

Summer 2014

TREK TRACKS

PUBLISHED FOR THE FRIENDS OF NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK



BLACK BEAR QUIZ

What is a black bear's favorite food?

- A. Fish and small mammals
- B. Carrion and garbage
- C. Honey and insects
- D. Berries and plants

Where could you find a black bear in the wild?

- A. Only in Washington State
- B. Only in the Pacific Northwest
- C. Throughout North America
- D. Anywhere in the world

What's a typical weight for an adult male black bear?

- A. 90 pounds
- B. 400 pounds
- C. 800 pounds
- D. 1,000 pounds

Answers: D, C, B

Membership has its perks:
Look for our new
Wild Rewards card
coming soon!



New in the neighborhood

Tree-hugging, pool-splashing, back-scratching, brush-crushing black bears now on exhibit at Northwest Trek, much to the delight of visitors

Two 6-year-old black bears didn't take long to make themselves at home when they arrived at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.

Soaring trees beckon, begging the male and female siblings to stand tall and scratch their backs on the bark. Evergreens entice them to climb high and look down, surveying their new, lushly forested, 1-acre home.

Three pools prove irresistible to the bears, who eagerly plunge in, enjoying the cool water, then climbing out and shaking themselves dry, droplets of water flying off their glistening black coats.

The two bears made their public debut at Northwest Trek in late May. Already they're delighting crowds of visitors, who stop to ooh and ahh at the Bear Bridge and Upper and Lower Bear Viewing Decks.

Visitors might see the active and agile bears scratching, climbing, swimming, crashing through brush to blaze their own trails through the exhibit, or sometimes snoozing in the sun.

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Northwest Trek
Wildlife Park

METRO PARKS TACOMA

It's baby animal season at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park



Bison calves, bighorn sheep lambs roaming the meadows and forests

It's summertime in the meadows and forests of Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.

Birds are singing. The pathways and trails are verdant with wonderful growth.

And perhaps, best of all, there are bison calves and bighorn sheep lambs in the Free-Roaming Area.

Four bison calves and several lambs were born over the last several weeks. And more animal babies are expected.



Get a closer look

For an up-close look at the animals and babies of the Free-Roaming Area, consider a Keeper Tour or a Photo Tour. Keeper Tours are coming up July 6, 19 and 27 and Aug. 2, 9 and 17. Photo Tours are set July 13, Aug. 9 and Sept. 6. Fees are \$55 for members, \$60 for non-members.

For more information or to register, go to nwtrek.org.

The orange-colored calves are easy to pick out in the herd of dark brown bison. They stick closely to their mamas, tagging along as they wander the meadow.

The lambs are a bit more difficult to see. Try to spot them from the Free-Roaming Area tram tour by looking on hillsides – and listening for comments about them from the naturalist guiding your tour.

Summer also is the season to keep an eye out for Columbian black-tailed deer fawns, as well as Roosevelt elk calves.

“Visitors always enjoy coming in the summertime,” head keeper Ed Cleveland said. “They get to see the animals when they’re very small and watch how close they stick to their mothers in the meadows and forest.”

The calves, lambs and fawns also grow a great deal during the summer months, so visitors who see them in June and July might want to come back in August, September and October to see how much they’ve grown – and how much farther they venture away from Mom.

Black Bears *Continued from page 1*

They got a true Northwest welcome in May with a feast of salmon, strawberries, apples, romaine lettuce and other local foods. The bears, who came to the Northwest from the Topeka Zoo, soon learned they aren't in Kansas anymore.

They were rescued in Oregon six years ago as orphaned cubs and have lived most of their lives in Topeka.

“These are young, active, athletic bears and they bring a renewed vibrancy to Northwest Trek,” Deputy Director Donna Powell said. “They’ve clearly taken to the forested exhibit that was built specifically for black bears. And they’ve arrived at the perfect time of year for the public to come to Northwest Trek and view them.”

The 400-pound male and his 250-pound sister are the first new black bears at the wildlife park in 20 years.

“These are the only American black bears in an Association of Zoos & Aquariums accredited zoo in Washington state,” Powell said. “We’re pleased that our visitors will be able to see them in a forested exhibit typical of black bears’ native habitat.”



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



July 19-20

Endangered Species Weekend

It's their world, too. Learn about endangered species and how you can help them and their habitats.



Aug. 30-Sept. 1

Get Out of the Rut

Can you hear it? Listen for the grunts, snorts, bugles and antler-clashing of hooved animals like elk and deer during the rut, or breeding season.

Aug. 23-24

Feeding Frenzy

Chow time! Watch animals gobble up meals specially prepared by keepers to stimulate natural food-finding behaviors.



Sept. 20

Run Wild

Lace up your shoes for a run off the beaten path. Run Wild includes 5k or 8k runs and a 5k walk. Learn more and register at nwtrek.org.



Oct. 24-25

Hoot 'n' Howl

Don your best costume and bring your brood to Northwest Trek for the spookiest event of the year. Navigate through the park to search for animals in the dark on a special nighttime tram tour. Revelers young and young-at-heart can play games, win prizes, and eat treats during this wild weekend!



Northwest Trek
Wildlife Park

METRO PARKS TACOMA

Friends of Northwest Trek Wildlife Park
11610 Trek Drive East
Eatonville, WA 98328-9502

General Information

360-832-6117 | nwtrek.org

Summer/Fall Hours

June 28-Sept. 1

Daily: 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sept. 2-Oct. 5

Mon.-Fri: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. | Sat.-Sun.: 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Oct. 6-Dec. 23

Mon.-Thu: Closed | Fri.-Sun.: 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

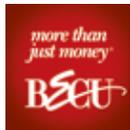
Veterans' Day special opening

Nov. 10 and Nov. 11: 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

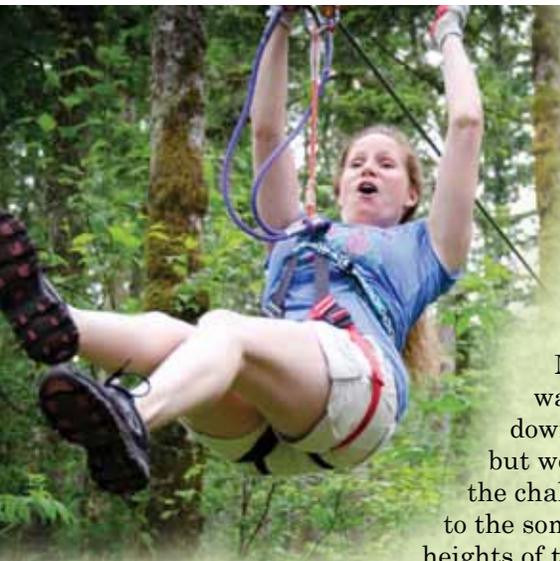
JEANNIE CLAY, *Membership Coordinator*
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Northwest Trek, accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, is a 725-acre zoological park devoted to the display, interpretation, research and conservation of North American native wildlife.

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Ready. Set. Runway!

Aerial Runway brings big-league zip line thrills with only minor-league challenges to Zip Wild

You spoke. We listened. And Zip Wild has a brand new course.

Many visitors wanted to zoom down a long zip line but weren't able meet the challenges or climb to the sometimes dizzying heights of the Adventure and Sensation courses.

So new for 2014 is the Aerial Runway, a brand new zip line experience with the same kind of fast-paced thrills as its larger siblings, but much easier obstacles. Almost anyone 8 and up can enjoy it.

Aerial Runway is about 20 feet off the ground and features a heart-thumping 512-foot zip line that will have riders whooping with delight and declaring they can't wait to do it again.

The fifth zip line/challenge course in the Zip Wild complex has only five challenges, and they're built especially for people who want big adventure but aren't ready for the physical agility and mental toughness it takes to conquer the 55-foot-high Adventure course or the 78-foot-high Sensation circuit.

Aerial Runway contains two Trapper ladders, similar to household ladders but no taller than 6 feet, said Jennifer Robinson, who manages the courses for operator Deep Forest Challenge. There are also three Andes, or slatted, bridges, all stabilized to prevent a lot of movement. And then there's the payoff – that gorgeous 512-foot zip line.

A trip on the Aerial Runway costs \$26.95 plus tax and admission or membership to Northwest Trek.

The four other zip line/challenge courses have varying degrees of difficulty for ages from 5 through adult. They range in price from \$19.95 to \$59.95, plus tax and admission or membership to Northwest Trek.

For more details or to make reservations, go to nwtrek.org/zipwild.