WELCOME TO THE PAUL SMITH’S COLLEGE VIC

There is a lot to explore on this 3,000-acre property. With over 25 miles of trails you’ll find year-round access to Hiking, Nature Watching, Cross-Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Fishing, Lean-to Camping, Canoeing, Rock Climbing, Research & Recreation. Please stop in at the center for current trail conditions. Trail passes are required in winter. Please stop by the VIC to purchase your day or season pass.

CLASSIC XC TRAILS

These are groomed to a minimum of 4 to 6 feet wide in winter. Classic tracks are set when conditions permit. Snowshoers are welcome and are encouraged to avoid walking in set classic tracks.

BARNUM BROOK (0.6 mi loop): This nature trail loop is our shortest and most mellow loop with a crusher fine base. An accessible overlook provides views of a beaver lodge and Heron Marsh. This trail provides our first skiable terrain.

ESKER (1.5 mi): Loop this trail in off of Logger’s Loop for a quiet cruise through the forested heart of our property. The trail is best navigated on skis in a clockwise direction. Be on the lookout for occasional views of Jenkins Mountain.

HERON MARSH (3 mi loop): Walk across a 900-foot boardwalk over the Heron Marsh on this nature trail, which passes over Shingle Mill Falls, by several observation platforms, lean-tos, and scenic vistas. This intermediate ski has several fun moderate hills.

SILVICULTURE (1 mi): PSC students planted trees on this nature trail, which covers the former golf course of the Paul Smith’s Hotel. See if you can identify former fairways and tee boxes, as well as a radial plantation, on this trail. Twists, turns, climbs and descents make this a fun intermediate ski.

HUNEYCUIT (0.2 mi) Vary your route with a quick journey on this connector trail.

WOODS & WATERS (3 mi): A sampler of the VIC’s varied habitats. See hardwood and conifer forests, traverse a floating bridge across a marsh, and be sure to visit a lean-to near a quiet pond along this nature trail.

BOBCAT (1.25 mi): Our campus connector trail, starts at the PSC Saunders Sports Complex and leads back to the VIC.

EASY STREET (1 mi loop): Flat, wide, and smooth as the name implies. A great early and late season ski. Visitors pass by our working sugarbush.

SNOWSHOE TRAILS

These are hiking trails that maintain a packed trail surface in winter by snowshoers. They are typically 3 to 6 feet wide. In summer they range from smoothly graded nature trails to rocky, rooty and off camber traditional foot paths.

BLACK POND (2.5 mi loop): This scenic loop goes along the pond and by lean-tos, through mixed forests, and over bridge. A rocky, rooty foot path in summer.

BOREAL LIFE (1 mi loop): Trek across a 1,600’ boardwalk to experience life in a black spruce swamp and bog on this nature trail. Walk amidst the tamaracks, beautiful blossoms of orchids, and carnivorous plants. Year-round boreal birding. The lower loop is great for skiing.

JENKINS MOUNTAIN (9 mi round trip): The route includes a variety of nature trails, foot paths, and the Jenkins Mountain Fire Road. The journey will take you over eskers, by Heron Marsh and up to the scenic 2,513’ summit.

LONG POND (0.5 mi): This foot path connection from the Black Pond Trail to Jenkins Mountain Trail takes visitors along a remote pond and lean-to.

COMPETITION SKI TRAILS

These trails have been purpose built for competitive ski training/events. The new trails are based out of the E. Philip Saunders Nordic & Biathlon Stadium and include a biathlon range. Use caution and abide closures/signage when approaching from any direction. They are typically groomed 20 to 30 feet wide with a fun variety of climbs, descents and rolling terrain.

DRAPER LUSSI TRAIL (1.5 mi loop): Ski this 2.5 km trail in a clockwise direction starting from the biathlon range.

ORANGE (SPRINT) COMP (0.9 mi loop): Nested inside the first half of the Draper Lussi Trail is a shorter 1.4 km loop for sprint courses.

YELLOW (SOUTHERN EXIT) COMP (1.1 mi loop): Add this trail to your trip for a great ski extension. This trail features a 2.5 km loop to the south of the Draper Lussi Trail with fun ups and downs.

Support the VIC! Become a Friends member or make a donation at paulsmiths.edu/vic/give

Please contact the VIC for any questions about allowable uses, fees or reservations prior to your visit.

Dogs are welcome on leash year-round. Please sign in and clean up after your dog. The VIC reserves the right to ask owners to remove their dogs from the property.

For up to date info and trail conditions: 518.327.6241 paulsmiths.edu/vic