

APRIL 2024

BISON BRIEF

Monthly Update



**THEODORE ROOSEVELT
NATURE AND HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

Happy North Dakota Day!

Consider this your invitation to celebrate North Dakota Day on April 19th and reflect on the state's unique beauty and history! Take a moment and delve into the rich heritage and peaceful landscapes that make North Dakota special.

The story of Theodore Roosevelt's transformative experience in North Dakota highlights the profound impact that a visit to the state can have on a person. His time in the remote outpost of Little Missouri not only shaped his personal development but also played a crucial role in his journey to the presidency. This tale serves as a reminder of the potential for self-discovery and growth that North Dakota offers to all who set foot in its lands.

In 2018, Kevin Kitzhoffer, a Seasonal Park Ranger, said it best when he wrote: *"A hearty traveler need not listen to what has been said about modest North Dakota. A visit to this amazing state must be done on one's own terms and always with a sense of adventure. There are treasures to be found around every corner."*

Kevin's experience in western North Dakota, akin to Theodore Roosevelt's, showcases the profound impact that the state's rugged beauty and unique environment can have on individuals. Both individuals were forever transformed by their time in this remote and captivating region, underscoring the transformative power of North Dakota's landscapes and culture.

Embracing the solitude and immersing oneself in the rich history and culture of North Dakota can offer a transformative experience for visitors. By taking time to appreciate the serene beauty and unique heritage of the state, individuals can forge a deep connection with the land and its people, leading to personal growth and a greater appreciation for the wonders that North Dakota has to offer.



April 2024



THE NPS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS

Proposed rate changes for campgrounds

MEDORA, N.D. – The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking public comment to campground fees changes under consideration at Theodore Roosevelt National Park (THRO). Proposed fee changes would include the Cottonwood Campground, Cottonwood Group site, Juniper Campground, Juniper Group site, and Roundup Group Horse Camp campground.



The proposed fee changes are:

- Cottonwood Campground, South Unit: current fee is \$14, proposed fee increase to \$20.
- Cottonwood Group site, South Unit: current fee is \$30, proposed fee increase to \$60.
- Juniper Campground, North Unit: current fee is \$14, proposed fee increase to \$20.
- Juniper Group site, North Unit: current fee is \$30, proposed fee increase to \$60.
- Roundup Group Horse Camp, South Unit equestrian site: current fee is \$40, proposed fee increase to \$100.

The last fee increases in camping rates occurred in 2015. After research of local campground rates in the surrounding area, the proposed rate increases were found to be comparable with current market rates for similar services.

Campgrounds are a popular destination for park visitors. Fees provide a vital source of revenue for needed facility maintenance, future campground improvement projects, and increased costs associated with campground operations. Past fee improvements include new comfort stations, improved accessible walkways in the campgrounds, and accessible trail work. Anticipated future fee revenue projects include rehabbing water and wastewater systems in the campgrounds, replacing sidewalks in visitor use areas, and restoring historic fencing at Peaceful Valley Ranch.

Public engagement is an important part of the park's planning process. THRO is accepting public comments on the proposed fee increases from March 28, 2024, through April 28, 2024. Following public engagement and NPS approval, new fees would be implemented in October 2024.

Comments regarding fee increase proposals may be submitted on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/> Comments may also be submitted via mail at the address below. Comments must be postmarked by April 28, 2024.

National Park Week! April 20-28

National Park Week is right around the corner, and TRNHA has an exciting lineup of educational events and programs at the South Unit Visitor Center in Medora. Join us in kicking off National Park week with free entry at all Federal lands on April 20, 2024.

We invite you to take advantage of the free entry and spend the weekend with us! Stop by the visitor center located in Medora to check out our Youth Art Contest Winners on Saturday and then join us for a crafting event on Sunday.



Then don't forget to celebrate Junior Ranger Day on April 27th! Head over to any National Park Visitor Center and work through the Junior Ranger guide to get your badge. Don't forget to ask the Ranger to take a photo with you to help you celebrate your achievement.

If you've enjoyed your time at our park and loved our activities we planned for National Park Week send us a message and tell us about your experience! We love hearing from our visitors and fellow staff about our programs and events. Please reach out to info@trnha.org or 701-623-4884 and leave a message.

Keep An Eye Out

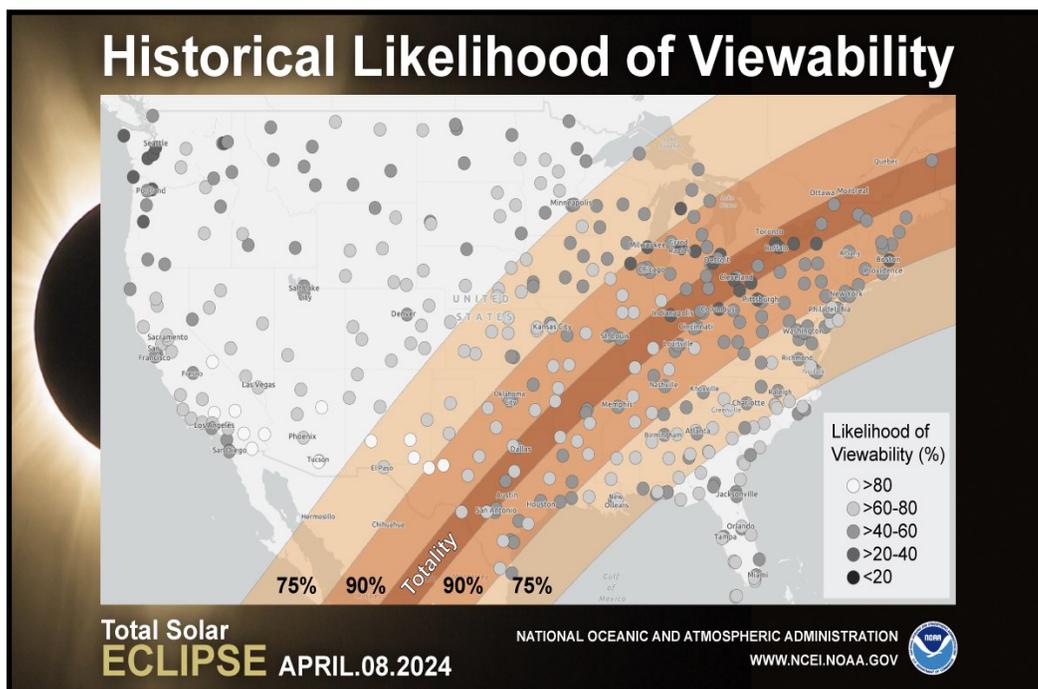
Throughout National Park Week, we'll be making some informative and inspirational posts relating to our National Park partners each day, so please keep an eye out for those. Don't forget for those who are mailing in their submission into our youth art contest they **MUST** be postmarked by the 17th of April to participate in the contest. As a reminder, the submission to the youth art contest will remain at our South Unit visitor center until they are picked up in person, we will not be mailing any submissions back to those who mailed or handed in their artwork. For the rules of the art contest please reference the flyer on the previous page and at <https://trnha.org/YouthArtCompletePacket.pdf> Goodluck and remember to Have Fun! Let's see how creative you can be!



Eyes on the Skies

This month all the talk is about the long awaited total solar eclipse, occurring on Monday, April 8, 2024. For a few minutes on that afternoon, the moon will block the view of the sun's face (called *totality*). This will occur for 2-4 minutes and cause complete darkness along the path of totality and cause a partial eclipse elsewhere. During this eclipse, the path of totality spans diagonally from Texas to Maine.

While North Dakota lies within the 50% obstruction zone, the path of totality (100% obstruction) does cross over many National Park Service Sites. It also comes very close to two National Parks: Hot Springs National



Path of Eclipse Totality, NOAA.GOV

Park and Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Both parks anticipate heavy visitation to their special events and eclipse viewing activities.

If you are wondering about eclipse viewing, the safety of viewing the sun during an eclipse is all a matter of time. Viewing the sun during any part of the solar eclipse must be done through a solar filter (think eclipse glasses or hand-held viewers), through a pin-hole projection, or at a location experiencing 100% obstruction during the exact moments of totality.

If you are wondering about safe solar viewing, the NPS has you covered with complete details and explanations at the website below: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/eclipsesafety.htm>. If you miss out on this total solar eclipse, don't worry.

Mark your calendar... the next total solar eclipse that covers a large section of the United States will occur on August 12, 2045 going through the East and West Coasts. Even though our view of the eclipse won't be as grand in North Dakota as those closer to the path of totality, we'd love to see your pictures of the eclipse in Theodore Roosevelt National Park or Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site! Stay safe and hope you take amazing photos.

What? – National Park Service Edition

MY FACE

When sitting in a meeting with government employees, and trying to understand why the VSA and VUA are on PTO, but the LEO is available until COB.



Sixteen years ago, I began working with TRNHA (Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association) and learned quickly that the NPS (National Park Service) really like their abbreviations and acronyms. After many years working alongside Park Rangers I finally have a better understanding of the lingo, and so I thought it might be fun to have an article dedicated to helping you understand it better.

LESSON #1 – Park Names as an Acronym
(an abbreviation formed from the initial letters of other words and pronounced as a word)

When referring to Theodore Roosevelt National Park, one would think that it would be called TRNP, but if you are speaking Park Ranger you would be wrong! The correct Acronym for Theodore Roosevelt National Park is actually THRO (pronounced Throw), but why?

Let's break it down:

The National Park Service assigns each park it manages with a unique abbreviation code to help standardize communication. The abbreviation is used externally on things like websites (www.nps.gov/thro) and internally on official documents. However, there are a lot of park units and therefore something simple followed by NP simply just didn't work, because multiple park units start with the same letter. So instead, they set up a basic pattern with just a few exceptions.

Rules for Creating a Park Unit's Acronym

1. Must be a four-letter combination
2. If the unit's name consists of only word, it received the first four letters of the word
 - a. Example #1 - Yellowstone National Park = YELL
 - b. Example # 2 - Badlands National Park = BADL
3. If the unit's name consists of two or more words, it's assigned the first two letters of the first two words.
 - a. Example #1 - Theodore Roosevelt National Park = THRO
 - b. Example # 2 - Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site = KNRI

If you want to impress all your Park Ranger friends, learn these acronyms and use them! They are also very useful when looking for a park website, as all National Park Service units have a website that is: www.nps.gov/their-acronym

Stay tuned for next month's **What? – National Park Service Edition** for Lesson #2!

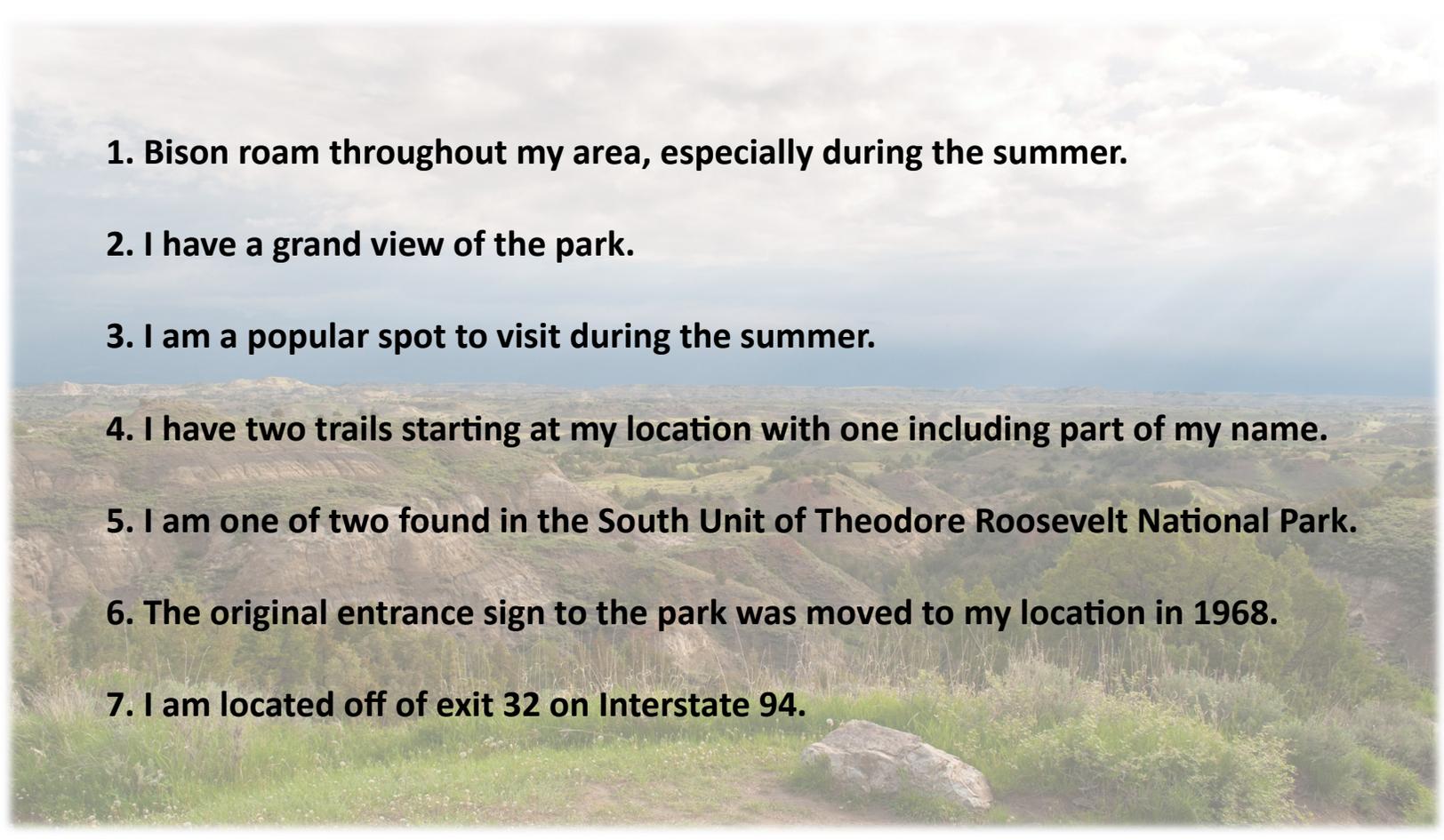
Can You Guess In 7 Hints?

Let's play a game! You have seven hints below to try and guess the theme relating to Theodore Roosevelt National Park or Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Each guess will get more specific to the theme until you reach the answer. How many hints will you need to figure out what it is? Let's find out!

Each month, the previous answer will be posted here as well as a small description or story explaining its significance, purpose, or just some fun facts. Since we're just getting started, we'll have to wait until next month's newsletter to find out the answer. Each month will also show different categories like animals, plants, trails, staff positions, and more. If you want to have an advantage, we'd recommend exploring Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, and reading about us!

We hope you enjoyed this game and look forward to your guesses. Some months will include additional hints as well as photos for more difficult themes to help you with your guesses. If you have any ideas or thoughts about what the theme should be for future months reach out to info@trnha.org or 701-623-4884 and leave a message. Thank you for playing!

Theme: Place

- 
- 1. Bison roam throughout my area, especially during the summer.**
 - 2. I have a grand view of the park.**
 - 3. I am a popular spot to visit during the summer.**
 - 4. I have two trails starting at my location with one including part of my name.**
 - 5. I am one of two found in the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.**
 - 6. The original entrance sign to the park was moved to my location in 1968.**
 - 7. I am located off of exit 32 on Interstate 94.**

TRNHA Word Search

This month's theme is Places in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. We recommend visiting any of these wonderful places in our parks to see the historical significance and spend time in nature. Some of our most popular visit spots revolve around these locations. Some months will also feature a secret hidden word which relates to the theme. Do you think this month has one? Let us know!



Badlands

Knife River

Overlook

Buck Hill

North Unit

Ranch

Campground

Nature Trail

Visitor Center

Join the Crew at Theodore Roosevelt NP

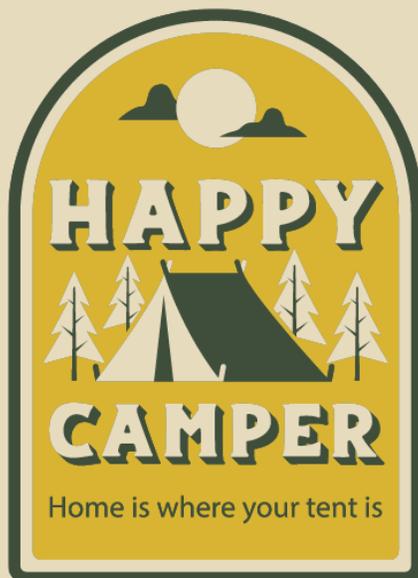
Interested in maintaining a clean and organized work environment? Theodore Roosevelt National Park is looking for a **Custodial Worker (MVO)** for our summer season. Head to www.usajobs.gov and search for National Park Service jobs in Theodore Roosevelt National Park to learn more. Application deadline is April 15th so don't wait!

- \$20.69 - WG 4
- 1039 Hours - Variable based on season
- Employment from March - October with anticipated entry April 2024

WANTED

CAMPGROUND HOST

Summer 2024



DO YOU LOVE THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK AND CAMPING?

If so we would love to have spend the summer with us! Theodore Roosevelt National Park is looking for campground host for all or part of summer 2024. Interested applicants can learn more at www.volunteer.gov (Search Theodore Roosevelt National park or call 701-623-4466 for more information!

701-623-4466

April 2024 Online Coupon

APRIL ONLINE SPECIAL!

In honor of National Park Week and
North Dakota Day!

15% Off All Online Orders

Online Only through April 30, 2024

Use coupon code

“April2024” at checkout.

Shop online now at: www.shoptrnha.org

Not good with any other discounts.

Become a Member

Our members are passionate about our park partners and believe in helping us spread the word about the beauty that can be found in North Dakota. By joining Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association as a member you will be helping us:



- Support educational and interpretive programs
- Enhance the visitor centers in all our partner parks
- Support wildlife research in Theodore Roosevelt National Park
- Publish trail guides, books, and multi-media products to educate our visitors
- Host special events in our parks including Teddy Bear Picnics, Birdwalks, and photo contests
- Promote North Dakota's public lands
- Offer housing assistance for Volunteers and Interns
- Provide support staff in visitor centers

Learn more at: www.trnha.org/membership.htm