

**THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- Appointments are required for afternoon and evening programs.
- 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.



1602 Observatory Drive  
Goldendale, WA 98620  
509-773-3141

**MORE INFO**

Online at [parks.wa.gov/find-parks/state-parks/goldendale-observatory-state-park-heritage-site](https://parks.wa.gov/find-parks/state-parks/goldendale-observatory-state-park-heritage-site)

**STATE PARKS NEARBY**

Brooks Memorial, Maryhill, Columbia Hills  
and Doug's Beach

# GOLDENDALE OBSERVATORY

## STATE PARK HERITAGE SITE



To request this brochure in an alternate format, please call 360.902.8844 or the Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at 800.833.6388  
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# WELCOME TO GOLDENDALE OBSERVATORY

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 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 up-graded 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.



Bring your curiosity!  
Questions are  
highly encouraged.

## 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. Program visits are by appointment only.

### 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.

