

Moab Scale Model Solar System

The distance between the planets of our solar system is hard to comprehend. By human standards the distances are enormous and yet, when compared to distances between stars in our galaxy, the distance between planets seems small. This scale model solar system is designed to help convey the enormous distances between the planets compared to their relatively small proportional sizes.

The Sun is represented by the 142-inch diameter yellow disc at the center of the Sun Court. All of the distances and planet sizes are scaled accordingly. The locations of the inner planets are marked with plaques around town and along the Mill Creek Parkway. A brochure is available at the Grand County Public Library.

Even at this small scale the solar system is too big to fit inside the Moab City limits. The last plaque on the Mill Creek Parkway represents Mars. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and the dwarf planet Pluto are not represented by plaques, but you can find their approximate locations on the chart. At this scale the nearest star in our galaxy, Alpha Centauri, would be 65039 miles away. That is a little more than two and a half times around the equator of the Earth.

	Actual Diameter kilometers	Scale Diameter inches	Actual Orbit radius (km)	Scaled orbit radius (Feet)	Scale Location
Sun	1392000	142	-	-	Sun Court, East Center Street
Mercury	4879	0.50	57910000	492	Grand County Public Library, 257 E. Center
Venus	12104	1.23	108210000	920	Southeast corner of Ball Park, 300 E. 100 S.
Earth	12756	1.30	149600000	1272	Mill Creek Parkway, east of Cross Trails Bridge
Mars	6792	0.69	227940000	1938	Mill Creek Parkway, south of 300 S. underpass
Jupiter	142984	14.59	778300000	6616	Highway 191, mile marker 124
Saturn	120536	12.30	1429390000	12151	Highway 191, mile marker 123
Uranus	51118	5.21	2875040000	24441	Highway 191, mile marker 121
Neptune	49528	5.05	4504450000	38292	Highway 191, mile marker 118
Pluto	2390	0.24	5915800000	50290	Highway 191, mile marker 116

Scale 1:385,937,676.77

9802.817 km / inch
by Sam Allen.

This model was designed

