

# STRONGER *Together*

## Building Unity Through Community

May 15 & 16, 2021



### SATURDAY & SUNDAY

**Stronger Together, Connecting Communities, a tour of the Stilly Valley, Arlington/Darrington (back of brochure)**  
We have a curated list of historical places along the river's route between Darrington and Arlington for you to visit on your own.

#### People of Our Communities Display

Location: Legion Park, 114 N Olympic Ave, Arlington  
A display of portraits of people from Stilly Valley with their inspiring messages.

#### World Ancestry Map: In Arlington and Darrington

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Locations:  
Legion Park, 114 N Olympic Ave, Arlington  
Darrington Library 1005 Cascade Street, Darrington  
Where are your ancestors from? Come and mark your ancestors from around the world and discover how we are all connected.

#### Dugout Canoe Display

View anytime, outdoor permanent display. Location: across from the U.S Forest Service on Emens Ave., Darrington  
A unique display of history awaits you at the Nels Bruseth Memorial Garden. Dugout canoes are displayed that were used at a cedar bolt camp. Canoes from Sauk - Suiattle Canoe Family will be on display.

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY

**Cultural Storytime with K Bluehorse of the Stillaguamish Tribe**  
View Anytime, On Demand Video  
[www.arlingtonwa.gov/stronger](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/stronger) (approx 30 minutes)  
K Bluehorse reads Fry Bread book in Lakota regalia with her grandsons singing some traditional songs along with her storytelling.

**Cultural Storytime with Stephanie Ironheart, Sauk– Suiattle Indian Tribe**  
View Anytime, On Demand Video  
[www.arlingtonwa.gov/stronger](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/stronger) (approx 30 minutes)  
“The Maiden of Deception Pass Guardian of her Samish People” by the Samish Indian Nation.

**Recorded Storytime with our Community Leaders**  
(view anytime at [www.arlingtonwa.gov/stronger](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/stronger))

- **Arlington Mayor Barb Tolbert**, reading *Can I Touch Your Hair?*
- **Arlington School Superintendent Chrys Sweeting**, reading *Mommy's Khimar*
- **Lakewood School Superintendent Scott Peacock**, reading *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*
- **Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin**, reading *The Day You Begin*

#### Own Voices book displays

View anytime leading up to the event and during the event.  
Lakewood Library: 3411 169<sup>th</sup> Place NE, Arlington  
Darrington Library: 1005 Cascade Street, Darrington  
Own Voices is a popular movement that allows people to see themselves in the media they read and watch, and others to learn about life experiences they might've not had. Link to list: <https://bit.ly/2QHm86t>

#### Haiku Contest to Celebrate Diversity

Arlington Arts Council invites you to write haiku poems that celebrate diversity. AAC is offering a \$50 cash prize in two categories: up to 12 years old and over 12 years old. Entries are due by May 10<sup>th</sup>. Message your haiku to Facebook.com/ArlingtonArtsCouncil or email [arlingtonartscouncil@outlook.com](mailto:arlingtonartscouncil@outlook.com).

### SATURDAY

**Saturday, May 15, 9:45 a.m. Opening Ceremony in Lakewood**  
Location: Lakewood High School, 17023 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE and on Facebook Live “[Stronger Together Stilly Valley](#).”  
Stephanie Ironheart and Ray Rehaume will present and teach the Native American “Hello Song” at opening of Stronger Together event.

**Saturday, 10:00-10:15 a.m. Lakewood High School Music**  
Location: outside at the High School, 17023 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE Arlington  
Live performance by award winning Lakewood High School Jazz Band “11<sup>th</sup> Avenue,” directed by Mrs. Katy Trapp. and on Facebook Live “Stronger Together Stilly Valley.”

**Saturday, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Socrates Café**  
Virtual, family-friendly event, get link at [www.arlingtonwa.gov/stronger](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/stronger)  
Socrates Café is a group activity where participants thoughtfully discuss an open-ended philosophical question. The goal is to stimulate inquiry and curiosity as you share your ideas and listen to different perspectives. We will explore an interesting topic related to the human experience through open and compassionate dialogue. No prerequisites or preparation is required. Open to all ages.

**Saturday, May 15, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. LGBTQ+ vocabulary**  
Virtual, family-friendly event, get link at [www.arlingtonwa.gov/stronger](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/stronger)  
What do all of those letters stand for, and what do those words mean? How are orientations different from genders? This workshop will present a safe and family-friendly space to learn more about gay, lesbian, trans\*, and other similar people in our community. Questions are welcome, but please keep it respectful and family-friendly. Open to all ages.

**Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Interactive Native Blanket Weaving**  
**Location: Legion Park, 114 Olympic Avenue, Arlington**  
Ray Rehaume of the Stillaguamish Tribe invites you to experience the art of blanket weaving and how weaving together can unite a community.

### SUNDAY

**Sunday, 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Cultural Storytime with Tamra Miyamoto**  
View on Facebook Live “[Stronger Together Stilly Valley](#)”  
Join us for a Family Storytime! Miss Tamra from the Darrington Library will share songs, rhymes, and stories. Please bring a scarf or a piece of cloth to wave around for our scarf song. The words to the rhymes and songs will be posted in the chat as well as links to the books shared in our catalog. We will also include a handout in chat, that you can download and keep, it will have the songs, rhymes, and books from storytime as well as suggested books and activities.

**Sunday, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Gansango Entertainment**  
View on Facebook Live “[Stronger Together Stilly Valley](#)”  
Want to travel to Africa for the day? You don't need a plane ticket! Join teaching and performing artists from Gansango Music and Dance to hear live drum rhythms from West Africa and learn some fun African dance moves. Presented by Arlington Library.

**Sunday, 3:00 p.m. Closing Ceremony in Darrington**  
**Location: Dugout Canoe Display, across from the U.S Forest Service on Emens Avenue, Darrington**  
Stephanie Ironheart of the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe and Ray Rehaume of the Stillaguamish Tribe will perform an Appreciation Ceremony to close the Stronger Together event in both Lushootseed and English.

*Stronger Together, a multi-community cultural event, is about exploring surface, shallow and deep cultures that we each bring to our communities. How we are the same? How we are different? How does that makes us stronger?*

**Event may be changed due to COVID-19 restrictions.**

[www.arlingtonwa.gov/stronger](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/stronger)

# A Tour of the Stillaguamish Valley Between Darrington and Arlington

## The Connection of the Stillaguamish Valley

The Whitehorse Trail between Arlington and Darrington follows the abandoned rail line that once carried the industry of mills and mines. The 27 mile trail parallels the Stillaguamish River and includes the ancestral lands of the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians. The trail connects Arlington to Darrington, at the doorstep of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, and the confluence of the Sauk and Suiattle Rivers. Rolling farmland and jagged, snowcapped peaks dominate the Stillaguamish Valley landscape. Along the route, the people of the past, their culture, and their dreams, co-mingle with their descendants who still make their homes and livelihoods here.

## Traveling west from Darrington to Arlington...

### Historic Downtown Darrington

In Darrington, the rivers come together just like the people who are drawn to the mountainside. Darrington is the gathering place where locals and visitors gather after exploring the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, the Sauk-Suiattle Rivers, and the Mountain Loop Highway. Darrington is home to a rodeo, bluegrass, country music, and techno rock festivals, an archery competition, and a Native American Pow Wow.

Built initially on logging and mining, the Swedes, Irish Catholics, and tar heels all settled here next to the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe of Indians. When you come for the multi-day Sauk-Suiattle Pow Wow and celebration in the summer, the heirloom tar heel beans will be growing high on bean poles. Stay awhile and soak up the character of the place and discover the people. Darrington is as welcoming a town as you will ever know. Rest and relax at Old School Park, 1026 Alvord Street.

### Communities of Swede Heaven and Whitehorse at intersection of Swede Heaven Road and SR 530

Find the Swede Heaven and Whitehorse communities near the rushing Stillaguamish River and under Whitehorse Mountain. Clear nights offer incredible starry views, and sunny days bring the mountain's glaciers into full view. Swede Heaven is named for the Swedes who settled there and thought of the place as heavenly. Historically, Irish Catholics lived at Whitehorse, and the Protestant Swedes came to live at Swede Heaven, sometimes known as Sweet Haven.

Here you can still see chimneys of the Irving schoolhouse and timbers from the area's steam-driven mill. Irving School was opened in 1916, and when the Whitehorse school was built in 1923, the Irving students and their school bell moved to the new school house. In later years, the Irving School building was salvaged to build a home in nearby Arlington, and what remained burned down.

Whitehorse Community Center  
30020 Swede Heaven Rd. Arlington  
When the Whitehorse School closed in 1946, the Whitehorse School District consolidated with the Darrington School District. The school building was then used as a community center and meeting hall for the local women's club. The school building was eventually rebuilt, and continues in use as a community center. Darrington Fire District 24 owns the Whitehorse Community Center.

### Fortson Mill Trailhead

30518 Fortson Mill Road, off of SR 530, Arlington  
Parking and Porta-Potties available

Wetlands and a mill pond are a quiet haven for birds. The quiet belies the bustling mill town that once supported the lives of 300 people. Sword ferns drape off the thick moss that covers the concrete walls standing alone and telling a story of the past, much the way a gravestone juts into the air with history written in brevity across its face.

Founded in 1905, the McCaughey Lumber Company established a mill on the banks of the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River. Local creeks were diverted into a mill pond where the footprints of the debarker can still be seen. The mill expanded over the years and changed hands to become the Fortson Lumber Company, and later the Klement and Kennedy Company Mill. The remains of the old mill building and associated foundations can still be found on the site, and during certain times of the year Coho and Steelhead swim the creeks and ponds. Visitors have a chance to see an old town transformed back to nature, thanks to restoration projects by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Stillaguamish Tribe. An official wildlife viewing area has been established adjacent to the large pond where ospreys, eagles, heron, and various other songbirds and waterfowl stop to enjoy the open water and marshy habitat.

### SR 530 Slide Memorial Site at Steelhead Drive

A devastating and fatal mudslide engulfed the Steelhead Drive neighborhood of Hazel on March 22, 2014, taking the lives of 43 beloved community members. It took only two and a half minutes for the hill to deliver roughly ten million cubic yards of earth and trees from the 650-foot high ledge above the north bank of the Stillaguamish River. Crossing river and highway, the fast-moving slurry destroyed homes and lives.

Both SR 530 and the Whitehorse Regional Trail were rebuilt through the area with Federal Emergency Management Agency and State funding sources. Snohomish County Parks and Recreation is working with victims' families and survivors to construct a memorial through this mile of trail. Visitors, please respect the area with reverence. Walk quietly through the area to remember those who were lost.

### Community of Oso

21021 SR 530, Arlington WA 98223

Behind the Oso story is the pioneer strength of people whose great-grandparents travelled up the river with all of their belongings in a shovel nose canoe. The Sauk-Suiattle Tribe of Indians provided transportation along the Stillaguamish River, the only open route other than a rough trail. The railroad came later, creating new opportunities for homesteaders and lumbermen. The river later brought thrills to fly-fishermen who discovered the legendary steelhead of Deer Creek. Today you can find small businesses in Oso.

Oso School and Community Center  
Oso School District formed in 1888, when locals built a log cabin schoolhouse, and then a wood framed structure before completing the building that stands today as the historic Oso Schoolhouse. Built in 1915, it served until it closed around 1970. The building stands as a testament to the pioneer community who settled the area. Wanting to reclaim the building for community events, neighbors rallied around the schoolhouse as a place to "celebrate family milestones, share dinners, mourn the loss of neighbors, have meetings, host fundraising bazaars, and work together on projects that help each other." The community center continues to serve as envisioned, hosting memorial gatherings for neighbors lost, and for birthday picnics and family gatherings.

### Trafton Trailhead/Cloverdale Farm

26718 115th Ave NE, Arlington WA  
Parking and Porta-Potties available  
The Whitehorse trailhead can be accessed from 115th Ave. NE off of SR 530, and a short walk past the barns down to the trail. Head toward the antique farm equipment.

The Cloverdale dairy farm was built in 1914. The Homestead Act, along with the rich reserves of timber and ore in the Cascades, spurred the arrival of settlers and eventually the railroad to serve new communities. Most homesteads along the trail are long gone, but Cloverdale's historic barn still stands. Today, you can take a picture by the cow mural on the barn before heading toward the riverfront and trailhead. The path drops down to the riverfront farmland, once supporting the dairy operation, and then a golf course before Snohomish County purchased it for public access and restoration.

### Legion Park, Downtown Arlington

114 N Olympic Avenue, Arlington  
On May 15 & 16, the park will host Stronger Together activities, a world map to place your points of heritage, the People of Our Communities portrait display, and an interactive blanket weaving activity.  
The Arlington Farmers Market is in the park on Saturdays. This central park is a gathering place for community and downtown events.

### Stillaguamish Valley Pioneer Museum

Open Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday 1:00-4:00 pm  
20722 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Arlington  
The museum was built by the Stillaguamish Valley Pioneer Association to preserve artifacts of the Stillaguamish River Valley. Displays include the following themes from original homesteaders of the area: households, logging, dairy, military, railroad, sports, medical, education, transportation, music, and historic photos.

Outside, you will find the Stillaguamish Watershed model, a hand carved cedar relief map, showing the area in 1900, when Arlington was the world's capital for cedar-shake mills. The map includes pioneer communities, mines, logging operations, the Stillaguamish tribal encampments, sits of old roads, schools, and cemeteries.