

# 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.**
- **Due to concerns about COVID-19, we have restrictions on operating times and group sizes.**
- **Walk-ins without a reservation will be turned away if full.**

### 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 geothermic hot spring, beautiful waterfalls, two stocked outhouses, two shared picnic tables, and a bike rack. Please be aware that Goldmyer is a clothing optional hot springs.

### NOTES

- Prices are per person, per day, by age: (0-17) Free, (18-64) \$20, (65+) \$15.
- Camping *may* be available for an additional \$50 fee, depending on current COVID-19 restrictions.
- **Access is limited to 10 people per day** (two groups of 5) to avoid over use and crowded conditions.
- **There are two available times to visit per day: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm OR 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm.**
- **Group size is limited to 5 people max from the same household, one group per time slot.**
- **There is NO access to the cave during COVID restrictions.**
- **No safe drinking water is available.** Bring your own water, and/or a back-packing filter for river water.
- **Campfires are not allowed.** For cooking, bring a back-packing stove (propane or white gas type).
- **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. **Don't feed wildlife and pack out all food waste.**
- **Do not eat food in the hot spring area to reduce rodent problems.** Please use the trailside picnic tables.
- **Goldmyer is usually a clothing optional hot spring.** No-nudity times at the hot spring should be arranged ahead of time through our office.
- You will need a **Northwest Forest Pass** for parking at the trailhead. Visit the website below for more info [www.discovernw.org/recreation-passes.html](http://www.discovernw.org/recreation-passes.html)

### CHECK IN TIMES

- All visitors must arrive and check in with caretakers during our allotted time slots 10:00 am - 2:00 pm or 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm. You may not have access to both times and must prearrange your time with the office.
- Check out time is promptly at 2:00 pm or 8:00 pm depending on your allotted time slot. If you are late to arrive, your check out time will still be the same. (\*If you are camping at Goldmyer, your check out time *may* be different, please refer to your confirmation email and ask the caretakers).
- If arriving before 10:00 am, after 8:00 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. If Goldmyer is full, walk-ins without reservations **will be turned away**. Sorry, no exceptions.

## GOLDMYER PRIVATE PROPERTY RULES

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 camp sites.
- **Absolutely NO alcohol is allowed at the hot spring area.** No loud, drunken, or unruly behavior will be tolerated.
- **NO smoking** of any sort. Goldmyer is a smoke free property. Please smoke off property and leave-no-trace.
- **NO glass, NO drugs, NO dogs** or other pets, **NO weapons.**
- **NO soap** or products at the hot springs.
- **NO wood or charcoal fires anywhere on property.** You may only cook using propane or gas backpacking stoves at picnic tables. NO cooking in the cabana at the springs.
- **Quiet Hours** are 10:00 pm - 8:00 am.

## 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 bottle(s)
- Backpacking water filter (for creek near campsites, no potable water provided)
- Flashlight (even if not camping)
- First Aid Kit
- Towel
- Bathing suit (optional)
- Food (even if not camping)
- Camp stove and utensils (if camping)
- Seasonal camping equipment (tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad)
- Directions (next page)

## WEATHER/ROAD CONDITIONS

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

Goldmyer is open year round rain, shine, or snow. Normal seasonal weather should be expected. The weather can change quickly in the Middle Fork Valley, please come prepared! National forest roads are typically one-lane dirt roads with turnouts for passing oncoming traffic. They may be used by high clearance SUV's and pickup trucks, but are not suitable for passenger cars. You may find rocks, downed trees, road washouts, and brush encroaching on the roadway. High clearance vehicles are necessary all year and 4WD vehicles are necessary in the winter. Weather varies from about October to March; from occasional "dry" days, to heavy rain, flooding, or unexpected snow. Starting in mid-November you may need snow chains. 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 be aware that conditions may make the road impassible on your way out!

## CANCELLATION POLICY

*If you need to cancel some or all of your reservation, please be courteous and let the office know as soon as possible so your reservation can be opened up to other visitors. You may reschedule your reservation no more than one time. Any changes to your reservation require a minimum of one week notice. Cancelling for credit doesn't give you any priority in the lottery system.*

For cancellations received **less than 7 days** before your reservation...

- your reservation will be donated to the continued stewardship of Goldmyer Hot Springs

For cancellations received **less than 14 days** before your reservation, but at least **7 days** prior to your reservation...

- we can issue a credit for use within one year of the original reservation date

For cancellations received **14 days or more** before your reservation...

- we can issue a credit for use within one year
- or, issue a refund minus a \$10 transaction fee or 25% whichever is greater

## TRAVEL TIME

Plan for a minimum of 4 hours travel time each way (check in is *after* the hike on our private property).

- **Driving I** Seattle to 1-90 Exit 34 - Roughly 45 minutes (without interruption)
- **Driving I** 1-90 Exit 34 to Dingford Trailhead - Roughly 1-2 hours (without interruption)
- **Hiking I** Dingford Trailhead to Goldmyer - 2 to 3 hours (depending on conditioning and pack weight)
- **Biking I** Dingford Trailhead to Goldmyer - 45-60 minutes (depending on conditioning and pack weight)

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

- 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.
- Stay right at the fork, it is one way and will re-connect (upper road going in, lower road going out).
- About 9 miles later, after the Middle Fork Campground, you will reach the end of the pavement, and drive across a single lane concrete bridge.
- Shortly after this bridge 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).
- About 6 miles later the road will open up into a parking area with a gate at the far side. This is the Dingford Trailhead and the end of the road (see Hiking Route #1 or #2). Please do not block the gate.

## HIKING ROUTE #1 | *North side of river along the old roadbed (4.5 miles)*

### **\*RECOMMENDED ROUTE**

*The old 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 obviously 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. Follow the fork to the right heading downhill. A short distance later, you will cross the Middle Fork River on a footbridge.
- Once across the bridge, turn right onto the trail.
- A short distance later turn left at the intersection. 1/4 mile later you will arrive at the Caretaker's Cabin.
- Please ring the bell on the welcome sign and **check in** with the caretakers upon arrival. Also ring bell to check out.

## HIKING ROUTE #2 | *South side of river on Middle Fork Trail (5.5 miles)*

**As of 2017 flooding we do NOT recommend this route to casual hikers. Un-bridged stream crossings on this trail can be difficult or dangerous to cross if the water is running high. It is NOT recommended in winter months.**

*The Middle Fork Trail is only open to bikes during the spring and summer seasons and on odd calendar days.*

- **On the downhill side of the parking lot,** a short trail leads to a footbridge.
- Once across the footbridge, turn left onto the trail. About 3 miles later you will cross Rock Creek on a single log footbridge.
- Shortly after there is a turn-off uphill to Snow Lake and Snoqualmie Pass. **Do not turn, continue straight.**
- About 2.5 miles later you arrive at Burntboot Creek. **\*There is no longer a safe log crossing on this creek. Flooding in 2015 damaged the log and in 2017 it was washed away.**
- Once across you are on Goldmyer property. Head away from the creek and locate the trail going back into the trees. A short distance later you will step back into conifer forest and arrive at a fork in the trail.
- Go straight and past the private property sign. Continue up a gentle hill through the campgrounds until you reach the Caretaker's Cabin.
- Please ring the bell on the welcome sign and **check in** with the caretakers upon arrival. Also ring bell to check out.

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