

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: Bears and Berries

Have you been spotting shrubs with plump little berries along roads and trails in the park? Those tasty little berries are members of the vaccinium genus. There are nine varieties in Mount Rainier including a few species of huckleberries and blueberries. Look for red huckleberry plants (pictured above) in lower elevation forests. Many animals, including Black bears rely on this valuable source of calories to put on extra weight in late summer. Keep your eyes peeled for their dark backsides moving through the underbrush.

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. Expect limited parking or interrupted access at trailheads and pullouts along the road. Due to construction work at **Christine and Narada Falls**, there will be limited access to parking areas and the sidewalks at both will be closed.
- **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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