Goldmyer Hot Springs - Information & Directions

Owned and managed by Northwest Wilderness Programs, a Washington State 501c3 non-profit organization

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

Phone | 206.789.5631

Website & Access Report | www. Goldmyer.org

**** Please distribute this information to all members of your group. ****

ABOUT

Goldmyer is a minimally developed wilderness area surrounded by Forest Service land and Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Goldmyer offers visitors access to old growth forest, waterfalls, and a crystal clear geothermal hot spring. Our stewardship policies, established in 1976, enable us to preserve the hot springs and surrounding property for today's visitors and future generations. Access is limited to 20 people per day to preserve the wilderness environment and avoid overuse. All visitors are asked to follow our minimum impact rules.

Our Caretakers live on-site, do routine property checks and are available for any questions or concerns during your visit.

- The Goldmyer property is open 9:00am - 9:00pm everyday in all weather conditions - rain, shine, or snow. Check **Weather Forecast** and the **Access Report** prior to your visit.
- Permits are highly recommended. Maximum of 8 people (including children) per permit . Cannot combine permits to make a group larger than 8.
- Busiest time is 11:00am to 3:00pm. Arriving earlier, later, or camping on-site offers a quieter soaking experience.
- Adults are responsible for children (17 years and under) in their group and must accompany children at ALL times.
- Goldmyer is *swimsuit-optional* at the hot spring pools. On 'Shared Use' days you will be sharing the pools with other visitors, some of whom may choose to be nude.
- No Cellular and No Internet Service available in the Middle Fork Valley or on the Goldmyer property.
- A **Northwest Forest Pass or America the Beautiful Pass** is required to park at the trailhead.
- **PROPERTY AMENITIES**: bike rack, outhouse toilets (stocked with toilet paper and hand sanitizer), shared trailside picnic tables, food canisters, campsites with food canister hang-lines, and an open-sided cabana at the springs. We do not have/provide: changing rooms, towels, lockers, camping gear, food, or drinking water.

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

Bring water and/or filter. No potable water available. Water can be filtered from rivers along the trail and by campsites.

Products applied to your skin will be washed into the pools and environment. Consider bug-repellent applied to clothing instead of skin. Sunscreen may not be needed in the shaded forest environment.

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
- Flashlight (even if not camping)
- Towel
- Food (even if not camping)
- Bathing suit (optional)
- First Aid Kit (carried with you)
- Camping stove and utensils
- Seasonal camping equipment (tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, rain tarp)
- Emergency equipment and extra supplies in your vehicle
- Shovel, ax or saw (for snow/ tree debris) in your vehicle.

WEATHER/ROAD/HIKING CONDITIONS

Goldmyer is at approximately 2,000 feet elevation and receives twice the annual precipitation of Seattle/Tacoma. Weather is variable between *October and May*: there can be occasional dry days, drizzle, heavy rain, flooding, unexpected snowfall, heavy/wet snow, or snowpack. Summers can be warmer - bring plenty of water.

- **High-clearance vehicles are necessary all year**. **All-wheel or 4-wheel drive is required during rain and snow seasons. Passenger cars are never suitable.** *Tow trucks are not always willing to drive into the Middle Fork Valley.*
- Snow-conditions may require tire chains for vehicles, and microspikes, snowshoes, and/or skis for hiking.

PERMITS

- Permits are highly recommended. Goldmyer operates a **website lottery system** that runs 2 months out and a voicemail request system for open spaces in the current month. See our **website** for more information.
- Visitors who do not have permits may attempt as Walk-ins for open spaces. Walk-ins have no guarantee of entry and will be turned away if at capacity when you arrive. Walk-ins must pay the Caretakers in exact cash (no credit cards, payment apps, or trade). Walk-in visitors have the best chance of entry by arriving when the property opens at 9:00am.
- We are not able to issue permits for same-day or next-day visitors. Same-day and next-day visitors must attempt as Walk-ins for available spaces.
- Cancellations and Changes to a permit: see **Cancellation Policy**.
- We offer exclusive-use permits for organized Youth Groups. See Youth Group Info Flyer.

CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT

The property opens at 9:00am and closes at 9:00pm. Visitors arriving before 9:00am or after 9:00pm; outside their Tuesday time slot; or on the wrong date, will not be allowed entry.

CHECK-IN

- Check-in is *after* the hike and with the Caretakers that live on-site. Please ring the bell hanging on the wooden signpost by the cabin to notify the Caretakers of your arrival and departure.
- Groups should arrive together for Check-in.
- Complete **liability waivers**. Bring your own printed copies or fill out when you arrive. *Digital copies not accepted.*
- We cannot change your estimated time of arrival the same day as your permit date. *We require two business days' notice to update your ETA.*

CHECK-OUT

- Day visitors must Check-out and be hiking off property by 9:00pm.
- Campers must Check-out and be hiking off property by 12:00pm-noon of departure day.
- We advise visitors to exit pools 15-30 minutes prior to Check-out time to allow time to dress and Check-out.

CAMPING

Goldmyer does not provide sheltered sleeping accommodations or camping gear. Pending availability, camping can be added to a permit for an additional fee.

Visitors paying the additional camping fee without the intention to camp are not permitted after-hours soaking time. NO exceptions: Check-out by 9:00pm.

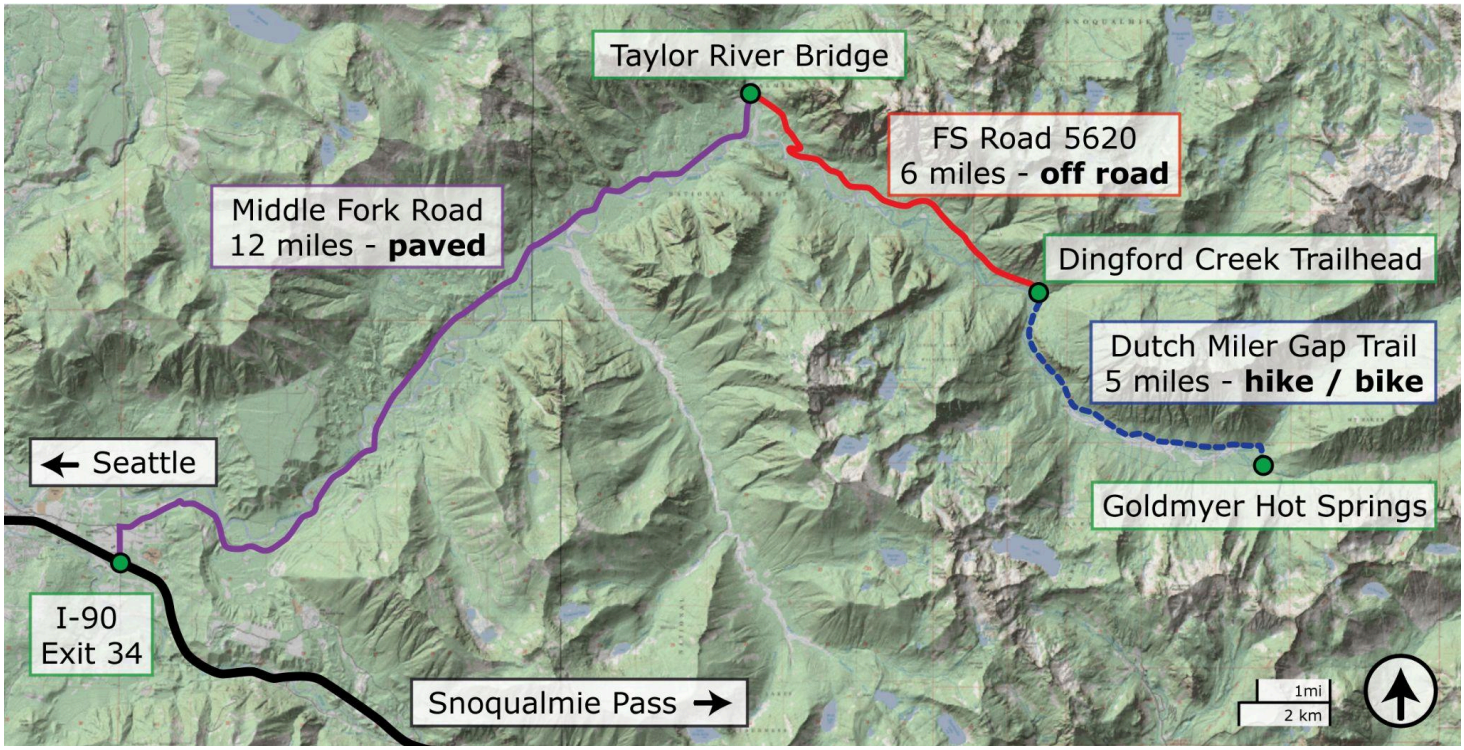
- Camping is for the day of your arrival (not the night before).
- Multiple night camping is allowed.
- Campsites are chosen at Check-in and are first come, first choice.
- Campsites are best-suited for small backpacking tents. Hammocks may be accommodated at some sites.
- Food canisters are supplied at Check-in and each campsite has a hanging-line for canisters. Do not use cloth bags.
- Tuesday (Exclusive-use slots): *Camping is ONLY allowed for the evening time slot,* and exclusive use ends at 9:00am Wednesday morning when your group may be sharing the pools with other visitors.
- Campers with permits arriving after 9:00pm must remain off property until the following morning when you may Check-in after 9:00am and be permitted to use the hot springs until 12:00pm-noon.

GOLDMYER PRIVATE PROPERTY USE RULES

Please follow these rules to ensure a safe and enjoyable visit for all.
Groups or individuals who do not follow these rules may be asked to leave with no refund.

- **Food & Garbage Handling is Critical. Leave No Trace.** Be tidy with all food - even crumbs will attract wild animals. We supply food canisters to hold food, packaging, and garbage during your visit. You are responsible to carry out all gear, food scrap, garbage, diapers, and menstrual products. Campers: rinse dirty dishes in the river and use the supplied canister to hang all food and garbage at your campsite.
- **Stay on trails** and within campsite boundaries. Do not carve, damage, or move trees, bushes, logs, rocks, etc.
- **Children 17 and younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at ALL times**. Adults are responsible for children in their group.
- **No Food in or around the hot springs/cabana area.** All food to be consumed at picnic tables and campsites.
- **No Alcohol beyond the Caretaker cabin.** This includes: trail to hot springs, upper picnic table, cabana and pools. Alcohol consumption is allowed in moderation ONLY at the picnic table closest to the cabin and campsites. Loud, drunken, or unruly behavior will not be tolerated.
- **No Glass anywhere on property.** No bottles, jars, candle lanterns, etc. Broken glass is a safety hazard.
- **No Dogs or other pets allowed on property.**
- **No Smoking and No Illegal Drugs.** Vaping is allowed only in moderation and only at campsites. Anyone appearing to be intoxicated or in an otherwise compromised condition may be asked to leave.
- **No Weapons. No Firearms, Bows, Machetes.** Basic camping tools/knives allowed. Bear spray must be stored safely at your campsite or with the Caretaker.
- **No Fires or Open Flames: including Wood, Biomass, Charcoal, Candles, Liquid Fuels, and smoking.** **Exception:** Backpacking cook stoves and lighter when preparing food, ONLY at campsite or picnic table. (No stoves in the hot springs/cabana area).
- **No Photos, No Videos, No Phone Use allowed in the hot springs area (pools, cabana, surrounding space).** Phones and cameras should be put away when approaching and while at the hot springs area. **Elsewhere on property:** Consent of all visitors that may be in photos/videos must be obtained before taking photographs or videos. **Content for Commercial Use is prohibited.** This includes but is not limited to: news media, blogs, and social media.
- **No Radios, Speakers, or Drones**. Goldmyer is a place to enjoy the sounds of nature.
- **No Soap, Scrubs, or other products at hot springs.**
- **Candles.** Please bring alternative light sources or ask the Caretakers for candle use requirements. Wax makes a mess and is very hard to clean for our Caretakers.
- **Use the Outhouses (not the woods).** *Visitors do not need to be clothed to use the outhouse by the springs.* Human waste concentrated near campsites or hot springs is a public health hazard and **urine can attract mountain goats**. *Do not leave menstrual products or diapers in the outhouses - carry them out with you.*
- **Quiet Hours are 10:00pm – 8:00am**. Be courteous of noise levels while on property and in pools.
- **Pools are closed for cleaning every Monday and Thursday from 9:00pm - 2:00am.**

Goldmyer Hot Springs — Directions



GPS COORDINATES | N 47.48540 W 121.3894

You may use GPS to get to Exit 34, but use these directions to reach the trailhead and Goldmyer.

We do not recommend using hiking apps as they send you on longer, more challenging routes over peaks and/or using primitive trails. Goldmyer cannot provide directions for other trails/routes.

If you approach Goldmyer via the PCT loop, Snow Lake, Middle Fork Trail, Red Pass, etc. you will have to walk through Burntboot Creek on the southside of our property - there is no footbridge. The water in Burntboot can be swift and deep. We do not recommend attempting that crossing during rainy or snowmelt seasons.

TRAVEL TIME

Travel time is approximately 4-5 hours *one-way* (driving and hiking combined) from the Seattle/Tacoma area.

- Driving: Seattle to 1-90 Exit 34 - approx. 45 minutes (without interruption) then from Exit 34 to Dingford Trailhead - approx. 1-2 hours (depending on 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).
- Turn north off the freeway exit (left if driving east from Seattle, right if driving west).
- Shortly after the truck stop, turn right onto Middle Fork Road.
- At the fork in the road go to the left (the right is closed). After about a mile you'll see a stop sign, take a left at the stop sign.
- After 11.5 miles at the Middle Fork Campground, the pavement ends and you will drive across the Taylor River bridge - a single lane concrete bridge.
- After the bridge and next to the Garfield Ledge Trailhead (and outhouses), take a sharp right on Forest Service Road 5620 and head uphill towards the Dingford Trailhead. *This hill can be difficult for low clearance vehicles (sedans) and rear wheel drive trucks with no weight in the back. If there is snow or ice; it is dangerous to drive this section without snow chains.*
- Drive for about 6 miles on this one-lane rocky and potholed gravel road. *Anticipate rocks, tree debris, drainage dips or washouts, and encroaching brush. It will be slow going.*
- Arrive at the Dingford Trailhead: It opens up into a parking area with a big metal gate at the far end.
- Park in a designated spot and do not block the gate.

HIKING / BIKING ROUTE

The Dutch Miller Gap Trail (previous Forest Service road) is about 5 miles each way, and runs along the north side of the Snoqualmie Middle Fork River. The trail is open to hikers and mountain bikes all year. *Motorized vehicles are not allowed beyond the gate for visitors - including motorcycles, dirt bikes, four-wheelers, snow mobiles, ATVs, etc.*

- Pass through the big metal gate at the far end of the parking lot. You will shortly cross a bridge over Dingford Creek Falls confirming you are on the correct route.
- At 1 mile from the gate you will pass 'Sky Rock', a huge boulder that fell from the cliffs of Price Mountain in 2020.
- At 1.9 miles from the gate you will make a sharp turn away from the river to bypass a trail washout resulting from the December 2025 flooding.
- At 4.5 miles from the gate you will come to another fork at a noticeably wider spot in the roadbed. Note the 'Goldmyer' sign high in a tree pointing right. Head down the right fork towards the river.
- 700 feet down the right fork you will come to a footbridge over the (Snoqualmie Middle Fork) river. Cross it and turn right onto the Middle Fork trail.
- In 200 feet turn left at a 'T' trail junction and continue 1/4 mile to arrive at the Caretaker's cabin for Check-in (or inquiry for availability).