

# Mount McKinley

NATIONAL PARK • ALASKA

Mount McKinley dominates an immense wild area of Alaska. Within the 3,030 square miles of the national park are towering mountains, alpine glaciers, and gentle, rolling lowlands crossed by wide rivers. In the valleys and along the foothills, wildlife is a part of a balanced natural system. Grizzly bear, caribou, Dall sheep, wolves, and moose roam its tundra. The park is also a place for man, a place for him to understand and to enjoy.

## TRAVELING TO THE PARK

**By highway.** Mount McKinley is now connected with Anchorage and Fairbanks by a new road, Alaska 3, which is open all year. Approximately 110 miles are not paved.

The park may also be reached from Paxson via the gravel-surfaced Denali Highway, but this road is open only in summer.

**By train.** The Alaska Railroad provides daily service between late May and mid-September. Only two trains per week serve the park from September until May. The 234-mile trip from Anchorage takes 8 hours, and the 122 miles from Fairbanks takes 4 hours. For information write to Alaska Railroad, Traffic Division, P.O. Box 7-2111, Anchorage, AK 99510.

**By airplane.** Several airlines have daily scheduled service or charter flights from principal airports in Alaska. The 3,000-foot airstrip at McKinley Park is maintained for light aircraft.

## YOU ARRIVE AT THE PARK

**By automobile or bus.** Please go to the *Visitor Orientation Center* for detailed information and literature on the park. Register for campsite here.

**By train or aircraft.** The train depot and airstrip are near the visitor information stations. Travel into the park is by the public transportation system and the Wildlife Scenic Tour.

## HOW TO SEE THE PARK

**By private vehicle.** McKinley Park Road is open to non-commercial travel only as far as Savage River.

## ADMINISTRATION

Mount McKinley National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is P.O. Box 9, McKinley Park, AK 99755, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

National Park Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

operated by the park concessioner and tickets are sold at McKinley Park Hotel. Parking is available in the hotel area.

**By air tours.** Charter aircraft are available for geologic, wildlife, and scenic tours of the park; arrangements can be made through the concessioner.

## VISITOR INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

You may get detailed information from park personnel on such matters as access into the park, visitor activities, and park resources at the Visitor Orientation Center, information desk at the hotel, and park administration office.

You are advised to obtain a schedule of visitor activities upon arrival. They are available at the above locations. From June through August park personnel conduct: Sled-dog demonstrations at park headquarters, evening slide talks and conservation movies at the McKinley Park Hotel, walks from McKinley Park Hotel and Eielson Visitor Center, and campfire programs at major campgrounds.

## ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES

**Camping.** Riley Creek and Savage River Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, but you must register for a campsite when you first arrive at the park. Camping spaces at Sanctuary River, Teklanika River, Igloo Creek, and Wonder Lake are available by reservation only. To reserve a campsite you should write to the superintendent or inquire at the information station upon your arrival.

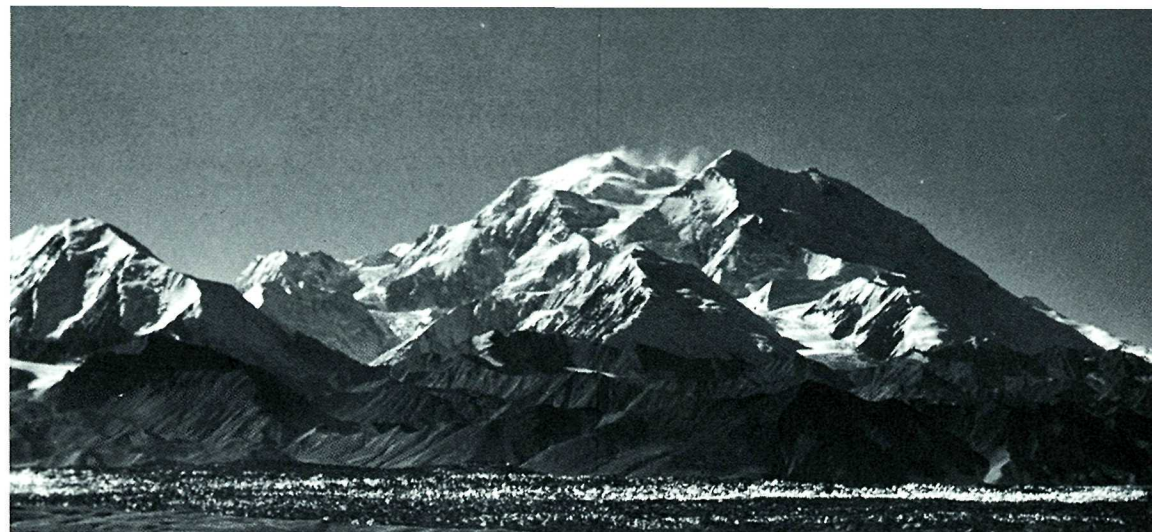
You should bring: A gasoline or propane stove because firewood is scarce and usually wet; a tent or waterproof shelter because of frequent rains; and rain gear for everyone. Camper mail should be addressed in care of General Delivery, McKinley Park, AK 99755.

**McKinley Park Hotel** provides lodging, dining room, and souvenirs. You should make reservations early to obtain confirmation before leaving home. For rates and reservations write to: Mount McKinley National Park Co., 2725 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (Oct. 1-May 14); or to Manager, McKinley Park Hotel, McKinley Park, AK 99755 (May 15-Sept. 30).

**Service station and store.** The service station, located near the park entrance, has gasoline, oil, tires, and white gas, and can make minor car repairs. Basic groceries and camper supplies can be purchased at the adjacent store. There are no vehicle or food services after you leave the headquarters-lodge area.

## CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

"Cool, wet, and windy" is typical summer weather. To be comfortable, you should bring clothing for temperatures that range from 40° to 80°. Rain gear, a light coat, sturdy walking shoes or boots, and insect repellent are essential. Binoculars are valuable for viewing wildlife and mountains. A telephoto lens helps with wildlife photography.



Mount McKinley

Campground	Miles from Entrance	Campsite			Toilet		Water supply	
		Spaces	Tent	Camper	Trailer	Flush	River Tap	Boil before using
Riley Creek . . . .	0.1	75	x	x	x	x		
Morino . . . . .	1	10	x		x			
Savage River . .	12	24	x	x	x	x	x	
Sanctuary River	22	7	x	x	x	x		x
Teklanika River .	29	35	x	x	x		x	
Igloo Creek . . . .	33	7	x		x	x		x
Wonder Lake . .	85	28	x	x		x	x	

## TRAVELING IN THE PARK

**The park road** is 87 miles long and only the first 14 miles are paved—to Savage River. It is usually opened in early June and closed in mid-September, by the first heavy snowfall.

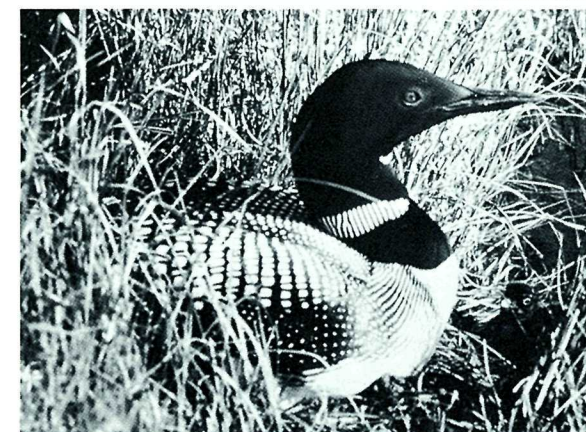
The road begins at the park's east boundary and extends westward to Wonder Lake. It roughly parallels the Alaska Range, which is dominated by Mount McKinley, elevation 20,320 feet.

This narrow scenic road was not designed for speed. It has many sharp curves as it winds over the rough terrain of the tundra-covered hills, and crosses several braided rivers and streams that flow from the alpine glaciers to the south. The last part of the road follows glacial moraines studied with tundra ponds. The road ends near Wonder Lake.

Views of Mount McKinley are first visible about Mile 9 from the park entrance, but the best views begin at about Mile 60 and then continue with few interruptions. At the closest point, the summit of the mountain is 27 miles from the road. About 60 percent of the time in summer, clouds obscure Mount McKinley and the high peaks of the Alaska range, and they may not be visible at all for long periods.

## PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Alpine tundra, rock, and ice cover most of the park. Wet tundra contains many scattered ponds and is characterized by dense brush and shrubs such as dwarf birch, willow, and blueberry. Dry tundra is common along slopes and hills. Its plants are typically small and wildflowers are common.



Loon, near a tundra pond

Taiga, or boreal forest, is mostly spruce and is located along rivers and at low elevations in the park.

The ever-changing panorama of mountains, rivers, forest, and tundra unfolds as you travel the road. The open spaces of the rolling hills, river bars, and slopes are good places to observe wildlife. Caribou, Dall sheep, moose, and grizzly bear are commonly seen. The list of smaller mammals includes fox, marmot, squirrels, and beaver. Wolves, lynx, and wolverine are elusive and seldom seen. Golden eagle, jaeger, hawks, and ptarmigan are among the more than 130 bird species found in the park.

## WILDLIFE AND YOU

Bear, moose, and other wild animals are unpredictable and can be dangerous. All wild animals will protect themselves, their young, and their territories from danger.

Potential conflict between you and wild animals can be reduced if you take the following precautions:

- **Make noise when you hike. Bears become dangerous when surprised so announce your presence. By letting bears know where you are, you give them a chance to retreat.**
- **Do not walk toward bears, moose, or any animal because they interpret this as hostile behavior.**
- **To keep ample distance between you and wild animals, don't ever try to feed them, and when**

photographing them, use a telephoto lens instead of trying to get near and disturbing the animals and endangering yourself.

- **Keep your campsite and your equipment clean, and keep all food sealed in containers to reduce odors so as not to attract any animals.**

The publication *Grizzly Bear—Friend or Foe* is available at information stations and campgrounds.

## REGULATIONS PROTECT YOU AND THE PARK

**For those driving.** The park road was built for scenic enjoyment and not for high speed. Maximum speed is 35 m.p.h. (25 m.p.h. for trucks and buses) except where lower limits are posted. Fast driving is dangerous to you and the wildlife you have come to see.

**Your pets and wildlife don't mix.** Pets must be leashed or under restrictive control at all times.

**Hikers** who stay overnight must obtain a campfire permit at any ranger station and return it when the trip is completed. A gasoline stove is recommended for backpacking. Do not bury or otherwise leave behind any garbage or other trash. Pack everything out of the back country—litter destroys the value of wild country.

**Firewood** is not available at the campgrounds. A gasoline stove is recommended.

**Natural features.** The park was established to protect a natural system. Destroying, defacing or collecting of plants, rocks, and other features is prohibited. Capturing, molesting, or killing of any animal is prohibited.

**Wildlife protection zone** at Sable Pass area, Mile 37 to Mile 42, is prime, grizzly-bear habitat. This area provides excellent opportunities to observe, and photograph bears and other wildlife. People walking through this area may cause the grizzly to move away from the road. To enhance everyone's opportunity to see bears in the Sable Pass area, please remain on the road.

**Firearms and hunting.** Firearms must be declared and made inoperative when you enter the park. Hunting is prohibited.

**Fishing** licenses are not required. Limits for each person per day: Lake trout (2 fish), grayling and other fish (10 fish or 10 pounds and 1 fish). Fishing is poor because rivers are silty and ponds are shallow.

**Boating.** Motor-powered boats are not permitted on any park waters.

**Motor vehicles** of any type, including trail bikes, motorcycles, and snowmobiles, may not leave the park road.

**Feeding wildlife** is prohibited. Wild animals need wild food; your food will not help them.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For detailed information to plan your trip, write the park superintendent. A price list of maps and booklets on the animals, plants, geology, and visitor use of the park may be obtained by writing to: Alaska National Parks and Monuments Association, P.O. Box 2252, Anchorage, AK 99510.

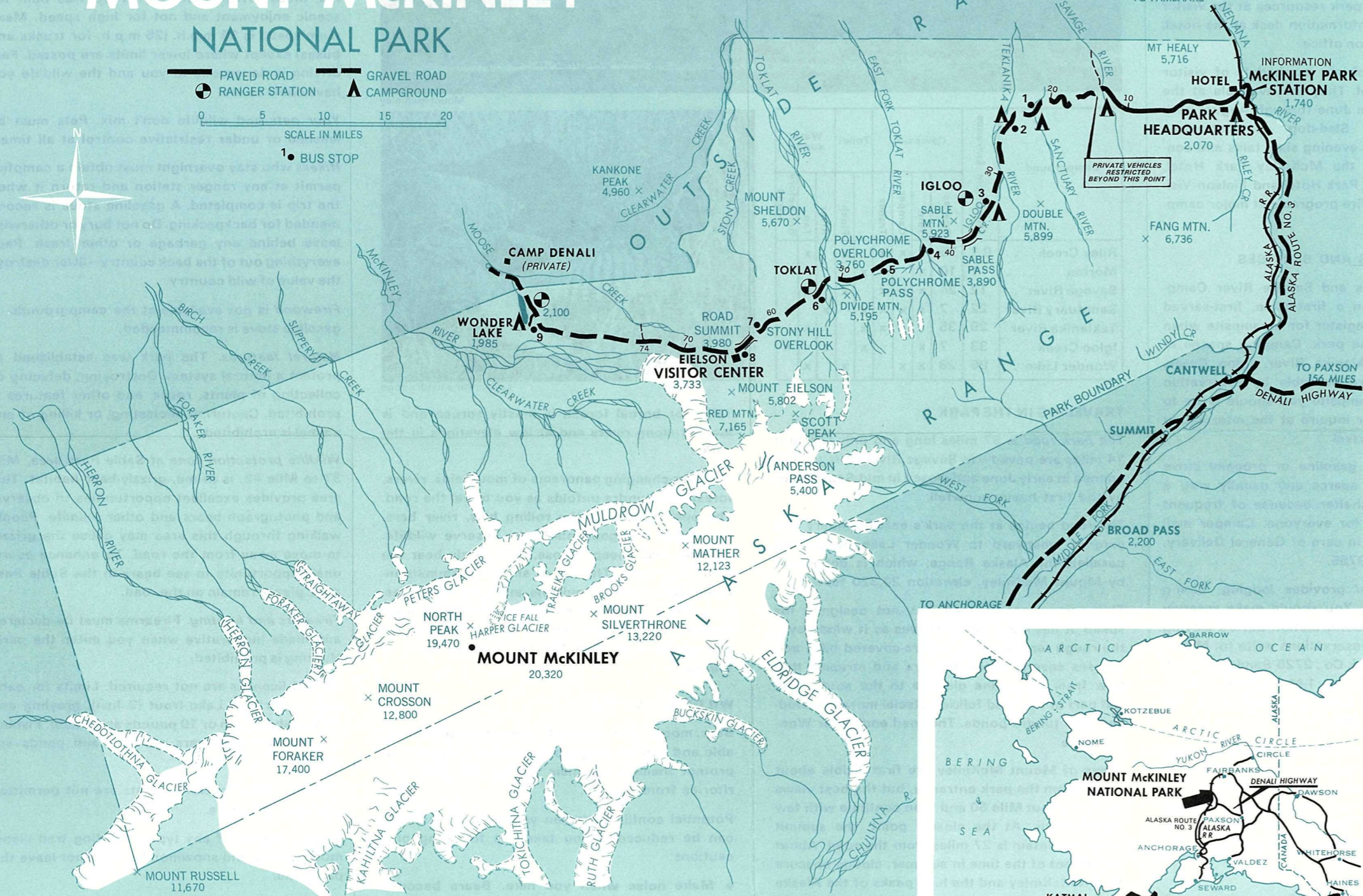
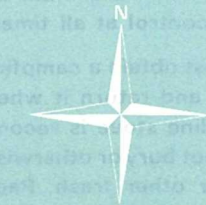


# MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK

PAVED ROAD GRVEL ROAD  
 RANGER STATION CAMPGROUND

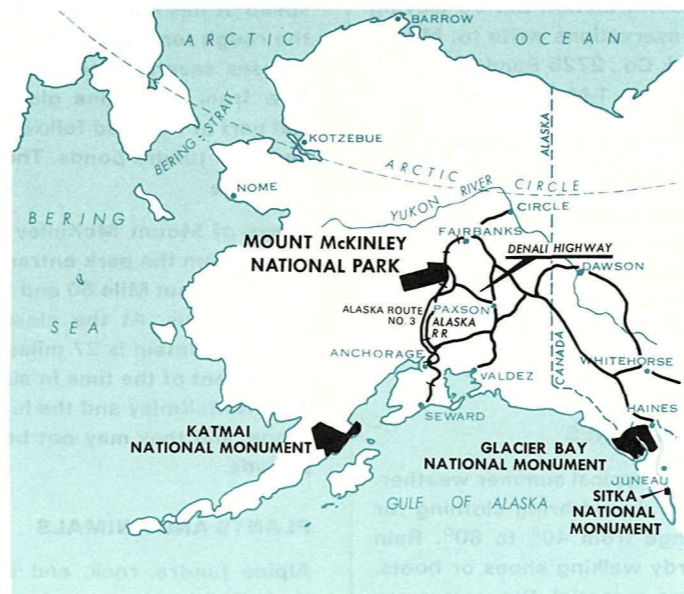
SCALE IN MILES  
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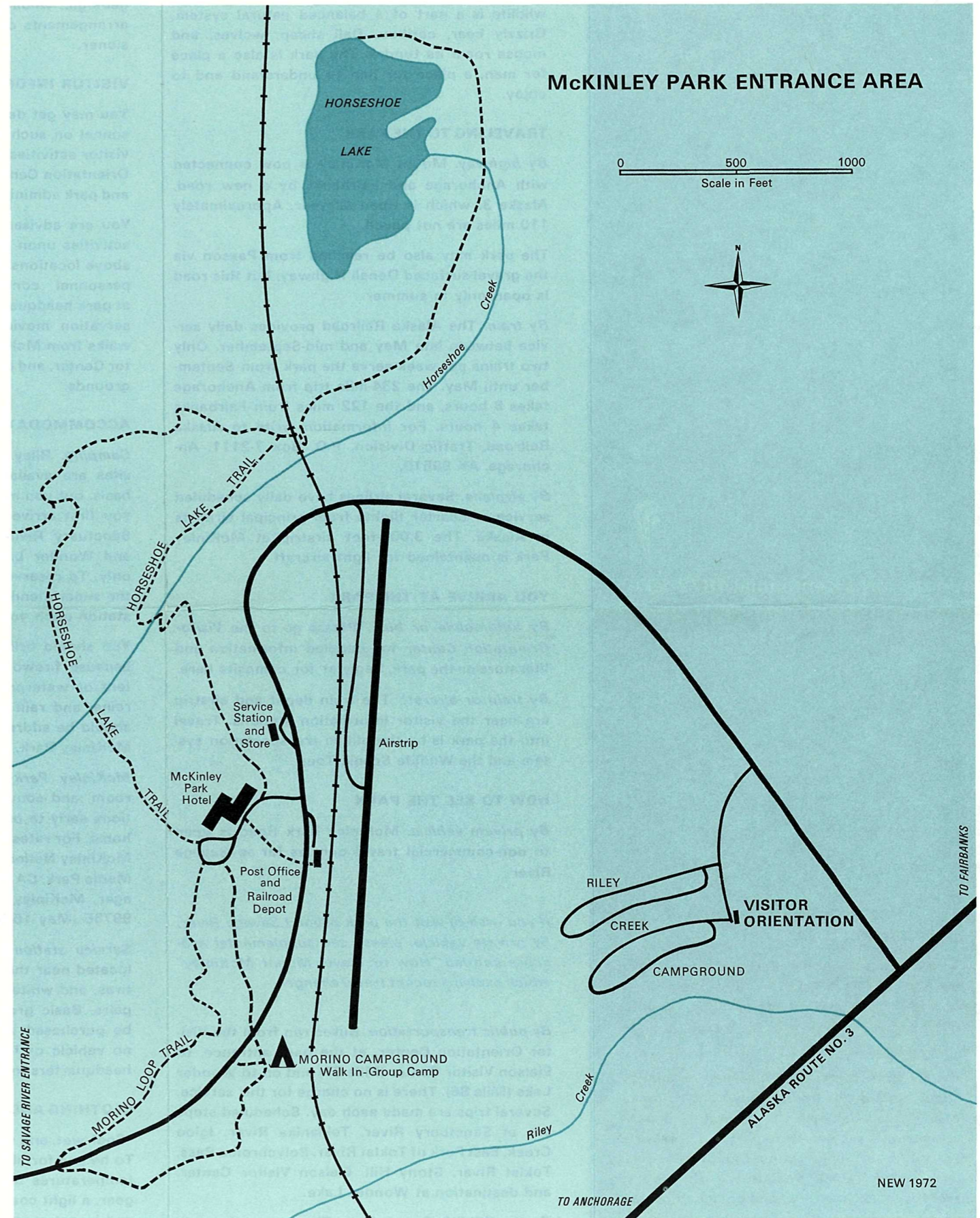
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## MCKINLEY PARK ENTRANCE AREA

0 500 1000  
 Scale in Feet



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