

HISTORIC POINTS OF INTEREST (continued)

6 The Train Runout: Known as the “D-Rail” by DuPont Company workers, the runout was a safety feature built into the track system. Runaway dynamite laden trains would run up a short upward track spur, which ended in gravel. The “D-Rail” was designed to bog down an out of control train on the steep downward grade to the wharf.

7 Lower Powerhouse: In the early 1900s the creek was a source of hydroelectric power for the DuPont Company. The aging building was eventually torn down by the Weyerhaeuser Company.

8 Estuary: The estuary is where the freshwater Creek meets the salt water Sound. Its waters flow through the culvert beneath the railroad dike and into the Sound. Above the estuary was a Native American winter village, which consisted of two long houses, placed end-to-end on a terrace and housed 40-50 people.

9 Boat House: DuPont Company employees stored their personal boats at the boathouses, which provided easy water access to the Sound.

10 DuPont Wharf: The wharf was 36 feet wide and 300 feet long. It was the receiving and shipping point for raw materials and finished explosives. Remnants of the Wharf’s pilings are all that remain today.

Beware of Poison Oak

Be cautious of poison oak along the Sequallitchew Creek canyon. It grows as a shrub, but can also grow as a woody vine that carpets the ground and tree trunks with dense clusters of reddish-brown rootlets. Leaves that are green in summer turn bright red by the fall. If touched, it causes blistering rashes in 85 percent of people. Wilderness wisdom: *Leaves of three, leave them be.*



SEQUALITCHEW CREEK

— GUIDE —

The name Sequallitchew is the Nisqually description of the sandy beach at the mouth of the creek and means: big tide or long run out tide, extensive sand banks over which the water is shallow.

Sequalitchew-Nisqually Era

Native Americans existed here for at least 5700 years. The Sequallitchew Creek area provided food and home for the Sequallitchew-Nisqually Indians who lived in a year-round village near the mouth of the creek. During the summer months the village was extended onto the beach.

Hudson Bay Company Era

The arrival of the HBC in 1832 on the Creek brought British influence to the Puget Sound region. The British-owned company built Fort Nisqually, a fur trading and agricultural settlement, south of the Creek. The fort was later purchased by the U.S. Government in 1869.

E. I. DuPont de Nemours Company Era

In 1906 the DuPont Company purchased 2,700 acres of land and 1,485 feet of waterfront property for the manufacture of black powder and high explosives. The Creek provided hydroelectric power to the plant and village. A narrow-gauge railway ran on the north side of the Creek to transport finished explosives down to the wharf and import raw materials back to the plant. The property was sold to Weyerhaeuser in 1976. Today The Home Course golf course sits on the land where the DuPont Company plant made explosives.

Interested in more DuPont history?



Visit the DuPont Museum

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Aerial View of the Old DuPont Wharf

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HISTORIC POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Sequallitchew Creek: The fresh waters of Sequallitchew Creek begin at Sequallitchew Lake, located inside Fort Lewis approximately 5 miles upstream from Puget Sound. The Creek travels through Edmonds Marsh and patches of prairie land before disappearing into a wooded ravine. The creek descends 1.5 miles and drops about 200 feet in elevation down to the Puget Sound. The canyon water flow comes from a variety of sources including, Sequallitchew Lake, underground springs and smaller seeps.

2 Dam and Flume: Water flowed from behind the wooden dam through a 4-foot wide wooden flume and provided water to the lower Powerhouse. The flume ended at a large pipe at the top of the ridge extending down the high bank of the creek. The water created gravity fed pressure to the lower Powerhouse.

3 Methodist Episcopal Mission: Built in 1839, the Mission was the first American Settlement on Puget Sound. The main building measured 18 X 32 and was encircled by a 9 foot stockade. Dr. John Richmond, his wife America, William Holden Willson, and schoolteacher Chloe Clarke Willson occupied the Mission until it was burned down in 1842.

4 Nurse Tree: An important part of a natural forest ecosystem, nurse trees provide moisture and nutrients for a variety of cavity nesting birds, insects reptiles and young sapling trees, which grow out of the host tree. The new sapling may be of the same or a totally different species than the Nurse Tree.

5 Dynamite Train: The railway provided a smooth quality ride needed to transport explosives. The narrow gauge train could negotiate the sharp curves and steep grades of the Sequallitchew canyon.

(continued on opposite panel)

Trail Etiquette: “Leave no Trace”
Be considerate and aware of your impact
on the trail – pack out what you pack in.



Photo Courtesy of Kate Lynch

1 Sequatchew Creek

*** Keep a safe distance from native plants and animals**

Most are harmless, though some such as poison oak mentioned on the opposite side of the map should be avoided. *If one you see, leave it be.*



Photo Courtesy of DuPont Museum

2 Flume Substructure



Artwork by James Edgren
Courtesy of DuPont Museum

3 Methodist Mission



Photo Courtesy of Steve Wyant

4 Nurse Tree



Photo Courtesy of DuPont Museum

10 DuPont Wharf

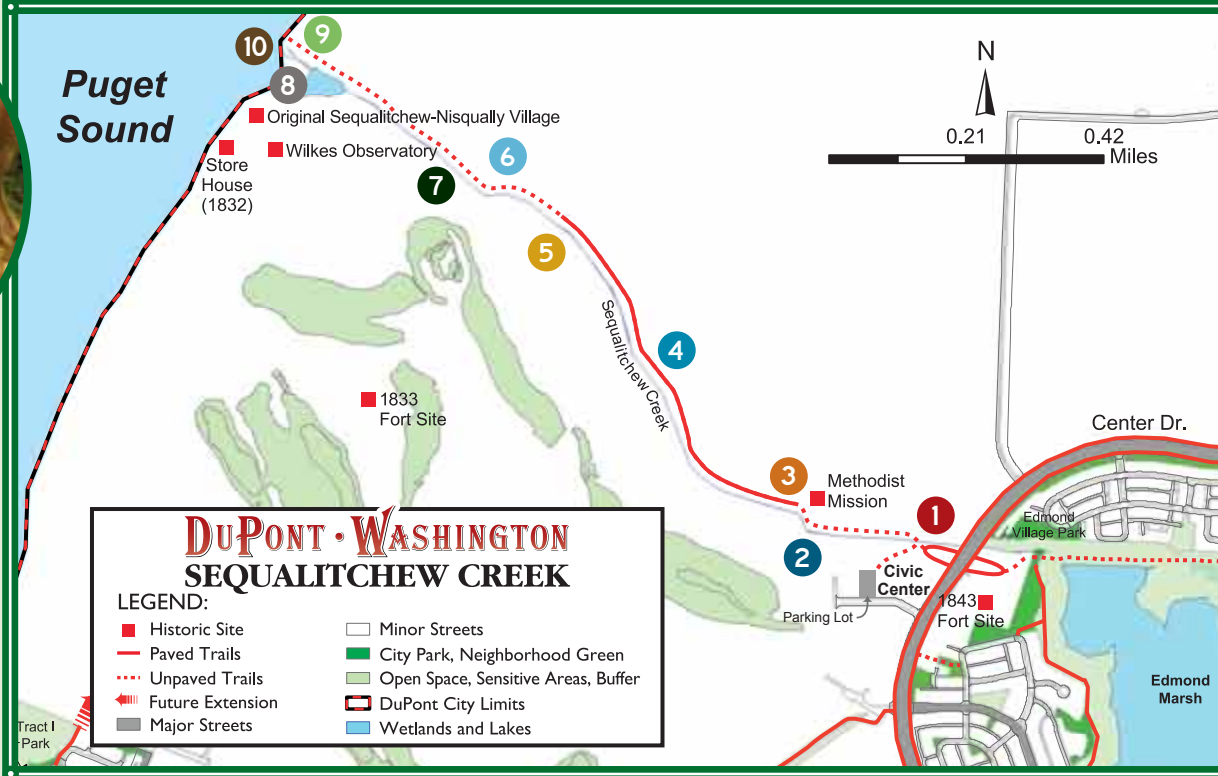


Photo Courtesy of DuPont Museum

5 DuPont Dynamite Train



Photo Courtesy of DuPont Museum

*** Watch out for ant hills along the trail**

Stop and observe, but do not disturb.



Photo Courtesy of DuPont Museum

9 Boat House



Photo Courtesy of DuPont Museum

8 Estuary



Photo Courtesy of DuPont Museum

7 Lower Powerhouse

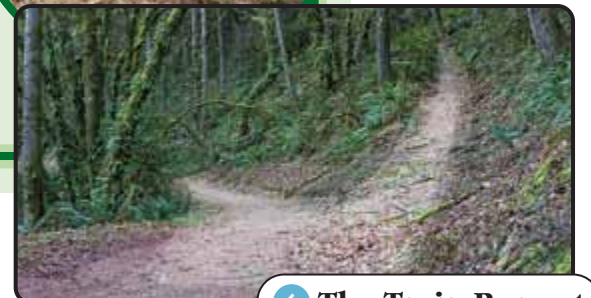


Photo Courtesy of Steve Wyant

6 The Train Runout