



# Experience Historical Kent



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## Historic Downtown

202 West Gowe Street | 253-813-6976

- Kent's historic downtown was permanently settled by homesteaders in the early 1860s.
- Originally called Titusville, there is still a 'Titusville Station' sign on Gowe Street near First Avenue.
- The Kent Downtown Partnership was established over 20 years ago to help revitalize historical downtown Kent.
- M. M. Morrill founded the M. M. Morrill Bank of Kent in 1901; later he built a bank that was completed in 1906. This bank still stands today at Gowe & First Street, South.
- M. M. Morrill had been a cattle trader and merchant store owner in Kent before the Gold Rush. He later served in the State Legislature and was elected to the Kent City Council and the Mayor's post.

## The Greater Kent Historical Society and Museum

855 East Smith Street | GKHS.org

- Established in 1992, the Greater Kent Historical Society and Museum promotes the discovery and preservation of Kent's history.
- In 1996, the City of Kent purchased the historic Bereiter house for use as the Kent Historical Museum.
- Formerly the home of Emil Bereiter who served as Kent's third mayor from 1912-1913.



## Mill Creek Canyon Earthworks Park

*742 East Titus Street | 253-856-5050*

- Mill Creek Canyon Earthworks is an internationally acclaimed artwork by Bauhaus master Herbert Bayer.
- The Earthworks is a public park, a stormwater detention dam and a modernist masterpiece.
- Since its installation in 1982, Earthworks has been praised for its fusion of art and infrastructure, making it a powerful precedent for engineers, landscape architects and artists.
- In 2008, the Earthworks was designated Kent's first historic landmark by the King County Landmarks Commission.



## Mill Creek Neighborhood

*KentMillCreek.com*

- Originally mapped in 1890, the Mill Creek Neighborhood reflects the history of early Kent.
- Kent's first mailman, and four past mayors including Calhoun (1911), Bereiter (1912-1913), Murkar (1927-1930) and Dunbar (1943-1946) called the Mill Creek neighborhood home.
- The neighborhood features many architectural style houses prominent during the early 20th century including prairie, craftsman and colonial revival.





## Soos Creek Botanical Garden and Heritage Center

29308 132nd Ave SE, Auburn | [SoosCreekBotanicalGarden.org](http://SoosCreekBotanicalGarden.org)

- The Heritage Center celebrates the history of the early pioneers that settled the Soos Creek plateau.
- Featuring eleven beautifully designed gardens on twenty-two acres, the Soos Creek Botanical Garden is a unique pairing of gardening and history.

## Hydroplane & Raceboat Museum

5917 South 196th Street | [Thunderboats.org](http://Thunderboats.org)

- The Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum is the nation's only public museum dedicated to powerboat racing.
- The museum features an incredible collection of vintage hydroplanes spanning seven decades, including boats that have won 17 Gold Cups.
- Over 100 years of racing history on display including boats, motors, films, photos and uniforms.





## Meridian Cemetery

27221 156th Avenue SE | 425-432-5599

- The original Meridian Cemetery is believed to be the first on the East Hill and was used during the late 1800's.
- While the original cemetery is no longer there, the Meridian Cemetery Association was later established and purchased the current property from a Japanese couple from Seattle.
- According to tombstone inscriptions, the first burial took place in September 1908.

## Neely-Soames Homestead

5311 South 237th Place | 253-856-5000

- Built in 1885, this is one Kent's oldest houses, and was listed on the State Register of Historic Homes in 1977.
- Settler David Neely's daughter, Ruby was born in the house in 1895; after marrying Harry Soames, she lived there until her death in 1986.
- The grounds and gardens reflect a farmstead typical of Kent's early days and are maintained by members and friends of the King County Master Gardeners.
- An annual open house is held the third Saturday in August.



## Saar Pioneer Cemetery

91st & 212th Way (enter on 212th)  
[general@kentmethodist.com](mailto:general@kentmethodist.com)

- The cemetery is named after pioneer Margaret Eunice Olmstead Saar, the first person interred there in 1873. At the time, there was no other established cemetery, so upon Margaret's death, her husband, Peter Saar, buried her on their property.
- Mr. Saar sold the property to Mary L. Meeker in 1882, and reserved the one-acre cemetery. John Nelson bought the cemetery from Mr. Saar in 1887 and then sold it to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church and their successors.
- The cemetery is designated as an historic landmark and is closed to burials.



## Suise Creek Cemetery

SE 256th Street & 132nd Avenue SE | 425-774-2783

- Around 1900, some thought it necessary to have a cemetery that was more readily accessible to the neighborhood so the original cemetery was split in two, part becoming the Meridian Cemetery and the other Suise Creek Cemetery.
- In 1902, the present property was purchased at \$10 an acre and, in 1903, the bodies were transported by wagon to the present day cemetery.
- Considered a pioneer cemetery for Kent's first settlers, only descendants of those previously buried may be interred there today.





## St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery

*South 204th Street & Orillia Road South | 253-838-2240*

- Mr. Richard O'Connell, an immigrant from Limerick, Ireland, donated the land for the cemetery and named it after Saint Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland.
- The cemetery is the final resting place for many Irish immigrants as indicated by the names and places noted on the headstones.
- According to one tombstone inscription, the earliest burials appear to be those of Morgan O'Brien and his wife, Catherine, who died in 1880.

## Hillcrest Burial Park

*1005 Reiten Road | 253-852-1322*

- Founded in 1886, the cemetery was located in the Samuel Russell Donation Claim, near the present day Kent Municipal Court.
- Due to regular flooding problems, the cemetery was relocated in 1890 to Knob Hill, now known as Scenic Hill.
- The cemetery is the resting place for many Kent pioneers, as well as veterans of both the Civil and Spanish American Wars.



## Saint Anthony Chapel

*304 3rd Avenue South | 253-859-0444*

- St. Anthony Parish was built in 1924 at a cost of approx. \$36,000
- Dedicated by Most Reverend Bishop O'Dea (namesake of O'Dea High School in Seattle) on Feb. 22, 1925
- 70 years later (June 1994) under the leadership of Fr. Peter Duggan we broke ground on Holy Spirit Parish which was planned to give us double the space available in St. Anthony's.
- Has the original stained glass windows created by Povey Studios



## Seattle Pet Cemetery

*23646 Military Road South*

*SeattlePetCemeteryandCremationService.com*

- Established in 1948, the site was originally named Seattle-Tacoma Pet Cemetery.
- The cemetery is the final resting place of Little Tyke, a vegetarian lioness who had some initial success in Hollywood, most notably meeting Cecil B. de Mille to audition for a part in his 1952 movie "The Greatest Show on Earth."
- Over the years three families have owned the cemetery; Marlatt, Clark, and current owners the Morris family.







## Kent Lutheran Church

*336 2nd Avenue South | 253-852-2057*

- Kent Lutheran Church has continued in the heart of downtown Kent since August 1889
- The original 1890 wooden building located on 4th was moved in 1938 to 5th and Gowe to make room for a new Kent elementary school
- The church stucco building on 2nd and Saar, dedicated in 1939, was cut in half in 1970 to build the new red brick church facility
- The current church facility, dedicated in 1970, besides being beloved home for the Kent Lutheran faith community, has continued to serve as a vibrant center for many City of Kent civic and community needs such as City Council meetings in 1970s, Community Suppers 1980s to present, Support groups 1990s to present, and Severe Weather Shelters, Ethnic start-up congregations, and Community/ Cultural events from 2000s to present
- "In the heart of our city, taking our city to heart"

## Mary Olsen Farm

*28728 Green River Road | 253-288-7433*

- The Mary Olson Farm is a 67 acre subsistence farm and fully restored historic landmark nestled in a dramatic canyon along the Green River.
- Purchased by Swedish immigrant Alford Olson in 1897, the property was once a logging mill.
- Today visitors can tour inside the restored 1897 barn, pause and consider what life was like on a rural farm in the 1902 farmhouse, or wonder through the century-old orchard.
- Other restored and preserved structures to explore include a weaving shed, chicken coop, outhouse, smokehouse, and 19th century wagon road.





## Unity Church of Kent

*218 State Avenue South | 253-226-1635*

- Is the only extant example of a Romanesque Revival religious building in Kent.
- Was built in 1919 as a mission church.
- The church was dedicated in 1926 by Rev N.S. Fiscus.
- The square steeple housed a bell that was given to Kent Historical Society by First Presbyterian church. The bell was cast by Clinton H Meneely Bell Co. in 1890.
- Stained Glass windows are thought to be the originals.
- Unity of Kent purchased the church in 1982 and remains it sole owner.

## Sidetrack Distillery

*27010 78th Avenue South | 206-963-5079*

- Lazy River Farm is located on and old country road near historical Alvords Landing on the Green River.
- We have an old world style distillery on the farm "Sidetrack Distillery".
- Design and materials replicate historical barns in the valley.
- Doors from an 1800's barn used in the design.



# A History of Kent

During the 1860s, 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 too 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.

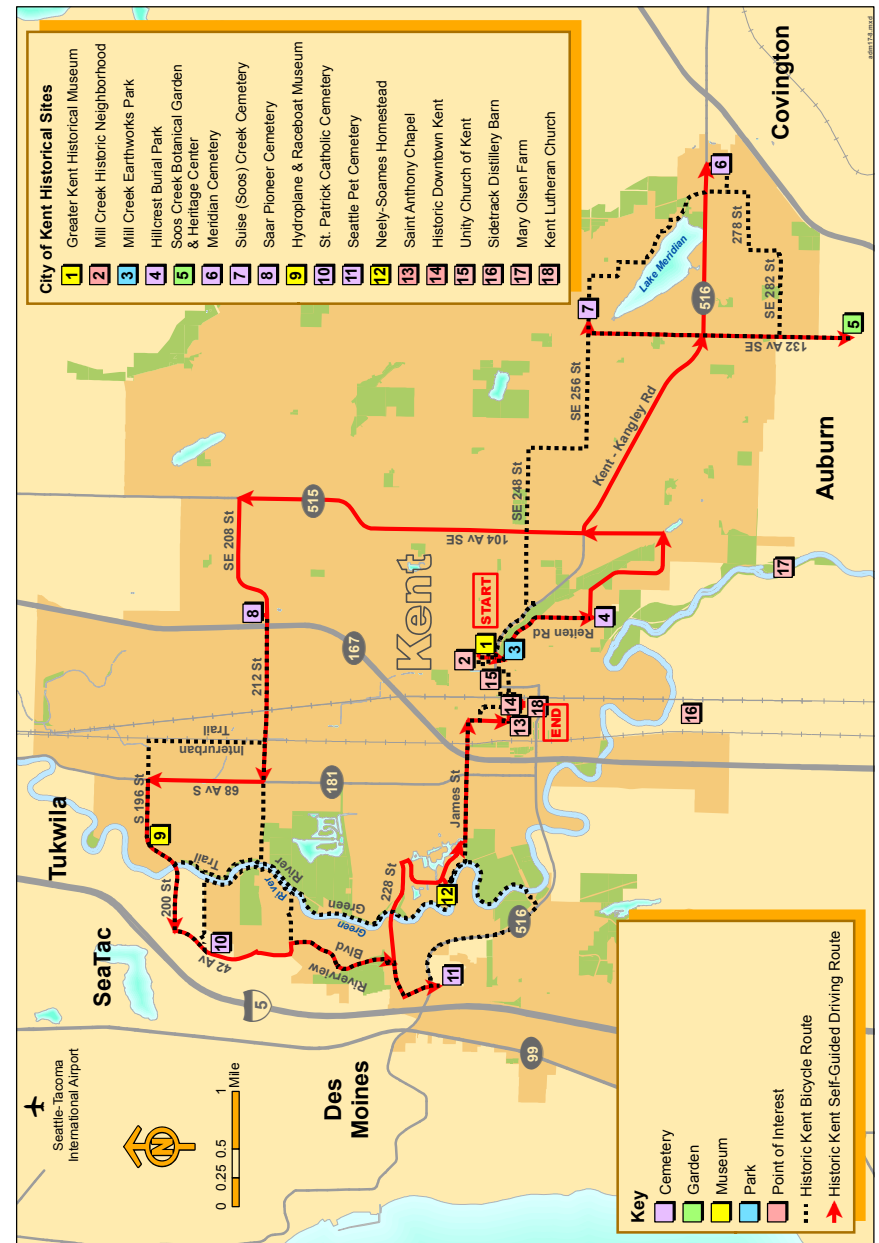
Kent officially incorporated on May 28, 1890 with a population of 763. It was the second city behind Seattle to incorporate in King County.

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 distribution center. Today, Kent is the fourth largest manufacturing and distribution center in the United States.



For more information go to:  
[KentWA.gov/ExperienceHistoricalKent](http://KentWA.gov/ExperienceHistoricalKent)  
 253-854-4330



**Disclaimer:** This map is intended to aid bicyclists in choosing routes between locations. This map is not in any way a warranty or guarantee as to the stability of roadway conditions or the fitness of listed routes for bicycling. Many of the routes identified on this map cross or run along public roads which are exposed to wear and tear and degradation due to weather, traffic, and other environmental concerns. Riders should remain alert as routes may contain pavement rutting, cracks, bumps, expansion joints, natural or other debris on pavement surfaces, and vegetation which may encroach on routes or portions thereof. Riders should also remain alert for areas of visual impairment and other irregularities that may impact rider and motorist ability to see each other or potential road hazards. The chance that one may come into an area of visual impairment or a route irregularity warrants special care on the part of route users. Government resources limit the capacity to address conditions and irregularities like those described above. Accordingly, route users should maintain a vigilant lookout for these conditions and irregularities. Route users should always ride with care for their own safety and that of other users. The City of Kent does not assume liability for bicyclists travelling upon routes shown in this map. Safe route selection includes consideration of motor vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic and roadway or route conditions.





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