

# Before You Go...

- Hours vary throughout the year; please check the website before coming.
- Show admission is free, but a Discover Pass is required to park on-site.
- Passes can be purchased on-site.
- Warm clothes are highly recommended (even in the summer), as shows consist of both indoor and outdoor activities.
- The facility does not remain open after visiting hours.
- Camping and overnight parking are never permitted.
- Only trained service animals are permitted in the building; no pets are allowed.



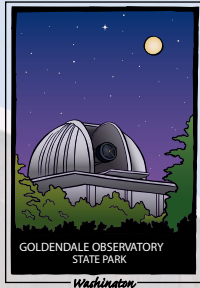
The Discover Pass is required for day visits to state parks and access to other state-managed recreation lands. The pass provides access to millions of acres of parks, wildlife areas, trails, natural areas and

water-access sites. The annual pass is transferable between two vehicles.

- Annual pass: \$30
- One-day pass: \$10 (transaction and dealer fees may apply)

The Discover Pass can be purchased online, by phone or in person. For details, visit [www.discoverpass.wa.gov](http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov) or call (866) 320-9933.

**Thank you for supporting Washington state recreation lands.**



**Goldendale Observatory**  
1602 Observatory Drive  
Goldendale, WA 98620  
(509) 773-3141

**State Parks information:**  
(360) 902-8844

**Other state parks located in the general area:**  
Brooks Memorial, Maryhill, Columbia Hills and Doug's Beach

## Connect with us on social media

- [www.twitter.com/WASStatePks](http://www.twitter.com/WASStatePks)
- [www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateParks](http://www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateParks)
- [www.youtube.com/WashingtonStateParks](http://www.youtube.com/WashingtonStateParks)
- [www.instagram.com/WASStatePks](http://www.instagram.com/WASStatePks)

Share your stories and photos: [AdventureAwaits.com](http://AdventureAwaits.com)



If you would like to support Washington State Parks even more, please consider making a donation when renewing your license plate tabs. You also may place a check in a donation box when you visit state parks.

Donations are a significant part of the State Parks budget and are needed to keep your parks open and operating. For more information, visit [www.parks.state.wa.us/donations](http://www.parks.state.wa.us/donations)

## Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission



P.O. Box 42650  
Olympia, WA 98504-2650  
(360) 902-8500  
[www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov)

### Commission members:

- Ken Bounds
- Laurie Connelly
- Michael Latimer
- Holly Williams
- Director: Diana Dupuis
- Mark O. Brown
- Sophia Danenberg
- Steve S. Milner

All Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people.

To request this brochure in an alternative format, please call (360) 902-8844 or the Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at (800) 833-6388.



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Washington State Parks

# Goldendale Observatory

State Park Heritage Site



GOLDENDALE OBSERVATORY



[parks.wa.gov](http://parks.wa.gov)

# Welcome to Goldendale Observatory State Park Heritage Site

Goldendale Observatory has offered its visitors a unique window into the cosmos since it opened in 1973. The primary telescope was built by four men: Mack McConnell, John Marshall, Don Conner, and Omer VanderVelden. These amateur astronomers spent six years grinding the telescope mirror and constructing the optical assembly.

The sunny town of Goldendale, WA was chosen to house the telescope due in part to the rare coincidence of three solar eclipses in less than 100 years: One had already passed in 1918, and two more would occur in 1979 and 2017. Goldendale Observatory was dedicated as a public education center on October 13, 1973. In 1980 it was acquired by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and has been operated continuously ever since.

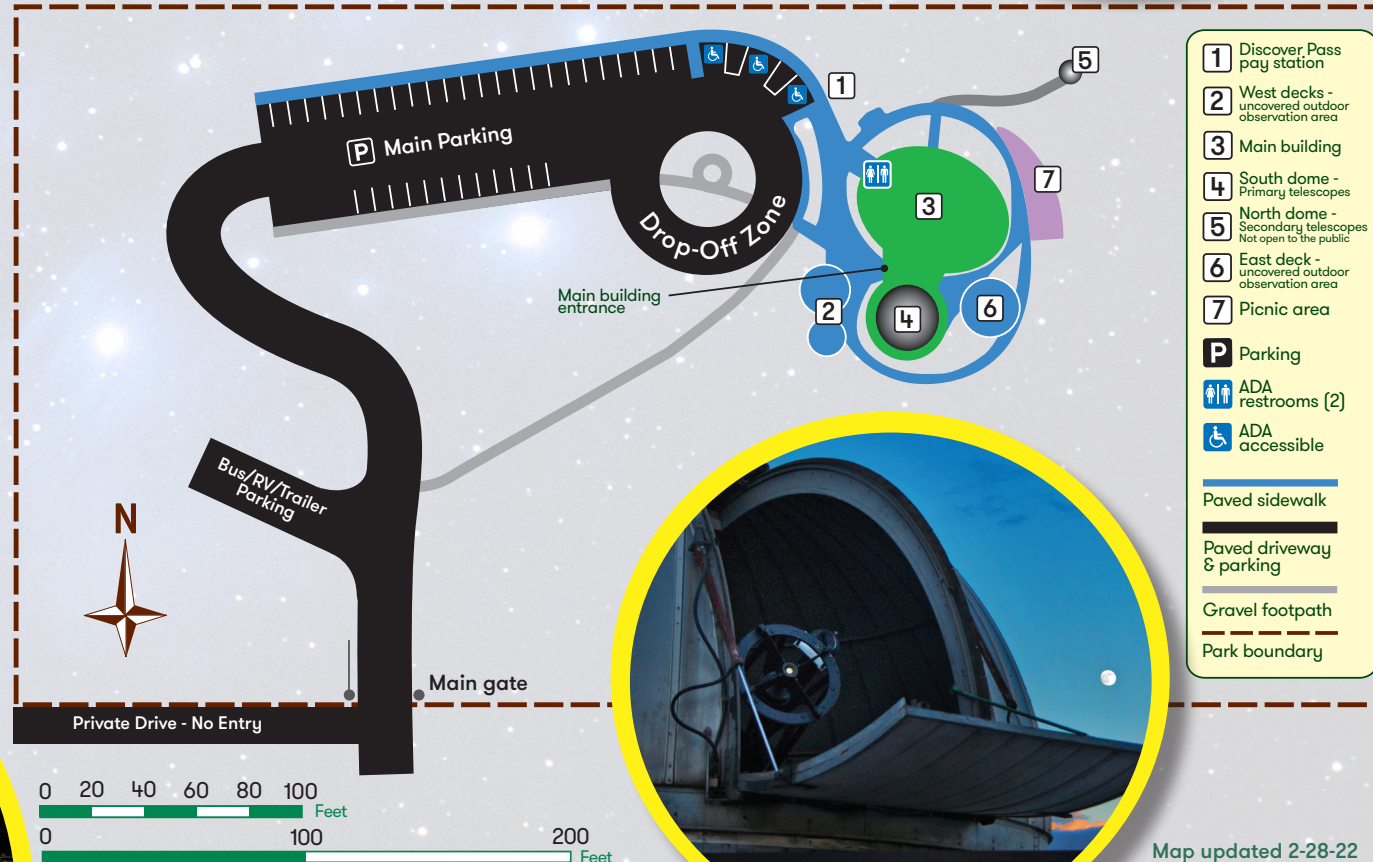
In 2018, Goldendale Observatory was reimagined from the ground up with three times the public space in a brand new, award-winning building with upgraded equipment throughout. Along with the primary telescope, now a 24.5 inch f/4.8 Newtonian reflector, the observatory also houses several other advanced telescopes including dedicated solar instruments.

## Tours of the universe...

The Observatory offers two interpretive programs per operating day—one in the afternoon and one in the evening. There are also occasional special events for astronomical occurrences. Hours and show times vary throughout the year, so please check our website for specific information.

**Afternoon Program:** Visitors are treated to a discussion on the surface features and inner workings of our local star, the Sun. They may also safely observe the Sun through specially filtered telescopes via eyepieces and HD monitors.

**Evening Program:** Visitors have an opportunity to get all their questions about space answered by expert staff. They will also get to view planets, star clusters, nebulae, galaxies, and other space objects through telescopes.



Bring your curiosity!  
Questions are highly encouraged.

