



ASLA

Idaho-Montana Chapter - American Society of Landscape Architects
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Landscape Architecture Day in Glacier National Park

Every summer thousands of visitors flock to Glacier National Park to enjoy the awesome views and spectacular scenery seen from the Going-to-the-Sun Road that traverses the park. Those visitors are traveling on a road that was conceived by a **landscape architect**. On **August 14th** Glacier National Park and the Idaho-Montana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects will celebrate "Landscape Architecture Day" in the Park in recognition of the contribution made by National Park Service landscape architects towards the planning, design and construction of this now famous route.

In August 1924 a meeting near the top of Logan Pass set into motion a series of events that led to the construction of this trans-mountain road across the Continental Divide. In that meeting, veteran civil engineer George Goodwin laid out his proposal to build a road that climbed up Logan Creek to the summit in series of 15 switchbacks. Thomas Vint, a young landscape architect, new to the National Park Service, bravely stepped forward and told NPS Director Stephen Mather that Goodwin's route would "look like miners had been there." Instead he proposed a longer route that rose along the face of the Garden Wall to Logan Pass with one switchback. Without responding Mather stormed off the mountain on his horse, only later to consult with others to arrive at the decision to proceed with Vint's recommendation - the alignment we enjoy today.

As result of that historic 1924 meeting, the National Park Service and the Bureau of Public Roads (predecessor to today's Federal Highway Administration) forged an intra-agency agreement for all future national park and other scenic federal roads that still stands today.

Some 86 years later, that mountainside meeting will be commemorated with the celebration of "**Landscape Architecture Day**" on August 14th in the Park. The public event will begin with a brief ceremony at 10:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the Lake McDonald Lodge for presentation of a certificate designating the **Going-to-the-Sun Road** as a **Historic Landscape Architecture Landmark**. The presentation will be made to members of the Vint family and the Park staff by the Jon Mueller, FASLA, President-Elect of ASLA, and Jon Breckon, ASLA Chapter President. Bob Vint, grandson of Tom Vint, will speak about the legacy of his grandfather on the planning and design of roads and other facilities in all national parks. Jack Gordon, Park landscape architect and project manager for the current Road rehabilitation project, will discuss the current progress of that project. Other speakers will describe the events surrounding the decision to build the current route, the significance of the famous road, and its impact on road and parkway design around the nation.

At the ceremony's conclusion, participants and guests will board red jammer buses and travel to The Loop for a viewing of the new interpretive display describing Vint's role in the road's design. Each bus will have a local expert on board to interpret both the sights along the route and progress of the road reconstruction project currently underway. The buses will then continue to Logan Pass for a stop and return to Lake McDonald Lodge at about 2:00 p.m. for an open house gathering with refreshments. During and after the event, visitors will be able to view historic photos of the Road project and displays of similar work still being undertaken by various landscape architecture offices from around the Northwest. Also, autographed copies of the book "Going-to-the-Sun Road - Glacier National Park's Highway to the Sky," by Carol Guthrie, author of several books about the park will be available for purchase at the Lodge gift shop during the event.

A few seats on the red jammer buses may still be available. For more information on the event visit the Chapter's web site: <http://imasla.org/>, or contact Kent Watson, Idaho-Montana Chapter coordinator at Kentwla@blackfoot.net or (406) 240-0274.

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