

Stanwood

People and Place

Location

Stanwood is in north-central Washington, along the Stillaguamish River. Situated in Snohomish County, the city encompasses approximately 2 square miles of land. The nearest major U.S. city is Seattle, a 50-mile drive south. Stanwood's geographic coordinates are lat 48°14'29"N, long 122°22'10"W.

Demographic Profile

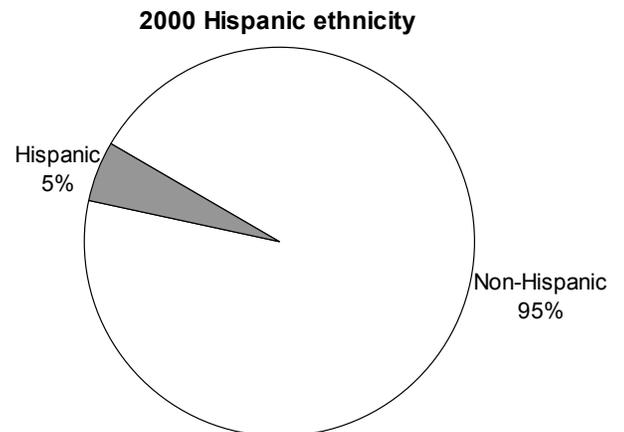
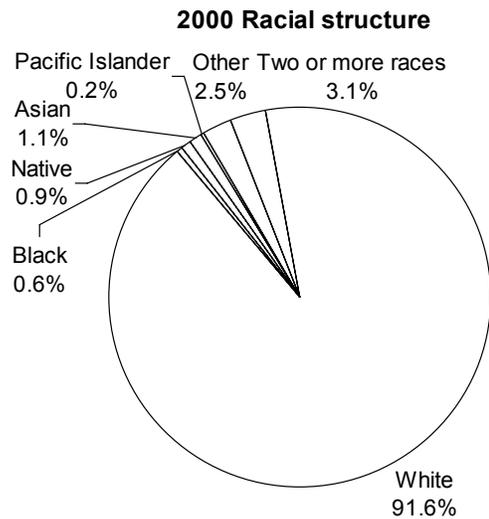
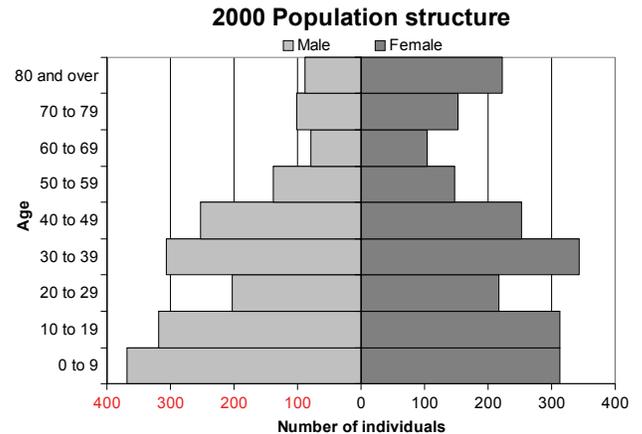
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Stanwood's population was 3,923, a 100.1% increase since 1990. The gender composition was 52.7% female and 47.3% male. The median age of 33.9 was slightly lower than the national median of 35.3. In 2000 31% were between the ages of 25 and 45 and 26.9% were under the age of 15. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 84.4% had a high school education (including equivalency) or higher, 16.5% had received a bachelor's degree or higher, and 4.6% had attained a graduate or professional degree, compared to the national averages of 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The vast majority of Stanwood's racial structure recorded by the 2000 U.S. Census was white (91.6%), followed by people who identified with two or more races (3.1%), people who identified with another race (2.5%), Asian (1.1%), American Indian and Alaska Native (0.9%), black (0.6%), and Pacific Islander (0.2%). Ethnicity data indicate that 5% identified as Hispanic.

In 2000 81% of Stanwood's population lived family households.

History

The area surrounding Stanwood was home to Native Americans primarily of the Stillaguamish and Skagit tribes. The Stillaguamish Tribe is composed of descendents of the 1855 Stoluck-wa-mish River Tribe that resided on the main branch and north and south forks of the river.¹ Historically tribal members made their living fishing for salmon, hunting for deer, and gathering berries and roots. There were no separate reservations established for the Stillaguamish Indians at the time of the 1855 Point Elliot Treaty. Some tribal members have moved to the Tulalip Reservation, but the majority live in the aboriginal area along the Stillaguamish River. In 1970 the tribe was granted 58,600 acres from the federal government in northern Snohomish County. Tribal



headquarters, including a Natural Resource Department, are located in Arlington, about 7 miles east of Stanwood. There are 237 individuals enrolled as tribal members. For information on the Skagit Tribe see the La Connor community profile.

In the late 1850s European American settlers arrived in the Stanwood area via Utsalady, located on the north end of Camano Island, 5 miles west. In 1864 the first logging camps and farms were established around a trading post named Florence, 3 miles southeast of Stanwood, on the Stillaguamish River. Over the next 10 years, Florence competed with another trading post to the north, named Centerville, first settled in 1866.

Centerville had two lumber mills and canneries. In 1877 the post office in Centerville was renamed Stanwood and the town became the largest community at the mouth of the Stillaguamish River. Meanwhile settlers established several other small but thriving communities with their own stores, churches, and schools including the community of Silvana. Stanwood and Silvana were largely Scandinavian farming communities; farmers in the area sold their oats, hay, and shingles for cash. In the late 1890s the region was home to one of the largest settlements of Norwegian immigrants in the West.²

The railway arrived in the Stanwood area in the early 1900s and a large depot was built east of town. A new settlement, East Stanwood, developed around this time and the two communities maintained a bitter rivalry until 1960, when they finally united.³ Today Stanwood is known for its farms and sense of community. Construction, development, service, and technology careers have as a whole surpassed Stanwood's historical natural resource career base. The downtown area supports numerous art galleries and the world famous Pilchuck School, founded by glass artist Dale Chihuly, which has attracted several fine artists to the area.

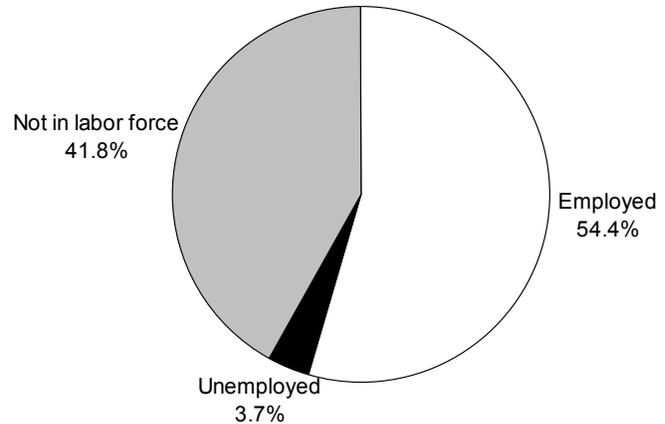
Stanwood residents and tourists enjoy numerous annual events such as the Fourth of July Celebration, the Stanwood-Camano Community Fair, the Juried Art Show, and the Lions' Lutefisk dinner. In addition to the city's riverfront, there are several parks including Snohomish County's Kayak Point Park and three Washington State Parks—Wenbergl, Camano Island, and Cama Beach.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 54.4% Stanwood's potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 3.7% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 6.4% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In 2000

2000 Employment structure



41.8% were not in the labor force as compared to the national average of 36.1%. The major employment sectors were management, professional and related occupations (30%), sales and office occupations (24.2%), service occupations (24.2%), and local, state, and federal government (18.2%). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining employed 0.6%, but this percentage may be artificially low given that many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in these data.

The agriculture industry remains an important contributor to the local economy. Seed, produce, and meat production are the primary industries in north Snohomish County. The Alf Christianson Seed Company is among the nation's largest independent seed growers and Twin City Foods, a frozen vegetable wholesaler, is Stanwood's largest employer. In addition several local growers participate in local Farmer's Markets during the summer months.

The per capita income in 1999 was \$16,775 and the median household income was \$44,512. In 1999 12% lived below the poverty level. In 2000 there were 1,508 housing units in the Stanwood, with 58.3% owner occupied and 41.7% renter occupied. The vacant housing unit rate was 7%, with 15.1% vacant due to seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

Governance

Stanwood is governed by a mayor and five city council members. Snohomish County levies an 8.3% sales and use tax and a 2% 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 Pacific Fishery Management and North Pacific

Fishery Management councils are routinely held in the Seattle-Tacoma area. The nearest Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Regional Office is 35 miles south in Mill Creek. The U.S. Coast Guard Station Bellingham, home to six vessels, is responsible for marine safety in the region. The station's area of responsibility includes the San Juan Islands north to the Canada border and south to Admiralty Inlet.

Facilities

Stanwood is accessible by ground and air. The city is located at the intersections of Washington State highways (east-west) 530 and 532, about 5 miles west of Interstate 5 (north-south). Community, Island, and Skagit Area Transit systems provide bus service. There are Greyhound Bus stations in Mount Vernon, 15 miles south, and Everett, 25 miles south. Reinig Airport at the Camano Island Airfield is in Stanwood. The Snohomish County Airport Paine Field in Everett is the nearest airport certified for carrier operations. The Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is the nearest major facility.

The Stanwood-Camano School District, serving more than 5,000 students, operates 5 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, 1 high school, and 1 alternative high school. Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon has an enrollment of more than 3,400. Additionally Everett Community College has more than 8,000 students.

The Snohomish County Public Utility District administers electricity. The Water Department at Stanwood Utilities provides water and sewer services. Cascade Natural Gas is the natural gas provider. The Stanwood Police and Fire departments administer public safety. The Stanwood Camano Medical Center serves community residents and Skagit Valley Hospital is in Mount Vernon. There are several community services and organizations in Stanwood including the Stanwood Community Library, Camano Action for a Rural Environment, the Stanwood Area Historical Society, and several places of worship. There are no hotels or motels located within the city.

The Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC), based 25 miles south in Everett, is an 11-member group of citizen volunteers established in 1999 to address local issues related to marine resource management and advise county officials. Of the Northwest Straits counties, Snohomish County is the most populous and has the largest amount of modified shoreline (99 miles of a total 133 miles), which is mainly due to the railroad bed that has been in existence for more than a century. The Snohomish MRC has been involved in several projects including a Dungeness crab stewardship plan for Snohomish County, nearshore

restoration projects, juvenile crab habitat projects, and numerous public involvement and education activities.⁴

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

North Star Cold Storage, a full service cold storage facility with processing services, is in Stanwood. Founded in 1989, North Star offers custom processing of crab and finfish, flack ice for fresh fish packing, and rail service.

Landing data for Stanwood were recorded as part of the Other North Puget Sound Ports port group that includes Coupeville, Deer Harbor, Point Roberts West Beach, and Whidbey Island. Reported landings for this port group in 2000 were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represent landings in metric tons/ value of said landings/number of vessels landing): coastal pelagic confidential/confidential/2; crab 17 t/\$77,754/8; salmon 7 t/\$13,164/4; shrimp 14 t/\$73,992/6; and other species confidential/confidential/2.

Stanwood residents owned nine vessels in 2000 that participated in West Coast fisheries, including three vessels that participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by Stanwood residents in 2000 participating in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/0/1, crab 2/0/0, groundfish 0/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/0/NA, salmon 5/0/0, shellfish NA/0/NA, shrimp NA/0/0, and other species 2/0/0.⁵

Available data indicate that in 2000 the number of Stanwood residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/0/1, crab 6/0/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 7/0/0, and shellfish 0/0/NA.⁶

Stanwood residents held 16 state permits in 2000. The number of permits held by Stanwood community members in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/0/1, crab 8/0/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 7/0/0, and shellfish 0/0/NA.⁷

According to the Boldt Decision,⁸ the usual and accustomed fishing grounds of the Stillaguamish Tribe, based in Arlington, include the entire Stillaguamish watershed. Though the tribe has rights "there is little participation [in commercial fishing] because of the [poor] market prices."⁹ The Stillaguamish Tribe does not have a fish processor. The tribe operates a hatchery and a smolt trapping system on the Stillaguamish River; the smolt trap is 8 miles southeast in Silvana.

Sportfishing

In 2000 and 2003 there was at least one nonsalmonid charter business operating in Stanwood. According to the WDFW's Licensing Sales Reporting System, there are zero sportfishing license agents in Stanwood. In Catch Record Card Area 8-2 (Port Susan and Gardner) the 2000 license year (1 April–31 March) sport catch, based on catch record cards, was 12,798 fish including 3,208 Chinook salmon, 9,574 coho salmon, 4 chum salmon, and 12 pink salmon. Marine anglers made 33,536 trips in the 2000 sport salmon fishery. Fishermen caught 70 sturgeon in Area 8-2. In 2000 1,449 coastal bottomfish were caught in Puget Sound within areas 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island, and Skagit Bay) and 8-2. There was no recreational harvest estimate of clams and oysters for Area 8-2 in 2000.

There is a local branch of Trout Unlimited in Stanwood.

Subsistence

Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering activities are fundamental to the way of life of some coastal community members. Tribal and nontribal individuals participate in subsistence fishing. Members of the Stillaguamish Tribe are engaged in subsistence fishing for salmonids (steelhead, chum salmon, coho salmon, and pink salmon) and shellfish in the Stillaguamish River.¹⁰ However, subsistence fishing is not discussed in great detail in this community profile due to the lack of available data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 Stanwood residents owned 30 vessels that were involved in North Pacific fisheries. Community members landed fish in the following North Pacific fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): crab confidential/confidential/2, Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish confidential/confidential/1, other finfish confidential/confidential/2, Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish confidential/confidential/2, halibut confidential/confidential/3, herring 146 t/\$31,620/4, and salmon 1,735 t/\$1,316,570/23.

In 2000, of 65 state and federal registered permits held by Stanwood residents, 31 held state permits and 18 held federal permits (note: it is possible for individuals to hold more than one permit at a time). Community members held 2 crab and 6 groundfish License Limitation Program permits and 6 crab, 5 BSAI groundfish, 4 halibut, 8 herring, 2 shellfish, and 26

salmon Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permits. Residents held 1,117,432 halibut and 1,288,776 sablefish individual fishing quota shares.

In 2000 a total of 36 Stanwood residents held crew member licenses for North Pacific fisheries.

Sportfishing

Stanwood residents purchased 141 Alaska sportfishing licenses in 2000.

Notes

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service. 2003. Stillaguamish Tribe. Online at <http://www.ihs.gov/FacilitiesServices/AreaOffices/Portland/portland-tribe-stillaguamish.asp> [accessed 30 January 2007].
2. Stanwood Area Historical Society. No date. A short history of Stanwood and Camano Island. Online at <http://www.sahs-fncc.org/sahshistory2.html> [accessed 31 January 2007].
3. Herald Net. 2004. City guide, welcome to Stanwood. Online at <http://www.heraldnet.com/guide/stanwood/> [accessed 31 January 2007].
4. Snohomish County Marine Resource Committee. 2003. The role of the Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee in the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative. Online at http://www.psat.wa.gov/Publications/03_proceedings/PAPERS/ORAL/10b_johns.pdf [accessed 31 January 2007].
5. NA refers to data that were not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.
6. See Note 5.
7. See Note 5.
8. Center for Columbia River History. No date. Boldt Decision. Online at <http://www.cerh.org/comm/river/legal/boldt.htm> [accessed 31 January 2007].
9. Field notes, Stillaguamish Tribe, Arlington, WA, 28 October 2004.
10. See note 9.