



PUBLIC SCOPING

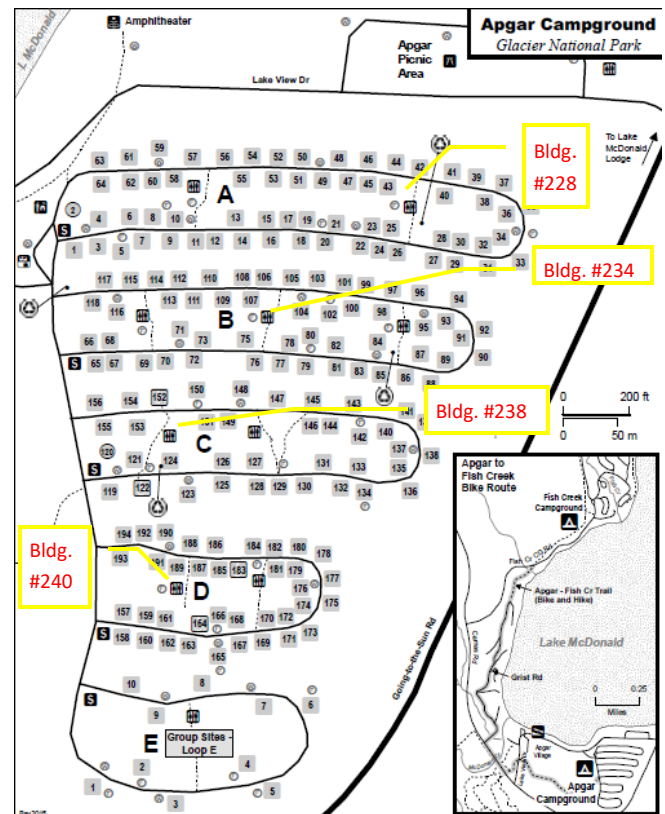
for proposed

Shower and Accessibility Improvements to Historic Comfort Stations at Apgar Campground

Background— Apgar Campground is one of thirteen front-country campgrounds in Glacier National Park that provides more than two-hundred campsites for campers near Apgar Village on the southwest shore of Lake McDonald. The campground was first established in the 1920's to accommodate car campers, and construction of the campground continued intermittently until vehicle loops A and B were completed in 1951. The Park Service's Mission 66 program in the late 1950's later expanded the campground to the five banana-shaped vehicular loops it is today. The campground is frequently at full-capacity, and there has been increased visitor demand for camping during the shoulder seasons in the campground.

To address increasing visitor use, the park is proposing to remove and replace one Comfort Station (currently used for storage) and improve three other Comfort Stations in the Apgar Campground, including adding a shower. Comfort Station #234 (on Loop B) has been out of service for over 20 years and would be replaced with a double vault toilet. Comfort Stations #228, #238, and #234 (on Loops A, C, and D) and their surrounding walkways, would be rehabilitated to provide accessibility for persons with disabilities. Comfort Station #238 (on Loop C) would also receive a shower addition. Making these improvements to four Apgar Campground Comfort Stations would improve handicap-accessible facilities at one of the park's major visitor areas.

The Apgar Campground retains many of the original features of NPS pre-Mission 66 development and later Mission 66 development, making it a well-preserved example of Park Service design and construction during these two periods. These original features include



Apgar Campground Site Map



Comfort Station Bldg. #234 (NPS Photo)

pre-Mission 66 Comfort Stations #228 and #234 and Mission 66 Comfort Stations #238 and #240 that contain National Register qualities, making it eligible for listing on the NRHP. These Comfort Stations are considered distinguished examples of rustic and modern architecture from two different periods of Park Service architectural development.

The Montana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has concurred with the park's determination that removing the Comfort Station would have an adverse effect on Comfort Station Building #234 and its national register qualities. Through consultation the SHPO has provided recommendations for the park to avoid adverse effects. However, the park has not found these to be viable options and is seeking to move forward with removal and replacement. The park would prepare a Memorandum of Agreement with the SHPO to mitigate adverse impacts to cultural resources in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Objectives

- Accommodate increased visitor needs in Apgar Campground during shoulder seasons.
- Meet ABA Accessibility Standards.
- Mitigate adverse effects to cultural resources.

Concerns and Issues

- Adverse effects on Apgar Campground Historic District and a contributing building.
- Increasing visitor use and need for restroom and shower facilities.
- The presence of hazardous materials, including asbestos.



Apgar Campground (NPS Photo)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The National Historic Preservations Act -Section 106

The Montana State Historic Preservation Officer has preliminarily concurred with the park's determination that removing and replacing Building #234 would have an adverse affect on the building's National Register qualities.

The National Environmental Policy Act

Removing the comfort station would have minor adverse impacts to cultural resources since it would not affect the Apgar Campground's eligibility for listing on the NRHP. The park believes the project could be categorically excluded and does not require the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA). Scoping is underway to determine if there is any new information or additional concerns that the park is not aware of which might result in the need for an EA, and so the public can comment on the anticipated determination of adverse effect, from the SHPO, under Section 106 of NHPA.

How to Submit Comments:

Please post your comments online at:

www.parkplanning.nps.gov/ApgarComfortStations

Or send comments to:

Superintendent, Glacier National Park

Attn: Apgar Campground Comfort

Station Removal and Improvements

PO Box 128

West Glacier, MT 59936

Phone: 406-888-7901

Please provide comments by

May 26, 2017