



Northwest Trek
Wildlife Park

METRO PARKS TACOMA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 3, 2017

**READY FOR ADVENTURE? THE WILDEST ZIP LINE IN THE WEST OPENS THIS WEEKEND
FOR EXHILITATING EXPERIENCES THAT WILL BOTH THRILL AND CHALLENGE RIDERS**

Zip Wild complex of five courses celebrating fifth anniversary at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

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EATONVILLE, Wash. – New challenges. A longer, more exhilarating zip line. And course changes that make a familiar friend new again.



All that and more await participants at Zip Wild, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park's wildly popular complex of five zip line/challenge courses, which opens for the season on Saturday.

Zip Wild will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays only through June 18.

A Zip Wild participant zips high in the tree canopy along one of the many zip lines on the courses.

Course hours change to 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily beginning June 19. Reservations for all Zip Wild experiences are available at www.nwtrek.org/zipwild.

Several exciting new enhancements and upgrades to the Adventure course – Zip Wild's most popular experience – come as the complex celebrates its fifth anniversary of entertaining and challenging guests at the wildlife park near Eatonville.



“The Adventure course is changing quite a bit,” said Erwann Chesnais, who owns the company that partnered with Northwest Trek to create the complex of exhilarating, high-flying, tree-canopy adventures in 2012. “We are altering the configuration, including adding some different obstacles and considerably lengthening one of the zip lines.”

Obstacles like the slatted bridge above are placed high in the tree canopy to challenge Zip Wild participants’ physical agility and mental toughness.

Just under 53,000 people clambered up ropes and ladders and rock walls, zipped through the trees and overcame obstacles during Zip Wild’s first five seasons, said Northwest Trek Interim Deputy Director Donna Powell.

Not only do the courses support Northwest Trek’s conservation mission of connecting people more closely with nature, they bring a new demographic of visitors to the wildlife park.

Many Zip Wild participants had never been to Northwest Trek before, and they walked away saying they appreciated the opportunity to view and learn about native wildlife species like Roosevelt elk, American bison, moose, deer, black bears, coyotes, wolves, wolverines, beavers, river otters, Canada lynx, bobcats, owls and more.

The complex contains five courses ranging from beginner to a high degree of difficulty. Most contain challenges like climbing walls, slatted rope bridges, zig-zag bridges and other aerial obstacles that participants must conquer between platforms high in the trees. And, of course, there are plenty of fast zip lines so participants can clamp on and soar through the canopy for an unparalleled adrenaline rush.

Here is the rundown on each course, including prices. In addition to the cost of the Zip Wild experience, all participants must either purchase admission to Northwest Trek for the day or be a Northwest Trek member.

- **Sensation** course, ages 18 and up. **Fee:** \$65.95 plus tax and admission or membership to Northwest Trek.

This is the toughest one of the bunch, taking participants nearly 80 feet into the canopy. This experience includes a series of extremely difficult challenges that require upper body strength, physical agility and the willingness to test yourself. Those who complete it reach the ground with a wonderful sense of accomplishment.

- **Adventure** course, ages 10 and up. **Fee:** \$43.95 plus tax and admission or membership to Northwest Trek.

By far the most popular Zip Wild course, Adventure puts participants more than five stories into the trees



A child stretches to hook in to a line on the Super Kid course at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.

with an exhilarating – and challenging – mix of aerial obstacles and zip lines. The course is designed for maximum fun without requiring superhero strength or endurance. Participants have ranged from kids as young as 10 to adults well into their 80s. Parents and children often do the course together.

- **Aerial Runway**, ages 8 and up. **Fee:** \$18.95 plus tax and admission or membership to Northwest Trek.

This is for people who want the zip line experience without a great deal of height or a lot of obstacles. It includes a climbing ladder, three stabilized bridges and a 500-foot-plus zip line. But just because it isn't as big and bad as its brother courses doesn't mean it doesn't pack a whole lot of fun, participants say.

- **Discovery** course, ages 8 and up. **Fee:** \$32.95 plus tax and admission or membership to Northwest Trek.

Adults who want to try out Zip Wild with obstacles and zip lines that are a bit less challenging than the Adventure course will want to test their mettle on the Discovery course. It's also perfect for kids ages 8 and up. The course includes a 14-foot climbing wall you must scale to get onto the course: 10 obstacles that will test agility and balance as high as about 18 feet off the forest floor; and two zip lines for the thrill of speed.

- **Super Kid** course, ages 5 and up. **Fee:** \$21.95 plus tax and admission or membership to Northwest Trek. Accompanying guardians pay only \$9.95 plus tax and admission or membership to Northwest Trek.

Super Kid is just over 5 feet off the ground and offers an array of kid-sized challenges, plus two zip lines.

Not only do participants on all of the courses get close to earth's nature—up there in the tree line—they also learn quite a bit about their own human nature, Chesnais said.

“It's not just a zip line; it's something that makes it possible for people to learn more about themselves, to get past limits, to overcome fear of speed, or fear of heights. And to feel very good about themselves when they conquer the course.”

Reservations are required on all Zip Wild courses, although walkups are accepted if space is available. For more information on all of the courses and to make reservations, go to www.nwtrek/zipwild.

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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.

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