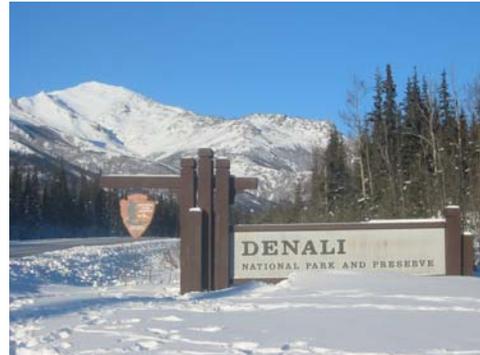




Denali National Park Entrance Visitor Center



View from northeast



Park Entrance



View from second floor exhibit space

Project Overview

Denali National Park & Preserve features North America's highest mountain, 20,320-foot tall Mount McKinley. The Alaska Range also includes countless other spectacular mountains and many large glaciers. Denali's more than 6 million acres also encompass a complete sub-arctic ecosystem with large mammals such as grizzly bears, wolves, Dall sheep, and moose.

The park was established as Mt. McKinley National Park on Feb. 26, 1917. The original park was designated a wilderness area and incorporated into Denali National Park and Preserve in 1980. The Park was designated an international biosphere reserve in 1976.

Today the park accommodates a wide variety of visitor use including wildlife viewing, mountaineering, and backpacking. It continues to serve as a laboratory for research in the natural sciences.

The Denali National Park and Preserve Entrance Visitor Center is located on the Northeast corner of the park. The facility is a 13,991 SF visitor center that contains an auditorium, exhibit areas, lobby areas, an information desk, locker rooms and other amenities.



View of BIPV from south

Description of scope of work...

Occupancy

The Denali Entrance Area Center will be completely closed down for seven months of the year. During this time the building will have no operational HVAC system, lighting, plowing of roads, or any other energy intensive activities taking place. There will be no occupancy of the building. The National Park Service acknowledged the degree of environmental impact associated with winter access and operation of such a building in this location, and opted to relocate winter activities to a smaller, lower impact facility.

The full time equivalency for the building during times of operation will be 421 people per day. This number was generated based on the code maximum occupancies and the estimated peak visitor loads based on various use studies.

Sustainability highlights

The project has been designed with minimizing environmental impacts as a driving factor. As a result, the building incorporates the following high performance strategies and technology:

- Low impact irrigation and low water use fixtures
- High performance energy system that uses a combination of natural and mechanical ventilation, efficient electric lighting and controls, energy recovery ventilation and an insulative building envelope
- Daylighting
- Building integrated photovoltaic system
- Waste minimization and building relocation efforts

Various facilities that were previously located on this site have found a new life through "Adaptive Re-use". A portion of the Denali Park Hotel was removed from the Park Entrance Area site and relocated to the nearby community of Healy where it still serves as a hotel and other components were relocated for use as employee housing. Parking for the new building is located in it's footprint to minimize site disturbance. The old Hotel Gift Shop was deconstructed for salvage of the material components and the Auditorium at the Park Hotel was also moved to Healy, where it now serves as a church (these two buildings are not within the LEED site boundary or scope).



View out of waiting room



Daylight windows in the auditorium