

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 limited to 20 people per day (8 people per reservation group) to preserve the wilderness environment and avoid over use.
- Same day walk-in visitors may be permitted if there are unfilled openings on a first come, first serve basis. Cash payment in full is required at check in. If Goldmyer is already at capacity, walk-ins will be turned away. Even if you have a reservation, we may be at capacity and additional group members may be turned away.
- **COVID POLICY (after 1/1/23):** We no longer require proof of COVID vaccination, but we continue to ask that all visitors limit circumstances of potential exposure prior to your visit. Take a home antigen test the night before or morning of your visit. Masks are optional, but encouraged for check in.

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. Goldmyer is a remote location. There is no safe, potable drinking water. Bring all of your own water and a filter; there is access to the river on our property. Bear canisters are provided.

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

GOLDMYER PRIVATE PROPERTY RULES AND NOTES

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. The caretakers live and work on the property and do regular property checks. If you have any questions or concerns please talk to one of them.

- **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 leave any sanitary products or diapers in the outhouses.
- **Follow proper food handling practices.** All campers are loaned a bear canister (a bucket with a screw-on lid). Each camp site has a hang-line for these canisters. Day visitors may request one if there are enough. Even small foragers can chew through packs if they contain food. Don't feed wildlife and pack out all food waste. Please only eat at the trailside picnic tables and campsites.
- **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, and anyone appearing to be intoxicated may be asked to leave the pool area or the property with no refund.
- **NO smoking or vaping. NO drugs.** Please smoke off property and leave-no-trace.
- **NO glass** (bottles, jars, etc.).
- **NO weapons.** No firearms, bows, or hatchets or large knives. Basic camping tools/knives are okay). If you hike with bear spray, it must be left safely stored at your campsite.
- **NO dogs or other pets.** Pre-approved exceptions for service animals, contact the office.
- **NO wood or charcoal fires anywhere on property.** No portable fire pits, fireboxes, or tent stoves. 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.**
- **Goldmyer is a clothing optional hot spring.** You will be sharing the pools with other visitors, some of whom may choose to be naked.
- **Don't take photos or videos at the springs without the consent of all present.** 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.

CHECK IN & OUT, DAY USE & CAMPING

Check in is on our private property at the springs after the drive *and* hike. Hiking time should be factored into your travel time. The ETA you gave when booking is your arrival time *at* the springs which are your final destination, not the trailhead. The caretakers live and work in the same location as the springs and will check you in there.

Camping is for the day you arrive for your scheduled reservation (not the night before). Camp sites are selected at check in. There are enough for everyone that is pre-booked, but they are first come first choice. All our sites are beautiful! However, they are all best suited for small backpacking tents and some are okay for hammocks.

- **Wednesday - Monday**: All visitors must arrive and check in with caretakers during 9:00 am - 8:00 pm. Check out is promptly by 9:00 pm (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 9:00 am-1:00 pm, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm, or 5:00 pm-9:00 pm*. 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 5:00 pm-9:00 pm and your check out will be by noon the next day. Tuesday night campers will be sharing the pools with other visitors on Wednesday mornings starting from 9:00 am).
- **If arriving before 9:00 am, after 9:00 pm, or for the wrong date or time slot, you may NOT check in or use the springs.** Please go off property and return during check in times.
- **Day use visitors will not be permitted after 8:00 pm** (there is no time to hike to the springs and soak before check out).
- **Campers are advised to arrive before dark, but will not be permitted for check in after 9:00 pm at the latest.** If you will arrive after the cut off, please remain off property until the following morning at 9:00 am, you will be permitted to soak from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

WEATHER/ROAD CONDITIONS

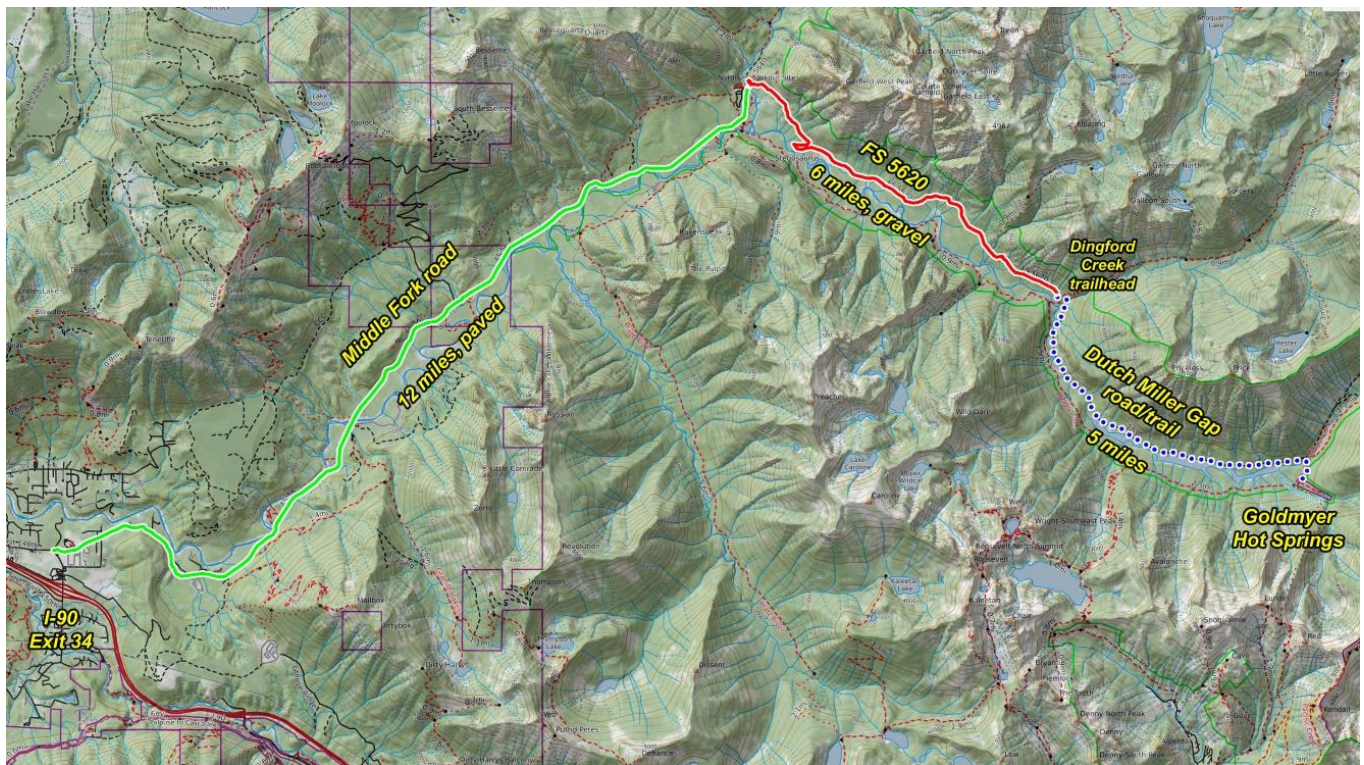
Check the weather and [Goldmyer Access Report](#) leading up to your reservation!

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 SUVs 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

You may use GPS to get to Exit 34, but **you will need to print these directions** to reach the trailhead. We do not recommend using hiking apps. They send you on a more challenging route. 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.

You will be driving and hiking on US Forest service roads and trails. A Northwest Forest Pass required to park at the trailhead: 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 on our private property at the springs after the drive *and* hike. Hiking time should be factored into your travel time. The ETA you gave when booking is your arrival time *at* the springs which are your final destination, not the trailhead. The caretakers live and work in the same location as the springs and will check you in there.

- **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

- 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 one way)

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.
- About 2.5 miles along, a few hundred feet of the trail/road is often flooded. If so, use the bypass through the trees to go around. It reconnects just past the culvert.
- 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).
- At about 4 miles, 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.

If you approach Goldmyer via the PCT loop, Snow Lake, Middle Fork Trail, Red Pass, etc. keep in mind you may have to ford the Burt Boot Creek on the south side of our property. The old log bridge washed out in 2017 during winter floods. The water in the burnt boot can be swift and deep. We do not recommend that crossing.

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