



Resurfacing of the Trail from Happy Isles to Vernal Fall Bridge

What is this project and why undertake it?

One of the most popular day hikes originating in Yosemite Valley is from the Nature Center at Happy Isles to Vernal Fall via the Mist Trail. The foot trail from the Nature Center at Happy Isles to the base of Vernal Fall has an average daily use of over 2,300 visitors in the summer months. Currently, the existing trail tread is seriously deteriorated with uneven and broken asphalt pavement. Additionally, the lack of an adequate drainage system has caused erosion of trail sections. This project is needed to correct those deficiencies.

Where is this project located?

Resurfacing of the trail begins at the trailhead at the Nature Center at Happy Isles and extends 5,400 linear feet to the base of the Mist Trail stairs at Vernal Fall.



What does this project entail?

This project includes routine trail maintenance and resurfacing of the trail segment. It is being conducted in three phases. Both Phase I and Phase II occurred in Fall of 2004 and 2005. In Phase I, the outside wall of the trail was reconstructed. Rough leveling for resurfacing occurred in Phase II with an average tread width of seven feet.

The park is anticipated to begin and complete Phase III in Fall 2007. This Phase consists of applying layers of aggregate road base tack oil and compacted asphalt. The work will be done by a paving contractor.

How does this project relate to the Merced River Plan?

The *Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan* is currently being developed to protect the river-related values along the Merced River, and will establish a long-term program for managing resources and visitors in the area. During the planning process, major projects that would significantly alter use or impact natural and cultural resource values along the river have been suspended; however, basic park operations continue to take place. This resurfacing project is part of routine trail maintenance, and will not significantly change the use of the area or negatively affect resources.

Where can I find more information about this project and other projects in the park?

Here are some ways to learn more and stay involved:

Add your name to the park's mailing list (to address/fax/email below) and receive the *Planning Update* newsletter as well as other planning-related notices. You can also submit your email address to receive Yosemite National Park's periodic electronic newsletter.

Mail: Superintendent
Attn: Planning Mailing List
National Park Service
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Fax: 209/379-1294

Email: YOSE_Planning@nps.gov

The status of other Yosemite National Park improvement projects will be periodically updated on the park's planning web site. Visit online: www.nps.gov/yose/planning.