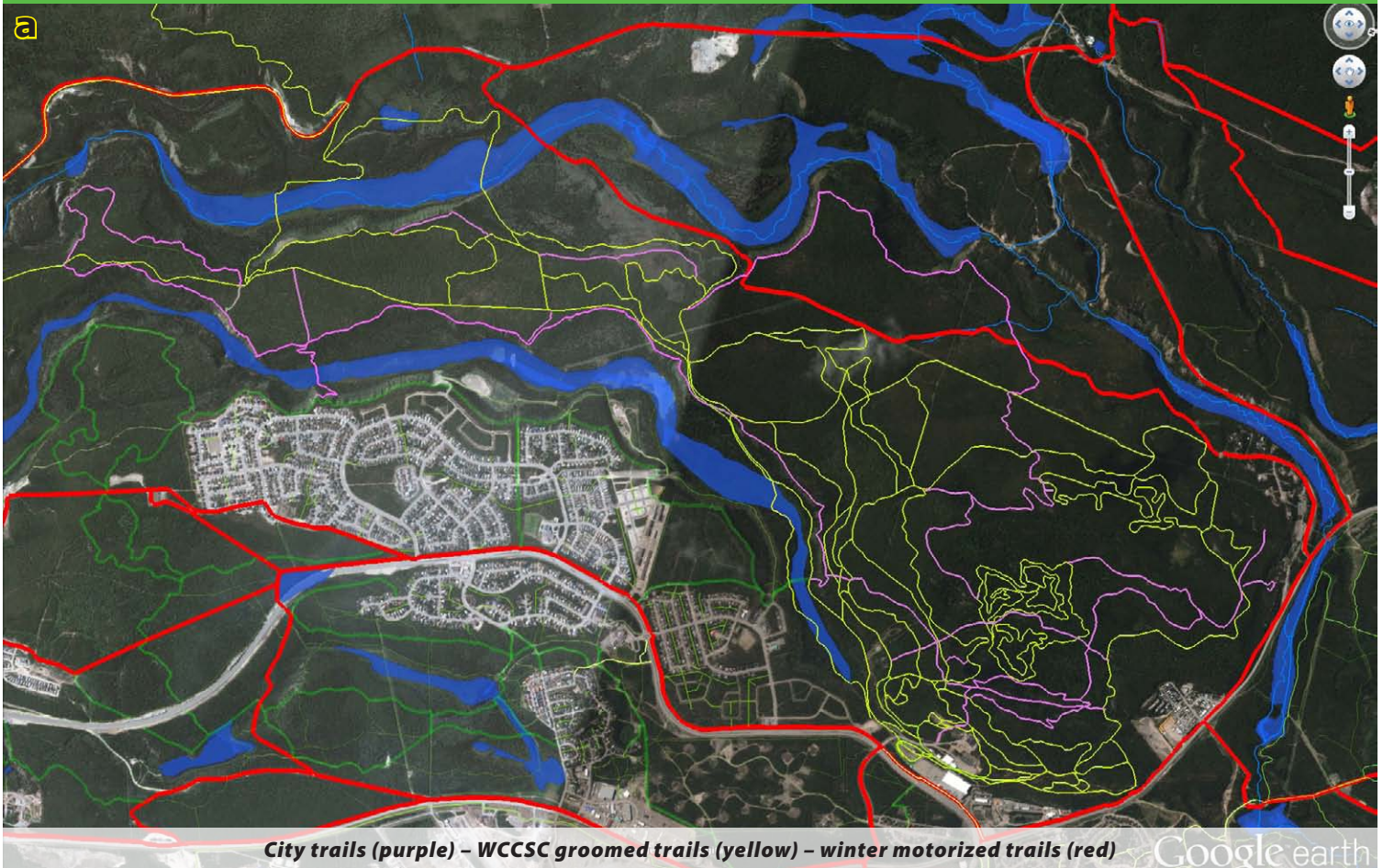


Mount McIntyre Recreation Area
ALL-SEASON WALKING TRAILS



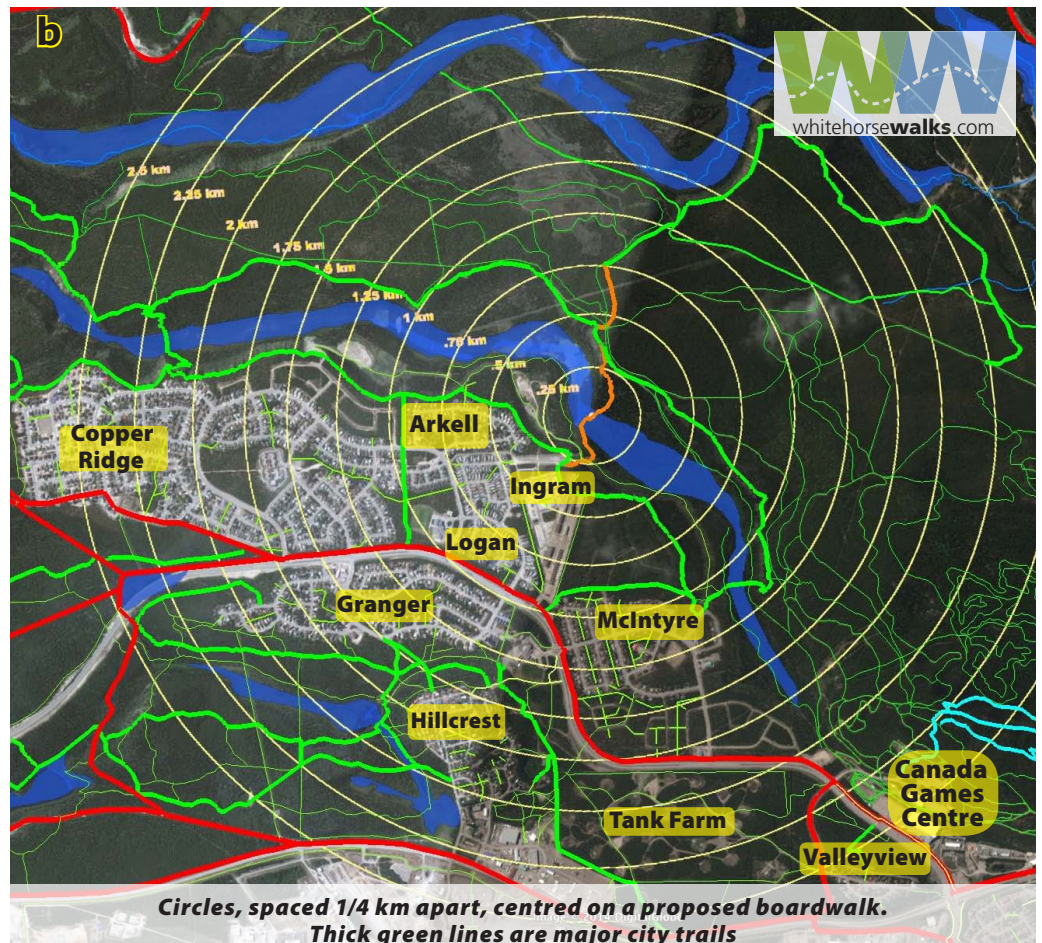
City trails (purple) – WCCSC groomed trails (yellow) – winter motorized trails (red)

“Start a public conversation about how to make your community a great place for children and families.” *Wellness plan for Yukon’s children and families*

“...fostering environments which support healthy behaviours and active lifestyles demands collaboration across governments, within communities, between groups and organizations, and amongst individuals.” *Renewed Yukon active living strategy*

First, some compliments: Over the past four years, the City of Whitehorse has orchestrated a wonderful new network of trails within the WCCSC network of trails (Fig. a). Good work! Thanks go to the City’s trail crew and Contagious Mountain Bike Club, the ski club, and various trail building groups.

The map (Fig. b) of above-the-airport neighbourhoods shows area scale. Now the task is to ensure that as many people as possible use these new trails in a simple and sustainable way so as not to interfere with the ski club’s need for safe, groomed trails and revenue generation.



Circles, spaced 1/4 km apart, centred on a proposed boardwalk. Thick green lines are major city trails

One way of encouraging people to live healthy active lives is to first look at walking and neighbourhood trail usage:

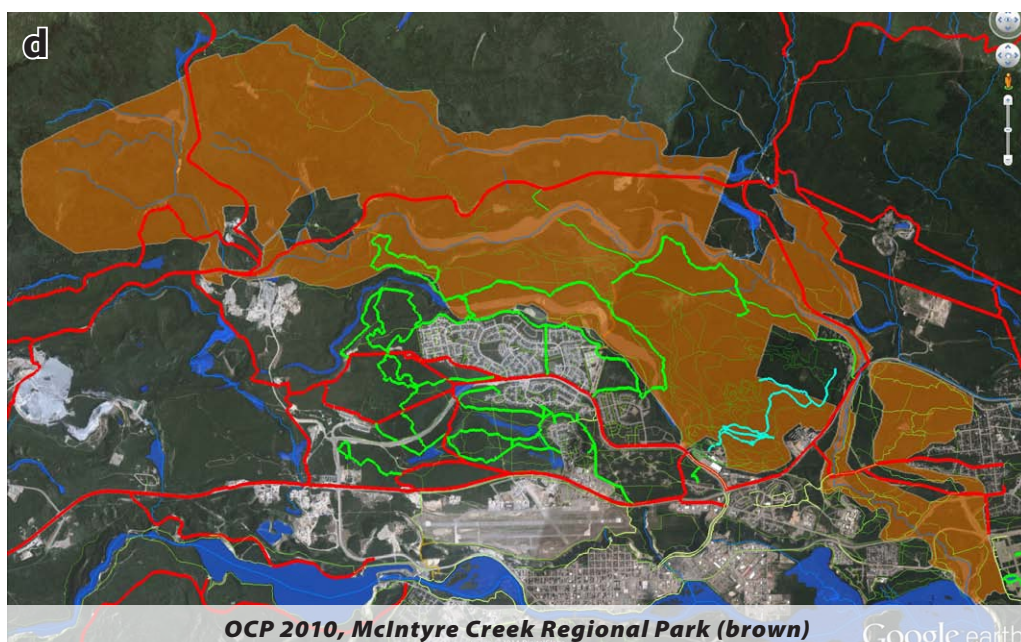
- Walkers need to be able to use trails in their own neighbourhoods, without having to drive elsewhere.
- Walkers need a well marked trail network with a variety of loop trails and destinations. They need to feel safe. Signage at trail heads and groomed trail crossings needs to be well thought out regarding messaging. All trail crossings need waypoint markers.
- Walkers need a set of trails they can use at any time of year.
- Going for a walk from home in a natural setting needs to be easy.

There are over 7,000 people living above the airport and this number continues to grow (Fig. c). With over a quarter of the population of the city living here, they will rightly want a voice in a shared stewardship with the City and WCCSC around the Mount McIntyre Recreation Area, a significant part of their greenspace. Lack of demand for input should not be misconstrued as disinterest.

As more people walk trails such as the new connector and the Porcupine Ridge Trail from the new bridge behind McIntyre, greenspace use is becoming a neighbourhood topic. Interpretation will provide a greater connection with the nature and geography found here and make the neighbourhoods strong allies in caring for its ecological integrity.

The area is also a significant portion of the McIntyre Creek Regional Park (Fig. d). The importance of its natural beauty (Fig. e) will become like the Chadburn Lake and Millennium trail areas have for Riverdale and downtown residents, in particular, and City residents, in general.

Critical is to make the trail needs of walkers, snowshoers, skiers and snowbikers work harmoniously. Looking at how another overlapping network — roads and railroads — works might be instructive. Everyone acknowledges that cars are not allowed on rail lines, and that trains are not allowed on roads. Yet these two networks co-exist reasonably well, with safety features built in where they cross. Special passes are not required for vehicles to use rail crossings.



The few places where one needs to cross a groomed ski trail are shown (Fig. f) with yellow crossing signs.

The city trail crew is currently making a new trail to ensure the Hawk Ridge/Copper Trail crossing (1) works well.

Near Harvey's Hut, a short piece of new trail is needed (orange line) to enable a safe crossing of Crossing Junction (2).

Rerouting the Porcupine Ridge Trail where it meets Dog/Sundog (3), putting it on the valley side of the ski trails, will simplify this crossing. Crossing the Dog Trail (4) works well, much like at the Copper crossing (5).

All-season walking access requires wetland crossings. The orange line (6) shows where a boardwalk and some trail work will encourage shorter loop neighbourhood walks and bikes, especially for residents of McIntyre, Logan, Ingram and Arkell in spring, summer and fall. This will provide a significant new recreation focus for these neighbourhoods

At (7) a bit of trail work (orange line) and a bridge would enable summer access to the Copper Haul Road and the trails on Mount McIntyre, making a major improvement to area trail use.

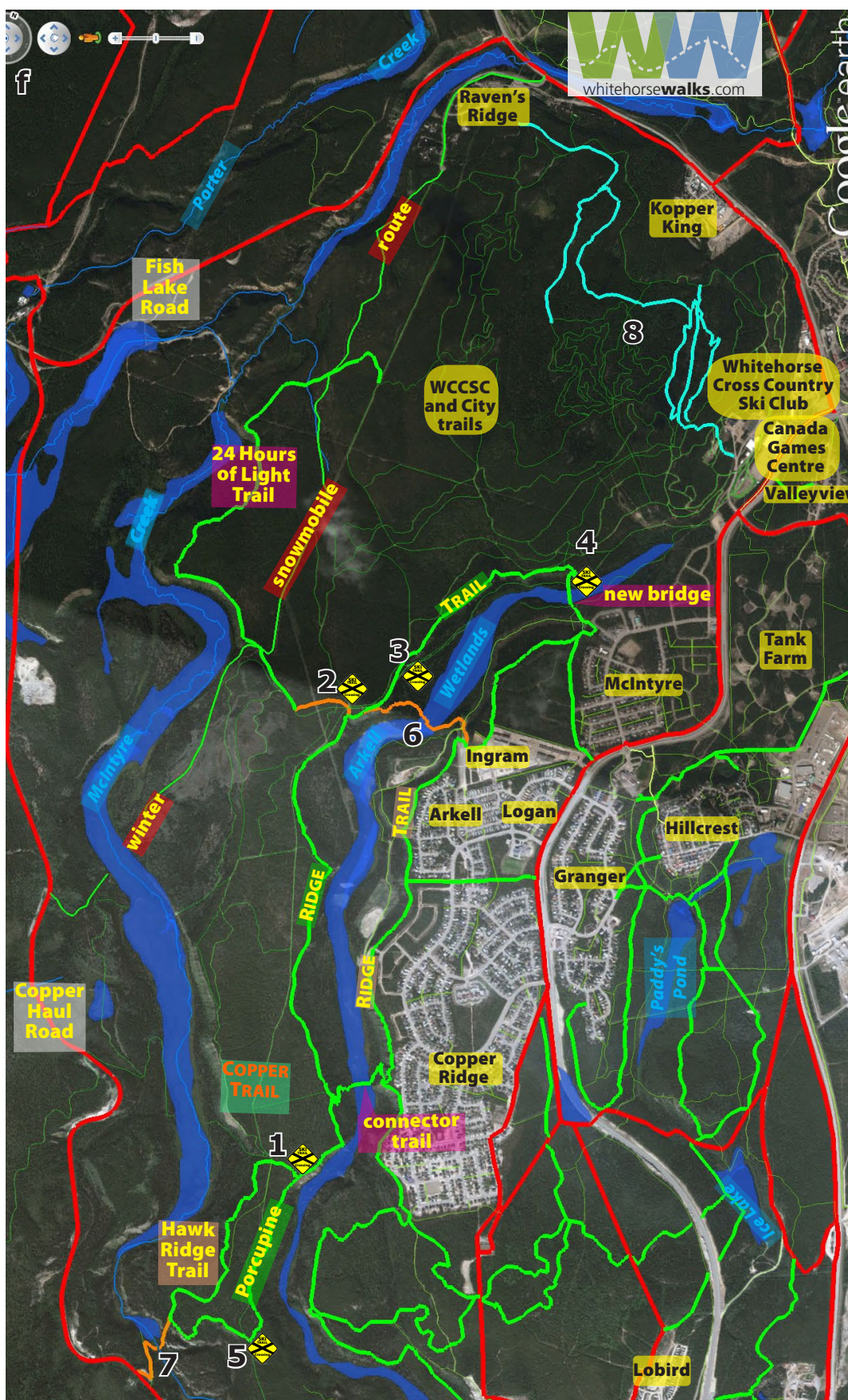
Last year, the turquoise trails (8) were only for CMBC snowbikes but in the interest of civic fairness, they should also be open for public snowshoe use. Again, crossings must be safe.

Dog owners will need to follow the ski club's dog rules, especially on parts of the Porcupine Ridge Trail.

Again, I'd like to thank all involved for the work being done to make walking a more viable and attractive lifestyle choice for all Whitehorse residents.

More recreational walking will improve our walking culture, furthering the city's active transportation goal of doubling walking trips by 2031.

These few achievable and realistic modifications to the City trail network will bring the good work that has already been done to a new level, and accomplish a balance of fairness, inclusion and accessibility.

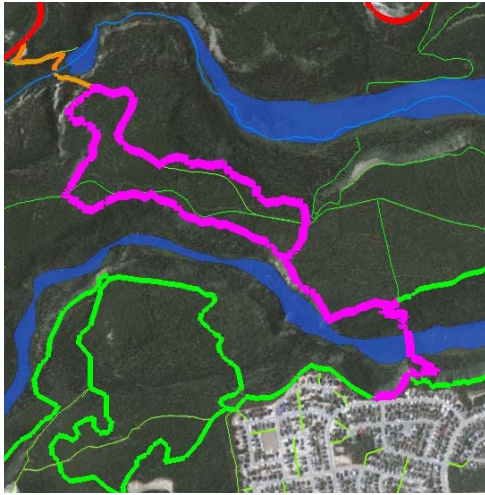


Thick green lines: City trails identified by the Above-the-airport Neighbourhood Trail Task Force as non-motorized trails.

Thick red lines: City trails as identified by the Snowmobile and ATV By-laws as motorized trails. The snowmobile route through the area is shown as a medium green line for its summer non-motorized status.

Faint, thin green lines: A mix of ski club groomed trails, neighbourhood trails, and public right-of-ways in the area.

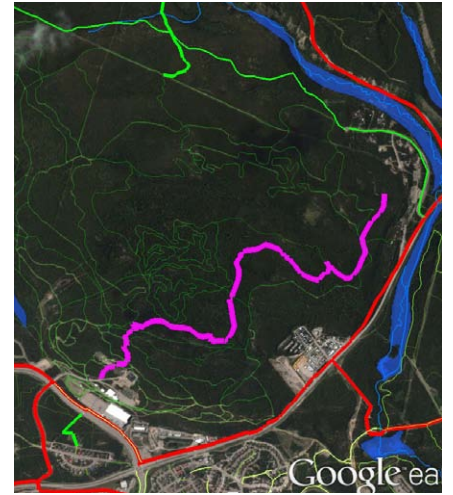
On this page are maps of some loop trails on this proposed all-season walking network. Note that on average, people walk about 4 km/hr.



Hawk Ridge route — 6.5 km



Porcupine Ridge-Copper Ridge trail — 8.7 km



Snowshoe-snowbike — 3.5 km

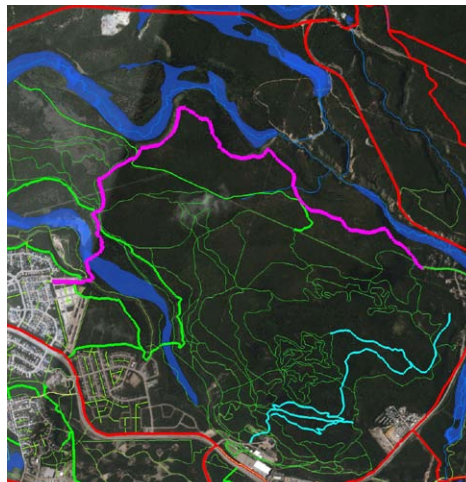


Blue Moon hiking friends along the Hawk Ridge trail

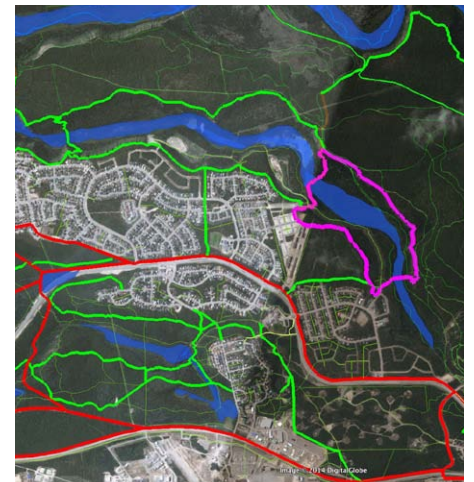
Maps below show loops made possible by constructing a new boardwalk.



Porcupine Ridge - Copper Ridge south (purple) trail — 6.6 km



24 Hour of Light route (purple) — 6 km



Porcupine Ridge - Copper Ridge north (purple) trail — 4.0 km