



Mount Vernon, WA



Mount Vernon, Washington, is located along the Skagit River in the north-west portion of the state with the San Juan Islands in the Puget Sound to the west and the Cascade Mountains to the east. The region is the ancestral land of the Skagit Tribe, a branch of the Lushootseed linguistic group of Coast Salish. In 1877, Harrison Clotheir platted the town site that he named for George Washington's Potomac River estate.

McIntyre Hall located on the campus of Skagit Valley College offers concerts, theater, dance, special events, children's programs, community productions, and the McIntyre Hall Presents series of internationally renowned artists. McIntyre Hall is home to many local community organizations, such as the Skagit Symphony, Northwest Ballet Theater, Theater Arts Guild, Skagit Valley Academy of Dance, Skagit Valley Chorale, Skagit Opera, Fidalgo Youth Symphony, the Skagit Valley College Music and Theater Departments, and Mount Vernon High School Choir and Instrumental Music Department.

Another Mount Vernon cultural institution is the Lincoln Theatre, which offers plays, concerts, cinema, and art exhibitions. META offers live theater performances for youth, teens, and young adults.

The Skagit County Historical Museum, the La Conner Quilt Museum in the historic Gaches Mansion, and the Museum of Northwest Art are located in nearby LaConner, Washington. Other area museums include the Children's Museum of Skagit County in Burlington, the Sedro-Woolley Museum in Sedro-Woolley, the Depot Arts Center, the Anacortes Museum & Maritime Heritage Center, and the W.T. Preston sternwheeler in Anacortes.

The Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve features the Breazeale Interpretive Center, which explains estuary science and stewardship, and an aquarium room with 4 tanks that contain creatures found in Padilla Bay.

NEIGHBORHOODS

The downtown area of Mount Vernon is not residential. Mount Vernon's residential neighborhoods are on the east side of the town, with the western side remaining primarily agricultural. The On the Hill area contains the earliest residential areas. Houses date from the turn of the 20th century and were built in various styles and sizes.

Many neighborhoods in Mount Vernon date from the mid-1960s through the 1990s. The wooded Thunderbird neighborhood features ranch/rambler, split-entry, and traditional homes built on large lots. Forest Estates; Trumpter, which is close to Barney Lake; and College Heights, which is close to Skagit Valley Community College, feature medium-sized single-family homes, many in the northwest architectural style.

The Eaglemont neighborhood is home to the Eaglemont Golf Course, a clubhouse, and hiking trails. Many of the custom-built homes in this area have views of the golf course, Mt. Baker, or the Olympic Mountains. The northwest architectural style is favored here.

Skagit Highlands is a master planned community where construction began in the 2000s and is currently ongoing. Houses are available in various two-story styles and are situated on small lots.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Mount Vernon has 12 parks with amenities that include basketball and tennis courts; playgrounds; softball, baseball, and soccer fields; and sponsors geocaching and letterboxing activities.

Bakerview Park is a 39-acre park with 4 little league fields, 3 soccer fields, 4 basketball courts, 2 sand volleyball courts, a skate park with four ramps, a BMX bike track, roller hockey, 3 children's play areas, an off-leash dog park, and an indoor recreation center.

Located along the Skagit River, Edgewater Park's 54 acres include 4 regulation softball fields, soccer fields, a boat launch, a playground, and a large stage. Edgewater Park is home to The Fabulous 4th of July and the Skagit Valley Highland Games & Celtic Festival, which is part of an annual circuit of Scottish competitions that includes solo bagpiping and drumming competitions, bagpipe bands, fiddling, traditional Scottish athletics, and Scottish Highland dancing.

The smaller Skagit Riverwalk Park is part of Phase 2 of the Waterfront Revitalization and Flood Protection Project, which also includes a 24-foot wide pedestrian river walk and a permanent downtown floodwall. This park is also home to the Tulip Dance Sculpture and offers picnic tables and seating.

Hillcrest Park is a 30.75-acre park that has multiple playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, soccer and softball fields, gardens, nature area, a community building, and on-leash dog area.

The 522-acre Little Mountain Park provides a view of the Skagit Valley, San Juan Islands, Olympic Mountains, and the tulip fields from its peak. The park provides numerous hiking trails and serves as an excellent hang gliding location. The Eagle Rock Challenge Course rests at the base of Little Mountain and offers 15 challenges, 5 of which range from 35 to 67 feet off the ground.

Sherman Anderson Field is home to the Mount Vernon Bulldogs baseball team and has grandstand seating for 1,500.

Mount Vernon is home to the annual Skagit Valley Tulip Festival held in April with fields of tulips and events scattered throughout the Skagit Valley. The tulip fields are the crops of RoozenGaarde/Washington Bulb Co., Inc. and Tulip Town and the fields are different each year due to crop rotation.

Mount Vernon is also home to 3 volunteer display gardens: Skagit Master Gardeners Discovery Garden, WA Native Plant Society Garden, and Western WA Fruit Research Foundation Garden.

EDUCATION

Mount Vernon School District #320 educates approximately 6,200 students in 6 elementary schools (kindergarten through 8th grade), 2 middle schools (7th and 8th grades), and a high school. The district also has a homeschool parent partnership for kindergarten through grade 12.

Higher education is provided at Skagit Valley College where students can earn technical or professional certificates or an associate's degree.

HEALTH CARE

Skagit Valley Hospital has 137 licensed beds with a Level III Trauma Unit.

Two other hospitals are located in Skagit County: United General Hospital in Sedro-Woolley, and Island Hospital in Anacortes.

CITY STATS

2013

City Population	32,555
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	118,837
Per capita personal income, Mount Vernon-Anacortes MSA:	\$42,927