

Historic Preservation

Since Suquamish is located within the Port Madison Indian Reservation, the entire Village contains archaeological and historical sites. Suquamish history is preserved in the natural systems, buildings, and road locations, particularly those roads that lie on top of old Indian trails. A living history also exists in the form of story poles and verbal history.

Non-native Suquamish history is evident in the platted layout, small lots and cabins, and small, dense, commercial districts. A story of early settlement is revealed by the old roads, like Port Gamble/Suquamish Rd, and in the old ferry building, which depicts the era of the mosquito fleet service on Puget Sound.

This mixed culture and rich history make Suquamish a special place to live.

Goals, Polices and Recommendations

The following goals and policies target achieving certain components or elements of community vision and provide for specific, often adoptable or legislative, guidance to identify or accomplish actionable items (eg, projects, ordinance changes). The goals and policies should be considered by the community as overarching themes and activities in community development.

Goals

- GOAL HP-1** Preserve, highlight and integrate the rich native and non-native history of Suquamish in all community planning and development.
- GOAL HP-2** Create guidelines and policies that recognize the influence of the past, but allow history to be written now and evolve over time.

Policies

- POLICY HP-1** Immediately notify the Suquamish Tribe and the Washington State Office of Archaeology when a possible historic site is located.
- POLICY HP-2** Buildings and roads should aid in the preservation of historic structures and landscapes, respecting the cultural and historic significance of Suquamish.

POLICY HP-3 Promote the visibility of native Indian culture in the design of public places by integrating Suquamish Tribal symbols, colors and names through coordination with the Tribe.

POLICY HP-4 Develop building and site design guidelines based on the historic character of the Suquamish Village.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are not binding, but are appropriate targets for further policy analysis by the community and should be implemented when possible.

REC HP-1 Use native plants to assist in restoring the original landscapes.

REC HP-2 Use colors reflective of those predominant on the Port Madison Indian Reservation in downtown Suquamish. These include colors from the earth, water and sky: greens, browns and red hues of the forests and blues, grays and greens of the water and Puget Sound. A range in design themes, such as traditional basket weaves to carvings, is preferable over a one-theme design.

REC HP-3 When a possible historic site is unearthed, follow the current federal legislation outlined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) as directed by the Suquamish Tribal Council.