



# A DISABLED HIKER'S GUIDE TO 5 WASHINGTON STATE PARKS

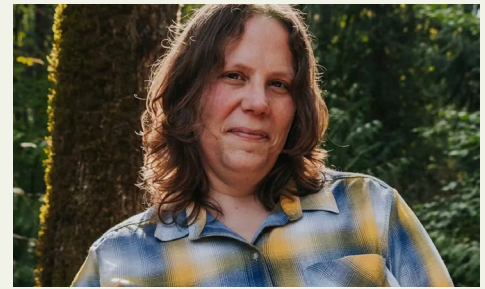
## FLAMING GEYSER

**Lake Sammamish | Flaming Geyser | Federation Forest | Dash Point | Saltwater**

This assessment and guide were written by Syren Nagakyrie of Disabled Hikers, with funding and collaboration from the Washington State Parks Foundation.







**Syren Nagakyrie** is the founder of Disabled Hikers, a nonprofit organization building disability community and justice in the outdoors. Syren grew up with multiple disabilities and encounters numerous barriers to outdoor recreation but has always found nature to be a place of belonging. As a long-time disabled activist and community builder, Syren is committed to building a movement of Disabled leadership in the outdoors. They are the author of *The Disabled Hiker's Guide to Northern California: outdoor adventures accessible by car, wheelchair, and foot* (2024) and *The Disabled Hiker's Guide to Western Washington and Oregon* (2022), both published by FalconGuides. They also work with parks, organizations, brands, and government agencies to improve access and belonging for disability community.

[www.disabledhikers.com](http://www.disabledhikers.com)



**The Washington State Parks Foundation's** vision is to ensure a vibrant and inclusive state parks system for generations to enjoy. This guide to accessibility in five Washington State Parks was developed with the support and collaboration of the Washington State Parks Foundation.

[www.waparks.org](http://www.waparks.org)





# Flaming Geyser State Park

## Overview

Flaming Geyser State Park is a day-use park along the Green River near Auburn. It is popular with hikers, equestrians, and people visiting the geysers. The geysers in the park are nothing like what you may experience in Yellowstone, for example. They are methane seeps that have mostly run out of gas. The most easily accessible one, the Flaming Geyser, is a small flicker with dribbles of water. But the scenery is beautiful – the park is bordered by three bends in the Green River, with Christy Creek flowing through part of it. There are a lot of restoration efforts in the park, including restoring the salmon habitat in the creek and native plants in the meadow.

There are two primary areas in the park – the day-use area near the geysers, and the equestrian and a large grassy field. There are no directional signs when you enter the park, so refer to the map before your visit. Once you pass the entrance station on Flaming Geyser Road, take the first left to the field or continue toward the right to the day-use area.



## Resources

Park phone number (253) 735-8839 | [State Park website](#) | [State Park Official Map](#) | [Virtual Park Tour](#)



## Suggested Activities

### *Picnic and Fish along the Green River*

Picnic Shelter 3 has an accessible route of travel from the day-use parking area. Park in either of the two sets of designated accessible parking spots in front of the restrooms. Follow the access aisle towards the picnic area and continue onto the asphalt path. The path takes an 8% decline for a few feet, then curves left to the picnic shelter. The shelter is on a concrete pad with a level transfer between the pavement and concrete. There are a couple of picnic tables with a wheelchair accessible overhang, but at the time of this writing they were not positioned to provide clear access. The grill is set off in the grass with a couple feet of clearance from the edge of the shelter and is not wheelchair accessible. There is no view of the river from here.

If you follow the path to the right from the parking area instead of going left to the picnic shelter, you will reach an overlook with access to the river – this is part of the Salmon Interpretive Trail. The path transitions to an old, eroding sidewalk made of gravel and concrete aggregate. It is rough and bumpy, with a couple of 3-5% grades. In approximately 100 feet, you reach a large overlook with print interpretive panels about the importance of salmon. A footpath on the left leads a few feet to the edge of the river where you can fish.

## What's Accessible?

### PARKING

**Day-Use Area:** Parking spots line the road into the day-use area, but the most accessible ones are at the end of the road in the picnic area. There is one set of two designated accessible spots directly in front of the restrooms, and another set of two designated accessible spots on the next aisle closest to the picnic area. There is an access aisle between the parking spots which extends across the parking lot to the restrooms and picnic area. However, neither



The gravel viewing area next to the geyser and the creek.



A view from inside the picnic shelter out to the parking lot, showing the paved path and transition point.



The accessible parking spots directly in front of the picnic shelter.



set of parking spots are van accessible—the access aisle is too narrow. The pavement is also cracked in a couple of places. The rest of the parking area is surfaced in compact gravel and grass.

**Field Area:** There is one designated accessible parking spot with an access aisle; it is not van accessible, and the pavement is cracked and uneven. Two additional parking spots directly in front of the field have an access aisle, but they are not designated accessible. The rest of the parking lot is paved with many sloping areas.

## RESTROOMS AND FACILITIES

**Day-use Area:** There are four all-gender, single-use restrooms on the south side of the parking area. They are wheelchair accessible with a concrete access route, doors with handles, grab bars, and flush toilets but no sinks.

**Field Area:** There is an accessible portable toilet in a no-parking zone at the end of the parking lot. It is up a slight incline.

## PICNIC AREAS

There are four picnic shelters in the day-use area. Shelter 3, described above, is the most accessible. There is one shelter directly adjacent to the Salmon Interpretive Trail, but you can only access it across grass and with a 2-inch threshold onto the pad and there are no accessible tables. The other two shelters are set in the middle of the grassy area.

There are dozens of picnic tables set on concrete pads in the grass as well. There are two between shelter 3 and the river overlook that have an overhang, but a bar at the bottom of the table limits the clearance.

From the parking spots along the road, a few paths lead out to picnic tables tucked back in the trees. Most of them are uphill on dirt or grass, but there is one with a steep, paved path from the parking spots. It is located on the left side of the road, just past the turnoff for the ranger station when you enter the day-use area.



The restroom building and access route at the day use area.



One of the picnic tables uphill of the parking spots along the road.



## TRAILS

There are several trails in the park, but most of them are steep. Here are the three most accessible options.

### *Salmon Interpretive Trail*

Less than 0.25 miles, flat with uneven sections, eroded concrete surface

This is the designated accessible trail in the park. It no longer meets accessibility guidelines but is walkable for people using a cane or possibly a walker. Wheelchair users will need to use caution. The trail begins at the parking lot next to shelter 3, described above. The surface is an aging, eroded concrete and gravel mixture. There are several dips and rolls in the trail which hold water in the wet months, including one place that had flowing water across it during my visit. It is also rough and cracked in several places. The trail is generally five feet wide, but plants and trees may narrow the width.

The trail goes out to the Green River and continues to the right, following the river. There are a couple of print interpretive signs about the importance of salmon. The trail ends at a pretty spot tucked under some trees next to Christy Creek. There is a bench here as well.

### *Flaming Geyser*

0.25 miles, maximum 10% grade, loose gravel surface

The trail to the Flaming Geyser begins at the end of the day-use parking area, behind a gate. To access it, you have to travel along the road from wherever you parked, as there is no sidewalk. (The alternative is to take the Salmon Interpretive Trail, and go right and slightly uphill at the end, but it is also a bit rough.) There are 32 inches of clearance around the gate, and you have to cross over a 1-2 inch lip at the transition from pavement to gravel trail. There are also a couple of small roots and rocks as you go around the gate.



The salmon trail as it travels beneath a western redcedar towards the picnic area.



A view of one of the trouble spots in the trail, with eroded pavement and concrete.



A wet area on the Salmon Trail.





The gate at the start of the flaming geyser trail.

On the other side of the gate is an information board with a map of the park. The trail continues at 8-10 feet wide with a loose gravel surface on a 2-4% incline for over 100 feet. Just past the lodge building, there is an overlook on the right of old concrete salmon ponds; to access it you have to go up a 4-5% incline on a grassy gravel surface.

Just past the overlook, a sign on the right points to the flaming geyser. Travel up the trail at a 10%



The path around the gate.



The trail to the geyser with the sign pointing to the flaming geyser.



incline on loose gravel for about 30 feet. There are a few large rocks sticking out in the center of the trail, then the trail levels out. You then come to an overlook of the creek and a big, circular depression that is a couple of feet deep – take care not to trip on the rocks here. In the center of the depression is a concrete cap – this is the geyser. You may have to look closely for a flame, if there is one. Mostly this is a pleasant place to enjoy the creek.

### ***Meadow Trail***

Approximately 0.5 mile, level, natural grass surface

This trail circles a large field and a pretty meadow at a bend in the river, and provides access to fishing and swimming spots. It is shared with equestrians. The trail begins at the field parking lot. Pass between the two stone pillars at the end of the parking lot and take a short 10% decline. As you approach the river, go right on the mowed path. The trail is typically five feet wide, with some uneven areas and sections of patchy grass and mud. You will wind along a bend in the river, with the river on your left and a meadow on your right. The trail comes out at a small gravel parking area at the entrance road to the field – go right and follow the road back to the parking lot.



The mowed grass loop through the meadow. The river is on the left.



The two stone pillars at the end of the parking lot marking one of the Meadow Loop trailheads.

## **Other Features**

**Maps and Signage:** There is one map behind the gate on the Flaming Geyser Trail. Another map is on the side of the road on a grassy hill, as you enter the parking lot. There is no directional signage.

**Trash cans:** Standard trash cans are available, but most of them are placed along the road or directly in front of parking spots and may be difficult to access.

**Water:** I could not find any accessible sources of drinking water.

**Cell service:** There is spotty to no cell service.

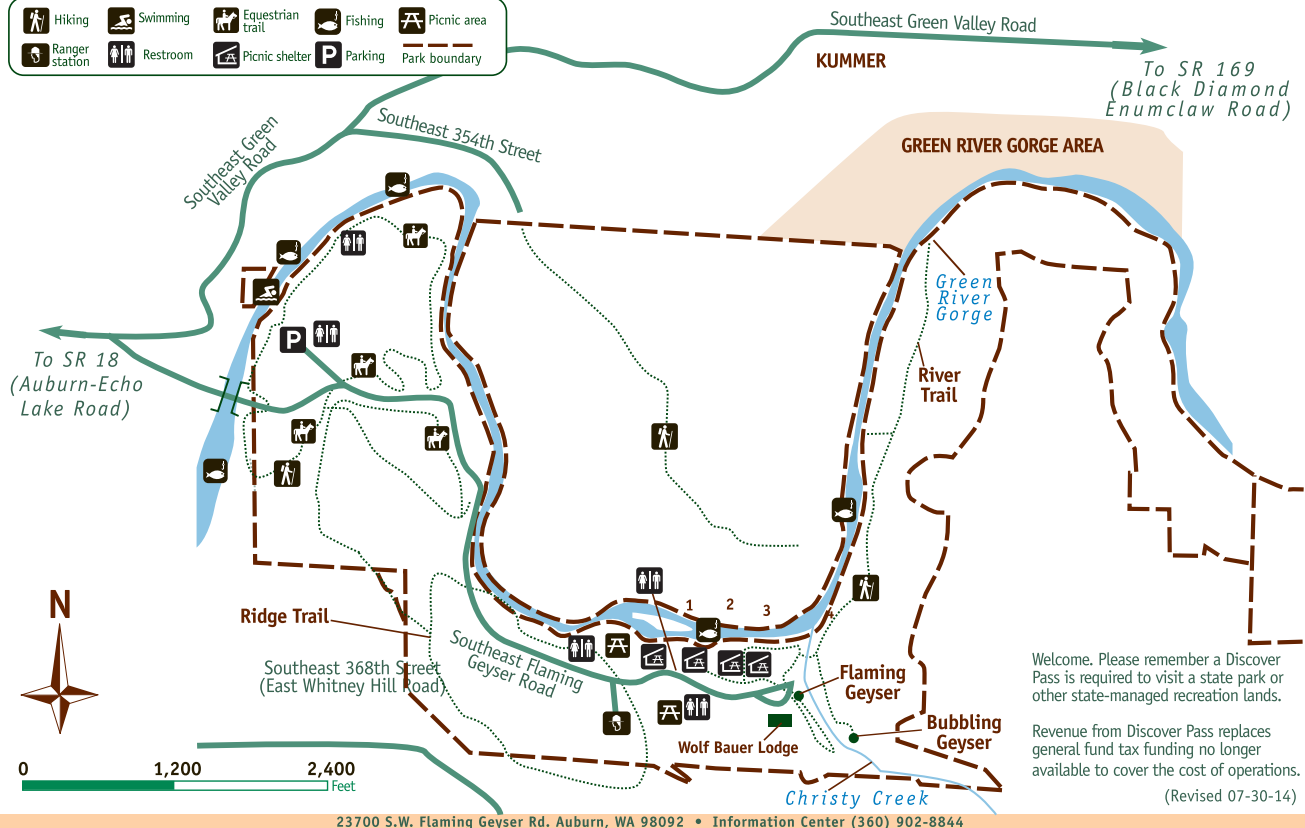
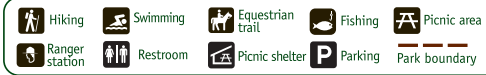
**Field:** A paved sidewalk leads from the parking lot to a covered shelter with chairs. There are benches in the grass.



# Flaming Geyser State Park



## Flaming Geyser State Park



Welcome. Please remember a Discover Pass is required to visit a state park or other state-managed recreation lands.

Revenue from Discover Pass replaces general fund tax funding no longer available to cover the cost of operations.

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