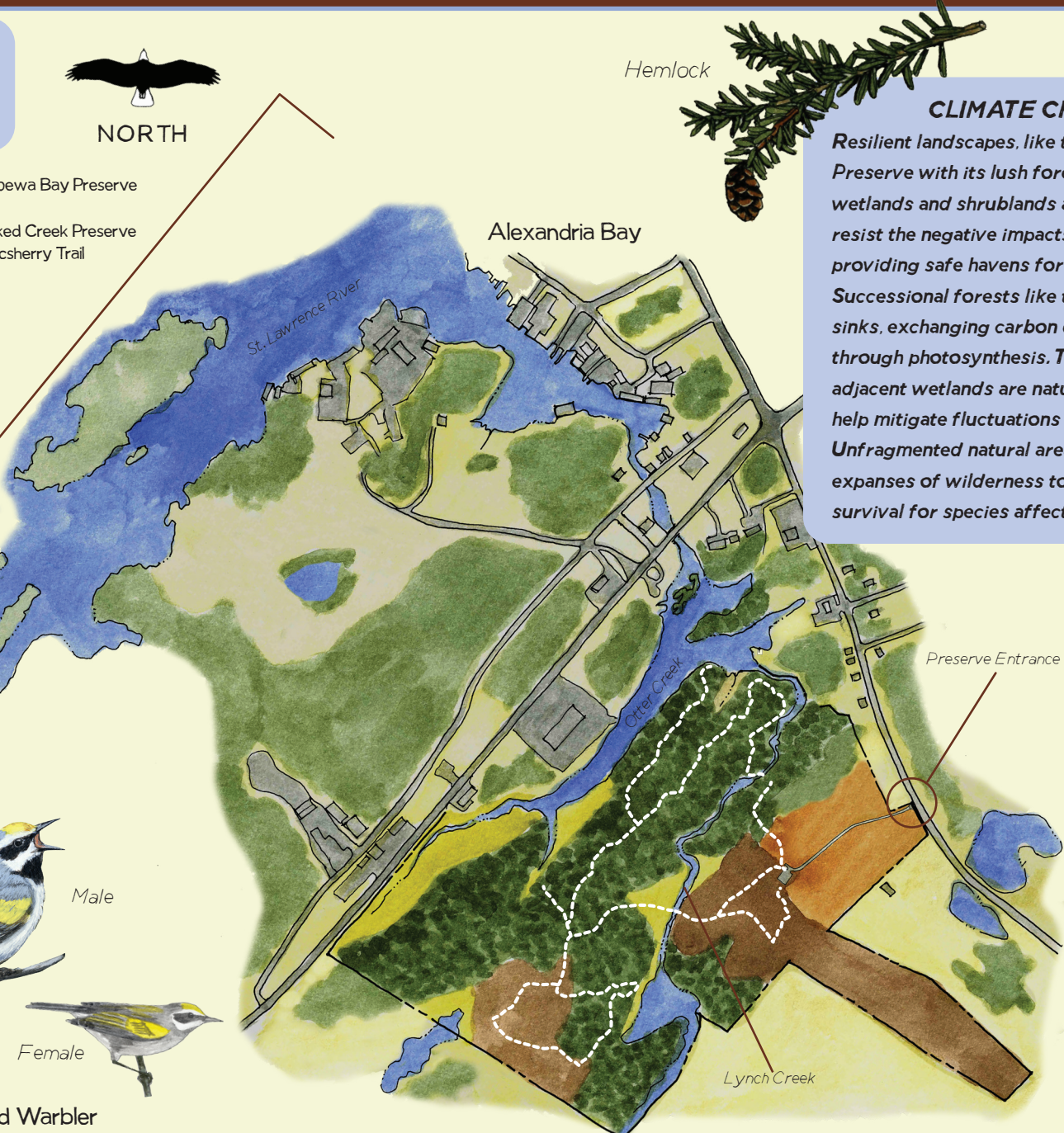
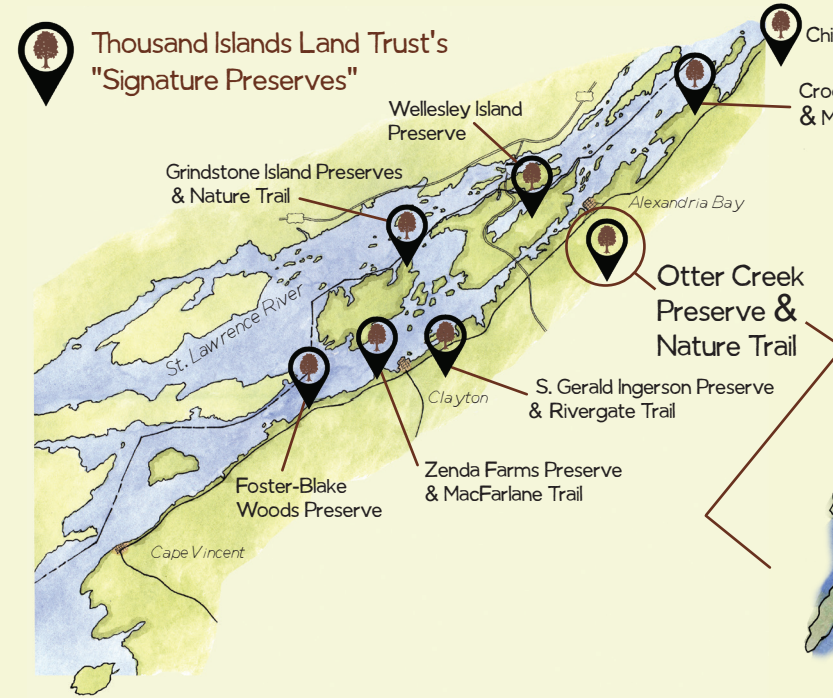


The Otter Creek Preserve A 1.9 mile Nature Trail A Mosaic of Habitats in the Village of Alexandria Bay

The Otter Creek Preserve and Nature Trail offers walking, hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on 115 acres of diverse forest and wetlands. A portion of the trail is ADA accessible.



CLIMATE CHANGE

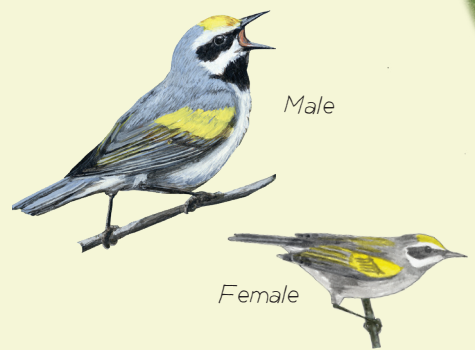
Resilient landscapes, like the Otter Creek Preserve with its lush forests and extensive wetlands and shrublands are better able to resist the negative impacts of climate change, providing safe havens for native species. Successional forests like this one are carbon sinks, exchanging carbon dioxide for oxygen through photosynthesis. Tributaries with adjacent wetlands are natural sponges that help mitigate fluctuations in water levels. Unfragmented natural areas that connect expanses of wilderness together are the key to survival for species affected by climate change.



Directions to the Preserve: In Alexandria Bay, turn south on State Route 26 (Church Street) Drive a half mile to the Preserve entrance on the right.

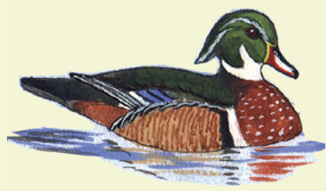


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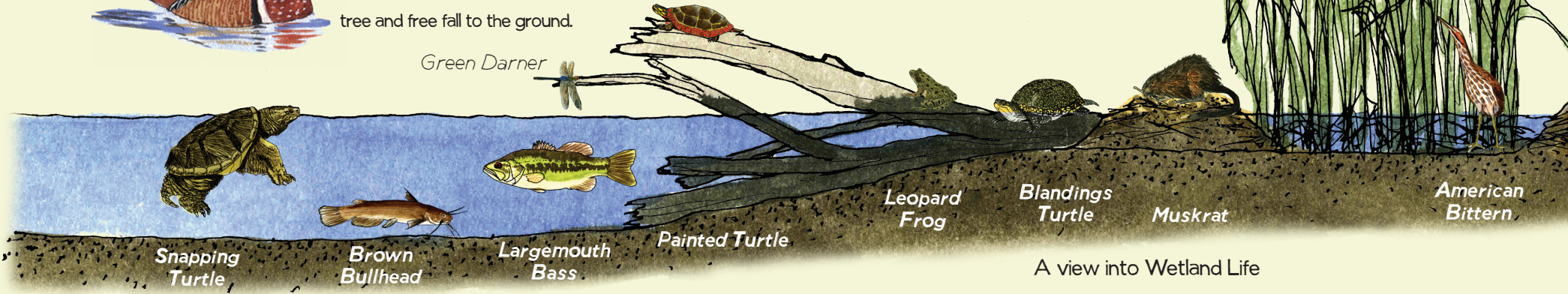
Golden-winged Warbler

The largest NY populations of this steeply declining songbird are here in the St. Lawrence River Valley. Their native habitat is young forest, usually created by natural disturbances such as fire or beaver activity. Lack of this kind of disturbance along with human development have had a drastic impact on the population.



Wood Duck

Wood Ducks nest in the hollows of trees, high above the forest floor. When the ducklings hatch, their mother calls to them from below and they hurl themselves out of the nest in the tree and free fall to the ground.



BUT IT'S A SWAMP!

Wetlands are messy, muddy, stinky places, that are really important for the health of the St. Lawrence and all the wildlife that live here. They are actually really cool. What happens in wetlands? Fish spawn, birds nest, muskrats eat, deer cool off, foxes hide, the list goes on and on. And that's only half of it. Wetlands also help the water itself, filtering out toxins, as the water moves in and out of cattails, grasses, and seaweeds. Water is absorbed in boggy places, which helps to reduce ups and downs in water levels. Everybody benefits from wetlands.

Red-winged Blackbird

A view into Wetland Life

The Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) is...

Working to conserve the natural beauty, diverse wildlife habitats, water quality and outdoor recreation opportunities of the Thousand Islands region, for present and future generations!



Live. Learn. Conserve.

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The Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization created in 1985 to conserve the natural beauty, diverse wildlife habitats, water quality and outdoor recreation opportunities of the Thousand Islands region, for present and future generations!

TILT is supported by donations from people who care about the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River. Our conservation work is only possible through the generosity of our supporters.

Donations of land, conservation easements, and financial resources to TILT are tax deductible under provisions of the Internal Revenue code. To find out more about donating land, creating a conservation easement, or including TILT in your will, please call us at 315-686-5345.

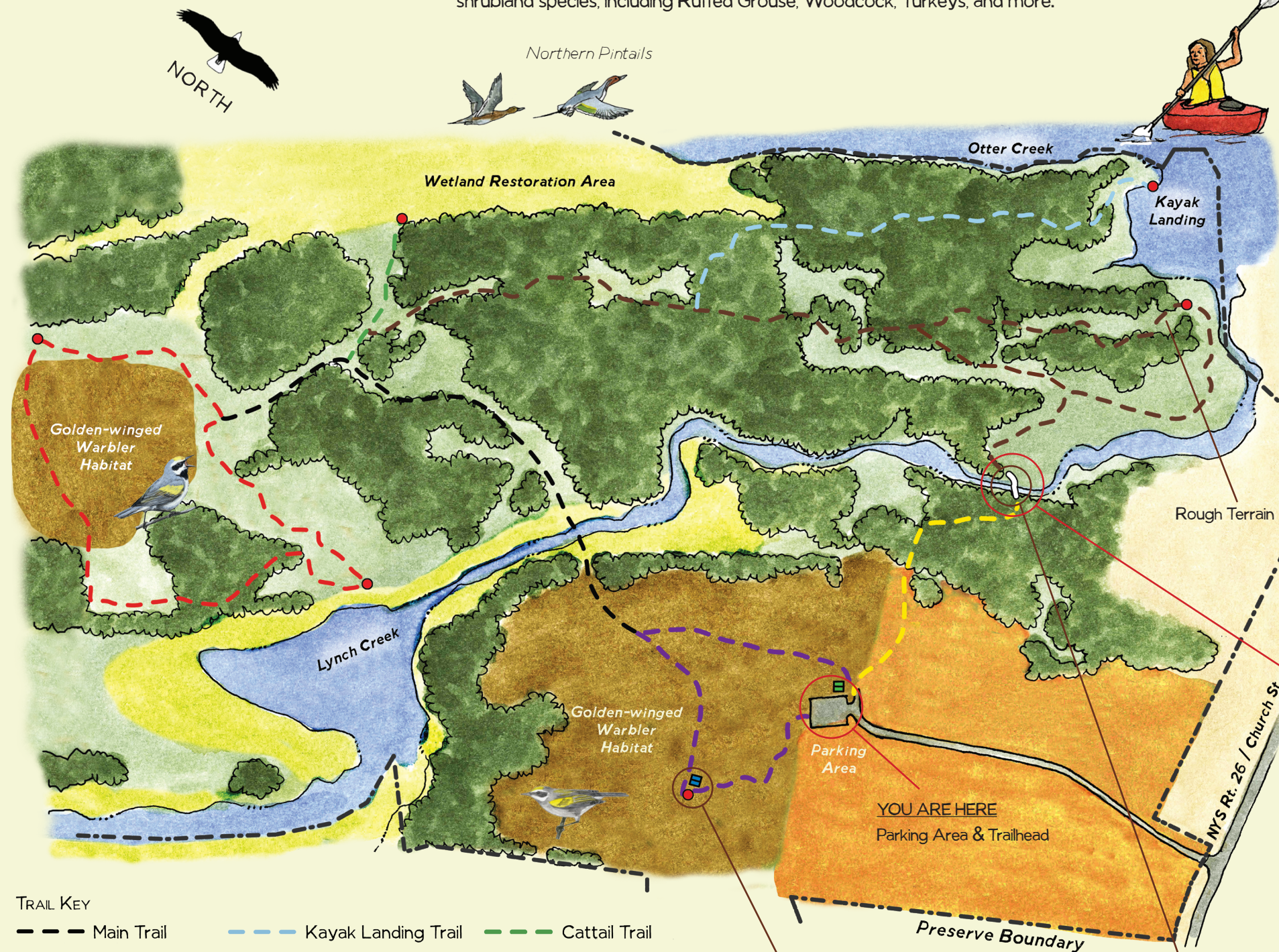


Donate today!



Lynch Creek

Otter Creek Preserve has two areas managed as Golden-winged Warbler habitat. This handsome bird migrates from coffee plantations in Central and South America to shrublands and young forests in North America. Its breeding and nesting habitat is in decline which has threatened its population in New York State. It also hybridizes with Blue-winged Warblers, reducing the number of genetically pure Golden-wings. Otter Creek is one of three Golden-winged Warbler Demonstration Areas in the Thousand Islands. Managing for Golden-winged Warbler also benefits a variety of other shrubland species, including Ruffed Grouse, Woodcock, Turkeys, and more.



TRAIL KEY

- Main Trail
- Kayak Landing Trail
- Cattail Trail
- Northern Loop
- South Loop
- Bridge Trail
- Observation Tower Trail (ADA Accessible)
- Welcome Kiosk
- Observation Tower
- Interpretive Signage

GROUND COVER KEY

- Shrubland
- Grassland
- Forest
- Wetland

The Fitzsimmons Observation Tower provides an excellent vantage point for viewing Golden-winged Warbler habitat. The lower level is ADA accessible.

The Walker Suspension Bridge offers beautiful views of Lynch Creek and is a fascinating example of engineering and construction.



Preserve Rules: Preserve open sunrise to sunset • No motorized vehicles

• Stay on trail • No camping, dumping, fires, or collecting flora & fauna • Keep pets on a leash • No trapping or hunting



The St. Lawrence Fishery benefits from ecosystems like Otter Creek. Pike spawn here in the spring, and small panfish like Bluegill and Pumpkinseed thrive in its sheltered waters.

Partners for Fish & Wildlife has constructed "potholes" in the wetlands of Otter Creek to encourage plant diversity in the cattail marsh along the NW corner of the preserve. Essentially a deeper open spot that is scooped out from the cattails, the potholes attract waterfowl and provide improved spawning habitat for Northern Pike and other species.



Northern Pike