

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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-Sharon Bersaas

Member of the Board of Directors Greater Kent Historical Society

Member of the Mill Creek Neighborhood Council



EXPERIENCE HISTORICAL KENT

A Self-Guided Tour of Historic Kent

Greater Kent Historical
Society and Museum

THIS BOOKLET WAS FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM 4CULTURE

EXPERIENCE HISTORICAL KENT ONLINE VENUES PAMPHLET

The idea for online pamphlet for Experience Historical Kent came about because of a desire for citizens and visitors to be able to go to a more in-depth website for visiting Experience Historical Kent Month of Weekends venues. Proclamations for the Experience Historical Kent Month have been made by past Mayor Suzette Cook and current Mayor Dana Ralph.

Experience Historical Kent Month of Weekends has grown. Its inception was a walking tour of the Mill Creek Neighborhood and now it has 14 Historic Site venues. Using the updated Greater Kent Historical Society website, one can go to the website and see the 14 Experience Historical Kent venues in bullet point format and then click a link to get more historical information on each site.

This on-line pamphlet was made possible through a grant from the 4Culture Heritage Special Projects. The on-line pamphlet will be put on the Greater Kent Historical Society website for viewing or download.



GREATER KENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

855 E. SMITH ST., KENT, WA 98030

(253) 854-4330

EMAIL: [KENTHISTORICALMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:kenthistoricalmuseum@gmail.com)

WWW.KENTHISTORICALMUSEUM.ORG

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/KENTHISTORYMUSEUM

OPEN WEDNESDAY — SATURDAY NOON TO 4:00 PM

SIDETRACK DISTILLERY

27010 78TH AVE S, KENT, WA
98032

206-963-5079



Sidetrack Distillery is located on the historical banks of the Green River where local farmers loaded their boats with produce destined for the markets of Seattle and beyond. The idea of marrying this produce with spirits, hand-crafted in the old-world tradition, brought forth a true estate distillery right here in Kent.

Larry Pearson was always interested in wine making, however the Person's owned the Lazy River Farm in the Kent valley for 25 years before deciding to dive into the world of Craft Distilling. In 2010 Larry and Linda Person, along with their nephew David O'Neal started the process of turning a hobby farm into a distilling business.



There was a craft distillery movement starting around 2008 in the Pacific Northwest, most distilleries choosing to make vodka. Sidetrack Distillery decided to make fruit-based spirits. Everything in the twelve different products they make are grown on their farm with no pesticides. They add no artificial colors or Flavors. The liqueurs are sweetened with beet sugar (also grown on Lazy River Farm), and are filtered five times, so the fruit spirits are clean, not syrupy, and very flavorful.

O'Neal and the Persons are the only three employees of the Sidetrack Distillery. That is the best part about his job said O'Neal, nothing is routine, there is always something different to do. They are truly farm to bottle, from planting the seeds, harvesting, preparing, distilling, bottling and selling, it is all done on their six acres on the Green River. "It's very rewarding seeing the end product," O'Neal said.

It takes about three months to distill each batch in their copper stills made in Portugal. It then mellows in stainless steel tanks made in Italy, not oak barrels, so the brandy is clear instead of brown, retaining the freshness of the fruit.

You can visit the charming tasting room year-round on Saturdays 11AM-5PM and by appointment. They give tours, by appointment, of the farm in the summer as well. Their website has a listing of all of their products, including where to find them and recipes for craft cocktails at www.sidetrackdistillery.com/





ST. ANTHONY CHAPEL

327 SECOND AVE, KENT WA 98032

253-859-0444

St. Anthony Church is the oldest Catholic Church in the Kent Area. It started as a mission in 1901 and has been a parish since 1905. The English gothic-style church we see today, was built in 1924, having the capacity of 400 people.

The building is notable for its beautiful stained glass windows. They were made by the Povey Brothers, the Portland-based window makers who were called "Tiffanies of the West Coast" for the quality of their work. They were donated entirely by the parishioners.

The soaring ceiling inside the Chapel is deep blue with gold, hand-painted stars. It is reminiscent of churches in Europe, meant to draw the eye upward to contemplate God and the beauty of creation. It takes your breath away. The entire chapel leaves worshippers in a state of awe.

St. Anthony was in continual use as the primary church building until 1994, when a larger church building was built on the property to accommodate a growing parish. The parish was then renamed Holy Spirit Parish to eliminate confusion with St. Anthony Church in nearby Renton. The old church is now called St. Anthony Chapel because it is no longer the primary location for Mass.

St. Anthony Chapel is open from 8AM to 4 PM, Monday through Friday. Daily Mass during the week is at 9:00 AM and all are welcome to attend.



BRIEF HISTORY OF KENT

The City of Kent, in existence for 131 years, has seen many changes from farming (becoming the lettuce Capital of the world) to a manufacturing and distribution center, and an aerospace center developing moon buggies and rocket ships. But there are still fruit, vegetable stands and farms that can be seen on roads all around the city.

During the 1850's, westerners first settled permanently along the banks of the White River in a town originally called Titusville. Hops production was the major source of income during this period and commanded high prices as the crops in Europe were affected by an aphid infestation. In 1889, the town was renamed for Kent County, the major hops producing region in England.

Kent officially incorporated on May 28, 1890 with a population of 763. It was the second city behind Seattle to incorporate in King County.

Flooding from both the Green and the White Rivers was a constant problem. In 1906, flooding changed the course of the White River, which reduced the flood hazard by half. However the Green River continued to present problems until the 1963 completion of Howard A. Hanson Dam tamed the flooding on the valley floor.

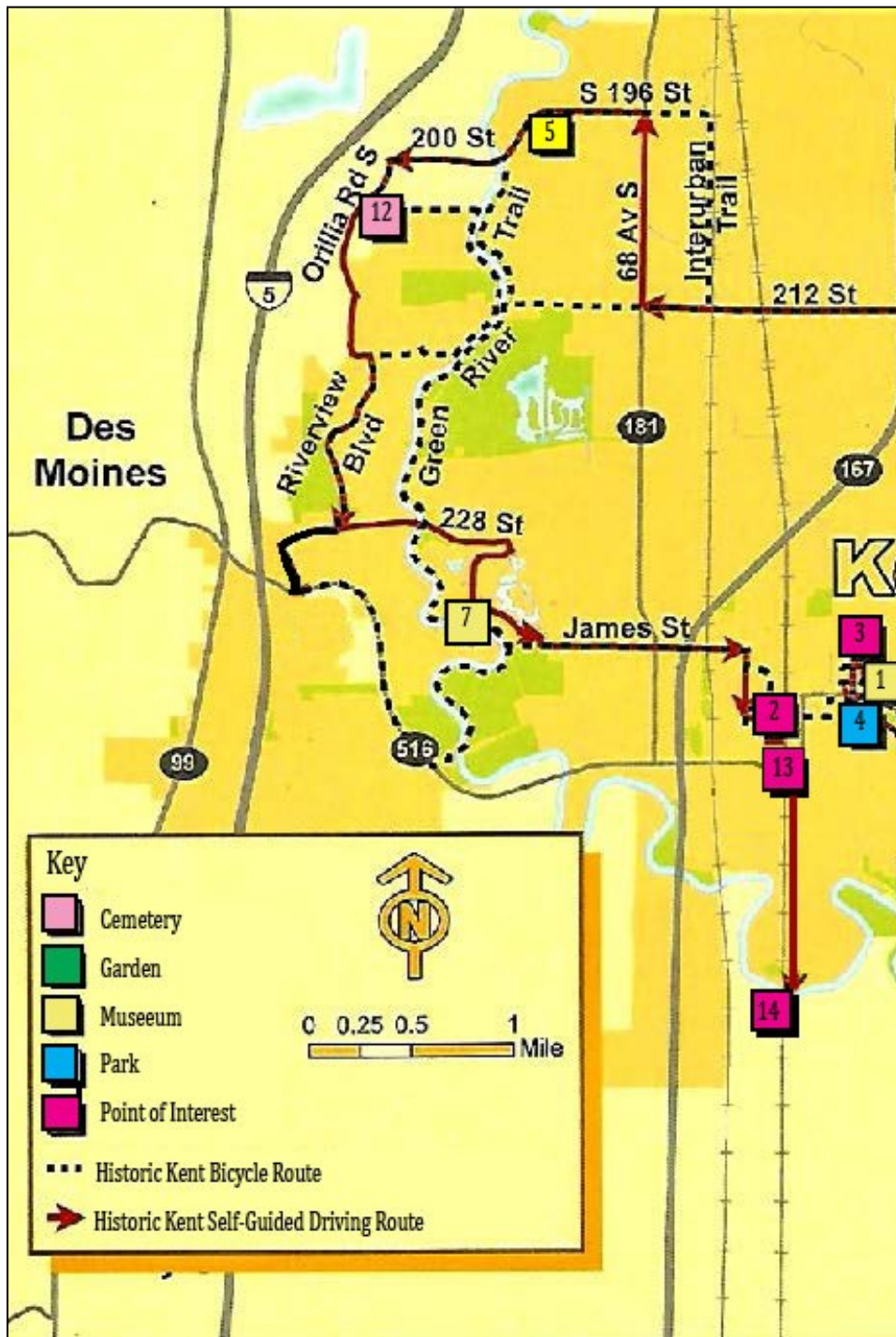
In 1965, The Boeing Company began building in Kent, followed a few years later by other aerospace companies, leading to Kent's rapid rise as a major aerospace center. At its Kent-based Space Center, the Boeing Company designed, tested and built the Air Launched Cruise Missile. They also designed, tested and built the 4 wheeled drive vehicles used by NASA during the Apollo Missions in 1971 and 1972. In 2019 the Lunar Rover Vehicles became Historic Landmarks in Kent. A sculpture will be dedicated downtown in a Kent Park.

Kent rapidly became a major manufacturing and distribution center growing into the 4th largest in the United States. Kent was mostly warehouses and manufacturing until the 1980's, when High Tech began to predominate. Blue

Origin was founded in Kent in 2000 developing rocket and propulsion systems and launch vehicles.

Kent keeps growing and continues to provide jobs, homes, and award winning parks for it's citizens.





SAINT PATRICK CATHOLIC CEMETERY

9231 S 240TH STREET, KENT, WA

(ORILLIA RD S & S 204TH ST)

The Saint Patrick Cemetery, also known as the White River Cemetery, was established by Irish immigrants who came to the White River Valley when Washington was still a Territory in 1880. They applied for land grants and the area became a modest sized Irish community eventually called O'Brien. (A town that no longer exists).



One of the men from Limerick, Ireland, named Richard O'Connell turned four acres of rocky ground of his homestead property into a cemetery when his wife died. The next burials appear to be that of Morgan O'Brien and his wife Catherine, who both died in 1880 according to the tombstone inscription. Some of the names on other tombstones are Mullen, Costello and O'Grady that had immigrated from places such as Tipperary, Donegal, and Galway, Ireland. Since the first burial in 1880, about 800 people have been laid to rest at the cemetery.



St. Patrick Cemetery was transferred to the Diocese of Nisqually (now the Archdiocese of Seattle) in 1902. The Associated Catholic Cemeteries assumed responsibility for the cemetery in July 1989. That is when it became the

parish cemetery for Kent's St. Anthony Parish (now Holy Spirit Parish). The grounds, once maintained by volunteer parishioners, are today maintained by crews from the nearby Gethsemane Cemetery.

In May 2015, 135 years after its founding, a granite statue of St. Patrick was installed to watch over the hillside cemetery that bears his name. The \$16,000 statue was funded entirely with donations gathered by the Knights of Columbus at Holy Spirit Parish in Kent, members of Seattle's Irish community, and friends of the cemetery.

Saint Patrick's Cemetery is a beautiful, peaceful cemetery with large evergreens, Gothic headstones, and traditional Catholic graves. It has the feel of an outdoor church.

The cemetery is still active and burials take place regularly.





HILLCREST BURIAL PARK

1005 REITEN ROAD, KENT WA 98030

Hillcrest Burial Park Cemetery was established on April 26, 1886 by the Titusville Lodge No. 34, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.). The cemetery was first located in the valley at 821 Central Ave S. This spot was deemed unsuitable after 10 years, due to the

high water table level. The white River Flood of 1906 exposed many encasements in a corner of the Valley Cemetery. On December 16, 1897, the new cemetery was dedicated on 4 acres on Knob Hill (now known as Scenic Hill).

At first it was called the Kent Cemetery and many of those interred down in the valley cemetery were reinterred up to the hill. In 1916 the Kent Cemetery became the first endowed care cemetery outside of the City of Seattle in King County.

Big change happened again in the 1950's when the Cemetery and the whole of Knob Hill (now Scenic Hill) was annexed by the City of Kent. More changes to the cemetery came when Titusville Lodge officially changed The cemetery's name from The Kent Cemetery to Hillcrest Burial park in August in 1950. The Cemetery has grown over the years encompassing about 50 acres of rolling lawn and landscaping with sweeping views of the Green River Valley.

Since the 1950s the Kent American Legion Post No. 15 has held an annual Memorial Day Service that is supported by Hillcrest Burial Park working together. The cemetery crew erects flag poles that have been stored and the Kent American Legion mounts the memorial flags of deceased veterans.

The Cemetery and the American Legion Post no. 15 established the first two veteran's monuments on the knoll across from the Taylor lot. Later a second veterans' burial section was established just south of the current cemetery office.

The Kent Ministerial Association has held a community Easter Sunrise Service at the cemetery from 1951 to 2003. They erected a large white cross and a lectern for the service. Starting in 2004, the Easter service is held indoors but the cemetery still continues to erect the Large white cross during Easter Season.

The Hillcrest Burial Park also is home to the Japanese Cemetery. It is in the NE Corner of Hillcrest Burial Park. Management and care has been turned over to the Hillcrest Burial Park.

Even though Hillcrest Burial Park holds pioneer status, it is still a currently active working cemetery.





KENT HISTORICAL MUSEUM (KNOWN AS THE BEREITER HOUSE)

855 E SMITH STREET KENT, WA 98030
253-854-4330

The Greater Kent Historical Society was established in 1992, and incorporated in 1993 as a non-profit organization. It promotes the discovery, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the history of the greater Kent area.

The City of Kent bought the Bereiter House in 1996 and is a City of Kent Parks Department Property. They entered into an agreement with the Greater Kent Historical Society to locate the Museum at the Bereiter House which became a Historic Landmarked Property in 2008. The house provides over 3,500 sq. ft. of space for displays, offices and workrooms for the Museum. An attic and carriage barn provide additional space for storage and display.

Emil Bereiter, owner and President of Covington Lumber Company married Bessie Stewart in June 23, 1900. Long time and popular Kent residents, they had two children, Stewart and Donald. In 1907 Emil Bereiter began building the house and carriage barn on his 3.45 acres at 855 E Smith Street and finished in 1908. The home, considered one of the grandest in Kent, was built of the American Foursquare style, with extensive interior woodwork and a grand portico. In 1912 Mr. Bereiter became the Mayor of Kent. He died in 1914 at the age of 41 and is buried along with Bessie Stewart's family at Hillcrest Burial Park located on Scenic Hill.

On the museum grounds is Stuart Nakamura's major public art piece titled *Another Place, Another Time*. It honors the rich, local history of the Japanese-American community and the tragic impact of the internment during World War II. It was dedicated on June 5, 1998.

The Greater Kent Historical Society and the East Brook Garden Club conducted the official dedication of the Veterans Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker Rose Garden on September 27, 2006. It provides the only memorial and community gathering place in the area to recognize all past, present, and future veterans who serve or have served in America's Armed Forces.

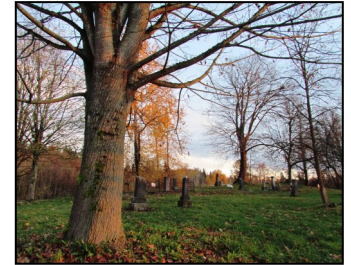
In the early days in the White River Valley, goods and people were transported by steamboat along the White River (now called the Green River). All along the river were landings, places the boats would stop to load produce and offload wares for the people living in the valley. The Museum grounds' Riverwalk Landing exhibit has eight elevated, restored plaques explaining the historic landing sites, positioned north to south, just as the landings geographically functioned more than 160 years ago.



SAAR PIONEER CEMETERY

91ST AND SE 212TH IN KENT, WA

(IN FRONT OF WINCO)



The Saar Pioneer Cemetery, as it is now known, is a City of Kent Landmark designated in 2010. It is home to five Civil War veterans and several of the area's earliest pioneers.

The Peter and Margaret (Olmstead) Saar family came to Washington Territory from Oregon around 1866. In 1873, Peter lost his beloved wife, Margaret, due to the complications of childbirth. At this time there was no established community graveyard. Thus, Margaret was laid to rest on a grassy knoll on the Saar property. (Later recollections say it was because of flooding, but apparently this is not true.) Gradually, neighbors asked permission to lay their loved ones to rest, and so began the Saar Pioneer Cemetery.

Family names that can be found include: Saar, Willis, Shinn, Guiberson, Burke, Wilson, Iddings, Liesinger, Clark, and Smith. Several are familiar street names around town in Kent. Peter Saar sold his property in 1882 to Mary L. Meeker, reserving the one-acre cemetery site. Ownership then passed to John Nelson, again reserving the one-acre site. Nelson in turn sold the cemetery to the (then) Methodist Episcopal Church. The Trustees at the time were, T. M. Alvord, William Clark, and S. P. Willis. It is still entrusted to the Kent United Methodist Church today.

Use of the Saar Cemetery was still going on until the burial of Chris Hanson in 1949. He was the last known person to be buried there.

The number of graves in the cemetery vary depending on the year the inventory was taken, ranging from 200 markers in 1977 to only 83 markers in 2004. The South King County Genealogical Society took it as their mission to restore the historic graveyard in the early 2000's. They found 107 graves lying neglected underneath the brambles and weeds. They restored some of the headstones and replaced others. They also wrote to the federal government and got new markers for two Civil War veterans. There were 89 graves with no headstones at all. There is now a monument to honor all the unmarked graves.



A book titled *A History of Saar Pioneer Cemetery and Its Inhabitants* published by The South King County Genealogical Society in 2011 is available in the King County Library System. It has more to the story and histories of the families buried in the cemetery.

SUISE CREEK CEMETERY

13250 SE 256TH ST., KENT, WA 98042



Suise Creek Cemetery is a pioneer cemetery of some of the first settlers of the Kent area. It is a private, non-profit cemetery and its maintenance is funded through member donations.

The Cemetery is kept with in a fenced area, but the gate is unlocked and there is parking room for one car. It is well

maintained although of the older stones are starting to deteriorate and are not very legible any longer. In 2010 an inventory was done of legible stones and 374 were counted. There are more people buried in the cemetery, but the markers are gone. Death dates on the markers range from 1888-2010, and 1848 is the earliest birth date shown

Suise Creek Cemetery was originally located on 240th street just East of 132nd SE and was started in the 1880's. At the turn of the century, some early settlers decided it was time to have a new, more centrally located cemetery. So, in November 1903, 18 caskets were disinterred and taken by wagon to their new burial place.

The first burial was J. Herman Ranta who died Sept. 24, 1900. He was first buried at home, then moved to the old cemetery, before finally resting in peace in the new cemetery. He was a well-known rancher in the area who was thrown from his wagon when his horses ran away with him, dying at only age 49.

If you go on line to King County Genealogy they have list of the people buried in Suise Creek Cemetery, as does the Washington State Archives.

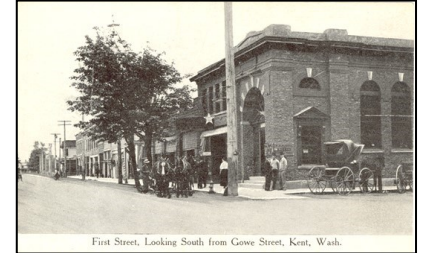
Each spring, on the weekend before Memorial Day, relatives of those buried there are invited to the cemetery clean-up day and potluck. The friends and relatives clean headstones, trim blackberries, etc. Officers are elected and a recap of the past year's activities are presented as well.

Burial is now open to anyone, although at one time it was only open to descendants of the pioneer families who were buried there.

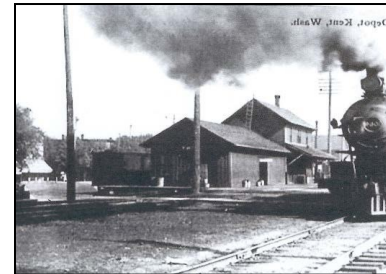


KENT HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

Kent officially incorporated on May 28, 1890 with a population of 763. It was the second city, following Seattle, to incorporate in King County. The City was originally called Titusville. There is still a 'Titusville Station' sign on Gowe Street near First Avenue.



Kent's Historic Downtown area is bordered between Central Ave. on the East, 6th Ave. on the West, James St. on the North and Willis St. on the South.



Central Ave, Railroad Ave., 1st Ave., 2nd Ave. and Meeker St. have many of the original commercial buildings. The oldest is the railroad depot which was built in 1886.

Kent Downtown Partnership formed over 20 years ago to help revitalize historical downtown Kent. Greater Kent Historical Society, in partnership with KDP, has placed historic plaques on 13 buildings in the downtown area. Most of these buildings have been here since Kent was first established.



Next time you take a stroll around the downtown area and see how many of the plaques you can find. Kent offers several beautiful murals by famed artist Danny Pierce depicting early life in Kent. There are sculptures, parks with Koi ponds and bandstands offering a peaceful place to rest and room for children to play. There is also a canoe, giving a nod to Kent's past history of the river flooding.

KENT HAS A RICH AND DIVERSE HISTORY WE'D LOVE TO SHARE!

MILL CREEK HISTORIC DISTRICT



The Mill Creek Historic District was established by the Kent Landmark Commission in 2014. Located roughly between north of Smith Street, south of James Street, east of Hazel Street and west of Clark Street is the Mill Creek Historic District. A great way to see historic Kent, is by walking through the neighborhood. These homes reflect the history and times of early Kent and is also home to the Kent Historical Museum. This is a well-preserved concentration of historic dwellings that reflect the growth and development of the city during the first half of the 20th century. Many of the town's leading resident's built homes and lived in this neighborhood. Some of the neighborhood streets and avenues are named after early pioneers who settled the Kent Valley.

By the turn of the 20th century, the City of Kent had all the ingredients for a growing community: banks, schools, churches, newspapers, stores and social organizations. Owners and workers began to buy property and build homes in the Mill Creek District. It had the advantage of being close to the business district as well as just high enough up East Hill to be out of the flood plain.

The District's historic period of significance extends from 1903, the construction date of the oldest house to 1962, the date when the Howard A. Hanson Dam was completed. This event began the transformation of the valley from agricultural use to large scale commercial and industrial uses.

As of November 2019, every house in the District (60 homes) have historic plaques mounted on homes in the neighborhood, which include the date built and the original owner or builder. The District is part of a larger Mill Creek Neighborhood and there are 48 more plaques on those homes. The Neighborhood published a book highlighting the history of each home, many with photos from today and the past to see how they have changed. The book is titled *A Community of Unique & Historic Homes: Mill Creek Neighborhood, Kent, Washington* and is available to purchase at the Kent Historical Museum or to check out at the Kent library.



There are examples of many different architectural styles of homes represented in the historic neighborhood. Some include: Craftsman, Workingman's Foursquare, Vernacular, Minimal Traditional, Ranch Style, Cape Cod Classic and Arts & Crafts Bungalow.

MERIDIAN CEMETERY

27221 156TH AVENUE SE, KENT, WA 98042



The first cemetery on the East Hill of Kent was used from about 1875 to 1891 and no longer exists. It was located on SE 240th St. and ¼ mile west of SE 148th. It had no name, but was known as the Sam Berg family cemetery, as it was located on the Berg property.

In 1900, settlers in the area thought it necessary to have a burial place close enough to reach by walking, or by horse and buggy. Two groups formed the Suise Creek Cemetery, and the Meridian Cemetery Association. The Suise Creek Cemetery was along Middle Road (now 256th) and apparently was quite waterlogged. Mr. Alex Swanson said he and neighbors "didn't like burying our friends there and have then drowned after they had already died." The Suise Creek group moved the cemetery to its present location.

The Meridian Cemetery Association then purchased the 5 ½ acres at the present site for \$50.00 from a Japanese couple from Seattle. One unmarked burial existed in the southwest corner. In the first year of operation, Mr. August Nordin had one of his children moved from the Suise Creek Cemetery to Meridian Cemetery. Other Nordin children were buried, with wooden crosses to mark them, but those rotted and have been lost. In later years, this was very upsetting to Mrs. Nordin.

The Meridian Cemetery was used mostly by the many Scandinavian families that settled the Soos Creek Plateau. Before 1950, burial records were not well kept, but the board, especially Mr. Nesland, Secretary-Treasurer in the 1950's, worked hard to update the records and it is believed there are about 375 people buried there. At that time the Meridian Cemetery Association asked for donations from members to maintain the cemetery, mow grass and make improvements in appearance. The cemetery is fenced but, the gate is open, and there are several parking places near by the funeral home. It is very well cared for and still active today.

(Much of this information was pulled from From "The History of the Meridian Cemetery in the words of Al Nesland" 1995)



NEELY SOAMES HOMESTEAD AND HERITAGE GARDEN

5311 S. 237TH PL. KENT, WA 98032

One of the best-preserved spots along the Green River is the Neely-Soames Historic Homestead. It was originally built in 1885, making it one of the oldest surviving homes in Kent and was listed on the State Register of Historic Homes in 1977. The home sits in a park along the Green River Trail, complete with a Heritage Garden run by local Master Gardeners.

David F. Neely built the Homestead House in 1885, after out-growing the original cabin that his father (David A. Neely) built after arriving from Tennessee in 1854. David A. Neely and his family arrived in a covered wagon, before Washington was a state. He received a federal land grant of 320 acres (about ½ sq. mile) to live on. It was free as long as they improved upon the property, which they did by building a home and farming the land. The home also became one of the stops or “landings” for boats along the river as the few roads were impassable in the winter. David A. Neely had the first post office in the valley. In 1986 the City of Kent had been approached by the Master Gardeners Foundation to restore what was left of the overgrown remains of the old garden. King County Master Gardeners have been in charge of restoration and improvement of the garden since 1996, using no pesticides or herbicides.

The Heritage Garden represents how the David A. Neely family would have laid out and planted their garden back in the mid 1850s. The family grew food during the summer, harvested in the fall, and preserved it to be able to eat over winter. The women brought flower and vegetable seeds to plant along with root starts for vegetables with them across the country. They put potatoes, apples, and vegetables in a food cellar down in the basement since there were no refrigerators. In the past, the garden had a variety of fruit trees like pear, apple, plum, and cherry. In addition, hops for beer, and medical herb garden to use in case of illness. Finally, the family had cows for milk and chickens for eggs.

All plants in the current garden have been grown from plants that were descended from plants grown before 1910. The grape arbor is covered with Ontario and Virginia Dare grapes, grown from cuttings taken from Fort Vancouver's heritage garden. Summer and Fall crops are harvested and donated to area food banks.



MILL CREEK CANYON EARTH WORKS PARK

742 EAST TITUS STREET
ENTRANCE VIA REITEN ROAD

The Earth Works Park has a long history of uses from Native American fishing and hunting grounds, to a sawmill owned by pioneer, Peter Saar, to a storm drainage earth sculpture park.

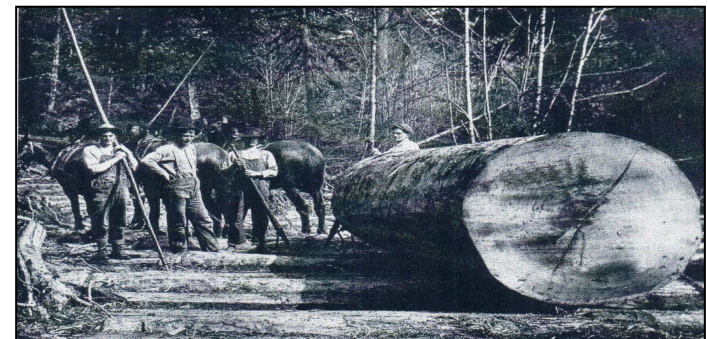
Before settlers arrived in the White River Valley, Native Americans from the Coast Salish tribe lived and hunted in the area of Kent.

In 1883, Peter Saar founded the Peter Saar and Company Lumber Mill in Mill Creek Canyon. He built a pond to hold logs and a skid road to slide the logs down into the pond from up on East Hill. They would haul the logs out with oxen. The mill ran down what is now Smith Street to the Northern Pacific Line. It claimed to be the largest mill between Seattle and Tacoma at the time.

Mill Creek used to be full of fish that would come up the creek to spawn. In the 1970's, the city hosted a Fishing Derby where Mill Creek park would be packed with kids and their dads, trying to catch the big one.

Mill Creek Park was officially dedicated in October 1973, and it stayed mostly natural. Until in the 1980's, the city was faced with erosion and flooding problems. "Earthworks- Land Reclamation As Sculpture," transformed the storm drainage project into a large-scale artwork creating a passive recreation area. Bauhaus artist, Herbert Bayer, designed the Mill Creek Canyon Earthworks. On September 1982, the 2.5 acre Earthworks land sculpture project was completed with a large ceremony including a Seattle Symphony performance.

Earthworks had many events over the years, including the Medieval Canterbury Faire held every summer from the 1980's until 2005. Many small children and parents have also enjoyed the summer concert series in the open amphitheater. In April 2008, Mill Creek Canyon Earthworks Park was designated Kent's first Historic Landmark by the King County Landmarks Commission. The entire canyon park is about 100 acres and a large part is full of hiking trails.



THE HYDROPLANE AND RACE BOAT MUSEUM

5917 SOUTH 196TH STREET KENT, WA 98032

The Hydroplane and Race boat Museum is the only public museum in the United States solely dedicated to powerboat racing. Huge, fiberglass boats with airplane engines fill the 12,000 square foot museum. Videos showing vintage racing clips of the hydroplanes skimming the water are played around the museum. Visitors are welcome to climb into a cockpit, and to peruse their extensive collections of trophies, photos and other memorabilia dating back to the turn of the last century. It is the nation's primary resource for historical and educational information on hydroplane racing.



The museum was formed in 1983, with the mission to inspire and motivate learning and achievement while honoring, celebrating, and preserving the legacy of Unlimited Hydroplane racing. The museum features a large collection of vintage hydroplanes spanning seven decades, including winners of 17 Gold Cups. Boats, like the Oh Boy! Oberto, are rotated in and out of the exhibitions space, often being featured on display in other

locations. Visitors can learn the stories of famous drivers like Mira Slovak, Bill Muncey, and Chip Hanauer.

David Williams, museum director, has written six books on hydroplane racing. According to him, after the Slo-mo-shun IV won the Gold Cup in 1950, Seattle hydroplanes became major players in races. Hydroplane racing even opened the door to the World's Fair and organized sports in Seattle.

The museum is also a fully equipped boat restoration shop. They have restored seven of the most famous Gold Cup and Harmsworth winning boats to full running condition, spanning from the Miss America VIII from 1929 to the 1967 Miss Budweiser.



SOOS CREEK BOTANICAL GARDEN AND HERITAGE CENTER

29308 132ND AVE SE, AUBURN, WA 98092
WWW.SOOSCREEKBOTANICALGARDEN.ORG



Soos Creek Botanical Garden and Heritage Center is open. With 22 breathtaking acres of strolling gardens. The garden was originally part of 200 acres that Norwegian immigrants, Ole Evensen Oie and Andrew Oie, purchased between 1891 and 1905. For many years, Andrew Oie, Maurice Skagen's ancestor, farmed the land on which the garden is located. Maurice Skagen's parents purchased a five-acre portion of the property in the 1960s, and deeded the land to him in 1968. Over the years, Maurice added to the original five acres with the purchase of 17 additional adjoining acres. The garden now extends from 132nd Avenue SE in Auburn, Washington, to a tributary of Soos Creek and a couple of acres beyond.

There is a heritage center devoted to the history of the early settlers of the 70 square mile area called the Soos Creek Plateau. An extensive collection of early photos, historical maps, and artifacts of the ancestors of the region is on display. The Gardens have many rare plants, including a unique *Franklinia Altamaha*, or Franklin tree. Discovered in the wild in Georgia in 1765, by botanists, John and William Bartram, "this beautiful landscape tree is considered extinct in the wild." The Bartrams named the plant in honor of their friend, Benjamin Franklin. All *Franklinias* today are descended from those propagated by the Bartrams in their Philadelphia garden." (www.finegardening.com.) Banana trees are protected all winter and actually produce small bananas here in the Pacific Northwest, the leaves smell like peanut butter.

Once a month, the Soos Creek Botanical Gardens present educational "Pavilion By The Pond Programs" (Previously called "Red Barn Programs"). The Programs are the third Wednesday of each month from 12:30-2PM. Every month is like visiting a new garden, with different plants blooming or leafing out.

The Soos Creek Botanical Garden and Heritage Center Facebook page features which plants are blooming each week. Guides Ken Malidore and Barbara Nagel said May especially is a beautiful month to visit and as a bonus, their first plant sale of the season is in May.

www.sooscreekbotanicalgarden.org
www.sooscreekbotanicalgarden.org/events

