



Northwest Trek
Wildlife Park

METRO PARKS TACOMA

KIDS' TREK BY THE NUMBERS

Size: One-half acre

Features:

- 100-foot-long stream, complete with statues of river otters playing in it and a fish head lying in the water as if it were discarded by a hungry bear
- 60-plus benches milled from trees that were either downed by nature or removed due to hazard or disease – the ultimate treecycling project
- 35-foot-diameter old growth tree “slice” carved into the concrete at the Kids’ Trek entrance so children can count the rings and learn about how varying weather patterns affect the growth of a tree over time
- 20-foot-tall simulated tree trunk that’s “hollowed out” with space for climbing nets
- 20-foot-long tunnel slide, with a 30-degree bend
- 18-inch-high “stepping logs” so kids can practice their balance and coordination
- 16-foot-diameter Eagles’ Nest play structure
- 15-foot-high firemen’s-style sliding pole
- 10-foot-long bridge that bounces as kids cross it
- 5 cargo-style net structures for climbing, crawling and walking up, down and through playground features
- Dozens of animal tracks and leaf prints embedded in the pathways so kids learn about predators and prey; identify tracks and plants; play counting games and more
- 6 special Wild Days of Play scheduled this year (first Saturday of each month April-September), each with a storytime and other activities built around a particular nature-based theme
- 2 kid-sized log cabins for imaginative play
- 2 weeping willow tunnels – one 4-feet-high and one 7-feet-high - created with natural vegetation for kids and their parents to walk or crawl through
- 1 especially-for-toddlers sand-play area, with shovels, buckets and a weeping rock to give the sand a bit of wetness for sculpting
- 1 unusual cave constructed from several root wads dug out of the wildlife park’s Free-Roaming Area
- 1 picnic shelter designed with birthday parties and other special events in mind
- Incalculable numbers of children who will grow up knowing more about the natural world, the plants and wildlife that live in it, and steps they can take to protect them – all because of the play opportunities they had at Kids’ Trek

Landscaping: 90-plus species of native and cultivated plants used in a landscape that’s designed to be environmentally friendly, help kids learn about the flora of the Northwest and make Kids’ Trek inviting and attractive

Cost: \$1.9 million, with about three-quarters of the total raised through the Northwest Trek Foundation, grants, and donations from companies and individuals; \$325,000 came from a 2014 Metro Parks Tacoma voter-approved bond issue