

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: Visitation at Mount Rainier

Is the parking lot full? Perhaps the trail is busier than normal, or maybe you waited in a long line to enter the park. All signs of a busier than normal summer here at Mount Rainier. Each year we welcome over one million visitors and 2016 might break past records as the busiest year. Over the last 100 years park visitation has increased from around 24,000 in 1916 to around 1,200,000 in 2015. Some say the "more the merrier", while others feel we are "loving parks to death". Where do you stand?

What to Expect

- **Road Construction** will take place June through late October, 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.
- **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.** Due to higher visitation this summer, visitors are encouraged to arrive either early in the morning or late in the afternoon. 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>

Annie Runde | Education Ranger
Annie_Runde@nps.gov | 360.569.6592