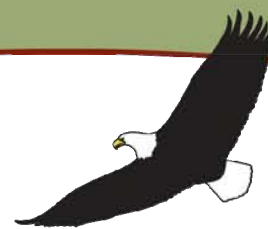


# Guide to

# Emerald Lake Loop & Mallard Bay Trails



**in Kachemak Bay State Park**

**Trail Access:** Humpy Creek, Mallard Bay, or Glacier Spit

Trailheads

**Allowable Uses:** Hiking

**Distance:** Emerald Lake Loop: 12.6 mi

Mallard Bay Trail: 0.6 mi

Mallard/Emerald Connector: 1.1 mi

**Elevation Gain:** Emerald Lake Loop: 2800 ft;

Emerald/Mallard Connector: 500 ft

Mallard Bay: 200 ft in, 100 ft out

**Difficulty:** Emerald Lake Loop: Easy (flats) to Difficult (long steep climbs); Mallard/Emerald Connector: Difficult; Mallard Bay: Easy to Moderate (long switchbacks);

Emerald Lake: Moderate to Difficult

**Hiking Time:** Emerald Lake Loop: 5 hrs; Emerald/Mallard Connector: 45 min; Mallard Bay: 30 min



**Emerald Lake Loop Trail:** This loop accesses beautiful Emerald Lake and its alpine surroundings. Starting at Humpy Creek Trailhead/Campsite, head South, crossing Humpy Creek (known for its pink “humpy” salmon). Then cross a flat, mostly open, outwash plain before passing several blue ponds. The trail then threads a narrow rock “flume” where Grewingk Creek once flowed, past the cable tram that crosses Grewingk Creek. While camping is good here, remember that black bears frequent the area. From Grewingk Creek, the trail climbs over Foehn Ridge, offering views of Grewingk Glacier and outwash flats. Descending the ridge, the trail crosses flatlands to Grewingk Glacier Lake. Look for glacier ice floating in the lake. From Grewingk Lake the trail climbs up exposed rock, then along a lateral moraine into the forest. A bridge then crosses Humpy Creek before reaching treeline. A 0.2 mile spur leads to Emerald Lake and campsite at a junction (a small stream may be difficult to cross during spring melt). The trail then climbs to Portlock Plateau where there are fantastic views of Kachemak Bay. Look for bears and mountain goats high on the ridges. Alpine portions of the trail are marked with rock cairns and white spars. The trail then descends a ridge (follow cairns and spars carefully) into alders then a spruce forest plagued by spruce bark beetles and wind storms. The trail then descends past the Mallard/Emerald Connector Trail junction to the tidewater flats of Kachemak Bay. Continue South along the tidewater flats (area floods at extreme high tides) to return to Humpy Creek Trailhead/Campsite.

**Mallard Bay Trail:** This trail climbs over a ridge from the Mallard Bay Trailhead/Campsite to the Portlock River.

**Mallard/Emerald Connector Trail:** This trail connects the Emerald Lake Loop Trail with the Mallard Bay Trail. From the Mallard Bay Trail junction, the trail ascends switchbacks to the Emerald Lake Trail junction.

### Camping:

Developed campsites at Humpy Creek, Grewingk Glacier Lake (undeveloped) Emerald Lake, and Mallard Bay. Undeveloped camping on small beach north of the Mallard Bay trailhead (extreme high-tides flood the trailhead beach)

### Water Availability:

Humpy Creek, Grewingk Glacier Lake, Emerald Lake, Portlock River (glacial), Grewingk Creek (glacial) & nearby ponds, and seasonally at Mallard Bay Trailhead

### Special Features:

Humpy Creek offers good fishing and wildlife viewing. Emerald Lake is very remote and scenic. **ADVISORY:** Black bears frequent the mouth of Humpy Creek during the months of July and August, when salmon are spawning.

### Park Access:

Kachemak Bay State Park is accessed via boat from the Homer Harbor. Local water taxis can provide transportation to most park trailheads.

### Park Rules:

For a complete set of park rules visit:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/kbay/kbay.htm>

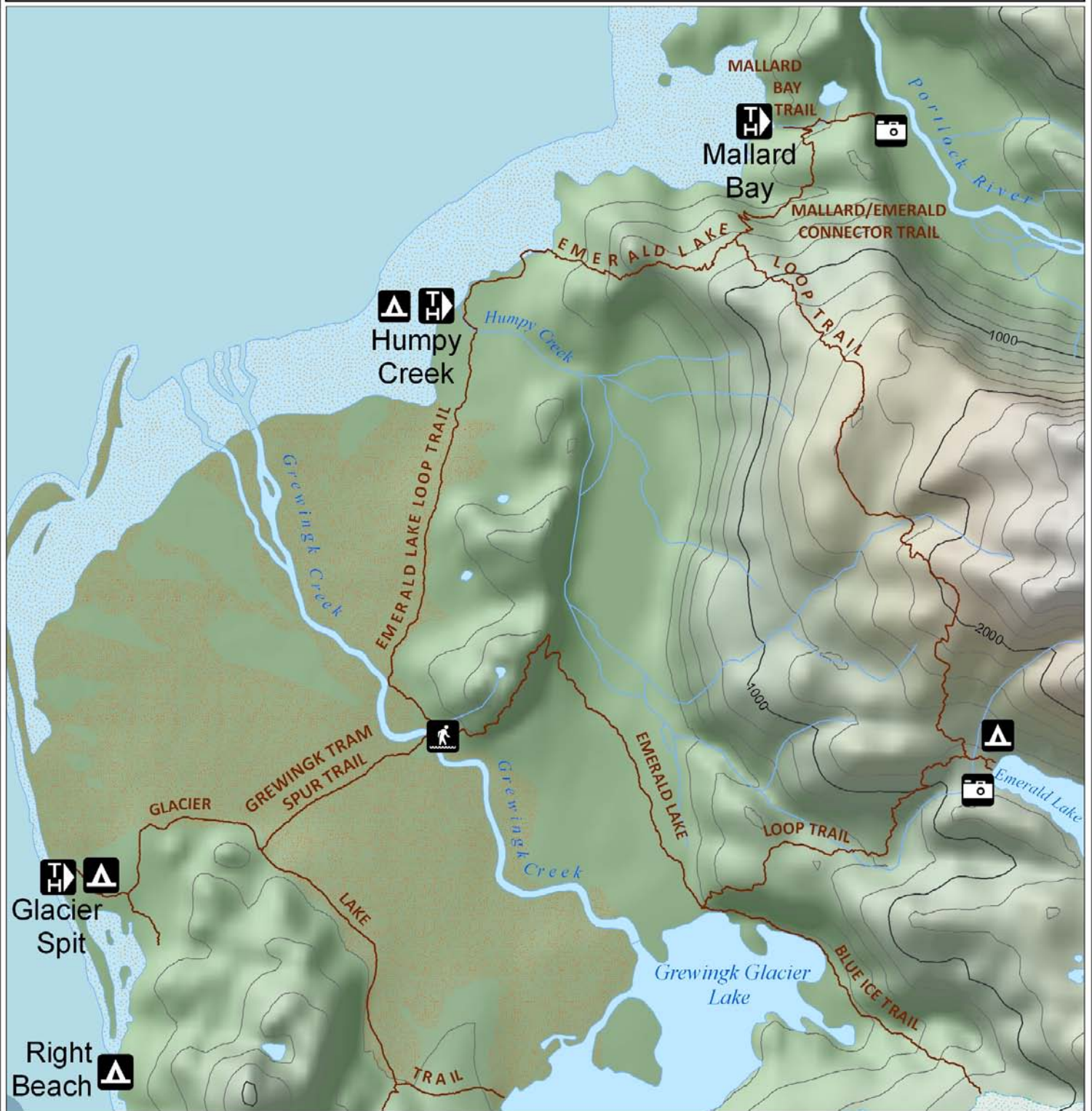
Alaska State Parks, Kenai Area Office  
PO Box 1247  
Soldotna, AK  
(907) 262 - 5581





# Kachemak Bay State Park

## Emerald Lake Loop & Mallard Bay Trails



Produced by: Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Support Services, Land Records Information Section Date Printed: December 12, 2009

Cartographers: Martin Stahl, Andre Kaeppele

This dataset includes GPS data collected during the summer of 2009 as part of the Alaska State Park Trail Inventory Project. This map product has been reviewed by park personnel.

Kachemak Bay State Park, (907) 235-7024 Alaska State Parks: [www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks](http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks)

The State of Alaska makes no expressed or implied warranties (including warranties of merchantability and fitness) with respect to the character, function, or capabilities of this product or its appropriateness for any user's purposes. In no event will the State of Alaska be liable for any incidental, indirect, special, consequential or other damages suffered by the user or any other person or entity whether from use of the product, any failure thereof or otherwise, and in no event will the State of Alaska's liability to you or anyone else exceed the product fee paid.

### Legend


0 0.25 0.5 Miles  
0 0.25 0.5 Kilometers  
Contour Interval = 200ft

