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## **Arch Rock Plaza to be Closed Beginning September 11 Through April 2024 for Construction of Milliken Nature Center**

MACKINAW CITY, MICH. — The upper viewing area of Arch Rock, known as the Arch Rock Plaza, will be closed starting Monday, September 11, as construction of the \$7.5 million Milliken Nature Center begins at the area. The area will remain closed through at least April of 2024.

The Arch Rock Plaza will be closed to all traffic – including carriages, bicycles, and pedestrians. Guests will be able to view Arch Rock from M-185, the shoreline road that circles Mackinac Island, and walk the stairway known as Spring Trail to the Arch Rock viewing platform.

“The Milliken Nature Center will be a welcome and fitting addition to the Arch Rock area,” said Mackinac State Historic Parks Director Steve Brisson. “In order for this structure to be ready for guests during the 2024 season construction must start soon. While we empathize with guests who may not be able to fully visit Arch Rock this fall, we are confident future guests will appreciate and enjoy the new Milliken Nature Center.”

The plaza will be closed at the intersection of Rifle Range Road and Leslie Avenue and again at the intersection of Arch Rock Road and Huron Road. The Arch Rock Bicycle Trail and Botanical Trail will dead end before the hill leading to Arch Rock.

During this time Mackinac Island Carriage Tours, private livery tours, drive-yourself carriages, and saddle horses will have alternate routes that avoid Arch Rock. Contact [Jack's Livery Stable](#) or [Mackinac Island Carriage Tours](#) for more information.

Guests on bicycle or walking will still be able to make a loop near the Arch Rock area by backtracking to Winnebago Trail, which runs from Huron Road to Rifle Range Road. It crosses Pottawatomie Road, Arch Rock Road, the Arch Rock Bicycle Trail, Rock Trail, and ends at the intersection of Rifle Range and Sugar Loaf Roads.

In addition to the work at the Arch Rock Plaza, occasional truck traffic from British Landing – on State, Garrison, and Rifle Range Roads – will happen. Guests are encouraged to stay to the right side of the road and slow down to allow trucks to pass. Trucks will also occasionally head down British Landing Road to the Waste Management Facility, located across from Wawashkamo Golf Club.

During construction a new drain field will be added to the Arch Rock area, and the out-of-date restroom structure will be demolished. The Milliken Nature Center, named for Michigan Governor William Milliken, will include modern restrooms, a nature center, and space for guests at Arch Rock to relax. [Mackinac Associates](#), friends preserving and sharing Mackinac's heritage, helped contribute to this project.

The Milliken Nature Center is slated to open in May, 2024. Official groundbreaking on the site, which will include Governor Gretchen Whitmer, will take place September 1.

A downloadable version of this release can be found here. More information can be found at [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com).

*Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, the Biddle House, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Historic Downtown Mackinac, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks' rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future*

*generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or on the web at [www.mackinacparks.com](http://www.mackinacparks.com).*

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