

TREK TRACKS

PUBLISHED FOR THE FRIENDS OF NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK



Zip Wild: 5-years-old, but new again

An entirely new Adventure awaits participants on Zip Wild's most popular course this year.

Zip Wild, the complex of five zip line/challenge courses operated at Northwest Trek by Deep Forest Challenge, is celebrating its fifth anniversary—and amping up the excitement for participants.

“The Adventure course will change quite a bit,” said Erwann Chesnais, who owns the company that partnered with Northwest Trek to create a complex of exhilarating, high-flying, tree-canopy adventures in 2012. “We’ll alter the configuration and include some different obstacles.”

The five Zip Wild courses can accommodate participants from ages 5 to 80 - and beyond.

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Summer is bursting with promise for a memorable season of adventure

Northwest Trek founder Doc Hellyer knew the cure for a snowy, rainy, dreary winter and spring.

It's called summer at Northwest Trek—and in 2017 it will be bursting with the promise of new life, plus fun-filled activities like Slug Fest, Keeper Spotlight and Feeding Frenzy.

Plus baby animals. Lots of baby animals.

Hellyer and the wildlife park's visionary planners somehow knew that trams would become time machines of a sort.

They drive you into the past, where you can imagine great herds of bison roaming large expanses of American plains, then think about their

numbers dwindling to near the point of extinction.

And they take you into a hopeful future, where you can view the tiny hooves of new life on the ground as bison, elk and caribou calves, bighorn sheep lambs and deer fawns arrive in the meadows and forests of the wildlife park's 435-acre Free-Roaming Area during spring and summer.

The period from Memorial Day through Labor Day is an especially wonderful time to visit. And with your membership card, you can come as much as you like.

Watch small animals grow from spindly legged, nursing babies into juveniles more likely to stray a bit
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Summer is bursting...continued from page 1

from mom's side. Watch elk calves and deer fawns lose their spots over time. See Canada goslings and ducklings grow from feathery balls of fluff waddling side-to-side to more elegantly colored and stately birds. View lambs as their coats go from a somewhat grayish color to the more brownish bodies with white bottoms of their parents.

"Visitors from kids through adults can all learn much about the animal kingdom from observing parents tending their



young, discovering the reasons why their appearance changes as they grow and gaining a deeper understanding of the conservation of each Northwest species," Zoological Curator Marc Heinzman said.

Over in the wildlife park's walk-by habitats, black bears Benton and Fern, wolves, bobcats, foxes and other animals love to run in the sun and lounge in the shade of the cool evergreens.

And when young visitors need a break from animal watching, Kids' Trek is open and ready for them to run off steam.

So grab your calendar, schedule some dates and come make a summerful of memories at Northwest Trek.



Zip Wild...continued from page 1

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 Donna Powell, Northwest Trek's business and administrative services manager. The courses, she added, support Northwest Trek's conservation mission of connecting people more closely with nature.

The five courses, ranging from beginner to high degree of difficulty,

will operate all summer long. Reservations are available at nwtrek.org/zipwild.

Zip Wild is open weekends until June 18; daily from June 19 through Sept. 4; and weekends from Sept. 5-Oct. 1.

Deep Forest Challenge is working on special deals for Northwest Trek members and frequent course users. Also, stay tuned for exciting enhancements and upgrades to make the Adventure course even wilder and more fun.

Not only do participants 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."



Calendar of Events



SLUG FEST June 24-25

Get silly. Get slimy. Get slippery and slide-y in a human slug race. Pay tribute to the Northwest's most misunderstood mollusk—the banana slug—with a weekend of fun.



KEEPER SPOTLIGHT July 15

Celebrate the keepers who care for Northwest Trek's animals. Talk to them about the critters they love and learn how they use enrichments to stimulate natural behavior in animals.



FEEDING FRENZY Sept. 2-4

Chomp! Chew! Munch! See animals enjoy favorite meals that stimulate their natural food-finding and devouring behaviors. Some carnivores will receive animal carcasses to feed on.



RUN WILD Sept. 16

Have the "run" of the outdoors! Sign up for a 5K walk, a 5K run or 8K run on Northwest Trek's awesome forested trails. It's great fun for body and soul! Register at nwtrek.org.



HOOT 'N' HOWL Oct. 20-21

Prowl the wildlife park to trick-or-treat, play games, and take a ghostly tram ride during a spooktacular night of fun! Details at nwtrek.org.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Pack a refillable water bottle whenever you visit Northwest Trek.

You'll be part of a community movement, led by Northwest Trek and Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, to Go Plastic-Free to Save Our Sea. Northwest Trek and Lancer Catering have eliminated the sale of single-use water, soda and juice bottles. Wildlife Trading Co. no longer puts gift-shop purchases in plastic bags.

"These are bold steps that show we are 'walking the talk' of the conservation messages we deliver to guests," said Alan Varsik, director of Zoological and Environmental Education for Metro Parks Tacoma. "We know that this action will affect our bottom line, since Northwest Trek derives a percentage of all concession sales," Varsik said. "But we also know that it is the right thing to do."

Tons of plastic trash enter rivers and seas every year, harming animals and threatening the food chain. Eliminating single-use plastics is

Northwest Trek takes giant step to Go Plastic-Free to Save Our Sea

a critical element in reducing this growing problem.

River otters—like those at Northwest Trek—are among the animals that easily can become entangled, sometimes fatally, in this junk.

"If each of us incorporates just a few simple changes into our lifestyles, we can make a huge difference in the lives of animals and the health of our rivers and seas," Conservation Engagement Manager Karen Povey said.



How can you help?

Northwest Trek has several drinking fountains and water-bottle filling stations. Bring your own refillable bottle when you come and fill up as much as you like.

- Avoid individually wrapped items like snack packs and single-serve containers.
- Pack a waste-free lunch in a reusable tote and stow your food in reusable containers.
- Take reusable bags to the store when shopping.
- Skip the straw when ordering a drink in a restaurant.
- Bring your own container for leftovers when dining out.



Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

METRO PARKS TACOMA

Northwest Trek Wildlife Park
11610 Trek Drive East
Eatonville, WA 98328-9502

General Information:

360-832-6117 | nwtrek.org

Spring/Summer Hours

Through June 30

Monday - Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

July 1 - Sept. 4

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

Open July 4 and Labor Day

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.

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Thank you to our Community Partners:



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Northwest Trek members enjoy the bear-y best nature can offer

It's in our nature as humans to hunt for bargains. And there's no better deal for Northwest Trek lovers than new or renewed membership. Buy one for yourself. Give one as a gift. Get a group of friends to become members with you. You'll be wrapped in evergreen all year 'round. We offer several membership levels, and each includes unlimited admission for an entire year, paying for itself in just a few visits. Come again and again to see baby animals grow, enjoy the changing seasons and watch the kids or grandkids play at Kids' Trek.

Go to nwtrek.org or call Jeannie Marsh at 360-832-7170 for details.

KIDS' TREK WILD BIRTHDAYS!

If your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews and great friends enjoy climbing, sliding, building, balancing and exploring—a Kids' Trek birthday provides the ultimate outdoor adventure party for tots to tweens.

A birthday party package includes:

- **A 90-minute rental of the Kids' Trek Pavilion and easy access to the fantastic nature-inspired playground during open hours.**
- **Admission to Northwest Trek for up to 15 guests.**
- **Reserved seats on a Discovery Tram Tour of the 435-acre Free-Roaming Area.**

Bring your own food and decorations (restrictions apply); we supply the best kids' playground in the West. Plus an amazing array of animals to see, many of them up close.



For added fun and exploration:

- **Send them on a Zip Wild aerial obstacle course; fees differ depending on selected course.**
- **Book a naturalist with a Nature Exploration Cart loaded with pelts, skulls and other items for kids to see and touch.**
- **Reserve an appearance by Footloose the Moose.**

Get all the details on these packages and make your reservation request at nwtrek.org/birthdayparties.