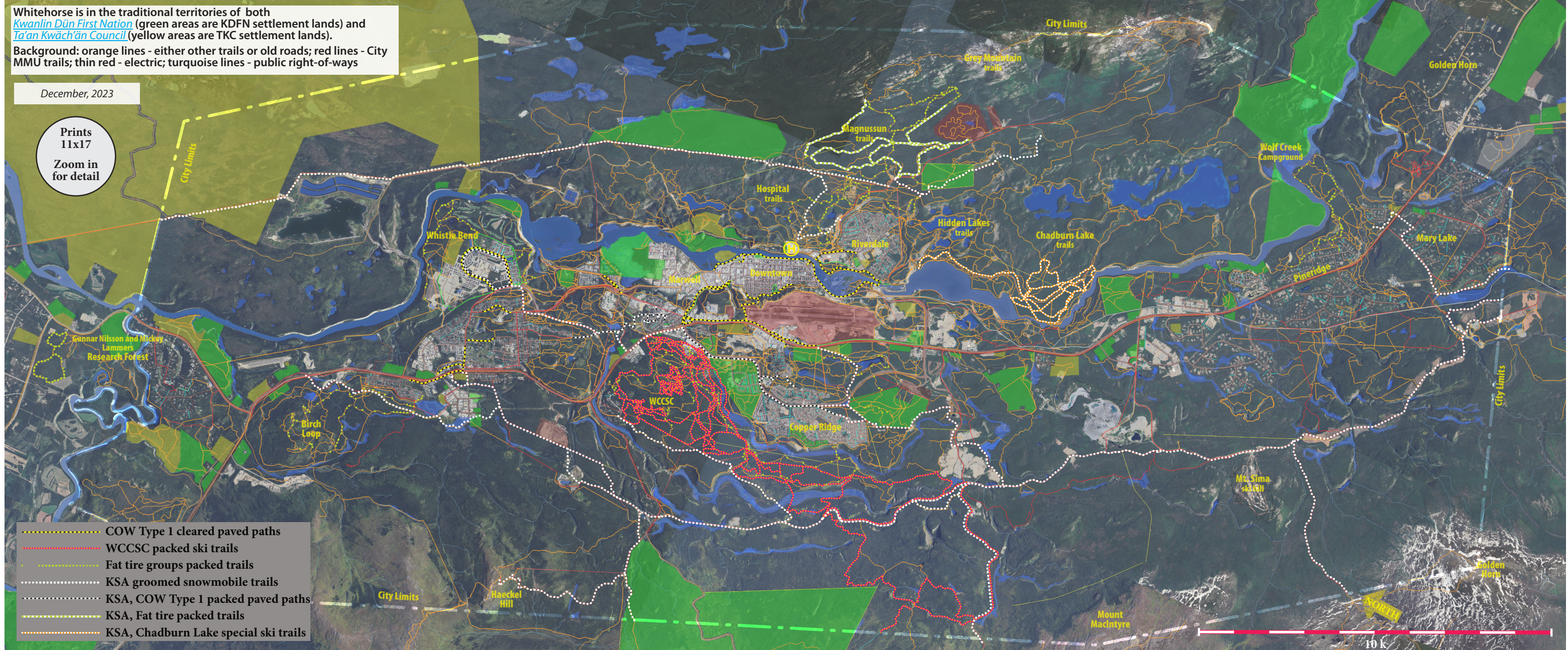


Groomed winter trails

Winter
 Whitehorse, the Wilderness City

In partnership with the
 Downtown Residents Association
 Trails Committee



Whitehorse is in the traditional territories of both [Kwanlin Dūn First Nation](#) (green areas are KDFN settlement lands) and [Ta'an Kwāch'an Council](#) (yellow areas are TKC settlement lands).
 Background: orange lines - either other trails or old roads; red lines - City MMU trails; thin red - electric; turquoise lines - public right-of-ways

December, 2023

Prints
 11x17
 Zoom in
 for detail

- COW Type 1 cleared paved paths
- WCCSC packed ski trails
- Fat tire groups packed trails
- KSA groomed snowmobile trails
- KSA, COW Type 1 packed paved paths
- KSA, Fat tire packed trails
- KSA, Chadburn Lake special ski trails

Active living in a winter city means doing things outdoors in the winter — and with cold, bitter, winter winds, it helps to know options for viable winter walks! Of course, variety and easy access are good for everyone, especially us walkers!

This map is a snapshot of trails that might be groomed from time to time, being ranked by grooming priority. Grooming can last a long time, but trails can easily look untouched! Has it been packed by snowmobile, snowdog, elan, snowshoes, foot traffic? In actuality, trail status varies wildly. Is it in the open, does it go through the woods? Shoulder seasons, sun, snow, wind, mid-winter melts, and use, are all involved.

Trail groomers: The City of Whitehorse (COW) maintains paved paths. But most grooming is by volunteers who love being outdoors in the winter, in nature and like to share that joy with others. In addition to snowshoe packing, under MOUs with COW, KSA and [CMBC](#) can use motorized equipment to groom trails.

Using groomed trails: If a groomed trail is soft and you start to punch through, turn back. Groomers (often volunteers) must do disheartening extra work to fill the ruts and holes.

Who can use? [Colin McCann \(CMBC\)](#) said “grooming is ...getting people out and about, not [making] barriers.” Note that ATVs can't be on trails from Nov 1 to Mar 31.

Dashed red-orange lines: To use Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club (WCCSC) trails, you must be on snowshoes or skis and have a club membership or day pass. Where fat tire-groomed trails cross ski trails you must follow WCCSC rules. Here's [a bit on](#) etiquette and on [ski trail status](#). A trail pass isn't required unless you rent a bike, use the washroom, wax room, sauna or any other indoor facility.

Dotted green lines: [Fat tire](#) bikers under CMBS, and others. For latest grooming: see [Trailforks](#) or [history](#). Some trails, such as at Wolf Creek campground, are snowshoe-packed as

an act of neighbourhood love, and most important, climate awareness! KSA (dotted green-white) groom some connector (old road) MMU trails and some non motorized trails.

Generally, there may be more done than shown, and some grooming might not be as timely as volunteers might wish.

Yellow-black lines: COW maintains [Snow and Ice Control Policy](#) Type 1 paved paths (plus non-paved Hillcrest-Granger and Hickory in Porter Creek). Priority rankings determines order they groom trails — [schedule](#). Trails are opened (passable) in 24 hours, ploughed in 72 and ice control if necessary within 24 hours. KSA also packs (dashed black-white) for the city.

For kicksledders, the City leaves a snow layer on the Lower Escarpment Trail, only using grit if necessary; such as during melt-freeze cycles when everything turns to ice and a gritted path is one of the few safe places to walk. Sidewalks are to be cleared, either by the COW or property owners.

Dotted white lines: KSA is guided by the City MMU [trail network](#). [Members groom](#) the city's TCT snowmobile trails, Chadburn ski trails, Whistle Bend, and connector trails to the TCT Copper Haul road. Grooming is not on a schedule — it's when volunteers have time. Snowmobile grooming requires a depth of snow and base to cover rocks etc. so is set on trail conditions for snowmobiles. Trail status, please see their [trail conditions](#).

Dotted orange-white lines: KSA grooms and track sets the red, green and yellow [Chadburn Lake trails](#) for skiers, with and without dogs. Trails are ok for non-motorized multi-use (skis, walkers, snowshoes); however, once trails are track set, fat bikes should stay off these Chadburn trails because tires end up in tracks and ruin them for skiers.

Mapping notes: Whitehorse is large and this map is very small — it can't easily show trail relationships when closely interwoven. The map was compiled from a variety of sources

and there's no guarantee trails are correct or groomed. Let me know if there's mapping errors or it's missing aspects.

Safety? Cold, being out an extended time, dark, snow, mist, wind-swept snow can all add to the possibility of getting lost. Carry a compass and know how to use it. [What3words](#) is a free phone app that could be useful in an emergency.

Other: [Mt. Sima](#) downhill ski trails, [website](#). [Dog Mushing](#).

Do you need to drive to access groomed trails? Most inner neighbourhood trails aren't groomed. Could this be better? For instance, a crushed gravel, accessible Riverdale Perimeter Trail would be great for neighbourhood socializing, walking conversations, as well as fat tire bikes. Grooming this and Riverdale's green walkways and major greenspace trails could make Riverdale a kicksled paradise! For more on recreational trail use, on trails in nature, see [WhitehorseWalks's trails in Riverdale](#) or [Whitehorse Centre](#).