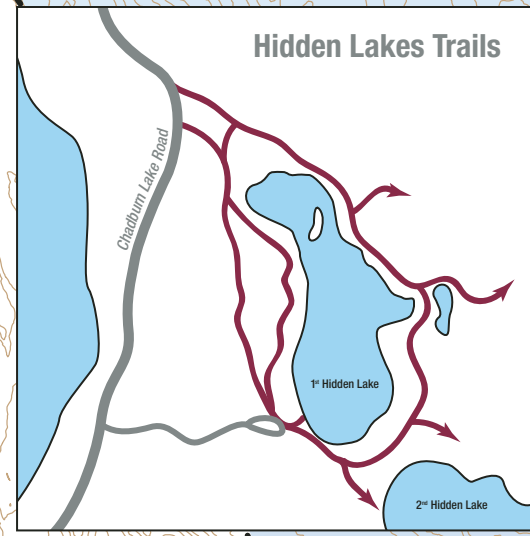
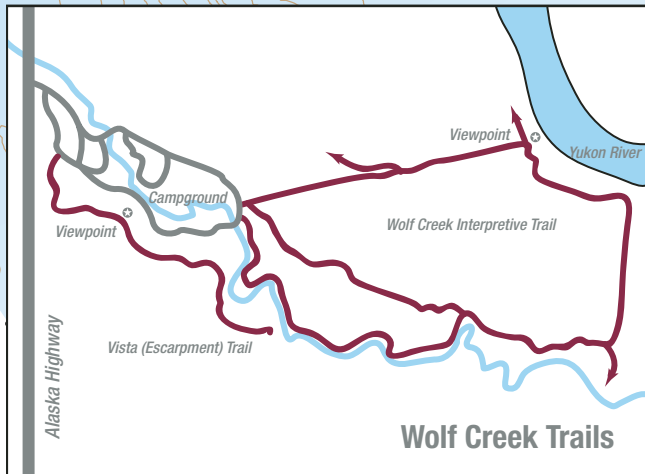
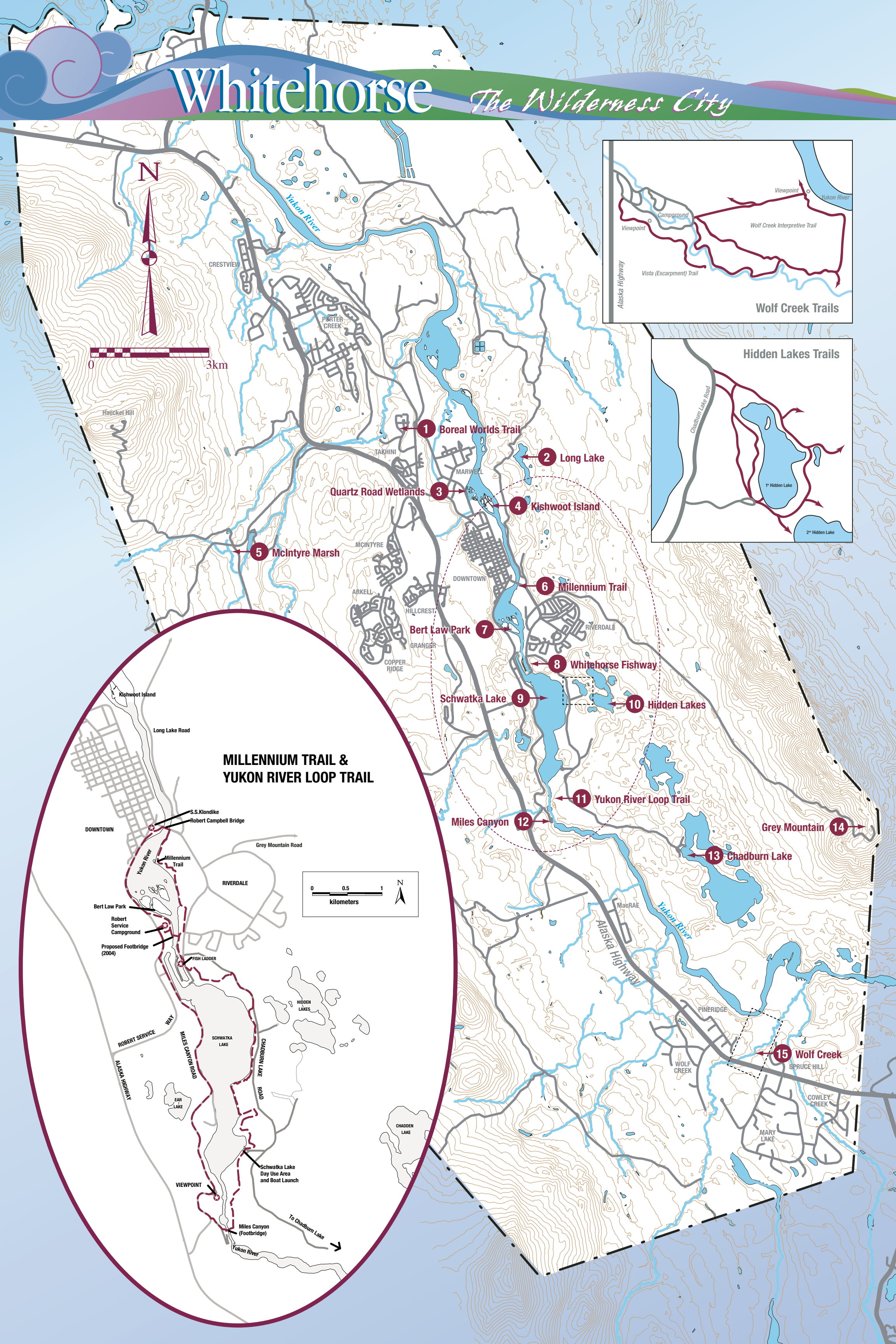
15 • Wolf Creek

Nestled in an old-growth spruce forest, Wolf Creek is a great place to camp. You can go for a walk on the 3 kilometre Wolf Creek Trail to a viewpoint overlooking the Yukon River. A trail guide is available at the trailhead, at the far end of the campground. In late August you may be able to see chinook salmon spawning. The Vista Trail (also called the Escarpment Trail) near the highway climbs above the creek to a viewing deck overlooking the valley.

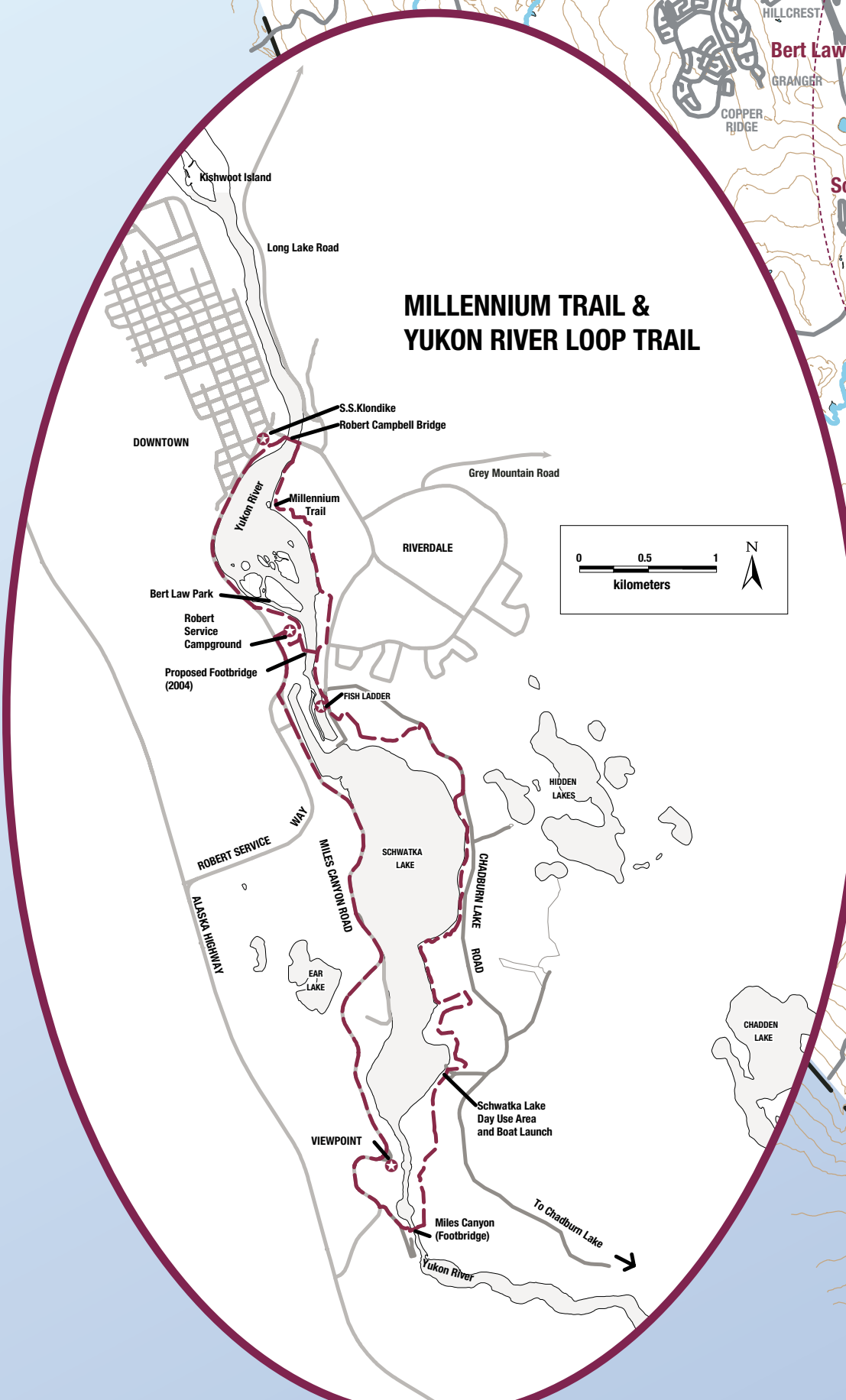


Whitehorse

The Wilderness City



MILLENNIUM TRAIL & YUKON RIVER LOOP TRAIL



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- 2 Long Lake
- 3 Quartz Road Wetlands
- 4 Kishwoot Island
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- 6 Millennium Trail
- 7 Bert Law Park
- 8 Whitehorse Fishway
- 9 Schwatka Lake
- 10 Hidden Lakes
- 11 Yukon River Loop Trail
- 12 Miles Canyon
- 13 Chadburn Lake
- 14 Grey Mountain
- 15 Wolf Creek