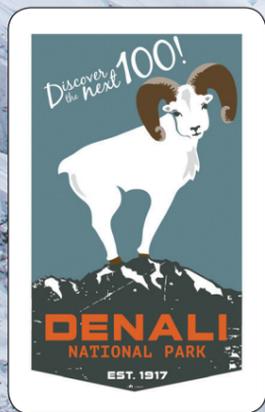




Alpenglow



PHOTO COURTESY MENNO BOERMANS



The "Edge of the World" near the 14,200-foot camp on Denali's popular West Buttress route has a dramatic 5,000-foot drop to the Northeast Fork of the Kahiltna Glacier.

Superintendent Greeting

The year 2016 was special as the National Park Service marked its 100th birthday. Special events were held in Denali and other parks across the country to mark the milestone.

The year 2017 will be just as exciting as Denali celebrates its own centennial in February.

The park offers year-round activities for people of all ages. I encourage visitors, neighbors and partners to take advantage of the incredibly diverse, wild and amazing landscape that is Denali.

As we move into a new century of stewardship, the staff — in conjunction with a host of partners — is planning many events to highlight the park, which is an integral part of the Denali community and the landscape of Alaska.

A special relationship exists between the park and its visitors, volunteers and neighbors. As we look to the future, we will continue to make connections with future conservationists and stakeholders; remain relevant in our communities; engage and encourage youth; and support our partners as we fulfill our mission to preserve and protect.



Enjoy your visit.

Don Striker
Superintendent

Denali Celebrates its Next Century

Park staff and community groups are working together to host events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the park's establishment on Feb. 26, 1917.

At a **Solstice Luminary Stroll**, you can ski, snowshoe, or stroll down a trail lit by luminaria (candles) on a snowy winter's night. This family-friendly event begins in the early evening of **Wed Dec 21** at the Winter Visitor Center (Murie Science and Learning Center) at Mile 1.4 of the Denali Park Road. Trails are appropriate for all levels of skiing or snowshoeing ability. Hot drinks will be provided afterward.

Denali Winterfest 2017 is set for **Sat Feb 25** and **Sun Feb 26**. This community-wide event offers something for all ages, interests, and abilities. Events at the park typically include guided skiing and snowshoe walks, activities for kids, exhibits, guest speakers, dog sled rides, hot drinks and light refreshments.

We're Open Year Round
Throughout the off-season, camping in the Bear Loop of **Riley Creek Campground** is free on a first-come basis. Fees may apply in Spring

Winter Visitor Center
Running water, restrooms, a warm fireplace, and permits for overnight stays in the backcountry are available daily 9 am to 4:30 pm at the **Murie Science and Learning Center** at Mile 1.4 of the Denali Park Road.

Several special events are being planned for that Sunday to commemorate the specific date of the park's 100th birthday. Among the honored guests in attendance is expected to be Charlie Sheldon, a descendant of Charles Sheldon, who was among the leading advocates lobbying Congress to create the park in 1917. More at <http://go.nps.gov/Winterfest>



Mark your calendars now for **Denali Summerfest** on **Sat June 10, 2017**. The day will feature free events including musical performances, food, children's activities, and more.

Learn more about all of Denali's Centennial events and initiatives at <http://go.nps.gov/Denali100>

How Far May I Drive?
Road crews begin plowing beyond **Park Headquarters** (Mile 3.4) in February. Weather permitting, access opens to **Mountain Vista** (Mile 12) by mid-February, the **Savage River** (Mile 15) as early as the first weekend in April, and the **Teklanika River** (Mile 30) a week or two thereafter. May 19 is the last day of off-season road adventures beyond Mile 15. That's the day before regular schedules of shuttles and tours begin venturing farther into the park.



As a highlight of its Centennial outreach this winter, the park will host screenings of **An American Ascent** in February in Anchorage, Talkeetna, Denali Park, and Fairbanks. Please watch for emerging details on the park website and social media feeds about event locations and times.

Narrated by Shelton Johnson, the acclaimed 2015 film sheds light on a complex relationship that "minority majority" populations have with wild places. The documentary features nine African-American climbers on a grueling expedition led by the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) on America's biggest and baddest mountain. Learn more at www.americanascent.com

QUICK CONTENTS

- Local Services, Tours, Flightseeing 2
- Park Rules and Safety Advisories 3
- Winter Recreation Opportunities 4
- Trails for Skis and Snowshoes 5
- Artist-in-Residence Program 7
- Trails for Hiking the Entrance Area 8



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, information line
907 683-2294, park business
907 683-9649, TTY

Summer bus, campsite reservations

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

Emergency

Dial 911

Corrections or suggestions?

Jay_Elhard@nps.gov

Stay connected @

twitter.com/DenaliNPS
www.facebook.com/DenaliNPS
www.flickr.com/photos/DenaliNPS
www.youtube.com/user/DenaliNPS

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Winter Visitor Centers

Murie Science and Learning Center

Mile 1.4 Park Road
Open 9 am to 4:30 pm daily.
Offers general information, exhibits, presentations, backcountry permits, Alaska Geographic Bookstore.
Learn more at www.nps.gov/rlc/murie
907 683-2294

Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station

B Street in Talkeetna
Open 9 am to 4:30 pm daily.
Offers mountaineering information for the Alaska Range, general information, exhibits, Alaska Geographic Bookstore. 907 733-2231

Entrance Fees

Seven-day Pass: for age 16 and older, \$10
Denali Annual Pass: \$40
America the Beautiful Interagency Passes:
Annual, \$80
Senior, \$10
Access, Free
Annual Military Pass, Free

Your Fees at Work

A portion of entrance fee dollars collected in Denali helps to pay for projects such as informational signs, campground improvements, trail erosion mitigation, and operational costs for the Artist-in-Residence program.



Historic Sled Dog Kennels Open Daily to Winter Visitors

In autumn, visitors are welcome to watch the park sled dogs train for winter by pulling a cart on roads and loops of the Riley Creek Campground near the park entrance. Please check with staff at the Winter Visitor Center to learn the kennels training schedule for the day.



NPS PHOTO / JENNIFER RAFFAELI

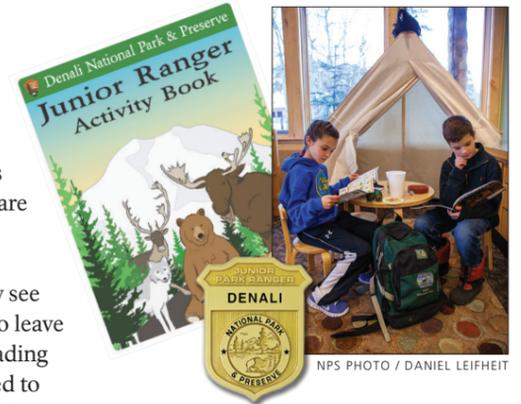
Autumn training with a cart.

Please stop your vehicle if you see a team approaching. Ensure that pets are safely inside vehicles if you see or hear dog teams. For your safety, kennel staff discourages walking pets in the campground while dog teams are training.

In winter, visitors to the kennels may see teams harnessing up and preparing to leave on a run, returning from a run, or loading and unloading a dog truck that is used to drive to distant trailheads. This busy time of year, it's wise to ask at the Winter Visitor Center about team whereabouts before you set out.

The historic Sled Dog Kennels are open daily 9 am to 4:30 pm, with parking at headquarters at Mile 3.4. As you arrive, be sure to check in with kennels staff and read all posted safety information.

- For the safety of your pets, please leave them in your vehicle 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 another 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

Complete a **Junior Ranger Activity Book** while you're visiting the park. Then show your work to a park ranger, take an oath, and receive a badge. Learn more at <http://go.usa.gov/DLj>

Local Services

Accessibility

Most restrooms are wheelchair accessible. Park films are open-captioned. Please advise staff of needs when making a reservation. Find more information at <http://go.usa.gov/gg54>

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, 13 miles north of the park on Healy Spur Road. Winter hours: 10 am to 3 pm Monday through Thursday, and until 5:30 pm Friday. 907 683-7750

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.

Gas and Propane

Available at gas stations 13 miles north in Healy, and 29 miles south in Cantwell.

Medical

The closest physicians and hospitals are in Fairbanks.

Healy: Interior Community

Health Center, located in the Tri-Valley Community Center, 13 miles north of the park on Healy Spur Road. Clinic hours are 9 am to 5 pm weekdays. 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 answering service at 907 733-2273.

Park Bookstore

A small selection of books and interpretive products is available at the Winter Visitor Center (Murie Science and Learning Center).

Post Office

Located next to Riley Creek Campground near the park entrance. Open 10 am to 12:30 pm, Monday through Saturday. 907 683-2291

For current and complete lists of businesses that are authorized to offer guided activities in the park, please visit <http://www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/business-with-park.htm>

Dog Sledding

One concessioner offers overnight dog sled passenger service and overnight dog sled-supported ski trips.

Denali Dog Sled Expeditions (Healy, AK)
907 683-2863
www.earthsonglodge.com

Glacier Landing Scenic Air Services

Four businesses provide glacier landing scenic air tour services and glacier landing air taxi services in the park. Several also provide air taxi services to non-glaciated areas of the park, including Kantishna. For a full list of air taxi companies call 907-683-2294 or visit www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/fightseeing

Fly Denali (Healy, AK)
907 683-2359
www.flydenali.com

Sheldon Air Service (Talkeetna, AK)
907 733-2321
www.sheldonairservice.com

K2 Aviation (Talkeetna, AK)
800 764-2291
www.flyk2.com

Talkeetna Air Taxi (Talkeetna, AK)
800 533-2219
www.talkeetnaair.com

Planning a Group Visit

Welcome to Denali Reception –

Alaska Geographic staff can provide an exclusive welcome and orientation to Denali for visiting groups at the Murie Science and Learning Center. Staff will provide a short presentation based on the interests and time schedule of your group. For availability and pricing, please call 907 683-6432.

Guided Winter Explorations –

Alaska Geographic staff can facilitate fun and educational Denali experiences for visiting winter groups through hiking, snowshoeing and skiing (skis not provided). The route and distance can vary based upon a group's abilities and schedule. The experience is tailored to your group's interest in such themes as Winter Ecology, Winter Tracking, and the Science of Snow. Hot chocolate and tea can be provided around a fireplace at the Murie Science and Learning Center. Minimum group size is eight. Availability is from January through April, with the Mountain Vista location usually opening by mid-February. For availability and pricing, please call 907 683-6432.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IAN SHIVE



Scan this code with a free app on your smartphone to link to trip-planning resources on the park website

<http://go.usa.gov/WSCT>



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOLLY MCKINLEY

Skiers trek from Kantishna to the park entrance in March 2013.

Be Prepared to Experience Extreme Weather Conditions

While the park remains open year round, changing weather conditions limit vehicle access westward each fall. The Park Road generally remains open to the Teklanika and Savage rivers until the first snow, and hikers may set out from anywhere except designated wildlife closures.

While there are no groomed winter trails in Denali, there are numerous unmarked routes suitable for snowshoeing, skiing, skijoring, and mushing. Lack of snow is no indication of temperature. Be prepared for winter's arrival anytime, and for extreme cold after mid-October. Proximity to the Alaska Range creates unpredictable and highly variable weather conditions. Be prepared to set your own course and be self-sufficient.

There are no telephones west of Park Headquarters and cell phone service is unreliable. Rangers do not initiate searches without a specific request. Notify someone of your planned itinerary and expected time of return.

Overnight stays in the backcountry require a free permit available at the **Winter Visitor Center** (Murie Science and Learning Center).

Several special winter camping rules apply only from **October 1 through April 14** –

- Use of a bear-resistant food container (BRFC) is not required but strongly encouraged since bears can still be active.
- Beyond the park entrance, fires are allowed in all areas, including wilderness. Visitors must use dead and down wood, and they are encouraged to destroy the fire ring and disperse the ashes.
- Dogs used for transport are allowed in the backcountry. Some type of physical restraint, such as a leash, harness, or stake-out line, is required. Straw is prohibited, even if it is certified weed-free. Keep a clean camp. Bury or disperse dog waste away from the Park Road, trails, or other areas used by visitors.

Winter Safety Strategies

- Overconfidence can be the biggest danger. Be aware of the exertion required to travel in snow. Do not count on accomplishing more than a few miles each day.
- Traveling alone increases your risk dramatically. Any incident that immobilizes a solo traveler could easily become fatal. Traveling in groups is highly recommended.
- Moose may fiercely guard winter trails, particularly in deep snow years. Make every effort to yield the right-of-way.
- Frostbite occurs quickly at temperatures below freezing. Drink plenty of water and protect skin from exposure to cold.

- Hypothermia, the critical lowering of the body's core temperature, is signaled by these early symptoms: *shivering, numbness, slurred speech, loss of coordination, drowsiness, and exhaustion.* Avoid hypothermia by eating plenty of high-calorie foods, drinking plenty of water, and staying dry. Layer clothing for your level of activity to minimize sweating.
- Avalanches result from a combination of snowpack, weather, and terrain factors which are frequently present in the Denali backcountry. Be aware of the dangers and avoid suspect slopes and drainages.
- Overflow, thin ice, and weak snow bridges along streams and rivers can cause an unexpected icy plunge. Carry dry socks, clothes, and emergency firestarter in a waterproof container.

Top Things to Know



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 hazardous. **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.



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.



Leave what you find. If you find an historic object, artifact, archeological feature or natural curiosity, do not collect it. 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.



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.



Cyclists may ride on park roads, parking areas, campground loops, and a 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.usa.gov/Bcch>



25 yards 23 m

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

300 yards 275 m

Bear

Watch Wildlife Safely

Please observe these rules for minimum distance from wild animals to ensure their safety and yours. Any distance that alters the behavior of a wild animal is too close.

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.

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.



To report a violation or crime, call the tip line at **800 478-2724**
For emergencies, dial **911**

Winter Recreation Opportunities



NPS PHOTO / JACOB W FRANK

Mushing Trails within the wilderness boundary of the park are put in and maintained by dog team only. They are narrow and have potentially soft, deep snow.

Trails are not marked. Be prepared and able to put in your own trail and safely navigate the terrain without a trail to guide you. You may encounter willow and alder thickets. Trail clearing or cutting is NOT allowed within the park.

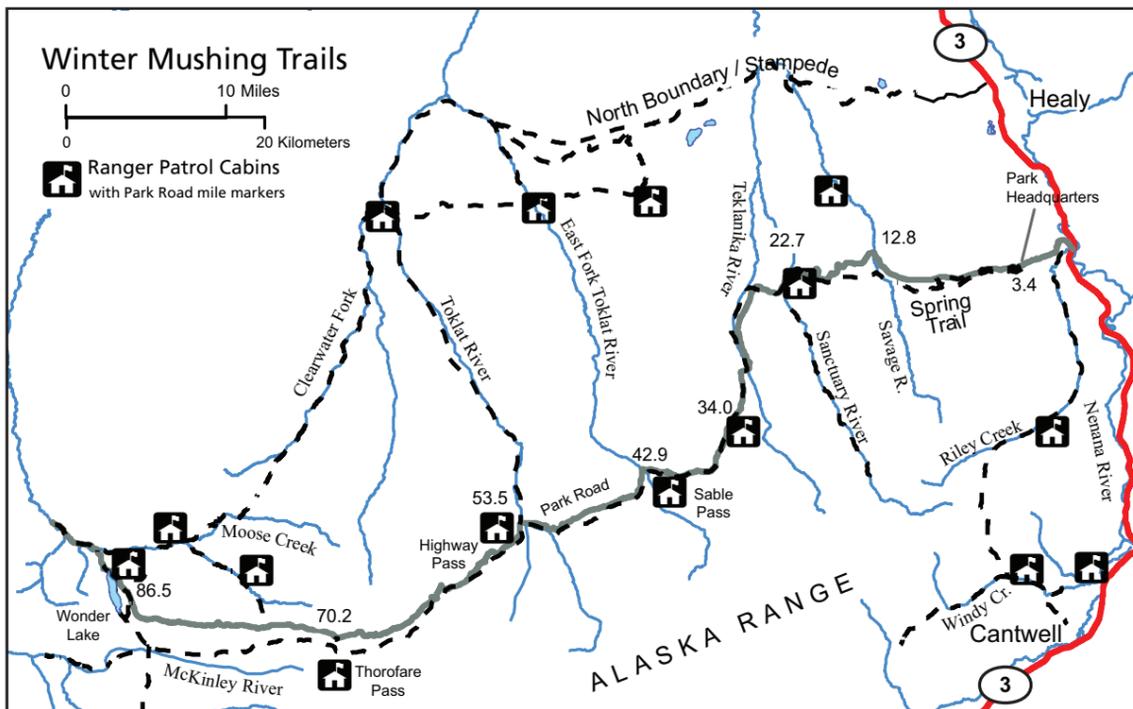
Some type of physical restraint for dogs, such as a leash, harness, or stake-out line, is required.

Straw is prohibited, even if it is certified weed-free. Keep a clean camp. Bury or disperse dog waste away from the Park Road, trails, or other areas used by visitors.

For more information on rivers, overflow ice, aufeis, glaciers, and avalanches, please visit <http://www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/mushing.htm>

 **Cross-country skiing** is a peaceful, rewarding way to explore Denali, whether on an afternoon trip on sled dog trails along the Park Road or on an extended trip into the backcountry. Telemark skiing and snowboarding involve long climbs on foot, but are becoming increasingly popular in Denali.

 Different lengths of **Snowshoes** serve different purposes. A longer, flatter shoe is ideal for traveling in very deep snow, while a shorter shoe with an up-turned toe is better for traveling over an existing trail, across rougher terrain, or through brushy areas.



Ranger patrol cabins are not staffed, or available for public use. This map is offered for reference only. Please do not use for route finding or navigation.

Spring Trail: Difficult to Moderate
Steep and narrow. Winding through large trees with several stream crossings. Snow cover may not be adequate for travel until spring.

Park Road: Easy to Moderate
Wide, open travel. Prepare for aufeis, side hilling, and windswept bare areas. West of Savage River the trail is mainly OFF the Park Road. Heavy equipment can be on the road from Miles 3-7.

Riley Creek: Moderate from Park Headquarters to Riley; Expert over the pass to Windy
Riley Creek/Park Headquarters area trails are frequented by skiers and snowshoers. Prepare for shelf ice, jumble ice, holes, and open water in the narrow Riley Canyon. Avalanche terrain.



Wonder Lake/Kantishna Area: Easy to Difficult
Trail opportunities are highly varied. Please speak with a kennels staff member for details.

Windy Creek: Easy
Cantwell entry trails are frequented by snowmachine and dog team. Beyond the Denali wilderness boundary the trail may be less traveled or nonexistent.

North Boundary/Stampede Road: Easy
Traveled, packed trail used by snowmachines and dog teams. Several side trails cross the main trail. Trapline trails exist with traps in the trail.

Clearwater/Awesome Pass: Difficult
Accessible by snowmachine outside wilderness boundary. Prepare for overflow and glare ice on Clearwater and Moose creeks. Routefinding will be necessary over Awesome Pass.

Snowmachine Use Prohibited in "Old Park" Areas

 All motorized vehicles are prohibited in "Old Park" portions from the former Mount McKinley National Park. Snowmachining is allowed only for traditional activities, including access to subsistence hunting and harvesting areas, as well as to inholdings and villages in new park and preserve additions created by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980.

Each winter the superintendent may open limited areas to snowmachine access once it has been determined there is adequate snow cover to limit damage to vegetation and soil beneath the snowpack. A combination of factors is considered, such as snow depth, snow structure, and characteristics of the vegetation.

Federal regulations require that riders do not:

- Intentionally disturb or frighten wildlife
- Operate a snowmachine which is excessively noisy
- Operate a snowmachine without a headlamp and red tail lamp one-half hour before and after sunrise/sunset or when weather reduces visibility to less than 500 feet
- Operate a snowmachine in excess of 45 miles per hour
- Race with other riders.

More at www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/snowmobiling



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

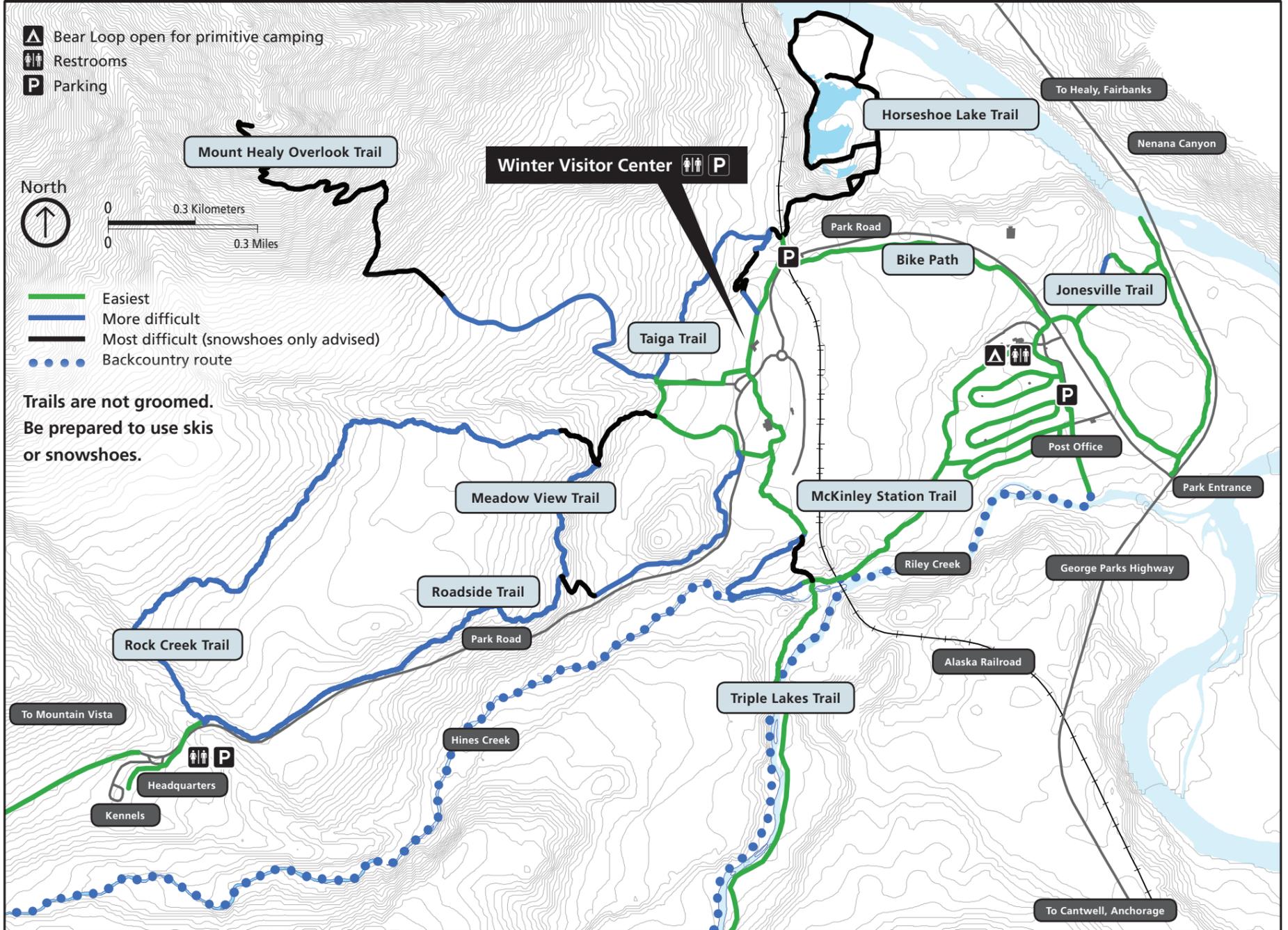
Human Hundred Centennial Challenge

Denali is challenging its visitors and staff to log 100 miles of human-powered travel to commemorate its centennial birthday. You can walk, bike, run, ski or snowshoe.

Watch for ranger-led events you can choose to attend to help you reach your Human Hundred. Once you've succeeded, you can claim a prize at a park visitor center.

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

Winter Trails for Skis and Snowshoes



Winter Trails

(Hiking/Snowshoeing)

Easy to moderate wooded terrain with some hills. Packed snow with occasional drifts. **Roadside, Meadow View, Rock Creek, Taiga, Horseshoe Lake, and McKinley Station** trails.

Mount Healy

(Hiking/Snowshoeing)

Moderate on packed snow to a set of trailside benches. At higher elevations, expect deep snow drifts, exposed loose rock, ice accumulation, and high winds.

Riley Creek and Hines Creek

(Backcountry Cross Country Skiing)

Non-maintained wilderness trails. May encounter shelf ice and open water that require route finding.

Park Road

(Mushing/Snowshoeing/Hiking/Skate and Backcountry Cross Country Skiing/Skijoring/Fat Tire Bicycling) One lane cleared to Mile 7, suitable for skate skiing. Expect to encounter dog teams. May encounter overflow ice.

Riley Creek Campground

Open, level ground and loop roads well-suited to family activities and beginner skiing.

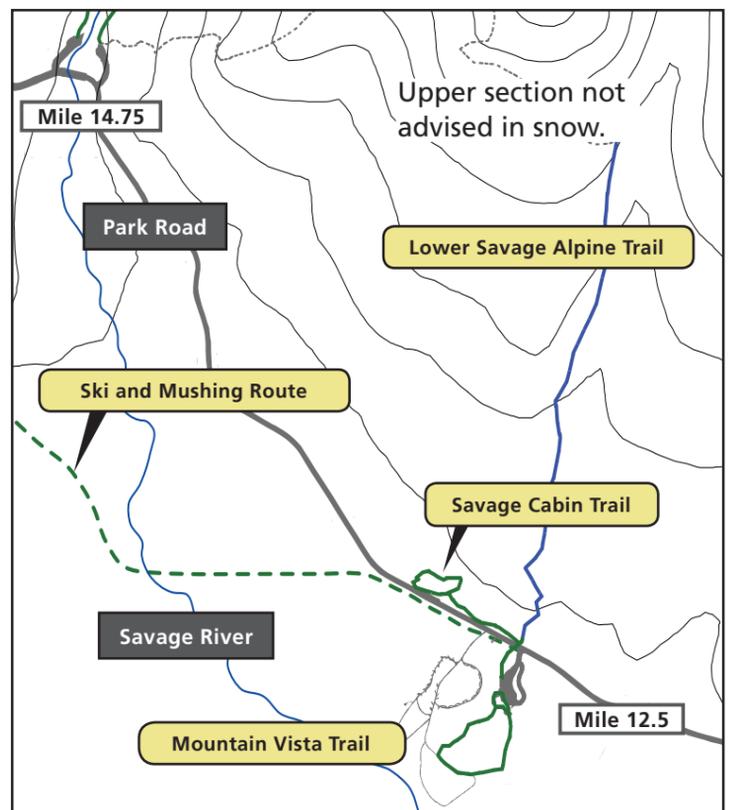
Triple Lakes

(Backcountry Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoeing) Moderate to strenuous. From the trailhead at McKinley Village, travel north across the three lakes, then over the low divide to Riley Creek. Advanced skills required.

Trails have multiple uses. But if you encounter ski tracks while you are walking or snowshoeing, please avoid stepping on them.



If you encounter dog teams or skijorsers while you're on skis, snowshoes, or a bicycle please grant them the right of way.



Access to this area begins in mid-February based on conditions

Areas of transition between forest and tundra can be wind-swept.

Your best skiing may be near trees.

Mountain Vista Trail

0.6 miles/1 km, 30 minutes
50 feet elevation change
5% maximum grade

Savage Cabin Trail

0.8 miles/1.3 km, 30 minutes
No change in elevation
5% maximum grade

Lower Savage Alpine Trail

4 miles, 6.4 km
2-3 hours one way
1,500 feet elevation change
Up to 25% grade
2 feet wide

Upper section not advised for travel in snow

Ski and Mushing Route

Moderate rough unmarked route through willows to Savage River



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

Displays of the aurora borealis are produced as electrons and protons from the sun are pulled into the atmosphere by the earth's magnetic field and collide with oxygen and nitrogen atoms.

Triptych Depicts Long Term Landscape Change at Reflection Pond

Have you ever wondered while hiking what it might be like to visit the very same remote spot in the distant past, or distant future?

“Mount Denali’s Reflection Pond: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow,” a painted canvas triptych (24 x 48 inches), depicts past, present, and future views across Reflection Pond, 85 miles into the park, of North America’s highest peak and the Alaska Range.



Robert Winfree

The works were created by Robert Winfree, an artist and senior science advisor (emeritus) to the national parks of Alaska. His work is informed by findings of recent

scientific research, climate modeling, five years of collaborative scenario analyses focused on future effects of climate change on this and other national parks in Alaska, and 15 years of personal experience with this park and similar environments. He provides descriptions for the panels:

Left panel (northwest): As the last Great Ice Age is winding down, two caribou pause to take in the view from an ice ridge. Denali’s Muldrow Glacier is retreating, but many enormous ice blocks remain trapped in a mixture of glacial silt, sand, rock and ice. In the water is an edge of an ice block that will create Reflection Pond as it thaws. The remains of an unfortunate steppe bison rest in the foreground. In the distance, there is another large ice block that will create Wonder Lake as it thaws.

Middle panel (north): The artist stands at the water’s edge to contemplate and photograph Denali, North America’s tallest mountain, while a bull moose wades along the far bank. Other photographers converse while waiting for the sun to reemerge from clouds.

Right panel (northeast): The right panel looks a couple hundred years into the future, after permafrost thaws and the pond drains. A thick stand of conifers grows up along the banks of the former kettle pond, but many of the trees are already dead or dying from insect damage, drought, or both. In the background, the glow of a fire burns just over the ridge. A brown bear climbs the bank of the now-dry kettle pond, departing the area to avoid the fire. A small herd of wood bison, descendants of the now-extinct steppe bison, also hurriedly depart after grazing on grasses and forbs growing in the dry lake bed.

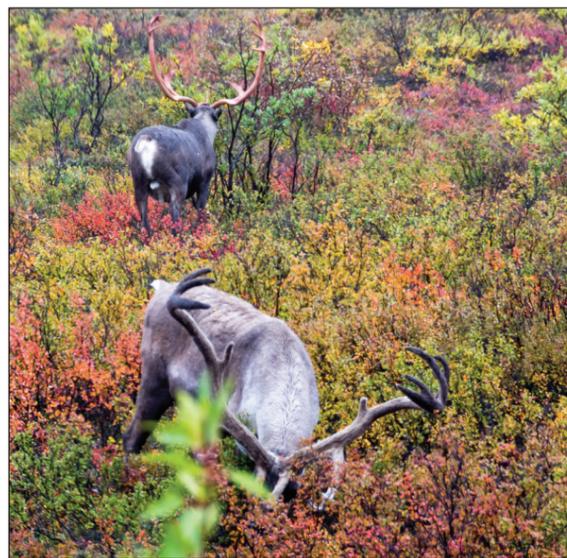
Learn more about climate change research in Denali at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliClimate>



“Mount Denali’s Reflection Pond: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow,” a painted canvas triptych produced for the park by Robert Winfree, an artist and senior science advisor (emeritus) to the national parks of Alaska.

Share Your Pictures

@ <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliShare>



Visitor photo courtesy Suzanne Okubu
Caribou graze among autumn colors.



Glacial Toe Visitor photo courtesy Luke Marson



Arctic ground squirrel Visitor photo courtesy Lance King



Alaska Range Visitor photo courtesy Neil Palosaari

Share Your Story

If you have a minute to spare, and a telephone, you can record an audio story about your experience in Denali that may appear on the park website and social media.

To record "Your Denali Story," please call **907 683-6400**

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

Stay Connected

- <http://twitter.com/DenaliNPS>
- www.facebook.com/DenaliNPS
- www.flickr.com/photos/DenaliNPS
- www.youtube.com/user/DenaliNPS
- www.instagram.com/DenaliNPS
- <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliWebcams>



NPS PHOTO / JAY ELHARD



Denali Notes

by Kathryn Wilder

Writer-in-Residence, Winter 2016



Tuesday Notes

- My job as Artist-in-Residence here at Denali National Park and Preserve is to write. Yet rarely have I found myself so wordless.
- Today Tyler and I went to Savage Cabin to meet with a botanist and the other Artist-in-Residence, Sara Tabbert. Sara is a printmaker whose carved woodblocks carry the depth and texture of the natural world that inspires them, and there on the old plank table in the tiny 90-year-old cabin stood two nearly completed pieces, with a third work-in-progress lying flat, ready for us to leave and the quiet of the white spruce woods to carry the artist back into the space of the carving.
- Human voices led us away, followed by a chattering early spring red squirrel, a large scrawking raven, and my own silence.



PHOTO COURTESY SARA TABBERT

Wednesday Notes

- “A caribou’s hind feet are smaller than its front feet.”
- “Snowshoe hares have dwindled in number dramatically.”
- Northern Lights: Tyler (my 28-year-old son) sees green while I see white. The camera shows green.
- When someone says how dry Alaska is, ask him or her, compared to what? Anchorage and Talkeetna and Denali National Park and Preserve are not dry compared to the high desert of the Colorado Plateau; therefore this cold is colder, to me.
- Read all the literature provided, carefully. Reread all literature provided. Notice the details.
- Bring sweat pants, even if the literature doesn’t mention this. Always. Just do.
- If the Northern Lights are going off mildly, and you’re sick, and it’s 2 am, go back to bed.
- Listen to what your son wants. Follow his lead. Then go back to bed.
- Wildlife does not appear because you want it to. It appears because it’s going about its life with complete disregard to you. You’re either there to witness, or you’re not: Wildlife does not care.
- Perhaps this is not true of all species of wildlife.
- It appears to be true of caribou.
- Caribou appear completely indifferent. They lie down within sight of the noisy red metal box containing two-leggeds down there on the road.
- The Park Service at Mesa Verde National Park says mustangs are not wildlife. Adult mustangs in the wild will not lie down in the presence of humans they can smell and see, like caribou do.

- Moose seem to pay more attention to the presence of humans than caribou. They glance between branches of white spruce and then wander in a direction away from you.
- “Five percent of caribou [that you see within a few miles of the park headquarters] are acclimated to the noise and activity of the park. The rest [of the caribou] are elsewhere.”
- Like 35 miles elsewhere, says Tyler.
- Tyler retains facts better than I do.
- I don’t remember well under pressure.
- I don’t write well under pressure.
- Tracks in deep snow are hard to identify. Especially when you sink to your quads while trying to do so.
- Moose and caribou tracks, while different, blur in deep snow.
- “So-and-so’s wife saw a lynx climbing down a tree the other night.”
- Just because someone’s wife saw a lynx climbing face first down a spruce tree the other night doesn’t mean you will.
- Just because a helicopter spotted nine wolves, some of them collared, feeding on a freshly killed moose, doesn’t mean you will.
- Just because someone else is warm doesn’t mean you will be warm in Alaska.
- Just because someone is from Alaska doesn’t mean you should assume she is warm when you are cold in Alaska.
- Trust your intuition. Trust your son’s intuition. Trust your sons’ intuition.
- Trust surprises.
- Trust your need to rest.
- Trust that you will find the words.
- Trust that you must drink more water even if it means you have to bundle up to go out in the middle of the frozen night to pee in the communal facilities because the Park Service doesn’t want everyone peeing in the snow right next to the buildings.
- Trust that this is not a good day to wash your hair. It will freeze-dry.
- But it is a good day to go outside. They all are.



Creek Ice by Sara Tabbert

The **Artist-in-Residence** program is dedicated to exploring new ways for visitors to experience Denali. From hundreds of competitive applications each year, about a half-dozen accomplished artists, writers, and composers are invited to spend 10 days in Denali at their own expense the following winter or summer. Each participant volunteers to lead an outreach activity with visitors and to donate a finished work to the program collection. Artists are challenged to create art for visitors that conveys a fresh perspective of the park drawn from direct experience. Costs of program operations are supported by visitor entry fees. Costs of supplies for outreach activities are provided by **Alaska Geographic** with funds derived from purchases at park bookstores. Learn more at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliArt>

Thursday Notes

- A moose’s upper lip, stronger than a horse’s, reaches to grasp last summer’s dried growth on the top branches of narrowleaf willows.
- White spruce take two years to produce cones and seeds, of which only about three percent will germinate.
- Spring comes to the trees by way of 32-degree-and-upwards soil temperatures. Not by air or water. Thirty-two-degree earth triggers the release of sugars stored in the roots. Maybe I got that all wrong.
- There is a snowshoe hare living near Savage Cabin, and red squirrels in the roof.
- I want to see a snowshoe hare. And red squirrels. I have heard their voices. I want to hear a wolf howl. I want to see a lynx. I want to see a wolf.
- Tyler saw a butterfly today, where he sat in the sparkling shale of Savage Rock.
- The water sounds different each day. Frozen to melting.
- I want to see a Dall sheep.
- Today I felt the sun.
- Today we watched 15 caribou down there in the bottom of the valley that is maybe not really a valley but the wide riparian corridor of the braided Savage River, the caribou nosing along as if nuzzling new shoots up through the ice. Willow stalks placed intermittently have me wondering if it is river bottom or valley floor beneath the snow. Beneath the hooves of 15 caribou.
- While the weather warms each day this side of the spring equinox, snow still covers much of the country we see from the 13 miles of Park Road we are free to travel. The mountains of the Alaska Range surround us, quite literally—every inch of our 360-degree horizon is dominated by mountains, backed in the west by the 20,310-foot grandeur of Denali herself, visible on clear stretches of morning. As spring inches its way into the park, dark outlines of ridges poke through their snow cover, and south-facing slopes become textured with alternating white fields and patches of dark moist soil. The dominant white spruce, trunks brown and branches green, further texture the lower slopes, and in the bottomlands the narrowleaf willows grow.
- The colors of caribou. Amidst this carnal landscape caribou blend, their legs dark brown to black like tree trunks and this rich earth, their throats white as sunlit cloud, their sides muted and ribbed like last year’s willows.
- I didn’t know I would love caribou with the same ache I do mustangs. But I do.
- I didn’t know I would love Alaska like I do home, but I do that, too.

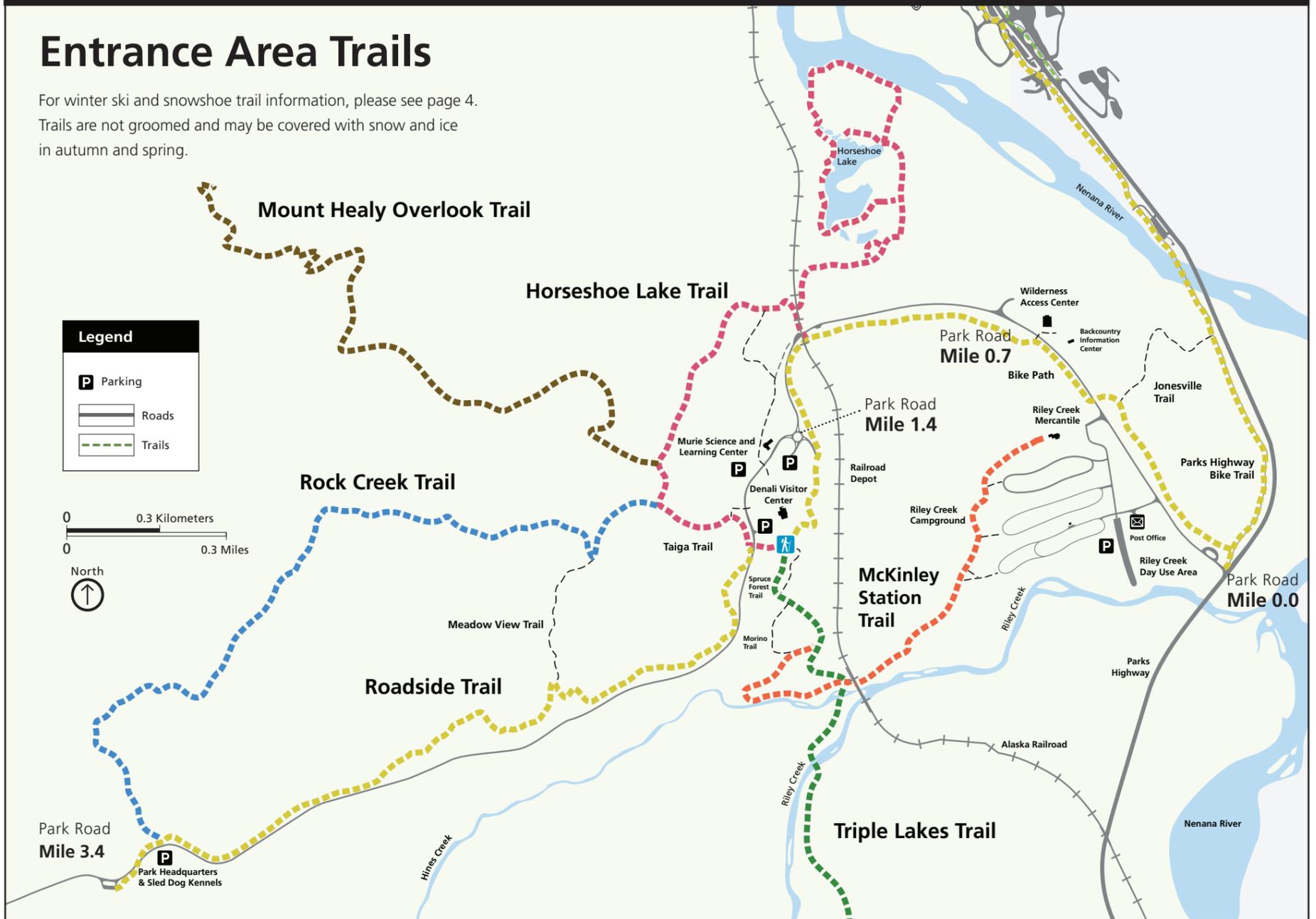


NPS PHOTO / JAY ELHARD

Sara Tabbert sketches at her outreach activity in March 2016

Entrance Area Trails

For winter ski and snowshoe trail information, please see page 4.
Trails are not groomed and may be covered with snow and ice in autumn and spring.



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, 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
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	Gravel with open ditches to step across
Murie Science and Learning Center Trail	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
McKinley Station Trail	From the visitor center to Riley Creek Campground (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
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.	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 (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
Triple Lakes Trail	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
Morino Trail	Take the McKinley Station Trail for 0.4 miles to 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	none	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 0.24 km	none	none	5 feet	Compacted gravel