

# Your Guide To

EXPERIENCE  
*Grand Mound & Beyond*

EXPLORE!



# Small Town with Big Attractions

**G**rand Mound traces its origins to the days when the Chehalis Tribe established their largest village site on this prairie. The tribe thrives here today, sharing ownership of Grand Mound's biggest attraction, Great Wolf Lodge. With a dozen indoor waterslides and activities for all ages, as well as plenty of other activities, shopping and dining, this theme park is a premier destination for families.

Grand Mound, named by early settlers—the James, Mills and Brown families—has gone through a few name changes. Chehalis Indians know this prairie as *ḵaqáyqł* ("long prairie") and called the grand mound itself *ṭač'ís* ("star") which is said to be where a star came to earth and left a piece of itself behind. It was called Prairie de Butte once Hudson's Bay Company began to settle in the area—the current name refers to the same wide, raised land that's part of a system of regional hillocks. A three-story brick structure, once the old Grand Mound School and one of the largest buildings in the area, is now in private ownership and is across the street from Great Wolf Lodge.

Today, Grand Mound offers picturesque vistas of mountains, lush evergreen trees, and the tranquil Chehalis River, creating an idyllic escape or a convenient starting point for exploring nearby mountains or the larger cities of Thurston County.

# Things To Do

## **Great Wolf Lodge**

The newly renovated lodge in Grand Mound, located between Seattle and Portland, offers a convenient escape for families located throughout the Pacific Northwest. With a 56,000-square-foot indoor water park kept at a warm 84 degrees year-round, exciting attractions, delicious dining options, and more, the family can enjoy a world of fun—all under one roof.

20500 Old Hwy 99 SW

[greatwolf.com/grand-mound](http://greatwolf.com/grand-mound)

## **Oregon Trail Marker**

Come face to face with history throughout Thurston County at the various stone monuments marking the Oregon Trail. In Grand Mound, this marker reads "Oregon Trail 1844, marked by Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution in the State of Washington, 1916."

20639 Old Hwy 99 (corner of Grand Mound Way SW, located between two cedar trees)

## **Fort Henness Monument**

For another foray into the past, stop by the Fort Henness monument across from the Grand Mound Cemetery. The simple stone marker is all that's left of a fort that housed 30 families during the 1855 "Indian Wars." The inhabitants lived in relative peace, and the fort was never attacked.

183rd St, across from Grand Mound Cemetery

## **Historic Grand Mound Elementary School**

The old Grand Mound Elementary School is now dwarfed by the Great Wolf Lodge. Originally housing grades 1–8, it eventually reduced to K–4th grade. It now houses the JA Felt Art Studio. Tours available by request through the website.

20604 Grand Mound Way, Centralia



## **Talking Cedar Brewery and Distillery**

This brewery, distillery, and gastropub is owned by the Chehalis Tribe, a first for US history, which barred tribes from producing alcohol on tribal land until Tribal leaders working with the U.S. Congress got the law repealed in 2018. The 35,000 square foot space sources grain from local growers in the region and has a partnership with Heritage Distilling with over 20 beers on tap and spirits to sip, as well as a few cider options, all the better to pair with their robust menu.

19770 Sargent Rd SW, Rochester

[talkingcedar.com](http://talkingcedar.com)

## **Restaurants**

In addition to the dining options at Great Wolf Lodge and numerous fast-food joints in town, Grand Mound offers some fan favorites, including Figaro's Pizza and Mariachi Alegre.



Nearby ...

## **Scatter Creek Wildlife Area**

Three thousand acres of verdant land make for an idyllic day hike any time of year, with trails that accommodate horses, dogs, and humans. Maintained by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Scatter Creek preserves a prairie ecosystem and provides opportunities for viewing wildlife and various plant and tree species.

[wdfw.wa.gov/places-to-go/wildlife-areas/scatter-creek-wildlife-area-unit](http://wdfw.wa.gov/places-to-go/wildlife-areas/scatter-creek-wildlife-area-unit)

## **South Sound Speedway**

This .375-mile track hosts races for dwarf cars, hobby stocks, vintage modifiers, baby grands, and more, from spring through fall.

3730 183rd Ave SW, Rochester

[southsoundspeedway.com](http://southsoundspeedway.com)





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