
2021
GREEN BANK
OBSERVATORY

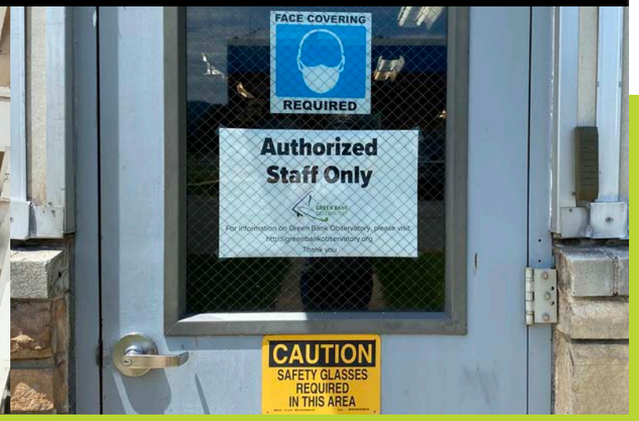
OUR SCIENCE PERSEVERES

The unprecendented changes brought about by COVID-19 and its impact on how we conduct business, and how we live our lives, have proven a challenge to the staff of the Green Bank Observatory. However, throughout 2020, the Green Bank Telescope is one of the few in the world that has been able to maintain continuous operations.

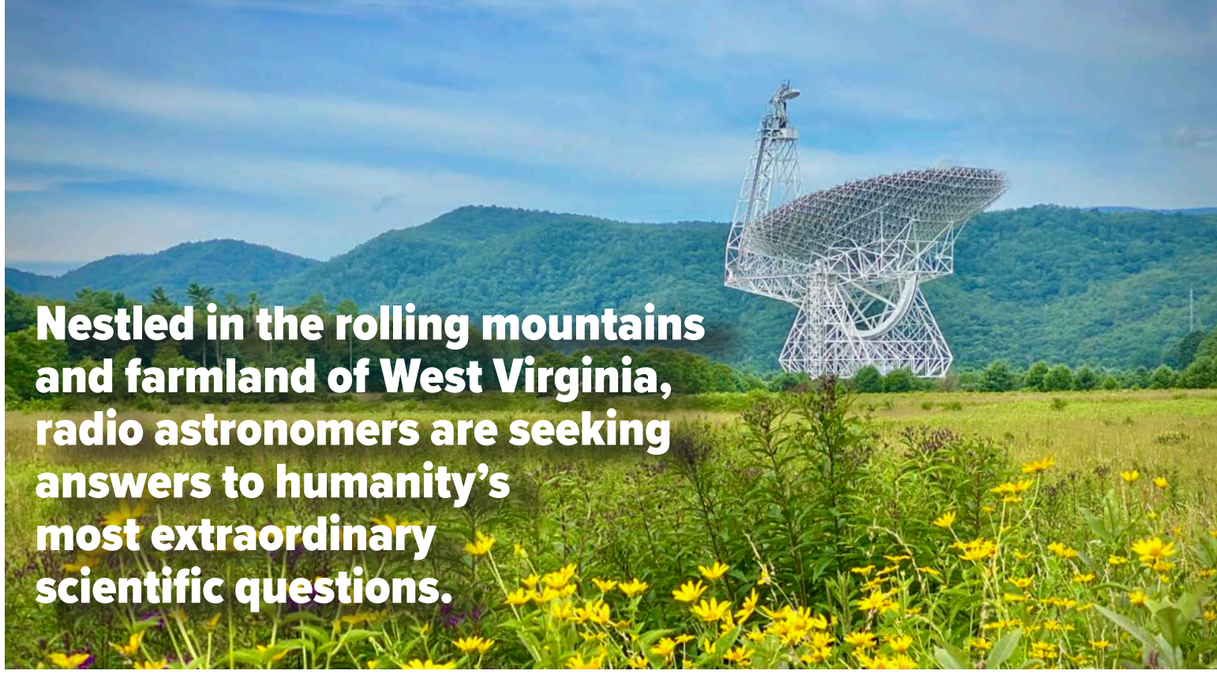
Thanks to new health and safety protocols, and a lot of teamwork, observations and new projects have carried on as planned.

On site activities have gone virtual, from our award-winning Science Center programs to scientific trainings and workshops.

As we enter 2021, please visit our website for the latest updates on our in-person and virtual programs and events.



greenbankobservatory.org



Nestled in the rolling mountains and farmland of West Virginia, radio astronomers are seeking answers to humanity's most extraordinary scientific questions.

The Green Bank Observatory is the home of the 100-meter Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope (GBT), the world's premier single-dish radio telescope. The Observatory campus includes an acclaimed Science Center, machine shop, electronics laboratory, and seven additional radio telescopes, along with a cafeteria and housing. The Observatory's location, surrounded by the Allegheny Mountains in Deer Creek Valley, is protected by two complementary radio interference protection zones – the National Radio Quiet Zone and the West Virginia Radio Astronomy Zone – providing significant protection for astronomical observations.

Green Bank is an attractive location for independent research experiments, and serves as the field station for several university-based research teams.

The Observatory machine shop and electronics laboratory have built state-of-the-art components and instruments for telescopes and research facilities around the world. The nearly 2,700-acre site has significant infrastructure which allows for the installation of any instrument that may benefit from the radio quiet location. There is ample space for new projects, a radio frequency test range, and anechoic chamber.

The Observatory's educational and public outreach programs for learners of all ages, and hands-on research experiences for students and educators, are nationally acclaimed.

Green Bank is a welcoming, creative, and tight-knit community. Our award winning staff come from the surrounding area, across the country, and around the world, and are proud to call this place home.

ROBERT C. BYRD GREEN BANK TELESCOPE

The GBT is a unique resource for the US and global research community. The combination of its fully steerable 100-meter unblocked aperture, active surface, 0.29-116 GHz frequency coverage, flexible instrumentation, and location in two different interference protection zones are not found in any other telescope. This makes it one of the world's premier telescopes for studying low-frequency gravitational waves, multi-messenger astronomy, fundamental physics, fast radio transients, cosmology, star formation, astrochemistry, gas in galaxies, and in the search for technosignatures.

100-METER DIAMETER

6,500 HOURS OBSERVING ANNUALLY

REACHING 85% OF THE CELESTIAL SPHERE

0.29-116 GHZ FREQUENCY COVERAGE

The GBT has a 100-meter diameter unblocked primary reflector with an active surface that can maintain an RMS surface accuracy of 230 μm under stable thermal conditions. This surface accuracy yields good observing efficiency at frequencies as high as 116 GHz. The unblocked aperture produces an extremely clean point spread function and resulting data with a high dynamic range. The GBT can observe declinations as low as -47, covering 85% of the entire celestial sphere. Green Bank has approximately 2,000 hours per year with atmospheric opacity suitable for observing at 70-116 GHz and near the 22 GHz water line, and the GBT is scheduled dynamically to take full advantage of these conditions.

The GBT's suite of low-noise radio receivers provides nearly continuous frequency coverage from 0.29-116 GHz, and its spectrometer can process as much as 4-8 GHz of instantaneous bandwidth. The GBT has several multi-pixel receivers: the K-Band 7-pixel Focal Plane Array, the Argus 16-pixel receiver[1], and the MUSTANG2 90 GHz 223-pixel bolometer array.[2]

[1] Instrument development PI: S.Church, Stanford University

[2] Instrument development PI: M. Devlin, University of Pennsylvania

TECHNOLOGY current & future

The GBT was built to be flexible and to be upgraded regularly to anticipate the needs of the astronomical community. In the next decade, several projects will expand the GBT's performance.

The Observatory operates state-of-the-art electronics and digital development labs specializing in the design of low-noise cryogenic receivers and FPGA-based wideband digital backend systems. The Machine Shop builds nearly all GBT feed horns, dewars, RFI enclosures, and other custom components.

OPTIMIZED RECEIVERS Enhancements and upgrades of existing receivers to take advantage of recent technological developments will improve survey speed up to 30-50%, even without adding additional pixels. This will impact all areas of GBT science including studies of pulsars, Hydrogen in galaxies and interstellar organic chemistry. A new, optimized 8-12 GHz x-band feed will be commissioned by the end of 2021.

ULTRAWIDEBAND SYSTEMS The Observatory is developing a 0.7-4 GHz Ultra Wide Band receiver to improve its sensitivity for pulsar studies of low frequency gravitational waves and fast radio transients. It will also be used for molecular spectrosopy and measurement of radio recombination lines.

RADIO CAMERAS

Argus-144 is a proposed extension of the existing 16-pixel Argus receiver and would improve the traditional feed horn camera mapping speed within this 74-116 GHz band by an order of magnitude. This proposed 144 feed-horn camera with improved amplifiers would provide wide-field imaging of key molecular transitions for the study of star formation and astrochemistry. It will include a dedicated spectrometer providing a total velocity coverage of 2000 km s-1 with 0.015 km s-1 resolution at 90 GHz. The Observatory is also exploring the use of phase array technology for future feeds.

IMPROVED PERFORMANCE The GBT is commissioning a new laser scanning system (LASSI) which, when complete, will open increase the GBT's availability for mm-wavelength observation by 50% or more. LASSI uses laser scanning system and the GBT's surface actuators to rapidly sample the full 2.3 acre dish and the correct for any deviations from idea in near real time, providing a surface that has an overall surface r.m.s. of less than 270 microns.

SHARING THE RADIO SPECTRUM Spectrum occupancy will continue to grow for the foreseeable future. The Observatory has been actively testing several techniques for automated radio frequency interference detection and excision. The next generation of wideband digital backends will be built incorporating these new technologies.

The new Ultra Wideband receiver, currently in fabrication in the Observatory Machine Shop.

MORE DETAILS & WHITE PAPERS
greenbankobservatory.org/science/instruments-2020-2030

Science
IN THE NEXT DECADE

Over the next decade, the unique capabilities of the GBT — its sensitivity, wide frequency coverage (0.2-116 GHz), all-sky tracking and protection from interference — will be used to make major advances in fundamental physics, interstellar chemistry, star formation, the study of black holes and their environment, the structure and evolution of galaxies and galaxy groups, cosmology, our understanding of the Solar System, and the search for signs of life elsewhere in the Milky Way.

■ A massive star ends its life as a supernova, sometimes leaving behind a neutron star that can appear as a pulsating radio source called a pulsar. The GBT is one of the world's **premier pulsar telescope**; its recent detection of the most massive neutron star ever found challenges our understanding of matter in its densest form. The GBT will continue to discover more pulsars, some in environments that **test fundamental physical laws** like the equivalence principle and will also refine our understanding of gravity and general relativity.

■ The arrival time of a pulsar's radio pulses can be used to detect nanohertz-frequency gravitational waves. Through extremely accurate timing of a set of pulsars, the GBT will **directly detect gravitational waves** originating from the inspiral of binary supermassive black holes. The direct detection of individual binary systems will enable **multi-messenger observations** of dual active galactic nuclei. A direct detection of the gravitational wave background will test theories of galaxy merger, the evolution of supermassive black holes, and how they interact with their local environment. Precision pulsar timing by the GBT is a necessary complement to ground and space-based laser interferometers for gravitational wave studies.

■ Complex organic molecules are being created in the interstellar medium through a chemistry that we simply do not understand. This is a critical gap as chemistry is an integral part of star formation, and the chemical processes that create **interstellar organic molecules** were likely the starting point of life on Earth. With its sensitivity to weak spectral lines, the GBT will investigate a previously-unexplored reservoir of complex, gas-phase molecules in pre-stellar sources, and give insights into fundamental chemical processes.

■ Interstellar molecules are found within galaxies in giant gas clouds. Radio emission from these molecules can be used to understand the mechanisms that form the clouds, determine their structure, and regulate their collapse to **create new stars and new solar systems**. Within our own galaxy, the GBT will map entire molecular clouds, including their star-forming filaments and cores, and measure their internal kinematics and physical properties with high sensitivity. Using its multi-pixel cameras for radio spectroscopy, the GBT can cover an entire spiral arm yet resolve nearby star-forming cores at an angular resolution as high as 7 arc-seconds.

■ In galaxies like the Milky Way, **large-scale star formation** is controlled by the distribution of gas within the galaxy, the infall of fresh gas, and the rate at which the gas is incorporated into new stars. The GBT is mapping the dense gas across nearby star-forming galaxies, and is discovering clouds of hydrogen plunging into those galaxies, bringing new material for future star formation. This research will produce unique data on the gas content of distant galaxies at high redshift, and its change as galaxies evolve through time.

■ At the center of every large galaxy lies a massive black hole that can capture nearby gas and stars. Part of the captured material is drawn into the black hole while the rest is expelled in powerful jets often accompanied by a wind. If this event is violent enough, it can strip a galaxy of all its gas. In the coming decade the GBT will provide critical capabilities for the study of **black holes and their interaction with their environment**. The GBT will discover and study gas clouds being expelled from the Milky Way nucleus. When connected with other radio telescopes around the world, the enormous sensitivity of the GBT will reveal the structure of gas accreting onto black holes in distant galaxies. The GBT can measure a black hole mass, study the tidal disruption of a star by a black hole, and watch the creation of quasars at an angular resolution of tens of micro-arcseconds.

TRAINING & PROPOSAL CALLS

Training workshops are offered in the spring, summer, and fall. See our website for current workshop dates and to register. https://greenbankobservatory.org/science/gbt-observers/observer-training-workshops/

Calls for proposals to observe using the GBT are issued twice a year. greenbankobservatory.org/science/gbt-observers/proposals

SHARING OUR SCIENCE

The Observatory hosts many public and private workshops and conferences each year, from special topics focusing on radio astronomy, to the Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers and other groups. Presentations from these events are often recorded, archived, and shared at our website.

READ MORE greenbankobservatory.org/science/science-2020-2030

■ In the era of **multi-messenger astrophysics** the Universe is studied through gravitational radiation as well as electromagnetic radiation. In the coming decade the GBT will be used as the most sensitive element of a long-baseline array to localize and study the remnants of the interaction of compact objects, for example, the weak radio emission associated with binary neutron star mergers. There is no instrument either current or proposed that can match, let alone exceed the GBT for these measurements. At 3mm wavelength **the GBT/ALMA combination** is more sensitive by a factor >20 than any other instrumental combination for the highest resolution imaging, and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

■ When the Vera C. Rubin Observatory begins operation in 2022 it will open up a new era in **time-domain astronomy**, detecting many thousands of optically varying objects each night. The GBT will make follow-up radio observations to check for radio bursts or pulsations. The GBT will discover and monitor **Fast Radio Bursts**, which probe environments in distant galaxies.

■ The GBT will continue to measure properties of objects in our solar system, and around other stars. With the high instantaneous sensitivity of its wide-field radio cameras it will make rapid images of **the flow of gas from comets**. It will study thermal emission from the Oort cloud of comets around nearby stars. As the passive element of bi-static radar studies it will observe **the winds on Venus** as they modulate the planet's rotation, and the coupling of the crust and core of Mercury. The GBT will image **near-Earth asteroids** to determine their structure and precise trajectories.

■ Half of the galaxies in the Universe are in large galaxy clusters that are filled with hot ionized gas. The GBT's MUSTANG-2 radio camera, with its sensitivity, high angular resolution, and wide field of view at 3mm wavelength, will measure **the structure of galaxy cluster gas** and the pressure within the cluster. These data will reveal the history of cluster formation, filamentary structures between clusters, and the evolution of massive galaxies at high redshift.

■ In the coming decade the GBT will continue its **search for Technosignatures**. Radio leakage from Earth-like civilizations will be detectable through new surveys that greatly expand the volume of space and the radio frequencies that are searched.

GREEN BANK SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

1950s
- Dedication of the Observatory in Green Bank
- Groundbreaking for the 140-foot Telescope
- National Radio Quiet Zone established
- Dedication of the Howard E. Tatel 85-foot telescope
- Grote Reber reconstructs his telescope
- Detection of emission from Jupiter's radiation belts

1960s
- First SETI observations
- Drake Equation
- First radio astronomy at 1.4mm wavelength
- First digital autocorrelator in use
- Radio Recombination Line surveys
- Detection of Zeeman splitting of interstellar hydrogen
- Intercontinental interferometry: Green Bank to Sweden
- Discovery of the pulsar in the Crab nebula
- First organic polyatomic interstellar molecule

1970s
- First detection of radio novae
- First long carbon-chain interstellar molecule
- Radio recombination lines from the Galactic Center
- Discovery of Sgr A*, the Milky Way's central black hole
- First measurement of relativistic deflection of light with 1% errors
- Discovery of the Tully-Fisher relationship
- Extended HI rotation curves reveal dark matter

1980s
- 1400 MHz sky survey
- CBS5 Survey of radio sources
- Area of the sky with the least interstellar matter
- Discovery of Extreme Scattering Events
- Galactic Plane Radio Patrol
- Surveys of He^3 emission
- First detection of HI in S0 galaxies
- First measurements of the magnetic field in molecular clouds

1990s
- GBT groundbreaking
- Green Bank Earth Station operates with Japan's VSOP satellite
- Discovery of Maser emission from methanol
- Detection of long carbon chain molecule $HC_{11}N$

2000s
- GBT first light
- Discovery of high-velocity clouds around Andromeda
- Discovery of more than 20 pulsars in a globular cluster
- Detection of the first interstellar molecular anion
- Discovery of the fastest spinning pulsar
- Detection of the molten core of the planet Mercury
- Binary pulsar provides best test yet of general relativity
- GBT first observations at 3mm wavelength
- Hydrogen cloud on collision course with the Milky Way
- Many H_2O masers found around black holes in galactic nuclei

2010s
- Discovery of the most massive known neutron star
- Commissioning of 16-pixel camera for 3mm spectroscopy
- First detection of an interstellar chiral molecule
- Measurements of redshifts and molecular gas for high-z galaxies
- Intensity mapping detection of hydrogen emission at z 0.8
- Pulsar in triple system confirms the Equivalence Principle
- Regular bi-static radar imaging of asteroids
- Galaxy clusters imaged at 9'' using Sunyev-Zeldovich effect.
- Detection of first interstellar aromatic Carbon ring molecule
- Commissioning of 223 pixel bolometer camera for 3mm
- Galaxy surveys establish existence of Laniakea Supercluster
- 3mm VLBI of M87 jet at 250x80 micro-arcsecond resolution
- Best limit on a stochastic background of gravitational waves

2020s
- Direct detection of interstellar polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
- Independent determination of Hubble constant with 4% uncertainty
- Discovery of an extremely massive millisecond pulsar

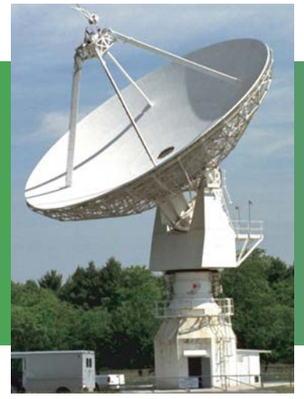
TELESCOPES

Green Bank's instruments have been used for a wide range of purposes including satellite tracking, spacecraft tracking, atmospheric studies, monitoring of astronomical and planetary phenomena, and educational programs.

NATIONAL RADIO QUIET ZONE
13,000 square miles of regulatory protection on all fixed, licensed radio transmitters

WEST VIRGINIA RADIO ASTRONOMY ZONE
10 mile radius, increased restrictions on all electrical emissions

85-FOOT TELESCOPES In 1959, the first 26-meter telescope, known as the **Tatel Telescope,** was built on site. Soon after, two more were added, the 85-2 and 85-3. While able to be run independently, the three telescopes were most often used together as the Green Bank Interferometer. Use of these telescopes ended in 2000. All three are in need of some level of refurbishment before they can become fully operational again.



20-METER TELESCOPE Built for the United States Naval Observatory in the 1990s, it participated in a global program of Earth Orientation very long baseline interferometry measurements in cooperation with the International Earth Rotation Service and the NASA Space Geodesy program. In recent years it has been used to search for Fast Radio Bursts, monitor the Crab Pulsar, and map the OH within the Milky Way. It is used as an educational telescope as part of the University of North Carolina's Skynet program.

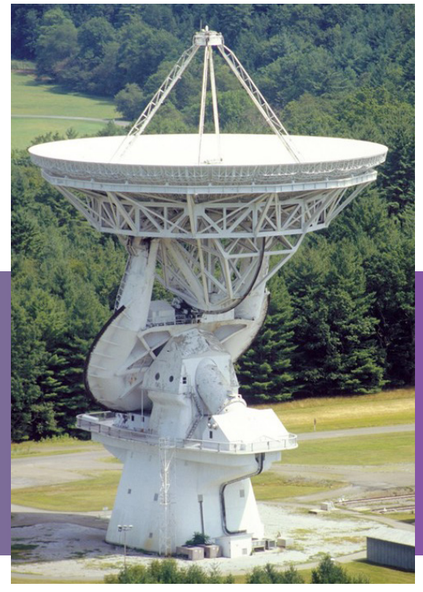
45-FOOT TELESCOPE This 13.7-meter diameter telescope was built in 1973 as the outlying fourth element of the Green Bank Interferometer and was critical to prove that the long baselines of the Very Large Array would be feasible. It was later converted by NASA into a tracking station for orbiting satellites. The antenna combined with Japan's orbiting HALCA satellite became part of what was once the largest telescope every used — an interferometer that spanned 60,000 miles. Later, it was re-purposed for daily solar observations as part of the Frequency Agile Solar Radio telescope, through 2012.

GREEN BANK OBSERVATORY TELESCOPES
AVAILABLE FOR NEW PROJECTS

DIAMETER	PERFORMANCE (Efficiency)	TRACKING SPEED (°/min)	POINTING ACCURACY (°)	SKY COVERAGE ELEVATION (°)	SKY COVERAGE AZIMUTH (°)	STATUS
45-foot (13.7m)	38% at 15 GHz	35-40	0.01-0.03	+3 to +112	-162 to +373	Operational
20-meter	50% at 10 GHz	120	0.01	+1 to +90	-270 to +270	Operational
85-foot (26m) (3 telescopes)	40% at 8.8 GHz	20*	0.01	-40 to 88**	-82 to +82**	Needs Refurbishment
140-foot (43m)	50% at 7.2 GHz	20-40	0.004	-40 to 81**	-105 to +105**	Operational
GBT 100-meter	70% at 7.2 GHz 35% at 90 GHz	18-35	0.001	+5 to +90	-270 to +270	Operational from 0.2 through 116 GHz

*Original specifications

**Coverage is given in declination and hour angle (degrees).



140-FOOT TELESCOPE Built for radio astronomy research in the 1960s, the 43-meter diameter telescope has an equatorial mount which allows it to avoid any tracking, or "zone of avoidance," issues when tracking objects at or near the zenith. It worked as an astronomical research instrument from 1965 through 1999 when it was retired as a general user facility. Six years later, in 2005, the 43m telescope was put back into use, this time as part of a satellite tracking program instituted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratory to study the ionosphere. From 2012-2019, it served as a satellite data down-link station for a space-based astronomy satellite, Spektr-R's RadioAstron instrument.

SEE MORE

greenbankobservatory.org/telescopes

40-FOOT EDUCATION TELESCOPE
Purchased from a commercial vendor in 1961, this inexpensive aluminum instrument took only two days to set up. With a control system designed and built by Observatory staff, it became the world's first fully automated telescope, providing unmanned observing focused solely on radio sources. In 1987 it was recommisioned as an educational telescope and is now used to teach radio astronomy to thousands of students and adults each year.

the future of ENGINEERING

MECHANICAL • ELECTRICAL • COMPUTER • HARDWARE • SOFTWARE

Observatory staff possess hundreds of years of combined expertise and experience developing, building, and repairing all of the instruments and systems in Green Bank, and have built or contributed to many more projects worldwide.

While focused towards Green Bank operations, the staff are also able to develop innovative solutions and products for other research organizations around the world.

DIGITAL

Focusing on issues ranging from active surface electronics through optimized analog-to-digital conversion, active signal excision and FPGA and GPU technologies, the Green Bank Observatory's digital engineering group provides state of the art research and technologies into all aspects of telescope operations and signal processing. Current projects underway in the digital group include real-time RFI excision across 5-10 GHz bandwidths, modernized active surface control and metrology techniques, and high bit, high time resolution signal processing.

MICROWAVE

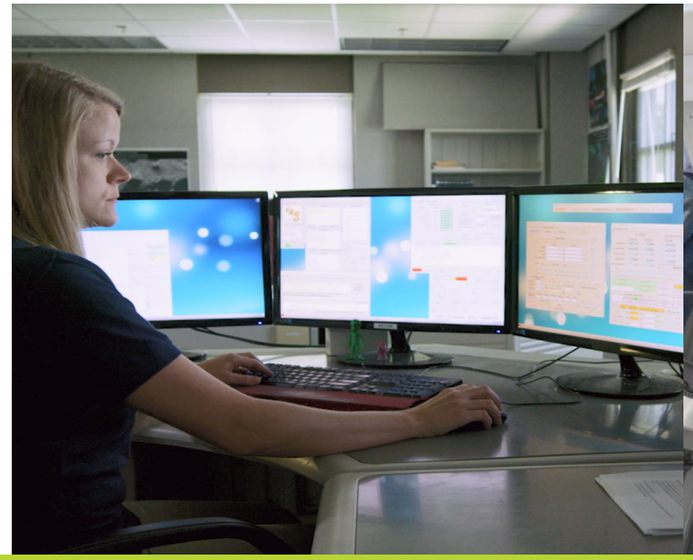
The Observatory's microwave engineering group maintains a laboratory equipped with state-of-the-art test and measurement equipment, including a bonding machine and probe station for building and testing Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuit (MMIC) devices, an Anritsu Vector Star vector network analyzer capable of measuring microwave components up to 115 GHz, and an assortment of RF and fiber optic devices. The RF laboratory routinely produces working RF board and optic designs up to 115 GHz using CST Microwave and Microwave Office development software. Recent projects include a 19-element L-band cryogenic PAF receiver, a K-band focal plane array, and a dual beam 4mm receiver with calibration optics. The staff also routinely experiments with commercially available MMIC devices to improve gain stability and baseline performance of the current GBT systems.

SOFTWARE

The Observatory's software development division develops, maintains, and upgrades subsystems supporting the optimization, operation, and data reduction for all Observatory telescopes and systems, including: observation management, telescope monitor and control, telescope scheduling, data reduction, and data archiving, visitor reservations and site management and administration. The division simultaneously supports new development and ongoing operations using development methodologies that best support a given project and team, makes effective use of automation, and carefully balances custom code development with open source solution integration.

MECHANICAL

The Observatory shop completes countless challenging fabrications each year, often developed from sketches provided by engineers and scientists. Rapid repair capabilities maximize telescope efficiency and compress development schedules for producing instruments. Machinists produce parts with tolerances that are much tighter than most commercial shops. The shop utilizes a full range of fabrication techniques that include both manual and CNC machines for fabrications from the very small through the very large, along with 3-D printing and welding across a wide variety of metals and techniques.



DESIGN • FABRICATION • REPAIR • MAINTENANCE • COMMERCIAL

EDUCATION

reservations@gbobservatory.org
304-456-2150

STUDENTS

The Observatory's staff and facilities offer extraordinary STEM education through online and real world hands-on experiences for learners of all ages.

RADIO ASTRONOMER FOR A DAY Scientists routinely tackle questions that don't yet have answers. This student overnight program provides an authentic research experience with training on a working radio telescope, tours, and hands-on activities. This program is open to all school and youth groups (5th grade and above) and meets NGSS Nature of Science standards.

WEST VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S STEM INSTITUTE Funded by the State of West Virginia, the Observatory hosts 60 8th graders for a 2-week summer camp focusing on science, astronomy, and personal development.

PHYSICS INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION PING engages traditionally underrepresented students to science and engineering, with a focus on physics and radio astronomy. Launched in 2014, PING immerses middle school students in a 2-week residential research camp and undergraduate students in a 10-week internship that includes mentoring the younger students.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS, DATES, & APPLICATIONS
greenbankobservatory.org/education

PULSAR SEARCH COLLABORATORY
The PSC engages high school students and their teachers in the quest to discover new pulsars and transient sources by analyzing data from the GBT. Twice each academic year the Observatory holds a six-week online training course. Participants may apply to summer camp at the Observatory and annual capstone events. Several PSC students have discovered new pulsars and become published authors before graduating from high school!

WEST VIRGINIA SCIENCE PUBLIC OUTREACH
WVSPOT began in 2013 as a NASA partnership, training undergraduates to deliver interactive science, technology, and engineering presentations to K-12 classrooms, museums, and youth programs. To date, over 800 presentations have been given, impacting the lives of over 25,000 students.

SKYNET JUNIOR SCHOLARS SJS allows educators and students to gain access to telescopes around the world, including the 20m radio telescope at the Observatory. Students remotely access telescopes to collect real project data and collaborate with each other in online communities. Educators and youth leaders can form their own clubs. Learn more at skynetjuniorscholars.org.

WEST VIRGINIA LEAP INTO SCIENCE The Observatory provides professional development to this network of informal educators which brings engaging STEM-inspired early childhood and family science events to community settings. Educator training opportunities and other resources are available, learn more at the @wvleap Facebook page.

VIRTUAL VISITS

Can't come to the Observatory? We will come to you! Approved groups of five or more students can register for a variety of free online programs, from learning about the site history or Green Bank, to radio astronomy, our latest science, and more! These programs are tailored to your curriuclum and time avaialble. Learn more and sign up today:

greenbankobservatory.org/education/virtual-visits

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

From high school through post-doctoral studies, students have several opportunities to explore career options in STEM and other work fundamental to the operations of the Observatory.

POST-DOCTORAL POSITIONS Post-Docs are an integral part of the Observatory team and balance a variety of duties along with their own independent research. 2-year positions are available on a rolling basis.

SUMMER EXPERIENCE FOR UNDERGRADUATES Summer positions can include astronomical research, and software, electrical, or hardware engineering, as well as working with plant maintenance and the machine shop. Students involved in basic research often attend scientific conferences and publish their results.

INTERNSHIPS These paid appointments provide staff support in a specific division, along with on-the-job training, tailored to meet specific academic requirements.

APPRENTICESHIPS Learn how to do a specialized job through on-the-job training, under the guidance of an experienced colleague. 3-6 months paid appointments are available in mechanical engineering, machining, electronics and telescope maintenance/mechanics.

CO-OPS Academic institutions are encouraged to contact the Observatory directly with proposals for student placements.

EMPLOYMENT

The Observatory is hiring for permanent and temporary seasonal positions. Current openings can be found at **greenbankobservatory.org/careers**

A diverse staff is critical to mission success: enabling world-class science, training the next generation, and fostering a scientifically engaged society. Green Bank Observatory is committed to a diverse and inclusive work place culture that accepts and appreciates all individuals.

EDUCATORS

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR TEACHERS
In conjunction with West Virginia University, this 6-week summer research program trains teachers in digital signal processing in radio astronomy. Learn how to use an inexpensive, versatile and rapidly developing technology (software defined radios) which can be implemented for astronomy applications as well as for receiving signals from satellites, like the NOAA weather satellites. Each summer, up to eight teachers spend 4-weeks at WVU, and 2-weeks at the Green Bank Observatory.

CHAUTAUQUA SHORT COURSES
This 2.5-day course shares the fundamentals of radio astronomy and cutting edge scientific research with small college and community college faculty from around the nation. Each year between 25-30 participants interact with Observatory astronomers and engineers, enjoy behind the scenes tours and use educational radio telescopes to complete projects.

SCIENCE CENTER

The 25,000 square-foot Science Center features a 150-seat auditorium, classrooms, indoor star lab, computer lab, Galaxy Gift Shop, and Starlight Café. There is no admission fee to visit the *Catching the Wave* Exhibit Hall or take a self-guided walking tour of the Observatory.

Fees are charged for guided public tours and some special events. Advanced registration is required for field trips and large groups. There is ample parking for buses and RVs. The Science Center is accessible and wheelchairs can be accommodated on buses for guided public tours.

Days of operation and hours change seasonally. The Center may close or cancel events to support necessary safety regulations during times of need. Virtual tours and activities are always welcome.

Visit greenbankobservatory.org for the latest information.

GUIDED PUBLIC TOURS

These 1-hour tours offer a fun peek into the world of radio astronomy with science demonstrations and a bus excursion into the restricted zone surrounding the telescopes. Tickets may be purchased in the Galaxy Gift Shop, no advanced registration required.

SPECIAL GUIDED TOURS

Focusing on unique aspects of our site's history with limited tickets available. Reservations are highly recommended, as these sell out! Dates and times are available online and in our brochure.

High-Tech Tours See how technology used in radio astronomy is developed, going behind-the-scenes in labs and telescope control room.

SETI Tours The search for extraterrestrial life began in Green Bank! Learn this history, visiting several several unique locations including historic control rooms. *Some historic locations require the climbing of stairs.*

History Tours How did the Observatory get started? What are some of the most exciting and important achievements? Learn this history, visiting several locations. *Some historic locations require the climbing of stairs.*

Guided Nature Walks There is more to the site than our astronomy. Enjoy a guided walk along our nature trail and discover the valley's ecology and geology.

FIELD TRIPS

Tours, activities, and day and overnight field trips for organized groups of students grades K-12 are available. Overnight field trips experience hands-on scientific research projects with a working radio telescope. Field trips can be customized to complement classroom curricula and other field trips in the area.

SCOUTS

Select weekends, scheduled overnight programs are offered. Using a working radio telescope, Scouts BSA can earn their Astronomy or Electronics Merit Badge, and Girl Scouts can earn a space-themed badge as well. Day activities are offered for Daisies and Brownies. Outside of these scheduled programs, Scout Troops may make reservations for tours and other hands-on science activities, with camping and other housing options available.

SPECIAL EVENTS

STAR PARTIES Explore some of the best dark skies in West Virginia with an optical telescope. Offered monthly at sunset, all ages welcome.

STAR LAB SUNDAYS Family fun for all ages! Crawl into the planetarium balloon for a fascinating night sky tour. Reservations recommended.

FAMILY SCIENCE LABS Select Saturdays, kids ages 4-9 enjoy hands-on science projects. Reservations recommended.

FAMILY SCIENCE DAY OPEN HOUSE This annual afternoon of fun offers FREE guided Site Tours along with hands-on science experiments, crafts, and games for all ages.

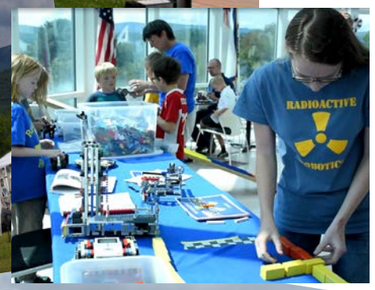
SPACE RACE RUMPUS* An annual weekend-long festival for mountain biking and road cyclists of all ages, from beginner to advanced. Clinics and rides on trails and roads, bike rodeo, star parties, bonfire, live music, and camping. Lots of fun for adventurous families!
Date and registration at spaceracerumpus.org

STARQUEST* The largest annual optical and radio telescope star party in the nation, camp out for 4 days and 3 nights, with a full schedule of speakers, workshops, raffles, activities, and more.
Date and registration at greenbankstarquest.org

**These events are coordinated by community partners*

DATES, TIMES & RESERVATIONS

reservations@gbobservatory.org 304-456-2150
greenbankobservatory.org/events



explore more

A visit can complement many other adventures in the region! The Observatory is surrounded by the Monongahela National Forest. There are many scenic natural areas, historic sites, and attractions for exciting day and overnight trips.

15 MINUTES Cass Scenic Railroad State Park, GreenbrierRiver Trail

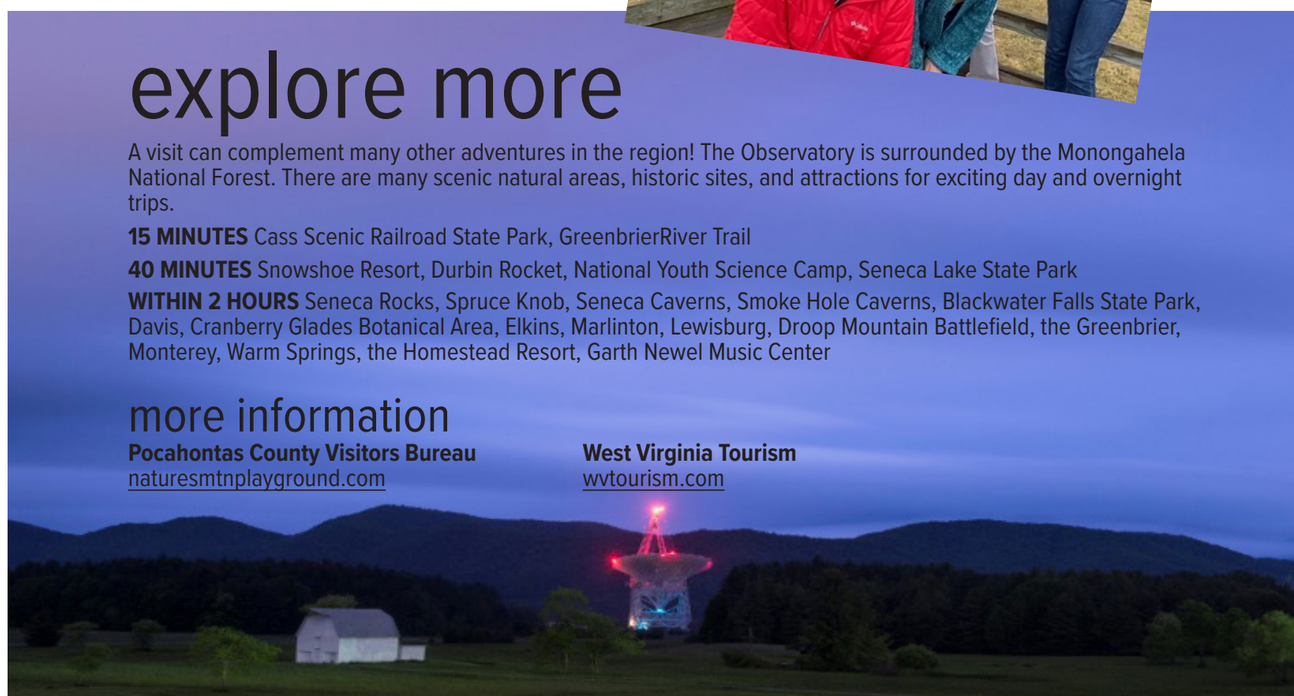
40 MINUTES Snowshoe Resort, Durbin Rocket, National Youth Science Camp, Seneca Lake State Park

WITHIN 2 HOURS Seneca Rocks, Spruce Knob, Seneca Caverns, Smoke Hole Caverns, Blackwater Falls State Park, Davis, Cranberry Glades Botanical Area, Elkins, Marlinton, Lewisburg, Droop Mountain Battlefield, the Greenbrier, Monterey, Warm Springs, the Homestead Resort, Garth Newel Music Center

more information

Pocahontas County Visitors Bureau
naturesmtnplayground.com

West Virginia Tourism
wvtourism.com



FACILITIES

RESEARCH & FIELD STATIONS

The Observatory is an attractive location for independent research experiments, and serves as the field station for several university-based research teams.

The site has significant infrastructure which allows for the installation of any instrument which may benefit from the radio quiet location, as well as a **radio frequency test range** for receivers and for testing antenna beam patterns, and a large **anechoic chamber** for testing radio emissions from all types of equipment.

With nearly **2,700 acres** of land, good network connectivity, and reliable power, numerous groups have also taken advantage of the infrastructure and radio quiet zones to deploy their own instruments on site. These include several **small telescope arrays** operating from 20-100 and 100-200 MHz, one station from a nation-wide magnetometer array, a proof of concept for an international project, and a GPS sensor deployed as part of West Virginia's geo-spatial array.

RADIO FREQUENCY TEST RANGES

ANECHOIC CHAMBER

SMALL ANTENNA & TELESCOPE ARRAYS

2,700 ACRES

CONFERENCES

The Observatory hosts numerous public and private **meetings, workshops,** and **events** year round at **auditoriums** in the Jansky Lab and Science Center, with full presentation capabilities.

Several **classrooms** and a **computer lab** are available in the Science Center. While WIFI is not available onsite to avoid interference with our observations, wired internet connections are available in numerous locations.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Several options for **overnight stays** are available at the Observatory, including apartments, houses, and a dormitory which is ideal for student and Scout groups. Other accomodations can be found in the surrounding area for larger groups.

The Observatory **cafeteria** can serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner. **Catering** is available across campus, including coffee breaks, receptions, and meals. Refreshments and meal options are also available directly from the Science Center **Starlight Cafe**, whose hours vary by season.

The Drake Lounge, located above the cafeteria, is a historic space that is often used for receptions and informal gatherings.

There is ample **parking** at several locations on site, with room for RVs, buses, and motorcoaches.

Charging stations for electric vehicles are located next to the dormitory.

GALAXY GIFT SHOP

On site and online, we offer a wide range of gifts for science lovers of all ages, including unique products made in our Observation machine shop. Members, conference attendees, and educators receive a discount.

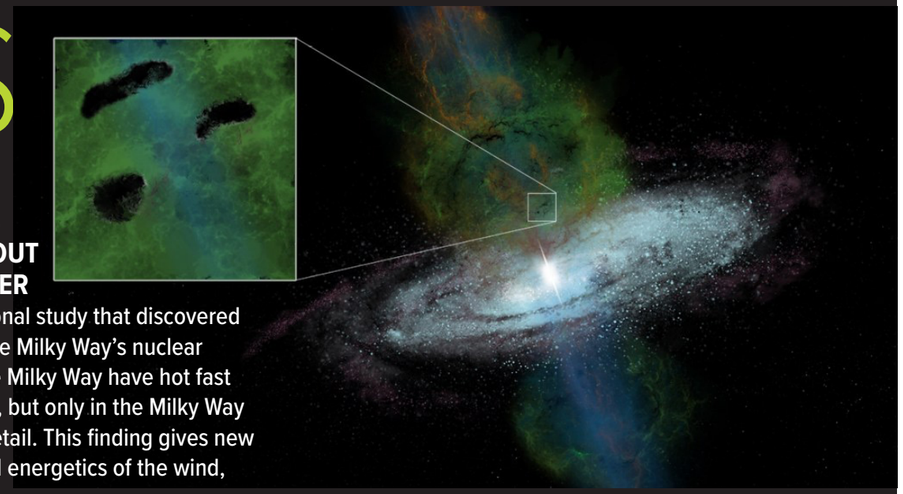
shop.greenbankobservatory.org

RECREATION

The Observatory features a 1.5-mile (3-mile out and back) paved, to scale, **self-guided walking tour** of the Solar System, ending at the GBT.

Bicycles are welcome on the grounds to explore **10-miles of trails** on paved, mowed, gravel, and single-track surfaces. Trail maps are available in the Science Center and Jansky Lab, and posted at **trail head parking** located at the rear of the Janksy Lab parking lot. **Primitive camping** is available in specific locations, and is a part of several special events each year.

NEWS



BLOWING IN THE WIND: FAST MOLECULAR CLOUDS DISCOVERED STREAMING OUT FROM THE GALACTIC CENTER

The GBT was part of an international study that discovered carbon monoxide molecules in the Milky Way's nuclear wind. Most large galaxies like the Milky Way have hot fast winds blowing from their centers, but only in the Milky Way can be studied up close and in detail. This finding gives new information on the mass flow and energetics of the wind, and on its origin and fate.

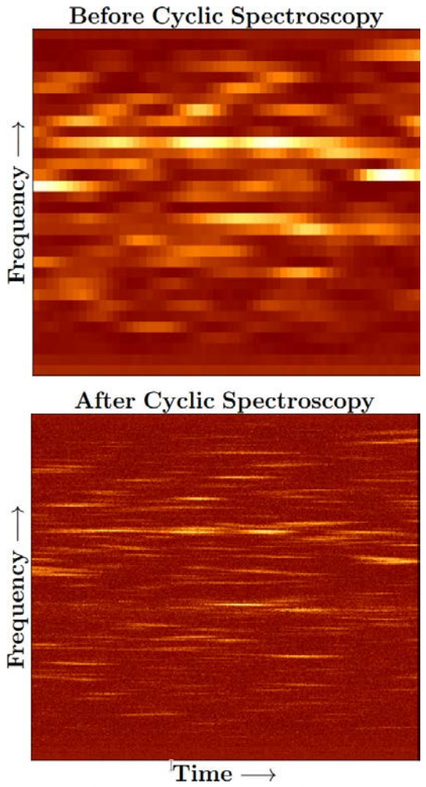


Image credit: M. Lam (RIT); Data from Arecibo Observatory (NSF)

GBT USES CYCLIC SPECTROSCOPY TO CREATE WORLD'S FIRST REAL-TIME ULTRA-WIDEBAND PULSAR OBSERVATIONS

The GBT is a premier tool for studying pulsars, thanks to its sensitivity. A new $1.3 million award from the National Science Foundation will develop a powerful new system for capturing these observations in real-time, combining pulsar observations and cyclic spectroscopy in the ultra-wideband. The Green Bank Observatory is the first in the world to combine all of these aspects at once, in one robust observation processing system, in real-time.

GBT DATA A PART OF BREAKTHROUGH LISTEN'S MOST COMPREHENSIVE SEARCH TO DATE

Independent team combines existing radio telescope data with new catalogs to search over 200 times more stars than before.

LIVE VIDEO UPDATES

The Observatory has been sharing the latest news on operations and scientific research through live, bi-weekly video meetings. Recordings are archived and accessible through the Observatory website and YouTube channel. Invitations are sent to the Observatory science e-mail list and social media.

NEW TELESCOPE WILL IMPROVE LOCALIZATION OF FAST RADIO BURSTS

West Virginia University recently announced that a $1.7 million National Science Foundation grant will be used to construct a new telescope at the Observatory. This new instrument will be used in association with the Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment, or CHIME, telescope, which is located half a continent away in British Columbia. CHIME's focus is studying Fast Radio Bursts, or FRBs. The new instrument at Green Bank will work with the existing CHIME telescope to triangulate the locations of FRBs.

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE: COMPLETE IMAGING OF CLUSTER COLLISION

This composite image of a giant cosmic collision was created by an international team of astronomers using radio, X-ray, and optical data collected with the MUSTANG-2 receiver on the GBT, the European Science Agency's (ESA) XMM-Newton Satellite, and the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan's (NAOJ) Subaru Telescope in Hawaii. The dazzling colors reveal a dramatic temperature increase resulting from the collision-induced shock – a rise from 40-million°C in the overall body of the cluster, to a whopping 400-million°C.

Image credit: PI Nobuhiro Okabe; Subaru Telescope, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan/HSC-SSP collaboration; National Science Foundation/ Green Bank Observatory/Green Bank Telescope; European Space Agency/XMM-Newton/XXL survey consortium.

THE FUTURE OF MULTI-MESSENGER ASTRONOMY IS IN THE OBSERVATORY'S NEW DATA ARCHIVE

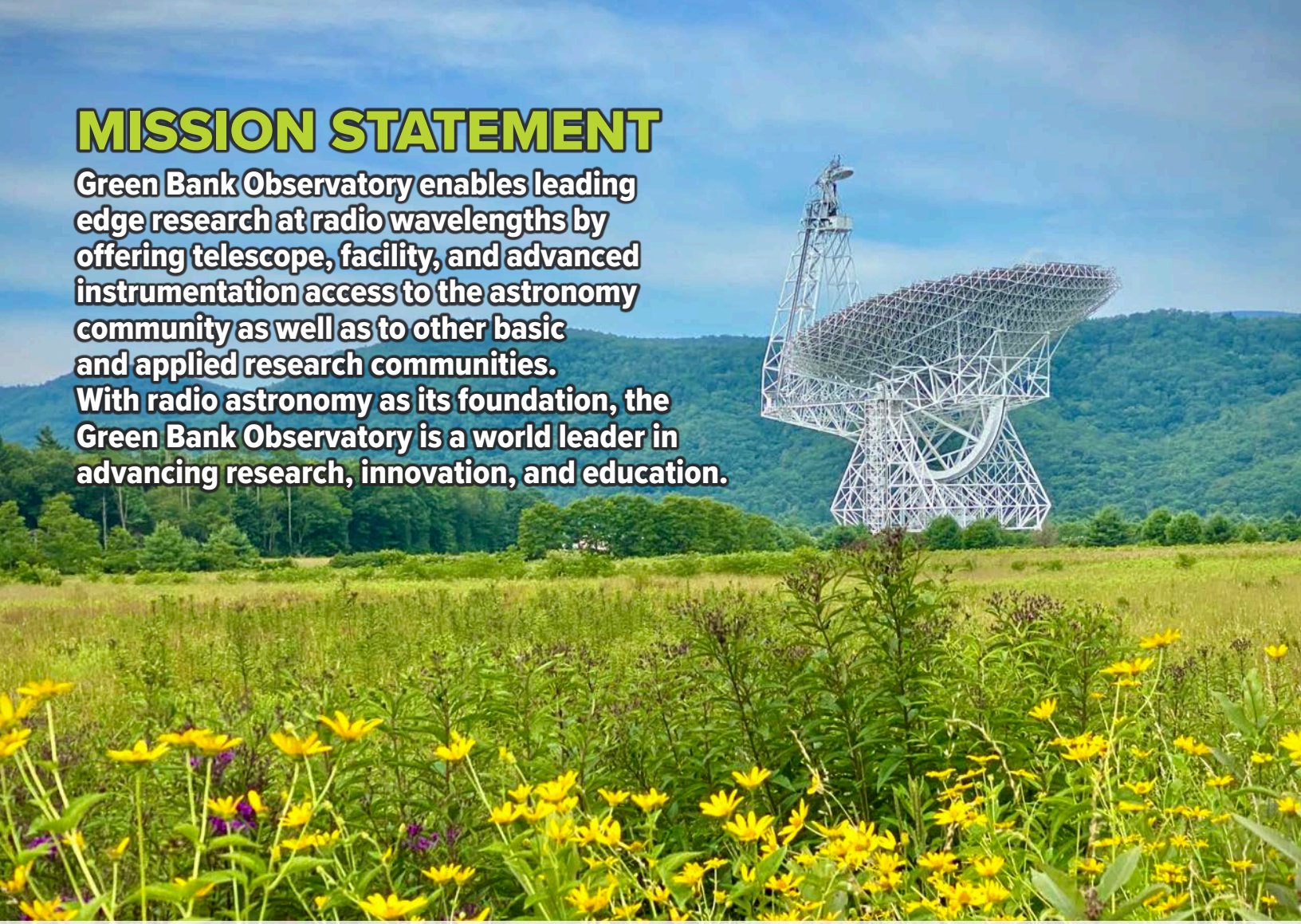
Thanks to funding from the National Science Foundation, the Observatory will begin construction of a new data archive in 2021. This new project will allow archival data collected from GBT observations to be more easily accessed by the greater astronomy community. Multi-Messenger Astrophysics will be able to conduct historical and time-constrained searches for variable and transient phenomenon, while large pulsar surveys can be re-processed to yield newly discovered millisecond pulsars that are critical for the study of gravitational waves.

SEE MORE NEWS greenbankobservatory.org/news

PUBLICATIONS See our extensive list of recent and past papers greenbankobservatory.org/science/publications

MISSION STATEMENT

Green Bank Observatory enables leading edge research at radio wavelengths by offering telescope, facility, and advanced instrumentation access to the astronomy community as well as to other basic and applied research communities. With radio astronomy as its foundation, the Green Bank Observatory is a world leader in advancing research, innovation, and education.



SEE MORE

The Observatory shares news & information on several platforms including greenbankobservatory.org along with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube, LinkedIN, & Trip Advisor
A variety of images for news and educational use are available on Flickr
Guidelines for visitor photography, social media policies, and press inquiries can be found at our website

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Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

GREEN BANK OBSERVATORY

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