

Photo credit: Crystal Lindsey Kurnath

Nisqually To Paradise Road Corridor Management Plan Spring 2021 Update

What Is the Purpose Of This Plan?

The corridor management plan will consider key issues related to visitor experiences, natural and cultural resource protection, and vehicular crowding and congestion along the historic road from the Nisqually Entrance Station to Paradise. The plan will provide recommendations for supporting high-quality public access to this area of the park while protecting natural and cultural resources and providing decades of positive visitor experiences. For more information about this planning effort, please see the [Summer 2020 Newsletter](https://parkplanning.nps.gov/NisquallyCorridorSummer2020), <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/NisquallyCorridorSummer2020>.

Summer 2020 Civic Engagement Overview

The National Park Service received public input from August 10, 2020, through October 5, 2020. Approximately 1,125 correspondences were received from 24 states and more than 350 counties throughout the United States.

The *Summer 2020 Public Summary Report* is now available online. This report includes a description of summer 2020 engagement strategies, respondents' general locations, and their responses to five questions. You can find this report on the "Document List" tab on the left column on the main project site (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/nisquallycorridor>).

Key Themes from Summer 2020 Engagement

What experiences in the Nisqually Corridor do you find most important?

Accessing recreation; having opportunities for solitude, views, and interpretation; and enjoying natural resources, including wilderness and alpine meadows, and historic buildings and architecture.

What issues most interfere with your desired park experience within the Nisqually to Paradise Corridor?

Crowding at trails and viewpoints; long lines at park entrance stations; damage to alpine meadows; parking lot and roadway congestion; lack of facilities, services and camping opportunities; impacts to other resources from roadside parking and user-created trails; and staff shortages.

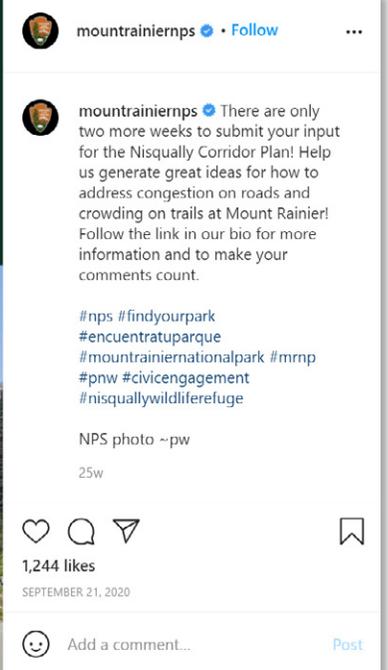
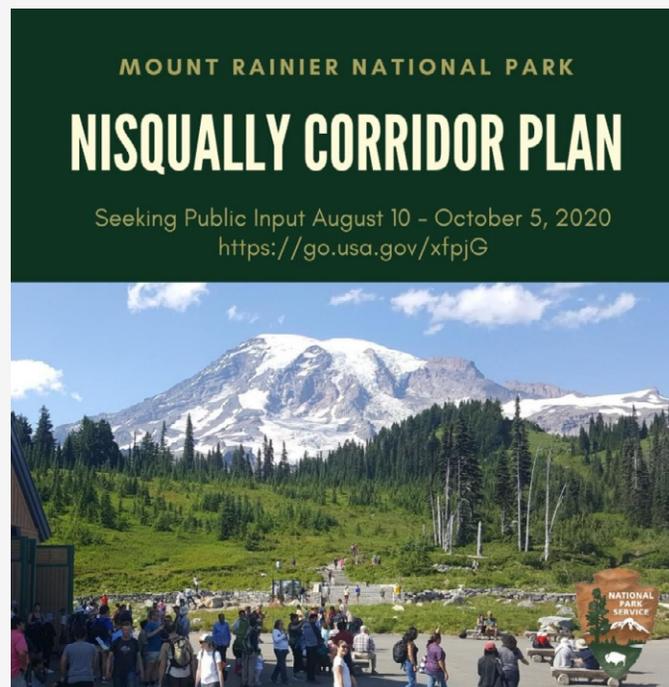
What strategies would you like the planning team to consider, when brainstorming transportation and visitor experience solutions for the Nisqually Corridor?

Implement a shuttle system (either parkwide, along the Nisqually Corridor, or just at Paradise) to improve access to key destinations; employ a timed-entry and/or reservation system to manage access through either the Nisqually Entrance Station or at Paradise; address parking, improve signage, and disperse visitors to less-used areas of the park; improve the entrance station

and related facilities' design and functionality; establish a visitor capacity to protect visitor experience and resources; and improve education and enforcement efforts.

What is the park doing well to manage these issues that you would like to see continue?

Strong communication about park conditions through social media and park websites; knowledgeable park staff supporting visitors in the field; the use of a separate entrance line for Mount Rainier National Park annual pass holders; improvements to facilities, including winter snow removal; and the efficacy of the backcountry permit system.



Planning Process and Timeline

The National Park Service is in the second of a three-phase planning process (see the graphic below).

Phase 1: Summer 2019 – Winter 2020

- Define purpose and need for the project
- Initiate civic engagement

**WE ARE
HERE!**

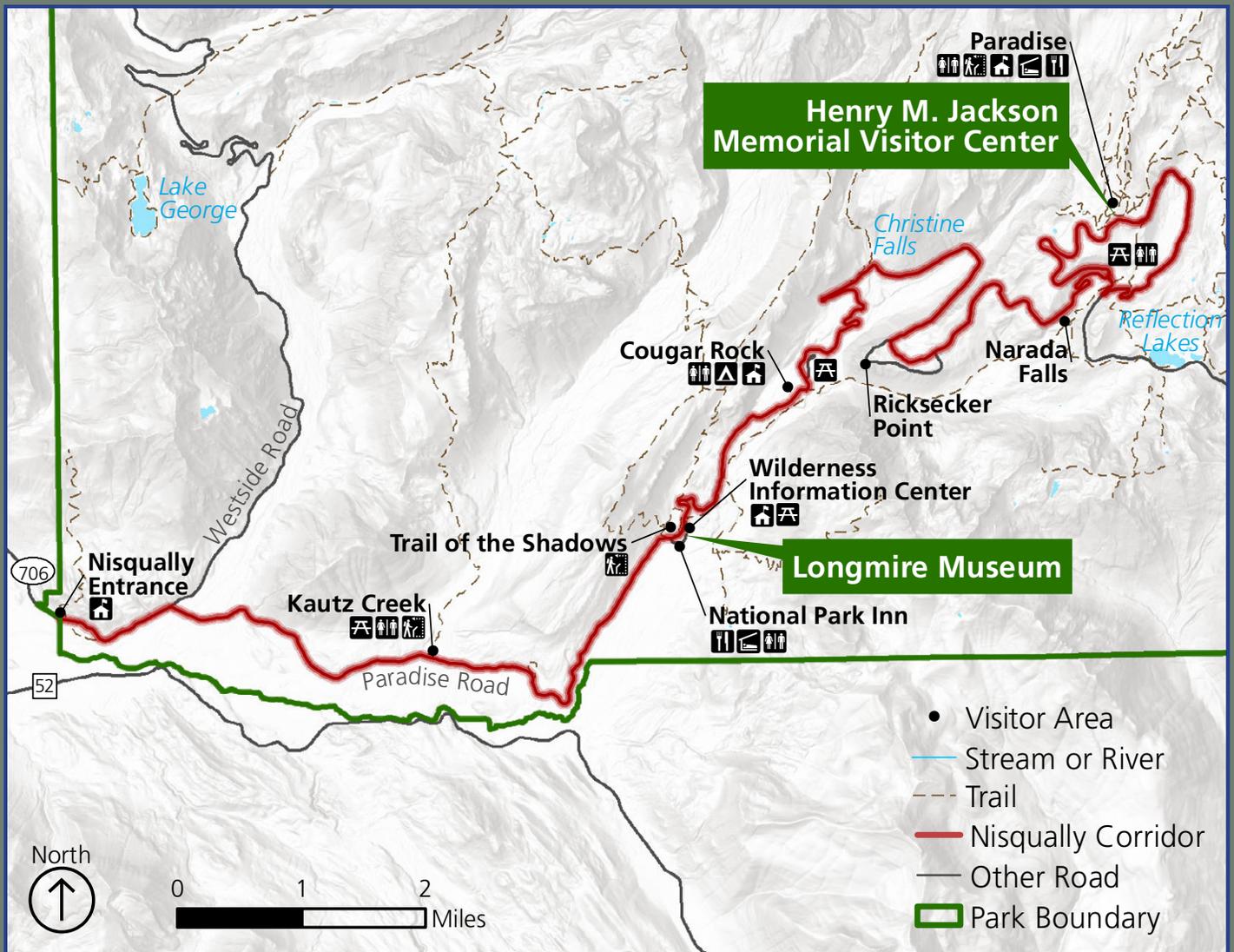
Phase 2: Winter 2020 – Summer 2021

- Explore potential strategies
- Request public input to inform plan development

Phase 3: Fall 2021 – Winter 2021

- Refine strategies and draft plan
- Hold public meetings and civic engagement events
- Finalize plan





HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

We will be seeking public review and comments on the draft strategies for the plan in summer of 2021. Please check the project website site (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/nisquallycorridor>) for project updates. If you would like the National Park Service to notify you when the next public comment period opens, please provide your email address on [this form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=urWTBhhLe02TQfMvQA%20pUIAGt1hYqYtJKiQP2gUwXI9RUM0tQR0c0TINGU0pURFgxNTBYWINCUIUc0TC4u), <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=urWTBhhLe02TQfMvQA%20pUIAGt1hYqYtJKiQP2gUwXI9RUM0tQR0c0TINGU0pURFgxNTBYWINCUIUc0TC4u>.



NEED TO GET CAUGHT UP?

All materials are available on the project website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/nisquallycorridor>), including links to the Summer 2020 Newsletter, <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/NisquallyCorridorSummer2020> and [public meeting recording](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMYcy-oqcck), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMYcy-oqcck>.