

Use Of The FPOA Area

The following rules are necessary to comply with our State contract, insurance policies, and the Challenger Lease.

Permitted and Restricted Areas

- Access to the behind the gate, other than during public events, is limited to FPOA members who have a current liability waiver on file. The FPOA Scheduler must authorize all personal use of the observatory or surrounding area.
- Observing is restricted to the FPOA premises. The premises extend from the east end of the workshop (the west end of the parking lot below the observatory) to the fence just east of the observatory. The ranger residence is off limits to parking and astronomy viewing unless the unit ranger gives authorization.
- The workshop area is a restricted zone for non-authorized personnel. If a volunteer needs access to the workshop or any equipment around the workshop they must first gain permission from permanent park staff.
- Only members who are authorized to use the 30" telescope are allowed access to the observatory viewing room. Others should not attempt to gain access at any time, unless authorized or assisting an authorized FPOA Observer.
- It is strictly prohibited to make any adjustments (other than focusing eyepieces) or attach any equipment to the Challenger without explicit written permission from the Director of Instruments.

Access to permitted areas

- Access to the service gate road and observatory are granted through lock combination number access codes.

THE COMBINATION NUMBERS ARE NOT PUBLIC AND SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN OUT TO ANYONE.

Usage Rules for the FPOA Site

- The combinations to the service road gate and the observatory lock box will change periodically without prior notice. They will be given out to users as they schedule their visits through the scheduler.
- Volunteers who are scheduled for the public programs are required to contact the FPOA Scheduler not less than 2 days before the scheduled event to obtain the gate and observatory combinations.
- Observer members accessing the site on non program nights are required to contact the FPOA Scheduler not less than 2 days (or more than two weeks) before the requested access to obtain the gate and observatory combinations.
- The gate must be kept locked at all times. If an Observer is expecting a guest while at the observatory they must either have that person walk from the public parking lot or arrange to meet them at the gate. Under no circumstances shall the gate be left open nor the lock combination shared.

Payment of park usage fees

- Private use of the FPOA facilities does not create an exemption from normal park usage fees.
- For volunteers who are conducting, participating in, or preparing for a public program, fees are waived. All others using the area are subject to normal park usage fees.

Locking the Gate

It is very important that the gate be locked correctly when you leave. The order of the locks changes, but the rule is simple.

Always make sure all of the locks can unlock the chain.

If you isolate a lock, whoever installed this lock will be unable to open the gate and will have to call the rangers for access. Needless to say, that will result in a complaint to us.

So the rule is simple don't leave any locks dangling from the chain.

And if you ever find the gate locked in a different way **Fix It.**



Restrictions

- No tents, trailers, or camping equipment are to be set up in the shop or observatory area. You may remain in your vehicle until morning, but then need to leave the FPOA area. Camping is allowed only in designated camping spots. Members and their guests are not permitted to sleep or eat in the observatory.
- No alterations are permitted without FPOA board and State permission

Observatory Parking Plan

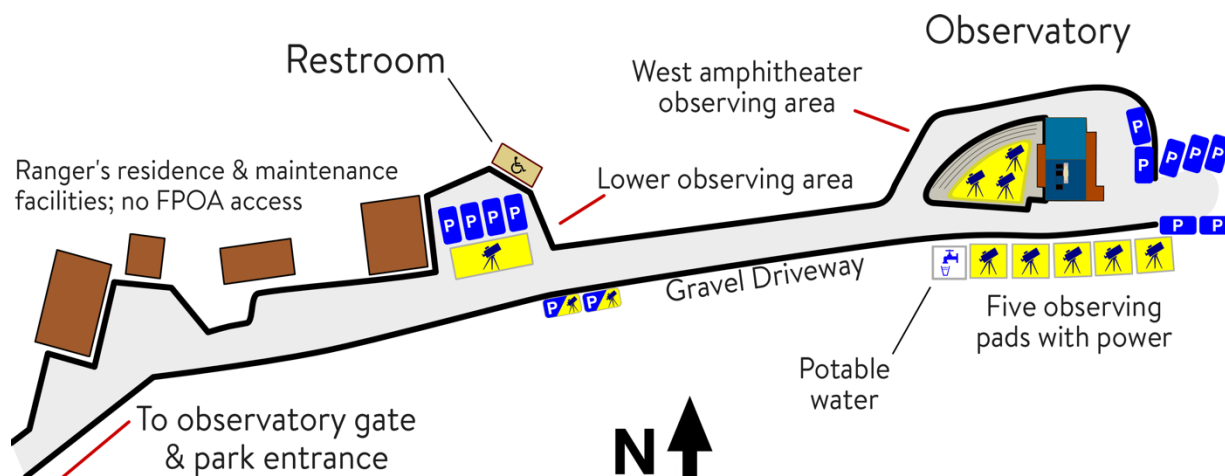
Objectives:

To maximize the number and quality of telescope observing sites near the observatory and lower premises while providing for a twenty (20) foot right-of-way for Emergency and Park District vehicles.

General Plan:

Most areas available for observing have been selected so that vehicle parking is close by. Some vehicles for observers set up on the Pads near the observatory will have to be parked in the selected lower area because of the limited parking around the observatory. No parking is allowed West of the HazMat shed and there is no parking near the Fire Hose Box located to the SW of the observatory. The area south of the ranger buildings should also be assumed to be off limits without explicit permission from the Scheduler.

Map of FPOA Area



Area near Observatory

- [Five \(5\) sites on individual pads](#) to the south of observatory. Each with Power. 3 area large sites, two are smaller
- The "Amphitheater" to the west of the observatory for overflow observing. This can accommodate at least Four (4)observer groups. Two of the sites have power nearby.

Areas available for parking at the Observatory and telescope pads (Seven total):

- [Two \(2\) parking spaces](#) to the east of the telescope pads on the south side of the access road.
- [Three \(3\) parking spaces](#) near the telephone pole to the east of the observatory.
- [Two \(2\) parking spaces](#) along the fence to the east of the observatory.

Lower Area

Note: The state has been using part of the lower area for storage and trash dumpsters. Not all spaces may be available. Check with the scheduler regarding current status

- [Four \(4\) sites with parking](#) to the east of the maintenance building (in front of restrooms). Note that at present DPR is using this area. At most Two (2) Observer groups can be accommodated.
- [Two \(2\) sites](#) with parking across the road from the restroom sites above. Anyone using this site must ensure that there is enough clearance on the road for a fire truck.

Overflow Parking

While we used to be able to park south of the DPR buildings this is now generally prohibited unless you obtain explicit clearance from the scheduler. If you are not able to park in one of the designated spots you will have to park within the park. Please give parking preference to those with equipment.