



# Alpenglow

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEB 26, 1917



DENALI  
NATIONAL PARK

EST. 1917

Wild, Wonderful, Waiting for You  
Discover the Next 100

PHOTO COURTESY SIERRA WILLOUGHBY

## Make the most of your time in Denali

### Two hours

- Check out all of the cool offerings and exhibits at the **Denali Visitor Center**, 8 am to 6 pm. The park movie plays each half hour.
- Drive to **Mountain Vista Trailhead** at Mile 13 for a possible first glimpse of Denali.
- Enjoy a picnic and family play space at the **Riley Creek Day Use Area**.
- Attend a noontime naturalist talk at the **Murie Science and Learning Center**.
- Visit the historic **Park Kennels** for a Sled Dog Demonstration. During peak season, free shuttles depart the Denali Visitor Center bus depot at 9:20 am, 1:20 pm, and 3:20 pm. You'll be back about 90 minutes later.
- Attend a ranger presentation at 7:30 pm at several park campgrounds. Check posted fliers for topics.

### Four hours

- Ride a free shuttle to **Savage River** at Mile 15. Schedules are posted at bus stops.
- Hike trails throughout the entrance area. See maps and descriptions on pages 10-11.
- Join a ranger-led walk or talk offered every few hours at the **Denali Visitor Center**. Check fliers for listings.

### Full day

- Visit the **Eielson Visitor Center** at Mile 66. Bus tickets and departures are available at the **Wilderness Access Center**.
- Take a day hike in the backcountry. Jump off a transit bus, explore, then wave down another green bus heading your direction.

### More than a day

- Reserve a spot on a once-in-a-lifetime, ranger-led backcountry Discovery Hike. Check fliers for trip descriptions and difficulty ratings. Sign up at the **Denali Visitor Center**, then buy a bus ticket for an 8 am departure from the **Wilderness Access Center**.
- Reserve a tent or RV site at the **Riley Creek Mercantile** for one of six campgrounds throughout the park.
- If you plan to bike or backpack overnight in the backcountry, be sure to pick up a free permit at the **Backcountry Information Center**. This orientation, safety, and planning process usually takes about an hour.

As your travels continue, please visit the **Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station**, on B Street in Talkeetna, and **Alaska Public Lands Information Centers** in Fairbanks at 101 Dunkel St., and in Anchorage at 605 W 4th Ave.

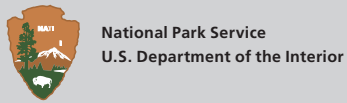


### Stay Connected

<http://twitter.com/DenaliNPS>  
[www.facebook.com/DenaliNPS](http://www.facebook.com/DenaliNPS)  
[www.instagram.com/DenaliNPS](http://www.instagram.com/DenaliNPS)  
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[www.youtube.com/user/DenaliNPS](http://www.youtube.com/user/DenaliNPS)

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

**Denali National Park and Preserve**

P.O. Box 9, Denali Park, AK 99755

**E-mail**

DENA\_Info@nps.gov

**Website**

www.nps.gov/dena

**Phone**

907 683-9532

**Bus and campsite reservations**

800 622-7275 Nationwide  
907 272-7275 International  
www.reservedenali.com

**Tip Line to Report Crime**

800 478-2724

**Emergency**

Dial 911



**Entrance Fees**

Seven-Day Pass:

Individual (age 16 and older), \$10

Denali NPP Annual Pass: \$40

America the Beautiful Interagency Passes:

Annual, \$80

Senior, \$10

Access, Free

Annual Military Pass, Free

**About 80 percent** of fee dollars collected in the park return to Denali to pay for projects that have an impact on visitor experience, such as campground improvements, trail erosion mitigation, and the Artist-in-Residence program.

# Happy 100th Birthday, Denali

We are so proud to be stewards for one of your crown jewels

**by Don Striker**  
Superintendent



During such times, we are apt to remember the lessons of the past. Upon reflection, it took many diverse partners to fulfill a vision for setting Denali apart for the public. These partners include visionaries like Charles Sheldon, members of the Boone and Crockett Club as well as experts who had "been there, done that" like Harry Karstens and, of course Belmore Brown and his Campfire Club. But there also was support from the private sector like that of America's railroads, hoteliers and tourism proponents; conservationists attuned to the need to preserve special places; and our government officials, like then Utah Senator Reed Smoot, who sponsored the bill that led to the creation of the National Park Service in 1916.

This is YOUR park – your special place. As your steward-in-chief, I can tell you that we face many challenges in the next 100 years. We need to ensure our relevancy to an increasingly diverse American public and ever larger world economy. Additionally, we have to balance the need

for appropriate development and public use with the need for long-term, sustainable conservation of increasingly fragile resources.

I believe we will be successful, because we will work *together* and overcome differences of opinion to solve our challenges. I've always taken solace in President Abraham Lincoln's words, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." The same spirit of cooperation from federal and local governments, private and public stakeholders, and motivated visitors like yourself is at work as you read these words, and **WE ARE COMMITTED, TOGETHER**, to make Denali better and more sustainable.

I tend to be long-winded. But protecting Denali for your grandchildren's grandchildren is a task that lends itself to long windedness. Enjoy your stay! I invite you to enjoy the grandeur that is Denali, and I hope that she nourishes you as she nourishes the public servants who care for her cultural and natural resources. May she inspire in you a desire to experience more and protect the opportunity for those who will visit 100 years from now.

Happy Birthday, Denali, and thanks to those past who made her possible, and those who will step forward to make her a "forever place."



**Don't Go Hungry or Thirsty**

There is no food and limited water available beyond the park entrance area. Please be sure to pack well for your travels.

**Morino Grill**

The only restaurant in the park, adjacent to the Denali Visitor Center, also features a coffee bar and box lunches to go. Open 8 am to 6 pm with reduced hours in May and September.

**Wilderness Access Center**

A coffee cart and snacks are available 5 am to 7 pm daily.

**Riley Creek Mercantile**

Bottled drinks, sandwiches, and a variety of packaged snacks and convenience groceries are available in the Riley Creek Campground. Open 7 am to 11 pm daily with reduced hours in May and September.



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

**Bookstores**

Alaska Geographic operates three bookstores in the park, 8 am to 6 pm, including the main Denali Visitor Center campus, the Toklat Rest Area, and the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station. Sales help fund park educational and interpretive programs. More at [www.alaskageographic.org/store](http://www.alaskageographic.org/store)

**Wilderness Access Center**

Mile 0.75 Park Road  
Open 5 am to 7 pm daily for rest rooms, coffee, bus depot. Reservation desk opens 7 am. Information 7 am to 7 pm. Hours may vary during shoulder seasons. Offers bus tickets and campground information, coffee cart, "Grab & Go" food, retail sales. Film: *Across Time and Tundra*. 907 683-9274 <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliWAC>

**Backcountry Information Center**

Mile 0.75 Park Road, adjacent to the Wilderness Access Center. Open 9 am to 6 pm daily. Offers backcountry information and permits, bear-resistant food containers, maps. 907 683-9590

**Riley Creek Mercantile**

Mile 0.4 Park Road Full-service check-in for campgrounds, bus tickets, convenience groceries, firewood, showers, laundry, and dump station. Open 7 am to 11 pm daily, with reduced hours in May and September.

**Train Depot**

Mile 1.4 Park Road Offers bus stop, railroad depot, baggage check, Morino Grill, Alaska Geographic Bookstore, and Lost and Found. 907 683-9275

**Murie Science and Learning Center**

Mile 1.4 Park Road Open 9 am to 4:30 pm daily. Offers general information, exhibits, presentations, half-day classes, multi-day seminars, teacher trainings, and youth camps. More at [www.nps.gov/rhc/murie](http://www.nps.gov/rhc/murie) 907 683-6432

**Denali Visitor Center**

Mile 1.5 Park Road Open 8 am to 6 pm daily. Offers general information, exhibits, interpretive programs, ranger-guided walks, Artist-in-Residence installation. Film: *Heartbeats of Denali* <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliDVC> 907 683-9532

**Toklat Rest Stop**

Mile 53 Park Road Open 9 am to 7 pm daily. Offers general information, exhibits, Alaska Geographic Bookstore.

**Eielson Visitor Center**

Mile 66 Park Road Open 9 am to 7 pm daily. Offers general information, exhibits, interpretive programs, ranger-guided walks, Artist-in-Residence installation. Film: *Climbing Mount McKinley* <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliEVC>

**Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station**

B Street in Talkeetna Open 8 am to 5:30 pm daily. Offers mountaineering information for the Alaska Range, general information, exhibits, Alaska Geographic Bookstore. 907 733-2231



Water sources are limited beyond the park entrance area. You can save money and reduce use of disposable plastic drink containers by refilling your bottle with free, fresh water from filtered dispensers at six park locations (from east to west): Riley Creek Mercantile, Wilderness Access Center, Murie Science and Learning Center, Denali Visitor Center, and Eielson Visitor Center.



Wilderness Access Center



Visitor Center Campus



Eielson Visitor Center



Murie Science and Learning Center



Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station

NPS PHOTOS / KENT MILLER





A ranger at the Toklat Contact Station uses American Sign Language to discuss listings in the park newspaper with visitors who have hearing impairments.

NPS PHOTO / SEAN PROCTOR

## Ranger Programs: Everyday Good Things To Do in Denali

During peak visitor season, the park and its partners offer guided hikes, talks, theater presentations, and sled dog demonstrations. During May or September, offerings are more limited.

Learn more about park ranger programs at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliRanger>

**DVC** = Denali Visitor Center

**MSLC** = Murie Science and Learning Center

**EVC** = Eielson Visitor Center

- **8 am, DISCOVERY HIKE**, bus departs Wilderness Access Center. Advanced registration required at DVC within preceding two days — This off-trail, all-day hike with a park ranger to a different site every day is a great way to explore Denali. Offered June 8 to early September, hikes vary in difficulty. Participants must be prepared for uneven terrain, small stream crossings, dense vegetation, and unpredictable weather. While the hike itself is free, participants are required to sign up in advance at the DVC and to purchase a \$34 Discovery Hike bus ticket at the Wilderness Access Center. Group size is limited to 11 hikers. More at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliDiscovery>

- **RANGER'S CHOICE PROGRAMS**, Times Vary — Watch for posted fliers or inquire at the information desk for special topics and activities based at the Denali Visitor Center.
- **10 am, SLED DOG DEMONSTRATION** — Buses begin to load at 9:20 am at the DVC campus bus stop. Expect to return about 11 am.
- **10 am, GUIDED NATURE HIKE**, DVC — Join a ranger for a guided hike that lasts around two hours and covers about three miles round trip. This hike is considered moderate. Meet at the DVC front porch just before 10 am to participate.
- **12 pm, NOONTIME FILMS & PRESENTATIONS**, MSLC — Bring your lunch at noon to the Murie Science and Learning Center for film screenings and presentations by Alaska Geographic staff.
- **1 pm, EIELSON STROLL**, EVC — Join a ranger for a short naturalist walk of about 45 minutes around the Eielson Visitor Center. While no prior registration is required, please select a shuttle bus that departs by 8:30 am from the entrance area. The EVC is located at Mile 65.9 and is accessible by any Eielson, Wonder Lake, or Kantishna shuttle bus.
- **1:30 pm, GUIDED NATURE HIKE**, DVC — Join a ranger for a guided hike that lasts around two hours and covers about three miles round trip. This hike is considered moderate. Meet at the DVC front porch just before 1:30 pm to participate.
- **2 pm, SLED DOG DEMONSTRATION** — Buses begin to load at 1:20 pm at the DVC campus bus stop. Expect to return about 3 pm.
- **3:30 pm TUES thru SAT, RANGER TALK at DENALI SQUARE** — This 30-minute presentation is open for all to attend at Holland America's Denali Square Amphitheater, a mile north of the Park Entrance in the Nenana Canyon.



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

- **4 pm, SLED DOG DEMONSTRATION** — Buses begin to load at 3:20 pm at the DVC campus bus stop. Expect to return about 5 pm.
- **7 pm, EVENING SPEAKER SERIES**, MSLC — On most Tuesday and Friday evenings, Alaska Geographic hosts presentations by visiting specialists for in-depth explorations of science and humanities at the Murie Science and Learning Center.

### Evening Campground Programs

Check local campground bulletin boards for topics and schedules. Programs last 45 minutes.

- **7:30 pm, RILEY CREEK CAMPGROUND**  
Mile 0.2, parking available at Riley Creek Mercantile
- **7:30 pm, SAVAGE RIVER CAMPGROUND**  
Mile 12.8, accessible by courtesy bus or private vehicle
- **7:30 pm, TEKLANIKA RIVER CAMPGROUND**  
Mile 29.1, accessible only to campers at campground
- **7:30 pm, WONDER LAKE CAMPGROUND**  
Mile 84.4, accessible only to campers at campground



NPS PHOTO / NATHAN KOSTEGIAN





NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

## Sled Dog Demonstration at Historic Park Kennels is One-of-a-Kind

The historic **Park Kennels** are open to visitors year round, 8 am to 5 pm daily, near Park Headquarters at Mile 3.4 of the Park Road.

Free courtesy shuttles are provided throughout the visitor season. Public parking in the area is limited. If you drive yourself, do not expect to find a parking spot.

Free demonstrations are offered three times daily during peak season, at 10 am, 2 pm, and 4 pm. In May and September, offerings are more limited. No registration necessary.

Arrive at Denali Visitor Center bus stop 40 minutes prior to start time to board the “Dog Demonstration” courtesy bus. There are no late departures.

Demonstrations depict how rangers and dogs work together to practice a traditional Alaskan mode of travel. These 30-minute programs include an opportunity to tour the kennels and visit Alaskan huskies.

Programs are given rain or shine, so be prepared with an umbrella or rain coat. Some seating is available, and there is plenty of standing room.



NPS PHOTO / CLAIRE ABENDROTH

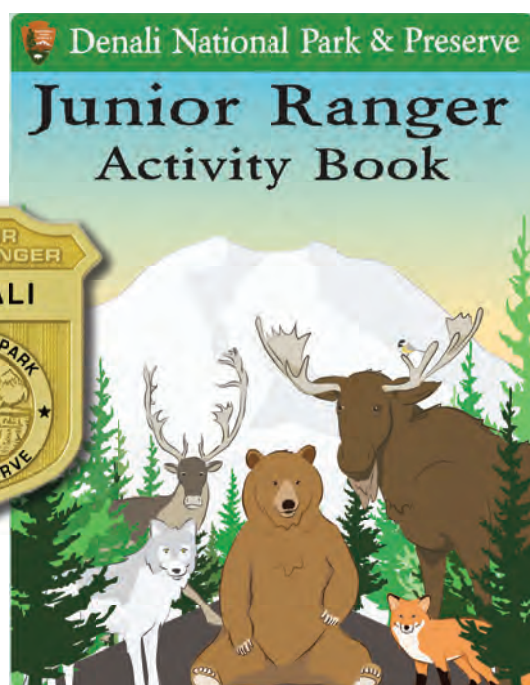
- Be sure to check in with staff and read all safety information as you arrive.
- For the safety of your pets, please leave them at another safe location while you visit the sled dogs.
- Keep children at your side at all times.
- If any dog acts excited (jumping, barking, pacing) or nervous, please visit a different dog.
- Help train the park dogs to have good manners. They should not jump on you, chew on fingers, or eat any human food.



NPS PHOTO / DANIEL LEIFHEIT

The **Denali Discovery Pack** program features kid-themed backpacks families may check out free during their visits. Inside there are books, hands-on activities, and guides to explore tundra and taiga habitat. Visit the Denali Visitor Center to borrow a backpack for your whole family.

If you complete a **Junior Ranger Activity Book** while you're here, show your work to a park ranger, take an oath, and receive a badge. Free copies are available from bus drivers and at seven park locations — Denali Visitor Center, Murie Science and Learning Center, Savage Check Station, Wilderness Access Center, Toklat River Contact Station, Eielson Visitor Center, and the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station. Learn more at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliJunior>



NPS PHOTO / MOLLY MCKINLEY

The new **Riley Creek Day Use Area** near the Denali Park Post Office and Park Entrance offers families open space for picnics and outdoor play. Within walking distance of the Riley Creek Campground and McKinley Station trailhead, the site includes covered picnic shelters, tables and restrooms.

**Family Fun Weekends** take place on summer holiday weekends – Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day. Special events will be offered 11 am to 5 pm on Saturdays at the **Mountain Vista Rest Area** near Mile 13 of the Park Road, and also from 11 am to 5 pm on Sundays at the **Riley Creek Day Use Area**. Watch for postings of activity schedules, or check at the Denali Visitor Center for more information.



# Special Events

## • SUMMERFEST

Set for **Sat Jun 10**, this is the park's signature summer 100th birthday celebration kick-off event featuring musical performances, food, birthday cake, children's activities, and more.  
<http://go.nps.gov/Denali100>



## • HISTORIC FILM SERIES

The park's Cultural Resources staff will host free screenings of historic films at the Denali Visitor Center at 7 pm on the second Wednesday of each month, on **Jun 14, Jul 12, and Aug 9**.  
<http://go.nps.gov/Denali100>

## • DENALI MUSIC FESTIVAL

This sixth-annual event, hosted in partnership with the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, takes place **Mon Jul 24** with activities based at the Denali Visitor Center and other local venues.  
 Learn more @ <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliFestival>

## • HEADQUARTERS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE KICKOFF

In August, Cultural Resources staff will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebration for new interpretive and cultural opportunities afforded by the restoration of a historic cabin and early landscaping.

## • DENALI STAFF REUNION

If you've ever worked in Denali – as park staff, inholders, bus drivers or concessioners – you're invited to join a reunion on Labor Day weekend, **Fri Sep 1 to Sun Sep 3**  
 Learn more at [www.facebook.com/DENAreunion2017](http://www.facebook.com/DENAreunion2017)

## • ROAD LOTTERY

This year's Road Lottery is **Fri Sep 15 to Tue Sep 19**, with Military Appreciation Day set for **Sat Sep 16**. For each day of the lottery, 400 names are drawn and those winners may drive the length of the Park Road in personal vehicles. Applications are accepted May 1-31 and winners are notified by mid-June.  
<http://go.nps.gov/DenaliLottery>



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

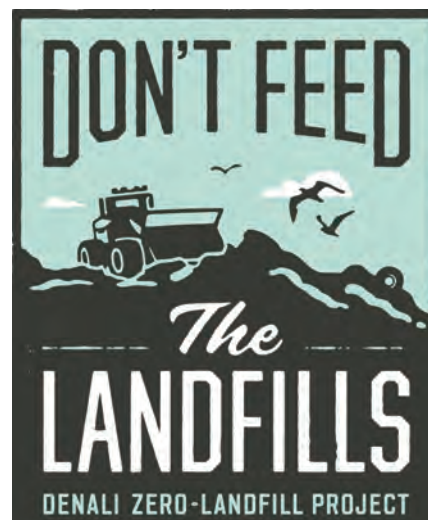
# We Are What We Leave Behind

by **Jacob McCommons**  
 Park Ranger

We are what we leave behind. What does that mean? Wild adventures? Cultural connections? Lessons in history? Family memories? As you join us in Denali during its 100th birthday year, think about what you hope to take away from your visit. Have you ever thought about what you leave behind?

This means a lot of what is thrown out doesn't need to end up in the landfill. To remain at the forefront of doing things a better way, we all need to continue existing recycling efforts, and step up new ones.

What are we doing? Some things are subtle, others are purposely not. Have you noticed recycling bins? Water refill stations? The absence of plastic bags distributed in the park? Doyon/Aramark Joint Venture promotes reusable water bottles, uses compostable packaging for boxed lunches on tours, and encourages a stewardship culture among its employees. The park expanded recycling efforts, both by adding locations and increasing the types of materials that are recycled. The Denali Education Center and local schools are engaging youth, and encouraging gateway businesses to join in.



What can you do to help? Help keep America beautiful by considering:

- Do you need it?
- Use refillable water bottles, food containers, and camping fuel containers during your adventures.
- Choose paperless receipts/reservations when possible.
- Bring a tote bag or backpack with room for your souvenirs.
- Choose gear and food with the least amount of packaging.

Even with best intentions, 500,000 annual visitors create more than just footprints and memories. Last year, Denali launched an exciting new program, the **Zero-Landfill Initiative**. With help from Subaru of America, the National Parks Conservation Association, and the Denali Education Center, the park set an ambitious target of diverting 30 percent of its waste from the landfill by the end of 2017. Similar initiatives are underway at Yosemite and Grand Teton national parks. As Denali enters its second century, it's joining with its concessioner, Doyon/Aramark Joint Venture, to be examples of stewardship and sustainability.

Can you recycle or reuse it? After that hike or bus ride, take the extra effort to separate recyclables from your trash and ask for help if you cannot locate appropriate bins. When you're done with this newspaper, return or recycle it. Use rechargeable batteries. Encourage other Alaska travelers and businesses to join the movement.

After looking through our own trash bins, we have learned a few things — more than 45 percent of the park's waste is organic. Almost 27 percent is paper, 16 percent is plastics, and 7 percent is glass.

Share stories of your efforts **#DontFeedTheLandfills**, and help your park start another century of environmental stewardship.



NPS PHOTOS BY ALEX VAN DER STUYF, KENT MILLER. CHARLOTTE BODAK

## Human Hundred Centennial Challenge

Denali challenges its visitors and staff to get outside, get active, and log up to 100 miles of human-powered travel to commemorate its 100th birthday. You can walk, bike, run, ski or snowshoe.

Watch for ranger-led events you can attend to help you achieve your Human Hundred, or you can just get out and about on your own. Once you've succeeded, claim a sticker at a park visitor center.



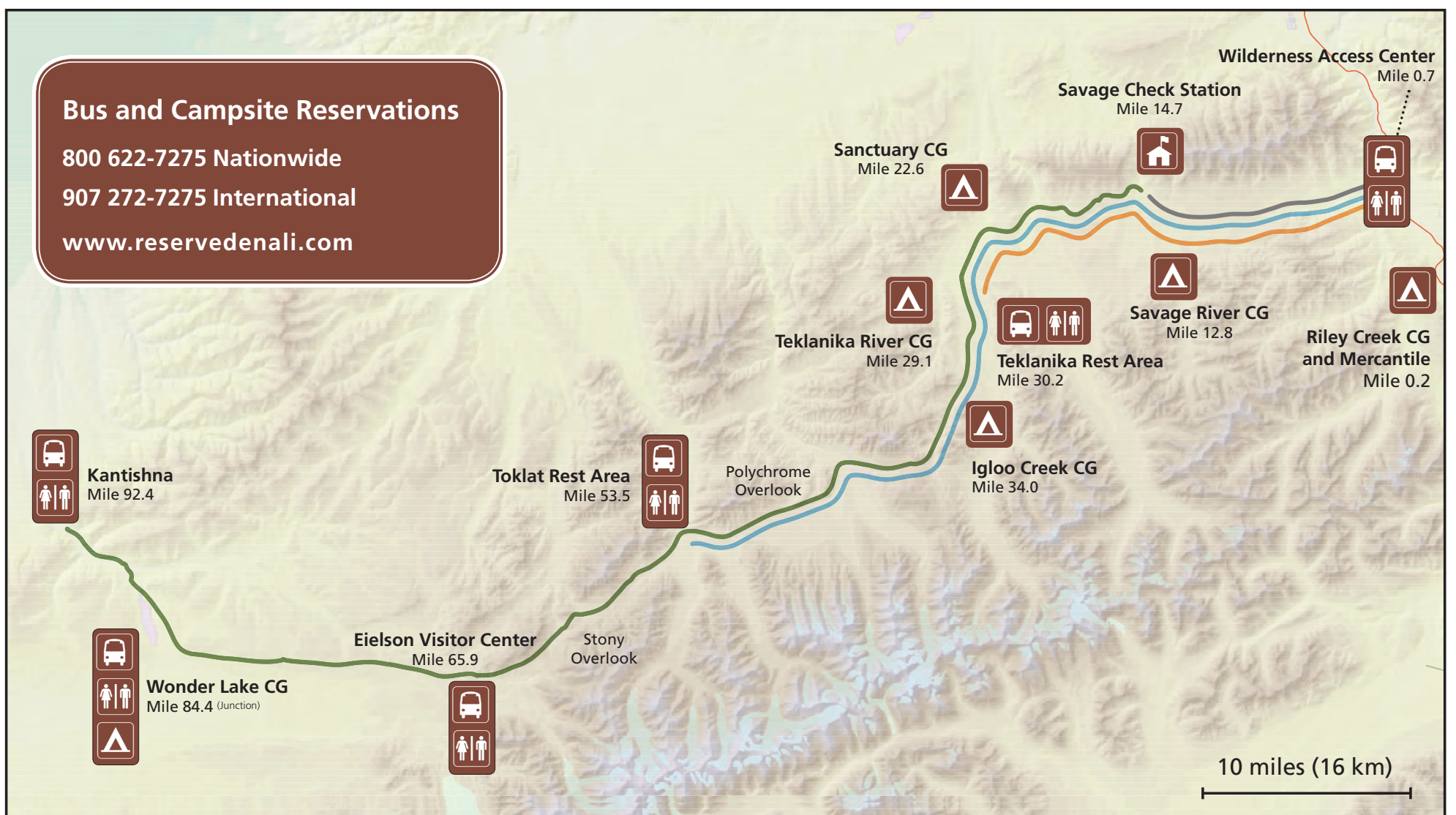
Learn more at <http://go.nps.gov/Denali100>



KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

**Never feed or approach wildlife**





The paved section of the Park Road from the entrance at the George Parks Highway to the Savage River Check Station at Mile 14.7 is open to private vehicles during the regular season. The area is served by the **Savage River Shuttle**, a free courtesy bus with parking and departure points throughout the entrance area. It's especially well-suited for hiking and cycling logistics, and shoulder season outings. Plan on two hours round trip. See more details listed on Page 10.



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

## Thanks For Riding The Bus

The bus that you ride in Denali is key to conserving the park's wilderness character for future generations. Each bus takes the place of dozens of personal vehicles, saves on fuel and emissions, and allows you to watch and enjoy scenery and wildlife.

### Departure

Tour buses depart from area hotels and the Wilderness Access Center. Please check pickup location prior to the date of departure. Transit buses depart from the Wilderness Access Center, except for the Camper Bus, which leaves from Riley Creek Bus Shelter.

### Dates of Operation

Regular Season May 20 to Sep 14  
 Shoulder Season May 10-19 and Sep 15-20  
 Dates subject to change

### Accessibility

Wheelchair accessible buses are available on all bus systems. Please advise staff of your needs as you make reservations. American Sign Language interpretation is available with advanced request.

### Car Seats

Alaska State Law requires children to be in a car seat or booster seat. Children younger than 1 year of age or less than 20 pounds (9 kg) must be in a rear-facing infant seat. Children 1-4 years and at least 20 pounds (9 kg) must be in a child restraint. Children 5-7 years who are less than 57 inches (1.4m) tall or less than 65 pounds (30 kg) must be in a booster seat. Parents are responsible for providing the appropriate car seat.

The concessioner makes efforts to provide infant and toddler seats free of charge at the Wilderness Access Center, Baggage Claim, and other areas. Some buses are equipped with two built-in toddler seats.

### Firearms

The park concessioner does not allow firearms on tour buses. Passengers may carry a firearm on transit buses but it must be unloaded and stored in a locked container. Check with the concessioner in advance for more information.

### Natural History Tour

This tour focuses on presenting the rich cultural and natural history of Denali. Your driver/naturalist provides a great introduction to the landscape, geology, and history of the park as you travel 30 miles into the park. Morning and afternoon departures are available. A snack and water are provided.

**Length:** 4-1/2 to 5 hours

### Tundra Wilderness Tour

A narrated tour traveling 53 miles into the park as far as the Toklat River Contact Station offers opportunities to view the park's wildlife and scenery. Tours depart in early morning and afternoon. A box lunch and water are provided.

**Length:** 7 to 8 hours

### Kantishna Experience

This narrated tour provides exceptional opportunities to view park wildlife and scenery while learning about early park history on this fully-narrated tour. Travels the full length of the Park Road to the historic mining district of Kantishna at Mile 92. A park ranger joins the tour to lead a short walk and tour in Kantishna. Lunch and water included. Morning departures only.

**Length:** 12 hours

More at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliBuses>



# How to Make Reservations for Buses, Campsites

Advance reservations for all bus services and campsites for the 2017 season are available through mid-September. Each reservation for a transit buses may include a maximum of eight seats.

Phone lines are open from 5 am to 5 pm daily (Alaska time). Tickets may be purchased by phone prior to the day before travel and picked up at the Wilderness Access Center (WAC).

Dial 800 622-7275 nationwide, or 907 272-7275 international, or visit [www.reservedenali.com](http://www.reservedenali.com)

## Tickets

Prepaid, reserved tickets may be picked up at the WAC. It is not necessary to check in at the WAC if you already have your bus tickets.

Be prepared to board at a loading deck on the west side of the WAC 15 minutes before your departure. Any unclaimed, prepaid tickets for buses departing before 7 am may be picked up from staff on the bus deck. Bus drivers do not sell tickets.

Campground permits and bus tickets may be picked up at either the Riley Creek Mercantile or the WAC. The Camper Bus loads at the Riley Creek Bus Shelter.

## Entrance Fees

Entrance fees are \$10 per person age 16 years and older. Payment is included with your bus reservation. Otherwise, payment may be made at the Denali Visitor Center by credit card, cash, or money order.

## Refund Policy

For each transit bus seat or campground site there is a \$6 cancellation fee. Transit bus cancellations must be made at least 24 hours before departure time. Campground cancellations must be made by 11 am the day before arrival.

Tour bus cancellations must be made seven days prior to departure. No refund is granted within seven days. A \$5 change fee is levied for changes made to existing reservations.



Visitors board tour and transit buses.

NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

## Transit buses

### Transit Buses

Transit buses are for transportation and wildlife viewing. Passengers may get off along the Park Road to hike and explore, then reboard later shuttle buses on a space available basis with a ticket for that day. Waits of up to one hour to reboard a shuttle bus are possible.

All transit buses have racks available for two bicycles. See page 9.

Fares are dependent on turn-around destination and do not include entrance fees. Youth discounts apply. Fares listed are for an adult age 16 and over. Youths age 15 and under are free.

Bring plenty of food, water, and adequate warm clothing. No food is available for purchase beyond the entrance area. You may also want to bring field guides, binoculars, insect repellent, and head nets.

Destination	Highlights	Start	Time	Fare
<b>Toklat River</b> Mile 53.5, 85.4 km	Offers rest rooms, visitor information desk, bookstore. Highlights include braided river, views of Divide Mountain, wildflowers, Dall sheep, grizzlies, caribou.	May 20	6-1/2 hours round trip	Adult, age 16 and older <b>\$26.50</b> Youth, age 15 and younger FREE
<b>Eielson Visitor Center</b> Mile 65.9, 106.1 km	Offers rest rooms, visitor information, art gallery, picnic tables. Highlights include views of Denali, tundra, trails, golden eagles, grizzlies, arctic ground squirrels.	June 1	8 hours round trip	Adult, age 16 and older <b>\$34.00</b> Youth, age 15 and younger FREE
<b>Wonder Lake</b> Mile 84.4, 135.9 km (to Park Road junction)	Offers rest rooms and picnic tables. Highlights include views of Denali, kettle ponds, moose, beaver, waterfowl, blueberries.	June 8	11 hours round trip	Adult, age 16 and older <b>\$46.75</b> Youth, age 15 and younger FREE
<b>Kantishna</b> Mile 92.4, 148.4 km	This area is primarily a destination for lodge visitors and backpackers. Please respect private lands.	June 8	12 hours round trip	Adult, age 16 and older <b>\$51.00</b> Youth, age 15 and younger FREE
<b>Camper Bus</b>	Tent campers can access backcountry units or Sanctuary, Teklanika River, Igloo Creek, and Wonder Lake campgrounds by camper bus. Specify when making a camping reservation. Camper Bwus passes are good on any transit bus with space available, for the entire time you are west of Mile 20. Pick up at Riley Creek Bus Shelter.	June 1	Depends on destination	Adult, age 16 and older <b>\$34.00</b> Youth, age 15 and younger FREE

**Bus and campsite reservations** 800 622-7275 Nationwide 907 272-7275 International [www.reservedenali.com](http://www.reservedenali.com)

Restroom Location	Milepost	Type
Teklanika Rest Area	30	SST ♿
Toklat Rest Area	54	SST ♿
Eielson Visitor Center	66	Flush ♿
Wonder Lake Campground	84.5	Portable ♿
Wonder Lake Ranger Station	86.5	Outhouse
Boundary Gravel Pit	87.5	SST ♿
Moose Creek Bridge	89	SST ♿
Kantishna Airstrip	92	SST ♿

SST = Sweet-Smelling Toilet

## Plan Ahead

Stops for bathroom breaks typically occur every 60 to 90 minutes while traveling by bus along the Denali Park Road.

If you need to use the outdoors, please adopt "Leave No Trace" principles. Bury your waste, and pack out used toilet paper.

Please do not abandon waste for wildlife or park staff to discover and mitigate.



A row of "Sweet-Smelling Toilet" (SST) facilities at the Toklat Rest Area at Mile 54.

NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER





NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

# FIND YOUR PARK

## Keeping A Clean Site Is Key to An 'Uneventful' Campground Experience

- Check in after 11 am. Check out by 11 am.
- Quiet hours are between 10 pm and 6 am.  
At Riley Creek, Savage River, and Teklanika River campgrounds, generators may be operated only from 8 am to 10 am and 4 pm to 8 pm. No exceptions.
- Fires are allowed only in established grates at Riley Creek, Savage River, and Teklanika River campgrounds. The use of power saws and cutting live vegetation or standing deadwood are prohibited. Campfires must not be left unattended. Do not cook directly on fire grates. Dispose of used foil.
- Store and cook food away from sleeping areas.
- Keep a clean camp and wash dishes immediately in designated locations.
- Scrape unwanted food from pots and plates, and place in a secure trash container.
- Never leave food, containers, or garbage unattended even for just a few minutes.
- Whenever they are not in use, all food, food containers, coolers, and cooking utensils must be stored in a closed, hard-sided vehicle or in a food-storage locker. This includes freeze-dried and canned food, as well as beverages and scented items, such as soap, toothpaste, and sunscreen.
- Dispose of trash in a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster, available at campgrounds. Be sure dumpster lids are closed and latched.
- Pets may be walked along the Park Road, in parking lots, on campground roads, along the Bike Path from the park entrance to the visitor center campus, and the Roadside Trail between the visitor center campus and Park Headquarters. Pets must be leashed at all times. They are not allowed on other trails, on river bars, or in the backcountry. Dispose of feces in garbage cans. Secure pet food inside a vehicle or food locker.
- Do not feed any animal, including birds.

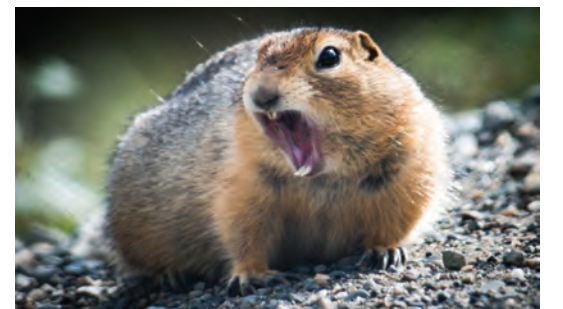
Call the Tip Line to report a crime or violation at **800 478-2724**  
For emergencies, Dial 911

### Leave Denali As You Found It

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Others



KEEP WILDLIFE WILD  
**Never feed or approach wildlife**



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER



Where to Camp	Season	Sites	Water	Facilities	Cost / Night
	Weather dependent				
<b>Riley Creek Campground</b> Mile 0.2, near park entrance	All year; limited facilities from Sep - May, fee charged 5/15 to 9/18	145 sites for vehicles and tents	Yes (no water in winter)	Flush and vault toilets	<b>\$15</b> walk-in tent <b>\$24</b> vehicles to 30' <b>\$30</b> RV to 40'
<b>Savage River Campground</b> Mile 12.8	May 19 - Sep 18	32 sites for vehicles and tents	Yes	Flush and vault toilets	<b>\$24</b> or <b>\$30</b> based on size and type of site
<b>Savage Group Sites</b> Mile 12.8	May 19 - Sep 18	3 sites, tents only	Yes	Vault toilet	<b>\$46</b>
<b>Sanctuary Campground</b> Mile 22.6	May 20 - Sep 13	7 sites, tents only no vehicles	No	Vault toilet	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Teklanika River Campground</b> Mile 29.1	May 20 - Sep 18	53 sites for vehicles and tents	Yes	Vault toilet	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Igloo Creek Campground</b> Mile 34.0	May 20 - Sep 13	7 sites, tents only no vehicles	No	Vault toilet	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Wonder Lake Campground</b> Mile 84.4 (to Park Road junction)	June 8 - Sep 13	28 sites, tents only no vehicles	Yes	Flush and vault toilets	<b>\$16*</b>

\*Price does not include a one-time, non-refundable campground reservation fee of \$6. Prices are subject to change. 50% discount available with Senior or Access passes only. Cancellations must be made by 11 am the day before arrival in order to receive a refund. Cancellation fee applies.



# Backcountry Trips Begin with a Free Permit, Safety Talk

Overnight stays in the backcountry require a free permit available at the **Backcountry Information Center (BIC)**. Located next to the Wilderness Access Center (WAC), the BIC is open 9 am to 6 pm daily. Please arrive no later than 5 pm to obtain a permit. Call 907 683-9590, or visit <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliBackcountry>

The permit includes these steps:

- Plan your itinerary
- Watch backcountry safety video
- Attend the ranger safety talk
- Mark your map
- Obtain a camper bus ticket at the WAC only after completing your backcountry orientation

Permits are issued only in person, no more than one day in advance. Permits are not required for day hikes, but some areas may be closed to entry. Hikers should stop at the BIC for a map and current information.

Denali's vast backcountry is divided into units. Each has a daily quota for the number of people who may camp there. Because more popular units fill early, be flexible when planning your trip.



NPS VIDEO

The park's five-part, 40-minute video series *The Denali Backcountry* is required viewing for your free backcountry camping permit. But you're welcome to watch chapters to prepare for a day hike, too. Available online @ <http://www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/bicvid.htm>

Most units require the use of bear-resistant food containers (BRFCs), loaned free of charge with a permit. All food, toiletries, and garbage must be stored in these containers. These containers are lightweight, cylindrical canisters designed to keep bears from obtaining human food and trash.

Since the introduction of BRFCs in 1984, there has been more than a 95 percent reduction in bears obtaining backpackers' food and an 88 percent decrease in property damage. All food, including freeze-dried and canned foods and beverages, and scented items, such as soap and sunscreen, must be kept in the containers when not in use.

- Cook and store food at least 100 yards (meters) downwind from your tent in an area with good visibility in all directions.
- Keep an eye out for approaching bears.
- Be prepared to put food away in a hurry.
- Avoid cooking greasy or odorous foods.
- Keep a clean and tidy camp.
- Pack out all trash.

## Cycling Offers Special Perspective of Park

- Cyclists may ride on roadways, parking areas, campground loops, and the designated Bike Path.
- Stay attuned to road surface, traffic, and weather conditions as you're riding.
- Travel single file, keep to the right, and comply with traffic regulations.
- Bicycles can be transported free on the **Savage River Shuttle** and on all park transit buses. Space is limited to two bicycles per bus. Check



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

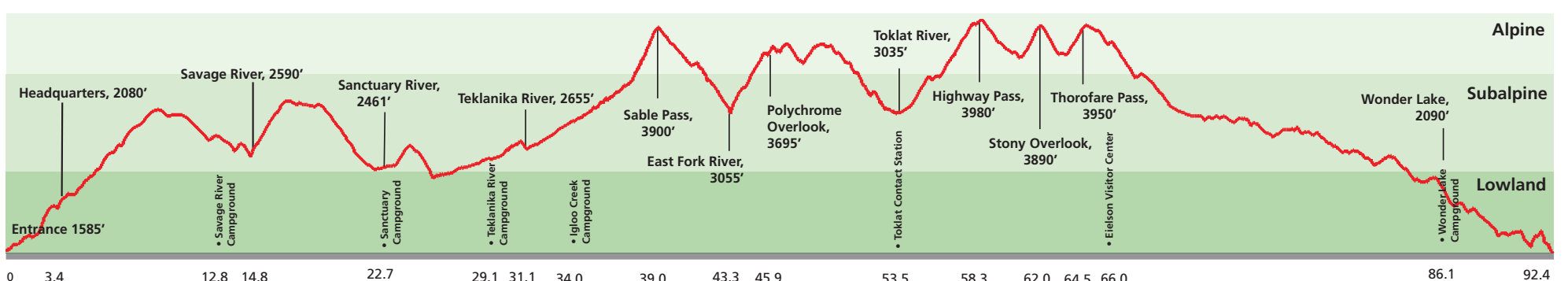
availability or make reservations at the Wilderness Access Center or [www.reservedenali.com](http://www.reservedenali.com)

- Bike racks are provided at campgrounds, rest areas, and visitor centers. If you go day hiking along the Park Road, carry your bike 25 yards from the roadway and hide it from view. If you're leaving it overnight, tag it with contact information.
- Wild animals are curious and opportunistic. Do not leave food or scented items on your bicycle unattended. Use a food storage locker provided at campgrounds and other locations, or use a bear-resistant food container provided free with a backcountry camping permit.
- If a bear or wolf appears near you or your planned route, do not try to outride it. Stop and dismount. Keep all your gear with you. Back away slowly. Wait for the animal to move away. If there is a vehicle nearby, use it as a barrier between you and the bear or wolf. Carry bear spray, and learn how to use and dispose of it safely.



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

### Denali Park Road elevation contour (in feet)



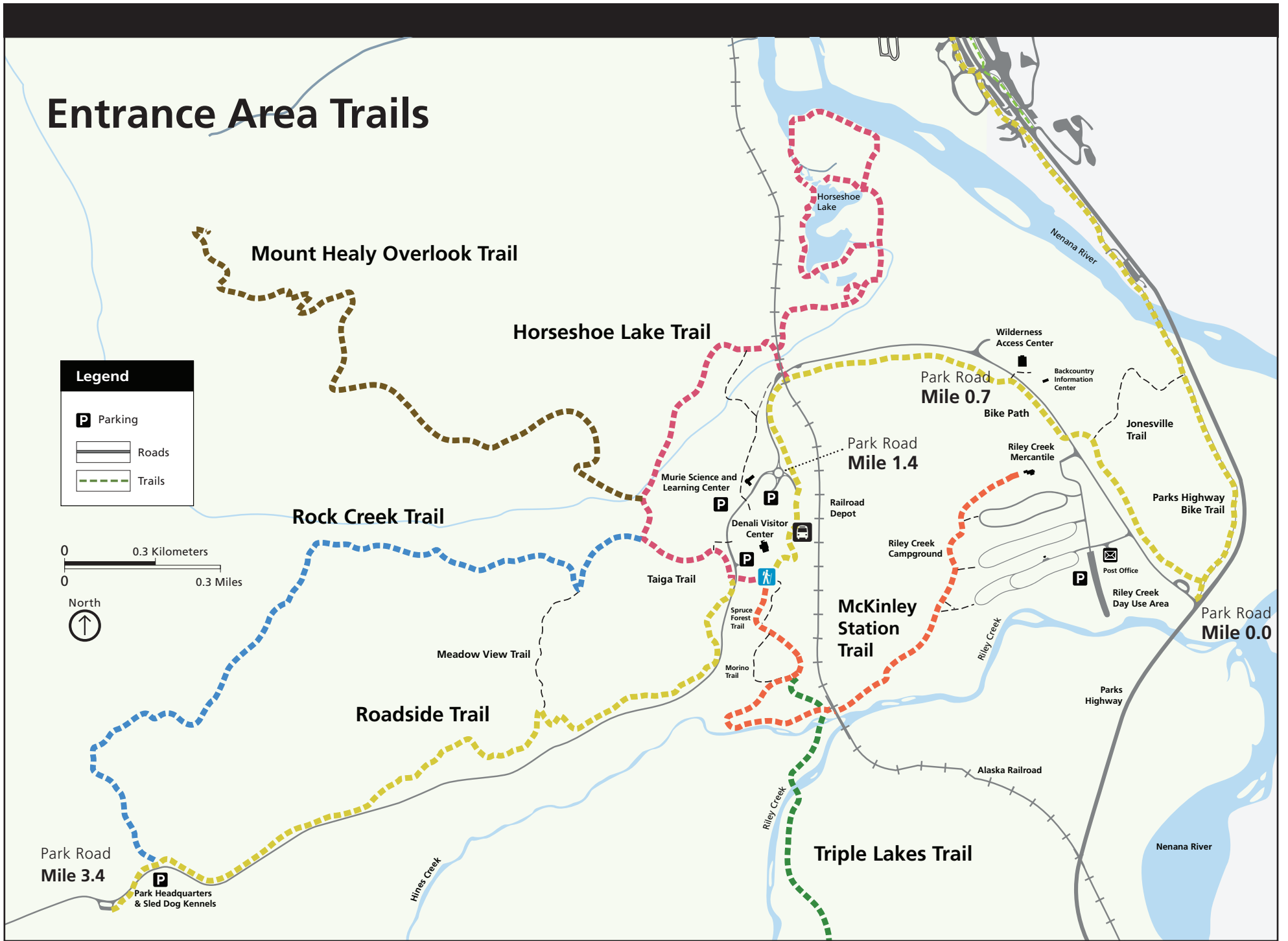
• = Secure Food Storage Locker

Alpine (above 3500 feet) = Low tundra

Subalpine (2500 to 3500 feet) = Scrub vegetation, open spruce woodland, meadow

Lowland (Below 2500 feet) = Black spruce forest and woodland, white spruce and paper birch forest





	Connections	Time	Distance	Elevation	Grade	Trail Width	Surface
<b>Horseshoe Lake Trail</b>	From Taiga Trail or Bike Path (0.5 mile shorter) join Horseshoe Lake Trail at railroad tracks (limited parking available). From bus stop, loop is two miles.	Two hours round trip	3.2 miles 5.1 km	250 feet	5 to 20%	5 feet	Native soils with roots and rocks, portions compacted gravel with log checks
<b>Taiga Trail</b>	Provides access to Rock Creek, Mount Healy Overlook, and Roadside trails.	45 minutes one-way	0.9 miles 1.5 km	75 feet	5 to 15%	2 feet	Gravel with open ditches to step across
<b>Murie Science and Learning Center Trail</b>	Connects to the Murie Science and Learning Center, then leads toward Horseshoe Lake and the Taiga Trail Loop, with a spur trail to the Bike Trail.	20 minutes one-way	0.6 mile 1.0 km	80 feet	10%	4 feet	Compacted gravel
<b>McKinley Station Trail</b>	From the visitor center to Riley Creek Campground and Riley Creek Mercantile (offers access to the Triple Lakes Trail).	One hour one-way	1.6 miles 2.6 km	100 feet	8.5%	5 feet	Compacted gravel
<b>Morino Trail</b>	Take the McKinley Station Trail for 0.4 miles and turn right on a short spur trail to historic roadhouse and homestead sites. Turn left at main trail to loop back to visitor center.	15 minutes one-way	0.2 mile 0.3 km	none	one	5 feet	Compacted gravel
<b>Spruce Forest Trail</b>	For a short accessible loop, take the McKinley Station Trail and turn left at the first junction to return to the visitor center.	20-minute loop	0.15 miles 0.24 km	none	none	5 feet	Compacted gravel
<b>Mount Healy Overlook Trail</b>	Take Taiga Trail for 0.5 miles, then look for Mount Healy Overlook Trail junction. <b>Considered strenuous.</b>	Two hours one-way	2.7 miles 4.3 km	1,700 feet	25%	2 feet	Native soils with roots and rocks
<b>Roadside Trail</b>	From the visitor center via Taiga Trail to Park Headquarters and Sled Dog Kennels.	One hour one-way	1.8 miles 2.9 km	350 feet	15%	3 feet	Compacted gravel
<b>Bike Path</b>	From visitor center to Wilderness Access Center, campground, and Park Entrance. To access services in Nenana Canyon via <b>Parks Highway Bike Trail</b> , add 1.0 miles, 30 minutes.	45 minutes one-way	1.7 miles 2.7 km	150 feet	5%	10 feet	Compacted gravel
<b>Jonesville Trail</b>	From the Bike Path (near the Riley Creek Mercantile), connects to the Parks Highway Bike Trail and services in the Nenana Canyon.	10 minutes one-way	0.3 miles 0.6 km	75 feet	10%	4 feet	Compacted gravel
<b>Parks Highway Bike Trail</b>	A multi-use path that runs parallel to the George Parks Highway from the Park Entrance to the Nenana River Bridge and hotels, restaurants, shops and businesses in Nenana Canyon beyond.	30 minutes one-way	1.0 mile 1.6 km	50 feet	less than 5%	8 feet	Asphalt
<b>Rock Creek Trail</b>	From the visitor center via Taiga Trail to Park Headquarters and Sled Dog Kennels.	1.5 hours one-way	2.4 miles 3.8 km	400 feet	15%	2.5 feet	Compacted gravel
<b>Meadow View Trail</b> (Connection for loop)	A short connector trail between Rock Creek and Roadside trails forms a 1.6 mile/2.6 km loop back to the visitor center.	1.5 hour loop	0.3 miles 0.5 km	none	Access trails up to 15%	2.5 feet	Compacted gravel
<b>Triple Lakes Trail</b>	Access via the McKinley Station Trail, or a pullout at the north side of the Nenana River Bridge approximately Mile 231.5 of the George Parks Highway.	Five hours one-way	9.5 miles 15.3 km	1,000 feet	20%	2 feet	Compacted gravel, soils, rocks, roots, wood planks, suspension bridge

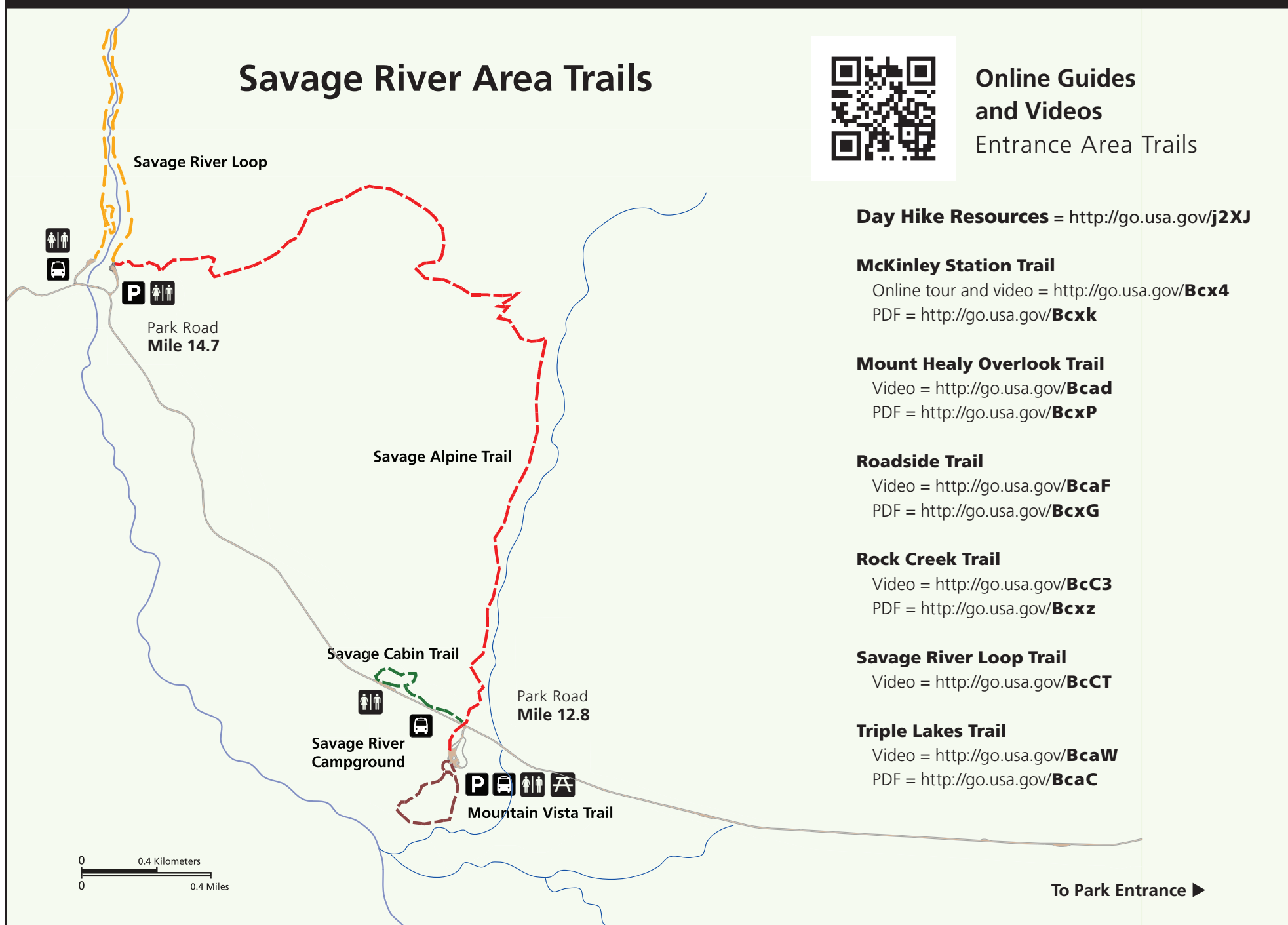
Unless noted, all chart walking times and distances originate at a trailhead behind the Denali Visitor Center.



# Savage River Area Trails



Online Guides  
and Videos  
Entrance Area Trails



**Day Hike Resources** = <http://go.usa.gov/j2XJ>

**McKinley Station Trail**  
Online tour and video = <http://go.usa.gov/Bcx4>  
PDF = <http://go.usa.gov/Bcxk>

**Mount Healy Overlook Trail**  
Video = <http://go.usa.gov/Bcad>  
PDF = <http://go.usa.gov/BcxP>

**Roadside Trail**  
Video = <http://go.usa.gov/BcaF>  
PDF = <http://go.usa.gov/BcxG>

**Rock Creek Trail**  
Video = <http://go.usa.gov/BcC3>  
PDF = <http://go.usa.gov/Bcxz>

**Savage River Loop Trail**  
Video = <http://go.usa.gov/BcCT>

**Triple Lakes Trail**  
Video = <http://go.usa.gov/BcaW>  
PDF = <http://go.usa.gov/BcaC>

	Connections	Time	Distance	Elevation	Grade	Trail Width	Surface
<b>Mountain Vista Trail</b>	Located at Mountain Vista Rest Area, at Mile 12.8 of the Denali Park Road. Can be accessed by the free Savage River Shuttle and private vehicle, with ample parking available.	30-minute loop	0.6 miles 1.0 km	50 feet	5%	6 feet	Compacted gravel
<b>Savage Alpine Trail</b>	Connects Savage River, campground and Mountain Vista day use areas. Parking available at either end. Use free Savage River Shuttle to return to your vehicle. <b>Considered strenuous.</b>	Three hours one-way	4.0 miles 6.4 km	1,500 feet	25%	2 feet	Native soils with roots and rocks, gravel
<b>Savage Cabin Trail</b>	Limited parking available, consider Mountain Vista. Trail to Savage Cabin includes a series of waysides emphasizing local history. (Living history talks available only to concessioner tours.)	30-minute loop	0.8 miles 1.3 km	50 feet	5%	6 feet	Compacted gravel
<b>Savage River Loop Trail</b>	Located at the Savage River at Mile 14.74. Very limited parking available. Can be accessed by free Savage River Shuttle.	1.5-hour loop	2.0 miles 3.2 km	negligible	none	2 feet	Native soils with roots and rocks

## Free Shuttles Help Hike Logistics

You can use three free courtesy shuttles to travel between entrance area facilities, and in conjunction with your plans to hike entrance area trails.



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

- The **Savage River Shuttle** travels a two-hour loop between the park entrance area, the Mountain Vista Trailhead, and the Savage River at Mile 14.74. Download a PDF of Savage River Shuttle schedules at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliCourtesy>

The order of stops for each loop is the Riley Creek Campground, Wilderness Access Center (WAC), Horseshoe Lake Trailhead, Denali Visitor Center (DVC), Park Headquarters, Mountain Vista Rest Area, Savage River Campground, Savage River Turnaround, Savage River Campground, Mountain Vista Trailhead, Park Headquarters, and Denali Visitor Center.

- The **Riley Creek Loop** travels the entrance area continuously, linking all major visitor facilities roughly every 30 minutes. Download a PDF of Riley Creek Loop schedules at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliCourtesy>

The order of stops is the Riley Creek Campground, Wilderness Access Center (WAC), Horseshoe Lake Trailhead, Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC), Denali Visitor Center (DVC), Wilderness Access Center (WAC), and Riley Creek Mercantile. On alternating loops, between stops at the MSLC and DVC, a stop is added at Park Headquarters.

- The **Sled Dog Demonstration Shuttle** travels to the Park Kennels, which are located more than two miles from the visitor center campus. Free round trip transportation departs from the Denali Visitor Center bus depot 40 minutes before each demonstration. During peak season, this means 9:20 am, 1:20 pm, and 3:20 pm daily. Offerings are more limited in May and September, however. Check at the visitor center or the bus depot for posted departure times. Follow painted white paw prints on pathways a short distance from the visitor center to reach the bus stop.



# Tracking History: How the Alaska Railroad Helped Create Denali National Park and Preserve

by Erik K. Johnson  
Park Historian

The establishment of Mount McKinley National Park in 1917 (renamed Denali National Park and Preserve in 1980) is often understood as a victory for conservationists led by naturalist Charles Sheldon. But there is another entity that arguably deserves much credit for the park's formation: the Alaska Railroad.



**Charles Sheldon**  
DENA 3661, Denali NPP Museum Collection

The origins of the idea can be traced to Sheldon's visits to the region between 1906 and 1908. Still only in his late-30s, Sheldon was recently retired after making a fortune in Mexican railroads and mines. He spent nearly two years in the Denali area observing wildlife, collecting specimens, befriending locals, and becoming enchanted by the spectacular landscape.

In 1908, Sheldon returned to New York and began advocating for the protection of the Denali region's wildlife to members of the Boone and Crockett Club (BCC), a prestigious hunter and conservation organization formed by Teddy Roosevelt, George Bird Grinnell and others in the 1880s. During his retirement, Sheldon became a member of the BCC and quickly rose into leadership ranks of the well-connected organization. Although the BCC supported Sheldon's vision, it was put on hold while the club focused on Grinnell's project, which was passing legislation to create Glacier National Park.

In 1914, Sheldon's idea became urgent to conservationists after Congress passed the Alaska Railroad Act. The Act authorized funding for building an Interior railroad from a southern port to Fairbanks, and also established the Alaska Engineering Commission (AEC), a federal body charged with carrying out the railroad project. With the immediate prospect of a railroad, improved access to populations of large game around Denali was suddenly a reality, and Sheldon and explorer Belmore Browne were compelled into action.

Construction on the railroad commenced in 1915 after President Woodrow Wilson selected a railroad route between Seward and Fairbanks via Anchorage and Broad Pass. The route flanked the eastern side of the area Sheldon wanted to protect. To Sheldon and Browne, the most immediate threats were market hunters from Fairbanks and the meat required to supply railroad camps along the corridor.

Although decimation of the region's wildlife was a concern to some, people living in remote areas of Alaska relied on meat for survival and looked upon new laws with suspicion. Outsiders making an argument for a game refuge were not going to convince local Alaskans about the need to prohibit hunting.

Sheldon was savvy enough to recognize a need to appeal to all parties. One of his early strategies was getting the support of Territorial Delegate James Wickersham, someone Sheldon knew from his time in Alaska. After acquiring the support of Interior Secretary Franklin Lane and Assistant Secretary Stephen Mather, the Department of Interior recommended that Sheldon, Browne, and Thomas Riggs (from the AEC) draft the park's enabling legislation. As the three worked on the language and scope of the bill they always consulted Wickersham.

“ It is beyond question that when this railroad is built the region will be advertised and people all over the world will learn that in Alaska there is something that is wonderful and easily reached. ”

— George Bird Grinnell

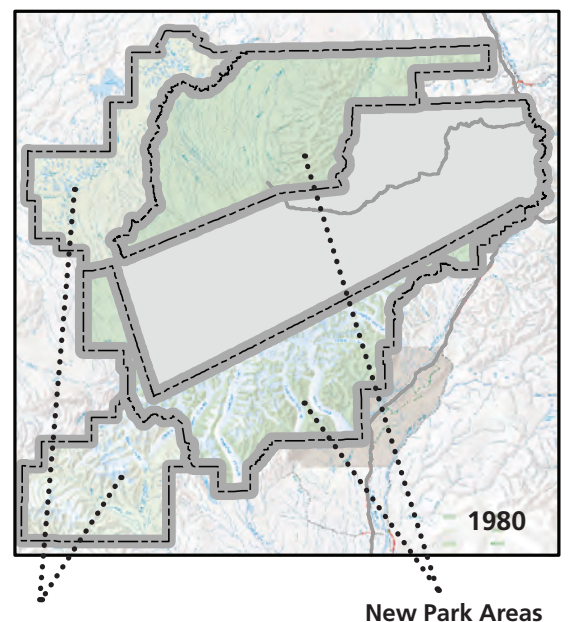
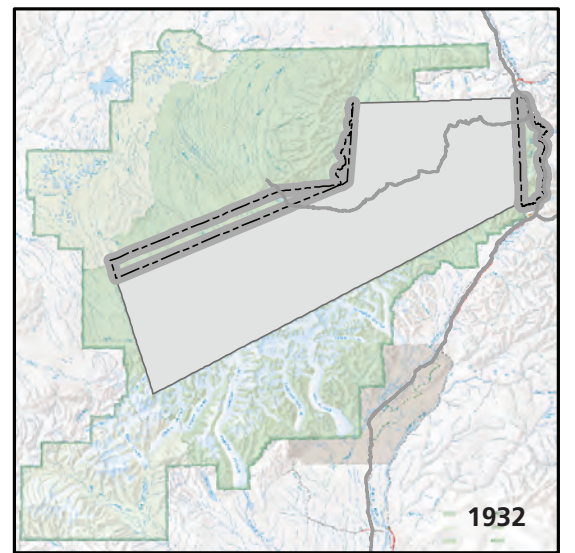
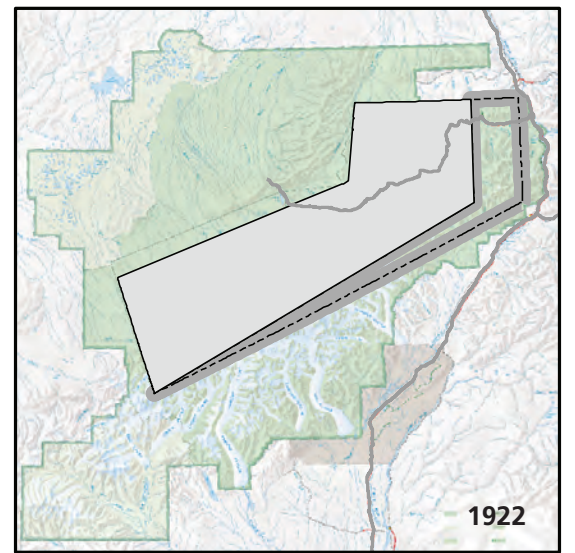
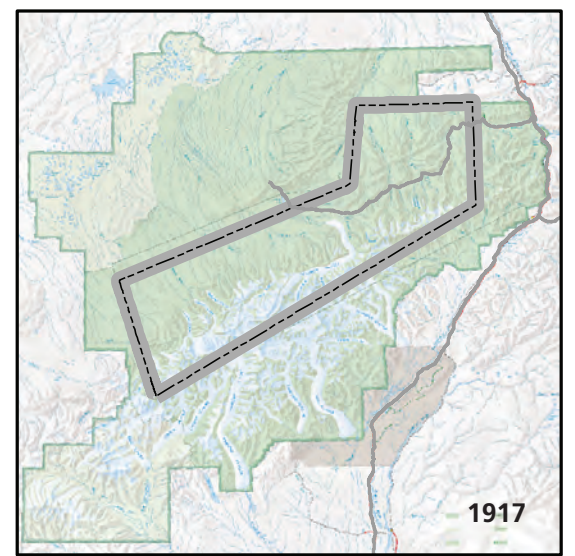
In April of 1916, legislation to create Mount McKinley National Park was introduced in both the US House and Senate. In early May, committee hearings were held and a prominent team of conservationists and railroad representatives made statements in support of the national park. What is striking about much of the testimony is the constant emphasis of the proposed park being an economic driver for the tourist industry in Alaska. George Bird Grinnell gave the first statement to the Subcommittee of the Committee on the Public Lands: “It is beyond question that when this railroad is built the region will be advertised and people all over the world will learn that in Alaska there is something that is wonderful and easily reached.”

The AEC supported the national park because they knew the railroad was going to need tourist revenue to be successful. William Edes, the chairman of the AEC, appeared before the Senate Committee on Territories and stated that the proposed national park “would be a valuable asset to the railroad.” Instead of simply arguing for protection of wilderness, Sheldon, Browne, and other prominent conservationists talked about the tremendous economic opportunities. The railroad was being built so establishing a national park was vital to bolstering Alaska tourism and the railroad itself.

The passage of the Alaska Railroad Act was critical to Mount McKinley National Park's establishment for two reasons. First, it created a sense of urgency among conservationists and compelled them to draft legislation. Second, it gave park advocates the ability to promote legislation based on economic factors. During the late 19th and early-20th centuries, national parks needed railroads and railroads needed national parks.

Railroads and national parks have been largely dependent on each other since the creation of the first park, Yellowstone, in 1872. Railroad boosters foresaw the economic opportunity in appealing to tourists and actually became early advocates of national park creation and the establishment of an agency to manage the vast public lands in Western America. Yellowstone and Mount Rainier needed the Northern Pacific Railway; Glacier needed the Great Northern Railway; Yosemite and Sequoia needed the Southern Pacific lines; while Mesa Verde needed the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. By 1917, the Alaska Railroad needed Mount McKinley National Park, but the park also needed the railroad to be viable to certain lawmakers.

When the park's enabling legislation was signed into law in 1917, it was seen as a triumph for conservation organizations attempting to protect an important game refuge on the north side of the Alaska Range. Indeed, the likes of Sheldon, Browne, and US Geological Survey geologist Stephen Capps often placed the decimation of the region's game front and center while lobbying for the park. Yet, arguing for protection of wildlife was not enough to convince the US Senate, Congress, President, and local Alaskans that national park protection was worthwhile in a remote, sparsely populated territory. The Interior railroad was an important development that helped spur action for a national park, and the AEC, which later turned into the Alaska Railroad, became an important ally in Sheldon and Browne's quest to make a national park.



Preserve Areas      New Park Areas

## Major Boundary Changes

**Feb 26, 1917:** Congress establishes Mount McKinley National Park – 1,591,897 acres

**Jan 30, 1922:** Congress adds 355,175 acres south and east of the park – 1,947,072 acres

**Mar 19, 1932:** Congress adds 246,693 acres to the park: 89,392 east of the park and 163,301 acres to the northwest – 2,193,765 acres

**Dec 2, 1980:** President Jimmy Carter signs into law the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, establishing a newly-renamed and enlarged Denali National Park (4,740,912 acres) along with a new Denali National Preserve (1,334,118 acres) that total – 6,075,030 acres

NPS MAPS BY BRITTA SCHROEDER





Passengers of Mount McKinley Tourist and Transportation Company view the mountain, circa 1939.

Photo Courtesy of Alaska State Library, Skinner Foundation Photograph Collection, P44-05-016A

## Denali Timeline: Highlights from the Park's Rich History

### 1794

- First recorded reference to Denali in the journal of British explorer 'George' Vancouver.

### 1867

- Russia sells Alaska to U.S.

### 1896

- Prospector William Dickey names Mount McKinley for U.S. presidential nominee William McKinley of Ohio.

### 1903

- First recorded attempt to climb McKinley by Judge James Wickersham with four team members reaches the 10,000-foot level of what is now known as the Wickersham Wall.

### 1905

- Gold stampede staked mining claims in the Kantishna Hills. Boom town of Eureka grows to roughly 2,000 inhabitants, by some accounts.

### 1906

- Gold boom over, a mass exodus ensues from most of Kantishna.

### 1906-1908

- Charles Sheldon spends time in the area north of Denali to study Dall sheep. He is guided by Harry Karstens and writes about the future "Denali National Park" in his 1908 journal.

### 1910

- The Sourdough Expedition climbs the north peak of McKinley via the Muldrow Glacier, planting a spruce pole near the top.

### 1913

- First ascent of McKinley's south summit (20,310 feet) is achieved by Walter Harper, Harry Karstens, Hudson Stuck, and Robert Tatum. Harper, an Alaska Native, is first to set foot on top.

### 1915

- Construction begins on the Alaska Railroad between Seward and Fairbanks.

### 1916

- Maurice Morino homesteads and establishes a roadhouse he calls the "Park Gate Roadhouse."

### 1917

- Congress approves legislation to create Mount McKinley National Park on February 19.
- Charles Sheldon is delegated to deliver the act personally to President Wilson, who signs it on February 26. The pen he used is displayed at Denali Visitor Center.

### 1921

- NPS Director Stephen Mather sends a 10-page letter of instruction to Harry Karstens, formalizing the multifaceted duties of the first superintendent. Karstens receives an interim appointment as Ranger-at-Large until funds become available July 1. He is stationed in Nenana.
- Construction of the Alaska Railroad reaches Riley Creek.
- Maurice Morino builds a second roadhouse in a rustic "Italian villa" style, prominently located near a new McKinley Station railroad depot.



Maurice Morino on porch of his second roadhouse

DENA 32219, Denali NPP Museum Collection

### 1922

- Park headquarters moves from Nenana to the Riley Creek area.
- Karstens purchases park's first seven sled dogs, "The Seven Brothers," from Norman Hadley in Nenana.

### 1923

- Savage River Tourist Camp established. Thirty-four visitors stay during the 1923 season.
- The Brooklyn Eagle Party of 70 persons holds dedication ceremonies for Mount McKinley National Park on July 8-9
- President Warren G. Harding's party of 70 persons arrive on July 15 on their way to Nenana to drive the "Gold Spike," a symbolic completion of the Alaska Railroad between Seward and Fairbanks.

### 1924

- Carl Ben Eielson flies a WWI Jenny to Copper Mountain, landing on Thorofare Bar near current location of Eielson Visitor Center.

### 1925

- Park headquarters moves from Riley Creek to its present location

### 1932

- Park boundary extended east to Nenana River and north to include Wonder Lake.

### 1938

- Park Road is completed to Kantishna.
- Civilian Conservation Corps camp built near Headquarters. "C-Camp" later becomes seasonal housing.

### 1939

- McKinley Park Station Hotel opens, administered by the Alaska Railroad

### 1939

- Wonder Lake Ranger Station completed.
- First sled dog demonstration.
- Fannie Quigley Cabin constructed in Kantishna during the region's third mining boom.

### 1939-1941

- Adolph Murie completes an extensive study of wolves, which leads to publication of *The Wolves of Mount McKinley*.

### 1943

- Park Hotel taken over as a U.S. Armed Forces R & R Center during WWII

### 1947

- Barbara Washburn becomes first woman to summit McKinley.

### 1948

- Teklanika campground established

### 1952

- Igloo and Morino campgrounds established, as is a temporary campground at Wonder Lake.

### 1953

- Denali Highway completed from Paxson to Cantwell.

### 1954

- Pilot Don Sheldon flies the first commercial flight from Talkeetna to the Kahiltna Glacier.

### 1956

- Muldrow Glacier surges.

### 1957

- Denali Highway completed to park entrance. Visitation increases from 5,000 in 1956 to 25,000 in 1958.

### 1959

- Alaska becomes a state. Congress authorizes conveyance of 104 million acres of federal land to the new state.
- Eielson Visitor Center opens.

### 1965

- Town of Kantishna closed to new mining claims by BLM.

### 1968

- Oil discovered at Prudhoe Bay.

### 1971

- Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) passed, with 44 million acres of land and \$1 billion awarded to Alaska Natives.

### 1972

- Construction of the George Parks Highway (Highway 3) links the park to Anchorage and Fairbanks. Visitation immediately doubles from 44,528 in 1971 to 88,615 in 1972.
- Bus system instituted.
- Park Hotel burns. "Temporary" hotel built, which remains in use through the summer of 2001.

### 1979

- First dog team ascent of McKinley made by Susan Butcher, Joe Redington, Brian Okonek, Ray Genet and Robert Stapleton.

### 1980

- Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) enlarges the park from 1.9 million acres to 6.2 million acres and changes its name to Denali National Park and Preserve, and 95 percent of its original 1.9 million acres is designated as Wilderness.

### 1990

- The first Road Lottery takes place, allowing 300 vehicles for each of four consecutive days access to drive the length of the Park Road.

### 1994

- Advanced reservations by phone instituted for park shuttle buses.
- Road Lottery capacity increased to 400 vehicles per day.

### 2001

- Park Hotel closes in September.

### 2002

- Artist-in-Residence program founded.

### 2005

- First dinosaur tracks discovered in Denali
- New Denali Visitor Center opens
- Old Visitor Access Center becomes the Wilderness Access Center, a transportation hub run by the park concessioner
- Temporary visitor contact station opens mid-summer near Toklat Road Camp as the old Eielson Visitor Center is demolished.

### 2008

- New Eielson Visitor Center opens.

### 2010

- Mountain Vista Rest Area opens near Mile 13 of the Park Road.

### 2015

- Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel officially changes the name of North America's highest peak from Mount McKinley to Denali.

### 2016

- First dinosaur bone fragments discovered in Denali
- The original Superintendent's office, a cabin first constructed in 1926, is rehabilitated and moved back to Headquarters near its original location.





ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC CARLSON

# Appreciating 13,000 years of the Alaska Native Legacy

by **Phoebe Gilbert**  
Park Archaeologist

The Denali area has been the homeland of Alaska Natives for at least 13,000 years. Where you walk as a park visitor during your stay may have been tread upon by the first people of this land at the end of the last ice age. Archaeological evidence indicates these first peoples made their way from Eastern Beringia (modern day Chukotka Russia) across the Bering Land Bridge and into Alaska. The water that today covers this area (known as the Bering Strait) was frozen in two massive continental ice sheets that covered much of North America. Our understanding of these first explorers comes from material remains, such as spear points and hide scrapers, they left behind at their campsites. The places they inhabited were sometimes used once or twice, and sometimes for generations. These sites give evidence to the long history of this area; a use that continues today. These areas are the home lands to the five Athabaskan tribes that still live in the area. They still fish, hunt, and trap on these same lands.<sup>1</sup>

Archaeological evidence shows that the earliest inhabitants of what is now the park lived and hunted here as far back as 13,200 years ago.<sup>2</sup> The landscape then was very different from what you see today. There were no forests, just sage and grass lands. The glaciers you see on the mountains were much larger and would have covered more of the park. The climate would have been colder, windier, and drier. The warming climate at the end of the ice age and the melting of the continental ice sheets played a major role in the survival of the first settlements in Denali. Because the people depended on the land solely for survival, changes to the environment would have been one of the most influential forces impacting their lives.<sup>3-7</sup>

Just as it does today, climate change had a major impact on people's well-being. To survive the dramatic climate changes over the millennia, Alaska Natives invented and adapted sophisticated technological and settlement systems.<sup>8</sup>

Groups would move seasonally to harvest resources available at different times of the year. In the spring, after the ice had broken up they would move to the rivers to fish. Then in the summer and early fall they would travel to the foothills of the Alaska Range to hunt for caribou, moose, sheep, and (thousands of years ago) bison, which have since gone extinct.



NPS PHOTO / CHARLOTTE BODAK

“ The park can be considered wilderness, not because it has been protected from human use, but because the people who used it for thousands of years did not attempt to change its basic nature. ”

— Ray Collins, ethnographer

They would then head back to the rivers to winter camps where they would fish, hunt, and trap for the winter.<sup>9</sup>

The long time use and occupation of the Denali area is also evidenced by the over 1,600 place names that the Upper Kuskokwim, Dena'ina, Western Ahtna, Lower Tanana, and the Koyukon Northern Athabaskan tribes have for the area. This large number of places names shows not only the mobility of the

Alaska Natives but also highlights their longstanding and close relationship with the land. Place names were used not just for navigation but also as a way to pass on important information, such as hunting spots or sacred areas to the next generation.<sup>10</sup> Place names exist not just around modern roads and infrastructure, but in areas of the deepest wilderness of the park. Ray Collins, ethnographer and longtime resident of the Denali area wrote, “The Park can be considered wilderness, not because it has been protected from human use, but because the people who used it for thousands of years did not attempt to change its basic nature”.<sup>9</sup>

As we celebrate 100 years as a national park it is important to remember that the Alaska Native history here has a depth over ten times as long, and the Alaska Natives whose ancestors lived on this land thousands of years ago still live here.

These lands hold the footsteps of humanity, of the first peoples to have stepped onto the soils that we now call North America. Where you venture today are the same ridges and valley that the first pioneers to this country stepped foot upon over 13,000 years ago. You continue their legacy; honor it by taking only photos, sharing what you find, and cherishing where you go. Respect the past that this place holds, the future that it can provide, and your fellow visitors.

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An extremely well preserved footprint of a meat-eating dinosaur clearly shows the fleshy pads of skin in each toe, claw impressions and even a faint remnant of the actual pebbly skin texture.

PHOTOS BY PAT DRUCKENMILLER, UAMN



Paleontologists from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the National Park Service found the first dinosaur bones in Denali during an expedition in July 2016. They also discovered several new dinosaur trackways, which are fossilized impressions left by ancient animals walking through mud that eventually became rock.

# A Century of Scientific Inquiry Still Thriving in Denali

by Cassidy Owen  
Park Library Technician

Over the last century, researchers from all over the world have come to Denali to study its secrets, and find out what makes it special. In the heart of interior Alaska lays 6-million acres of mostly untouched wilderness which contains numerous avian, wildlife, plant species, and geologic features. These parts of Denali make it a cornucopia of research possibilities.

In the early days of scientific exploration, researchers were interested in all aspects of the area, from Dall sheep, geology, and archeology to wolf population dynamics. Little was known about the animals, plant life, and physical characteristics of the area. For some early researchers, it was a chance to study wildlife in a remote habitat mostly untouched by humans.



Adolph Murie

DENA 22782  
Denali NPP Museum Collection

Renowned wildlife biologist Adolph Murie studied wolves and bears here. He was joined by his wife, Louise, brother, Olaus, and sister-in-law, Margaret, all of whom conducted independent research. Many others journeyed to Denali as well, such as Ynez Mexia, who studied the high plant diversity that grows in the Denali area.

More still came to study geologic formations, glaciers, and minerals, such as Alfred Brooks and Stephen Capps in the early 1900s. During

that time gold, silver, lead, coal, and antimony were discovered in the park.

Current researchers continue to discover new things about the physical world of Denali and its biological inhabitants. In just the last few years, for instance, researchers looking at birds and vegetation noticed a link between where birds are found and how the shrub line is creeping uphill. In 2009, researchers confirmed that human waste left on glaciers is carried along as the ice moves, and that bacteria is making its way into rivers and streams as glaciers melt. In 2015, after several years of study, researchers detected several new species of lichen during a non-vascular plant inventory.

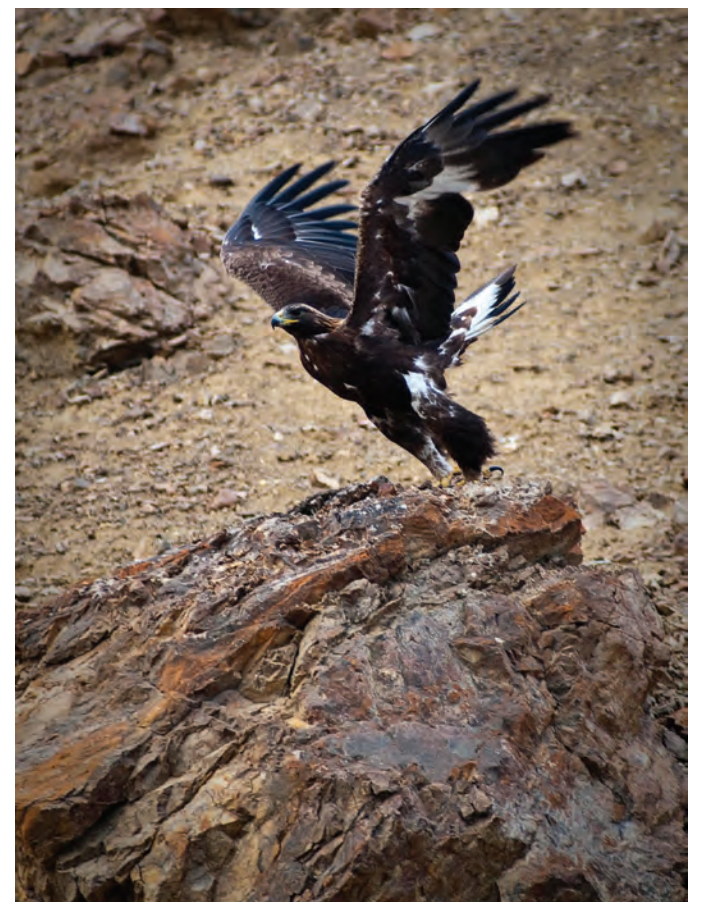
Active science in park today spans from inquiries into air quality, thawing permafrost and climate change, population dynamics and movements of grizzly bears and wolves, revegetation and removal of invasive plants, as well as the impact of sound from aircraft on the experience of visitors in the backcountry.

The new knowledge that's gained allows park managers to make better informed decisions about policies and procedures related to development, wildlife management, and visitor opportunities. Without the inspiration and pioneering contributions of those who were drawn to scientific inquiry in Denali's early days, many of the studies being conducted now might not have been possible.



During the summer of 2016 a new species of bumblebee (*Bombus kluanensis*) was discovered in Arctic climates, including Denali.

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NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

Park researchers are outfitting golden eagles with GPS packs to track migration patterns and timing.





**Paula "Polly" (Liebau) Anderson** arrived in the Kantishna mining district via a dog team trip across the Alaska Range in 1918. Once in Kantishna, Paula and her husband John prospected for gold as well as raised foxes, trapped furs, and kept meticulous records of detailed weather and ornithological data for the U.S. Biological Survey. "Polly's," as her roadhouse was known, was a place to get a good meal and Polly's pragmatic caregiving. "Polly's" was also known for its abundant furnishings, crafted from caribou antlers. The caribou antlers were used to make everything from chandeliers to chairs, yielding comments from visitors who found the décor entertaining if not always comfortable. Long after Paula left the area and returned to California, she was remembered by early park rangers and area miners for her welcoming and unique roadhouse on the north end of Wonder Lake with its spectacular views of Denali.

by **Molly McKinley**

Outdoor Recreation Planner



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

**Belmore Browne** (1880-1954) made his first trip to Alaska as an 8-year-old boy, on a sightseeing trip with his family, but he came to know the territory well between 1902 and 1912. He was a member of two major collecting expeditions for the American Museum of Natural History in 1902 and 1903, and then made three of the earliest pioneering attempts to climb Mount McKinley, in 1906, 1910, and 1912. On the final attempt, he and expedition partner Herschel Parker were turned back by weather just 125 vertical feet short of the summit.

Deeply concerned about overhunting he witnessed of sheep and caribou in the Kantishna area just north of the mountain, Browne became, along with Charles Sheldon, one of the two most important spokesmen for establishment of Mount McKinley National Park. Browne and Sheldon were indefatigable advocates for preservation of the area wildlife, and both testified in Congressional hearings in 1916 on possible establishment of the park. Browne's *A Plea for Mount McKinley National Park* was published by the Camp Fire Club America, the Boone and Crockett club, and the American Game Protective Association, and it was a key element that led to President Woodrow Wilson's signature of the bill establishing Mount McKinley National Park in February 1917.

Browne's paintings of Denali are not only among the finest and most striking images of the mountain, but are unique among both historical and contemporary images in providing the perspective of an artist who knew the mountain intimately, and was crucial to the protection of it and its surrounding environment.

by **Kesler Woodward**

Professor Emeritus of Art, University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Founder of Denali's Artist-in-Residence program

**Florence (Rucker) Collins** was enamored with Alaska as a young woman. She and her best friend took jobs with the US Geological Survey in Fairbanks. The "two daring young women" embraced the opportunity to explore Alaska's remote reaches by airplane. In her explorations, Florence discovered intriguing vegetated sand dunes near the community of Lake Minchumina, near the northwest corner of what is now Denali National Park and Preserve. There, Florence met Dick Collins, whom she would eventually marry. The couple built a home, a family, and a subsistence life of collecting and hunting. After the expansion of the park in 1980, Florence served on the Subsistence Resource Commission, where she collaborated with the Park Service to protect subsistence opportunities in the expanded National Preserve lands. Florence was an important voice for conservation in Alaska, gaining her recognition from the National Park Service and non-profit community. Florence, who passed away in 2015, will be remembered for her life of adventure, public service, and leadership that was exemplary in many ways.



FLORENCE COLLINS PERSONAL COLLECTION

by **Molly McKinley**

Outdoor Recreation Planner

# People Make A Place Real

For Denali's 100th birthday in 2017, we asked park staff and friends to write a series of *tiny biographies* about some of the key figures from its rich history.

**Walter Harper** was an Alaska Native mountain climber and guide who, at age 21 in 1913, became the first person to reach the top of Denali. The youngest of eight, Harper was the son of an Athabascan mother and an Irish father, a renowned Alaska pioneer. His mother raised him in a traditional manner, teaching him to speak their language, to fish, and to handle a dog team. At age 16, he began formal schooling in Nenana, and soon landed an assignment as a translator and trail assistant for Hudson Stuck, an Episcopal archdeacon.



PROJECT GUTENBERG

Five years later on June 7, 1913, Harper joined Stuck, co-leader Harry Karstens, and missionary Robert Tatum on the first team to summit North America's highest peak at 20,310 feet. Harper is widely acknowledged to have been essential to the success of the expedition.

In October 1918, while traveling from Skagway to Seattle at the outset of a journey to attend medical school in Philadelphia, Harper and his newlywed wife Frances Wells were among 268 passengers and 75 crew who perished as the steamer SS Princess Sophia ran aground on Vanderbilt Reef and sank in a snowstorm. His name and legacy are remembered today in Harper Glacier, a four-mile glacier on Denali above Muldrow Glacier, as well as the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station

by **Jay Elhard**

Interpretive Media Specialist



Early visitors to Mount McKinley National Park stayed at Savage Camp (near mile 12 on the Park Road). After being drawn to Alaska as a tourist herself in 1922, **Lena (Lentz) Howard** worked at Savage Camp from 1928 until 1938 as a cook and housekeeper. The early tourist camp offered visitors the luxury of tent cabins, a dance hall, and ranger programs. Like seasonal employees today, Lena spent her free time exploring, hiking, and picking berries. Her reflections on early park visitor assumptions, some still be true today, included expectations that they would encounter lines of dog teams and year-round snow, inspiring Lena to report, "You meet all kinds of characters!" Working at camp, Lena met Johnny Howard, horse handler and trip guide. Lena and Johnny married and settled near Healy, just north of the park, where she was known to gift cookies to local children and host holidays gatherings for their community. Lena embodied the spirit of tourism and hospitality that continues to make the Denali area a special place for visitors.

by **Molly McKinley**

Outdoor Recreation Planner





KARSTENS FAMILY

"I recall no better fortune than that which befell me when Harry Karstens was engaged as assistant packer. He is a tall, stalwart man, well poised, frank, and strictly honorable. One of the best dog drivers in the north and peculiarly fitted by youth and experience for explorations in little-known regions. He's proved himself a splendid fellow, thoroughly efficient in all that pertains to practical life in the northern wilderness; inventive and resourceful."

– Charles Sheldon  
Wilderness of Denali

**Henry Peter Karstens** (1878-1955) Miner. Dogsled Mail Carrier. Wilderness Guide, Explorer, Mountain Climber and Ranger for the National Park Service – Karstens had a habit of thriving in extreme conditions promised by Alaska.

Harry came to the Klondike with a wave of gold seekers in 1897. While he did stake his claim to some of the richest land in the region, Karstens was denied ownership due to his youthful appearance. Undaunted, he continued on to Alaska where, by dogsled, he ran freight and mail with Charles McGonagall over unexplored land that is now, in part, the Richardson Highway.

As climbing leader of the 1913 "Stuck/Karstens Expedition" on Denali, Harry was a "strong, competent, and resourceful leader in the face of difficulty and danger." (*Stuck, Ascent of Denali*) At the head of the Muldrow Glacier, an unexpected fire decimated the team's supplies. Harry picked up the pieces, determined it was safe to continue, thus giving the expedition the honor of the first successful ascent of North America's highest peak.

In 1917, Mount McKinley National Park was established and reputation soon led to Karstens's appointment as its first superintendent (1921-1928). Arriving on a borrowed horse with no support or infrastructure, his dedication to the park set an example by which rangers measure their commitment today.

With long-earned sobriquets (Sourdough nicknames) like Seventy Mile Kid, Kid Karstens, and Going Kid, Henry Peter Karstens would always insist, "Just call me Harry."

by Ken Karstens  
Great Grandson



PHOTO COURTESY OF ED ZAHNISER

**Olaus Murie, Howard Zahniser, and Adolph Murie,** three key figures in the history of wilderness conservation, at the summit of Cathedral Mountain in 1961.

**Adolph Murie** was born in 1899 in Moorhead, Minnesota. In 1922 he joined his half-brother, Olaus, in the Brooks Range of Alaska to study caribou, an experience that inspired his life's work. Adolph went on to become a wildlife biologist who pioneered research on wolves and other animals in Alaska and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, shaping wildlife and wilderness conservation in Denali National Park and Preserve. He spent 32 years working for the National Park Service, undertaking studies published in four books: *The Wolves of Mount McKinley*, *A Naturalist in Alaska*, *The Ecology of the Coyote in the Yellowstone*, and *The Grizzlies of Mount McKinley*. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Park Service and the prestigious John Burroughs Medal.

Like his brother, Adolph's approach to wildlife management ran contrary to historical opinion, taking whole ecosystems into account rather than focusing on single organisms. He believed that "life is richest where the greatest diversity exists in the natural order." The Murie Science and Learning Center in Denali was dedicated to Adolph Murie in 2004.

by Tyler McIntosh  
Teton Science Schools

In the early 1900s, a trip through Kantishna wasn't complete without visiting Fannie. Short and barely 100 pounds, **Fannie Quigley** had a personality big as the wilderness landscape she called home for almost 40 years—and a skill set to match. She would mush a dog team for 20 miles to get firewood, drop a caribou with one shot, and serve up pie with a bear fat crust as flaky as the finest pastry.

Born to Bohemian parents in Wahoo, Nebraska, Fannie eventually headed north in 1898 cooking meals for Klondike-bound miners. After moving on to other gold strikes, she eventually met lanky Joe Quigley and the pair mined successfully in Kantishna for decades, their wilderness hospitality becoming the stuff of legend. Fannie stayed after Joe left her and Alaska for the Lower 48.

When she died in her cabin in 1944, superintendent and old friend Grant Pearson wrote, "Rough speaking, kindhearted, generous and possessing a quick-witted humor, she was a real character. She will be missed by this park . . ."

by Ingrid Nixon  
Storyteller



DENA 3668, DENALI NPP MUSEUM COLLECTION

**Charles Sheldon**, 1867-1927, born in Vermont, worked for railroad companies after completing Yale in 1890. While working in the American southwest he found investors for a silver discovery, enabling him to retire in 1903. He spent the rest of his life in conservation, initially collecting and studying mountain sheep and wild game

in British Columbia, the Yukon, and Alaska. In 1907, he spent a year studying wildlife from a remote cabin in the Toklat Valley near Denali in Alaska. In January of 1909 Sheldon proposed to the Boone and Crockett Club the formation of "Denali National Park," a name first penned in Sheldon's own journal during the winter of 1908. Largely due to his efforts, in February of 1917 Mount McKinley National Park was formed by Congressional Act. Sheldon and his wife, the former Louisa Gulliver, had four children, two of whom later became wildlife biologists. Every summer he took his family to Nova Scotia to camp on Kejimikujik Lake, now a Canadian National Park. In 1930 his classic volume, *Wilderness of Denali*, was published.

by Charles Sheldon II  
Grandson

**Judge James A. Wickersham** won appointment to the federal bench in Alaska in 1900. His Third Judicial District sprawled over a 300,000 square mile wilderness. Major gold strikes in the region transformed Wickersham from a minor judge into the tsar of Interior Alaska.

An accomplished climber, Wickersham developed an obsession with Mount McKinley (now Denali). In the spring of 1903, he and four companions set out for the mountain. On the cross-country trek, the judge named prominent features, staked gold claims, and recorded contact with local Natives, transcribing place names and stories. On the evening of June 19, they set out for the summit, ascending five miles up the Peters Glacier. The judge led, picking his way around crevasses, over tenuous snow bridges, and across icefalls.

At 8,100 feet on a precipitous and icy knife-edged ridge the climb reached its end. The great ice wall that stymied Wickersham, and later bore his name, would not be conquered for another 60 years. On his return, he told reporters that "no one would get to the top except by flying."

Although gold claims they staked proved of little value, their discovery ignited a stampede to the Kantishna Hills, which eventually sparked the establishment of Mount McKinley National Park.

by Tom Walker  
Author and Historian



ALASKA STATE LIBRARY



## Mile 55

Mid-August and already  
the tall fireweed darkens  
into autumn.

The mountainside is dotted  
with blueberries, soapberries,  
cranberries low to the ground.

Beneath our lifting heels  
the spongy tundra  
springs back as if

we were never here.  
Every day sunset  
comes six minutes sooner.

On the ridge, the shadow  
of a golden eagle is visible  
before the eagle is.

Up here  
there is nothing between me  
and Nothing.



### Denali

Egg Tempera on Panel  
8 x 10 inches

**Kathy Hodge**

Artist-in-Residence 2016



Since 2002, more than 70 accomplished artists, writers, and composers have participated in the **Artist-in-Residence** program. Learn more at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliArt>

## The Magpie

drags my  
gaze around—

a teeter-totter  
of blue and black

a wink of stark  
white epaulet

crazed-glass wings  
a sheen of green

a swaggering wand  
of opal tail—

then with a shake  
of lacquered beak

and a fling  
of finery wings

is gone



### Selected Poems

**Jessica Goodfellow**

Writer-in-Residence 2016



**Alan Chan**, Composer-in-Residence 2016, leads a performance of his piece "Denali World" with a jazz ensemble during the Denali Music Festival in July. (See event listing page 5.)

## Tundra Undreamt

cross fox under a three-quarter moon  
crosses the road ahead of me, ground  
squirrel dangling from his jaws

we who range the night, in quest of  
respite from our hungers, regard one  
another under the moon, not yet full



*Illustrations from  
a book in progress*

**Emily Jan**

Artist-in-Residence 2016



# Park Partners

As a nonprofit education partner, **Alaska Geographic** connects people to Alaska's magnificent wildlands through experiential education, award-winning books and maps, and by directly supporting the state's parks and refuges. Over the past 50 years, Alaska Geographic has provided more than \$20 million to fund educational and interpretive programs throughout Alaska's public lands. It also supports education programs, scientific research, and science-informed management decisions through the Murie Science and Learning Center.



**Alaska Geographic Association**

907 683-1272

[www.alaskageographic.org](http://www.alaskageographic.org)



The **Denali Education Center** is a local nonprofit organization that partners with the NPS to offer summer programs for local youth, including Denali Discovery Camp and Denali Backcountry Adventures. Other education programs include Denali Community Series and W.I.L.D. About Denali, both of which emphasize the unique natural history and wildlife of the Denali bio-region.

**Denali Education Center**

907 683-2597

[www.denali.org](http://www.denali.org)



Hours at the MSLC are 9 am to 4:30 pm daily. For current courses and programs, call 907 683-6432 or visit [www.nps.gov/rlc/murie](http://www.nps.gov/rlc/murie)

To walk there, simply follow white, painted dinosaur tracks on pathways outside the Denali Visitor Center.

At the **Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC)**, visitors can learn about park science in an exhibit area, allow kids to explore an activity corner, enjoy comfortable chairs around a warm fireplace on cold and wet days, and get current information at the front desk. In summer, the MSLC offers public presentations, half-day classes, multi-day field courses, teacher trainings, and youth camps.

**Institute-Style Field Courses**

Immerse yourself in a hands-on multi-day learning vacation. As part of a national effort to increase scientific literacy by showcasing research from living laboratories, the MSLC hosts courses on topics ranging from archeological surveys to glacier and climate studies. Offerings are posted at <http://akgeo.org/fieldcourses/>

**Kids' Camps**

Kids get to explore Denali during youth camps and expeditions each summer. These are fabulous opportunities for kids and young adults to explore park science through interactive activities, learn camping and backcountry travel skills, and have fun with their peers in a wild but safe environment. More at [www.nps.gov/dena/learn/education/classrooms/kids-camps.htm](http://www.nps.gov/dena/learn/education/classrooms/kids-camps.htm)



# You Can Help Keep Wildlife Healthy and Wild

Denali is home to both black bears and grizzly bears. Black bears inhabit the forested areas of the park, while grizzly bears mainly live on the open tundra. Almost all bears along the Park Road are grizzlies. Each of us has an obligation to respect bears and their habitat. These rules are strictly enforced. Failure to observe them may result in citations or fines.

## BE ALERT

Bears are active both day and night and can be anywhere. Watch for tracks and scat.

## HIKE IN GROUPS

Bear encounters are much less likely for people who hike in groups of three or more. If a bear approaches, group together and try to appear large.

## MAKE NOISE

Warn bears of your presence by making noise—sing, shout, talk. Be especially careful in dense brush where visibility is low, when walking into the wind, and along rivers where bears may not hear you over the noise of the water.

## STAY AT LEAST 300 YARDS AWAY FROM ANY BEAR

Give them space. Allowing a bear to approach for photographs is prohibited. If a bear changes its behavior due to your presence, you are too close.

## DO NOT RUN

Running may elicit a chase response. Bears can run faster than 30 mph (50 km/hr). Humans cannot outrun them.

If a bear is unaware of you, detour quickly and quietly away. If a

bear is aware of you, back away slowly. Speak in a low, calm voice while waving your arms slowly above your head. Bears that stand up on their hind legs are not threatening you, but merely trying to identify you.



Black bear

PHOTO COURTESY DOUG BROWN

## HOLD YOUR GROUND

Should a bear approach or charge you, do not run and do not drop your pack. Bears will sometimes charge, coming within feet of a person before stopping or veering off. Dropping a pack may encourage the bear to approach people for food. Stand still until the bear moves away, then slowly back off.

## PLAY DEAD IF CONTACTED BY A GRIZZLY

If a grizzly makes contact with you, play dead. Curl up into a ball with your knees tucked into your stomach and your hands laced around the back of your neck. Leave your pack on to protect your back. Statistically, most grizzly bear attacks are short, defensive reactions by grizzlies feeling threatened. However, if the attack is prolonged, fight back vigorously.

## FIGHT BACK AGAINST BLACK BEARS

If a black bear makes contact with you, fight back immediately.

## BEAR SPRAY

When used properly, bear spray can be an effective deterrent for aggressive behavior by bears. If you decide to carry it, be aware that wind, spray distance, rain, and product shelf life all influence its effectiveness. Learn how to use it safely.

## REPORT ALL BEAR ENCOUNTERS TO A RANGER

Park rangers and biologists need this information to document bear behavior for research and management purposes.



Grizzly bear

NPS PHOTO / KEN CONGER

## Local Services

### Accessibility

Most rest rooms are wheelchair accessible. Some trails, and tour and transit buses are wheelchair accessible. Please advise staff of needs when making a reservation.

Park films are open-captioned. Find more information at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliAccess>

### Alaska Railroad

You can travel to Denali by rail from Fairbanks, Anchorage, or Talkeetna. Call 800 544-0552, or 907 683-2233 in Denali, or 907 265-2683 in Anchorage.

### Banks

The closest bank is in Healy. ATM service is provided at the Wilderness Access Center, and several businesses one mile (1.6 km) north of the park.

### Child Care

Located on Sulfide Drive in Healy, the Denali Preschool and Learning Center is the only licensed day care in the Denali Borough. Drop-in childcare is offered year-round, 7 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday, for ages 1 month to 12 years. Documentation of current immunizations is required, or sign an exemption. Contact 907 683-7789.



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### Connectivity

Cell phones work in the park entrance area. There are no public phones west of Park Headquarters. Report emergencies to rangers, bus drivers, or campground hosts.

### Dog Boarding

Available seven miles south of the park entrance. By day, or overnight. 907 683-2580, [canineresort@tonglenlake.com](mailto:canineresort@tonglenlake.com)

### Gas and Propane

Available at gas stations one mile north of the park entrance, 11 miles north in Healy, and 29 miles south in Cantwell.

### Glacier Landings

Visitors can opt to land on park glaciers aboard a ski-equipped airplane with:

**Fly Denali**, Healy, AK  
866 770-2359  
[www.flydenali.com](http://www.flydenali.com)

**K2 Aviation**, Talkeetna, AK  
800 764-2291  
[www.flyk2.com](http://www.flyk2.com)

**Sheldon Air Service**, Talkeetna, AK  
800 478-2321  
[www.sheldonairservice.com](http://www.sheldonairservice.com)

**Talkeetna Air Taxi**, Talkeetna, AK  
800 533-2219  
[www.talkeetnaair.com](http://www.talkeetnaair.com)

### Grocery, Laundry, and Showers

At the Riley Creek Mercantile, located near the entrance of the park, adjacent to the Riley Creek Campground. Open 7 am to 10 pm.

### Lost and Found

Call 907 683-9275 or visit the baggage check located across from the train depot, open daily 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

### Medical

The closest physicians and hospitals are in Fairbanks.

**Canyon Clinic**, urgent care facility, about a mile north of the park entrance at Mile 238.8. Open 9 am to 6 pm daily, available on call 24 hours, 907 683-4433.

### Interior Community Health Center,

located in the Tri-Valley Community Center, 13 miles north of the park on Healy Spur Road. Clinic hours are 8 am to 5:30 pm weekdays. A physician's assistant is on call at 907 683-2211.

### Talkeetna, Sunshine Community

**Health Center**, Mile 4 of the Talkeetna Spur Road. Open 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Saturday, with 24-hour on-call services, 907 733-2273.

### Post Office

Located near the park entrance and Riley Creek Campground.

### Recycling Areas

Located at the Riley Creek Mercantile for aluminum, plastic, and batteries. Visitor centers, campgrounds, and rest stops have aluminum can receptacles.

### Religious Services

Please check at the Denali Visitor Center for times and locations of religious services.

### Road Lottery

This year's Road Lottery is Fri Sep 15 to Tue Sep 19 (with Military Appreciation Day set for Sat Sep 16). For each day of the lottery, 400 names are drawn and those winners may drive the length of the Park Road in their personal vehicles. Those selected for permits are notified by June 15. Learn more at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliLottery>

### Sewage Dump Station

Located adjacent to the Riley Creek Mercantile. Fees may apply. Inquire at the Riley Creek Mercantile. Facility may be closed early or late in season due to frozen ground or chance of freezing. Open 24 hours.



# Bear Encounter Ends Safely

A visitor on a tour bus with a camera and 300 mm lens in June 2016 managed to capture a rare and remarkable sequence of images along the popular Savage River. "It was like watching a movie play out not knowing what was going to happen next," writes **Betty Snyder** of Indian Lakes Estates, Florida. "This was such a once-in-a-lifetime event to witness. It could have gone very badly but with the help of the rangers and the people doing as they were told, it turned out very well."



A small, sub-adult male grizzly bear walks along a path beside Savage River.

ALL PHOTOS THIS SEQUENCE COURTESY OF BETTY SNYDER



Visitors walking a trail along the west side of the river become aware of the presence of a grizzly bear.



Some in the group appear to react by starting to run, and the bear seems to be drawn closer.



Park rangers across river shout safety instructions to the visitors.



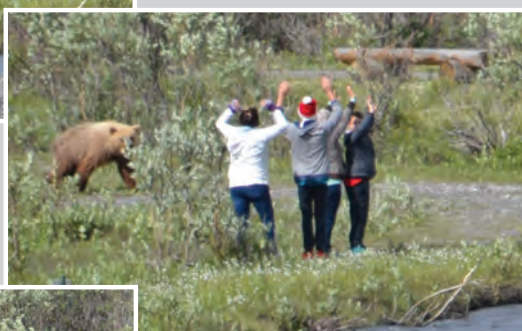
The visitors stop, group together, and raise their arms to make themselves look bigger.



The bear seems to react with surprise as the group holds its ground.



The bear seems to pace with nervous curiosity as the group remains collected and calm.



As the visitors back away slowly, the bear seems ready to leave the encounter as well.



## Park Safety Advisories and Regulations



**Do not feed any wild animals, including birds.** It is unhealthy for them, and encourages aggressive behavior that may require management action. All pet food, trash, coolers, and cooking tools must be kept secure unless in immediate use. We all have a shared responsibility to keep wildlife healthy and wild.



**Do not approach wildlife.** You must stay at least 25 yards (23 m) away from moose, sheep, wolves, and other animals. A distance of at least 300 yards (275 m) is required from bears. Regardless of distance, if any wild animal changes its behavior due to your presence, you are too close.



Moose are faster and much less docile than they appear. A cow moose with calves can be especially unpredictable and dangerous. **If a moose charges you, run away.** Dodge quickly behind large trees, cars, or structures. If you are chased while caught out in the open, zigzag or change direction often.



As you explore park trails and wilderness areas, be bear aware. You are safer hiking in groups. In areas of low visibility, make noise to avoid surprise encounters.

**Do not run from a bear.** If you are going to spend significant time in the outdoors in Alaska, carry bear spray, and know how to use and dispose of it safely.



Pets may be walked along the Park Road, in parking lots, on campground roads, along the Bike Path from the park entrance to the visitor center campus, and the Roadside Trail between the visitor center campus and Park Headquarters. Pets must be leashed with a lead that is six feet or shorter. Do not leave a tethered pet unattended. Owners must collect and dispose of pet feces.



In developed areas, stay on established trails and paths. If you are hiking with a group in areas where there are no established trails, spread out to reduce your impact on the landscape.



**Explore your park. Protect your park.** It is illegal to disturb and collect natural specimens, cultural and historic objects, or archeological artifacts. Leave items where you find them. Federal regulations require that such discoveries remain in context. To help researchers and contribute to science, snap photos and carefully note the location, preferably with GPS reference coordinates.



Cyclists may ride on park roads, parking areas, campground loops, and the designated Bike Trail between the Nenana River and the Denali Visitor Center.



**Share the road.** Pass no closer than three feet (1.0 m) to bicycles and pedestrians, especially if your vehicle has large side mirrors. On gravel roads, travel at "no dust" speeds that do not kick up a plume that will wash over cyclists and pedestrians. If you see wildlife while driving, do not stop or impede the safe and free flow of traffic along any portion of the road. Instead, park in an established pullout, and watch from a safe distance.



Launching, landing or operating **unmanned or remote controlled aircraft** is prohibited everywhere within Denali's park and preserve areas. Drones disrupt visitor experience, harass wildlife, and can represent a safety hazard when flown near aircraft.



It is the responsibility of visitors to understand all applicable firearms laws before entering the park. **Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in the park.** Those places are marked with signs at all public entrances. The park concessioner does not allow firearms on tour buses. Passengers may carry a firearm on shuttle buses but it must be unloaded and stored in a locked container. Except as part of authorized hunting activities, discharging weapons is strictly prohibited throughout the park. Learn more online at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliFirearms>



**25 yards** 23 m

Moose, caribou, Dall sheep, wolf, occupied raptor nest, or occupied den site

**300 yards** 275 m

Bear

## Watch Wildlife Safely

Any distance that alters the behavior of a wild animal is too close. Maintain minimum distances at all times. Resist the temptation to approach or intercept an animal's path.

Use binoculars or a telephoto lens to observe an animal's natural behavior. Do not engage in photography if an animal moves closer than the minimum distance allowed. Remind others of their ethical responsibility when photographing animals. Please do not follow an animal at close distance with a vehicle. Motorists must stop and allow an animal to cross the road safely.

Avoid stressing wildlife. Animals living here are engaged in a daily struggle to find food, shelter, and water necessary for survival. Avoid wildlife during sensitive times, such as when they are nesting, mating, or raising young.



**Quiet please.** If you see wildlife from a tour or transit bus, limit noise and distractions. Keep your head, hands, and elbows entirely inside the vehicle.

Call the Tip Line to report a crime or violation at **800 478-2724**  
For emergencies, Dial 911