

HERITAGE PARK



We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this area, the Snohomish people, and their successors, the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered, and taken care of these lands. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination, and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.

Today, visitors to Heritage Park in Lynnwood can step back in time to learn the history of the area which was once covered in timber. Over a century ago, the Puget Mill Company logged most of the timber, sending it across the water to Port Gamble to be milled. Once the land was logged, all that was left were acres and acres of stumps. With Puget Mill's planned community of Alderwood Manor, the stump land was transformed to chicken farms. The company took 7,000 acres of stump land and developed it into five and ten-acre plots that became "stump farms" or, what the Company termed "Ranchettes."

To support the new settlers of the area, the Puget Mill Company opened their first, and only, Demonstration Farm in 1917. Built in a strategic location next to the Seattle- Everett Interurban Railway track, the 30-acre farm was built for the purpose of teaching the new settlers to raise poultry and grow nuts, berries and other cash crops, as well as vegetables to feed their families.

The Demonstration Farm included gardens, a Superintendent's Cottage, a hotel, a community hall and poultry house. Also built by the company was a Tudor style store, Alderwood Mercantile.

By 1922, nearly 1,500 had settled on the poultry farms and at one time Alderwood Manor was the second largest egg producing community in the United States. Although promised the dream of supporting themselves as chicken farmers, many found it impossible to make a living from farming and obtained jobs in Seattle, becoming commuters on the Interurban. Early in the Depression, Puget Mill abandoned the idea of the Demonstration Farm, leasing some of it and subdividing the rest of it. Further development was hampered by the abandonment of the Interurban Railway in 1939.

Freeway construction in the early 1960s further isolated the farm from the town of Alderwood Manor, and many of the people who lived in the suburban cities of Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace were unaware of the once famous Demonstration Farm. In 1970, the five acres including the cottage and a water tower were sold. The cottage and other surviving farm buildings deteriorated and might have been lost forever had they not been discovered in 1993 when a new freeway interchange was proposed at 196th ST SW near the old town center of Alderwood Manor. Today many of the Demonstration Farm buildings, including an Interurban Trolley, have been moved and restored at Heritage Park.