

Spruce Transitional Forest

The Wynn Center forest stands are considered to lie in a transitional area between the coastal forest that stretches from the south side of Kachemak Bay to northern California, and the boreal forest which stretches north to the south slope of the Brooks Range. **White Spruce (Picea glauca)** dominate the northern boreal forest, while **Sitka Spruce (Picea sitchensis)** populate the more southern coastal forests. In this area we find a hybrid species of the two that results in a **Lutz Spruce**.



Spruce Bark Beetles (Dendroctonus rufipennis)

These beetles attack and breed only in spruce. They spend most of their life in the phloem tissue between the bark and the wood of the host tree. Adult beetles emerge in the spring and bore through the bark of a new tree. Female beetles then excavate galleries in which to lay their eggs. The larvae hatch and feed upon the phloem layer where they remain for 1 to 2 years, until they reach adulthood when the cycle begins again. This is a naturally occurring cycle that may have been accelerated by several warm summers and human involvement such as, the construction of roads and the installation of power lines. Activities like this often leave large piles of downed trees and thus, an easy food source for the beetle larva.

Uses of Spruces

Native legend has it that all of the plants, birds and animals came to be related in pairs at the time of creation. The prickly devil's club and the spiny wild rose were partners. So were birch trees and cottonwoods. And so it went until the spruce tree was created. The spruce had no partner. The spruce was told that this was because it was the most important of all trees. It would be in partnership with humans.

The Dena'ina Athabaskans were very resourceful people. They found a use for every part of the spruce tree. Only a few of these are listed below.

Sap ~ medicine for tuberculosis and for cuts and burns

Root ~ split to make string and rope

Hard Pitch ~ glue for caulking canoes and baskets, men's hair dressing, and chewing gum

Rotten wood ~ creates a smoky fire for drying moose skins

The Wynn Nature Center is open daily during the summer from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We offer guided tours at 10am & 2pm, a self guided option, as well as a variety of children's and family programs.

The Center For Alaskan Coastal Studies

708 Smoky Bay Way

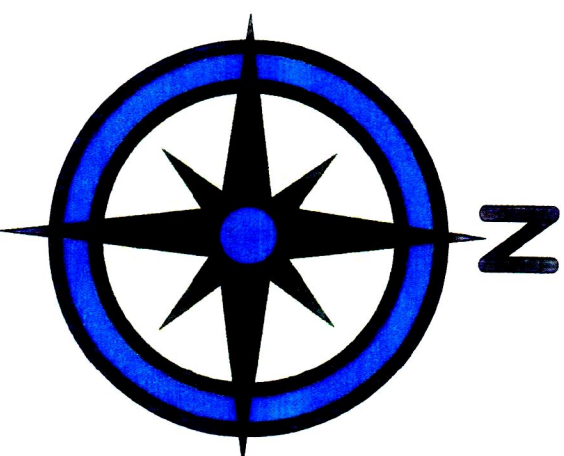
Homer, Alaska 99603

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Carl E. Wynn Nature Center

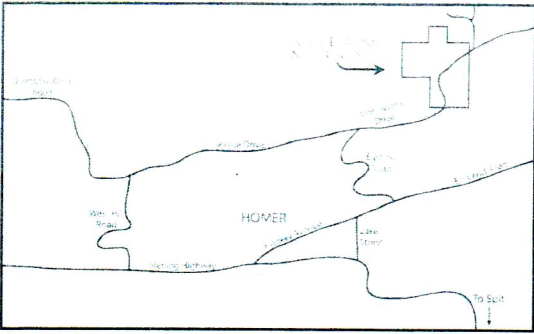
Trail Map



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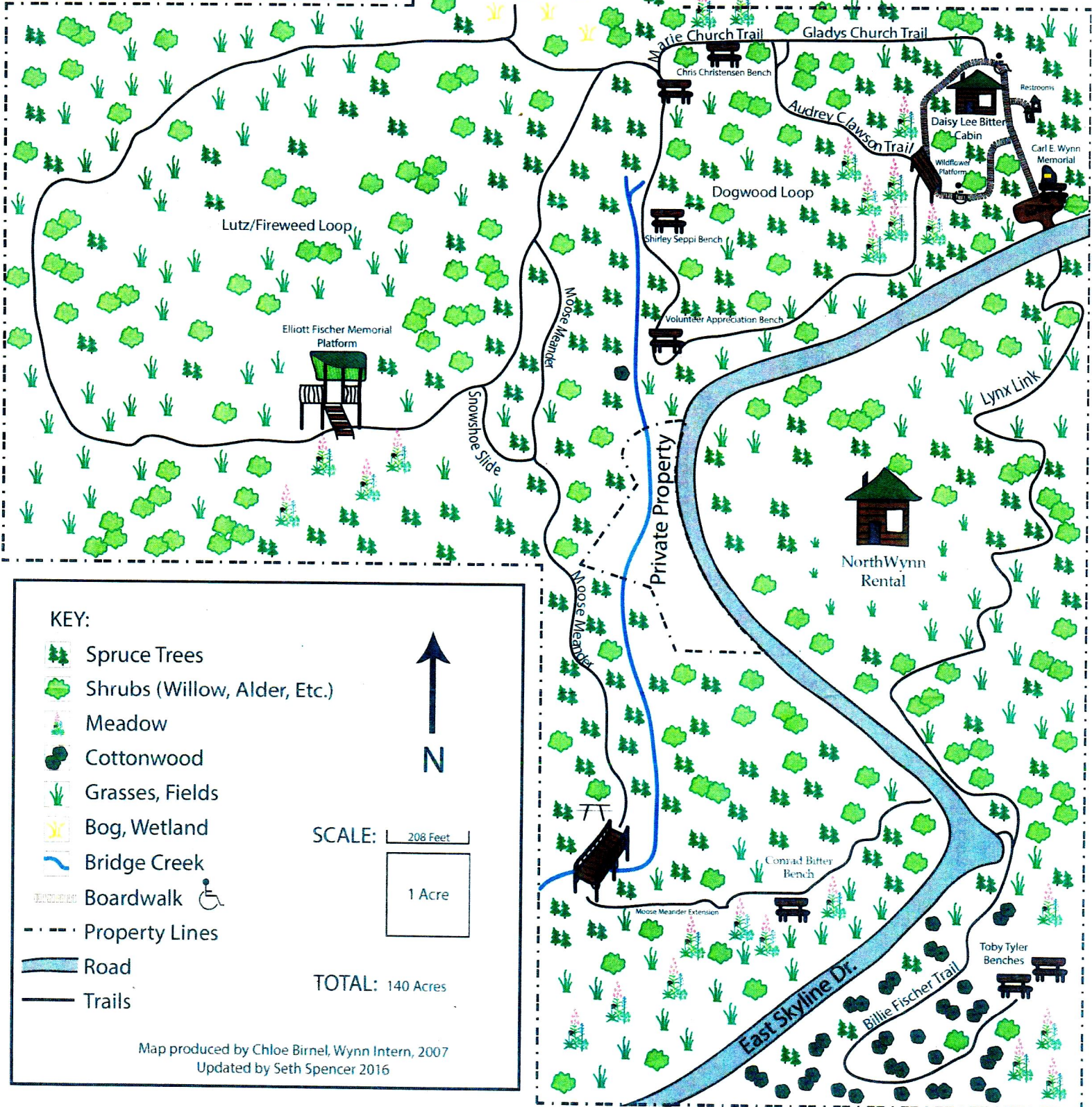
A non-profit organization
(907)235-6667

LOCATION:



Carl E. Wynn Nature Center

Center For Alaskan
Coastal Studies



Lutz/Fireweed Loop



NorthWynn Rental

Private Property

Lynx Link



East Skyline Dr.

Billie Fischer Trail

