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FIRST ELK CALF OF THE SEASON BORN THURSDAY AT NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK

Fourth bison calf of the year also arrived this week as baby animal season gets into full swing

EATONVILLE, Wash. – A spotted, spindly legged Roosevelt elk calf is wandering the meadows at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park with its mom. The calf, the first of the birthing season, arrived on Thursday at the wildlife park near Eatonville.



It's newborn animal season at Northwest Trek, and there's no better time than a sunny holiday weekend for a day trip to view native animals in their natural habitats.

Visitors might spot the newborn elk calf on a tram ride through the wildlife park's 435-acre Free-Roaming Area.

They also could catch sight of four newborn American bison calves, traveling with the herd but sticking close to their moms amid a landscape that's perfect for grazing, getting a drink from the lake or just enjoying the sun.

More calves are expected in the

coming days and weeks.

Northwest Trek is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Memorial Day. The easy-to-get-to wildlife park is just an hour's drive from Sea-Tac.

Besides bison and elk, Northwest Trek's Free-Roaming Area is home to moose, deer, bighorn sheep, trumpeter swans and other animals. And this time of year, there are plenty of Canada geese mothers and their fluffy yellow goslings on the ground, too.

Every visit to the wildlife park comes with the 50-minute tram tour through the Free-Roaming Area, complete with narration by a naturalist. Visitors also may wander forested pathways and stop at exhibits featuring black bears, wolves, foxes, a coyote, Canada lynx, bobcats, river otters, beavers and other animals in natural habitats.

And kids from toddlers through tweens will enjoy spending hours exploring the half-acre, nature-inspired Kids' Trek playground. It includes a replica of a 20-foot-tall hollowed-out tree stump into which they can climb, nets and ladders to scale, several slides,

a stream to splash in, and areas where they can use sand or sticks to build imaginative structures. All the while getting closer to nature.

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 is a facility of Metro Parks Tacoma and is located 35 miles southeast of Tacoma off State Highway 161.

Contacts

Kris Sherman, 253-404-3800 (office), 253-226-6718 (cell); kris.sherman@pdza.org

Whitney DalBalcon, 253-404-3637 (office), 253-278-6343 (cell); whitney.dalbalcon@pdza.org