Olympic National Park
Washington

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center
Project Update

November – December 2026

A new visitor center is proposed for Hurricane Ridge, a popular subalpine destination in Olympic National Park. The facility will provide essential visitor and emergency services, restrooms, information, interpretive exhibits, and concession operations. Indoor and outdoor spaces will support year-round experiences, park programs, stargazing opportunities, and connections to the surrounding landscape.

The facility design will take advantage of scenic views while incorporating energy-efficient systems, durable materials, and accessible features that ensure a welcoming experience for all visitors.

Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center Design



Figure 1. Proposed Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center Rendering Entrance View

Visitor and Staff Safety

The visitor center will support emergency response and park operations while providing an emergency warming refuge, restroom access, and shelter for visitors and staff during extreme weather conditions.

Restroom Facilities

The proposed visitor center is designed to accommodate more than 350,000 visitors annually. The layout allows restroom maintenance to occur efficiently without disrupting visitor services or park operations. As a result, the facility will provide restrooms that are accessible, durable, and easy to clean and maintain.



Figure 2. Winter Snowshoeing at Hurricane Ridge

Concessions

The facility will support visitor services including food, beverage, and merchandise sales, and allow for flexible operations that can adapt to seasonal demands and staffing levels.

Interpretation

The visitor center will serve as a hub for interpretation and education, providing access to both indoor and outdoor exhibits that connect visitors to Hurricane Ridge and Olympic National Park. Interpretive programming will highlight the area's dramatic geological forces, natural resources, and cultural heritage. Interpretive media and programming will integrate resource protection, mountain safety, and seasonal hazard information while supporting self-guided learning, exploration, and stewardship.

Proposed Visitor Center Southern Viewing Area

The proposed visitor center is a one-story design. Most of the spaces are located on a single level, with an accessible open ramp descending to a sunken public viewing area with direct access out to the exterior viewing areas. The building design maintains a low profile at the parking lot elevation, reducing visual prominence and allowing the surrounding meadow, alpine flora and fauna, and sweeping 360-degree views to take precedence.



Figure 3. Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center Southern Viewing Area

Interior and Exterior Layout

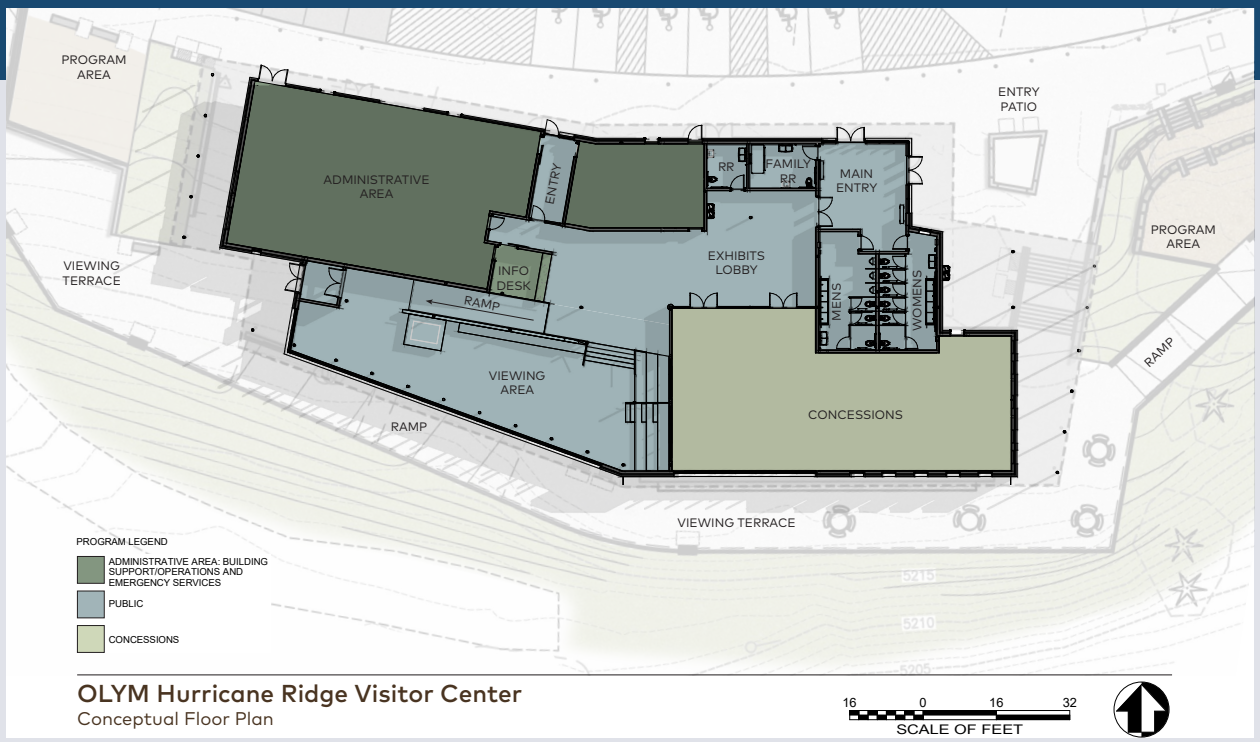

Figure 4. Interior Zones

Interior Zones

The interior of the visitor center will offer emergency access during inclement weather, orientation information, interpretive content, an information desk, a seating terrace, and extensive windows to enjoy the view. The main entry provides access to a restroom and emergency warming refuge.

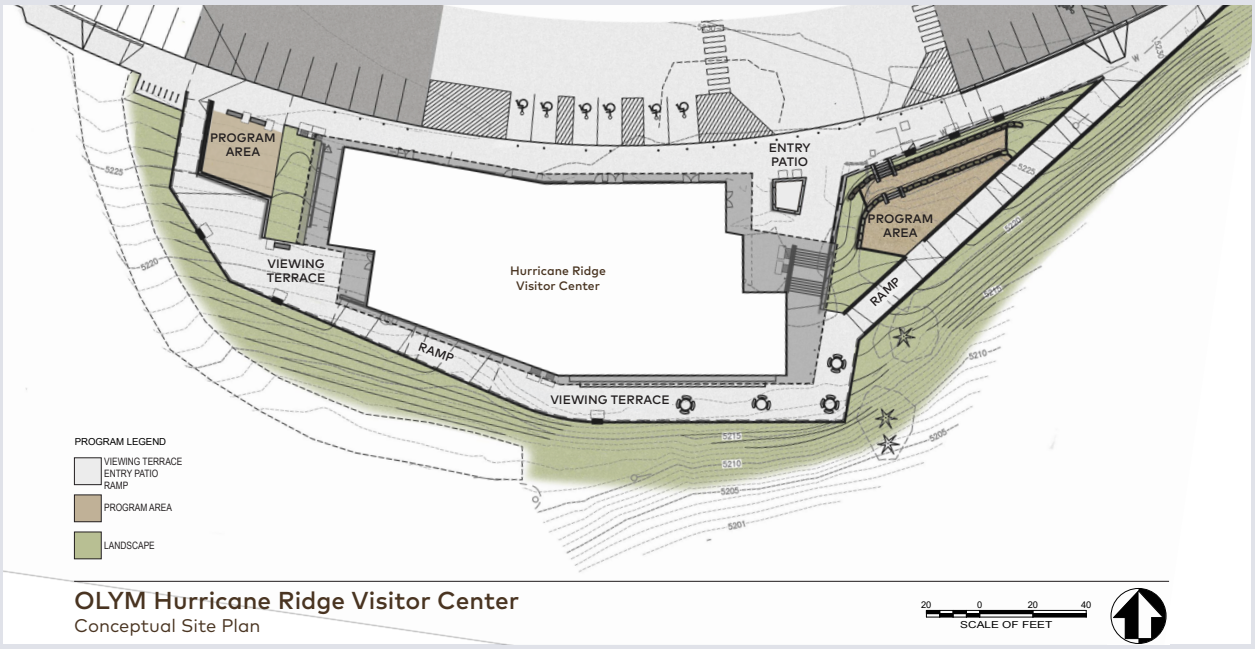

Figure 5. Exterior Zones

Exterior Zones

The exterior of the visitor center will have a covered entry area, several expansive viewing terraces, and designated locations for interpretive programming.



Figure 6. NPS Ranger giving presentation at the Victoria overlook.

Topic questions for the public to consider:

1. What parts of the visitor center experience are important to you?
2. How do you imagine using the interior of the visitor center?
3. What kind of information do you want to see in the interior of the building?
4. How do you imagine using the spaces surrounding the visitor center?
5. What kind of information do you want to see outside of the building?

Previous Public Outreach

In January 2026, Olympic National Park hosted a public listening session to shape the design of the new Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center. Common themes that were important to the public included:

- Scenic Viewing Areas
- Accessibility
- Connection to the Landscape
- Welcoming Atmosphere
- Varied Educational Programming
- Visitor Services
- Access to Recreation
- Natural History Topics
- Cultural Hub
- Sustainable Design

The proposed design approach considers all of the comments received.

Current Public Comment Period

The public comment period for this project is open from **November 16 to December 16, 2026.** Public comments received during this review period will be considered as the project advances into the next phase of design development.

Olympic National Park officials will host a **virtual meeting** to review the project and answer questions on **Tuesday, December 1, 2026 from 5–6 pm PT.** To learn more about the project and provide comments, visit: **https://parkplanning.nps.gov/HurricaneRidgeVisitorCenter**

Written comments (post mark by December 16, 2026) may be mailed to:

Superintendent
Attn: Construct Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center
Olympic National Park
600 East Park Avenue
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Project Milestones	Target Schedule
Public comment and outreach period	November 16 to December 16, 2026
Public comment review	Winter 2027
Design refinement	Winter to Fall 2027
Projected construction start	2028

Visit the web site for updated information

parkplanning.nps.gov/HurricaneRidgeVisitorCenter