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CALVES AND LAMBS AND FAWNS, OH MY! NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK PRESENTS A FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND STARRING ADORABLE BABY ANIMALS AMID THE BEAUTIFUL GREEN MEADOWS OF SUMMER

EATONVILLE, Wash. – Chambers Bay isn't the only show in town this weekend. Sure, watching Tiger Woods hit a long shot down the fairway is a thing of beauty.



And, yes, that little golf tournament in University Place has greens and birdies, duck hooks and “skied” shots. And, sure, there’s a Fox doing TV coverage.

But at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, we’ve got native animals in natural settings featuring summer’s gorgeous variegated shades of green. We’ve got bison and elk, caribou and moose that don’t just *play* on the greens. They eat them!

A caribou calf sticks close to its mother in the Free-Roaming Area at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.

And did we mention babies? Yes, there are babies! Adorable calves and lambs and fawns in the meadows and forests and on the hillsides. Their ever-watchful mothers stick close as the growing offspring venture a bit farther away. **(Here’s a link to video shot on Wednesday, June 17:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3z5wilz8smjiqnn/Trek%20babies.mpeg?dl=0>

Birdies? Check! The woods and trees are full of them. Ducks? Yep. Mallards and mergansers waddle the grounds and paddle their webbed feet in Horseshoe Lake, ducklings following behind. There are Canada geese, too.

And instead of fairways, we’ve got a “tramway” – the five-mile route our comfortable trams take through our 435-acre Free-Roaming Area, which is home to American bison, Roosevelt elk, woodland caribou, moose, deer, Canada geese and ducks. There aren’t even whispering golf announcers, either. We have trained naturalists who talk about

the animals and the land and its place in local history as they drive their trams past those herds of bison and elk and other animals, which often come so close visitors swear they smell bison or moose breath!

And, sure, the U.S. Open has one Fox. We have five. Plus gray wolves, coyotes, two black bears, a grizzly bear, bobcats, Canada lynx, badgers, beavers, fishers, skunks, raccoons, an otter, a wolverine, a porcupine and a whole flock of various owls and other birds.

There are wooded trails to walk, a café (or picnic tables for visitors who bring their own lunch), zip lines singing

overhead in some areas of the wildlife park and a gift shop for those all-important souvenirs or last-minute Father's Day presents.



A bison calf on somewhat wobbly legs follows its mother in the Free-Roaming Area.

Simply put, Northwest Trek is *the* place to be on this Father's Day/First-Day-Of-Summer Weekend. The National Weather Service is forecasting glorious weather with sunny days and temperatures in the 70s. Perfect for a little drive to get close to nature and stare wild in the eyes.

Northwest Trek is just a 45-to-50-minute drive from Tacoma and about an hour and 15 minutes from Seattle.

It's a great place for families to enjoy an amazing array of animal fathers and their offspring on a weekend dedicated to dads of all kinds.

For more information about Northwest Trek, go to www.nwtrek.org.

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Northwest Trek, accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, is a 725-acre zoological park dedicated to conservation, education and recreation by displaying, interpreting and researching native Northwest wildlife and their natural habitats. The wildlife park, a facility of Metro Parks Tacoma, is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2015. It's located 35 miles southeast of Tacoma off State Highway 161.