



Winter 2023-24 Group Camping

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Check the Alerts on the top of the park website [nps.gov/mora](https://www.nps.gov/mora) for gate and road status.

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Stay out of the parking lots and well away from snow plows and snow blowers while they are working. Plow operators cannot see pedestrians easily and cannot stop quickly. Snow blowers throw blocks of snow and ice 300 feet. Stay away from snow blasts!

Winter camping at Paradise is permitted on Thursday - Sunday nights when there is five feet of snow (generally December through April). It can be a wonderful experience, or it can bring discomfort or danger to your group. Plan ahead to make your winter camping experience safe and fun!

For the winter of 2023-24, winter camping at Paradise is available Thursday - Sunday nights only. The road between Longmire and Paradise opens to public access, weather permitting, Thursday - Monday only with overnight closures. It is not open Tuesday - Wednesday.

The Longmire-Paradise road may close early or remain closed the entire day due to weather, staffing, or road conditions. Plan to leave Paradise by 4:30 pm to exit the Longmire gate by the 5 pm closure. The Longmire gate generally closes to uphill traffic at 4 pm.

The sledding runs at Paradise will not open this year. Sledding is not permitted elsewhere. Tree wells, trees, and hidden snow bridges create hazardous sledding conditions.

Required Permits

Parties of 13 to 80 must camp in one of the designated group camping areas at Paradise and must pre-register. Please call (360) 569-6575, Monday - Thursday, or (360) 569-6650, Friday - Sunday, 9 am - 4 pm, at least two weeks in advance. Exchange your reservation confirmation letter for a permit

at the Longmire Museum 9 am - 4 pm, (closed for lunch) or the Paradise Visitor Center (Saturdays only) on the day of your arrival to camp. If your plans change, please call to cancel or reschedule your outing. If you fail to cancel or reschedule, another group may be denied the opportunity to camp.

Group Site Selection

Snow camping is permitted in the immediate Paradise area (lower Deadhorse Creek Basin, Guide House group camping, and the area behind Paradise Inn), permit required. Camping in vehicles is not permitted. Groups of more than 12 people must camp in the immediate Paradise area. Ask a park ranger for options.

Beware of avalanche slopes. Look for deep snow drifts along sloping terrain; this will help prevent damage to plants or trees buried in the snow pack. Do not cut or damage plants or trees while digging a snow shelter. Be responsible for carrying out everything you packed in.

Blue Bags

Groups of more than 12 people should use the restrooms in the upper parking lot, open 24 hours. If that is not feasible, groups must use the 'blue bag' system to dispose of human waste. Blue bags can be obtained from the ranger station or visitor

center. A blue bag barrel is available in the tunnel to the restrooms in the Paradise upper parking lot for disposal of used blue bags. Please dispose of bags properly.

Regulations

To protect the park's resources and visitor facilities, the following are prohibited:

- Cutting vegetation (tree boughs, etc.).
- Collecting or gathering of wood, rocks, plants or other park resources.
- Campfires of any type. Stoves are permitted.
- Drying clothing and gear in restrooms or the visitor center.

- Camping or cooking in any building or in the restroom tunnel.

Pets are permitted in parking lots only and never on trails or snow. Service dogs allowed.

Remember to pack out all trash. Trash left behind melts out in early summer.

Food Storage

Do not feed animals. Wild animals have become accustomed to finding food at camp sites, but they need natural food to remain healthy. Secure your trash and food containers, and keep your camp clean. Proper food storage is required at all times when camping. Hang your food, garbage and scented items to keep them out of reach of wildlife, or secure them in an approved hard-sided container (five-

gallon plastic buckets with tight-fitting lids, or manufactured wildlife-resistant food containers). Containers are REQUIRED in all Paradise area winter camping zones (Paradise, Mazama Ridge, Reflection Lakes, Tatoosh). Wildlife-resistant food containers are available for loan—ask a ranger when obtaining your camping permit. One container per party. Groups should bring your own containers.

Winter Camping Roads and Parking

All vehicles are required to carry tire chains in the park during winter. AutoSocks are allowed for passenger vehicles under 10,000 pounds as an alternative traction device.

Carpool whenever possible since overnight parking space is limited. Vehicles must be parked in the overnight parking areas at Paradise, Narada Falls, or Longmire. If designated areas are full, contact a park ranger. Parking outside these areas impedes snow



removal operations. If possible, avoid setting your parking brake—it may freeze and become unable to release.

It is unsafe to drive on roads and parking lots until morning snowplow operations are complete. Plows routinely operate on the wrong side of the road when it is closed. Check the Alerts on the top of the park website [nps.gov/mora](https://www.nps.gov/mora) for road status.

Mount Rainier National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Paradise Winter Group Camping




Unmarked Routes


Marked Routes

Distance Between Dots in Miles


ROUTE FINDING SKILLS REQUIRED!

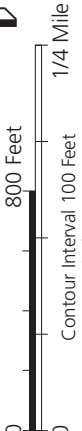


Avalanche Danger Areas
Check Forecast



Plowed Roads
No Skiing or Sliding

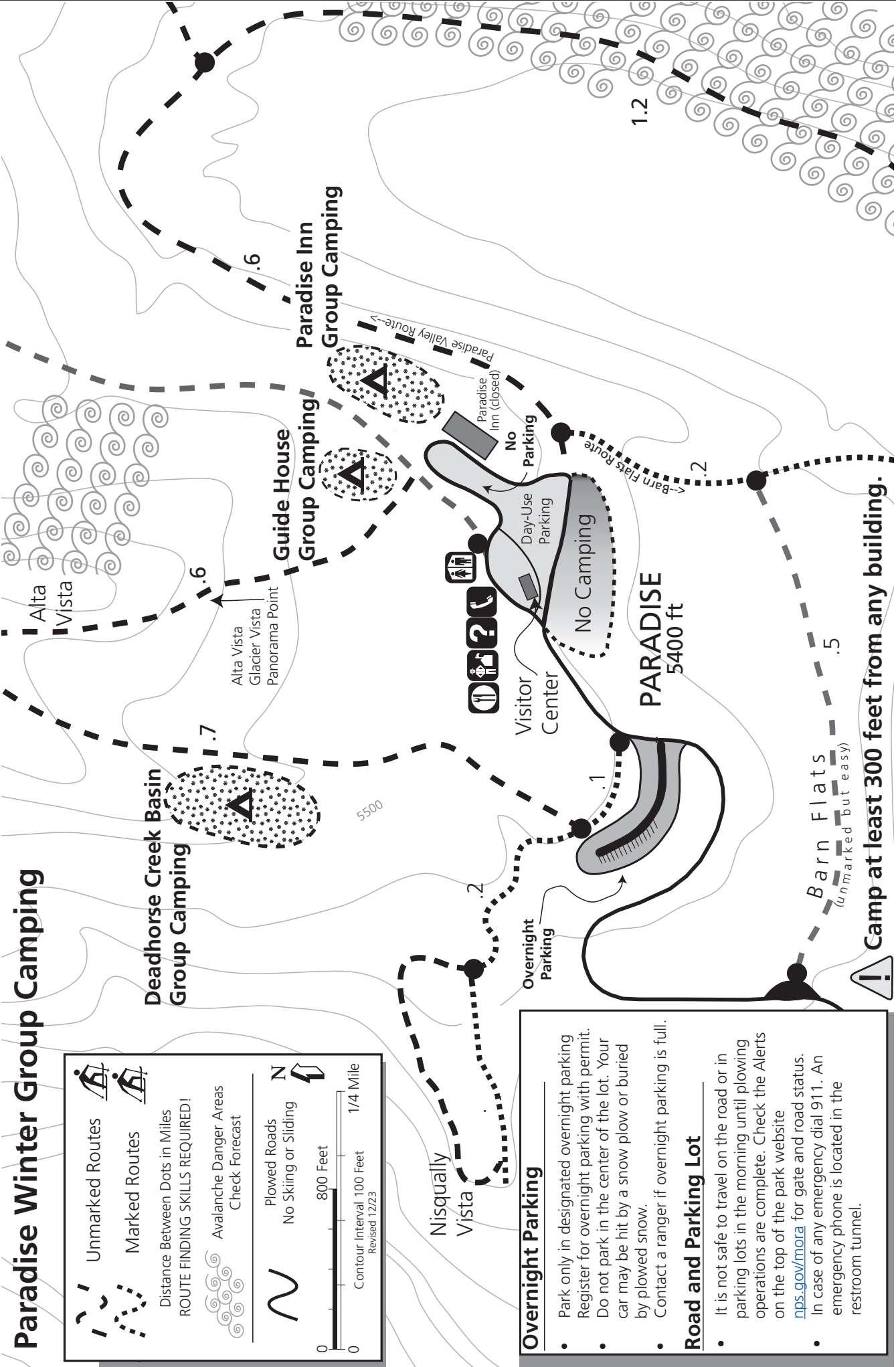




0 800 Feet 1/4 Mile

Contour Interval 100 Feet

Revised 12/23



Overnight Parking

- Park only in designated overnight parking. Register for overnight parking with permit.
- Do not park in the center of the lot. Your car may be hit by a snow plow or buried by plowed snow.
- Contact a ranger if overnight parking is full.

Road and Parking Lot

- It is not safe to travel on the road or in parking lots in the morning until plowing operations are complete. Check the Alerts on the top of the park website nps.gov/mora for gate and road status.
- In case of any emergency dial 911. An emergency phone is located in the restroom tunnel.

- ### Remember:

 - Camp at least 300 feet from any plowed road, parking lot, marked route, trail, or building and 100 feet from water sources.
 - Never walk, ski, or snowshoe on roads.
 - Snow plows may be working at any time of the day or night. Slippery surfaces and the possibility of avalanches make the roads unsafe for pedestrians at any time.
 - In case of emergency, dial 911. Phones at Paradise are located in the tunnel leading to the 24-hour restroom in the upper parking lot and in the visitor center foyer.
 - Snow camping at Paradise is prohibited until there is at least five feet of snow. It's recommended that there be at least eight feet of snow at Paradise before snow caves are constructed in order to prevent damage to vegetation. Collapse snow caves and igloos before leaving.
 - Please, Leave No Trace of your visit.
- ### Make sure you are prepared before leaving home:

 - Tire chains. Have you practiced putting them on? Extra food and fuel for car and stove, in case you have to stay out an extra night.
 - Test your stove. Is the fuel tank full?
 - Trash bags for trash and wet clothing.
 - Clothing and footwear which provides warmth, even if wet.
 - Have a responsible contact person who knows when to expect you back home.
- ### Pack the Winter 10 Essentials

 - Shovel (avalanche rescue)
 - Full Length Insulated Sleeping Pad
 - Stove & Fuel (melt water)
 - Heat Packs
 - Goggles & Wool/Pile Hat
 - Gloves (waterproof/lined)
 - Avalanche Transceiver
 - Avalanche Probe
 - Reliable Weather & Avalanche Forecasts
 - Map, Compass, & GPS (with extra batteries)