

A Self-Guided Tour

Welcome to a walking tour of Mukilteo Lighthouse Park and the Mukilteo Light Station. The tour offers a scenic seascape, less than a mile of easy walking, and fourteen pausing points that highlight several interesting features of the human and natural history of the region. The tour is fully accessible and restrooms are readily available. **Watch for these signs:**



Before the twentieth century, much of this park area was a tidal lagoon separated from Puget Sound by a narrow spit of land on which the Mukilteo Light Station was built in 1906. The residents of Mukilteo built a dike and constructed a baseball field in this area in the 1920s, but were unable to maintain it against storms and tidal surges. In the 1950s, the state of Washington trucked in large quantities of fill dirt to make a permanent State Park. In 2003, the land was deeded to the City of Mukilteo, which continues to develop and maintain Mukilteo Lighthouse Park.

Audio Available

An audio version of this brochure, as well as additional tour content for each stop, can be found by scanning the **QR Codes** found on each signpost, or by going to:



www.mukilteowalkingtour.com

#1 Transportation by water has been important in this area for centuries. Native Americans held frequent conferences, ceremonies, and other gatherings here due to the easy access by canoe as well as the abundant sea food and fresh water. Sailing vessels and steamships followed in the 19th century, and in 1919 a car ferry service was launched, now part of State Highway 525.



1932 photo courtesy of Everett Public Library

The large Losvar Condominiums building across Front Street was constructed in the 1970s on the site of the original Losvar family home and their Mukilteo Boathouse. After arriving in Mukilteo in 1905, Paul Losvar and his family purchased 300 feet of waterfront property on which they built a business that constructed, rented, and stored boats. One of their ads proudly stated: "There has never been a casualty in a Mukilteo Boat."



Losvar Boat House

The spot where you are standing now was once part of a tidal lagoon, and the light station was actually built on a narrow spit of land. The name "muck-el-teo," (now written in English as Mukilteo) may have come from a word in the local Lushootseed language group that meant "narrow goose neck," in reference to the long spit of land. Because its geography is so distinctive and accessible, it also came to mean a "good meeting place." The area was chosen in 1855 for the negotiations and signing of the Point Elliott Treaty between Indian leaders and the U.S. Government. The interpretive signs "Native Americans" and "Point Elliott Treaty" offer more information.



Tidal lagoon-- Early 1900's



#3 Throughout Lighthouse Park you will see artistic reminders of the Native Americans who have been present in the region for at least 10,000 years. Underneath the surface of the lighthouse grounds are shells, animal bones, and other archeological evidence of the activities of the ancestors of the Snohomish and other Lushootseed-speaking Indians. The concrete stamps of orcas and salmon on the sidewalk, the metal sculpture, and the concrete planting boxes were designed by Tulalip tribal members, James Madison and Joe Gobin. The metal cube in the circle contains a welcoming hand as well as symbolic salmon, Dungeness crab, and halibut. The nearby interpretive sign, "Tradition of Carving," tells more about the art and the artists.



Native American Artwork

#4 The Mukilteo Lighthouse, which began operating in 1906, is still a working aid to navigation. The light is automated and flashes 24 hours a day, using a Fourth Order Fresnel lens manufactured in France in 1852. The light station is now owned by the City of Mukilteo, while volunteers from the Mukilteo Historical Society maintain the gardens and provide public tours on weekends and most holidays, April-September, noon – 5:00. More information is available on the sign to the right of the gate. The photo of the water close to the lighthouse illustrates the need for the sea wall that was built in 1934.

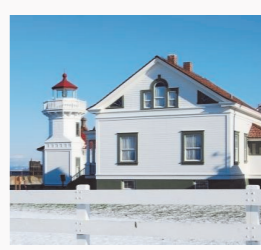


#5 This house was assigned to the Lighthouse Keeper and was first occupied in 1906. Becoming a lighthouse keeper in Mukilteo was considered desirable because of its location in a town, with schooling for children just up the hill. Each of the first four lighthouse keepers had several children, so this house was always alive with activity. As you walk by the Mukilteo lighthouse itself, notice the two plaques that commemorate Vancouver's exploration of the Mukilteo area in 1792 and the official recognition of the historic nature of this site.

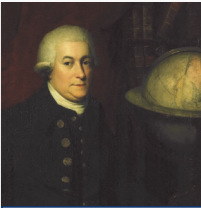


First Lighthouse Keeper, P.N. Christiansen, with grandson Alden Losvar

#6 Mukilteo did not have electricity when the lighthouse opened in 1906, so an oil lamp in the tower was lit before dusk and kept burning all night. The keepers were also responsible for making sure the fog horn was working when needed. There were many other chores, necessitating an assistant lighthouse keeper. Later, when the Coast Guard had eight-hour workdays, a third person was assigned in Mukilteo to keep the lighthouse operating. The two keepers' houses were built on exactly the same floor plan and both have full basements.



#7 In front of you toward the West is Whidbey Island, named in 1792 after First Mate Joseph Whidbey by the British explorer, George Vancouver. Whidbey Island is an ideal place to see deposits of several lowland glacial and interglacial sequences of the Pleistocene Epoch, a geological time period that lasted from around 2.5 million years ago to about 12,000 years ago. The interpretive sign "Geology of Mukilteo" offers more information, and the sign "Early Explorers" tells about George Vancouver's expedition.



Captain George Vancouver



The Chatham

#8 The interpretive sign "Share the Shore with Harbor Seals" is a reminder of the wildlife that may be seen along this shore of Puget Sound, which is part of the larger Salish Sea. In addition to harbor seals, Gray whales and orcas (killer whales) may also be seen. The beach areas are rich in aquatic life and serve as a site for numerous school field trips. On a clear day, you can see Mt. Baker beyond the ferry landing. The smaller island to the right is Gedney Island, also referred to as Hat Island.



Jenny Klemp at the lighthouse, 1920s