

This print publication is intended to be used in conjunction with downloadable computer and mobile-phone friendly Google Earth tracks, available at SweetSingletrack.ca

Navigate to SweetSingletrack.ca and log-in by selecting the collage of images front and center on that site; access is free for the winter of 2020 / 2021.

Select the **Google** icon on the top / right of the main page. Scroll down to the line of text therein titled **Apex Winter Trails**. Select this link to download the Google Earth formatted digital data file representing this printed map.

Each portable device differs in how it deals with loading and presenting web-based Google Earth files. Several smartphone operating systems populate the market, and there are even differences in how versions of the same operating system handles Google Earth data files. As such, you may have a bit of a learning curve ahead of you. Unfortunately, the breadth of the portable tech market is beyond the scope of this brochure to walk you through.

These Google Earth files can be opened on any personal computer or portable device, as long as you have the free Google Earth application software installed beforehand.

Google Earth allows for pan, zoom, tilt and rotate functionality, providing excellent overviews of your area of interest.

The Google Earth application allows you to examine the aforementioned file prior to heading out for a day of trail exploration. It provides a comprehensive three-dimensional perspective that one cannot glean from two-dimensional maps.

Cellular-signal dead-zones exist in several areas around Apex Resort. Generally speaking, if you can visually identify the summit of Beaconsfield Mt. (Apex Resort) you will have cellular reception.

Pre-caching Google Earth files on your device is one method of providing terrain mapping to your smartphone without an in-the-field cell signal. Additionally, while it offers a smaller catalogue of trails than the SweetSingletrack.ca website, the Apple App for SweetSingletrack (no Android version) doesn't require cell service.

Pre-cache terrain by opening Google Earth and the **Alpine Winter Trails** file while you have a signal, then zoom & pan around the area of interest. This "caches" the background graphics on your smartphone, at least to an extent. Alternately, with a cell signal, terrain graphics live-stream via cell towers onto the smartphone.

I further recommend that smartphone users download, install and learn one or more of the countless GPS Apps available on the Apple and Google Play stores. For example; Alltrails.com, Topo Canada or Topo Maps+, along with many others. These Apps allow you to download and store Google Earth data files for later use at your convenience, regardless of the availability of cellular data service.

The current-position indicator on your portable device is supplied by satellite, not cell-towers, and it's nearly impossible to lose a satellite signal – unless you are hiking into a cave.

Note that cold temperatures affect your smartphone's battery performance to a high degree. Keep your smartphone completely powered-off or in 'Airplane Mode' when not in use for communication or navigation. In addition, keep the device in an inside pocket, close to, but not directly against your body, being mindful of condensation.

Created by Andrew Drouin, VP of the Apex Community Association, this publication is both a fund-raiser for maintenance of the incredible all-season trail networks that surround Apex Resort, as well as an effort to promote their use and expansion.

This area has been tracked and trailed for many years, and many explorable routes exist throughout the subalpine, not all of which are presented here. Refer to SweetSingletrack.ca for summer trails.

Many routes sport signage, including some of the Nickel Plate Lake trails, the Vista Loop and Nickel Plate Nordic Center trail networks. The balance of the other trails featured on the accompanying map lack signage or simply present ribbons on trees to navigate by.

Please note the skull and crossbones icons on the trail-map

Outside of groomed boundaries, you open yourself to one of nature's most powerful forces; **avalanches**. While there are only a couple of danger-zones marked on the map, **be aware that avalanches can occur on slopes as subtle as 15 degrees**. If you're keen to strap on winter adventure gear, you need to read as much as you can digest from this excellent site: avalanche.ca

A common point of contention between skiers and snowshoe trail enthusiasts is one of snowshoe tracks on track-set ski trails (official or not). In order that we may all get along, I ask my fellow snowshoe aficionados to please create snowshoe trails **adjacent to**, as opposed to atop of, existing ski trails that you encounter in the forest.

As with all trail maps produced by Andrew Drouin, this map represents non-maintained, front and back-country trail networks. You are truly on your own when exploring them, and as such, danger, potential injury or death exists out there in the winter world. If this is not something that you can accept, we offer a full refund on this print publication.

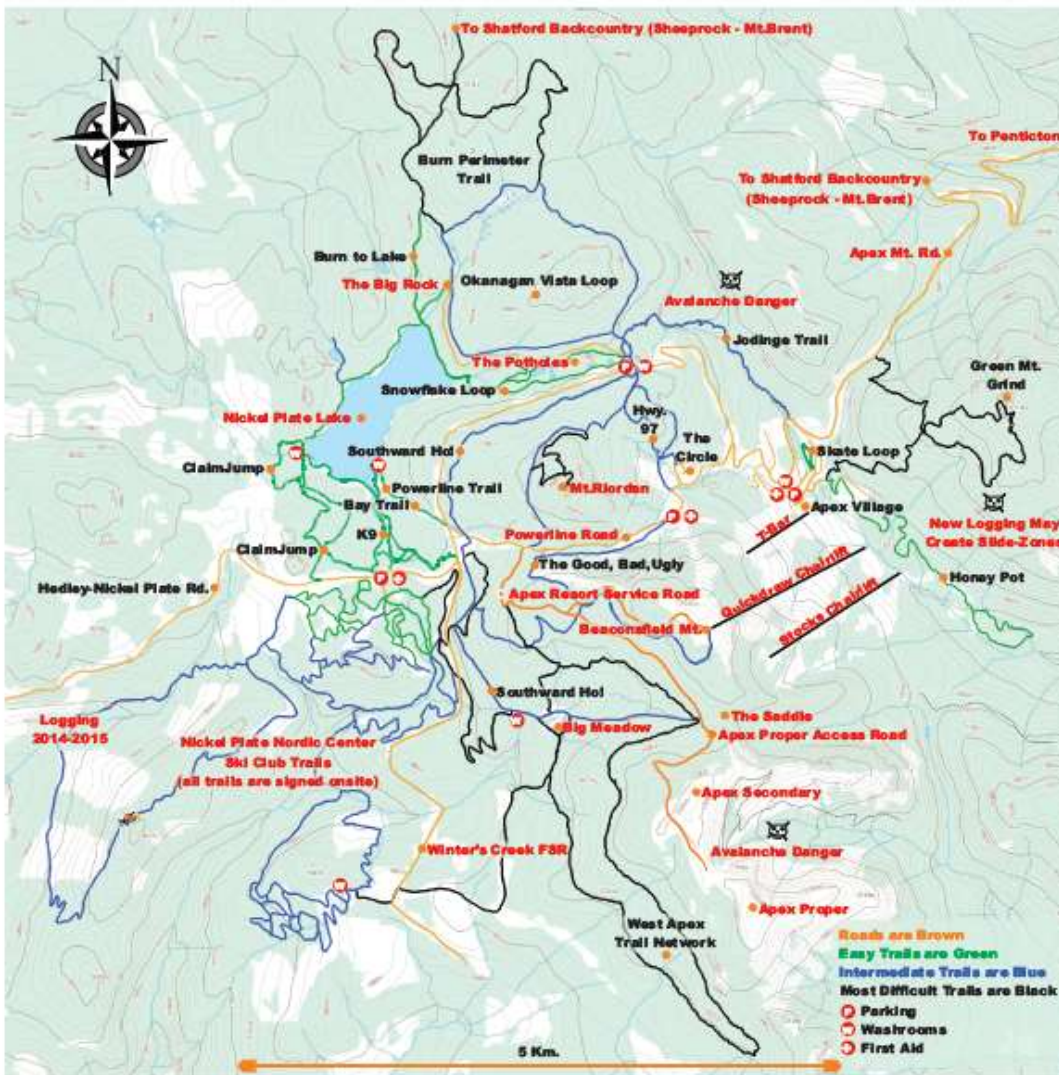
SweetSingletrack.ca

SubAlpine Winter Trails

XC - FRONT-COUNTRY - SNOWSHOE

With Downloadable GPS Files





Nickel Plate Nordic Center Trails are under the purview of the XC ski club. These fee-based club trails are clearly marked, making for excellent adventures.

West Apex Trail Network is an unmarked summer hike and bike route located on a moderate pitch, running out and back from Powerline Rd. A GPS unit is essential.

The Good, Bad, Ugly is a summer hike and bike route following moderate to steep pitches. The trail runs from the upper parking lot to the Beaconfield summit, with sporadic markers enroute. Bring a GPS and the digital track provided online.

Mt. Riordan hosts a short, wide - albeit steep, route to its summit. A beautiful vista awaits those choosing to visit. Access / egress is available via Powerline Rd., the Hedley-Nickel Plate road or the Hwy.97 trail described below.

Jodging follows Keremeos Cr. from the final hairpin turn on Apex Mt. Rd. for 1km before climbing left to meet "The Potholes". It was summer-cleared by the Apex Community Association in 2020. Beware of narrowing canyons: **Avalanche!**

Hwy.97 presents as a swooping singletrack through tight forest, connecting The Circle subdivision with a snowmobile route to the Mt. Riordan service road and Hedley-Nickel Plate Lake Rd. Hwy.97 also provides access to Mt. Riordan summit.

Bay Trail connects the Hedley-Nickel Plate service road with a small bay on Nickel Plate Lake. If you travel over the surface of the lake **do not stray far from shore!**

K9 is a great place to take your pooch for a stroll - but please **pick up after your pet!** Use of the groomed trail is fee-based, as it's maintained by the Nickel Plate Nordic Center ski club - and snowcats suck a whole lot of diesel fuel.

Claim Jump exists as an intertwined pair of trails: one a summer hike and bike route, the other a snowshoe trail. Both are signed and lead to Nickel Plate Lake. You may choose to explore them as a small, lake-and-back loop, or incorporate the whole east side of Nickel Plate Lake. This could include The Potholes and Southward Ho, creating an enjoyable circumnavigation of the Nickel Plate lowland as a whole.

Powerline Trail is a continuation of the Powerline Rd., between the upper (old) ski resort parking area and Hedley-Nickel Plate Rd. It crosses the road, then heads for Nickel Plate Lake.

Southward Ho parallels the Hedley-Nickel Plate Rd. for 3km, then Winters Cr. FSR for 1.5km, before ascending a gully which runs between The Saddle and Big Meadow. The Apex service road may be used as a return route thereafter.

OK Vista & Burn Perimeter are among the area's original routes and are fairly long at approx' 6km each. Be avalanche-cautious when traveling along the southeast face, as some of the forested sections can present serious side-slope enroute.

Snowflake Loop closely outlines a group of ponds known locally as The Potholes. The route offers a popular introduction to this novice xc-ski and snowshoe area.

Green Mt. Grind is the most difficult winter trail on the map. Attempt only if you are a truly confident snowshoe enthusiast. Excellent vistas await those who can handle the serious grunt to the summit! Access near the last cattle-guard on Apex Mt. Rd., as one approaches the resort. Service road access with vague descent variations.

Honeypot follows summer roads around the water treatment plant. Pay attention to the slopes immediately above the road, as recent logging activity may increase avalanche danger in this vicinity.

Difficulty ratings of the trails considers distance from rescue, not just elevation gain