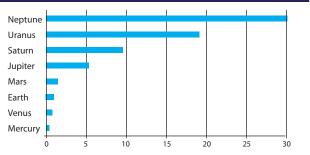


**Distance of Planets from Sun in Astronomical Units** 



An Astronomical Unit (AU) is the average distance between the Earth and the Sun, which is about 93 million miles. Astronomical Units are usually used to measure distances within our solar system. For example, the planet Mercury is about 0.4 of an AU from the Sun, while the dwarf planet Pluto is about 40 AU from the Sun.



Sun and planets are shown to scale by size, but not by the distance between them.



Created as the Eagle Scout Project of Colin Brinster, Troop 793.





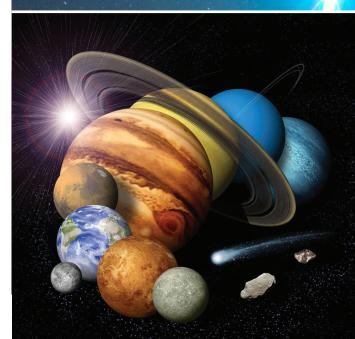
Made possible through the generous financial and in-kind support of Howard County Recreation & Parks, Howard Astronomical League, and The Friends of Max Cowan.

For more information about HAL, please visit www.howardastro.org



For more information about the Solar System Walk or to download the map, visit www.howardastro.org/solarsystemwalk.php

## ALPHA RIDGE PARK SOLAR SYSTEM WALK MAP



Welcome to a scale model walk through our solar system. On this 0.4 mile trail loop, representing over 3 billion miles, you will start at the Sun. Then, you will pass all of the planets in our solar system and complete your journey at Pluto, a dwarf planet in the Kuiper Belt, near the opposite corner of the observatory.

In our scale, 1 giant step (3 feet) = 4 million miles. 1:7,000,000,000

How many giant steps do you think it will take to get to Pluto?

ALPHA RIDGE PARK

## **SOLAR SYSTEM** WALK MAP

