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2021 COMMUNITY GUIDE
THURSTON
COUNTY

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WELCOME TO THE COUNTY OF
THURSTON
WASHINGTON

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Ad Designers - Jay Adams & Kylie Cutting
Book Designer - Teri Burkitt | Published by HMI
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At a glance THURSTON

THURSTON COUNTY 290,536

Olympia	51,534
Lacey	49,248
Tumwater	22,974
Yelm	8,985
Tanglewilde	7,270
Grand Mound	3,373
North Yelm	3,365
Rochester	3,126
Rainier	2,385
Tenino	1,716
Nisqually Indian Community	631
Bucoda	668

THURSTON COUNTY WA is located in Western Washington, on the southern end of Puget Sound, often called the “South Sound.” It is the eighth smallest county in the state, with a total land mass of 727 miles, but also the eighth most populous county, with a population of 290,536 counted in the 2019 United States Census. It is named after Samuel R. Thurston, in 1849 who was the the first delegate to Congress from the new Oregon Territory, which later became Washington. Thurston was chosen as the new county’s name and Olympia was chosen as the county seat. The Oregon Territorial Legislature carved the new county out of Lewis County on January 12, 1852.

Agriculture developed slowly but steadily during the early years of Thurston County. Small farms sprang up and began producing bacon, milk, cheese,



COUNTY

WASHINGTON

chickens, and wheat. By the end of the twentieth century, agriculture claimed only about 2 percent of Thurston County's employment. The 1997 Census of Agriculture reported that blueberries, hay, and corn were the county's primary field crops, while dairy cows and hens represented the gist of the county's livestock production.

Thurston County's population boomed beginning in the early 1970s, transforming the towns of Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater into a small metropolis of its own and attracting migration from the larger cities to the north of Tacoma and Seattle.

With the growth in population has come a concurrent construction boom. The boom was particularly marked in the late 1980s with the

construction of office buildings, three new state buildings, homes, and schools.

Meanwhile, the trade sector has been the county's economic upstart in the past 30 years, with employment increasing by 266 percent between 1970 and the end of the 1990s, particularly in the retail sector. Economic conditions for Thurston County's Native Americans have been boosted as well in recent years with the opening of tribal casinos in Rochester and near Yelm. Meanwhile, population migration into the county from the greater Seattle-Tacoma area continues to increase, adding further fuel to the increasing urbanization of Thurston County.

[https://Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/)

OLYMPIA

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON is the capital of the U.S. state of Washington with a population of 51,534 and is also the county seat of Thurston County. The city borders Lacey to the east and Tumwater to the south. Olympia is a cultural center of the southern Puget Sound region. Olympia is located 60 miles southwest of Seattle, the largest city in the state of Washington.

European settlers claimed the area in 1846, with the Treaty of Medicine Creek initiated in 1854, and the Treaty of Olympia initiated in January 1856. Olympia was incorporated as a town on January 28, 1859, and as a City in 1882.

Today, Olympia enjoys the benefits of a stable work force, engaged and educated community, and well-supported school system. The Historic Downtown Olympia offers a variety of eclectic shopping and dining experiences, while Olympia's Westside is a regional shopping destination with the Capital Mall and Olympia Auto Mall.

Olympia is host to over 40 public parks that are available for your recreation enjoyment. The Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area is a 600-acre parcel that preserves more than 5 miles of Puget Sound waterfront along the Woodard and Chapman Bays of the Henderson Inlet. Percival Landing Park includes 0.9 miles of boardwalk along Budd Inlet, as well as a playground, picnic areas, and a large open space. Public trails lead to saltwater beaches where native tribes once met for potlatches through woods.

Olympia's location along Interstate 5 at the gateway to the Olympic Peninsula, puts one within two hours or less of regional recreational attractions - from hiking and skiing in the mountains to beachcombing along ocean shores.

In downtown Olympia, spans just .5 square miles, and over 450 independently owned businesses and over 1,900 residents. The Farmers Market, State Capitol Campus, Hands on Children's Museum and 8 public parks are the main attractions for both Olympians and tourists. The local arts scene thrives with regular performances at 5 different theaters and a bi-annual Arts Walk celebration. Efforts to preserve the use of artesian water at the one remaining public well has been the mission of H2Olympia: Artesian Well Advocates. Renovations at the artesian well were completed in late 2011, including surface improvements, solar lighting, and a raised area to fill bottles. In spring of 2012, sea-themed mosaic artwork created by community members was also installed at the site of the well.

Olympia is a regional center for fine arts. A number of theatrical experiences are available with companies such as Animal Fire Theater, Olympia Family Theater, Theater Artists Olympia (TAO), Olympia Little Theater, and Harlequin Productions at the historic State Theater. The Olympia Symphony Orchestra performs five regular season concerts at the Washington Center and two pop concerts. The Masterworks Chorus Ensemble performs four regular season concerts at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts.

Visual art venues include some of the local coffee-

WASHINGTON

Thurston County

houses, Olympia Coffee Roasting Co., Batdorf & Bronson, and Burial Grounds in downtown. Art House Designs is an art gallery that also hosts a jazz performance space. Murals and public art installations of sculpture are prevalent in Olympia and are especially featured on the State Capitol Campus and along Percival Landing on the urban waterfront. The Washington Center for the Performing Arts also presents visual art exhibitions throughout the season in the spacious lobby areas.

olympiawa.gov



LACEY

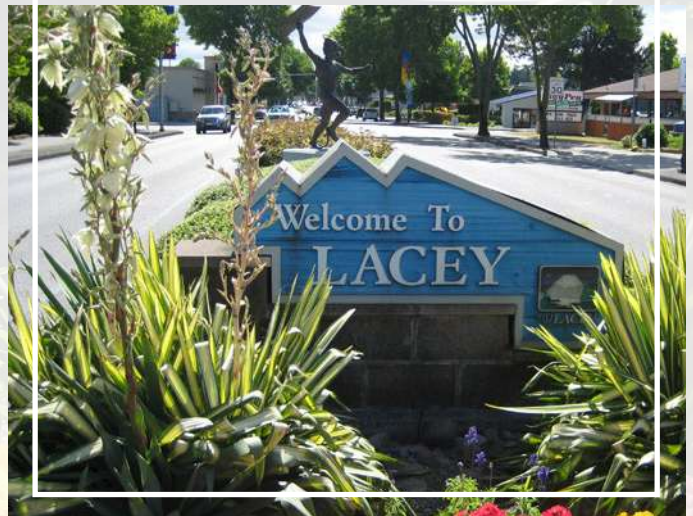
Washington

LACEY, WASHINGTON is located on the southern tip of Puget Sound in the shadow of magnificent Mt. Rainier. It lies in the center of a natural paradise with five freshwater lakes within the city, miles of hiking and biking paths. Several championship golf courses, more than 1,200 acres of public parkland, and the adjoining 3,700-acre Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge provide residents with virtually unlimited opportunities for outdoor recreation. Clean air, clean water, outstanding schools, a low crime rate, a healthy economy, and close proximity to major metropolitan areas make our community one of the most desirable places in the country to live and conduct business.

Known for its natural environment, nearly 20 percent of the city has been set aside for parks, natural areas and open space. The city also holds the distinction of being an official EPA “Green Power Community” due to its commitment to green power use—one of the first in the nation.

Living options within Lacey accommodate every lifestyle - from stunning waterfront, fairway, and mountain-view settings to urban-style townhomes. It has also become a popular retirement destination, with thousands of active retirees from around the country seeking a year-round temperate climate, superior medical services, and no state income tax. Six times over the last eight years, quarterly employment growth within the city and adjacent metro area has ranked within the top 15 percent of the 325 largest U.S. metropolitan counties.

www.ci.lacey.wa.us



TUMWATER

Washington

TUMWATER, WASHINGTON is a small town with a rich history. It lies near where the Deschutes River enters Budd Inlet, the southernmost point of Puget Sound. Founded on the pioneering spirit and based in equality, Tumwater reflects those values today. It's a great place to work, live, shop, play, do business, and raise a family.

Experience the beauty of the northwest in Tumwater and its surrounding communities. Hiking, bicycling, fishing, boating, and many outdoor recreation opportunities are available in Tumwater, or within a short distance. Explore arts and culture in the community or head north to Seattle or south to Portland for an urban experience.

Just 20 minutes from Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), the sixth largest military base in the nation. Tumwater is home to many Washington State agencies and a variety of professional, retail, innovation, commerce, and industry jobs.

The weather in Tumwater is fair-weather conditions and cloudy, wet winters. The mild climate with lushly forested landscapes with plenty of ferns and moss. It is an ideal gardening climate that favors all four seasons. Even though the region may be recognized for rainy days, the average annual rainfall is a mere 51 inches, less than Atlanta, New Orleans, or Houston.

Tumwater's pioneering spirit lives on in the present day.

www.ci.tumwater.wa.us



Cities of THURSTON COUNTY

Tumwater

It lies near where the Deschutes River enters Budd Inlet, the southernmost point of Puget Sound.

The population was 22,974 at the 2019 census.



Yelm

Its population was 8,985 at the 2019 census.

At the beginning of the 21st century, Yelm was the 10th fastest growing city in the state in regard to population.



WASHINGTON



Tanglewilde

The population was 7,270 at the 2019 census.

Prior to 2010, it was known as Tanglewilde-Thompson Place.

Grand Mound

It was named and founded by Jotham Weeks Judson, father of Phoebe Judson, in 1851.

The population was 3,189 at the 2019 census.



Places to visit

and things to do

Wolf Haven International

3111 Offutt Lake Rd SE
Tenino, WA 98589
(360) 264-4695
wolfhaven.org/index.php

Exit Puzzles Escape Room

109 5th Ave SW
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 930-9686
exitpuzzles.com

Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

11610 Trek Dr E
Eatonville, WA 98328
(360) 832-6117
nwtrek.org

Olympia Farmers Market

700 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 352-9096
olympiafarmersmarket.com

Olympia Tumwater Foundation

110 Deschutes Way SW
Tumwater, WA 98501
(360) 943-2550
olytumfoundation.org

Point Defiance Park

5400 N Pearl St
Tacoma, WA 98407
(253) 305-1000
metroparkstacoma.org

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

100 Brown Farm Rd NE
Olympia, WA 98516
(360) 753-9467
fws.gov/nisqually

Debbie DoLittle's Indoor Petting Zoo

120 138th St S, Ste C
Tacoma, WA 98444
(253) 539-5011
indoorpettingzoo.com

Jim's U-Fish

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(253) 875-0356
jimsufish.net

BoomShaka Extreme Air Sports

7960 Center St SW
Tumwater, WA 98501
(360) 338-6786
boomshaka.us

WET Science Center

500 Adams St NE
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 664-2333
wetsciencecenter.org

Deschutes Falls Park

25005 Bald Hill Rd SE
Yelm, WA 98597
(360) 786-5595
co.thurston.wa.us/parks

Sand In the City

414 Jefferson St NE
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 956-0818

Hands On Children's Museum

414 Jefferson St NE
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 956-0818
hocm.org

Skyline Drive-In Theater

182 SE Brewer Rd
Shelton, WA 98584
(360) 426-4707
skylinedrive-in.com

Monarch Contemporary Art Center and Sculpture Park

8431 Waldrick Rd SE
Tenino, WA 98589
(360) 264-2408

Lacey Spring Fun Fair

5300 Pacific Ave SE
Lacey, WA 98503
(360) 481-4393
laceyspringfunfair.com

Tolmie State Park

7730 61st Ave NE
Olympia, WA 98506
(360) 456-6464
parks.state.wa.us/297/Tolmie

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Gig Harbor, WA 98335
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Olympic National Rainforest

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(800) 832-1355
fs.fed.us/r6/olympic

Washington State Capitol

416 Sid Snyder Ave SW
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 902-8880

WASHINGTON

Thurston County

My Morbid Mind
4548 Marvin Rd SE
Olympia, WA 98513
(360) 455-3330
mymorbidmind.com

Cirque Climbing
8276 28th Ct NE
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(360) 915-8614
cirqueclimbing.com

Tapestry Garden and Farm
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(360) 515-0318
naturestapestrylandscapes.com

Aspen Farms
13042 Morris Rd SE
Yelm, WA 98597
(360) 485-2043
aspenfarmseventing.com

Mount Rainier National Park
39000 State Rt 706 E
Ashford, WA 98304
(360) 569-2211
nps.gov/mora

Yelm Cinemas At Prairie Park
201 Prairie Park St SE
Yelm, WA 98597
(360) 458-8933
yelmcinemas.com

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and Logging Museum**
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Elbe, WA 98330
(888) 783-2611
mtrainierrailroad.com

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sbrponyparties.vpweb.com

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(360) 789-6222
letspaintoly.com

Capital Lakefair
Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 943-7344

Olympic National Forest
1835 Black Lake Blvd SW
Olympia, WA 98512
(360) 956-2402
fs.usda.gov/main/olympic

Kayak Nisqually
Serving Lacey Area
4949 D'milluhr Dr NE
Lacey, WA 98516
(360) 440-3545
kayaknisqually.com

Swing Wine Bar & Cafe
825 Columbia St SW
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 357-9464
swingwinebar.com

Yelm Farmers Market
17835 Hwy 507 SE
Yelm, WA 98597
(360) 400-2210
yelfarmersmarket.com/yfm

Rutledge Corn Maze
302 93rd Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 357-3700
rutledgecornmaze.com

Chelsea Farms Oyster Bar
222 Capitol Way N, Ste 114
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 915-7784
chelseafarms.net

**Black Dawg Farm
And Sanctuary**
12020 123rd Ave SE
Rainier, WA 98576
(425) 301-6291
blackdawg.org

Olympic Club Hotel
112 N Tower Ave.
Centralia, WA 98531
(360) 736-5164
mcmenamins.com

Uncle Roy's Music
404 1st St SE, Ste J
Yelm, WA 98597
(360) 400-1100
uncleroysmusic.com

Watershed Park
2500 Henderson Blvd SE
Olympia, WA 98501
olympiawa.gov

Art and Clay Studio
8815 Bridgeport Way SW
Lakewood, WA 98499
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artandclaystudiollc.com



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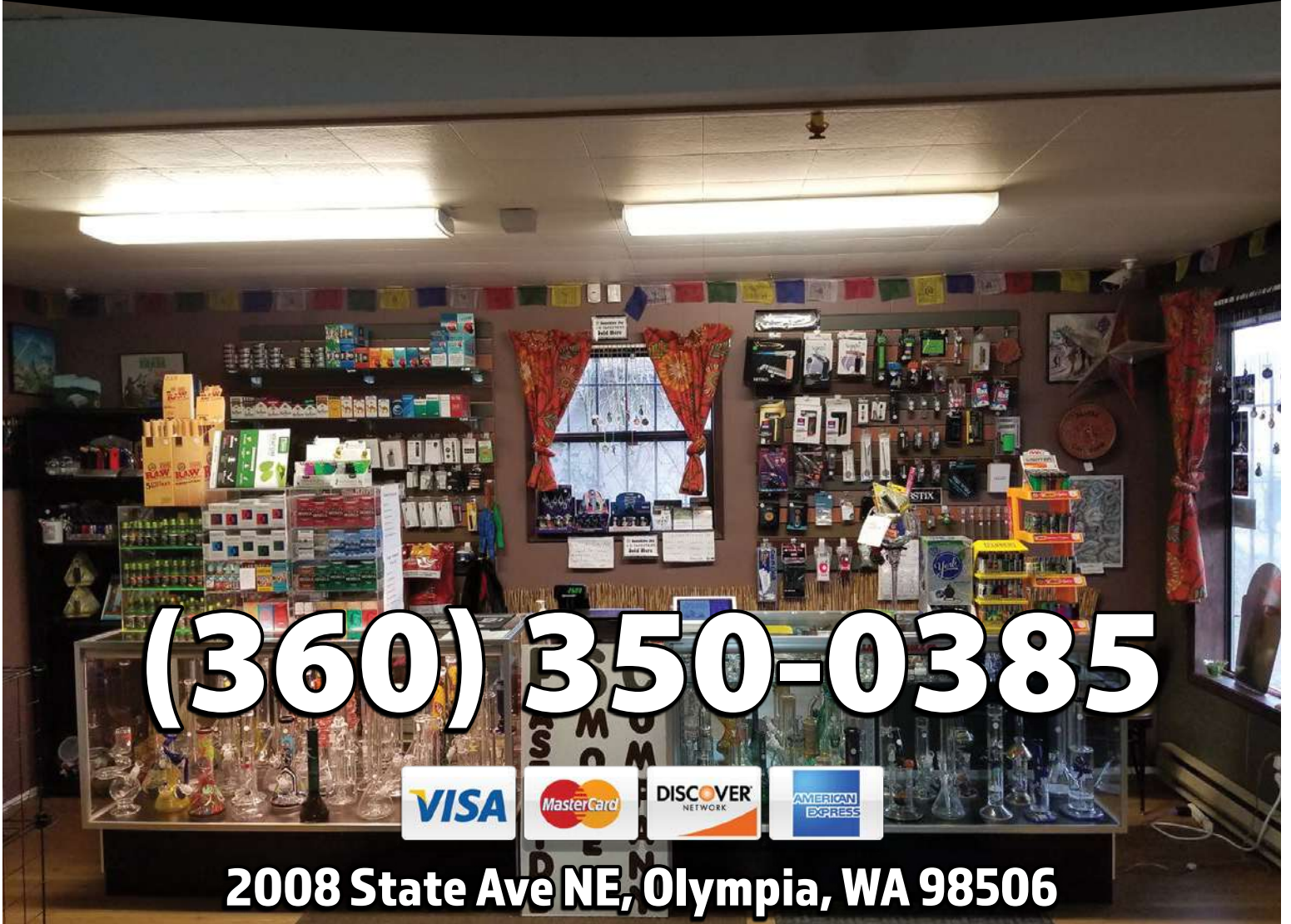
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Board of Health

(360) 786-5441

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(360) 786-5430

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(360) 786-5440

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Juvenile Court Probation

(360) 709-3131

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(360) 786-5490

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Recreation Services

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Sheriff - Business Only

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Sheriff - Emergencies

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Superior Court

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