

FAIRBANKS TRAILS CHALLENGE



SUMMER 2019 TRAILS GUIDE



TEN SIGNS along the trails. Take a SELFIE with each sign. Post your photo on social media. Type "#FNSBtrails" in your post to play along and win prizes!

FIND PHOTO SHARE #FNSBtrails

Also Available Online @ PARKS.FNSB.US

June 20—Sept 30, 2019



#1. Eagle Trail @ Tanana Lakes Recreation Area

#2. Island Trail @ Tanana Lakes Recreation Area

#3. Fairbanks Dog Park Trail @ South Davis Park

#4. River Park Nature Trail @ Chena Lake Recreation Area

#5. Slough Loop @ Chena Lake Recreation Area

#6. North Forty @ Birch Hill Recreation Area

#7. Blackhawk Loop @ Birch Hill Recreation Area

#8. Skyline Ridge Trail @ Skyline Ridge Park

#9. Secret Trail @ Skyline Ridge Park

#10. Stiles Creek Trail @ Chena River State Recreation Area

#11. Circle-Fairbanks Trail @ Twelve Mile Summit

#12. Mike Kelly Trail @ Tanana Valley State Forest

How to TAKE THE TRAILS CHALLENGE:

[CLICK HERE](https://parks.fnsb.us) to REGISTER for FREE at parks.fnsb.us

1. FIND the signs that say “FAIRBANKS TRAILS CHALLENGE”

- Twelve signs are located somewhere along the trails on the list.
- Keep an eye out for orange trail markers—the sign will be near!

2. Snap a PHOTO with the sign to prove you made it!



3. SHARE your “selfie.” Here are three ways to share:

1. Post your selfie on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram and type “#FNSBtrails” in your post. *Posts must be “public” so that we can keep track of your progress. Ensure you have the proper settings for your audience or privacy:*
 - For Instagram, you have to make your whole account public.
 - In Facebook, you can selectively change posts to have a public audience:
 - [LINK TO FACEBOOK POST SETTINGS HELP PAGE](#)
2. Post a the photo on the [Summer Trails Challenge Facebook Event Page](#)
 - Add the “#FNSBTrails” hashtag.
3. Email your photos to parks@fnsb.us.

Share your photos by September 30, 2019!

AWARDS:

Make it to **AT LEAST TEN** Fairbanks Trails Challenge signs and you will:

- Earn the elusive “Trailblazer Award!”
- Be placed in a **drawing for awesome prizes** from this year’s prize sponsors!

NEW! Kids under 10 years old can win the **Junior Trailblazer Award** by finding **AT LEAST FIVE** signs!

QUESTIONS?

Contact the Trails Coordinator at bwright@fnsb.us or 907-459-7401

Check the [Trails Office webpage](#) for MAPS and TRAILS INFORMATION!

Follow the [FNSB Parks & Recreation Facebook Page](#) for updates.

See you on this summer’s trails!

Trails Challenge Tips

Everyone was new to these trails at one time. Here are some tips to make your first couple trails as enjoyable as possible:

- 1. Start SMALL.** Choose the right trail for your fitness level. Plan a hike that is suitable for everyone in your party and let the slower person set the pace.
- 2. KNOW where you GO.** Familiarize yourself with the trail. Review maps and talk to someone who has done the trail before.
- 3. Check the WEATHER.** Weather can be unpredictable so remember to dress accordingly.
- 4. Leave a PLAN.** Tell someone where you are going. If you don't make it back when you expect to, this person can alert your emergency contact.
- 5. PACE yourself.** If you start out too fast you'll tire out. Take your time and smell the roses!
- 6. Bring WATER.** Drink often to stay hydrated and your pack will get lighter throughout the day!
- 7. Protect from the SUN.** Use sunscreen and clothing to protect your skin, even on cloudy or cold days.
- 8. Bring FIRST AID.** Inspect and replace missing items from your first aid kit before each hike.
- 9. BUG OFF.** Avoid mosquitoes by using insect repellent or appropriate clothing. Many trails in the challenge are close to wetlands or in dense forest and can be very buggy in the summer.
- 10. Watch for WILDLIFE and be "BEAR AWARE."** *Make noise. Travel in groups. Don't run from a bear! Don't approach wildlife. Become familiar with bear spray. Check out this site for great bear awareness resources: www.alaskabears.alaska.gov.*

Trail Etiquette

Multiple-Use Trails

YIELD signs like the one here describe what to do in specific encounters, but always stick to the GOLDEN RULE: PRACTICE COMMON SENSE AND COURTESY!

- Typically you should yield to the passerby who has least stopping control.
- Always yield to dog teams and horses and give the animals plenty of space.
- Motorized trail users should slow speeds when encounters are possible.
- Hikers can usually step aside more easily than other users.

Respect the Land, Landowners and Neighbors

Local trails cross a variety of types of terrain, land ownership and regulation. When out on the trails, remember:

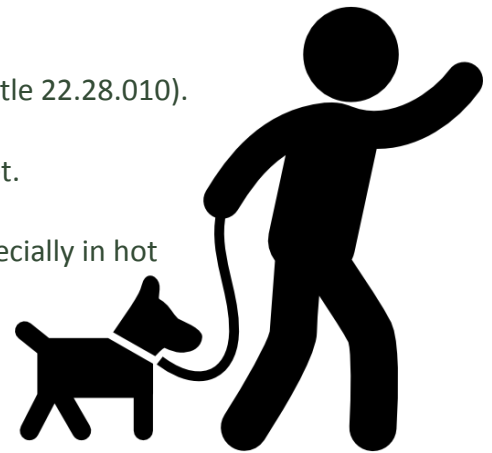
- Plan ahead to know where you go and who owns the land.
- Respect private and public property by staying in the public trail corridor.
- Obey signage and land use rules such as allowable trail uses.
- Use a leash: Chasing loose dogs is a common cause of unwanted trespass.
- Prevent damage by avoiding wet trails during spring break-up and heavy rains.
- Practice Leave-No-Trace: for more info visit www.LNT.org
- Many good winter trails cross frozen bogs and cannot sustain summer use.



Tails on Trails

Your furry friends need exercise too! Here are some things to remember when bringing your pets on a trail walk:

- You are responsible for your actions and the actions of your dog.
- Always keep your dogs properly restrained with a leash (FNSB code Title 22.28.010).
- Pick up any pet waste (FNSB Code Title 22.28.020).
- Yield the right-of-way to other trail users trying to get around your pet.
- Avoid disturbing wildlife and provoking dangerous encounters.
- Remember to bring extra water for your dog when walking trails, especially in hot summer weather. Fido may still be wearing his winter coat!



MAPS AND APPS TO GET YOU THERE

DOWNLOAD THE MAP:

- Individual PDF maps of many Borough trail systems are now available for download on our webpage parks.fnsb.us.
- Find maps under [General Info](#) > [Trails Office](#)
- These maps are designed for use on your GPS-enabled mobile device and can be displayed on any PDF reader. When viewed in an installed mobile application, each map will show your location on screen in real time. Cool!
- These maps can also be printed or viewed without using a special app.

OPEN WITH AN APP:

- Georeferenced map applications allow you to navigate using your mobile device's GPS even without cellular reception! There are a variety of georeferenced PDF apps available for Apple and Android devices. Consult your preferred mobile app's instructions for complete information.
- We use an application called AVENZA MAPS, though other apps also work.
- Upload maps to the AVENZA app from Dropbox or your device storage.



TIPS:

- Download the map onto your device BEFORE leaving cell reception! (Data rates may apply.)
- Enable Location Services so the mobile map application can show your location on the map.
- In areas with no cellular reception, phone battery life significantly decreases. Cold weather can also drain batteries! Using airplane mode will improve battery life and will not interfere with GPS tracking.
- File sizes for georeferenced maps may be very large. AVENZA recommends users connect to a WiFi network when downloading.
- Like all GPS technology, your device's accuracy will be compromised by cloudy weather, cliff walls, canyons, tall buildings, or other obstructions.
- *GPS is no substitute for preparedness! Research your destination. [Plan, pack and dress accordingly!](#)*

#1 • Eagle Trail @ Tanana Lakes Recreation Area



Difficulty: EASY



Get there: At the end of South Cushman, turn right onto Northlake Lane to get to TLRA.

Trailhead parking is by the non-motorized boat launch for Cushman Lake.

Distance: 0.66 mi.

Tips: This is a non-motorized trail. For a nice full loop almost 2.5 miles long, at the end of Eagle Trail continue north along the east side of the lake, then follow Flicker Trail and Sandpiper Trail to connect back to the lake's west side and walk south from the Swim Beach back to the parking area.

#2. Island Trail @ Tanana Lakes Recreation Area



Difficulty: EASY-MODERATE



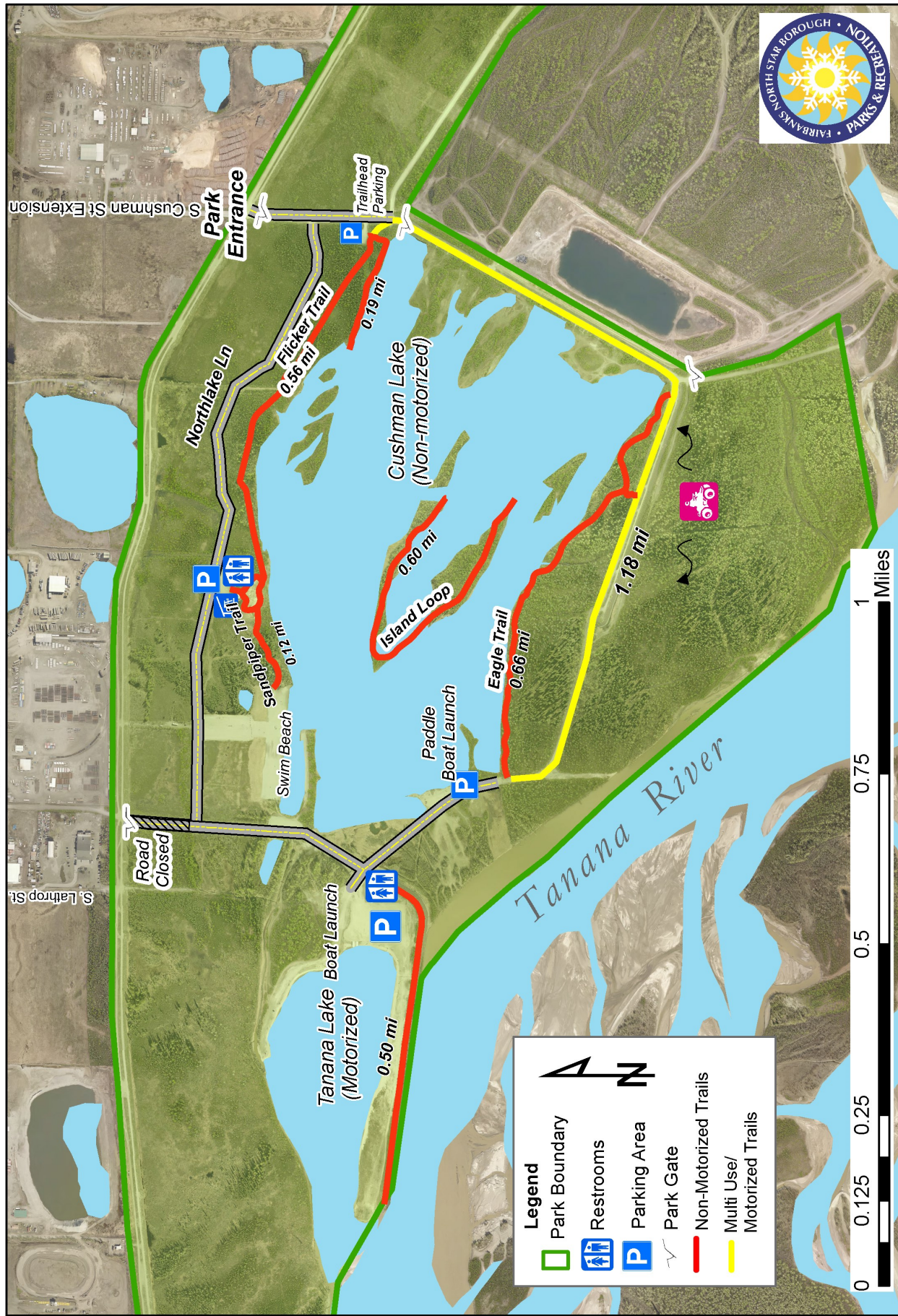
Get there: Drive to the park entrance at the end of South Cushman and turn right on Northlake Lane. Park at the picnic pavilion, swim beach, or non-motorized boat launch.

Distance: 0.60 mi.

Tips: Paddle across the non-motorized lake to reach the "islands." Walk around to explore the trails, have a snack at the picnic bench on the lagoon, and find the trail sign.



Tanana Lakes Recreation Area



Summer Trails Map 2019

#3. Fairbanks Dog Park Trail @ South Davis Park



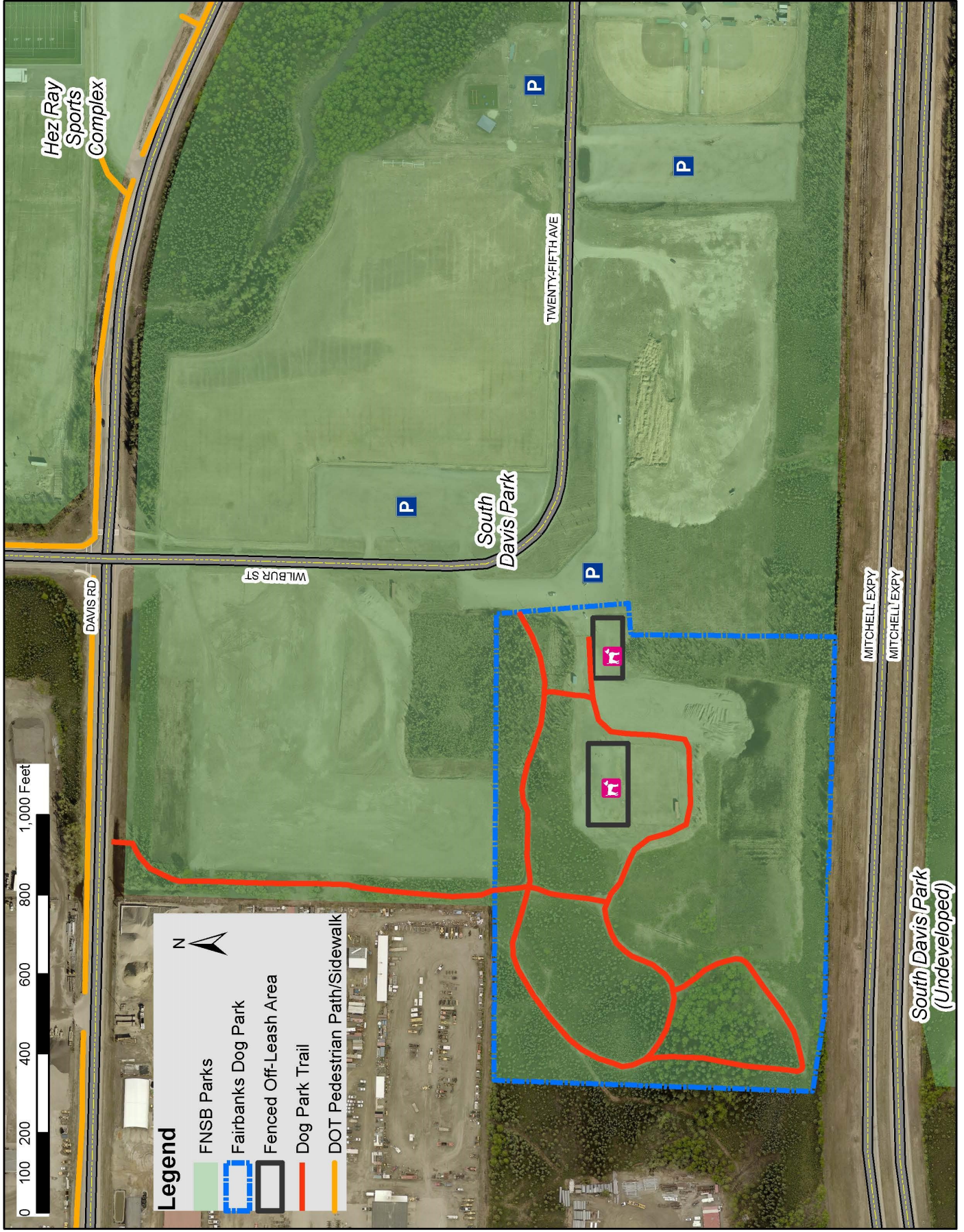
Difficulty: EASY



Get there: Find South Davis Park on the southwest corner of Davis Rd and Lathrop St. Enter the park off Lathrop at 25th Ave or where Wilbur runs into Davis. The Fairbanks Dog Park is located in the south west corner of the park.

Distance: The Dog Park trail is less than one mile long.

Tips: This is a great, short, quick loop to do with your dog or for a lunchtime walking break. There is some loose gravel, but the trail is mostly friendly to burly stroller wheels. Take time to read the interpretive signs and appreciate the wildlife oasis within our urban core.



#4. Nature Trail @ Chena Lake Recreation Area



Difficulty: EASY-MODERATE



Get there: From North Pole, take the Richardson Highway South, and exit Dawson Road following signs to Chena Lake Recreation Area. Follow Laurance Road eastward to enter CLRA. Near the end of the road, turn left onto the River Park Road. Parking is in 3/4 mile at the pavilion on the left.

Distance: The River Park Trails offer loops of 2.5K (black markers), 4K (yellow markers) and 5.5K (green markers) distances. For this sign, follow the yellow markers along the 4k Nature Trail.

Tips: This is a non-motorized trail. Watch for moose— they like the riverbank and sloughs by this trail and have been known to surprise hikers and skiers. Keep your head up and make noise to avoid startling a moose and keep dogs on a leash. The Nature Trail hosts interpretive signs for learning about the area.



#5. Slough Loop @ Chena Lake Recreation Area



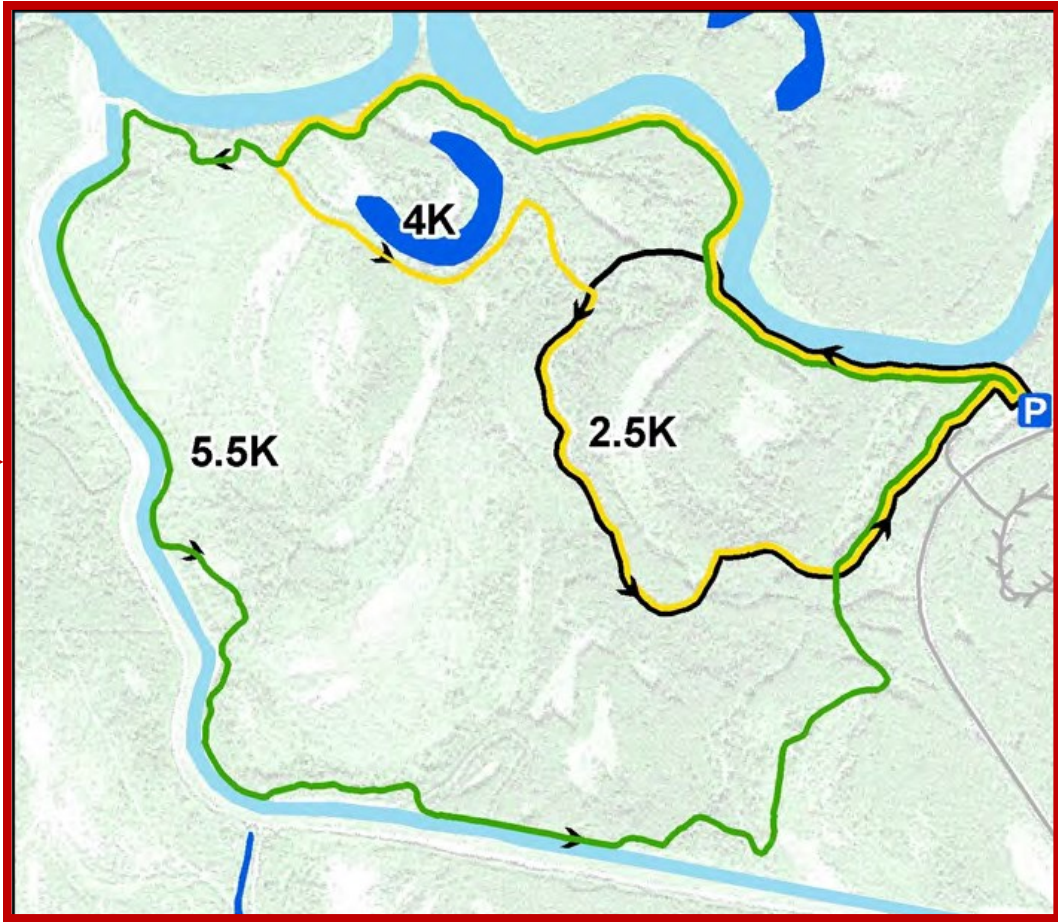
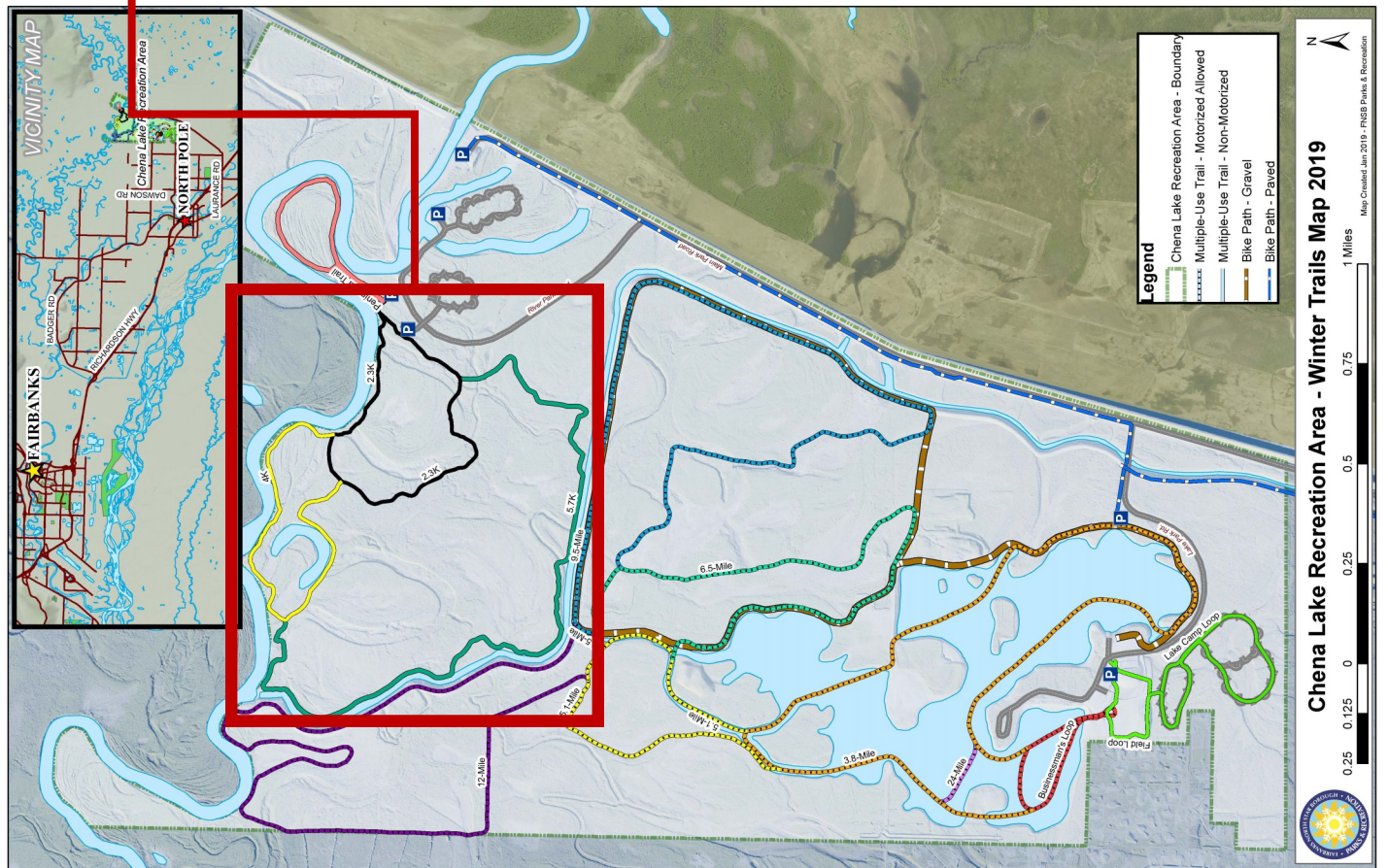
Difficulty: EASY



Get there: From North Pole, take the Richardson Highway South, and exit Dawson Road following signs to Chena Lake Recreation Area. Follow Laurance Road eastward into CLRA. The trailhead for the Slough Loop is near the end of the road, just PAST the River Park Road entrance.

Distance: This is a VERY short little loop.

Tips: This is a non-motorized trail. While the loop is short, it's nice and secluded. **NOTE: The US Army Corps of Engineers will have the road blocked for maintenance at the beginning of the Trails Challenge. Wait to access this loop until mid July.**



#6. North Forty @ Birch Hill Recreation Area



Difficulty: EASY-MODERATE



Get there: Parking for the Jim Whisenant Ski Trails is at the Birch Hill Recreation Area and Ski Center, located at 101 Wilderness Drive. Hours: 8am to 10pm. Gates close at 10pm.

Distance: 2.5 km.

Tips: Birch Hill trails are non-motorized. White Bear, Classical Bear, Sunnyside and Sonot area trails are on US Army Ft. Wainwright lands. Register for your Recreational Access Permit to Army lands at <https://usatrak.isportsman.net/>.

#7. Blackhawk Loop @ Birch Hill Recreation Area

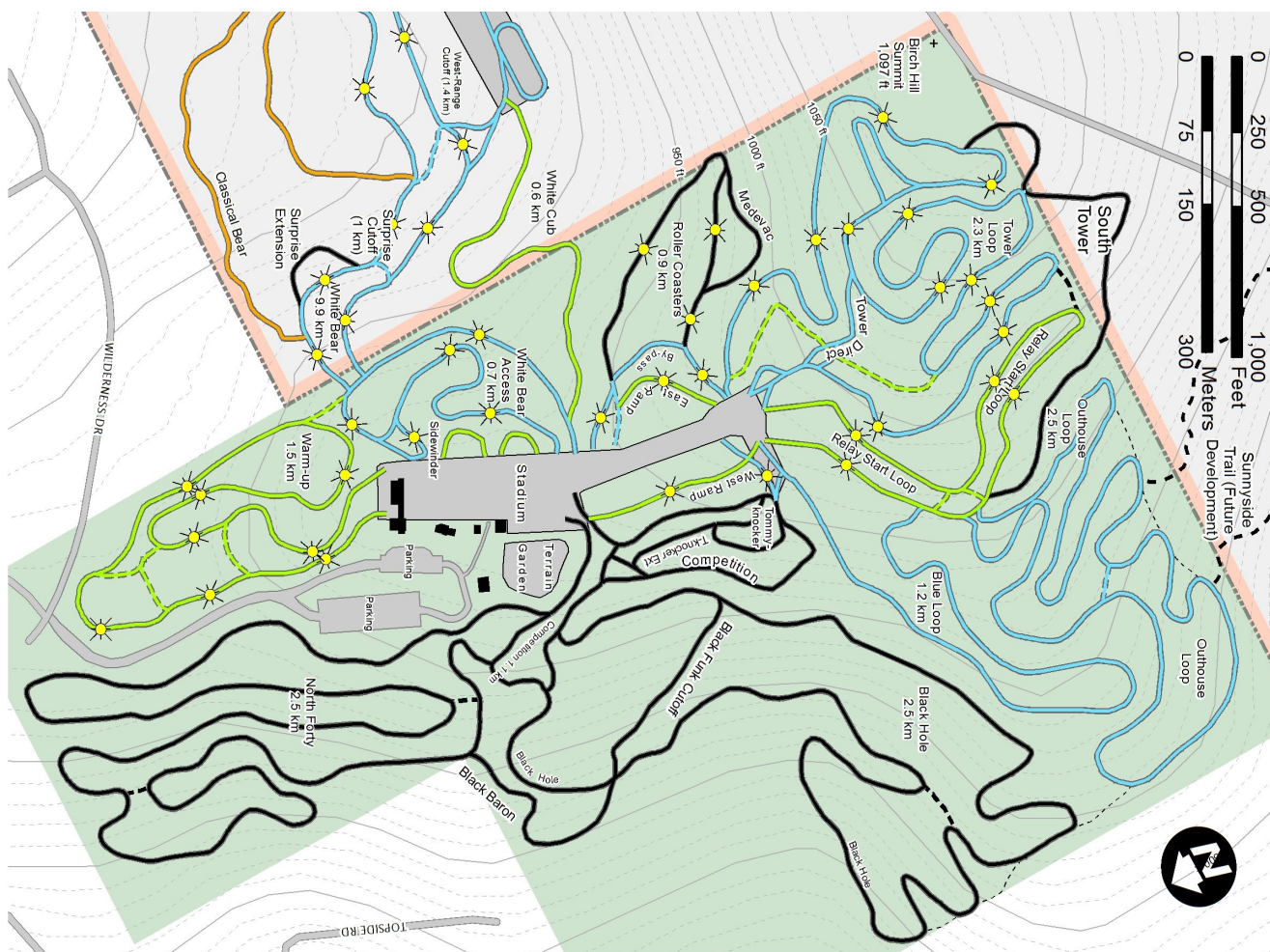


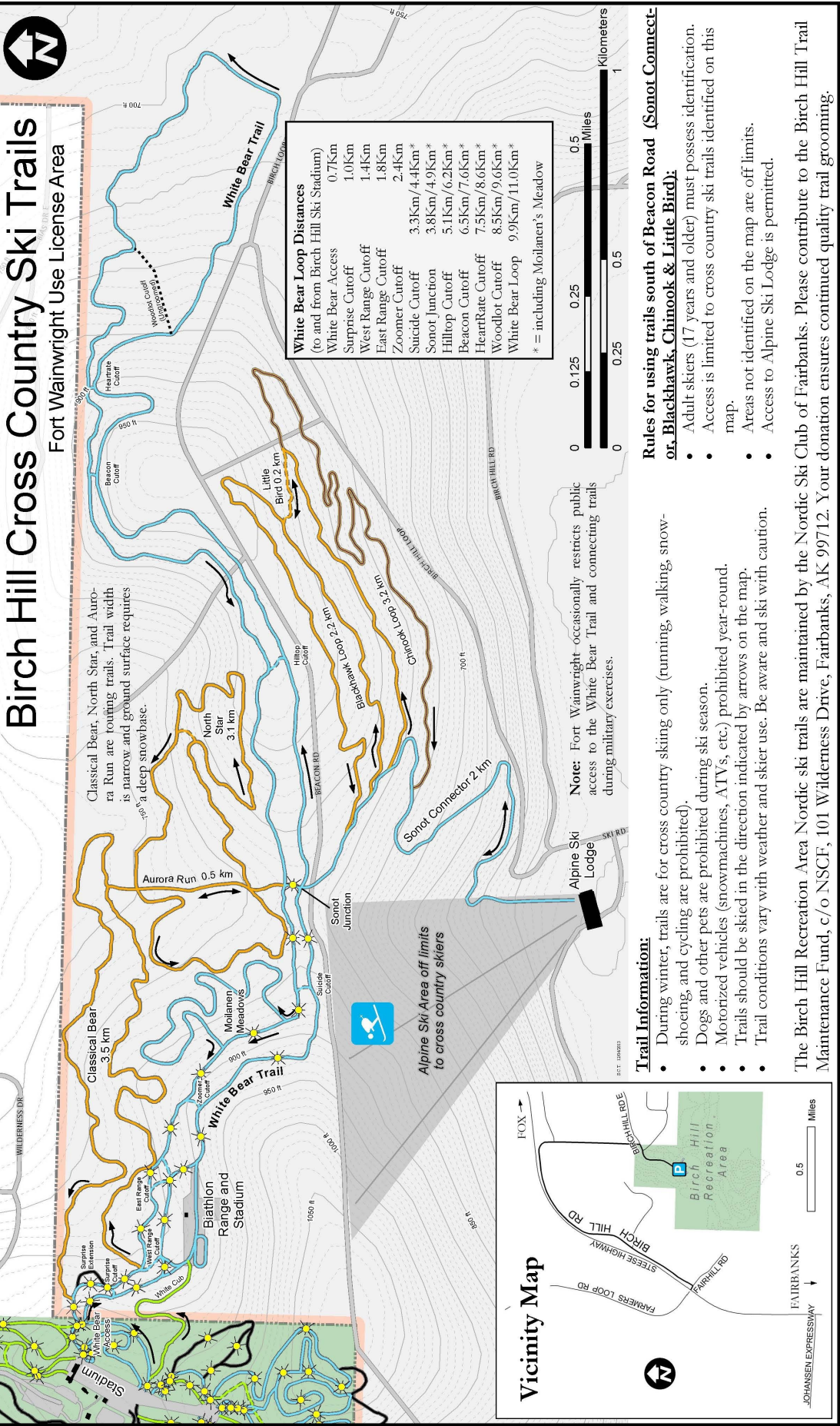
Difficulty: MODERATE



Distance: Blackhawk Loop is 2.2 km. The whole route from the stadium will be over 6 km.

Tips: See above. Take White Bear to the Sonot Junction, then Sonot Connector to the Blackhawk Loop. Birch Hill trails can be EXTREMELY buggy in the summer. Don't be chased away: *Bring bug spray or a head net!*





#8. Skyline Ridge Trail @ Skyline Ridge Park



Difficulty: EASY-MODERATE



Get there: From Farmer's Loop Road, take Summit Drive to Cranberry Ridge, or Skyline Drive to the top of Crestline Drive then left to Cranberry Ridge. Follow Cranberry Ridge uphill to Noel Drive. Public access to the park is at the Skyline Ridge trailhead at the top corner of Noel Drive and M.I.A Street.

Distance: 1.25 mi.

Tips: This is a non-motorized trail. Parking at the trailhead is limited; Please park courteously. The trail is wide and starts with a long, moderate downhill. It's a gentle hike down but may have you huffing and puffing on the way back up! Keep dogs on a leash and respect neighboring private property. If you end up at the KUAC antennae and tower at the top of Skiboot Hill Rd, you've gone too far!



#9. Secret Trail @ Skyline Ridge Park



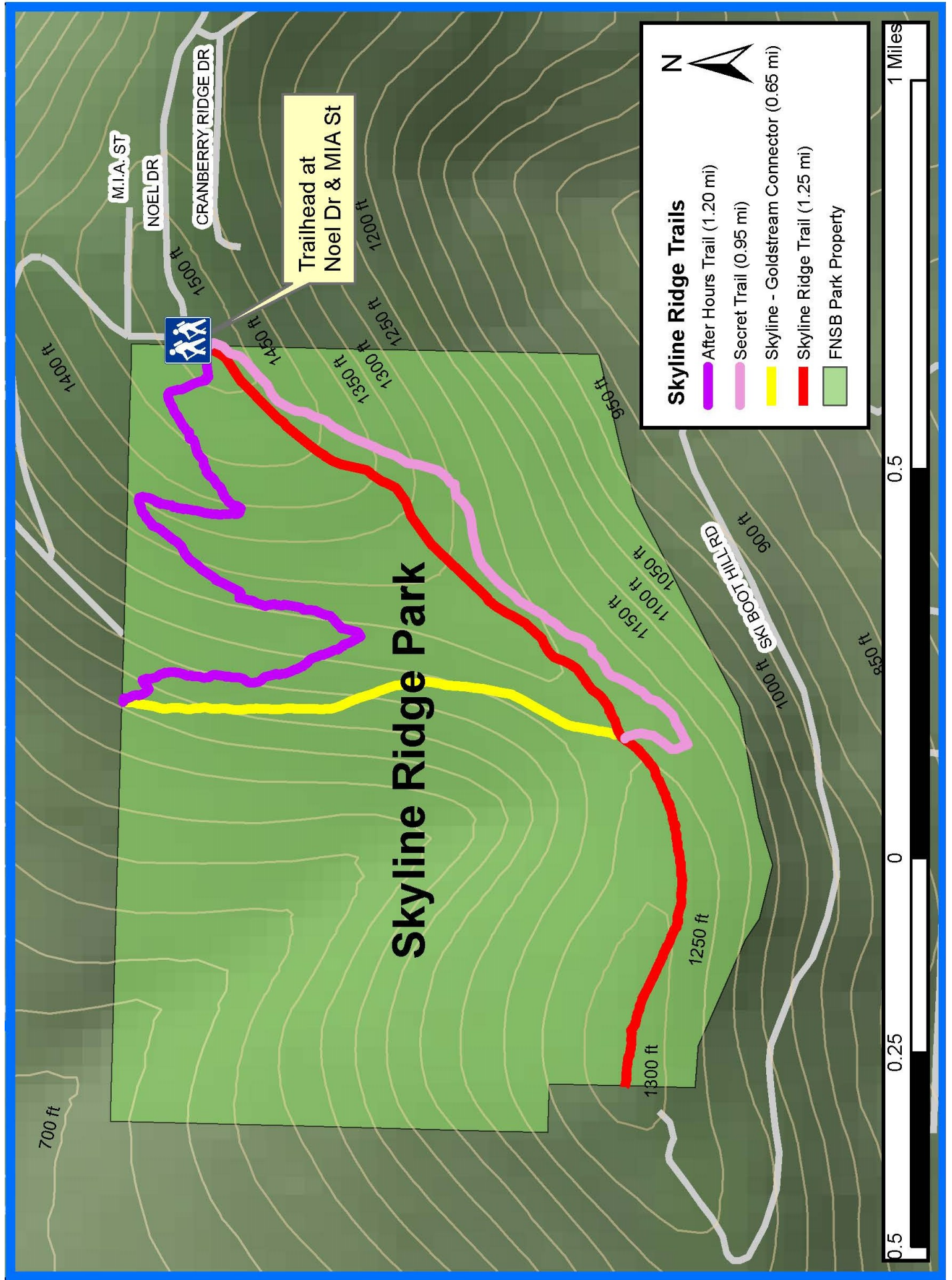
Difficulty: MODERATE



Get there: See above.

Distance: Almost one mile, going one way. Make a two mile loop with Secret Trail and Skyline Ridge, or continue down the Goldstream Connector and up After Hours Trail for a loop just under 3 miles.

Tips: This is a non-motorized trail. This narrow, winding single-track trail offers a nice contrast to the wide Skyline Ridge Trail.



#10. Stiles Creek Trail @ Chena River State Recreation Area



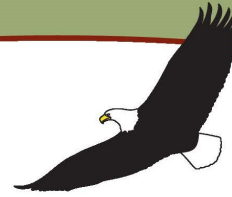
Difficulty: MODERATE—DIFFICULT



Guide to

Stiles Creek Trail

in Chena River State Recreation Area



Trail Access: Chena Hot Springs Rd: Mi. 31.6 & 36.4

Allowable Uses: ATV, Hiking, Biking, Horseback Riding, Snowmobile, Skiing

Distance: 15 miles one-way from lower to upper trailhead

Total Elevation Gain: 1700 feet

***Note:** The Stiles Creek extension is under construction during 2013/2014, and will be accessible from Mi. 41.6 when completed.



Stiles Creek Trail Elevation Profile



Stiles Creek Cabin

Reservations are required to stay at the Stiles Creek Cabin. To reserve the cabin visit:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/cabins/north.htm>

Cabin Coordinates: (N64° 57.917' W146° 28.056').

Camping:

Minimize your impact on the area by camping away from the trail, packing out what you pack in, and burying human waste away from the trail.

Park Rules:

Disturbing or gathering natural materials is prohibited in the Recreation Area, except for berries, mushrooms, and similar edibles for personal use. For a complete set of park rules visit:

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

Park Access:

Due to saturated soils during spring break-up, motorized trails are closed (except for hiking) from April 20th through May 24th. Contact the Northern Area office for closure dates; dates may vary.

Stiles Creek Trail:

Stiles Creek Trail begins at mile 31.6 Chena Hot Springs Road and ascends gently to a ridgeline paralleling the road, with pleasant valley views at several spots.

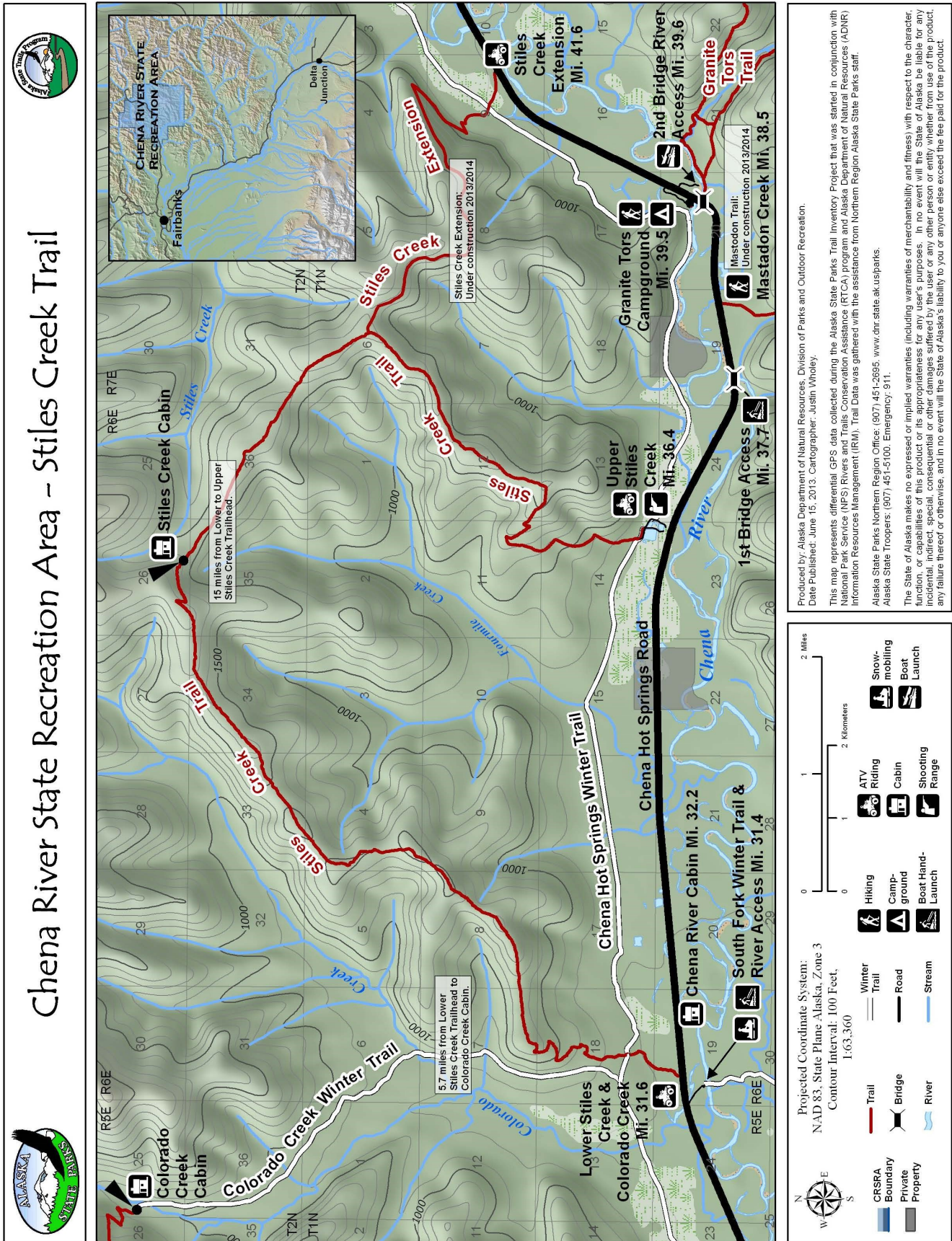
The trail is relatively level as it intersects with the Chena Hot Springs Winter Trail a half-mile from the trailhead. Keep right to continue on the Stiles Creek Trail; to the left is the Chena Hot Springs Winter Trail (this also leads to the Colorado Creek Trail—see map). After 1.75 miles the trail levels out and then climbs gently to a hilltop view of Chena Dome. The next five miles of the trail consist of a series of small ridges and saddles. Mile marker 7 provides a flat, open area with a great view of the Chena Dome Trail.

Beginning at mile 7.7 the trail drops downslope to the Stiles Creek Cabin. At mile 7.9, turn right to the cabin or continue straight if you wish to bypass it. From mile 7.9 to 9.1, the trail is fairly flat with a gentle uphill rise. From an overlook of Chena Dome Trail, at mile 9.1, the trail begins a 3.5 mile trek over a series of ridges and saddles. At mile 12.8, there is another scenic overlook. This area is a pleasant place to camp overnight. From there, the trail continues downhill and flattens out. It intersects again with the Winter Trail. Take a left turn to reach the trailhead at the mile 36.4 shooting range on Chena Hot Springs Road.

Alaska State Parks
Northern Area Office
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 451 - 2695



Tips: Look for the trail sign after hitting a high point around 2 miles and getting some views through the trees to the north! If you have the time, don't miss out on the fantastic views farther up the trail.





#11. Circle-Fairbanks Historic Trail @ Twelve Mile Summit



Difficulty: DIFFICULT
🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

Get there: From Fairbanks, take the Steese Highway north and east to Milepost 86. The “Twelvemile Summit” wayside will be on your right and the trail continues southwest from here. This is also the trailhead for the Pinnell Mountain Trail, which you can see to the north on the other side of the road. There is an outhouse at this wayside.

Distance: Look for the Trails Challenge sign within 1 mile of the Twelvemile Summit trailhead. Finding the sign is a short and simple trip. But beyond the sign there are many, many more miles of difficult trail to explore. The full trail extends about 58 miles from near Cleary Summit to Twelvemile Summit at MP 86 Steese Highway.

Tips: *This is a multi-use route.* Eventually the trail may be indistinguishable, becoming a ridgeline “route.” The Circle-Fairbanks Trail is managed cooperatively by the Alaska Divisions of Land and Water Management and Parks & Outdoor Recreation for multiple uses including mining, trapping, recreational travel, and access to recreational cabin sites. Large portions of this trail are owned by the University of Alaska, and multiple mining claims border the path. **Recreationists using the trail should respect private property, recreational cabin sites and mining claims.**

This trail is located in bear country, and both grizzly and black bears may be encountered. It is advised to bring bear spray when traveling this trail and to keep dogs under control. If traveling this trail alone, tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back. Weather can change very rapidly at higher elevations, and there is very little natural cover on the trail. It is advised to go with a friend and come prepared for adverse weather and with plenty of extra food and water.

History: During the early 20th century Gold Rush days, before the Steese Hwy, this trail was the original dryland route from the Circle City on the Yukon River to Fairbanks on the Chena River. This trail was the “summer route” that stayed high along the ridgelines and thus offers incredible views of the surrounding mountains and valleys.

#12. Mike Kelly Trail @ Tanana Valley State Forest



Difficulty: DIFFICULT



Guide to

Mike Kelly Trail

Mike Kelly Trail: This challenging trail follows the Anaconda Creek ridgeline with steep grades that offer stunning views of the Chena River Valley, the Alaska Range, and north towards the White Mountains. The trail is 13.5 miles (one-way). It offers a myriad of outdoor recreation opportunities including hunting, trapping, snow machining, ATV riding, berry-picking, skiing, biking, hiking, dog mushing, horseback riding and dirt biking to name a few.

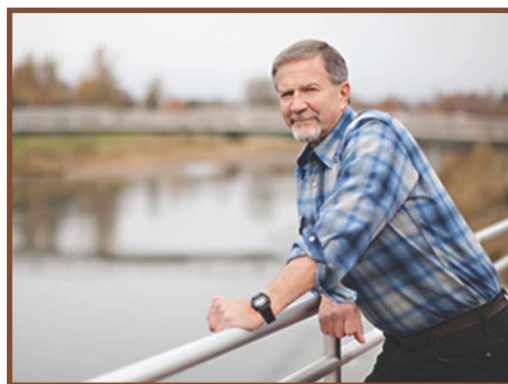
History: The trail was originally constructed as a fire break during the Boundary Fire in 2004. Access via the fire break extended into the alpine country of Chena River State Recreation Area, paralleling the non-motorized, 30-mile Chena Dome Trail.

The decision to create a permanent multi-use trail followed robust debate in the greater Fairbanks area over motorized access in alpine country- between those wanting to preserve access and others worried about environmental impacts.

Alaska State Representative Mike Kelly of Fairbanks and Department of Natural Resource Commissioner Tom Irwin joined forces to work with user groups to find a solution. Ultimately DNR agreed to keep the fire break (Mike Kelly Trail) open to mile 13.5, a prominent high-point just short of the Chena Dome Trail.

To mitigate closing the remainder of the fire break to alpine traffic, Rep. Kelly secured a \$184,000 legislative Appropriation to build a year-round trail (Compeau Trail) to the Colorado Creek Public Use Cabin. The Compeau Trail connects to the Mike Kelly Trail at mile 8.5 and provides more than 30 miles of trail-riding opportunities.

Trail Access: The Mike Kelly Trail starts near the end of a 6-mile wood-cutting road that leaves Chena Hot Springs Road at mile 18. You can also access the Mike Kelly Trail from the Compeau Trailhead located at mile 29.5 Chena Hot Springs Road. The Compeau Trail at mile 10 intersects the Mike Kelly Trail.



The Mike Kelly Trail is dedicated to the memory of Mike Kelly, a true champion of public access to Alaska's outdoors.

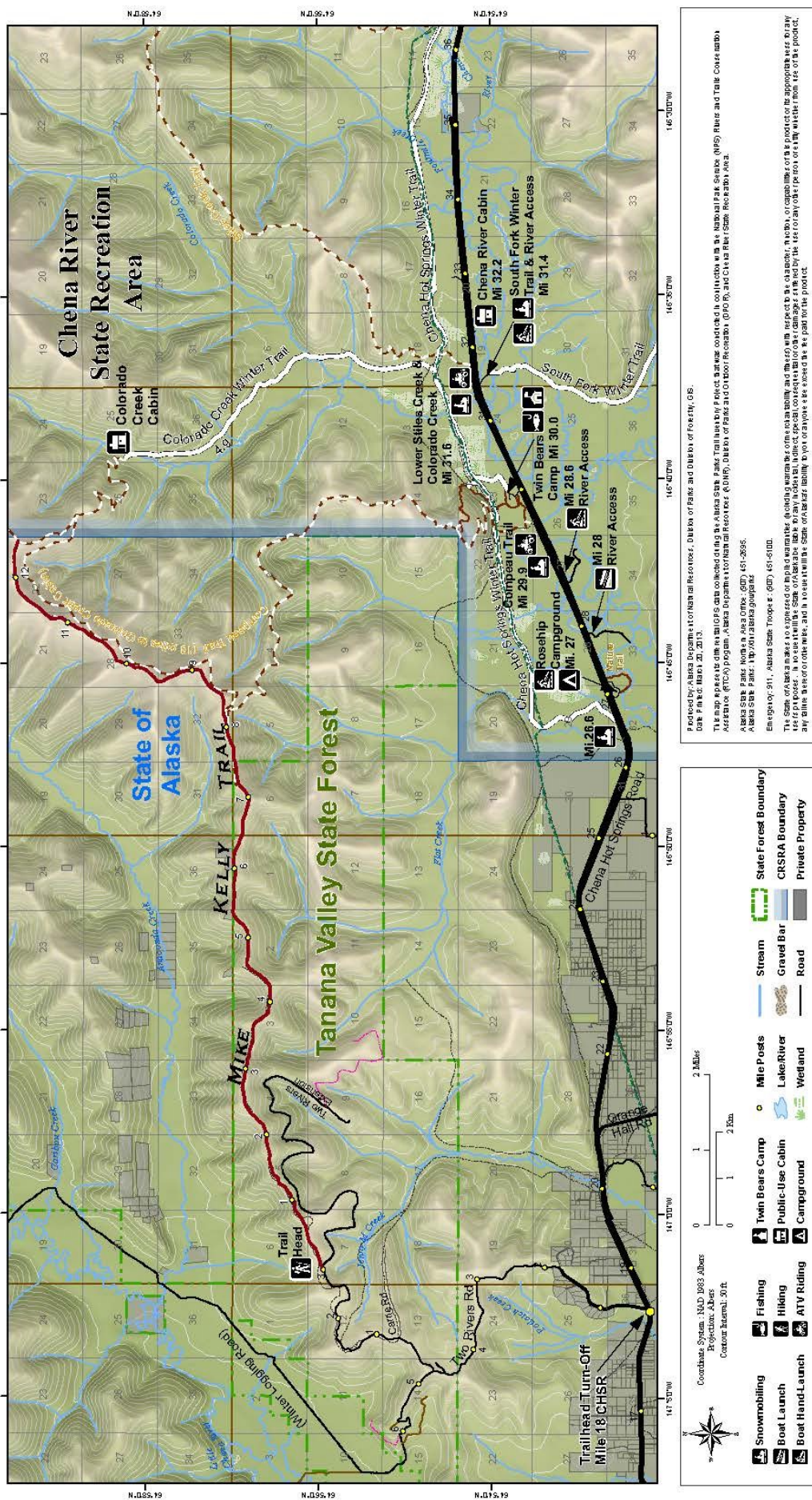


Seasonal Closures: The 6-mile wood cutting road and Mike Kelly Trail are open year-round but caution is advised as the road gets extremely muddy and rutted during break-up. The Compeau Trail closes annually to all uses except hiking between April 20 and the Thursday proceeding Memorial Day weekend.

Alaska State Parks
Northern Area Office
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 451 - 2695



Department of Natural Resources - Mike Kelly Trail



Tips: ***This trail is in the region of an active wildfire in the Caribou Creek valley. Stay informed; find fire updates here: <https://fire.ak.blm.gov/>

Look for this trail sign around 5 miles down the trail. If you have passed the third large clearing, you've passed it! There are very impressive views several miles farther near where the Mike Kelly Trail joins the Compeau Trail. Note there are NO RESTROOMS at this trailhead!

FLiP

FLiP = Fairbanks Loves its Parks



FLiP is a **FREE** educational and awareness program highlighting all of the great parks, programs, trails, and facilities that the Fairbanks North Star Borough has to offer! Your membership shows your **"Dedication to Recreation"**

SIGN UP TODAY! Parks.fnsb.us

