

# The Tahoma News

July 1 - September 4, 2017

1917

Celebrating 100 Years of the Paradise Inn

2017

## Paradise Inn—100 Years of History

Paradise Inn opened for business in 1917, providing an alternative to the rugged tent camps that existed at the time. Under the watchful eye of the National Park Service's first director, Steven Mather, the Inn was to be a model for other parks. Mather challenged local business leaders to cooperate in the creation of the Inn. Those local leaders formed a new concession, the Rainier National Park Company. They built Paradise Inn in just under a year and with little more than \$90,000.

As you walk through the Inn, notice the massive network of Alaskan yellow cedar beams above your head. Architects from the Tacoma firm of Heath, Grove, and Bell used timber from the park in their design. They salvaged cedar trees just below Narada Falls from Silver Forest, which was damaged by fire in 1885. The wood for the historic tables and chairs seen throughout the Inn also came from Silver Forest. Carpenter Hanz Fraehnke used the same salvaged cedar to hand-hew the clock and the piano.

Why would the National Park Service cut down trees for the sake of a tourist hotel? It's hard to imagine such a thing happening in our time. Today, we understand how vital standing dead trees are to the environment as potential habitat for forest animals. In a way, the very beams of the Paradise Inn tell us the story of another time: the Inn is a window into our changing vision of natural resources in our national parks.

Please stop by to celebrate 100 years of history.

## The Return of the Pacific Fisher

The fisher is a small, reclusive predator of the weasel family that thrives in mature forests. Along with wolves, wolverines, and lynx, fishers were eliminated from Mount Rainier early in the last century. Historically a common species in Washington, fishers were over-trapped to extinction for their highly valuable fur. Even after decades of absence from the ecosystem, fisher habitat and their prey base remains intact and abundant, making them exceptional candidates for a population restoration project.



In the first phase of this state-wide restoration project, 90 fishers were released on the Olympic Peninsula to establish a population there. After this success, the second phase of the project is now underway by translocating fishers from a healthy British Columbia population to the Southern Cascades. As of February, 69 fishers have been released in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and inside Mount Rainier National Park. The goal is to release 80 fishers in the Southern Cascades followed

## Rehabilitating the Paradise Inn Annex

The Paradise Inn is the largest lodging facility located within Mount Rainier National Park. It was built using massive timbers and glacial boulders to blend the building with its natural surroundings and, therefore, the building is a contributing feature to the park's National Historic Landmark District designation.

Beginning July 24, 2017, the Inn's Annex will undergo renovation through the remainder of the summer season. The Inn will remain open through the summer season including overnight lodging at a reduced capacity, and access to the lobby, food services, gift shop, and evening ranger-led programs. Visitor parking will be reduced in the Paradise area throughout the construction period for contractor staging and safe access to the construction site. All traditional Paradise area services, activities, facilities, and trails are available and not affected by the renovation project.

During renovation character defining features of the building exterior will be rehabilitated, including the use of the existing Annex foundation stones as a veneer to replicate the historic appearance of the building. Interior improvements include energy efficiency upgrades, sound dampening between guest rooms, new finishes and details that are historically compatible, and fire, life, and safety system updates.

The rehabilitation will correct deficiencies, resulting in a structure that is safe, stable, and serves visitors better.

by releasing 80 individuals in the Northern Cascades in order to establish a healthy and self-sustaining population of Washington fishers.

Released fishers are being tracked from aircraft through signals emitted from implanted transmitters. You can help monitoring efforts by reporting fisher sightings to a ranger. Remember that fisher, marten, and mink are very similar looking species. Even the experts can get them confused and photos (even fuzzy ones) are very helpful. One thing to look for is a long, bushy tail (a third of the total length) that is bushy all the way to the base. Marten and mink tails are tapered at the base. Fisher's ears are also much smaller in profile compared to marten and mink.

Over the next several years the park, along with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Conservation Northwest, will continue to work together to restore fishers to their native habitat.

## Welcome...

...to Your National Park!

As shared public spaces and gathering places, our national parks serve as important and tangible symbols of democracy and the democratic process...common ground held and protected in trust for the common good; places of, by, and for the people.

Keeping common ground requires a renewing commitment from one generation to the next. The park we use and enjoy today is a gift from those who came before us. We who now enjoy this gift have responsibility to care for it. In this all may contribute—as visitors mindful of how gently we use our park and as citizens advocating for our shared public spaces.

You are joined in caring for your park by an incredibly talented, skilled, and dedicated team of park employees, volunteers, partners, and other contributors. For many, this work on behalf of the national parks and public service can become a calling, the fulfillment of a purpose larger than self.

The beauty of it is that every person has the same joyful right to create their own deeply meaningful, personal connections with their national parks and public lands. In so doing, one may also kindle an understanding and love of the nation, heritage, and history we share, discovering common cause through common ground.

Thank you for visiting Mount Rainier!

Randy King  
Superintendent



Superintendent  
Randy King

## Construction Zone Safety

Paving operations are currently underway in the park. For your safety and the safety of crews, stay behind pilot cars and do not cross over construction areas or hot pavement to reach trailheads, viewpoints, etc. See page 8 for more on road work.

Emergency: Dial 911 from any phone located in the park



Enjoy hiking among ancient trees and past numerous waterfalls on the Eastside Trail.



Take an easy hike to spectacular Silver Falls near Ohanapecosh Campground.



Walk across Longmire's historic wooden suspension bridge.

## The Many Sides of Mount Rainier

At 14,410 feet high, Mount Rainier is the tallest peak in the Cascade Range and an icon of the Pacific Northwest. While the mountain's well-known profile is visible for many miles in any direction, its alpine, glacier-clad slopes occupy only a third of Mount Rainier National Park. There are as many different sides of the park as there are views of Mount Rainier. Take the time to explore the other two-thirds of the park, and discover what lies within the shadow of the great mountain that local Native Americans call "Tahoma."

### Northwest Side: Carbon River and Mowich Lake

Located on the "quiet side" of the park, the Carbon River valley showcases ancient forests, deep valleys and waterfalls, and a dynamic, flood-prone river that flows from the Carbon Glacier, the lowest-elevation glacier in the continental U.S. Or follow State Route 165 to Mowich Lake, the park's largest and deepest lake. Look for colorful subalpine wildflowers along its shores. From the picnic area at road's end, trails lead to subalpine lakes, flower-strewn meadows, and amazing views of the park's wilderness from the Tolmie Peak fire lookout.



Follow the trail through lush meadows around Tipsoo Lake.

### Southwest Side: Longmire

Deep in the valley of the Nisqually River, the village of Longmire preserves the history of the park's first settlement and headquarters. The Longmire Museum is the starting point for the self-guided walking tour of the Longmire Historic District, where you can get a taste of early National Park Service rustic architecture. Follow the Trail of the Shadows to learn about the park's first homestead and resort, next to Longmire Meadow's mineral springs. Between Longmire and Nisqually Entrance, walk the Twin Firs Trail to view lowland old-growth forest; picnic at Kautz Creek where you can view the aftermath of the 1947 mudflow; or drive to the end of the Westside Road to see the dramatic results of flooding and rockfall. Many of the pullouts between Longmire and Paradise have great views of lava layers, glaciers, and deep glacial canyons.

### South Side: Paradise

The Jackson Visitor Center and historic Paradise Inn are the hubs of activity at the most popular (and crowded) destination in the park. A network of hiking trails provides access to outstanding wildflower meadows, broad views of Mount Rainier and its glaciers, and routes for skilled climbers attempting to reach the mountain's summit. Photographers appreciate the high-country scenery at Inspiration Point and Reflection Lakes. Hikers looking for less-crowded trails might try the Lakes Trail, Mazama Ridge, and Snow Lake Trail, located just east of Paradise.

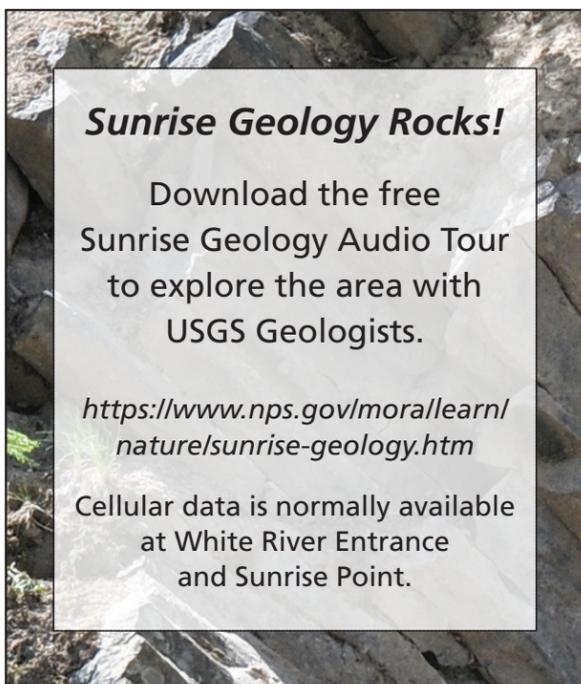
### Southeast Side: Ohanapecosh

Ohanapecosh, in the park's southeast corner, lies deep in the realm of the old-growth forest. From the visitor center and campground, trails follow the Ohanapecosh River past hot springs and shaded streams to the roaring cascade of Silver Falls. Walk the trail to the Grove of the Patriarchs, just past the Stevens Canyon Entrance, to view ancient trees—some over 1,000 years old. Strong hikers will enjoy the incredible view from the Shriener Peak fire lookout, east of State Route 123, and the string of waterfalls along the East Side Trail. On the Stevens Canyon Road between Ohanapecosh and Paradise, dramatic viewpoints and a picnic area are found at Box Canyon, where the Cowlitz River cuts a deep slot into glacially-scoured bedrock.

### Northeast Side: Sunrise and White River

The White River/Sunrise Road leads from State Route 410 toward the White River Campground and high-country trailheads. From here, trails lead hikers to subalpine wilderness or

to the moraine of the Emmons Glacier, the largest American glacier outside of Alaska. Continuing up the road toward Sunrise, look for outcrops of columnar lava, hillsides of wildflowers, and a breathtaking vista at Sunrise Point. Washington's highest paved highway ends at the Sunrise Visitor Center (6,400 feet), where summertime crowds come to enjoy the area's open meadows and expansive scenery, considered by some to be the grandest views in the park. Along SR 410, a trail leads strong hikers up to the scenic Crystal Lakes basin, and the Tipsoo Lake area near Chinook Pass provides a picnic area next to the lake and its lush meadows.



### Sunrise Geology Rocks!

Download the free Sunrise Geology Audio Tour to explore the area with USGS Geologists.

<https://www.nps.gov/morallearn/nature/sunrise-geology.htm>

Cellular data is normally available at White River Entrance and Sunrise Point.

## Parking In Paradise



If you are visiting Paradise on a nice day be prepared for heavy traffic, busy parking lots, and pedestrians on the roadway. Due to the popularity of the Paradise area, you are asked to park your vehicle in certain lots depending on the intent of your visit and the type of vehicle you are driving. Please drive courteously and help improve traffic flow by following these guidelines:

- Parking in the upper Paradise lot, adjacent to the Jackson Visitor Center, is intended for short-term visitors and is limited to two hours. This lot is generally full by 11:00 am. Disabled visitors with a valid disabled parking permit may park in the upper lot with no time restriction; disabled-accessible trailheads are available near the visitor center and the Paradise Inn. Paradise Inn overnight guests may also park in the upper lot during their stay.

***Parking can be difficult to find on sunny summer weekends at Paradise, Sunrise, Grove of the Patriarchs, and at trailheads between Longmire and Paradise. To avoid congestion, visit these areas on weekdays, arrive early, and carpool.***

- Parking in the lower Paradise lot is intended for visitors staying longer than two hours, for those hiking in the Paradise area, and for backcountry campers and climbers with a valid backcountry permit. When the upper Paradise lot is full, short-term visitors may also use the lower lot.
- Additional parking for long-term and overnight visitors is available along the one-way Paradise Valley Road, east of the upper Paradise lot.

***Park roads are winding, road shoulders are narrow, and the speed limit is 35 mph in most areas. Watch for pedestrians, sightseers, bicyclists, and wildlife. Please be courteous and use pullouts to allow faster drivers to pass you safely.***

- Motorhomes, RVs, and vehicles towing trailers must park along the Paradise Valley Road, east of the upper Paradise lot.
- Plan for road construction delays up to 30 minutes each-way between Longmire and Paradise.



## Explore, Enjoy, and Stay Safe

Mount Rainier National Park was established in 1899 to preserve the natural and cultural resources in this area and to provide for public benefit and enjoyment. This information will help you learn more about the park, and protect yourself and the park.

### Accessibility

Most restrooms, visitor centers, picnic areas, amphitheaters, and designated campsites are accessible or accessible with help by wheelchair. Accessible lodging is available inside the park and in local communities.

The park brochure is available in braille at visitor centers and entrance stations.

At the Sunrise and Paradise visitor centers, the audiovisual programs are captioned; audio described tours of the exhibits are available; and the exhibits are accessible by wheelchair. Additionally, assistive listening devices are available for the park film at the Paradise Visitor Center.

The Kautz Creek Boardwalk Nature Trail is accessible in summer. An accessible trail leads to the base of Paradise Meadows; a portion of the trails at Paradise are accessible with help. Inquire at the Jackson Visitor Center for more information.

### Bikes in the Park

Bicycle only on roads, not on trails. Mountain bikes are permitted on Westside Road and the Carbon River Road, but not on trails.

### Mount Rainier National Park

**Superintendent**  
Randy King



**Mailing Address**  
55210 238th Avenue East  
Ashford, WA 98304

**E-mail**  
MORAInfo@nps.gov

**Park Headquarters**  
(360) 569-2211  
(360) 569-2177 TDD

**Lost and Found**  
(360) 569-6608

**Park Websites**  
Mount Rainier National Park  
[www.nps.gov/mora](http://www.nps.gov/mora)  
North Coast and Cascades Science & Learning Network  
<http://nwparkscience.org/>

**Official Park Social Media Sites**  
[facebook.com/MountRainierNPS](https://www.facebook.com/MountRainierNPS)  
[instagram.com/mountrainiernps/](https://www.instagram.com/mountrainiernps/)  
[flickr.com/MountRainierNPS](https://www.flickr.com/photos/MountRainierNPS/)  
[twitter.com/MountRainierNPS](https://twitter.com/MountRainierNPS)  
[mountrainiernps.tumblr.com/](https://mountrainiernps.tumblr.com/)  
[youtube.com/MountRainierNPS](https://www.youtube.com/MountRainierNPS)

### NOTICE: Marijuana is Illegal in Mount Rainier National Park

While limited recreational use of marijuana is legal in Washington State, possession of any amount of marijuana or other illegal drugs remains illegal in Mount Rainier National Park, surrounding national forests, and all federal lands.

### Firearms

The use of firearms is prohibited within Mount Rainier National Park. People who can legally possess firearms under federal, Washington State, and local laws may possess them in the park. Federal law does prohibit firearms in certain facilities within this park; those places have signs at public entrances.

### Camping

Camp in designated campsites only. Sleeping in vehicles outside of campgrounds is not permitted.

### Don't Be A Victim!

Burglaries have recently occurred at numerous trailheads and parking areas in the park. Those responsible for the crimes were investigated, arrested by Mount Rainier rangers and National Park Service special agents, and convicted in court. However, these convictions will not necessarily end the problem of car burglaries in the park.

Follow these simple guidelines to avoid becoming a victim of future car break-ins:

- Do not leave any valuables in your vehicle, even for a short time.
- Do not leave bags, packs, or purses, that look like they could contain valuables visible in your vehicle.
- If storing items in the trunk of your car, do so before arriving at your destination. You could be watched at trailheads and parking lots.
- Immediately report all suspicious activity you observe at or around parking lots or along roads to a park ranger.

### Fishing & Boating

A license is not required for fishing. Some lakes and streams are closed to fishing and Ohanapecosh River is fly fishing only. Check at a visitor center for more information.

Motorized boating is prohibited in the park. Non-motorized boating is permitted on all lakes except Frozen, Reflection, Ghost, Shadow, and Tipsoo lakes.

**NOTICE: Research studies have shown mercury is present in some trout in a few park lakes.** Check the Washington Department of Health website <http://www.doh.wa.gov/> for information on fish consumption.

### Fires in the Park

Make fires only in a fire grill. Collecting firewood is prohibited. See page 8 for firewood sales in the park.

### Pets and Service Animals

Leashed pets are permitted only in picnic areas, campgrounds, and parking lots and on roads currently open to public vehicles. *During hot weather do not leave pets in vehicles.*

Pets must be on leashes no longer than six feet and are not allowed in buildings, on trails (except the PCT and Laughingwater Creek Trail), in off-trail or backcountry areas, or on snow.

Service animals individually trained to perform specific tasks are allowed on trails and in park facilities only if they are providing a service for a disabled person. Service dogs-in-training are not service animals under ADA, but are considered pets.

### Tree Hazards

Healthy trees with no defects can present a danger under certain conditions. Stay alert for falling limbs and cones on windy days, and avoid forested areas during storms when possible. Sudden gusts can do great damage to trees—as well as anything in range of falling debris.



### Keep Wildlife Wild

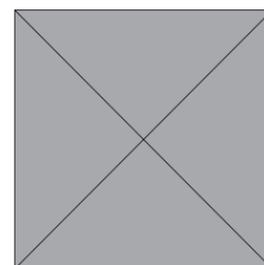
- Please do not feed the wildlife.
- Store your food in an animal-proof container or inside your car.
- Do not leave food, beverages, pet food, or toiletries unattended for any length of time.
- Clean up picnic areas after you eat.

Human food puts animals at risk and some die as a result. For example birds, like jays or ravens are effective nest predators—eating the eggs or young of other birds. By feeding jays or ravens, visitors concentrate these nest predators near roads and trails and inadvertently contribute to the death of songbirds in the same area.

Feeding wildlife harms them in many ways. Beggar squirrels, foxes, deer, and jays learn to approach people and busy areas. They often get hit and killed by cars. Animals that become accustomed to humans and human food may also pursue and injure visitors. Biologists and rangers must intervene, with killing the animal as the last resort.

### Permits

Permits are required for all overnight stays in the backcountry, and for traveling on glaciers and above 10,000 feet in elevation.

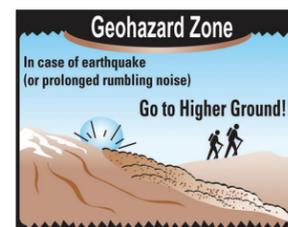


### No Drone Zone!

Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft (drone) within the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park is prohibited.

### Mount Rainier: An Active Volcano

Active steam vents, periodic earth tremors, and historic eruptions provide evidence that Mount Rainier is sleeping, not dead. Seismic monitoring stations around the mountain should provide days or weeks of advance warning of impending eruptions. Other geologic hazards, however, can occur with little warning. These include debris flows and rockfalls.



*If you are near a river and notice a rapid rise in water level, feel a prolonged shaking of the ground, and/or hear a roaring sound coming from upvalley—often described as the sound made by a fast-moving freight train—move quickly to higher ground—200 feet above river level should be safe.*

Detailed information is available at park visitor centers or from scientists at the U.S.G.S. Cascades Volcano Observatory, 1300 SE Cardinal Court, Building 10, Suite 100, Vancouver, WA 98661, [vulcan.wr.usgs.gov](http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov).

### Firewood: Buy It Where You Burn It

Washington forests are in jeopardy from the transportation of invasive insects and diseases in firewood. New infestations of tree-killing insects and diseases often are first found in campgrounds and parks.

Buy firewood near where you will burn it—that means the wood was likely cut within 50 miles of where you'll have your fire. Never bring wood from home, even if you think the firewood looks fine. Aged or seasoned wood is still not safe.

More information is available online at [www.dontmovefirewood.org](http://www.dontmovefirewood.org).

Thank a park volunteer—they make things happen!



## You Can Make A Difference at Mount Rainier

By Laurie B. Ward, Washington's National Park Fund Executive Director

Do you love national parks? Would you like to give back to make them stronger?

Washington's National Park Fund serves as the park's official philanthropic partner. The Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, accepts charitable gifts that are then given to the park for projects focusing on these four main areas:

- Improving Visitors' Experiences by maintaining trails, supporting the park's Search and Rescue program, and improving campgrounds
- Bringing more Youth and Families—many of whom might otherwise never visit—into the park
- Funding necessary Science and Research on glaciers, rivers, flora, and fauna
- Strengthening Mount Rainier's Volunteerism and Stewardship activities



The Fund provides support for nearly 2,000 volunteers whose efforts are valued at \$1.8 million! Whether you include Mount Rainier in your will, donate when you check-out of the National Park Inn or Paradise Inn, or purchase a Washington National Parks license plate for your vehicle, it all adds up and can have a major impact on this beloved place.

Please consider giving back to Mount Rainier National Park through Washington's National Park Fund. For more information please go to the Fund's website [wnpf.org](http://wnpf.org) or email them at [fund@wnpf.org](mailto:fund@wnpf.org).

## Drop-in Volunteer Trail Crew Opportunity

Want to help out your national park as a volunteer? Drop-in trail maintenance volunteer opportunities are available every weekend at Paradise and Sunrise! Meet a crew leader at the flag pole in front of the Paradise or Sunrise Visitor Center at 9am, any Friday, Saturday, or Sunday from July 1 to September 3. Bring water, snacks, and weather-appropriate clothing; we'll provide gloves and tools. Suitable for ages 16 and up.

## Your Photos Discover Climate Change Effects

By Dr. Janneke Hille Ris Lambers, Elli J. Theobald and Anna Wilson, MeadoWatch, Univ. of Washington



Elli J. Theobald photo

In the summer, many people enjoy the wildflowers that bloom in profusion in the meadows, while just a few months earlier up to 20 feet of snow covered the summer's display. Not surprisingly, the winter wonderland strongly influences wildflowers. Specifically, snow controls when avalanche lilies, lupines, and all flowers blossom. When snow melts earlier, flowers bloom earlier and when snow melts later, flowers bloom later.

This leads to a critical question: as average temperatures increase with climate change, how will the wildflowers so many of us enjoy be affected? This is a difficult question to answer without a lot of information—and you can help! You can contribute to research at the University of Washington by sharing your wildflower photos. Each of your pictures is an 'observation' of when and where wildflowers bloom. Photos contributed this summer will be particularly useful if the warmer spring we're having leads to an earlier than average snowmelt on Mount Rainier. These data can help uncover how climate change affects the timing of the seasons.

Just take photos of wildflowers (close enough to identify the species) in Mount Rainier National Park! Make sure your photos are date-stamped and geo-tagged (most smartphones automatically enable this feature), and visit [www.meadowwatch.org](http://www.meadowwatch.org) for instructions on how to contribute your photos to our project. Thanks for your help!



NPS/CMleedy photo

## Ranger-led Programs

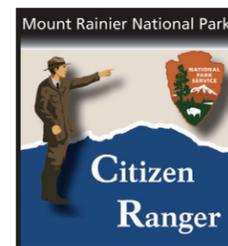
Join a park ranger for a talk, guided walk, or evening program. These free programs explore the park's natural and cultural history. Find out who else has come to Mount Rainier and why. Discover what this mountain really is and what it may become. Meet some of the park's inhabitants—from owls to elk—and find out why they are here. Check at a visitor center for program times and locations. See page 8 for visitor center locations and hours.

### Hey Kids!

Ask for a Junior Ranger Activity Book. It's FREE at all park visitor centers. Complete it to learn lots of cool stuff about your park and earn a badge and certificate.



### Citizen Ranger Quests



Has your inner Junior Ranger never really gone away? Try out a Quest! They are designed for older children (12 and up) and adults. Quest topics are diverse and vary from history to science to stewardship. Some Quests take place indoors while others help you explore outdoors. Completion times for the different Quests vary from about thirty minutes to two hours. Information on Quests is available at visitor centers.

## Shadows of the Past Living History Lantern Tour

Saturday, August 19



One night only! Meet the people who explored, settled, climbed, and protected Mount Rainier more than 100 years ago. The free lantern tours begin in front of the

National Park Inn at Longmire, rain or shine, and depart every 20 minutes from 8:30 pm until 9:30 pm.

Tours last 90 minutes. Bring a flashlight and a warm jacket. Wear sturdy shoes.

Park Partners



Washington's National Park Fund  
[wnpf.org](http://wnpf.org)



Mount Rainier National Park Volunteers  
[www.nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/volunteer.htm](http://www.nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/volunteer.htm)



Washington Trails Association  
[www.wta.org](http://www.wta.org)



Discover Your Northwest  
[www.discovernw.org](http://www.discovernw.org)



Visit Rainier  
[visitrainier.com](http://visitrainier.com)



Mount Rainier National Park Associates  
[www.mrnpa.org](http://www.mrnpa.org)



Mount Rainier Institute  
[www.packforest.org/mtrainierinstitute/](http://www.packforest.org/mtrainierinstitute/)

# Ranger-led Programs

Paradise	Length	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Chat With a Ranger at the Paradise Inn</b> Join a ranger in the lobby of the Paradise Inn to help plan your day and answer your questions.	25 min	9:30 am through 7/23	9:30 am through 7/23		9:30 am through 7/23			
<b>Discover Paradise</b> Join a ranger to explore and discover the rich cultural and natural history of Paradise. Topics vary. Meet at flagpole in front of visitor center.	90 min	2:00 pm						2:00 pm
<b>Mount Rainier—An Active Volcano</b> Take a walk through Paradise and investigate the Northwest's iconic volcano with a ranger. Meet at the flagpole in front of visitor center.	75 min	10:30 am	10:30 am	10:30 am	10:30 am	10:30 am	10:30 am	10:30 am
<b>Junior Ranger Program</b> Join a ranger for fun activities around Paradise to earn your Junior Ranger patch! Ages 6 to 11. Parents, please remain with your Junior Rangers.	30-45 min	1:00 pm	1:00 pm	1:00 pm	1:00 pm	1:00 pm	1:00 pm	1:00 pm
<b>One Hundred Years of the Paradise Inn</b> Join a ranger to discover fascinating stories of Paradise and the historic Paradise Inn. Meet in the lobby of the Inn.	30 min	2:30 pm	2:30 pm		2:30 pm	2:30 pm	2:30 pm	2:30 pm
<b>Astronomy Program</b> Observe the heavens from the slopes of Mount Rainier. Meet in front of the Paradise Visitor Center. Check the astronomy hotline for current information (360) 569-6230.	2 hours	9:45 pm 9:30 pm starting July 30				9:45 pm 9:30 pm starting July 30	9:45 pm 9:30 pm starting July 30	9:45 pm 9:30 pm starting July 30
<b>Meadow Meander</b> Join a ranger to explore the ecology, flora, and fauna of the iconic meadows at Paradise. Meet at the flagpole in front of the visitor center.	75 min	2:00 pm	2:00 pm	2:00 pm	2:00 pm	2:00 pm	2:00 pm	2:00 pm
<b>Paradise Inn Evening Program</b> Enjoy an evening with a ranger in the historic lobby of the Paradise Inn. Topics vary. Inquire at either the visitor center or the lobby of the Inn for program descriptions	45 min	8:45 pm 8:30 pm starting July 30	8:45 pm 8:30 pm starting July 30	8:45 pm 8:30 pm starting July 30	8:45 pm 8:30 pm starting July 30	8:45 pm 8:30 pm starting July 30	8:45 pm 8:30 pm starting July 30	8:45 pm 8:30 pm starting July 30
<b>Special Programs</b> Check at bulletin boards, visitor centers, or inns for a schedule.								
Longmire/Cougar Rock Campground	Length	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Junior Ranger Program</b> Join a ranger for fun and educational activities! Ages 6 to 11. Meet at the Cougar Rock Campground Amphitheater.	30-45 min	6:30 pm	6:30 pm	6:30 pm	6:30 pm	6:30 pm	6:30 pm	6:30 pm
<i>Parking at the campground is limited. If you attend the program, but are not camping, park in the Cougar Rock Picnic Area across the park road from the campground.</i>								
<b>Evening Program</b> Join a ranger for a program that involves, inspires, and explores! Topics vary. Meet at the Cougar Rock Campground Amphitheater.	45 min	8:30 pm 8:00 pm starting 8/1	8:30 pm 8:00 pm starting 8/1	8:30 pm 8:00 pm starting 8/1	8:30 pm 8:00 pm starting 8/1	8:30 pm 8:00 pm starting 8/1	8:30 pm 8:00 pm starting 8/1	8:30 pm 8:00 pm starting 8/1
<i>Parking at the campground is limited. If you attend the program, but are not camping, park in the Cougar Rock Picnic Area across the park road from the campground.</i>								
Sunrise/White River Campground	Length	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Junior Ranger Program</b> Children ages 6 to 11 are invited to join a ranger for fun activities about the mountain, glaciers, animals, and more. Meet at the White River Campfire Circle. Parents, please stay with your Junior Rangers.	45 min	10:00 am				10:00 am		10:00 am
<b>Sunrise Afternoon Guided Walks</b> Learn about the natural and cultural history of the Sunrise area on this easy ramble with a ranger. Meet at the Sunrise Visitor Center flagpole. The trail is not wheelchair accessible.	45 min	1:00 & 3:00 pm	1:00 & 3:00 pm	1:00 & 3:00 pm	1:00 & 3:00 pm	1:00 & 3:00 pm	1:00 & 3:00 pm	1:00 & 3:00 pm
<b>Discover Sunrise</b> Join a ranger to explore and discover the resources of this special place. See park bulletin boards and website for details on the experience that changes daily. Meet at the Sunrise Visitor Center flagpole.	1-2 hours	2:00 pm	2:00 pm	2:00 pm	2:00 pm	2:00 pm	2:00 pm	2:00 pm
<b>Evening Program</b> Take an in-depth look at a special topic of Mount Rainier National Park during a traditional campfire talk. Meet at the campfire circle in the White River Campground.	45 min	7:30 pm 7:00 pm starting August 6		7:30 pm 7:00 pm starting August 6				
<b>Check bulletin boards</b> for additional Junior Ranger programs, special programs, and schedule updates.								
Ohanapecosh	Length	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Junior Ranger Program</b> Children ages 6 to 11 are invited to join a ranger for fun activities! Meet at the Ohanapecosh Visitor Center. Parents, please stay with your Junior Rangers.	45 min	10:00 am	10:00 am	10:00 am	10:00 am	10:00 am	10:00 am	10:00 am
<b>Evening Program</b> Join a ranger for a program that involves, inspires, and explores! Topics vary nightly. Meet at the Ohanapecosh Campground Amphitheater.	45 min				8:30 pm 8:00 pm starting August 9			
<b>Junior Scientists</b> Youth aged 9 and older are invited to participate on a scientific investigation with a park ranger. Meet at the Ohanapecosh Visitor Center.	1 1/2 hours							10:00 am
<b>Discover the Grove of the Patriarchs</b> Join a ranger to explore and discover the resources of this special place. See park bulletin boards and website for details on the experience that changes daily. Meet at the Grove of the Patriarchs parking lot.	1-2 hours	2:00 pm	2:00 pm	2:00 pm	2:00 pm	2:00 pm	2:00 pm	2:00 pm
<b>Check bulletin boards</b> for additional Junior Ranger programs, special programs, and schedule updates.								



Steve Redman photo

## Your Visitor Fees at Work

Mount Rainier became the fifth national park in 1899, and was the first to admit vehicles for a fee at the Nisqually Entrance in 1907. Eighty years later, the cost for a one week visit to the park was raised from two dollars to five dollars per vehicle. With changing times and the increased costs of running the park fees are now twenty-five dollars per vehicle.

Your entrance and camping fees benefit the park tremendously. By law, eighty percent of these recreation fees are retained at the park, with twenty percent made available to national park units without fee programs. This funding is used exclusively on projects or services that directly benefit visitors.

Visitor fees are the primary fund source for the electrical and telecommunication utilities being installed in the Nisqually-Paradise Road. Every year, visitor fees are used to support trail, campground, and picnic area repairs and improvements, restore subalpine meadows, upgrade aging interpretive exhibits, improve accessibility, reduce hazards, and provide information through fee rangers, social media, and publications like this one!

By paying entrance and camping fees you help care for the park. Watch for evidence of your fees at work during your visit and thank you for your support of Mount Rainier National Park!

## Experience Mount Rainier as a Volunteer Ranger

As you visit Mount Rainier, keep your eyes open for people wearing hats, shirts, and jackets with a “volunteer” logo. You’ll see volunteers working in the visitor centers and assisting visitors in the meadows. Even more are busy behind the scenes, organizing the park’s collection of historic photos and taking care of plants in our greenhouse.



Last year, almost 2,000 people worked in partnership with the National Park Service to protect the natural and cultural resources of Mount Rainier and serve its visitors. These invaluable partners help us accomplish far more than we could have alone.

Have you ever dreamed of being a park ranger? You still can—for a day, for a summer, or on winter weekends as your schedule permits. Opportunities abound. Ask how you can become part of our team!

[www.nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/volunteer.htm](http://www.nps.gov/mora/getinvolved/volunteer.htm)

### Paradise Trail Rehabilitation

Sections of Nisqually Vista, Dead Horse Creek, and Avalanche Lily trails are undergoing work in preparation for new tread material to be installed in late August or early September. Rehabilitation work is also beginning on the Alta Vista Trail.

*Temporary closures may occur weekdays, with marked detours bypassing closures.*

## Hiking on Late-Season Snow

Last winter’s snowfall was heavier than usual, followed by a cool, wet spring season. Hence, the deep mantle of snow covering the slopes of Mount Rainier will take longer than usual to melt this year. Some hiking trails will remain snow-covered well into the summer. Visitors expecting to hike on dry trails may encounter challenging conditions and other hazards due to lingering patches of snow. Trails that would otherwise be considered easy may be too difficult or unsafe to navigate.

- Choose to turn around instead of crossing steep, snow-covered slopes. A fall could be disastrous. Comet Falls and Pinnacle Peak trails often have hazardous slopes. Take an ice axe if you know how to use it.
- Falling through thin snow bridges is a hazard anywhere streams remain snow-covered. Listen for the muffled sound of running water under the snow.
- Avoid stepping onto snow cornices as they may collapse under your weight.
- Falling into snow moats around trees, and adjacent to logs and rocks, can cause injury. Avoid getting too close.
- You may need a reliable map and compass skills to traverse snow-covered trails, which can be difficult to follow, particularly in backcountry areas. Panhandle Gap, Spray Park, and Seattle Park are frequent problem areas.
- Avoid stepping on wet, slippery rocks, especially near rivers and waterfalls. Common hazard areas are Narada Falls and Silver Falls.
- Beware of avalanches! Unstable snow may slide at any time...not just in winter!
- Before starting your hike, stop by a Wilderness Information Center or visitor center for the latest trail conditions.

## Easy & Moderate Hikes

Area	Trail Name	Trailhead Location	Round-Trip Distance	Comments
Kautz Creek	Kautz Creek Viewpoint	3 miles southwest of Longmire	0.1-mile	Wheelchair-accessible boardwalk and viewpoint
Longmire	Twin Firs	1.9 miles southwest of Longmire	0.4-mile loop trail	Short hike in old growth forest. Limited parking
	Trail of the Shadows	Across from the National Park Inn	0.7-mile loop trail	Good for children & evening strolls; meadow/mtn. views; east half of loop suitable for wheelchairs with assistance
	Carter Falls	2 miles northeast of Longmire	2 miles	Moderate hike, climbs 500' up forested canyon to waterfall
Paradise	Nisqually Vista	Lower Paradise parking lot	1.2-mile loop	Trail work this summer will prohibit hiking the loop in full
	Skyline Trail to Myrtle Falls	Large stairway/ramp near visitor center	1 mile	Suitable for strollers and wheelchairs (with assistance)
Stevens Canyon Road	Bench & Snow Lakes	1.5 miles east of Reflection Lakes	2.5 miles	Watch for bears in the meadows in late summer
	Box Canyon	11 miles east of Paradise	0.5-mile loop	View a deep, narrow canyon and glacially-polished rocks
Ohanapecosh	Grove of the Patriarchs	Near Stevens Canyon entrance	1.2-mile loop	Old growth forest, ancient trees, suspension foot-bridge
	Silver Falls	Ohanapecosh Campground	2.4-mile loop	Old growth forest, waterfall, river
Mather Memorial Parkway/SR 410	Tipsoo Lake	Off SR 410, east of Cayuse Pass	0.5-mile loop	Short trail around the lake, mountain views
Sunrise	Silver Forest/Emmons Vista	South side of parking lot	2 miles	Glacier views at Emmons Vista Overlooks (0.5 mile one-way)

## Water Bottle Filling Stations

Mount Rainier National Park has free potable water available at most of the developed areas in the park. In addition to traditional water fountains, the park worked with its lodging and dining concessions partner, Rainier Guest Services (RGS), to install three water bottle filling stations that make it easier for visitors to fill oversized bottles quickly. RGS offers several types of reusable water bottles for sale at Longmire, Paradise, and Sunrise.

Daniel Keebler photo



## Hazards of the Season

*A beautiful day on the mountain can turn into dangerous whiteout conditions in a matter of minutes. Knowing what to do and making the right decision can be the difference between life and death.*

Winter snowpack may linger late into summer on the mountain. Snow may be found covering portions of trails into August. However, keep in mind that snow is not the only issue when it comes to safe backcountry travel.

### Route-Finding Challenges

Trails may be snow-free at lower elevations but anticipate and prepare for snow at higher elevations. Conditions change rapidly during the day and footprints in the snow quickly disappear. This has left many day hikers disoriented upon their return trip, expecting to simply follow their own tracks back to the snow-free trail. This results in many lost individuals, injuries, and fatalities. When route-finding, note important landmarks. If the trail becomes difficult to follow, stop and find where you are on the map before continuing.

### Be Prepared

If at any point you feel uncomfortable or unprepared, turn around. If you plan on retracing your route back to the trailhead consider using wands on snow-covered trails. Always carry a good map and compass, and actively use them on snow-covered trails. Also consider supplementing your map and compass with an external antenna GPS for best coverage beneath a forest canopy.

Consider the steep snow slopes, melt holes, thinning snow bridges, and other early season hazards that you may encounter, and be honest with yourself in assessing your skills and experience.

### Plan Ahead

- Protect yourself by wearing appropriate outdoor clothing including footwear.
- Be prepared for rapidly changing weather.
- Carry the ten essentials even on a short sightseeing hike.
- Always tell someone of your travel plans so they can notify the park if you fail to return.
- If visibility is poor, do not travel at all.
- Plan your route ahead of time, have a backup plan, and never travel alone.

### Snow Avalanches

The greatest danger is an avalanche that you trigger by skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, or climbing. Be prepared for travel in avalanche terrain. Carry a transceiver, probe, and shovel and know how to use them. Determine if the location you are traveling is avalanche prone. If in doubt, ask questions or don't go. Unstable snow may slide at any time . . . not just in winter! Even small avalanches can be deadly.

### Mountain Weather Changes Rapidly

A pleasant outing can quickly transform into a survival ordeal. Proper gear (adequate boots, ice axe, the ten essentials, etc.) is a must. Navigation in spring storms can be extremely difficult. If you're ascending and clouds or fog start rolling in, turn around and head back to the trailhead. If that's not possible, stop, dig in, and wait for better weather.

## Cross Streams Safely

Many hikers underestimate the power of moving water and some consider their former successful stream crossings as a ticket to the other side. This may not be true. Use these pointers in making wise decisions when crossing streams.

- Early morning when river levels are generally at their lowest is the best time to cross.
- Look for an area with a smooth bottom and slow moving water below knee height.
- Before crossing, scout downstream for log jams, waterfalls and other hazards that could trap you. Locate a point where you can exit if you fall in.
- Use a sturdy stick to maintain two points of contact with the ground at all times.
- Unfasten the belt of your pack so you can easily discard it if necessary.
- Staring down at moving water can make you dizzy. Look forward as much as possible.

## Wilderness Camping

Mount Rainier National Park offers outstanding wilderness hiking and camping opportunities. Wilderness camping permits are required for all overnight stays in the park's backcountry. Permits and backcountry information are available at all wilderness information centers and most visitor centers. Although permits are free, there is an optional, fee-based reservation system for campers and climbers in effect May through September.

Backcountry reservations are \$20 per party (1-12 people) for 1 to 14 consecutive nights. Seventy percent of all backcountry sites and zones are available for reservation. The remaining 30 percent are issued on a first-come, first-served basis the day of or one day before the trip begins. Wilderness permits must be obtained in person at the Longmire Wilderness Information Center, White River Wilderness Information Center, or the Carbon River Ranger Station. See page 8 for hours.

## Climbing

Each year, approximately 10,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier. Nearly half reach the 14,410-foot summit.

Climbing permits are required for travel above 10,000 feet and/or on glaciers. Climbing information—including fees, routes, and conditions—is available at ranger stations and the Paradise Climbing Information Center. See page 8 for locations and hours.

The park has a new procedure for paying annual climbing fees that replaces the traditional climbing pass. Simply pay the fee through pay.gov; keep your receipt and print or save it on your phone to serve as proof of payment; and bring a picture ID.

Guided climbs and climbing seminars are available through:

Alpine Ascents International (206) 378-1927  
International Mountain Guides (360) 569-2609  
Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. (888) 892-5462

## Before you step off the trail...

... consider this: each step into a meadow crushes an average of 20 plants!



*When exploring Mount Rainier's fragile meadows hike only on maintained trails or thick patches of snow.*

## Leave No Trace

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts\*
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of others

\*Fires are for emergency use only; they are not allowed in Mount Rainier's Wilderness.

1. Map and compass
2. Sunglasses, sunscreen, and hat
3. Extra clothing (warm!) and rain gear
4. Flashlight or head lamp (extra batteries)
5. First aid supplies
6. Waterproof matches or lighter
7. Repair kit and tools (for gear)
8. Extra food
9. Extra water
10. Emergency shelter

## Be Wilderness Prepared!

*Remember, 97% of Mount Rainier National Park is federally designated wilderness. Be prepared to experience wilderness on its own terms.*



## Visitor Facility Hours

### Visitor Centers

<b>Longmire Museum</b> (360) 569-6575	<b>July 1 - September 30</b> 9:00 am - 5:00 pm daily	Ranger programs, exhibits, information, books
<b>Paradise Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center</b> (360) 569-6571	<b>July 1 - September 23</b> 10:00 am - 7:00 pm daily  <i>Due to road construction delays the visitor center may open up to 15 minutes late.</i>	Ranger programs, exhibits, information, park film, books, food service, gifts
<b>Ohanapecosh Visitor Center</b> (360) 569-6581	<b>July 1 - September 17</b> 9:00 am - 5:00 pm daily	Ranger programs, exhibits, information, books
<b>Sunrise Visitor Center</b> (360) 663-2425	<b>July 1 - September 24</b> 10:00 am - 6:00 pm daily	Exhibits, information, books

### Wilderness & Climbing Information Centers

<b>Longmire Wilderness Information Center</b> (360) 569-6650	<b>July 1 - October 9</b> 7:30 am - 5:00 pm daily	Wilderness camping & climbing permits, general information
<b>Paradise Climbing Information Center (Guide House)</b> (360) 569-6641	<b>July 1 - September 4</b> 7:00 am - 4:00 pm daily <i>Closed 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm daily</i>	Wilderness camping and climbing permits, exhibits, general information
<b>White River Wilderness Information Center</b> (360) 569-6670	<b>July 1 - October 9</b> 7:30 am - 5:00 pm daily	Wilderness camping and eastside climbing permits, general information
<b>*Carbon River Ranger Station</b> (360) 829-9639	<b>July 1 - September 4</b> 7:30 am - 5:00 pm daily <i>*Located on the Carbon River Road 5.5 miles east of the Mowich Lake (SR165) junction.</i>	Wilderness camping & northside climbing permits, general information (including Ipsut Creek Campground)

### Food & Lodging

For in-park lodging reservations, call Mount Rainier Guest Services at (360) 569-2275 or go to [www.mtrainierguestservices.com](http://www.mtrainierguestservices.com)

<b>National Park Inn at Longmire</b>	<b>Open year-round</b> Front Desk: 7:00 am - 10:00 pm daily Dining Room: 7:00 am - 8:30 pm daily	Lodging, dining room
<b>Longmire General Store</b> Open year-round	<b>July 1 - September 3</b> 9:00 am - 8:00 pm daily	Gifts, snacks, apparel, firewood
<b>Paradise Inn</b>	Front Desk: open 24 hours daily Dining Room: Breakfast 7:00 am - 9:30 am Lunch 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Dinner 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm Sunday Brunch 11:30 am - 2:00 pm Tatoosh Cafe: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm Gift Shop: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm	Lodging, dining, gifts, apparel, ranger on duty, interpretive programs
<b>Paradise Camp Deli and Gift Shop in the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise</b>	<b>July 1 - September 4</b> 10:00 am - 6:45 pm daily	Food, gifts, books, apparel
<b>Sunrise Day Lodge Snack Bar and Gift Shop</b>	<b>July 1 - September 4</b> 10:00 am - 7:00 pm daily	Food and gifts. Day use only, no overnight lodging
<b>Firewood Sales</b>	Available through September 25 at the Longmire General Store, through September 4 at Cougar Rock, Ohanapecosh, and White River campgrounds.	

**Gasoline, lodging, dining, recreation equipment rentals, and other services are available in local communities. A list of these services is available at park visitor centers and on the park's website at [www.nps.gov/mora](http://www.nps.gov/mora).**

**Religious services are available in local communities.**

**GAS IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK**

## Road Work Ahead: Longmire to Paradise



Construction work on the historic Nisqually Road between Longmire and the Paradise area is scheduled to take place through early fall. Most work will occur Monday-Friday, 7:00 am-5:00 pm, but occasional evening or weekend work may be required. There will

be no road work planned for holidays. Park staff will make an effort to keep the public informed of construction activities and changes through the park's website and social media (listed on page 3).

This work continues the third year of a multi-year road construction project addressing outdated utilities and deteriorating road conditions due to abundant precipitation, structural and design deficiencies, large traffic volumes, and normal wear. The project is designed to protect the extraordinary natural and cultural resources within and adjacent to the road corridor, including rare plants and animals, archaeological resources, and the character of the historic roads.

The majority of this year's work will be paving but there may be spots of construction along the road so always use caution and comply with construction warning signs and flaggers. Delays will be limited to no more than 30 minutes one-way through the project. Expect rough road conditions and workers and equipment on or near the road.

Always drive in your lane unless following a pilot car and stay in your vehicle while stopped. Many workers, heavy equipment, and construction vehicles will be on the road.

### How Far Is It?

### One Way Driving Times & Distances

Road	Distance	Time
Longmire to Paradise *	12 miles	25 min
Paradise to Ohanapecosh via Stevens Canyon Rd	23 miles	45 min
Ohanapecosh to White River Entrance	18 miles	30 min
White River Entrance to Sunrise	13 miles	45 min
White River Entrance to Carbon River via Enumclaw	61 miles	2 hrs
Longmire to Carbon River via Eatonville/Orting	80 miles	2.5 hrs
Longmire to Mowich Lake via Eatonville/Orting	89 miles	3 hrs

\* Road construction delays not included.

## Drive-in Campgrounds

Campground	Open Dates	Elev.	Sites	Group Sites	Toilets	Dump Station	Maximum RV/Trailer Length
Cougar Rock*	May 26 - Oct. 9	3,180'	173	5	Flush	Yes	RV 35'/Trailer 27'
Ohanapecosh*	May 19 - Oct. 9	1,914'	188	2	Flush	Yes	RV 32'/Trailer 27'
White River	June 23 - Sept. 25	4,232'	112	0	Flush	No	RV 27'/Trailer 18'
Mowich Lake	Primitive walk-in campground, tents only. 10 sites, 3 group sites (max. group size 12). No fee (must self-register at campground kiosk). Vault toilets, <i>no potable water</i> . No fires allowed. Elevation 4,929'; generally open July through early October, depending on road and weather conditions. Call 360-829-9639 for information.						

**\*Advance reservations are recommended for individual sites at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Campgrounds from June 23 through the night of September 3. These can be made up to six months in advance. Reservations for group sites are recommended and are available throughout the season. These can be made up to one year in advance. To make a reservation online, go to [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call 877-444-6777.**