Accessible Recreation Opportunities
North Cascades National Park Service Complex has been working hard to make recreational facilities available for everyone. Accessible restrooms are available at all visitor information stations and most campgrounds. Several trails are either boardwalked or surfaced for wheelchairs and strollers as well as for individuals who have difficulty walking long distances. This guide is an overview of these places as of May 2000. Revisions will describe new, accessible facilities and upgrades.

The US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board Recreational Facilities & Outdoor Developed Areas universal accessibility standards have been used to rate trails. These rated trails are designated with a star *. Buildings and facilities that comply with the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards are designated with two stars !.

**GOLDEN ACCESS PASSPORT**

United States citizens or permanent residents who are blind or permanently disabled may qualify for a Golden Access Passport. The Golden Access Passport is a lifetime entrance pass to those national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas, and national wildlife refuges that charge an entrance fee. The passport also provides a 50% discount on federal use fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, parking, and boat launching (some restrictions may apply). To obtain a pass bring proof of medically determined permanent disability or eligibility for receiving benefits under federal law to any federal fee area. Also available is the Golden Age Passport for United States citizens or permanent residents over the age of 62. This pass costs ten dollars and provides the same benefits as a Golden Access Pass.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

North Cascades National Park Service Complex Headquarters
Mt. Baker Ranger District, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
2105 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
360-856-5700
TDD 360-856-5700 ext. 310
http://www.nps.gov/noca
http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs

North Cascades Visitor Center
502 Newhalem Street
Rockport, WA 98283
206-386-4495 ext. 11

Golden West Visitor Center
PO Box 7
Stehekin, WA 98852
360-856-5700 ext. 340 then 14

Okanogan National Forest
Methow Valley Visitor Center
Building 49, SR 20
Winthrop, WA 98862
509-996-4000
http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/oka

Ross Lake Resort
Rockport, WA 98283
206-386-4437
http://www.rosslakeresort.com

Seattle City Light
Skagit Tours Desk
206-684-3030
TDD 1-800-833-6388
http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/light/tours/
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SYMBOLS

The symbols below are used to help describe facilities available at each location listed in this guide. **Symbols marked with a star** or ![have been rated fully accessible** using the US Architectural & Transportation Compliance Board Recreational Facilities & Outdoor Developed Areas universal accessibility standards. Other facilities may be accessed with minimal difficulty or assistance.

- **Parking**
- **Restrooms/Toilet**
- **Ranger Station**
- **Telephone**
- **Camping**
- **Trail**
- **Interpretive Trail**
- **Viewpoint**
- **Picnic Area**
- **Amphitheater**
- **Trailer Dump**
- **Raft Launch**
- **Fishing**
- **Store**
- **Lodging**
- **Restaurant**

NORTHWEST FOREST PASS

Most U.S. Forest Service trailheads in Washington and Oregon and several in North Cascades National Park Service Complex require a daily or annual Northwest Forest Service Pass to park your vehicle. Holders of Golden Access or Golden Age passports receive a 50% discount on the pass purchase. Contact the Mt. Baker Ranger District/North Cascades National Park for pass purchasing locations at 360-856-5700, ext. 515. Fees collected from this program help to maintain trails and other facilities.

SHUTTLE SERVICE ALONG THE STEHEKIN VALLEY ROAD

A variety of buses and vans providing transportation along the Stehekin Valley Road may be accessible with help. An accessible toilet! is available at the Glory Mountain stop (present end of the Stehekin Valley Road). A fee is charged for shuttle service. Contact the Golden West Visitor Center, at 360-856-5700, ext. 340 then 14, for more information.

RANGER PROGRAMS

Ranger programs are scheduled during the summer season at several locations throughout the park. Most programs are accessible and many include hands-on components. Contact the Golden West Visitor Center in Stehekin, 360-856-5700, ext. 340 then 14, or the North Cascades Visitor Center in Newhalem, 206-386-4495, for more information. Groups can arrange visits or special presentations by calling the above numbers.
**Stehekin Landing**

Arriving by boat or floatplane? A lift between dock level and deck level at the North Cascades Stehekin Lodge is available at Stehekin Landing. This lift provides access to the lodge store, restaurant, guest rooms and accessible restrooms, as well as paths to the Golden West Visitor Center and Park Service Ranger Station. Bring a lunch and relax at a picnic site located at the Landing or along the first mile (1.6 kilometers) of the flat, paved Stehekin Valley Road.

**Golden West Visitor Center**

A steep path from the Landing leads to the Visitor Center! People in wheelchairs may need assistance. Inside are restrooms, interactive exhibits covering a broad range of topics, a 3-dimensional relief map and other touchable objects, the Golden West Gallery displaying artwork related to this special place, and a ten minute wilderness slide show. Closed captioning for the slide show is available upon request. A courtesy wheelchair is available with advanced request. The Visitor Center is open from mid-March to mid-October. Contact the Golden West Visitor Center for current hours at 360-856-5700 ext. 340, then 14.

**Along State Route 20 (SR 20)**

**North Cascades National Park Headquarters, Sedro-Woolley (SR 20)**

Accessible parking!, curb ramps!, restrooms!, and a Northwest Interpretive Association bookstore are available at this information station. A 3-dimensional, touchable relief map orients visitors to the park and forest lands nearby. Open year round. For current hours call 360-856-5700 or TDD 360-856-5700 ext.310.

**Shadow of the Sentinels Trail**

**Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (Baker Lake Highway)**

A fully accessible .5 mile (.8 kilometers) boardwalked and paved trail travels into the heart of an old growth forest. Scents and sounds of the forest permeate the air, and in some places the trail brings the visitor close enough to touch the bark and needles of the ancient conifers. Accessible parking, toilet, curb ramp, benches, and interpretive signs available. A Northwest Forest Pass is required at this trailhead. Contact the Mt. Baker Ranger District/North Cascades National Park for pass purchasing locations at 360-856-5700, ext. 515.
**WILDERNESS INFORMATION CENTER, MARBLEMOUNT**

Located 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) north of SR 20 (Milepost 105.3) on Ranger Station Road. This center offers multi-media exhibits on backcountry trip planning and safety, a 3-dimensional relief map and other touchable objects, and a Northwest Interpretive Association bookstore. Backcountry permits for North Cascades National Park Service Complex are issued at this center. Accessible parking and restrooms are available. Contact the Wilderness Information Center at 360-873-4500, ext. 39 for further assistance with backcountry travel planning.

**BACKCOUNTRY TRAVEL & OVERNIGHT TRIPS**

Almost 93% of North Cascades National Park Service Complex is designated as the Stephen Mather Wilderness and the rugged terrain has limited access. Topography prohibits accessible development of the 360 miles of backcountry trails and 136 designated backcountry campsites. However, some campsites and areas may be accessible with help. Contact the Wilderness Information Center at 360-873-4500, ext. 39 for further assistance with trip planning and to obtain a required, free backcountry permit.

**STEHEKIN**

The small community of Stehekin, situated along the lower few miles of the Stehekin River, has no road connections to the rest of the world. Visitors and residents arrive by passenger ferry, private boat, floatplane, horseback and on foot. The beautiful Stehekin Valley offers a pleasant escape from life's frantic pace. Lodging and camping may have limited accessibility. Contact the Golden West Visitor Center at 360-856-5700 ext. 340, then 14 for further information. Fully accessible facilities are limited in Stehekin.

**TRAVELING TO STEHEKIN**

**Lake Chelan Boat Company:** Passenger boats provide round-trip transportation service between Chelan and Stehekin with scheduled stops at Field's Point and Lucerne. Daily service is available from March 15th through October 31st with reduced services in winter months. Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available with advanced request. Persons in motorized or wide wheelchairs may need help using toilet facilities on certain boats. Contact Lake Chelan Boat Company at P.O. Box 186, Chelan, WA 98816, 509-682-4584 for further assistance or information.

**Lake Chelan Tours:** Flexible schedules, pets welcome. Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available with advanced request. Contact Lake Chelan Tours at P.O. Box 1119, Chelan, WA 98816, 509-682-8287 for further assistance or information.

**Chelan Airways:** Flights to and from Stehekin scheduled daily during summer months and on reduced schedules during winter. Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available with advanced request. Contact Chelan Airways at P.O. Box W, Chelan, WA 98816, 509-682-5555 for further assistance or information.
Hozomeen

Hozomeen is North Cascades National Park Service Complex's most northern vehicle access, set on the scenic Canada/United States Border. Visitors to Hozomeen arrive via a 40-mile (64 kilometers) gravel road from Hope, British Columbia, or by boat from Ross Lake. Accessible restrooms are available at RV Flats in the Hozomeen Campground. There are no fully accessible campsites in Hozomeen Campground, but sites in RV Flats are surfaced with compacted gravel. Boat ramps and docks may be accessible with help. The Lower Hozomeen Boat Launch has an accessible restroom and small picnic pavilion. An information station is staffed during summer months. There is no garbage service available at Hozomeen.

Goodell Creek Campground
(SR 20, Milepost 119)

Under a canopy of tall trees, cradled between the Skagit River and Goodell Creek, this campground is one of the least developed in the park. Campsites are not fully accessible, having minimal obstacles such as branches, roots and rocks. Accessible toilets! and a picnic shelter! are available; water spigots are located throughout the campground. Spring and summer finds this campground in bloom with native and ornamental flowers and shrubs. Goodell Creek Campground is open year-round. However, in winter the water is turned off and the area is not plowed.

Goodell Picnic Shelter
(SR 20, Milepost 119)

Picnic with the sights and sounds of the Skagit River. This fully accessible picnic shelter offers picnic tables!, and barbecue pits!. Accessible parking! and toilet! are available. Not plowed in winter.
**Upper & Lower Goodell Group Campgrounds**  
(SR 20, Mileposts 119 & 120)

![Camping Icon]

Tucked away, these campgrounds are available to groups by reservation only. Accessible toilets! and 1 fully accessible campsite! are available at each group campground. Several other campsites offer minimal obstacles such as branches, roots or rocks. RVs, including car campers, are not allowed at Upper Goodell Group Campground. A group must have a minimum of ten people. Other restrictions may apply. For further information or reservations contact the Marblemount Ranger Station at 360-873-4590 ext. 17.

**Newhalem Creek Campground**  
(SR 20, Milepost 120)

![Camping Icon]

Nestled in conifers, this campground has 1 accessible campsite! in each of the campground's 3 loops. Check the main board for current site numbers. Many other campsites offer minimal obstacles such as branches, roots or rocks. Water spigots are placed throughout the campground and flush toilets are available in the accessible restrooms! Several accessible trails lead from the campground. Newhalem Creek Campground is open from late spring to early fall.

**Rainy Lake Trail**  
Okanogan National Forest (SR 20, Milepost 157.5)

![Camping Icon]

Subalpine forest and wet meadows line this level, paved trail to Rainy Lake. Benches and interpretive signs accent the scenery. Bubbling streams and twittering birds mix with crisp, clean mountain air. In 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) the trail ends at an observation deck with views of waterfalls, a glacier and Rainy Lake. Accessible parking and toilet available. A Northwest Forest Pass is required for parking at this location. Snow covers the trail until late-June, contact the Methow Valley Visitor Center, 509-996-4000, for current trail conditions.

**Washington Pass Overlook**  
Okanogan National Forest (SR 20, Milepost 162)

![Camping Icon]

Just 400 feet (250 meters) long this level, paved trail passes through sub-alpine forest to a spectacular view of Liberty Bell Mountain and Early Winters Spires. This viewpoint is an excellent place to see the golden colored larch trees in autumn. The trail continues, looping back to the parking area, with stairs and steep grades that may limit travel for some. Accessible parking and restrooms, information station, benches, picnic tables and interpretive signs add to the pleasure of this breathtaking stop. A Northwest Forest Pass is required for parking at this location. Snow covers this area until early-July, contact the Methow Valley Visitor Center at 509-996-4000 for current trail conditions.
**Happy Creek Forest Walk (Moderate)**
(SR 20, Milepost 134.4)

A .3 mile (.5 kilometer) loop, fully accessible boardwalk travels through an ancient creekside forest. Accessible parking! and toilet! are available. The trail weaves through tall trees and along bubbling Happy Creek. Read the interpretive signs, or just sit on a bench for a while and take in the sights, sounds and smells of this living place. Use caution if boardwalk is frosty or wet. Parking is limited, especially for large vehicles.

**Rated:** Moderate. **Trail length:** .3 mile. **Total elevation change:** 150 feet. **Inclination:** 0-8.3%. **Cross-slope:** 0-3% overall. **Trail width:** 6 feet. **Surface:** Boardwalk. **Note:** Half of trail is 0-5% grade, the other half is 5-8% grade.

**Ross Lake Resort, Ross Lake**

Floating cabins, boat rentals, portage service and water taxi on beautiful Ross Lake. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be available upon advance request. People in wheelchairs may find the narrow docks difficult to navigate. For more information contact the resort at: Ross Lake Resort, Rockport, WA 98283, 206-386-4437, http://www.rosslakeresort.com

**Ross Lake Overlooks**
(SR 20, Milepost 135)

Interpretive signs and expansive views of mountain-rimmed Ross Lake wait at these pullouts. Feel the wind at your face and hear the far off sound of falling water. Views can be seen from the car.

**North Cascades Visitor Center**
(SR 20, Milepost 120)

Accessible parking!, curb ramp!, and restrooms!. Bus and RV parking also available. An interactive exhibit includes nature sounds, videos and touchable natural history models. Large print and several language translations are available for exhibit text. A 25-minute film presentation takes a journey into the heart of wilderness; captions upon request. A 20 minute slide presentation is also available. Geology exhibits, a touchable relief map and a Northwest Interpretive Association bookstore are also provided. Several accessible trails leave from the Visitor Center area. Courtesy wheelchair available. The Visitor Center is open year-round, weekends only in winter, call for current hours, 206-386-4495.
**STERLING MUNRO TRAIL (EASY)**
(SR 20, MILEPOST 120)

A fully accessible boardwalk trail, winds 300 feet (100 meters) from the back left of the Visitor Center. This trail offers a spectacular view of the Picket Range mixed with fresh forest smells and benches for resting. A squirrel's chatter may greet a passing visitor. Please use caution if boardwalk is frosty or wet. Accessible restrooms available in the Visitor Center.

**Rated:** Easy. **Trail length:** 300 feet. **Total elevation change:** 5 feet. **Inclination:** 0%. **Cross slope:** 0%. **Trail width:** 6 feet. **Surface:** Boardwalk. **Obstacles:** None.

**RIVER LOOP TRAIL (MOST DIFFICULT)**
(SR 20, MILEPOST 120)

This trail is accessible with moderate grades, rest areas, interpretive signs, and benches. People using wheelchairs may need assistance. Round trips through lush forest along the Skagit River are 1.8 miles (2.88 kilometers) from the Visitor Center or 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) from Newhalem Creek Campground. In early summer the fragrance of twinflower floats gently on warm breezes mingling with joyful bird song. Nearest accessible restrooms are located at the North Cascades Visitor Center or in Newhalem Creek Campground.

**Rated:** Most difficult. **Trail length:** 1.8 miles. **Total elevation change:** 100 feet. **Inclination:** 0-15%. **Cross-slope:** 0-3%. **Trail width:** 36 inches average, 32 inches minimum. **Surface:** Compacted gravel/firm. **Obstacles:** 15% grade between Visitor Center and intersection with bottom loop of trail. This section can be avoided by parking at and accessing the trail to right of the restroom between loops A & B of Newhalem Creek Campground.

**COLONIAL CREEK CAMPGROUND**
(SR 20, MILEPOST 130)

Campsites are carved from rich forest along the shores of Diablo Lake. There are 3 accessible campsites available, 1 site in the north unit and 2 sites in the south unit. Check the main board for current site numbers. Several other campsites contain minimal obstacles, including branches, roots and rocks. Water spigots are located throughout the campground and most restrooms are accessible. The steep boat ramp and campsite fishing docks may be difficult to navigate for people in wheelchairs. An information kiosk is staffed during summer months. Colonial Creek Campground is open year-round. However in winter the water is turned off, there is no garbage service, and the area is not plowed.

**DIABLO LAKE OVERLOOK**
(SR 20, MILEPOST 131)

Accessible parking!, curb ramps! and toilets! available. A must see, with views of Diablo Lake, Davis, Jack, Pyramid and Colonial Peaks! Benches, interpretive signs and a geology display enhance your stop. Ravens ride on thermal breezes, while pikas whistle and scurry to hidden places. Please do your part in keeping these animals wild. Feeding wildlife is not only prohibited in the park but can cause harm to the animal and you.
Gorge Creek Falls
(SR 20, Milepost 123)

Accessible parking! and toilets! are available. The roar of the falls beckons from the parking area, and when the wind blows just right a fine mist reaches the lucky few waiting on the bridge. Gorge Creek Falls may be seen from the bridge. A different waterfall can be seen a short distance along the fully accessible\(^{x}\) (Easy) paved trail, Gorge Overlook Trail (see description on previous page). When viewing from the bridge, please use caution. The bridgedeck is grated and may be slippery when wet. If you plan to cross SR 20 use the crosswalk and be alert for traffic.

Seattle City Light Tours, Diablo
(SR 20, Milepost 126)

Two fully guided tours of the Skagit Hydroelectric Project, the Ross Deluxe Meal Tour and the Diablo Dam Tour, are available Thursdays through Mondays (no tours Tuesdays and Wednesdays) from mid-June through August. Weekend-only tours (Saturday and Sunday) during September. Reservations are required for the Ross Deluxe Meal Tour. For tour times and reservations, call the Skagit Tour Desk at 206-684-3030. Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon advanced request. Persons with hearing impairments can call the Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service at 1-800-833-6388. Visit the Skagit Tour's website at: http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/light/tours/

Rock Shelter Trail (Moderate)
(SR 20, Milepost 120)

Follow this path back through time to visit a campsite used 1400 years ago by hunting and gathering Upper Skagit Peoples. This trail is accessible\(^{x}\) with rest areas, interpretive signs, and benches. People using wheelchairs may need assistance. Moss and lichen line the path, earthy scents linger in the air and the rushing waters of Newhalem Creek can be heard in the distance. Round trips are .25 miles (.5 kilometers) from the trailhead or about 1 mile (1.6 kilometer) along the Linking Trail from Newhalem Creek Campground or the Newhalem Powerhouse. Nearest accessible restrooms are located at the North Cascades Visitor Center or in Newhalem Creek Campground.


Linking Trail
(SR 20, Milepost 120)

This accessible trail\(^{x}\) links the Rock Shelter Trail, Newhalem Powerhouse and Newhalem Creek Campground. This charming path winds through verdant woods and along Newhalem Creek. Distance between Newhalem Creek Campground and Rockshelter Trailhead is .3 miles (.5 kilometers), between Trailhead and Newhalem Powerhouse .25 miles (.4 kilometers).
**Newhalem**
(SR 20, Milepost 121)

This historic Company town of Seattle City Light offers accessible parking, a general store, a self-guided historic tour, accessible restrooms, picnic areas and access to trails. The Skagit General Store offers deli foods, grocery and souvenir items, open limited hours in winter.

**Trail of the Cedars**
(SR 20, Milepost 121)

This accessible loop trail offering moderate grades, rest areas, interpretive signs and benches is maintained by Seattle City Light. People using wheelchairs may need some assistance. Touch the stringy bark and smell the fragrance of towering Western red cedars that line the trail as the soft murmur of the Skagit River passes in the background. Round trips are .3 miles (.5 kilometers) from Newhalem or the Newhalem Powerhouse. Accessible restrooms located across from Skagit General Store.

**Gorge Overlook Trail (Easy-Most Difficult)**
(SR 20, Milepost 123)

Accessible parking!, toilets!, and curb ramps! available. About half of this loop trail is fully accessible! and paved. The other half is compacted gravel!. The loop in its entirety is .8 miles (1.3 kilometers) long with benches and interpretive signs. Ravens and crows dance and call in the gentle breeze blowing through the gorge. A waterfall, Gorge Dam and Gorge Lake can be seen from the paved section of the trail.

**Paved Portion:** Rated: Easy. **Trail length:** .2 mile. **Total elevation change:** 20 feet. **Inclination:** 0-6% grade. **Cross-slope:** 0-3%. **Trail width:** 36 inches average, 32 inches minimum. **Surface:** paved.

**Unpaved Portion:** Rated: Most difficult. **Trail length:** .33 mile. **Elevation change:** 50 feet. **Inclination:** 0-14% grade. **Cross-slope:** 0-5%. **Trail width:** 36 inches average, 32 inches minimum. **Surface:** compacted gravel. **Obstacles:** Occasional rock or root.