Federal Way, WA

Federal Way, Washington, is located along the Puget Sound Inlet with the Cascade Mountain Range (Mt. Rainier) on the east and the Olympic Mountains (Mount Olympus) on the west. Federal Way began in the late 1800s as a logging settlement. By the 1920s, the community was linked to Seattle and Tacoma by Federal Highway 99. The name Federal Way was first used in 1929 when 5 existing schools consolidated operations into School District +210 and planned construction of Federal Way High School next to Federal Highway 99. Although Federal Way is a distinct city, it is also considered a suburb of Seattle and Tacoma.

The Historical Society maintains two historic cabins. The John Barker Cabin was built by one of Federal Way’s earliest settlers and is the oldest building in the area. This cabin has been restored and contains period furnishings and artifacts. The David Denny Cabin was built in 1889 in Seattle and was relocated to Federal Way in 1966 to become part of a pioneer-themed attraction that did not materialize. In 1991, the cabin was transferred to the Historical Society, which relocated and restored it.

South King Fire Station 64 is home to a September 11th memorial composed of artifacts from all three attack sites.

The Performing Arts and Event Center opened in the summer of 2017 and features a two-tiered theater to accommodate musical, theatrical, dance, and spoken word performances. The Performing Arts and Event Center is the new home of the Federal Way Symphony, Federal Way Chorale, and the Tacoma Ballet. Centerstage Theatre produces a series of plays at the Knutzen Family Theatre.

Neighborhoods

Single-family residences dominate the housing market in Federal Way; however, apartments and condominiums are also available. Redondo, Marine Hills, Buenza, Adelaide, Lakota, and Palsades Park are neighborhoods that are located on hillsides along the northwestern edge of Federal Way and offer views of the Puget Sound Inlet and the Olympic Mountain range. Construction in most of these neighborhoods began in the 1970s or 1980s and some include recent construction. In addition, these neighborhoods are served by the scenic Dash Point Road. Homes in Redondo located along the waterfront are older, but are charming and quaint. Buenza is comprised of a series of smaller pocket neighborhoods with some gated communities and includes waterfront properties. Some of the largest homes in Federal Way can be found in Adelaide along the waterfront. Homes in this neighborhood were built in the 2000s. Lakota, also located on the waterfront, has older homes that were built from the 1940s through the 1970s.

West Campus is a planned community development with single-family residences, condominiums, and apartments located close to the city center. Homes were built in the 1980s and include recent construction. A series of trails links this neighborhood to the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center and Celebration Park and Community Center.

Parks and Recreation

Federal Way maintains 32 developed parks and two major trails. Park amenities include playgrounds, baseball, football, and soccer fields; pools; basketball and tennis courts; a skate park; and an off-leash dog park.

The 83.5-acre Celebration Park features a natural area, children’s play structure, 4 lighted baseball fields, 4 lighted soccer fields, and a walking trail. Situated on the southern end of Celebration Park, the Federal Way Community Center has a large public recreational pool complex; gyms, a climbing pinnacle, and an indoor track.

Health Care

Federal Way is served by CHI Franciscan Health–St. Francis Hospital with 124 licensed beds.

City Stats

City Population 95,037
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population 3,733,580
Per Capita Personal Income, Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA, MSA $61,021

EDUCATION

Federal Way Public Schools educate 22,500 students in 21 elementary schools, 2 kindergarten through 8th grade schools, 7 middle schools, 4 high schools, and 5 specialized schools that offer alternate learning experiences.

Higher education is available at Green River College, a public college located in nearby Auburn that offers a wide variety of transfer degrees, career and technical education, precollege and basic skills courses, and continuing and community education classes. Highline College in nearby Des Moines, WA, offers associate degree programs and 4 applied bachelor’s degree programs (Cybersecurity and Forensics, Global Trade and Logistics, Respiratory Care, and Youth Development).