

Sub-committee Summary 4/14/08

Cultural Resources/Heritage Subcommittee Members: Andy Estep, Roger Westman, Ruth Egger, Lee McDonald and Judy Krill

Sub committee was charged with the following tasks:

- Look at future land and historic sites that need to be acquired and identify the process and parties involved.
- Establish a relationship with the Nisqually Tribe
- Natural Resources/Ecology – identify plant life, animal life, nature trails, and figure out how to softly promote this aspect of DuPont.

The Cultural Heritage subcommittee came up with the following strategies for each of these tasks:

Look at future land and historic sites that need to be acquired and identify the process and parties involved.

It was agreed that all the sites are important and the city acquisition of them the highest priority. For the purposes of creating a Visitors Destination plan and incorporating them into trail walks, the following sites were prioritized and the owners identified:

1. Bluff to Wilkes Observatory - Quadrant
2. Mission – WRECO/Quadrant
3. 1833 First Fort Nisqually Site – Quadrant
4. Fort Lake – Quadrant
5. Cemetery – Quadrant

Currently the City is in negotiations with Quadrant to acquire ownership of the Wilkes Observatory, 1833 Fort Nisqually Site, the Cemetery and Old Fort Lake. The City holds an option to purchase the Mission Site until December 2009. The 1843 Fort Nisqually Site is owned by the Archeological Conservancy.

Establish Contact with Tribe:

The committee feels that the Visitors Readiness Task Force should coordinate with all the subcommittees for a unified voice and vision in creating partnerships with the Tribe. The group recommends the following strategies:

- Invite the Tribe to partner in developing a Native American pre-European History Loop trail and allowing access through the Nisqually Delta area.
- Create signage on trail heads with points of interest to the Tribe – include Native American sites, legends, and history.
- Create trail signage regarding food, medicinal and ceremonial usage of native plants, flora and fauna.
- Discuss with the Tribe partnering opportunities on their 40 acre Long House site and other historical sites within DuPont.

Natural Resources/ Ecology – identify plant life, animal life, nature trails, etc and figure out how to softly promote this aspect of DuPont (Sierra Club, Nisqually Wildlife Refuge. Etc)

The group decided to focus on History Loops: trail walks identifying DuPont's Historical Sites and incorporating plant and animal life. We reviewed maps of DuPont's present and proposed trail systems and the Historical Sites and decided to map 3 History Trail walks one for each of the three eras of DuPont History.

- 1) Native American Trail Loop (Pre-European)
- 2) Fort Nisqually/Husdon's Bay Company Loop
- 3) DuPont Company/Historic Village Loop.

Possible Trail Heads would be placed at The Historic Village, Fort Nisqually, Ross Plaza, Powderworks Park, End of McNeil-Nisqually down to the delta, Chief Leschi Park. and the Civic Center.

The Historic Village Loop was mapped and Andy Estep submitted it to the Parks Agency for their input. An extended walk that follows the narrow gauge railway from the Village down to the shore will be developed later.

Promoting the Loops:

A Brochure with an identifying color for each Historical Trail Walk would be displayed at trail heads, local businesses and other venues.

History Kiosks at Civic Center and other locations: The City and Historical Society are currently partnering with Rainier Media to produce a 10-15 minute documentary on early DuPont area history circa 1833-1850. The goal is to create a historical overview with 3-5 minute "shorts" on the Wilkes Expedition, Mission Settlement and Native American history, to be used at kiosks as well as on TV.

GeoCaching Service Sites:

The group is interested in promoting geo caching. Participants use hand- held GPS (Global Positioning System) to follow a series of coordinates to a location where a clue is hidden. We can partner with a geo caching site to develop a program in DuPont. Clues can be hidden in restaurants, trail area or other public venues. Someone will be needed to maintain the program. A geo caching program is not labor intensive and can be operated during the summer months or year round.

Andy is also updating DuPont's information on Google.

The subcommittee discussed and supports the idea of hiring a coordinator to assist the Visitors Readiness Task Force in developing a comprehensive tourism plan. A scope of work for this position has been developed by committee chairs and will be submitted to the Task Force for review.