

Access to the Trail

The Yukon River Loop Trail can be reached at a number of locations. Parking is available at the following sites, so they are logical starting points if you want to hike the complete circuit:

- Across from the Fish Ladder
- Schwatka Lake day-use area
- Miles Canyon
- Robert Service Campground
- SS Klondike/Rotary Peace Park

Please remember to lock your vehicle and to take your valuables with you.

Hiking the Trail

Allow about 4 to 5½ hours to complete the full 15½ kilometre circle. The description below, used in conjunction with the trail notes shown on the map, should provide you with enough information to follow the route.

The trail is marked with directional posts (you will see one at the trailhead across the road from the Fish Ladder), although there are a number of side trails and alternate routes in some places. Some parts of the trail are flat and/or paved; but there are a few short steep sections, and much of the trail is an uneven dirt surface. On much of the west side of the river, the trail follows the Miles Canyon Road – so please watch out for cars.

There are no facilities along the trail, other than washrooms and fountains at the SS Klondike and Robert Service Campground. Port-a-Potties are normally available at Miles Canyon, the Schwatka Lake day use area and the Fish Ladder in the summer.

Description of the Trail

(Described starting at the trailhead across from the Fish Ladder; and hiking the loop clockwise)

Don't be put off as you head up the trail across from the Fish Ladder – this steep, rough section is probably the worst part of the trail! Halfway up you can take a break at an interpretive panel describing some of

the flowers and grasses to be found on south-facing slopes such as this.

At the top of the hill turn right and head along the top of the slope to a point overlooking Schwatka Lake. An interpretive panel explains how important this area is to wildlife. Continue right to the top of "Lookout Hill", then down towards the Chadburn Lake Road. Don't take the road itself – instead turn west (right) towards the lake, then down through the pine forest.

As the trail parallels the edge of the lake for some distance it takes you through pine and spruce forest and along open grassy slopes often in bloom with crocuses, cinquefoil, locoweed and lupines. Just beyond the large beaver lodge at the edge of the lake, take a left turn back into the forest.

At the south side of the day use area the trail leads to a long, straight, slightly raised section of trail, which was the roadbed of a tramway, used during the gold rush to transport goods around Miles Canyon and the Whitehorse Rapids. Watch for the trail junction at the top of the short uphill where you will leave the 'tramway' trail. Turn right and head back towards the river, where an interpretive panel describes how various fish species call Whitehorse their home.

On the west side of the river, the route follows paved roads. At Robert Service Campground you can join the Millennium Trail, which parallels the road, or you can cross back over the river on the Rotary Centennial Footbridge. If staying on the west side of the river, cross the Robert Campbell Bridge and follow the Millennium Trail back to the fish ladder.

For more Information

Pick up a free copy of the brochure *Enjoying Whitehorse Trails*, available at the Visitor Reception Centre, 100 Hanson Street.



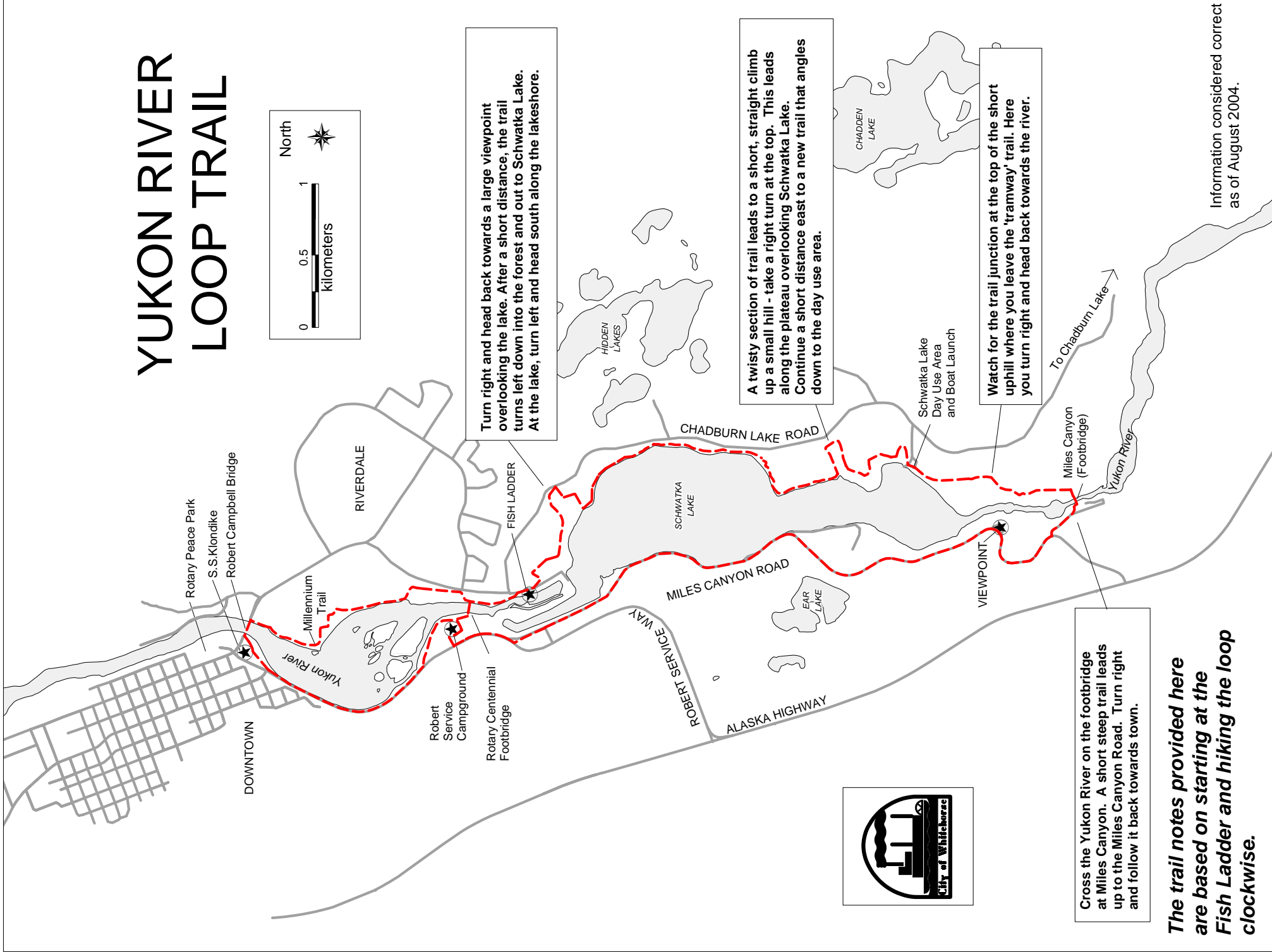
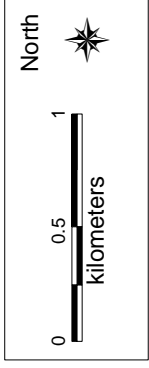
Yukon River Loop Trail

This 15½ kilometre loop trail leads you through many different terrains and habitats on both sides of the Yukon River, offering wonderful views and an opportunity to learn more about the natural and human history of Whitehorse.

A variety of interpretive panels explain some of the things you will see.



YUKON RIVER LOOP TRAIL



Turn right and head back towards a large viewpoint overlooking the lake. After a short distance, the trail turns left down into the forest and out to Schwatka Lake. At the lake, turn left and head south along the lakeshore.

A twisty section of trail leads to a short, straight climb up a small hill - take a right turn at the top. This leads along the plateau overlooking Schwatka Lake. Continue a short distance east to a new trail that angles down to the day use area.

Watch for the trail junction at the top of the short uphill where you leave the 'tramway' trail. Here you turn right and head back towards the river.

Cross the Yukon River on the footbridge at Miles Canyon. A short steep trail leads up to the Miles Canyon Road. Turn right and follow it back towards town.

The trail notes provided here are based on starting at the Fish Ladder and hiking the loop clockwise.

