



**Northwest Trek**  
Wildlife Park

**METRO PARKS TACOMA**

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## **WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO CARE FOR ANIMALS? NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK KEEPERS SHARE INSIGHTS INTO THEIR JOBS – AND THE ANIMALS THEY CARE FOR – ON JULY 15**

*Keeper Spotlight focuses on these committed professionals just in time for National Zoo Keeper Week*

Eatonville, Wash. – Northwest Trek Wildlife Park is shining a well-deserved spotlight on the keepers who care for the native Northwest animals that so delight visitors – from American bison to black bears to beavers, to river otters, and, yes, even slugs, and more.



National Zoo Keeper Week begins July 16, and Northwest Trek is celebrating a day early with a special Keeper Spotlight day on Saturday, July 15.

Visitors will can talk to keepers, watch animals up close and see some of those animals receive various enrichments that stimulate natural behaviors.

But while visitors come to see the animals, it's the keepers who will be the stars on this day. These committed, caring professionals major in subjects like biology and zoology in college; amass a great deal of information about the anatomy and behavior of

various species; and become experts at talking to visitors and answering questions about the animals they will see.

Sure, keepers will tell you they love caring for animals, but their duties are not all warm and fuzzy. There is plenty of food preparation and scooping of poop in the daily care and feeding of animals. Keepers also become keenly attuned to the health of the animals for which they care, working hand-in-hand with veterinary staff to ensure the animals maintain the best health possible.

And all are passionate about conservation. They are some of the most interesting people visitors may ever meet, and they are eager to talk about the work that they do as well as the animals in residence at Northwest Trek.

**Here's the schedule for the day:**

**11:30 a.m.** Fisher Keeper Chat

**12:30 p.m.** Cougar Keeper Chat

**1:30 p.m.** Barn Owl Keeper Chat

**3 p.m.** Bear Keeper Chat

Plus, every visit to Northwest Trek includes a free, 50-minute tour through the 435-acre Free-Roaming Area aboard a tram. The tour is narrated by a trained naturalist as the tram passes through meadows and forests that are home to American bison, Roosevelt elk, woodland caribou, moose, deer and other animals.

Visitors also may walk paved trails past natural habitats that are home to carnivores like black bears, coyotes, wolves, foxes, Canada lynx and bobcats. Beavers, river otters, fishers and other animals hang out in the wildlife park's Wetlands exhibits.

And kids from toddlers to tweens will have a blast at Kids' Trek, the half-acre nature-inspired playground built just for them with rope nets and ladders to climb, slides, a stream, a sandbox, a "construction zone" where they can flex their imaginations and more.

For more information, go to [www.nwtrek.org](http://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. It is located 35 miles southeast of Tacoma off State Highway 161.*

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