

Mount Rainier National Park

Nisqually to Paradise Road Construction Update



Wayside Notes

In the early 1900's, the Nisqually to Paradise Road was built to offer the best views possible as visitors approached the mountain. As you can imagine, this historic route requires maintenance and periodic repairs. Due to adverse winter weather, road work must take place during the busy summer season.

This year the majority of the project will occur between Longmire and Paradise.

Each year thousands of vehicles, cycles of freeze and thaw and falling trees take their toll on the road. Improvements to the road are necessary to preserve its integrity as a popular and historic scenic drive and to provide continued safe access for years to come.

Just the Facts: Glacier Ice Cream

Can you imagine eating ice cream from the Nisqually Glacier? Visitors in the late 1800s could enjoy an ice cream cone from a stand near Glacier Bridge. Over the last 150 years, the glacier has been melting and is no longer even visible from the bridge. In recent years, its march up-valley has been increasing in pace. On average, the Nisqually Glacier retreats about four inches a day during the summer. The photo above shows visitors on Glacier Bridge with the glacier behind in 1912.

What to Expect

- **Road Construction** will take place June through early fall, 2016.
- **Work this week** will take place in various "pockets" along the road from Longmire to Paradise. Due to construction work at **Christine Falls**, there will be limited access to the upper parking area and the trail to the overlook below will be **closed** throughout the week and possibly into the following week.
- **Expect delays of up to 30 minutes** (total) during daylight hours, Monday through Friday between Longmire and Paradise.
- **Be Aware of Closures.** The entire Ricksecker Point Loop Road and the parking area at Glacier Bridge will be closed June through early fall.
- **No Idling.** Please be considerate of air quality and turn off your vehicle when stopped at construction.
- **Plan Ahead.** Restroom facilities are located at Kautz Creek, Longmire, Narada Falls and Paradise.

For more information go to:

<https://www.nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/nisqually-paradise-road.htm>

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