



## Nature At Home

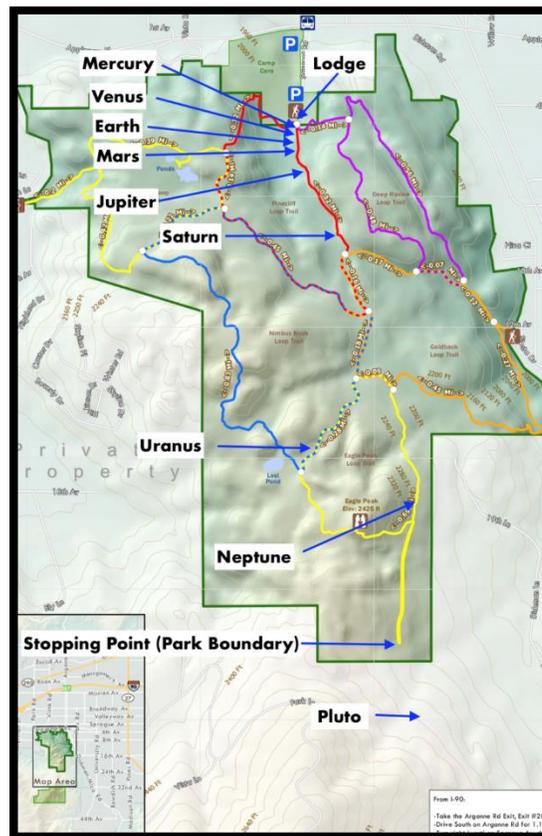
We hope to inspire kids of all ages to learn about the natural world and discover new connections to nature.



## Solar System Stroll

View the video at [DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home](http://DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home)

It is a challenge to visualize the relative sizes of the planets, much less how far apart they are in space. We shrunk the entire solar system down to a size we can understand. This stroll will create an accurate scale model of our solar system, meaning, the actual diameters and distances for the planets in our solar system are reduced by the same amount. We used a scale large enough for the smallest object from the Sun (Pluto) to be seen without magnification and, as the most distant planet, to be reached in a moderate walk. It's important to remember that the planets never line up in outer space; and we don't walk a straight line in the video.



Mercury – is the smallest planet in our solar system. One day on Mercury takes 59 Earth days. One day-night cycle takes 175.97 Earth days. Mercury makes a complete orbit around the Sun in 88 Earth days.



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Venus – One day on Venus lasts 243 Earth days because Venus spins backwards with its sun rising in the west and setting in the east. The planet’s surface temperature is about 900 degrees Fahrenheit (465 degrees Celsius).



Earth – The “Goldilocks Zone” refers to being “just right” for liquid water to exist. Where we find liquid water we also find life.



Mars – One day on Mars takes a little over 24 hours. Mars makes a complete orbit around the Sun in 687 Earth days.



Jupiter – Rotates once every 10 hours, but takes about 12 Earth years to complete one orbit of the Sun. Jupiter has more than 75 moons.



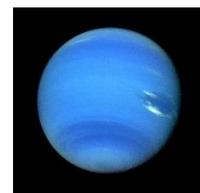
Saturn – Nine Earths side by side would almost span Saturn’s diameter (not including Saturn’s rings). Saturn takes about 10.7 hours to rotate on its axis once and 29 Earth years to orbit the sun. Saturn has 53 known moons (with an additional 29 moons awaiting confirmation).



Uranus - About four times wider than Earth. Uranus takes 17 hours to rotate once and about 84 Earth years to complete an orbit of the Sun. Uranus has 27 known moons and 13 known rings. Uranus rotates on its side.



Neptune – Neptune is about four times wider than Earth. It takes 16 hours to rotate once and about 165 Earth years to orbit the sun. Because of dwarf planet Pluto’s elliptical orbit, Pluto is sometimes closer to the Sun than Neptune is.



Pluto (Dwarf planet) – Pluto is about half the width of the United States. A year on Pluto is 248 Earth years. A day on Pluto lasts 153 hours



NOTE: To complete a Solar System Stroll on your own, please refer to Madison Metropolitan School District Planetarium, Version 3 MMSD, 9/22/2011 <https://planetarium.madison.k12.wi.us/ssstroll.htm>

Share your observations and questions at [Education@DishmanHills.org](mailto:Education@DishmanHills.org)