

## Chapter 6 Historic and Cultural Resources

The City of DuPont includes a Historic and Cultural Resources Element in its comprehensive plan to provide valuable insights into the past residents of the DuPont area. Recognizing and protecting cultural and historical resources provides information into the way our ancestors lived and interreacted with the environment and neighbors around them. Preserving and enhancing DuPont's historic and cultural resources offers and opportunity to share DuPont's history and culture with residents and visitors through tourism and educational programs.

While this element recognizes the value and importance of the area's cultural and historic resources, a full inventory is not provided due to their sensitive nature and best practices. DMC Chapter 25.80 designates the following as cultural resource sites and includes regulations for protection:

- The 1833 site of Fort Nisqually (the site is owned by City of DuPont and within the Old Fort Lake subarea planning area)
- The 1843 site of Fort Nisqually (the site is on privately owned land)
- The site of the Methodist / Episcopal Mission (the site is on privately owned land)
- The Wilkes Observatory site (site is owned by the City of DuPont and within the Old Fort Lake subarea planning area) - In the early 20th Century the DuPont Company placed a historical marker on the spot of the Wilkes Observatory. This marker still stands on the site)

**The Nisqually Tribe has lived in the area for thousands of years.** Carbon dating indicates as early as 5,700 years ago, the Nisqually Tribe inhabited this area, living in a small village at the mouth of Sequelitchew Creek.

Salmon was the mainstay of their diet and foundation of their culture. . In addition to the physical sustenance, this land also held cultural and spiritual importance to the tribe. Today, the Nisqually Tribe continues to assert their rights to ancestral lands, engaging in environmental stewardship, cultural preservation, and education.

In 1833 the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) sailed into the mouth of Sequelitchew Creek looking for a place to develop a fort/trading post to trade European goods for beaver fur with the indigenous people. By 1839 the demand for furs had declined and HBC opened the Puget Sound Agricultural Company running Spanish Long Horn cattle and sheep, and growing a variety of crops including potatoes, peas and wheat. With the need for better access to fresh water and more space, the fort was moved one mile inland in 1843, relocating it to the south bank of Sequelitchew Creek and west of Edmond Marsh.

With the passage of the Donation Land Claim and the Oregon Territory White Settlers Free Land Act, settlers streamed into the Puget Sound area. In 1846 the Oregon Treaty was signed which placed the boundary between Canada and the United States at the 49th Parallel. By 1854, the Nisqually Tribe was placed on a 1280-acre rocky reservation away from the Nisqually river and Puget Sound. The Treaty War was fought in 1855 and the Tribe was relocated on a 4,400-acre reservation. The U.S. government bought out the HBC in 1869 and closed Fort Nisqually in 1870.

In 1906 the E.I. du Pont de Nemours Company (DuPont Company) purchased approximately 3,600 acres from Edward Huggins land holdings (the last manager of Fort Nisqually) and other small farmers and opened a plant in 1909 which made dynamite and black powder beginning in 1913. Once the plant was opened, housing and a company town for the employees was built a mile south and east of the plant.

The DuPont Company started selling the houses to the employees and the City of DuPont was incorporated in 1951. The area comprised of the original company town is referred to today as the "Historic Village" and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The DuPont Company black powder plant was closed in 1945 with the dynamite plant operating until 1976 when they sold their property to the Weyerhaeuser Company.

The land sold from the DuPont Company to Weyerhaeuser was originally intended for use as a lumber mill and shipping facility. Instead, the land was transferred to the Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company and then to a company named Quadrant (which was a subsidiary of the Weyerhaeuser Corporation) that planned to develop a residential community. This planned community, comprised of 3,000-acres, is the present day Northwest Landing.

In addition to the Historic Village and Northwest Landing, the Nisqually Tribe owns land in the City and has an interest in maintaining its cultural and historical footprint in DuPont. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe recently purchased property to use for a future health and human services clinic.

Below are the guiding concepts that aided in the development of the cultural resource goals, policies, and implementation actions that follow.

The guiding concepts for Cultural Resources are:

- Neighborhoods have distinct focal points and short walking connections to other neighborhoods, services, public features, and jobs.
- Neighborhoods include a variety of housing types, styles, and opportunities.
- Residential buildings are designed to a variety of styles from the 1900's era.
- Commercial areas are diverse and lively, and include public spaces and retail, office, and residential uses.
- The civic center provides a facility for a diverse mix of uses that draw local residents and tourists for educational, cultural and recreational events and programs.
- Environmentally sensitive areas may also be considered historic and cultural assets to be protected and enhanced.
- Heritage of the early settlements (American Indian, Hudson Bay, and DuPont Company) is celebrated and incorporated into development.

Today, the community has the opportunity to preserve, enhance and share the City's natural and historic resources so that they are known regionally and enjoyed for generations to come. Cultural and historical resources are recognized as an essential part of DuPont's identity and heritage.

## **Cultural Resources Goals and Policies**

These goals and policies are drawn from the complete policy framework and included here because of their direct relationship to Cultural Resources.

### **Goal CR-1 Protect cultural resources by continuing to implement regulations that ensure cultural resources will not be destroyed, damaged, or disregarded during the planning and development process.**

- CR-1.1 Partner with federal and state agencies, including, but not limited to JBLM, Tribal Nations, and non-profit organizations to utilize historic preservation planning and funding resources.
- CR 1.2 Partner with the State, County, Tribal Nations, and non-profit organizations to promote the preservation of archeologically and historically significant sites.
- CR-1.3 Protect and preserve and preservation of cultural resources as well as efforts to promote awareness of the community's natural and historic assets, through methods such as providing interpretive and educational materials.
- CR-1.4 Develop an active historic and cultural resource preservation program that emphasizes community engagement and partnerships.
- CR-1.5 Adhere to the following existing agreements and work with the Nisqually Tribe to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Tribe regarding culturally significant assets. Memorandum of Agreement among the Washington State Historical Preservation Office, the Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company, and the City of DuPont dated August 7, 1989, including any subsequent amendments.
  - Memorandum of Agreement among Weyerhaeuser Company, Weyerhaeuser Real estate Company, City of DuPont, the Nisqually Point Defense Fund, Committee for the Preservation of the

Nisqually Mission Historical Site, the Nisqually Delta Association, and the DuPont Historical Society, December 12, 2000.

- CR-1.6 Employ all available funding sources to promote, protect, and maintain and the City's cultural and historic resources.
- CR-1.7 Seek ways to capitalize on DuPont's unique cultural and historic resources to enhance tourism and local education opportunities.
- CR-1.9 Identify and create an inventory of historical and cultural assets to enable rehabilitation and preservation of these assets.
- CR-1.10 Consider DuPont's cultural heritage in all recreation master planning, including park design concepts, park and facility names, and facility development.
- CR-1.11 Maximize historical and cultural interpretation within DuPont's park system and recreation programs.
- CR-1.12 Locate trails and viewpoints to facilitate access to cultural and historical resources.

## Implementation Actions

The following actions, ordered by priority and urgency, implement the policies identified above. Each action item contains a direct policy reference, indicating how it relates to economic development policies – or other policies in this plan – as appropriate.

- CRA-1 Continue to identify significant historic sites and points of interest.
- CRA-2 Continue to implement the interpretive sign program. Work with partners to identify potential interpretive sign program management and coordination improvements.
- CRA-3 Develop a natural and historic resources educational program to increase awareness and foster community stewardship.
- CRA-4 Identify and mark historic roads and trails and incorporate into the City's trail system.
- CRA-5 Coordinate with the Historic Society to identify and implement specific efforts to preserve DuPont's cultural and historic resources. Explore the potential for a variety of historic preservation tools such as becoming a Certified Local Government, identifying a National Historic District, and looking into the Main Street Association.
- CRA-6 Evaluate the potential for restoring the historic narrow gauge train and tracks located in the Historic District.
- CRA-7 Complete the following proposed improvements identified in the Old Fort Lake Subarea plan to honor and protect DuPont's rich historical and cultural heritage:
  - Incorporation of historic and cultural storytelling along the future Puget Sound bluff trail.
  - Inclusion of interpretive signage on city-owned property.
  - Expansion of the Wilkes Observatory and 1833 Fort Nisqually sites to include accessible parking and access.
  - Identify dedicated funding streams and sources for historical and cultural preservation.
  - Explore the potential for becoming a Certified Local Government for historic and cultural preservation.

References:

<https://www.historylink.org/File/20395>