

Lakewood

People and Place

Location

Lakewood is south of Tacoma on the eastern side of the central Puget Sound region. Situated in Pierce County, the city encompasses 17.1 square miles of land and 1.9 square miles of water. The nearest major U.S. city is Seattle, a 42-mile drive north. Lakewood's geographic coordinates are lat 47°10'19"N, long 122°31'02"W.

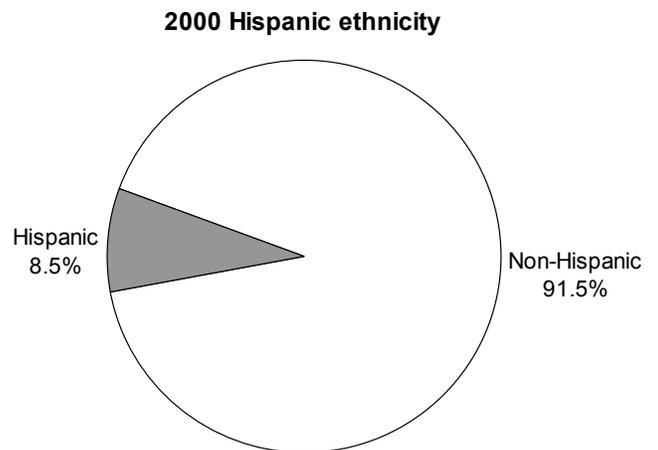
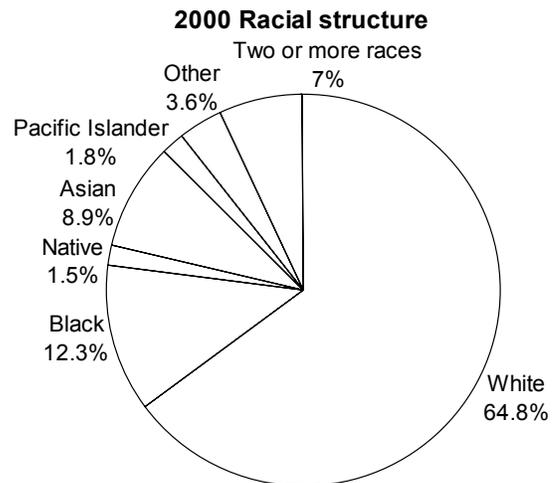
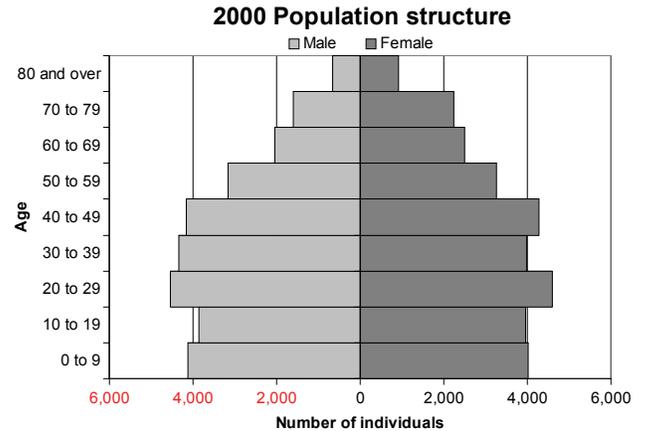
Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Lakewood's population was 58,211, down from 58,412 in 1990. The gender composition was 51.1% female and 48.9% male. The median age of 35.0 was slightly less than the national median of 35.3. Of the population age 18 years and older, 83.6% had a high school education (including equivalency) or higher, 19.1% had received a bachelor's degree or higher, and 7.2% had attained a graduate or professional degree; the national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The vast majority of Lakewood's racial structure recorded by the 2000 U.S. Census was white (64.8%), followed by black (12.3%), Asian (8.9%), people who identified with two or more races (7%), people who identified with another race (3.6%), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (1.8%), and American Indian and Alaska Native (1.5%). Ethnicity data indicate that 8.5% identified as Hispanic. In 2000 12.7% were foreign-born, with 25.9% from Korea, 13.6% from Mexico, and 12.3% from Germany. The highest percentage of those reporting ancestry were German (13.5%), followed by the Irish (6.9%) and English (6.7%).

History

The area today known as Lakewood was once referred to as the Prairie. It was "an expanse of land about 20 miles square, dotted with small lakes and occasional stands of oak and Douglas fir trees." The Steilacoom and Nisqually Native American groups conducted powwows in the Prairie.¹ The tribal histories of the two groups are distinct, due in part to their status and relationship with the federal government. Decisions made by European American settlers, particularly where to operate posts and settle, also influenced their histories. The Nisqually, a federally recognized tribe, were granted a reservation. The Steilacoom are still not recognized by the federal government and therefore have no reservation



land.² The Nisqually Tribe’s reservation is located primarily east of the Nisqually River.³

Historically both tribal groups were involved heavily in fishing and were granted the right to continue to “hunt and fish in their traditional tribal areas, no matter if those areas were off reservation lands” by the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854.⁴ The Medicine Creek Treaty rights were not honored in full for many years. However the Nisqually Tribe was instrumental, along with several other tribal groups, in reinstating those rights with the rendering of the Boldt Decision in 1974, which allocated 50% of the annual salmon catch to treaty tribes.

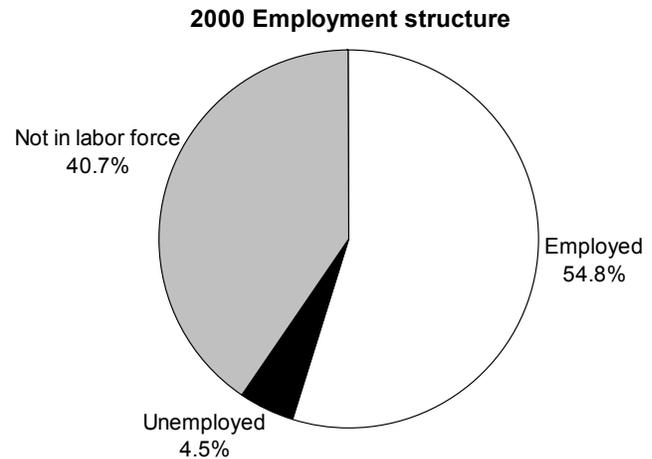
In 1833 the Prairie was selected by the British Hudson’s Bay Company as a location for a new fur trading post. Fort Steilacoom, constructed after an Indian attack on Fort Nisqually and used to suppress Indian uprisings, was originally a farm. From 1850 to 1855 the first mills were constructed in the area. As Washington became a territory in 1853 more European American settlers began to arrive and in 1854 Steilacoom became the first incorporated town in the territory. In 1873 nearby Tacoma was selected as the site of the western terminus of the Northwest Pacific Railway, further boosting the area’s economy. Other local area advancements include the construction of the Tacoma Speedway in the early 1900s, Camp Lewis in World War I, and McChord Air Force Base in 1938.⁵

During the 1930s and 1940s the community of Lakewood started to gain its own identity and in 1937 the first piece of the Lakewood Colonial Shopping Center was built, one of the first suburban shopping centers in the nation. In 1942 a fire district was configured with a water district instituted a year later. In 1961 Lakewood General Hospital (now St. Claire) opened its doors. Several local amenities followed including a library and two colleges. Lakewood was incorporated in 1996 and is the eighth largest city in Washington State.⁶

Infrastructure

Current Economy

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 54.8% of Lakewood’s potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 4.5% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 7.6% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). About 40.7% of the population age 16 years and older were not in the labor force, compared to the national average of 36.1%. The top employment sectors were educational, health, and social services (22.8%), local, state, and federal governments (22.6%), arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services (9.2%), manufacturing (9.1%), professional, scientific,



management, administrative, and waste management services (8.2%), public administration (7.9%), and the armed forces (7.4%). Natural resources jobs in 2000, agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, employed 0.5%, but this percentage may be artificially low given that many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in these data.

The per capita income in 1999 was \$20,569 and the median household income was \$36,422. In 1999 15.8% lived below the poverty level. In 2000 there were 25,396 housing units in Lakewood, with 47.7% owner occupied and 52.3% renter occupied. The housing unit vacancy rate was 6.3%.

Governance

Incorporated in 1996, the City of Lakewood has a council-manager form of government, comprised of seven elected, nonpartisan part-time council members. The council elects one member to serve as the mayor and another to serve as a full-time professional city manager “to oversee the administrative functions of the city and to implement Council policy.”⁷ Lakewood levies an 8.8% sales and use tax, a property tax of \$1.49 per \$1,000 assessed value, and a 5% lodging tax. See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fisherman and processors in Washington.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Office and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office are in Seattle. Meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management and Pacific Fishery Management councils are routinely held in the Seattle-Tacoma area. The nearest Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Regional Office is 60 miles southwest in Montesano. The 13th U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) District Office is in Seattle. There is a USCG Port Security Unit in Tacoma.

Facilities

Lakewood is accessible by ground and air. The city is on Interstate 5 (north-south) and Washington Highway 512 (east-west). Nearby Tacoma offers national and international railroad service. The Tacoma Narrows Airport, accessible by the Tacoma Narrows Bridge across the Puget Sound, is the nearest public airport. The Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is the nearest major facility.

The Lakewood School District No. 306 has 25 public schools, including 13 elementary schools, 6 middle schools, and 6 high schools. In addition there are two private schools in the community. Lakewood is home to two colleges, Clover Park Technical College and Pierce College at Fort Steilacoom. Tacoma Power, a division of Tacoma Public Utilities, administers electricity, and the Lakewood Water District provides water services. Pierce County Sewer Utility provides sewer services. The Lakewood Police and Fire departments administer public safety. St. Claire Hospital in Lakewood offers full medical services. There are at least four hotels available for lodging in Lakewood and additional lodging is available in nearby communities. There are no marine facilities located in Lakewood. Information on port facilities in the area can be found in the Tacoma and Gig Harbor community profiles.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

There were no landings delivered to Lakewood in 2000. Additionally there were no known processors operating in the community. Lakewood residents owned two vessels in 2000 and both vessels participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by Lakewood residents that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: groundfish 0/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/0/NA, shellfish NA/0/NA, and shrimp NA/0/0.⁸

The number of Lakewood residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) in 2000 was: coastal pelagic 1/0/0, groundfish 1/0/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 4/0/0, and shellfish 0/0/NA.⁹

Lakewood residents held nine state permits in 2000. The number of permits held by residents in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 2/0/0, groundfish 3/0/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 4/0/0, and shellfish 0/0/NA.¹⁰

Sportfishing

There are two vendors in Lakewood licensed to sell fishing permits. In 2003 there were 3,936 sportfishing

license transactions valued at \$7,095. In Catch Record Card Area 13 (south Puget Sound, all waters south of Tacoma Narrows Bridge) the 2000 sport catch, based on catch record cards, was 5,131 fish, including 1,649 Chinook salmon, 2,226 coho salmon, and 1,256 chum salmon. Marine anglers made 26,089 trips in the sport salmon fishery. Boat-based anglers caught 8,025 bottomfish in Area 13. The recreational harvest of clams (lbs) and oysters (#) for Area 13 in 2000 was estimated to be 30,147 and 65,007 respectively; harvest occurred over an estimated 7,065 user trips.

Subsistence

Subsistence harvest for marine species may exist in the Lakewood area. However, the extent of subsistence harvesting is difficult to quantify due to a scarcity of data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Lakewood residents owned four vessels in 2000 that were involved in North Pacific fisheries. Residents landed fish in the following North Pacific fisheries (data shown represent landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): herring confidential/confidential/3 and salmon confidential/confidential/3.

Lakewood residents held eight permits in 2000, including two individuals who held federal commercial permits and five who held state permits (note: it is possible for individuals to hold more than one permit at a time). Community members held one scallop License Limitation Program permit and two herring and five salmon Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permits. Residents also held 6,990 sablefish individual fishing quota shares.

Fifteen Lakewood residents held crew member licenses for North Pacific fisheries in 2000.

Sportfishing

Lakewood residents purchased 149 Alaskan sportfishing licenses in 2000.

Notes

1. V. Dumond. No date. History of Lakewood. Online at <http://www.ci.lakewood.wa.us/about.html> [accessed 31 January 2007].
2. Steilacoom Tribe. 2003. Steilacoom Tribe of Indians. Online at http://members.shaw.ca/nyjack/steilacoom/the_tribe_today.htm [accessed 31 January 2007].
3. Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. 2003. Nisqually Tribe. Online at <http://www.npaihb.org/profiles/>

tribal_profiles/Washington/Nisqually%20Tribal%20Profile.htm
[accessed 31 January 2007].

4. U-S-history.com. No date. Native Americans, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Washington. Online at <http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1561.html> [accessed 31 January 2007].

5. See note 1.

6. See note 1.

7. City of Lakewood. 2004. Lakewood City Council. Online at <http://www.ci.lakewood.wa.us/City%20Council/council.html> [accessed 31 January 2007].

8. NA refers to data that were not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of the fishery in 2000.

9. See note 8.

10. See note 8.