**Alpenglow**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**FEB 26, 1917**

*Wild, Wonderful, Waiting for You*

*Discover the Next 100*

**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.
- 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 603 W 4th Ave.

**Stay Connected**
- http://twitter.com/DenaliNPS
- www.facebook.com/DenaliNPS
- www.instagram.com/DenaliNPS
- www.flickr.com/photos/DenaliNPS
- www.youtube.com/user/DenaliNPS

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Don’t Go Hungry or Thirsty
There is no food and limited water available beyond the park entrance area. Please be sure to park 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.

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.

Backcountry Information Center
Mile 0.75 Park Road, adjacent to the Wilderness Access Center. Open 8 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/dena/murie
907 683-6432

Denali Visitor Center
Mile 15 Park Road
Open 8 am to 5 pm daily.
Offers general information, exhibits, interpretive programs, ranger-guided walks, artist-in-residence installation.

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

Wilderness Access Center
Visitor Center Campus
Eielson Visitor Center
Murie Science and Learning Center
Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station

We are so proud to be stewards for one of your crown jewels 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.”
A ranger at the Toklat Contact Station uses American Sign Language to discuss listings in the park newspaper with visitors who have hearing impairments.

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

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.

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
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.

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

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.
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

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.

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.

Share stories of your efforts
#Don’tFeedTheLandfills, and help your park start another century of environmental stewardship.

Keep Wildlife Wild

Never feed or approach wildlife

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

• 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

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K E E P W I L D L I F E W I L D

Never feed or approach wildlife

Alpenglow, Summer 2017 5
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.

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

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

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. Lunch and water included. Morning departures only.

Length: 12 hours
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 bus 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

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 $8 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.

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. Youth 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.

Plan Ahead

For more information, please call 800 622-7275 or visit www.reservedenali.com.

Visitors board tour and transit buses.

### Destinations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Highlights</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Fare</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toklat River</td>
<td>Offers rest room, visitor information desk, bookstore. Highlights include braided river, views of Divide Mountain, wildflowers, Dall sheep, grizzlies, caribou.</td>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>6-1/2 hours round trip</td>
<td>Adult, age 16 and older $26.50, Youth, age 15 and younger FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eielson Visitor Center</td>
<td>Offers rest room, visitor information, art gallery, picnic tables. Highlights include views of Denali, tundra, trails, golden eagles, grizzlies, arctic ground squirrels.</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>8 hours round trip</td>
<td>Adult, age 16 and older $34.00, Youth, age 15 and younger FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wonder Lake</td>
<td>Offers rest rooms and picnic tables. Highlights include views of Denali, kettle ponds, moose, beaver, waterfowl, blueberries.</td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>11 hours round trip</td>
<td>Adult, age 16 and older $46.75, Youth, age 15 and younger FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kantishna</td>
<td>This area is primarily a destination for lodge visitors and backpackers. Please respect private lands.</td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>12 hours round trip</td>
<td>Adult, age 16 and older $51.00, Youth, age 15 and younger FREE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Camper Bus**

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 Bus rates are $34.00, Youth, age 15 and younger FREE.

Bus and campsite reservations 800 622-7275 Nationwide 907 272-7275 International www.reservedenali.com

### Restroom Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Milepost</th>
<th>Type</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toklat Rest Area</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>SST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toklat Rest Area</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>SST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eielson Visitor Center</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Flush</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wonder Lake Campground</td>
<td>84.5</td>
<td>Portable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wonder Lake Ranger Station</td>
<td>86.5</td>
<td>Outhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boundary Gravel Pit</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>SST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moose Creek Bridge</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>SST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kantishna Airstrip</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>SST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SST = Sweet-Smelling Toilet

### Plan Ahead

**Alpenglow, Summer 2017**

Alpenglow is a brilliant pink and gold phenomenon that occurs when the sun’s rays pass through high layers of the atmosphere, scattering red and orange light. While the sun is below the horizon, light scattered by particles in the air illuminates the sky with a pink glow.

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

Where to Camp | Season | Sites | Water | Facilities | Cost / Night
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Riley Creek Campground 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 | $15 walk-in tent $24 vehicles to 30' $30 RV to 40'
Savage River Campground Mile 12.8 | May 19 - Sep 18 | 32 sites for vehicles and tents | Yes | Flush and vault toilets | $24 or $30 based on size and type of site
Savage Group Sites Mile 12.8 | May 19 - Sep 18 | 3 sites, tents only | No | Vault toilet | $46
Sanctuary Campground Mile 22.6 | May 20 - Sep 13 | 7 sites, tents only no vehicles | No | Vault toilet | $15
Teklanika River Campground Mile 29.1 | May 20 - Sep 18 | 33 sites for vehicles and tents | Yes | Vault toilet | $25
Igloo Creek Campground Mile 34.0 | May 20 - Sep 13 | 7 sites, tents only no vehicles | No | Vault toilet | $15
Wonder Lake Campground Mile 84.4 (to Park Road junction) | June 8 - Sep 13 | 25 sites, tents only no vehicles | Yes | Flush and vault toilets | $16*

*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.

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.

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.

availability or make reservations at the Wilderness Access Center or 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.

Denali Park Road elevation contour (in feet)

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

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

Connections | Time | Distance | Elevation | Grade | Trail Width | Surface
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
**Horseshoe Lake Trail**
From Taiga Trail or Bike Path (0.5 mile shorter) join Horseshoe Lake Trail at railroad tracks (limited parking available). From bus stop, take 6 foot trail.
Two hours round trip
3.3 miles
51 km
250 feet
5 to 20%
10 feet
Native soils with roots and rocks

**Taiga Trail**
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
Compacted gravel

**Muir Science and Learning Center Trail**
Connects to the Muir Science and Learning Center, then heads 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

**McKinley Station Trail**
From the visitor center to Riley Creek Campground and Riley Creek Mercantile (off limits access to the Triple Lakes Trail).
One hour one-way
1.6 miles
2.6 km
100 feet
8.5%
5 feet
Compacted gravel

**Morino Trail**
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 the first trail to loop back to visitor center.
15 minutes one-way
0.2 mile
0.3 km
none
one
5 feet
Compacted gravel

**Spruce Forest Trail**
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
0.25 km
none
none
5 feet
Compacted gravel

**Mount Healy Overlook Trail**
Take Taiga Trail for 0.5 miles, then look for Mount Healy Overlook Trail junction. Considered strenuous.
Two hours one-way
2.7 miles
4.3 km
1,700 feet
25%
2 feet
Native soils with roots and rocks

**Roadside Trail**
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

**Bike Path**
From visitor center to Wilderness Access Center, campground, and Park Entrance. To access services in Nenana Canyon via Parks Highway Bike Trail. Add 1.0 miles, 30 minutes.
45 minutes one-way
1.7 miles
2.7 km
150 feet
5%
10 feet
Compacted gravel

**Jonesville Trail**
From the Bike Path (near the Riley Creek Mercantile), connects to the Parks Highway Bike Trail and services in the Nenana Canyon beyond.
10 minutes one-way
0.3 miles
0.6 km
75 feet
10%
4 feet
Compacted gravel

**Parks Highway Bike Trail**
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

**Rock Creek Trail**
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

**Meadow View Trail**
A short connector trail between Rock Creek and Roadside trail forms a 1.6 mile/2.6 km loop back to the visitor center.
1.5 hours loop
0.3 miles
0.5 km
none
Access trails up to 15%
2.5 feet
Compacted gravel

**Triple Lakes Trail**
Access via the McKinley Station Trail, or a podast 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, ash, rocks, roots, wood planks, suspension bridge.
Savage River Loop Trail
Located at the Savage River at Mile 14.7. Very limited parking available. Can be accessed by free Savage River Shuttle. 1.5-hour loop 2.0 miles negligible none 2 feet Native soils with roots and rocks

Savage Alpine Trail
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. Considered strenuous.

Savage Cabin Trail
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.)

Savage River Loop Trail
Located at the Savage River at Mile 14.7. 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

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

Online Guides and Videos
Entrance Area Trails

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.

- The Savage River Shuttle travels a two-hour loop between the park entrance area, the Mountain Vista Trailhead, and the Savage River at Mile 14.7. 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 (MSC), Denali Visitor Center (DVC), Wilderness Access Center (WAC), and Riley Creek Mercantile. On alternating loops, between stops at the MSC 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.
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.

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 Rags (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

Sheldon savvily understood that the individual fates of animals and the park were inextricably linked. 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. Sheldon and Browne had to make an argument for a game refuge were not going to convince local Alaskans about the need to prohibit hunting.

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.”

Although Sheldon understood that the railroad itself would bring about the development of the Park, the AEC supported the national park because they knew the railroad was going to need tourist revenue to be successful. William Eedes, 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, a 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.
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 stampedes stake 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 establishes a roadhouse he calls the "Park Gate Roadhouse." This leads to publication of Alpenglow, Summer 2017

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.

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.

1922 • Park headquarters moves from Nenana to the Riley Creek area.

1923 • Savage River Tourist Camp established. Thirty-four visitors stay during the 1923 season.

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.

1931 • Park boundary extended east to Ninena River and north to include Wonder Lake.

1938 • Park Road is completed to Kantishna.

1939 • McKinley Park Station Hotel opens, administered by the Alaska Railroad.

1943 • Park Hotel taken over as a U.S. Armed Forces R & R Center during WWII.

1945 • Pilot Don Sheldon flies the first commercial flight from Talkeetna to the Kahiltna Glacier.

1946 • Muldrow Glacier surges.

1947 • Oil discovered at Prudhoe Bay.

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 • First dog team ascent of McKinley by Harry Karstens and writes about it in his 1908 journal.

1955 • Park headquarters moves from its original location.

1960 • Alaska becomes a state. Congress authorizes conveyance of 104 million acres of federal land to the new state.

1965 • Town of Kantishna closed to seasonal housing. Park Road is completed to park entrance. Visitation increases from 5,000 in 1956 to 25,000 in 1958.

1968 • Eielson Visitor Center opens.

1969 • Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) passed, with 44 million acres of land and $1 billion awarded to Alaska Natives.


1979 • First dog team ascent of McKinley by Sue 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.

2001 • Park Hotel closes in September.

2002 • Artist-in-Residence program founded.

2005 • First dinosaur tracks discovered in Denali National Park.

2008 • New Eielson Visitor Center opens.

2010 • Mount Vista Rest Area opens near Mile 13 of the Park Road.

2015 • Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell officially changes the name of North America's highest peak from Mount McKinley to Denali.

2016 • First dinosaur bone fragments discovered in Denali National Park.

2017 • First dog team ascent of McKinley.

2018 • First dog team ascent of McKinley.

2019 • First dog team ascent of McKinley.

2020 • First dog team ascent of McKinley.

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2080 • First dog team ascent of McKinley.
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 treed 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.1

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.2 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 then. The warming climate at the end of the ice age was 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.3,4

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.5

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. 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.6 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.”7

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.


7. Wygal, B. T.; Krasinski, K. E. Archaeological Exploration in Denali National Park and Preserve (2006-2009); Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office, 2010. The long term use and occupation of the Denali area is also evidenced by the over 1,600 place names that the Upper Kuskokwim, Denali, Western Athina, 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

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.9

The long term use and occupation of the Denali area is also evidenced by the over 1,600 place names that the Upper Kuskokwim, Denali, Western Athina, 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
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.

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. 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.

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.

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

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

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’s A Plea for Mount McKinley 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 National Park. Browne’s writings on caribou 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.

by Molly McKinley
Outdoor Recreation Planner

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 Nemana, and soon landed an assignment as a translator and trail assistant for Hudson Stuck, an Episcopal archdeacon.

Five years later on June 7, 1913, Harper joined Stuck, co-leader Harry Karstens, and missionary Robert Tatman 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

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.

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

Lena (Lentz) Howard
Savage Camp

Walter Harper
Mount McKinley National Park

Florence (Rucker) Collins
Mount McKinley National Park

Belmore Browne
Mount McKinley National Park

Paula “Polly” (Liebau) Anderson
Mount McKinley National Park

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 dog-sled, 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.

In the early 1900s, a trip through Kanishna 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 finest pastry.

In 1900, 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 Kejimkujik Lake, now a Canadian National Park. In 1930 his classic volume, Wilderness of Denali, was published.

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 Kejimkujik Lake, now a Canadian National Park. In 1930 his classic volume, Wilderness of Denali, was published.

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.
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.

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
ofopal tail—
then with a shake
of lacquered beak
and a fling
of fingery wings
is gone

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

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 Denali Education Center is a local non-
profit 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
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.

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.

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 907 683-2333 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 child care 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.

Connectivity
Call 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, canineseress@tonglerlake.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
- K2 Aviation, Talkeetna, AK 800 764-2291 www.k2avi.com
- Sheldon Air Service, Talkeetna, AK 800 478-2321 www.sheldonsairservice.com
- Talkeetna Air Taxi, Talkeetna, AK 800 533-2219 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.

Lost and Found
Call 907 683-9275 or visit the baggage check located across from the team 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, 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.

Alpenglow, Summer 2017
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.”

Betty Snyder writes “It was like watching a movie play out not knowing what was going to happen next,”

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

COURTESY OF BETTY SNYDER

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

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.

For emergencies, Dial 911

Call the Tip Line to report a crime or violation at 800 478-2724

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.