

What the Eagle River Nature Center Offers

Weekend naturalist programs throughout the year for adults and children. Astronomy programs on Fridays during the winter months. Kneehi naturalist programs for preschoolers.

Interpretive displays and information.

Daily nature walks in the summer.

A selection of trails for hiking, skiing or snowshoeing. The famous Crow Pass Trail starts/ends here.

Rental of a public use cabin and two yurts for overnight stay in the nearby backcountry.

Up-to-date trail conditions and knowledgeable volunteers answering your questions.

Wildlife viewing - telescopes, binoculars on loan

Opportunities for volunteering.

Group instruction and guided tours by appointment.

Snowshoe rentals in the winter months.

A nature gift shop and beverages and snacks.



Hours of Operation

We're open year round, with reduced hours from October through April. Call **907-694-2108** or visit www.ernc.org for hours. We're also on Facebook!



Getting Involved

In 1995, the Nature Center (formally called the Eagle River Visitor Center operated by Alaska State Parks) was only open June through August with a budget of \$16,000 - down from a budget of \$180,000 in 1983. A dilemma for Chugach State Park administrators, they passed on operation to *Friends* in the hopes that the Center could be saved from having to close its doors permanently.

Since 1996, not only has *Friends* kept the doors open throughout the year, but the organization has expanded operation by placing emphasis on natural history interpretation and outdoor recreation programs. Grants and donations have helped finance the Nature Studies Program for Alaska's Schools, interpretive displays and trail improvements. The State issued *Friends* a 25-year contract in 2005 to continue its stewardship.

You can support *Friends* in one of two ways: first by becoming a member and providing your financial support, and secondly, by volunteering your spare time. **Write to us or give us a call at 694-2108 if you'd like to become a volunteer.**



Please Recycle! Return to the front desk if not needed.

Yes! I want to become a member of the Nature Center.



Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Message phone _____

E-mail address _____

New Member

Renewal

Office use only
Rec'd on _____
Rec'd by _____
Check # _____
Mailed on _____
DB on/by _____

- \$20 Student or Sr. Citizen (62+) circle one
- \$40 Basic (1 decal)
- \$65 Premium (2 decals)
- _____ Military \$30 or \$55/Life Balance \$20

As a member you'll receive annual parking at the Nature Center; quarterly newsletters and schedules; and cabin/yurt use discounts. Basic, student and senior memberships receive one parking decal. Premium - 2 parking decals. Additional decals are \$15 with a premium membership.

Please send this form with your payment to:

Friends of Eagle River Nature Center
32750 Eagle River Road

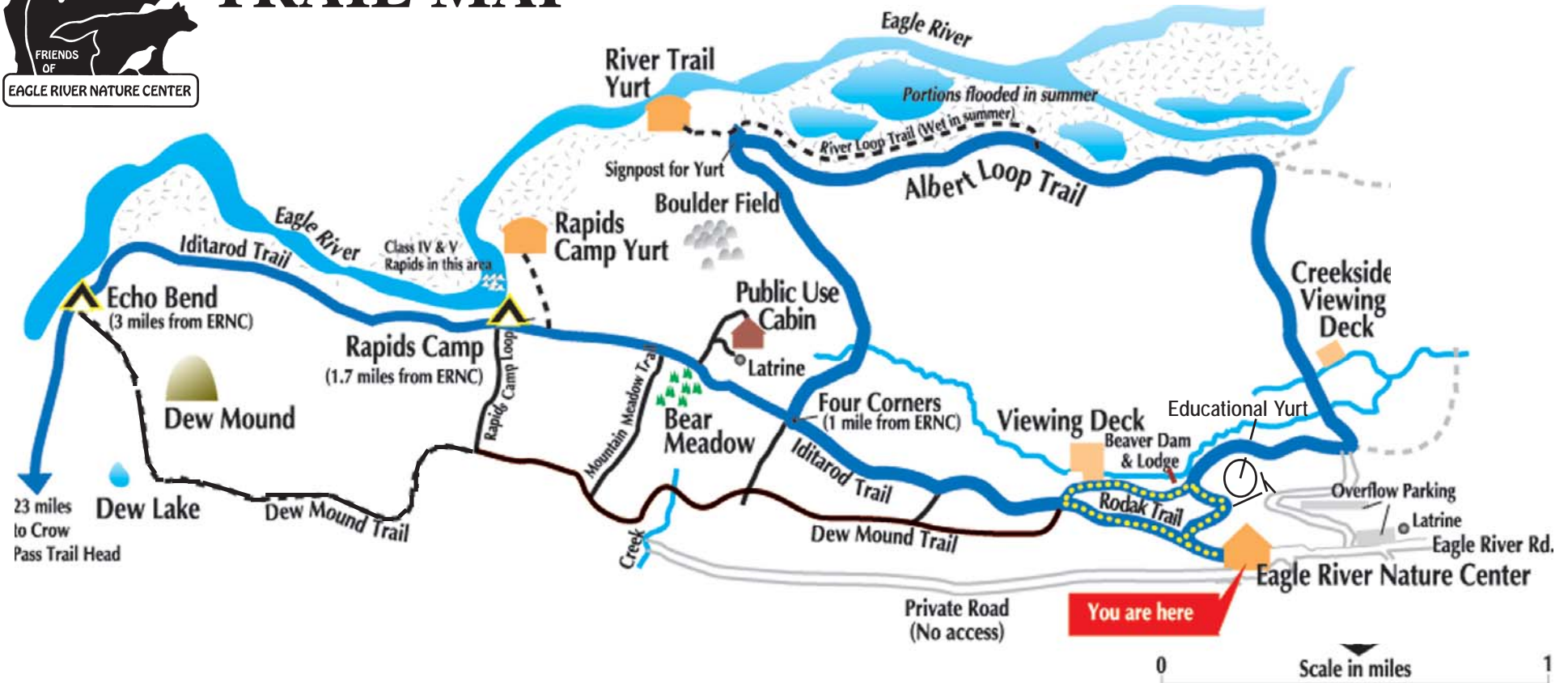
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

or call (907) 694-2108 if you wish to use Visa/Mastercard.

Friends is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Tax ID#92-0156981



Eagle River Nature Center TRAIL MAP



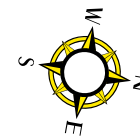
Rodak Trail: 3/4-mile interpretive loop trail which leads to a beaver viewing deck and salmon viewing deck. Easy-moderate. Accessible by stroller and wheelchair. Allow 45 minutes-1 hour.

Albert Loop Trail: 3-mile loop trail to Eagle River. Easy-moderate. Allow 1-2 hours. The Nature Center publishes a Geology Guide which follows the Albert Loop. Portions of the trail are sometimes closed in July, August or September to allow bears to fish for salmon. Inquire at the front desk.

Historic Iditarod Trail or Crow Pass Trail: Incredibly beautiful 25-mile trail to Girdwood through Eagle River Valley. Moderately strenuous-difficult. First 3 miles to Echo Bend are easy-moderate. Total elevation gain from Eagle River: 3100 feet. Best time to hike the entire traverse is June through mid-September.

Dew Mound Trail: Backcountry trail that offer five loops (some with moderate elevation gain). Enjoy views from Dew Lake. Moderately strenuous. Allow 4-5 hours to complete the 6-mile loop to Echo Bend and back to the Nature Center.

The following books offer more detailed descriptions: *Hiking Alaska* by Dean Littlepage; *55 Ways to the Wilderness* by Helen Nienhueser & John Wolfe, Jr., and *50 Hikes in Alaska's Chugach State Park* by Shane Shepherd & Owen Wozniak.



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Nonprofit ID 92-0156981

Daily parking fees or annual parking with a membership purchase are essential to our ability to stay open. Thank you for your support.