

Goldmyer Hot Springs – Information

Northwest Wilderness Programs

Online | 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 have restrictions on operating times and group sizes.**

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. Please be aware that Goldmyer is a clothing optional hot springs.

NOTES

- Prices are per person, per day, by age: (0-17) Free (parent or guardian required), (18-64) \$20, (65+) \$15.
- Camping *may* be available for an additional \$50 fee per group, depending on current COVID-19 restrictions. Camping is only available for the evening time slot on certain days.
- Access is currently limited to 16 people per day (two groups of 8) to avoid over use and follow state mandated COVID restrictions.
- 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 8 people maximum, one group per time slot.
- Be mindful of who is in your group. Social distancing is not practical in the pools.
- 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 usually a clothing optional hot spring. When COVID restrictions are lifted, you will be sharing the springs 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.
- 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

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 arrive late, 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. 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 campsites.
- Do not eat food in the hot spring area to reduce rodent problems. Please use the trailside picnic tables.
- Don't feed wildlife and pack out all food waste.
- 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, scrubs, or other products at the hot springs.
- NO wood or charcoal fires anywhere on property.
- NO open flames, cooking or eating in the cabana at the springs. You may only cook using propane or gas backpacking stoves at picnic tables.
- Please prevent candle drips in and around the springs. Wax is messy, hard to clean, and blocks the drains.
- Please do not use speakers or canned music.
- Don't take photos or videos at the springs without the consent of all present. Photos are not 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.
- Quiet Hours are 10:00 pm - 8:00 am.

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

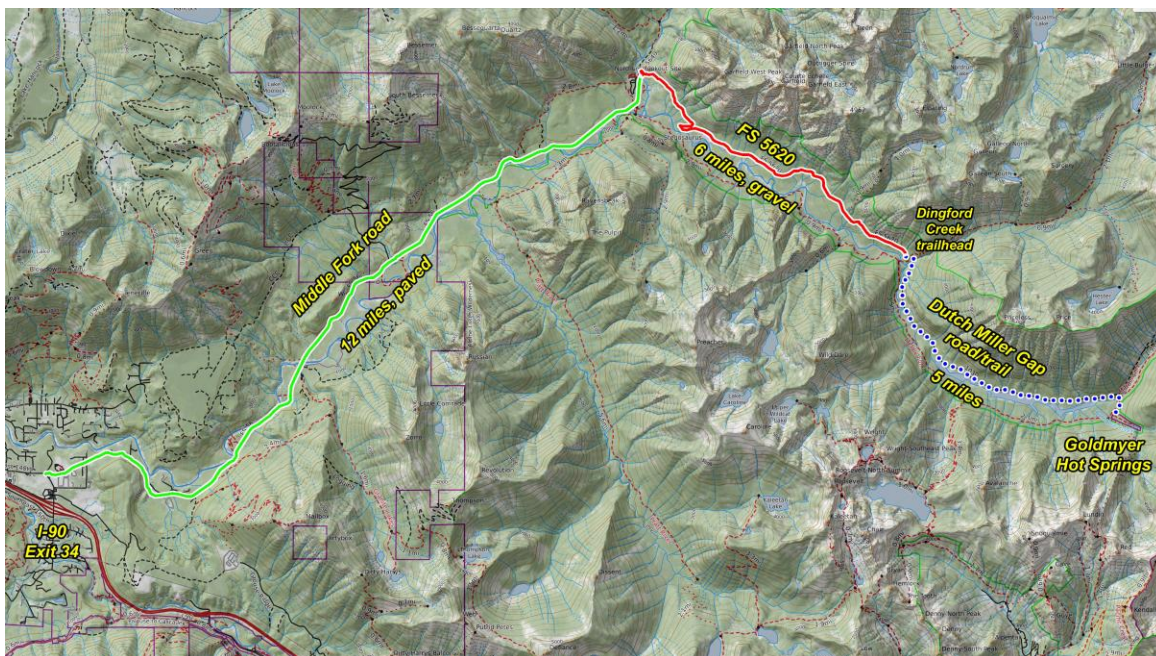
Refer to the “Ten Essentials of Mountaineering” and prepare appropriately for the season.

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



Goldmyer Hot Springs – Directions

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 (depending on the season)
- **Hiking I** Dingford Trailhead to Goldmyer - 1.5 to 3 hours (depending on conditioning and pack weight)
- **Biking I** Dingford Trailhead to Goldmyer - 45-90 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.
- Go either way at the fork in the road on the way in, they will re-connect. You will need to stay right when leaving (left is a one way).
- 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 | *North side of river along the old roadbed (4.5 miles)*

RECOMMENDED ROUTE *There are other ways to reach Goldmyer on more primitive trails or climbing over peaks, but they are longer and much more challenging.*

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 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.

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