

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

TREK TRACKS

PUBLISHED FOR THE FRIENDS OF NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK



Eagle Passage exhibit opening this summer at Northwest Trek

Eagle Passage, a walk-through exhibit featuring several bald eagles amid a natural setting of tall evergreens, snags and perches, will open this summer at Northwest Trek.

It will be the first animal exhibit guests see when they walk through the gates, immediately drawing people to breathtaking views of these magnificent animals amid the trees.

“We’re excited to present Eagle Passage to our guests,” said Aaron Pointer, president of the Metro Parks Tacoma Board of Park Commissioners. “The story of saving this iconic species from the brink of extinction is one of hope and should inspire us all to take action to conserve other elements of our environment.” *Continued on page 2*



HAWTHORNE and HUCKLEBERRY are GROWING UP, and it's SO MUCH FUN to WATCH THEM PLAY

It's hard to believe, but our grizzly bear cubs are growing up. They've put on weight and passed their first birthdays, and they're still adorable.

And Bear Tracks weekend May 18-19 is a perfect time to come and see them again.

Hawthorne and Huckleberry are definitely not toddlers anymore. Each weighing more than 250 pounds and standing close to 3 feet tall, they're getting stronger and smarter every day.

Their food bills are growing, too.

“We feed them four times a day,” said keeper Haley Withers. “It's a healthy mixture of fruit, veggies,

fish and meat—the kind of food they would naturally eat in the wild.”

Keepers hide the cubs' food so they must forage for it—smell, dig, climb and even swim for their supper—just like they would in the wild.

“It's all part of encouraging natural behaviors to keep them healthy mentally and physically,” Withers added. “Hawthorne is showing his strength, and Huckleberry is the problem-solver.”

The bears have a great spring and summer ahead. They love to play, rolling together or splashing in the pool.

“They're best buddies,” Withers said. *Continued on page 2*



Northwest Trek
Wildlife Park

METRO PARKS TACOMA

Eagle Passage

Continued from page 1

Funds for the exhibit were raised by the Northwest Trek Foundation.

The birds inside cannot be released to the wild due to injury or medical issues and have been given a home at Northwest Trek.

Interpretive graphics will provide guests with information about the history of the bald eagle in the United States; encourage empathy with the birds; and detail the extraordinary care they receive.

Crawl into a life-sized eagle's "nest" and feel what it's like to be a bird, or spread your arms against a life-sized graphic of an eagle's wingspan to see how you measure up. Stop at a digital pledge station and commit to taking conservation action.

The fact that bald eagles exist in America at all is a testament to the power of committed people working on behalf of wildlife. Our national symbol went from the brink of extinction in the 1960s to a robust population in the early 2000s, thanks to the Endangered Species Act and other laws.

"We believe that viewing eagles up close and hearing their story will inspire our guests to take action on behalf of other species," said Northwest Trek Deputy Director Rick Dietz. "We are grateful to our partners in the Northwest Trek Foundation for making our dream of creating Eagle Passage a reality."



KEEPER ADVENTURE TOURS RUN DAILY THROUGH SEPT. 30 - AND YOU CAN NOW RESERVE ONLINE

Hearing a moose munch on leafy browse, listening to a bison snort, and getting close to adorable mountain goat kids just got a whole lot easier.

Northwest Trek's exciting new premium Keeper Adventure Tours will run twice daily from May 1 through Sept. 30—and you can now reserve your spot online.

The 90-minute Free-Roaming Area tours aboard a specially equipped Jeep take guests off the beaten track to get closer to Northwest

Trek's moose, bison, mountain goats, Roosevelt elk, bighorn sheep, deer and other animals than ever before.

A driver/keeper narrates the tour and answers guests' questions.

Keeper Adventure Tours head out at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. each day, and the fee is \$80 for Northwest Trek members and \$90 for non-members. Prices include admission to the wildlife park. Tours are limited to ages 5 and up.

To reserve your unforgettable journey, go to nwtrek.org/tours



CATCH THE CUTEST KIDS EVER FROM THE COMFORT OF A TRAM

Most kids are cute—but when they have four legs, fluffy white coats and bright black eyes, they're irresistible.

Yes, we're talking about mountain goat kids, and ours are delightful to watch as they grow and explore the Free-Roaming Area in a tight-knit group that looks like a large cotton ball on the move.

"Our three boys, Elwha, Klahhane and Rocky, are bold and curious," said head keeper Ed Cleveland. "They are always first to get the food. The girls, Bailey and Fairchild, are also doing

well, and they're all gaining weight."

The kids love to hang out by the lake. Apples and lettuce are their favorite snacks.

Since they arrived at Northwest Trek last fall, the new kids on the block have completely settled into their new home.

Look for them on the Free-Roaming Area tram tour.

Learn more about them at: nwtrek.org/mountain-goat



A camera trap captured this photo of a coyote in North Tacoma.

Grit City Carnivore Project aims to help people, wildlife live together in harmony

Guests at Northwest Trek welcome the sight of wild animals in natural habitats, learning more about species from these animal ambassadors.

But it can be a different matter when you come face-to-face with a raccoon raiding your garbage can or a coyote staring at you from your driveway.

Some residents fear for the safety of their children, their cats and other small pets.

Northwest Trek is a partner in the Grit City Carnivore Project, collaborating with Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and the Schell Lab at the University of Washington Tacoma to better understand how carnivores live alongside people in the Puget Sound region.

The project employs 40 motion-sensitive camera stations along a corridor from Eatonville to Tacoma. They gather data on wildlife to help researchers study how these animals survive in urban and suburban neighborhoods.

"We want to learn more about our local wildlife and how to live in harmony with it—and we want you to join us," said Northwest Trek Conservation Program Coordinator Rachael Mueller.

Just record coyote, raccoon and other animal sightings using the iNaturalist app on your mobile device.

Learn more at nwtrek.org/grit-city-carnivore-project

Hawthorne



Continued from page 1

Bear Tracks event set for May 18-19

What: Catch up with your favorite grizzly cubs and black bears

When: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 18-19

Includes: Bear enrichments, keeper chats, hands-on activities

Info: nwtrek.org/bear-tracks

Presented by

MaryBridge
Children's
MultiCare

Teddy
Grahams

Huckleberry



General Information

360-832-6117 | nwtrek.org

Spring/Summer hours

Through June 30

Mondays-Fridays: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturdays-Sundays: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

July 1-Sept. 3

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

Special Openings

Memorial Day, May 27; July 4; Labor Day, Sept. 2

JEANNIE MARSH, *Membership Coordinator*

360-832-7170 | Jeannie.Marsh@nwtrek.org

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.

Connect with us:



Thank You to our Mission Partners



Thank you to our Community Partners



June 22-23: Slug Fest

Slip, slide and slime at this truly Northwest festival that's all about our favorite forest creature: the slug.



July 20-21: Zookeeper Academy

How do our keepers provide extraordinary care for our animals? Meet our animal experts and learn what they do to encourage natural behaviors through fun games.



Aug. 31-Sept. 2: Feeding Frenzy

Watch our animals devour their favorite foods during Labor Day Weekend.

