

WINTER FUN AT HIGHLAND FOREST



WELCOME TO THE ADIRONDACKS OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

From cross-country skiing in the solitude of a white, winter morning, to snowshoeing across rugged terrain, Highland Forest County Park offers a variety of activities for the outdoor enthusiast.

This map is coordinated with a signage program, allowing you to enjoy Highland Forest's many attributes with the comfort of knowing where you are within this 2,759 acre park.

At select locations you can decide to return to the trail head or extend your outing by choosing one of the cut-off or extension trails. Please note the distances and average times for each trail on the key. For your safety, all activities should be completed one-half hour prior to park closing.

We appreciate feedback regarding trail conditions and safety. Please note the reference marker number of any area you feel requires maintenance and notify the staff upon return. Any other suggestions and comments are also welcome.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Highland Forest's 20 miles of groomed nordic ski trails offer fun and challenges for skiers of all levels on terrain which has elevation changes up to 400 feet.

ETIQUETTE & SAFETY TIPS: Stay to the right when being approached or passed by other skiers. Dress in layers and always wear hats and gloves.

DIRECTION: Trails are one way as indicated on the map.

TRAIL DIFFICULTY RATINGS: Each group of trails is classified from easiest to most difficult. The higher the difficulty rating, the greater the elevational changes on the trail. This translates into more hills.

Beginners & Pines Junction Trails
Level sections designed for warmups and for beginners to get acquainted with the sport.

Skyline Loop Skate Trail
A dedicated skating-only trail.

Northview Trail
A gentle, meandering, wooded route with a short downhill at midpoint gives a taste of the rewards of cross country skiing.

Westwind Loop
This trail mixes elevation changes with double track width to provide a wonderful social and physical experience.

Southside Loop
This signature run for advanced skiers has lots of hills and an invigorating half mile downhill stretch.

Southside Extension
A continuation of the Southside Loop takes advanced skiers into the back country.

East Rim Loop
This trail is for conditioned, experienced skiers. It offers scenic views through most of its length as well as a steep 0.8 mile downhill run.

EQUIPMENT RENTALS

Reasonably priced rentals are available daily from 9 am - 3 pm (snow conditions permitting) at the Skyline Rental Shop. Sizes are available for all ages, with reduced prices for ages 15 and under. Choose a 1.5 hour time block or a full day. Individual pieces of equipment can also be rented in case of broken or forgotten gear. Ski trails close at 4:30 pm.

SKI LESSONS

Introductory one-hour cross country ski lessons are available weekends throughout the winter and daily during Christmas and Winter Breaks. The course includes all the basic skills that will allow participants to enjoy this activity. Prices vary depending on if you bring your own skis or need rentals. 10:00 am lessons are available by reservation only; afternoon lessons are on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the park at 683-5550.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS

Cross-Country Ski Trails

Listed in order of difficulty. Trail distance and completion times are approximate. Skiing ability and trail conditions should also be taken into consideration.

- BEGINNERS LOOP**
0.25 miles / 0.4 km
10 minutes
- SKYLINE LOOP SKATE TRAIL**
0.5 mile / 0.8 km
15 minutes
- PINES JUNCTION TRAIL**
0.5 miles / 0.8 km
15 minutes

Trails listed below start at Pines Junction. Add Pines Junction Trail distance (1 mile) to below trails to get total mileage from Lodge.

- NORTHVIEW TRAIL**
5 miles / 8 km
25 minutes
- WESTWIND LOOP**
3.0 miles / 4.8 km
60 minutes
- WESTWIND CUTOFF**
1.2 miles / 1.9 km
30 minutes
- SOUTHSIDE LOOP**
5.2 miles / 8.4 km
120 - 180 minutes
- SOUTHSIDE CUTOFF**
2.5 miles / 4 km
90 minutes
- SOUTH EXTENSION**
7.9 miles / 12.7 km
4 - 5 hours
- EAST RIM LOOP**
3.3 miles / 5.3 km
60 - 120 minutes
- EAST RIM CUTOFF**
2.56 miles / 4.1 km
45 - 60 minutes

DIFFICULTY RATINGS

EASIER MORE DIFFICULT MOST DIFFICULT

3A REFERENCE POINT

Reference markers are located throughout the park enabling you to determine your exact position.

OTHER MARKERS ALONG THE TRAILS

Square Markers
HIKING/SNOWSHOEING TRAILS

Triangle Markers
NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

LEGEND

- Buildings
- Public Roads
- Maintenance Trails
- Powerline
- Parking
- Streams
- Water Bodies
- Trail Shelter
- Reserved Shelter
- Park Boundary
- County Lines
- Start of Trails
- Restrooms
- Pines Junction

Scale 1:15000

ft 1000 500 250 0 .125 .25 .5 mi

m 305 152 76 0 .25 .5 .8 km

TRAIL USE GUIDELINES

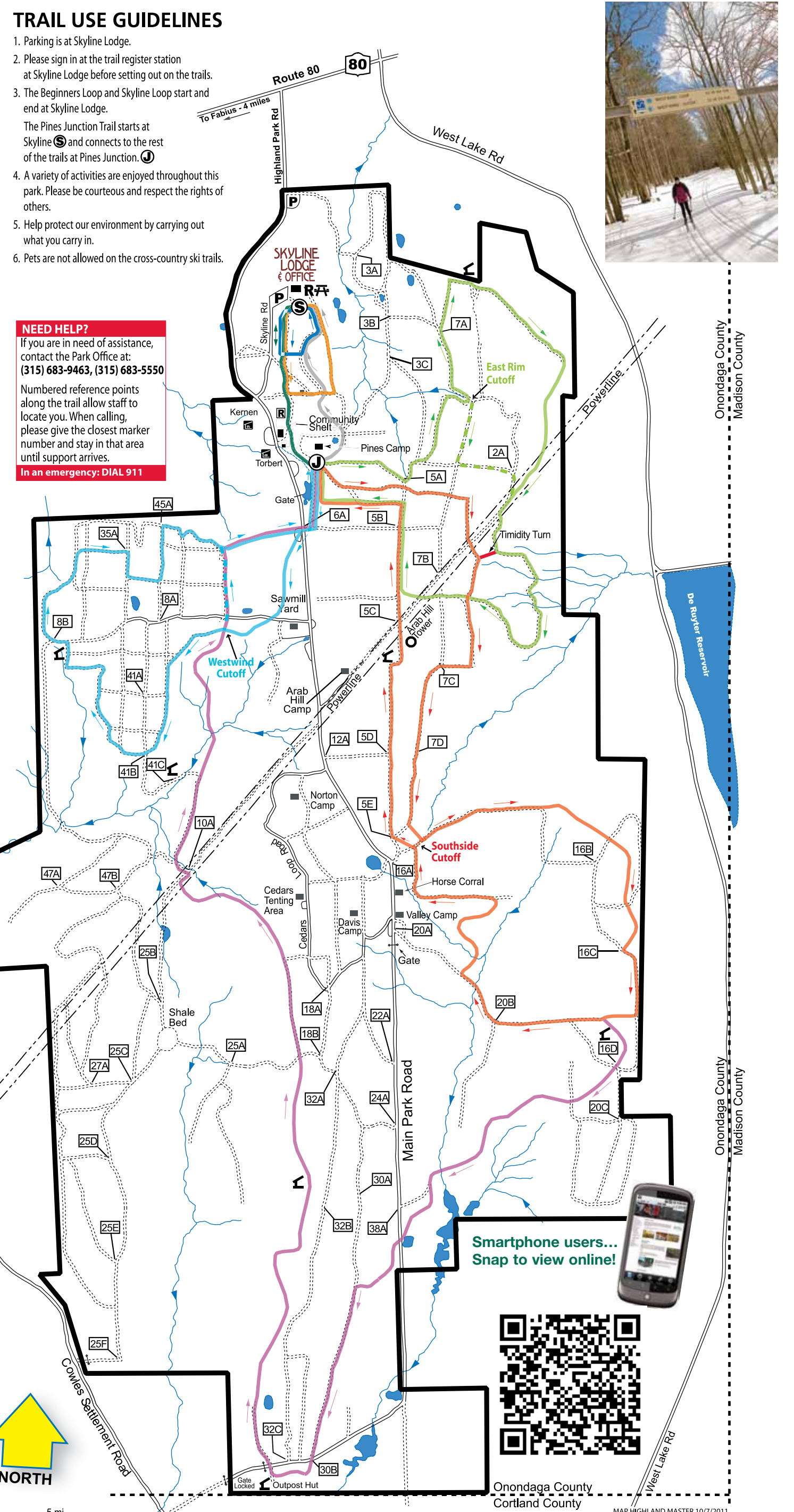
1. Parking is at Skyline Lodge.
2. Please sign in at the trail register station at Skyline Lodge before setting out on the trails.
3. The Beginners Loop and Skyline Loop start and end at Skyline Lodge. The Pines Junction Trail starts at Skyline Lodge and connects to the rest of the trails at Pines Junction.
4. A variety of activities are enjoyed throughout this park. Please be courteous and respect the rights of others.
5. Help protect our environment by carrying out what you carry in.
6. Pets are not allowed on the cross-country ski trails.

NEED HELP?

If you are in need of assistance, contact the Park Office at: (315) 683-9463, (315) 683-5550

Numbered reference points along the trail allow staff to locate you. When calling, please give the closest marker number and stay in that area until support arrives.

In an emergency: DIAL 911



TRAIL CONDITIONS
Updated daily at www.OnondagaCountyParks.com and on **facebook**.

ABOUT THE PARK

HOURS:

Dec - Feb	8:30 am - 4:30 pm
March	8:30 am - 5:30 pm
April	8:30 am - 6:30 pm
May	8:30 am - 7:30 pm
June - August	8:30 am - 8:30 pm
September	8:30 am - 7:30 pm
October	8:30 am - 6:30 pm
November	8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Extended weekend hours are available to accommodate reserved programs.

PETS

Pets are allowed on the hiking/snowshoeing trails. They are not allowed on the ski trails. All pets must be on a leash not longer than 6', inoculated for rabies, and never be left unattended.

BEVERAGES & CONTAINERS

No glass is allowed. There is a limit of one six-pack of beer per legal adult. No kegs.

SMOKING

Onondaga County Parks has adopted a tobacco-free policy, making all parks completely tobacco free.

SKYLINE LODGE

Park offices, restrooms, lounges, rental shop, gift items, visitor information, seasonal food service, vending machines and emergency services.

Great Food & Great Views

Orchard Vali Restaurant of Lafayette is the official concessionaire and caterer of Skyline Lodge. Enjoy snacks, soups, sandwiches and drinks around the fireplace in a classic winter lodge.



Special Occasions

In addition to year-round public use, Skyline Lodge can also be reserved for weddings, parties, and corporate functions. Please see staff, call (315) 683-5550 or visit our website at OnondagaCountyParks.com for more info.

SNOWSHOEING

Enjoy an easy and nostalgic way of exploring the forest. Snowshoes with step-in bindings are available for rent at Skyline Lodge.

SLEDDING

Sledding is permitted in designated areas on the lower portion of Skyline Hill. Open daily depending on snow conditions.

SLEIGHRIDES

Thirty minute horse-drawn rides, available on a walk-in basis on weekends and school holidays, begin at the Skyline Lodge. Requests for individual or larger groups can be made by calling (315) 683-5550.



SNOWMOBILES

A parking lot and access to the Onondaga Snowmobile Trail system is provided where a short section passes through the park. Maps and information are available at Skyline Lodge. Snowmobiling is prohibited within the bulk of Highland Forest.

VOLUNTEERS & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

HIGHLAND FOREST NORDIC SKI PATROL

As a branch of the National Ski Patrol, these volunteers help patrol the trails and provide general information about the park. In return, they receive benefits including priority registration for certain programs and the satisfaction of knowing their efforts are making the community a better place to live and work. Financial contributions are welcomed. Call the Highland Forest Nordic Ski Patrol at (315) 683-5550 for more info.



A BRIEF HISTORY

The oldest and largest Onondaga County Park, Highland Forest was formally dedicated in June, 1932. This 2,759 acre park has a peak elevation of 1,940 feet and an average elevation of 1,700 feet above sea level.

Works Project Administration workers in the 1930's planted millions of trees which transformed in hospitable farmland into today's impressive forest. A diverse recreational area with hiking trails, year-round cabins, picnic grounds, and permit hunting, Highland Forest now hosts tens of thousands of visitors each year. Timber harvesting is an ongoing forest management program, with revenues from lumber sales supporting park operations and improvements highlighted by Skyline Lodge.

SNOWSHOEING & HIKING TRAILS

Times listed are based on average hiking speed of 2.5 to 2.7 mph. Individual ability and trail conditions should also be taken into consideration.

	LIMESTONE TRAIL 0.8 miles / 1.28 km 20 minutes
	NATURE TRAIL 1.86 mile / 2.99 km 30 minutes
	SHORT CUT TRAIL 3.6 miles / 5.79 km 60 minutes
	HISTORY TRAIL 7.76 miles / 12.49 km 2 hours 5 minutes
	PHIL SUTERS MEMORIAL MAIN TRAIL 8.82 miles / 14.19 km 4 hours 30 minutes
	NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL 4.9 miles / 7.9 km 110 minutes

A section of the North Country National Scenic Trail traverses Highland Forest from Cowles Settlement Rd to an eastern exit heading towards DeRuyter Lake. Called the Onondaga Trail, this is also part of the Fingerlakes Trail System.

REFERENCE POINTS
3A Reference markers are located throughout the park enabling you to determine your exact position

OTHER MARKERS ALONG THE TRAILS
SOUTH EXTENSION Diamond Markers Skiing/Mountain Biking Trails

TRAIL USE GUIDELINES

1. Parking is at Skyline Lodge.
2. Please sign in at the trail register station at Skyline Lodge before setting out on the trails.
3. Trails start at Skyline Lodge - S. Trails can be used in either direction.
4. A variety of activities, are enjoyed throughout this park. Please use trails only for their designated purposes, be courteous and respect the rights of others while sharing multi-use trails.
5. Help protect our environment by carrying out what you carry in.
6. Pets are allowed on the hiking trails on a leash not longer than 6 feet; under control at all times, inoculated for rabies & never left unattended.

NEED HELP?

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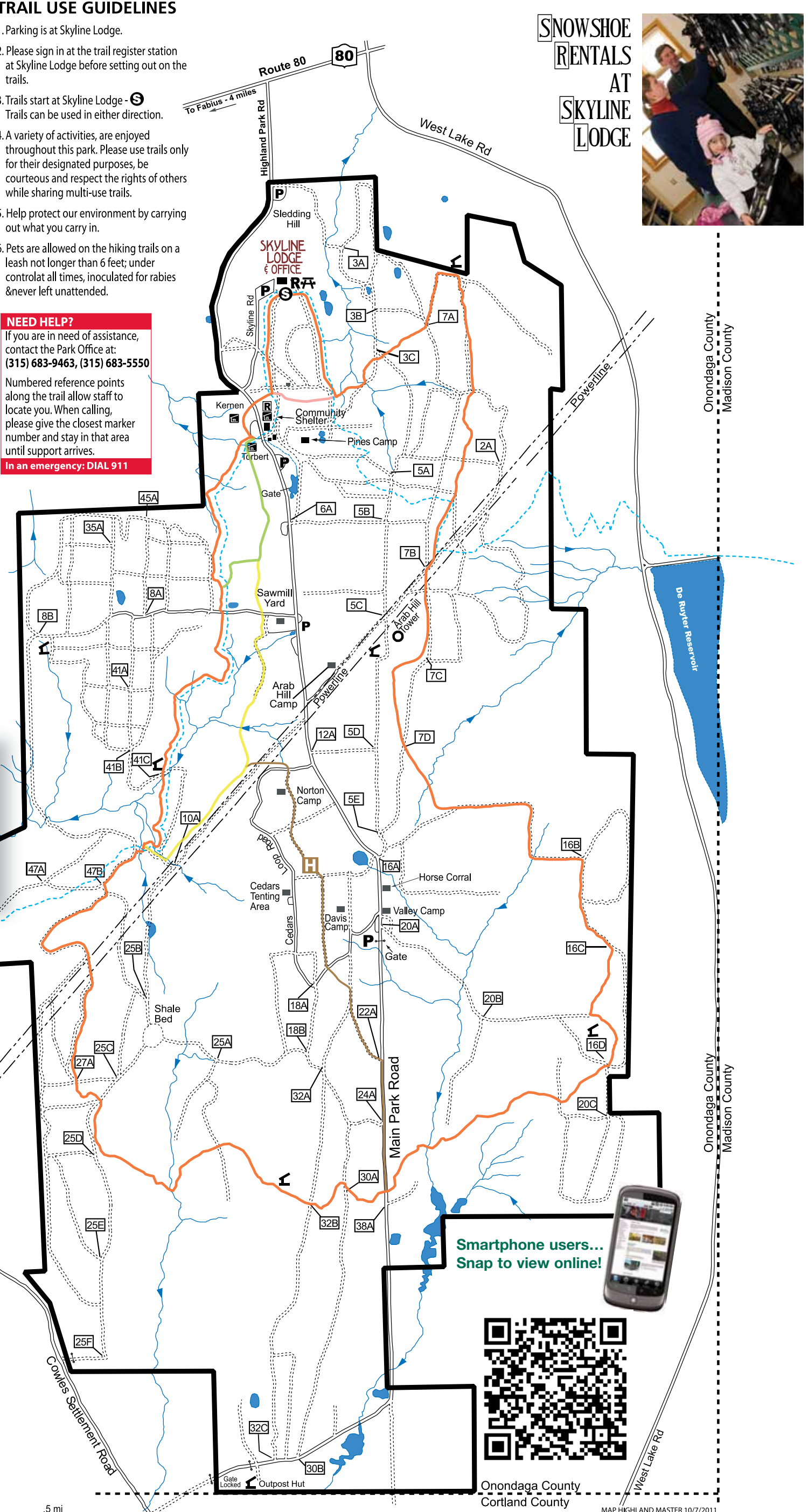
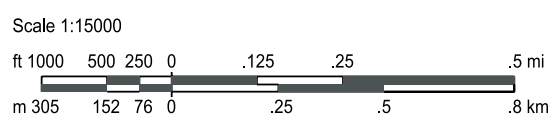
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DIRECTIONS TO HIGHLAND
I81 to Tully (Exit 14), 11 miles east on Rte 80 to entry road

LEGEND

Buildings	
Public Roads	
Maintenance Trails	
Powerline	
Parking Lots	
Streams	
Water Bodies	
Trail Shelter	
Reserved Shelter	
Picnic Area	
Park Boundary	
County Lines	
Start of Trails	
Restrooms	



SNOWSHOE RENTALS AT SKYLINE LODGE



Smartphone users... Snap to view online!



Find us on:



For more information, visit our website at: **ONONDAGACOUNTYPARKS.COM**