

The Historical Society of Federal Way invites you to Explore Historic Places of the Federal Way area. These are places to walk around and enjoy the beautiful — and historical — surroundings Federal Way has to offer. Whether it's walking in the wetlands, visiting historic cabins, strolling through parks & trails or finding out history of the area. These places are the perfect getaway for a unique experience.

**Find the full stories about these unique places on our website**  
[www.federalwayhistory.org](http://www.federalwayhistory.org)

### About the Historical Society of Federal Way

The historical society was formed in 1988 in anticipation of the Washington State centennial to be held in 1989. The founders foresaw a heightened time of interest in the history of not only the State of Washington but of the Federal Way area.

The historical society has developed an extensive archive of local historical information, thousands of images of life in the Federal Way area over the past 125 years and made dozens of public presentations. The historical society prepared a book, *Federal Way*, which has been published as part of the Arcadia Publishing, *Images of America* series. Much historical detail is included in the many monographs that are available on our website. In the future, we plan to further improve our archives and collections, add additional monographs and continue restorations of historical landmarks.

### Our Mission

The Historical Society of Federal Way serves the public through researching, preserving, educating and displaying the history of Greater Federal Way to build a sense of community identity and heritage.

The Society invites your participation. There are many opportunities for individuals to volunteer or donate. We have need for people with skills in writing, graphic arts, development and fundraising, photography and membership development as well as filing historical information. Our headquarters at the "Steel Lake Annex" can use many kinds of skilled and unskilled workers. Please call us for more information.



Historical  
Society  
of  
Federal Way

2645 S. 312th St.

Federal Way • Washington 98003

(253) 945.7842

*Mailing Address:*

P.O. Box 25430

Federal Way • Washington 98093

[www.federalwayhistory.org](http://www.federalwayhistory.org)



*Paid for with Federal Way Lodging Tax Funds.*

# Visit and Explore Historic Places Around Federal Way



Historical  
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of  
Federal Way

# Places to Explore



## 1 Celebration Park

1095 S. 324th St.

Formerly Evergreen Airport from 1946 to the late 1970s. Purchased for a city park in 1990. Now a sports complex with four softball fields, four soccer fields, children's play equipment, numerous walking trails and the Federal Way Community Center.

## 2 Redondo Beach

Located along Beach Road South adjoining Puget Sound

This area was originally settled in the 1870s as the logging community Stone's Landing. At one time it contained a large amusement area with carnival rides, skating rink and dance hall. Currently a beach area with excellent views of the Olympic Mountains across Puget Sound, a public boat launching dock and a boardwalk.

## 3 Dumas Bay Centre

3200 SW Dash Point Rd.

The Catholic Visitation Sisters built and moved into this retreat center in 1957. The City of Federal Way purchased the property in 1989 and converted it to a retreat and meeting center in 1993. The Knutzen Family Theater hosts musical and theatrical presentations. Located on 12 acres of park like grounds with a great view of Puget Sound.

## 4 The David T. Denny and John Barker Cabins

411 S. 348th St.

An 1889 real estate office belonging to one of the founders of Seattle and an 1883 homesteader's cabin have been restored by the Historical Society of Federal Way and are open to the public. (See [www.FederalWayhistory.org](http://www.FederalWayhistory.org) for hours.)

## 5 West Hylebos Wetlands Park

411 348th St.

A 120 acre city park built on land donated by Francis and Ilene Marckx. Contains a one mile boardwalk trail wondering through unique, new- and old-growth forest and restored wetlands. Special features include a peat bog and a supposedly bottomless pool.

## 6 Five Mile Lake Park

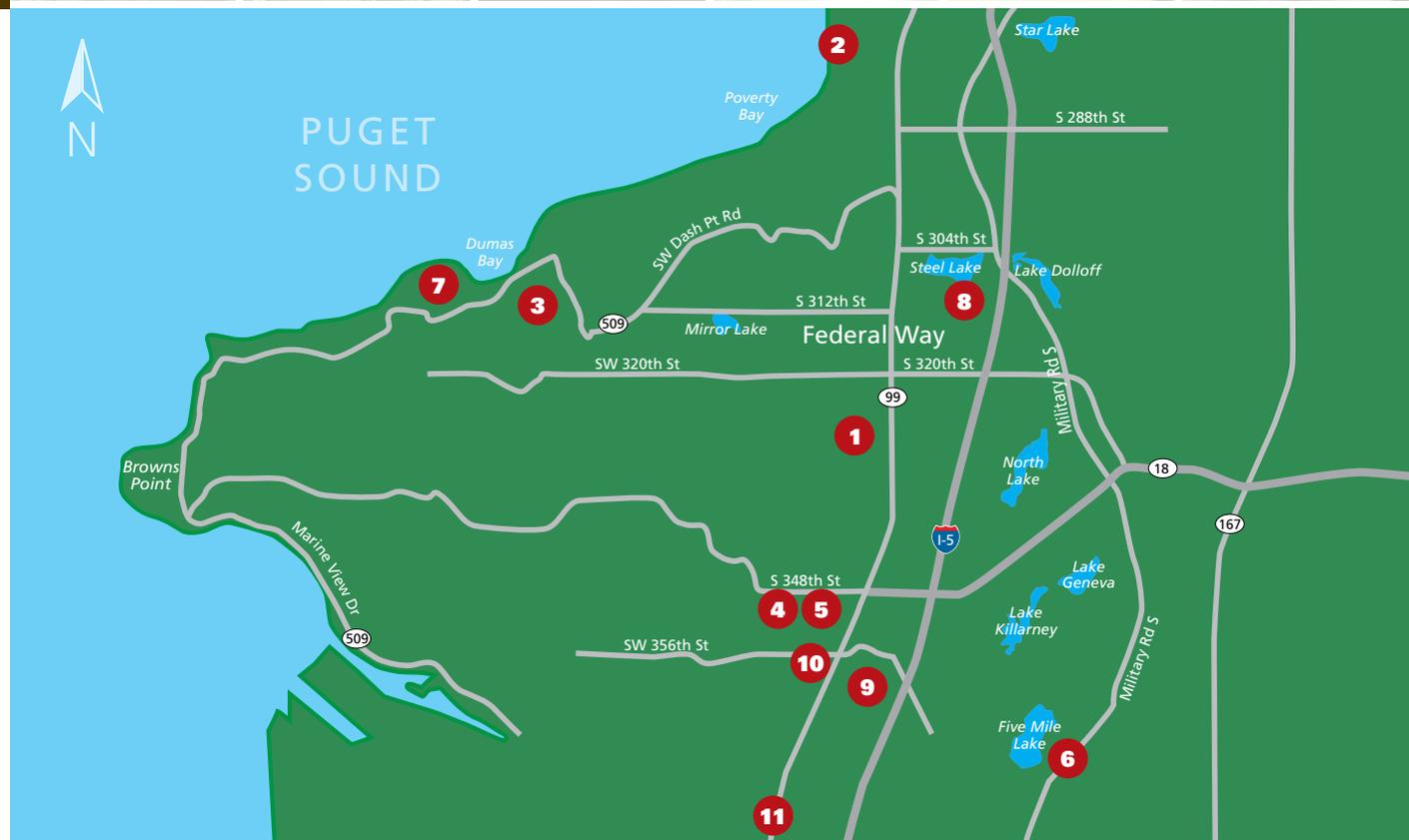
36541 Military Road S.

This 32-acre King County lakefront park is located on the location of the original Military Road through the area. The name comes from the fact it is five miles from where the ferry used to cross the Puyallup River. The park offers numerous outdoor activities, including open play fields, basketball and tennis courts, play equipment, picnic shelters, and walking paths as well as swimming in the lake.

## 7 Dash Point State Park

5700 SW Dash Point Rd.

The site was part of the late 1800s logging activity in the area with its easy access to the adjoining Puget Sound. In the late 1940s, the McLeod family sold the land to the state of Washington with the understanding the property would be used as a park. The park was dedicated in 1962. The 398 acres offer camp grounds, hiking trails, picnic areas, fishing and beachcombing along 3,301 feet of shoreline. (Since this is a state park a valid state parking pass is required. The one day fee is \$10.00.)



## 8 Steel Lake Park

2410 S. 312th St

Named after Arthur Steele, a 1880s homesteader who built a house on the north side of the lake. At one time two dance hall-resorts were located on the lake. The 52 acre park has a large open grass area, children's activity play set, a skateboard park, boat launching facility, fishing, swimming, a soccer field and picnic tables and shelters.

## 9 Harding School

35905 16th Ave. S.

Harding School, named after President Warren G. Harding, was opened in 1920. The Harding School is a well-preserved example of Colonial Revival architecture. The school closed in the 1930s although was temporarily used again in the early 1940s as a public school. Since closure the building has served as a meeting place for the Harding Improvement Club, the Lakeland Community Club, a private residence, several churches and is still in use as a church.

## 10 Brooklake Community Center and Hylebos Blueberry Farm Park

726 S. 356th St. / 630 S. 356th St

This building was built in 1920 as the Wagon Wheel Restaurant. Over the years it has served as a speakeasy during Prohibition, a brothel, several restaurants, a gambling den and as the home of many community activities. Currently it is being used as a church and is rented out for various functions. Adjoining are the remains of a blueberry farm the city now uses as a five acre city park.

## 11 St. Georges Indian School (Gethsemane Cemetery)

37600 Pacific Highway S.

Father Peter Hylebos founded St Georges Indian School in 1888 and it operated until 1936. Each year about 80 – 100 Indian children attended mostly as boarding students. Nothing remains of the school and the site has been occupied since the 1970s by Gethsemane Cemetery.