

# Goldmyer Hot Springs – Information

## Northwest Wilderness Programs

Online | [www.Goldmyer.org](http://www.Goldmyer.org)

Phone | 206.789.5631

Office Hours | Monday - Friday. 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Access Report | Updated on our website at least every Wednesday evening

- Please distribute this form to **ALL** members of your group.
- Access is only permitted by **RESERVATION**. Walk-ins will be turned away.
- Due to **COVID-19**, we may have restrictions on operating times and group sizes.
- We recommend all visitors are vaccinated against **COVID-19** for the safety of our caretakers, visitors, and the community. You may be sharing the pools with people outside of your reservation group and it is not practical to social distance in that area.

### ABOUT

Goldmyer is a minimally developed wilderness area owned by Northwest Wilderness Programs, a Washington State non-profit organization. Our stewardship policies established in 1976 enable us to preserve the hot spring and surrounding private property for future generations. We ask for your help simply by being willing to follow our common sense minimum impact use rules.

Goldmyer offers visitors access to old growth forest, a crystal clear natural geothermal hot spring, beautiful waterfalls, three stocked outhouses, two shared picnic tables, and a bike rack.

### NOTES

- **Day use fees** are per person, per day, by age: adult (18-64) \$20, senior (65+) \$15, children (0-17) Free (a parent or legal guardian is required).
- **Camping** is an additional \$10 per adult or senior, per night. You may camp multiple nights, but there is no camping on Mondays due to our cleaning schedule.
- Wednesday-Mondays are mixed use days. You will be sharing the pools with other visitors outside of your group.
- Tuesdays are private access days with 3 exclusive use time slots (9:00am-1:00pm, 1:00pm-5:00pm, and 5:00pm-9:00pm). Each time slot is \$160. Camping is only available with the 5:00pm-9:00pm time slot. There is an additional \$10 fee per adult or senior.
- **Access is limited to 20 people per day to avoid over use.**
- **Group size is limited to 8 people maximum on any day or time slot.**
- **There is no safe drinking water. Bring your own water, and/or a filter for river water.**
- **Campfires are not allowed.** For cooking, bring a back-packing stove (propane or white gas).
- **Follow proper food handling practices.** Visitors may be supplied with a bucket with a screw-on lid. Even small foragers can chew through packs if they contain food.
- **Goldmyer is a clothing optional hot spring.** You will be sharing the pools with other visitors, some of whom may choose to be naked. If you prefer to wear a swimsuit you may, but you cannot require other people to.

## CHECK IN/OUT TIMES

- Wednesday - Monday: All visitors must arrive and check in with caretakers during 9:00am - 9:00pm. Check out is promptly by 9:00pm (the same day) for day visitors, and noon (on the day of departure) for overnight campers.
- Tuesday: you must check in during your allotted time slot of 9:00am-1:00pm, 1:00pm-5:00pm, or 5:00pm-9:00pm. You may not have access to multiple time slots. Check out time is promptly at the end of your time slot. If you arrive late, your check out time will still be the same. (\*If you are camping at Goldmyer on a Tuesday, it is only available with the evening time slot. Your check in time will be 5:00pm-9:00pm and your check out will be by noon the next day).
- **If arriving before 9:00am, after 9:00 pm, or for the wrong time slot**, you may NOT check in or use the springs. Please go off property and return during check in times.
- Goldmyer limits the number of visitors per day to preserve the wilderness environment. Even if you have a reservation, we may be at capacity and additional walk-ins or people without reservations will be turned away. Sorry, no exceptions.

## GOLDMYER PRIVATE PROPERTY RULES

Goldmyer is a wilderness retreat. Please show respect to other visitors, the environment, and help maintain a safe and peaceful atmosphere. Please follow these rules to ensure the safety and enjoyment for all visitors to Goldmyer. Groups or individuals who do not follow these rules may be asked to leave.

- **Leave No Trace / Pack It In, Pack It Out**. No garbage collection is available, please clean up after yourself. Stay on trails and within designated campsites. Don't feed wildlife and pack out all food waste. Please only eat at the trailside picnic tables and campsites. Pack out any sanitary products or diapers and do not leave them in the outhouses.
- **Absolutely NO alcohol is allowed at the hot spring area**. No loud, drunken, or unruly behavior will be tolerated. Alcohol is allowed in moderation at your designated campsite, but anyone appearing to be intoxicated may be asked to leave the pool area or the property.
- **NO smoking of any sort**. Please smoke off property and leave-no-trace.
- **NO glass** (bottles, jars, etc), **NO drugs**, **NO weapons** (basic camping tools/knives are okay).
- **NO dogs or other pets**. We may make exceptions for service animals, but they must be pre-approved through the office.
- **NO wood or charcoal fires anywhere on property**. You may only cook using propane or gas backpacking stoves at picnic tables or your campsite.
- **NO open flames, cooking, or eating in the cabana changing area at the springs**.
- **Please prevent candle drips in and around the springs**. Wax is messy, hard to clean, and blocks the drains. Bring alternative light sources or ask the caretakers for assistance.
- **Please do not use speakers or canned music**. Goldmyer is a place to enjoy the sounds of nature or non-electric music (consider your neighbors and wildlife).
- **NO soap, scrubs, or other products at the hot springs**.
- **Don't take photos or videos at the springs without the consent of all present**. Goldmyer is a clothing optional hot spring so please respect people's privacy. Photos are never allowed for commercial use (news media, advertising, publication or web content, etc.).
- **Use the outhouses not the woods**. Mountain goats are attracted to human urine. Pee concentrated near campsites will invite them to the area and is a public health hazard.
- **Quiet Hours are 10:00pm - 8:00am**. Please be courteous of noise levels at your campsite, when passing the caretaker's cabin, or using the outhouses late at night.

## RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

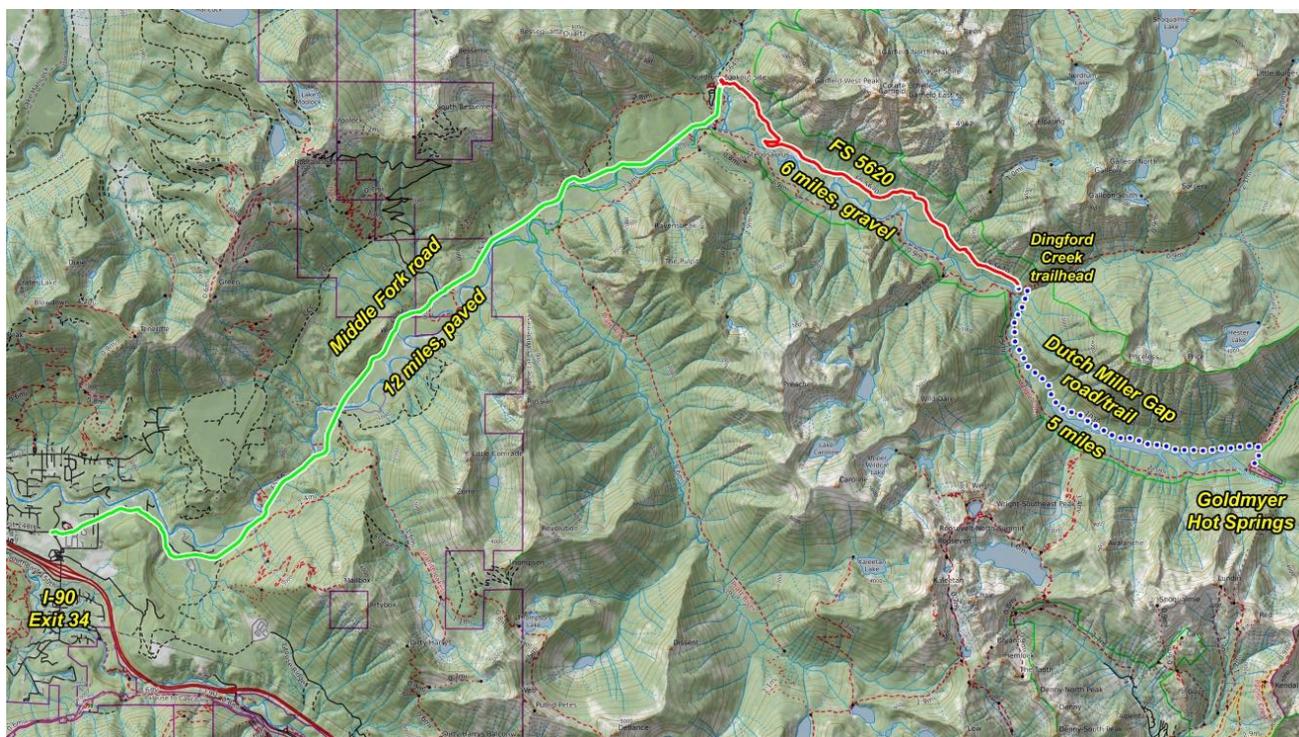
Refer to the “Ten Essentials of Mountaineering” and prepare appropriately for the season.

- Hiking shoes or boots (waterproof recommended)
- Rain gear
- Warm layered clothing
- Filled water bottles
- Water filter (for creek near campsites, no potable water provided)
- Flashlight (even if not camping)
- Towel
- Food (even if not camping)
- Camp stove and utensils (if camping)
- Seasonal camping equipment (tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad)
- Bathing suit (optional)
- First Aid Kit (in your day bag)
- Emergency equipment in your vehicle
- Directions (last page)

## WEATHER/ROAD CONDITIONS

Check the weather and [Goldmyer Access Report](#) leading up to your reservation!

Goldmyer is open year round rain, shine, or snow. Seasonal weather should be expected. Mountain weather is very different from urban areas and the weather can change quickly in the Middle Fork (MF) Valley, so come prepared! Weather varies in the MF Valley from October-May; from occasional “dry” days, to heavy rain, flooding, or unexpected snow. Goldmyer is at approximately 2,000 ft elevation, but can have similar conditions to Snoqualmie Pass. The MF road is maintained by King County and/or the Forest Service. The first 12 miles is a two-lane paved road, followed by 6 miles of one-lane pothole dirt road with turnouts for passing oncoming traffic. The dirt road may be used by high clearance SUV’s and pickup trucks, but is not suitable for passenger cars. You may find rocks, downed trees, road washouts, and brush encroaching on any of the roadway. High clearance vehicles are necessary all year and 4WD vehicles are necessary in the winter. Starting in November you may need snow chains for your vehicle or snowshoes or skis for hiking in. We recommend having a shovel, bow saw or axe, flashlights, extra food, warm gear, and other emergency equipment in your vehicle. Even high clearance 4WD vehicles with chains can be stopped by snow before reaching the trailhead. If it is snowing on your way in, conditions may make the road impassible on your way out! Travel smart!



# Goldmyer Hot Springs – Directions

Northwest Forest Pass required to park at the trailhead: [www.discovernw.org/recreation-passes.html](http://www.discovernw.org/recreation-passes.html)

**TRAVEL TIME** | *Plan for a minimum of 4 hours travel time each way from the Seattle/Tacoma area.*

*Check in is **after** the drive and hike on our private property and hiking time should be factored in.*

- **Driving:** Seattle to 1-90 Exit 34 - Roughly 45 minutes (without interruption)
- **Driving:** 1-90 Exit 34 to Dingford Trailhead - Roughly 1-2 hours (depending on the season)
- **Hiking:** Dingford Trailhead to Goldmyer - 1.5 to 3 hours (depending on conditioning and pack weight)
- **Biking:** Dingford Trailhead to Goldmyer - 45-90 minutes (depending on conditioning and pack weight)

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS** | *You may use GPS to get to Exit 34, but will need these printed directions beyond.*

- From 1-90, use Exit 34 (468th Ave SE).
- At the end of the freeway exit turn north (left if driving east from Seattle, right if driving west).
- Drive past the truck stop. Shortly after the truck stop, turn right onto Middle Fork Road.
- Go either way at the fork in the road on the way in, they will re-connect.
- About 9 miles later, just after the Middle Fork Campground, you will reach the end of the pavement, and drive across a single lane concrete bridge with big ruts.
- **Immediately after this bridge**, before the Taylor River Restroom, take the first right, you'll turn sharply uphill towards the Dingford Trailhead. This hill can be difficult for low clearance vehicles and rear wheel drive trucks with no weight in the back; numerous areas that have pot holes up to 6 inches deep. *\*If there is snow or ice, it is impossible to drive this section without snow chains.*
- Drive for about 6 miles (this portion may take 45 minutes or more depending on the season).
- At the end of the road it will open up into a parking area with a gate at the far side. This is the Dingford Trailhead. Park in a designated spot and please do not block the gate.
- Follow the hiking directions below...

**RECCOMENDED HIKING ROUTE** | *North side of river along the old roadbed (4.5 miles)*

The old Forest Service roadbed is open to foot traffic and bicycles every day. No motorized vehicles are allowed for visitors (including motorcycles, dirt bikes, four-wheelers, snow mobiles, or ATVs).

- Walk (or mountain bike, snowshoe, etc.) **through the big metal gate at the far end of the parking lot.** Shortly after the gate you will cross a bridge over Dingford Creek Falls. Follow the road for roughly 4.5 miles.
- At the end of a long gradual hill, the old roadbed widens into an open area roughly 25' in diameter (large enough to fit two or three Semi-trucks with trailers).
- There will be a fork in the road and a sign high in the tree for Goldmyer. Follow the fork to the right heading downhill. A very short distance later, you will cross the Middle Fork River on a footbridge.
- Once across the bridge, immediately turn right onto the Middle Fork trail.
- A very short distance later turn left at the intersection. 1/4 mile later you will arrive at the Caretaker's Cabin (you will see a green welcome sign prior to reaching the cabin).
- Please ring the bell on the welcome sign and **check in** with the caretakers upon arrival. Also ring bell to check out.

*There are several ways to reach Goldmyer on more primitive trails or climbing over peaks, but they are longer and much more challenging. If you are an advanced hiker, you may research them yourself but Goldmyer cannot provide directions. The Middle Fork Trail has landslide damage and requires multiple un-bridged river crossings.*

**GPS COORDINATES** | N 47.48540 W 121.3894 (Please stay on trails to minimize environmental impact).