

Mount McKinley

NATIONAL PARK
ALASKA



Loon, near a tundra pond

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 (240 miles) and Fairbanks (120 miles) by a new road, Alaska 3, which is open all year. Approximately 26 miles are unpaved. Scheduled bus service provides access to the park from Anchorage and Fairbanks.

The park may also be reached from Paxson via the gravel-surfaced Denali Highway (160 miles) 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. All visitors should go to the *Visitor Orientation Center* for detailed information and literature on the park. Register for a 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. The McKinley Park Road is open to non-commercial vehicles only as far as Savage River. Beyond Savage River, travel is by public transportation system. Detailed information on the public transportation system is explained by the supplemental brochure entitled "How To Travel In Mount McKinley National Park."

By public transportation. Buses run from the Visitor Orientation Center at the Park Entrance to Eielson Visitor Center (Mile 67) and on to Wonder Lake (Mile 86). Scheduled stops are made at ten points along the route. Visitors may leave a bus at other points and then board another bus according to their interests. There is no charge for this transportation service. No food service is available beyond the entrance area. You should bring snacks or a picnic lunch. Note section on "What to Wear."

By the Wildlife Scenic Tour. These tours leave from the park entrance area and go to the central area of the park. A driver-interpreter discusses park features and identifies plants and wild animals. The tours are operated by the park concessioner and tickets are required.

By air tours. Charter aircraft are available for geologic, wildlife, and scenic tours of the park. Arrangements can be made at the depot near the airstrip.

VISITOR INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

You may get detailed information on such matters as access into the park and park resources at the Visitor Orientation Center, information desk at the hotel, and park administration office. Upon arrival you should obtain a schedule of visitor activities at those locations.

From June through August park personnel conduct walks, evening slide talks, sled dog demonstrations, and campfire programs at major visitor use areas.

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 in advance, you should write to the Superintendent, Mount McKinley National Park, P.O. Box 9, McKinley Park, AK 99755. Reservations can also be made at the orientation station upon your arrival. Reservations will be processed after April 1.

Campers should bring: A gasoline or propane stove because firewood is unavailable; 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.

Visitor Services. From late spring until early autumn, food service, lodging, souvenirs, gasoline, automobile service, camper supplies, and groceries are available near the Park Entrance.

Park Concessioner. For information on concessioner service, write to: Mount McKinley National Park Co., P.O. Box 144, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (October 1 through May 14) and Mount McKinley National Park Co., McKinley Park, AK 99755 (May 15 through September 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-entrance area.

WHAT TO WEAR

"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

Campground	Miles from Entrance	Campsite				Toilet		Water supply		
		Spaces	Tent	Camper	Trailer			Flush	River	Tap
Riley Creek	0.1	75	x	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	x
Teklanika River	29	35	x	x	x	x			x	
Igloo Creek	33	7	x			x		x	x	x
Wonder Lake	85	28	x	x			x		x	

telephoto lens helps with wildlife photography.

TRAVELING IN THE PARK

The park road is 87 miles long and only the first 15 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. The road 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, and 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. They may not be visible at all for several days.

WALKING IN THE PARK

Hikers will discover that this park is a good place for short family hikes and for long-range overnight trips, even though there are few established trails. In this open tundra country, the best routes are along river bars and the crests of gravel ridges. All walkers will need sturdy shoes or boots, insect repellent, and rain gear. A back-country travel permit is required if you are staying out overnight. Permits may be obtained at any ranger station and should be returned when the trip is completed so that we know you have returned. A gasoline stove is recommended because wood is scarce and usually wet. Do not bury garbage or anything else, nor leave any trash behind. Pack everything out. Litter destroys the value of wild country. Take reasonable precautions and allow time to discover the wild country that lies away from the road.

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. 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, taiga, and tundra unfolds as you travel the road. 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

OBSERVATION AND PHOTOGRAPHY

The park's animals are wild and they roam freely. These are no specific places where you can be sure to see wildlife. Bears, wolves, foxes, and the caribou are most often to be seen in open spaces along rolling hills, on river bars and tundra slopes. The best places to observe moose are in willow thickets and spruce forests. Dall sheep are most often seen on steep slopes and near rocky cliffs in rugged terrain.

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. 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 aggressive behavior.
- Never try to feed any wild animal.

- When photographing wild animals use a telephoto lens instead of trying to get near, thus 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.

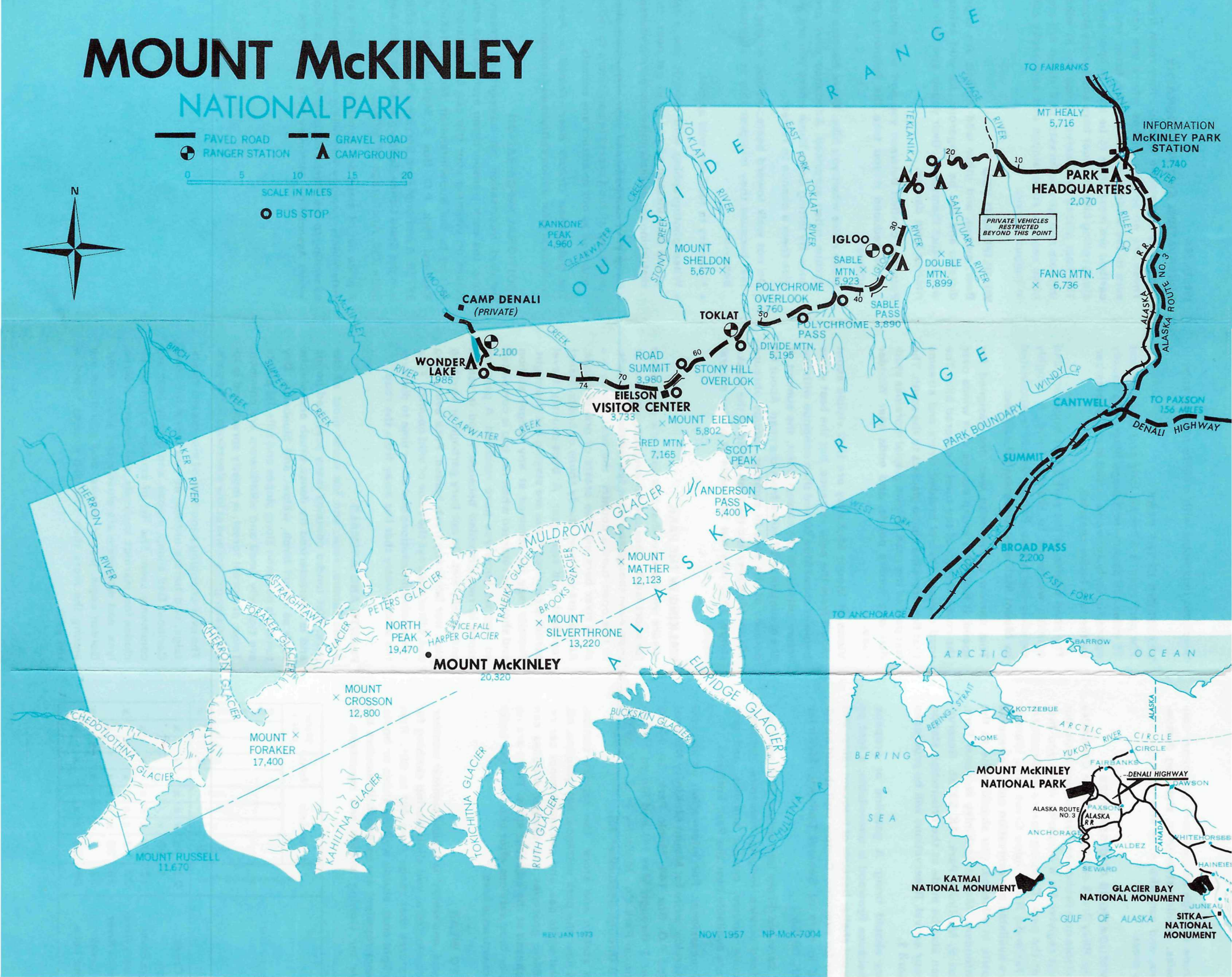
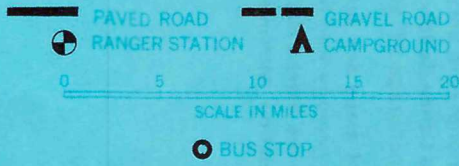
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Detailed information on campground reservations, the park transportation system, and other details on planning your trip can be obtained by writing to the Superintendent, Mount McKinley National Park, P.O. Box 9, McKinley Park, AK 99755. A National Park Service information office is in the State Office Building at 334 W. Fifth Ave., Suite 250, Anchorage AK 99501.

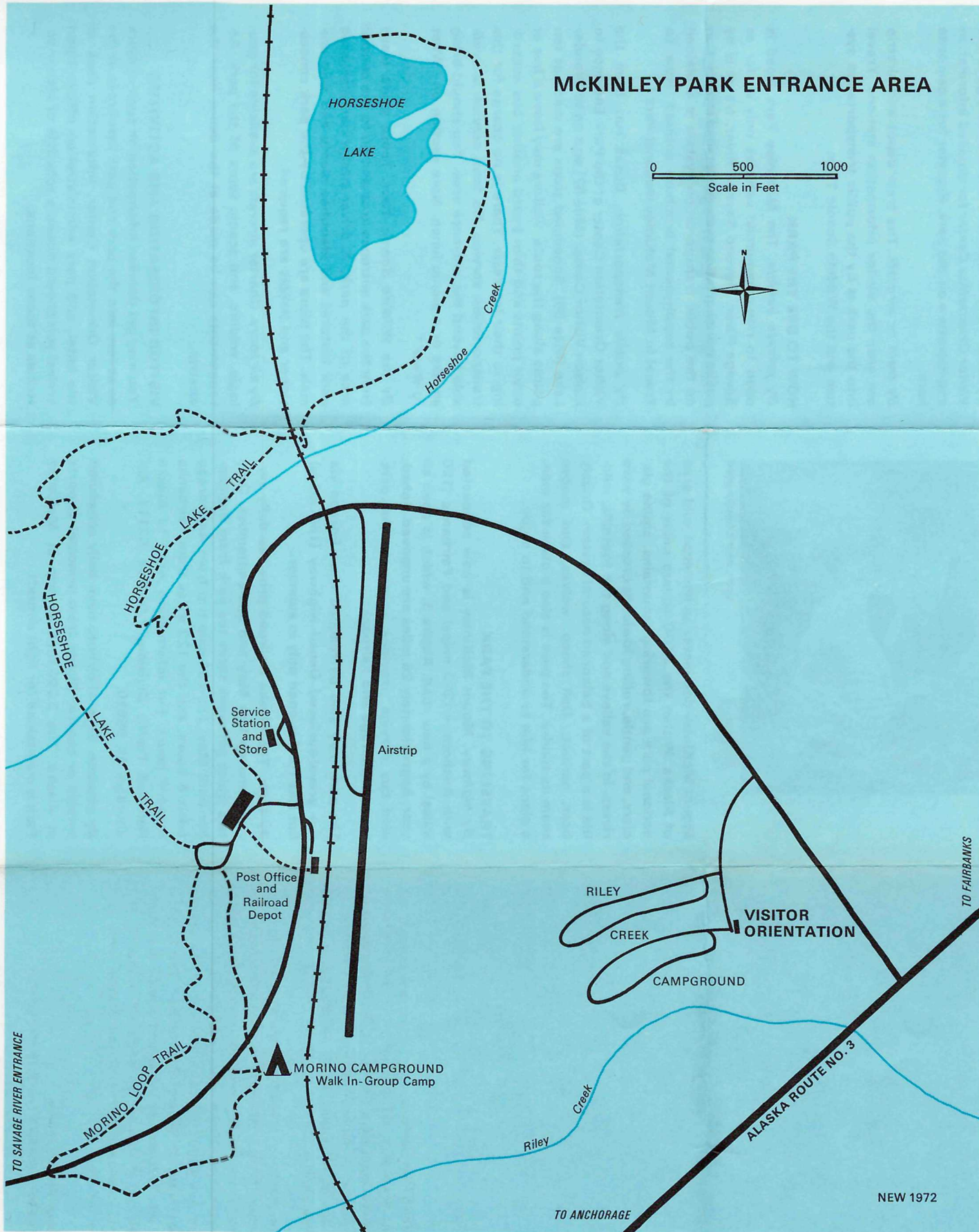
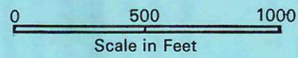
A price list of maps and booklets about park animals, plants, geology, and hiking may be obtained by writing to the Alaska National Parks and Monuments Association, McKinley Park, AK 99755.

MOUNT McKINLEY

NATIONAL PARK



McKINLEY PARK ENTRANCE AREA



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.

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

Mountaineering expeditions are required to register with the superintendent before climbing Mount McKinley or Mount Foraker. At least 6 months prior notice 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 and shooting are 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 most 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 designated stretches of the park road.

Aircraft landings within the park are permitted only at the airstrip near park headquarters or at sites designated by the superintendent.

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

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