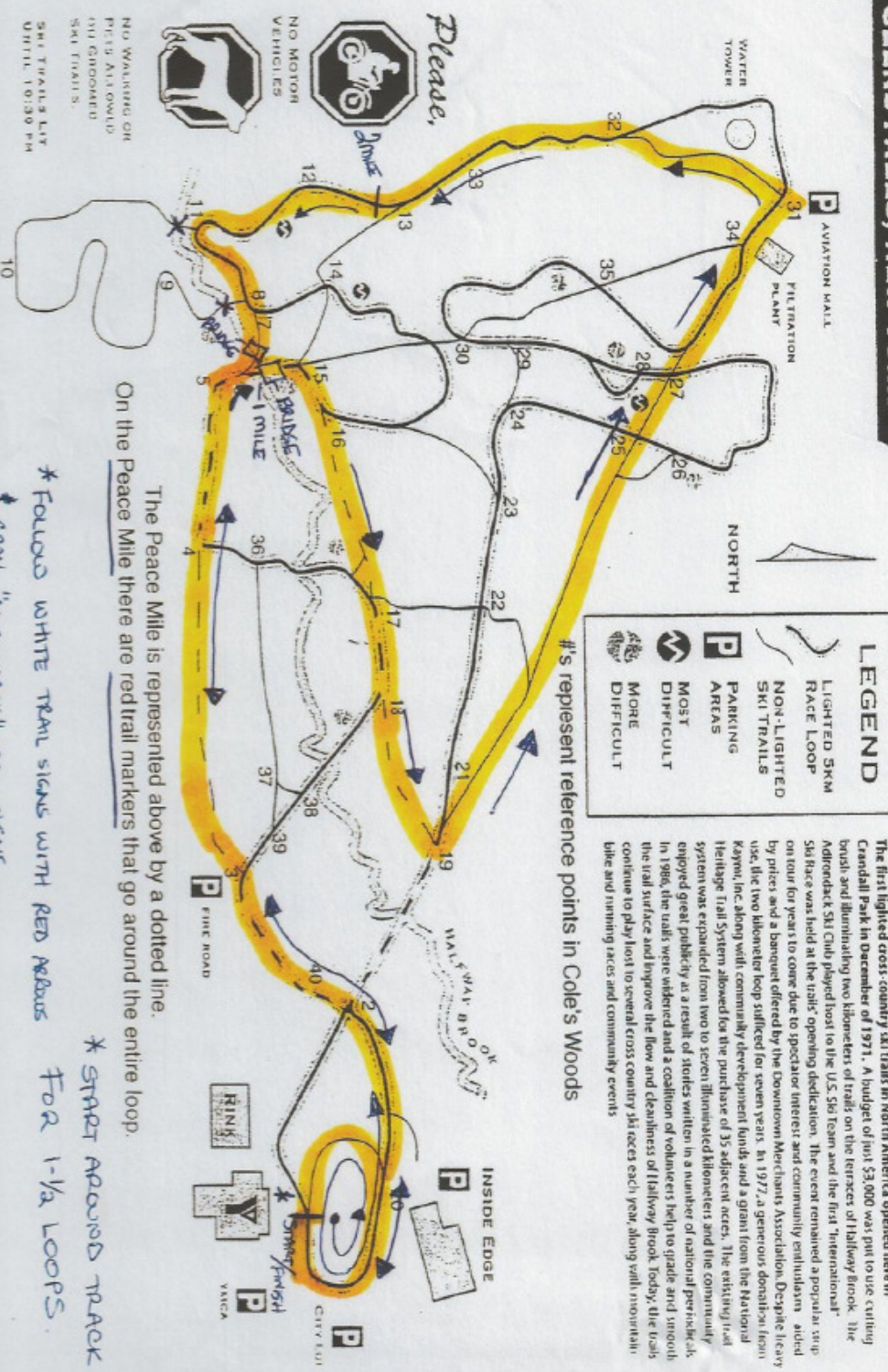


THE INTERNATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS AT COLES WOODS

Established 1971

GLENS FALLS, NEW YORK



The first lighted cross-country ski trails in North America opened here in Cranford Park in December of 1971. A budget of just \$3,000 was put to use cutting brush and illuminating two kilometers of trails on the terraces of Halfway Brook. The Adirondack Ski Club played host to the U.S. Ski Team and the first "International" Ski Race was held at the trails' opening dedication. The event remained a popular stop on tour for years to come due to spectator interest and community enthusiasm aided by prizes and a banquet offered by the Downtown Merchants Association. Despite heavy use, the two kilometer loop sufficed for seven years. In 1972, a generous donation from Kayron, Inc. along with community development funds and a grant from the National Heritage Trail System allowed for the purchase of 35 adjacent acres. The existing trail system was expanded from two to seven illuminated kilometers and the community enjoyed great publicity as a result of stories written in a number of national periodicals. In 1986, the trails were widened and a coalition of volunteers help to grade and smooth the trail surface and improve the flow and cleanliness of Halfway Brook. Today, the trails continue to play host to several cross-country ski races each year, along with recreational bike and running races and community events.