



Nisqually River Water Trail

Nisqually Delta & Nearby Puget Sound Destinations



Description: This portion of the Nisqually River Water Trail features the mouth of the river as it spills into Puget Sound. Paddlers can explore the sights of the Billy Frank Jr. Wildlife Refuge; paddle beside restored marsh habitat on McAllister Creek; experience scenic island parks with hiking and picnicking at Jacob's Point or Andy's Marine Park on Anderson Island; and enjoy fishing, forests, and firepits on the beach of Tolmie State Park. Wildlife such as eagles, salmon, coyotes and playful seals can be spotted at these destinations! On a clear day, paddlers are treated to breathtaking views of the Olympic Mountains and Mount Rainier. It is recommended to put in your watercraft at Luhr Launch, which is accessible for vehicles, offers a restroom and parking, and is adjacent to the Nisqually Reach Nature Center.

Proceed with caution: getting stuck in the mudflats and pilings around McAllister Creek and the mouth of the Nisqually River can be treacherous and potentially fatal. A watercraft suited for ocean water is highly recommended.

The **Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge** is a pristine and important habitat for wildlife, and also offers opportunities for wildlife viewing, photography, environmental education, hunting and fishing. Boaters can enjoy the refuge from their watercraft. Some areas are considered sanctuary spaces for wildlife and have restricted access. Be sure to read all signage when paddling near the refuge. **To learn more about available opportunities,** visit: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Billy_Frank_Jr_Nisqually.

Safety Information:



This reach contains hazards including **mudflats, pilings, wood, open water and unpredictable debris.** Be aware of your surroundings on the water.



Always wear a life jacket and helmet and **bring all proper gear** for weather conditions. Always bring a first aid kit for emergencies.



Check flow, tidal and wind conditions. Seasonal rapids, currents and mudflats appear depending on water conditions.



The river and Puget Sound are very cold. If exposed to the water, **hypothermia** can set in within minutes. Keep extra clothing on hand to ensure that in the case of capsizing that you can get warm quickly.

Risk Disclaimer: Puget Sound and the Nisqually River are dynamic; tidal and river conditions and hazards can change at any time. Use at your own risk. Navigating the water can be technical and under many conditions may be dangerous to float and may involve the risk of property damage, serious injury, and possible death. It is your personal responsibility to be prepared with the right equipment and training and to not paddle above your technical ability level, use common sense, and obey all rules.

Tide Charts for the Nisqually Delta: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Billy_Frank_Jr_Nisqually/visit/plan_your_visit/tide_charts.html

To obtain a Discover Pass, visit: <http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov/>



Photo credit: Morgan Greene, Nisqually River Council



Photo credit: Steph Stroud, National Park Service



Photo credit: Chuck Hinds, Anderson Island Park and Rec.

◀ **Luhr's Landing & Nisqually Reach Nature Center**
4949 D'Milluhr Dr. NE
Olympia WA 98516-2311

Handicap-Accessible
Discover Pass Required

Operated by WDFW
Ph: (360) 249-4628



Photo credit: John Larsen

Jacob's Point
andersonisland.org/jacobspoint.html

Andy's Marine Park: Camping available through Washington Water Trails Association. Email: wwta@wwta.org
andersonislandparks.org/Andy_s_Marine_Park.html



Photo credit: Morgan Greene, Nisqually River Council

◀ **Anderson Island**
Park Commissioner:
Chuck Hinds
Ph: (253) 884-6911
chinds@centurytel.net

Two island parks with beach access, restrooms, and hiking. Camping for WWTA members.

◀ **McAllister Creek**
Paddlers can head south from Luhr's Landing boat launch to McAllister creek and experience serene, shallow water. Beware of mudflats here as you take in the sights of a marsh environment that was once the former site of a dike, protecting acres of dairy land. Here you will see trees that once grew in a grassy field covered in barnacles, a wide variety of birds on their migrations, and charismatic seals jumping in and out of the water. The creek sits beside the historic site of the medicine treaty tree and Billy Frank Jr Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.

◀ The Mouth of the Nisqually River

Traveling from Luhr's Landing to the mouth of the Nisqually, paddlers will pass the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, and may be able to glimpse Mt. Rainier, where the river begins. Paddling up the Nisqually provides a unique opportunity to see where the river ends its journey from the Nisqually Glacier into the tides of Puget Sound. Paddlers will be treated to an array of wildlife viewing opportunities. Watch out for mudflats and pilings as you paddle up the river.

River flow depends on seasonal rainfall, so be sure to **check the American White Water website for flow information before embarking on your trip:** <https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/state-summary/state/WA>

◀ **Tolmie State Park**
7730 61st Ave. N.E.
Olympia, WA 98506

Discover Pass Required
Ph: (360) 456-6464

Summer Hours:
8 a.m. - dusk
Winter Hours:
Wednesday - Sunday
9 a.m. - dusk

Nisqually River Water Trail: Nisqually Delta & Nearby Puget Sound Destinations

LEGEND:

-  public water trail access
-  hiking trails
-  public restrooms
-  public parking
-  picnic facilities
-  public boat launch
-  ADA accessible
-  camping
-  river mile

This reach offers several connections to the **Cascadia Marine Trail**, a water trail which stretches from Puget Sound in Olympia north along miles of beautiful coastline to British Columbia: wwta.org/home/water-trails/cascadia-marine-trail

