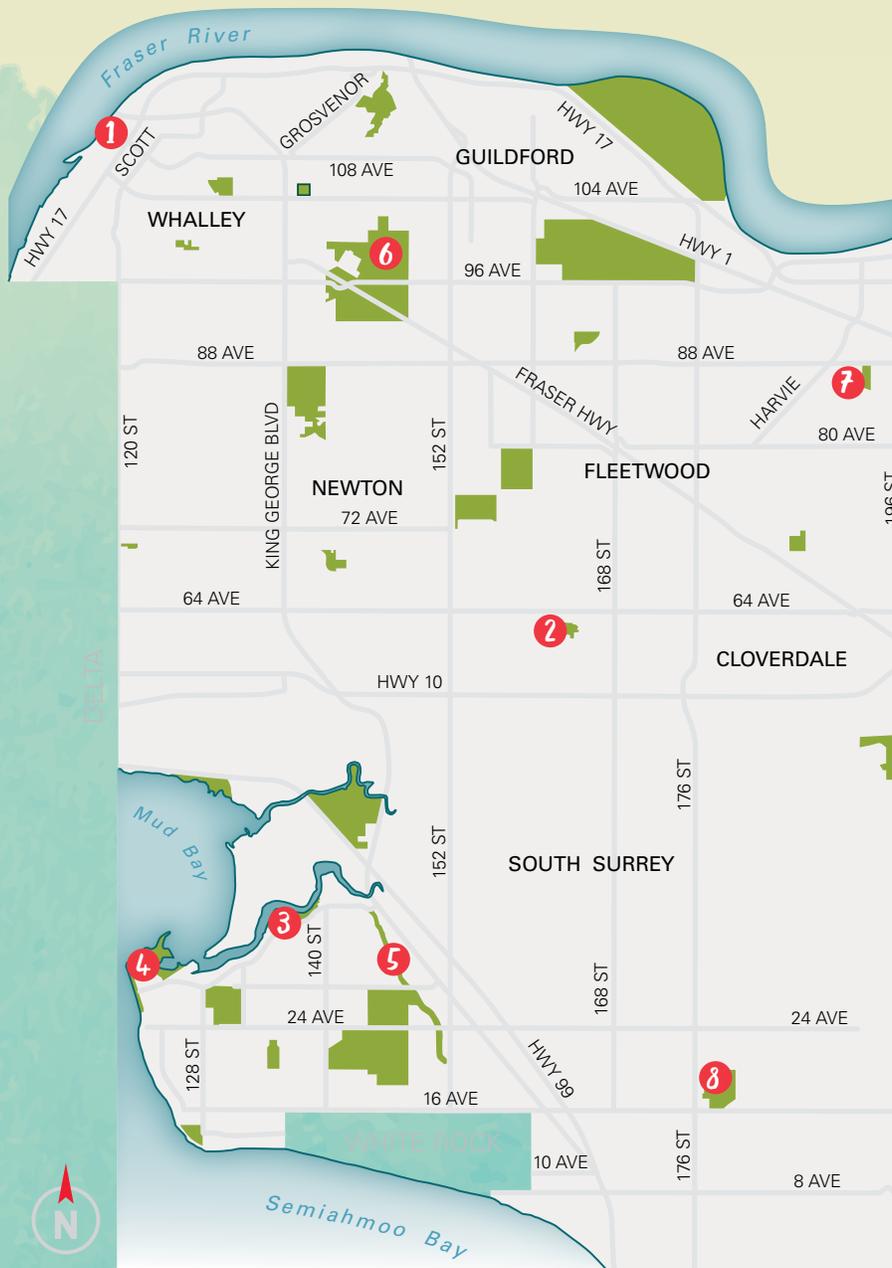


Park Crawl

PARKS' PAST

This Week DISCOVER STORIES OF THE PAST
AS YOU EXPLORE PARKS PROTECTED FOR THE FUTURE.





1 BROWNSVILLE BAR PARK

1931 Old Yale Road

This site was once a summer fishing camp used by the Kwantlen people who resided at a larger village on the north shore of the Fraser River. In 1883, New Westminster and Surrey agreed on a joint ferry service across the Fraser River and Brownsville became Surrey's only ferry terminal. The settlement's population declined with the opening of the New Westminster rail and road bridge in 1904, as the road and railway now bypassed Brownsville. Look for decaying pilings and dock remnants at **Brownsville Bar Park**, reminders of this once bustling centre.



2 BOSE FOREST PARK

6203 164 Street

Henry Bose arrived in Surrey in 1892 where he purchased and cleared some land and married May Churchland. They raised a family of seven and built a successful farm. When the Bose family settled the land, they chose to leave part of their property forested, using it for recreation and welcoming the community to do the same. Today some of the land has been developed, some remains part of two Bose family farms, and the remainder has become **Bose Forest Park**.



3 HISTORIC STEWART FARM AT ELGIN HERITAGE PARK

13723 Crescent Road

This park is located along the Nicomekl River, which has long been important to both local First Nations and early pioneers for food and transportation. The Historic Stewart Farm was built here in 1894 by John and Annie Stewart. The farm included the Victorian-style farmhouse, several barns and outbuildings, a large garden and an orchard with 30 varieties of apples. Walk through the farm located within **Elgin Heritage Park** and learn more [online](#).



4 BLACKIE SPIT AND CRESCENT BEACH PARKS

3136 McBride Avenue

Crescent Beach and **Blackie Spit Parks**, located at the mouth of the Nicomekl River, were used by First Nations for thousands of years as a seasonal camp where people gathered, fished and prepared food, and as a permanent settlement area. In the early 1900s, pioneers built summer cabins and a small resort community at the beach. Today the area remains a popular beach destination and protects an important resting and feeding area for migratory birds.



5 SEMIAHMOO TRAIL

3065 Semiahmoo Trail

This trail was used as early as 1858 during the Gold Rush as an overland entry route for Americans. Later, the provincial government widened the trail and it served as the main road leading to the U.S. border throughout the remainder of the century. Today, portions of the trail are protected by the **Semiahmoo Trail Park**, and visitors are able to enjoy about 12km of the historic Semiahmoo Trail as it joins **Elgin Heritage Park** in the north to **Southmere Village Park** in the south.



6 GREEN TIMBERS URBAN FOREST PARK

14600 100 Avenue

This forest, once known for its massive 60-metre tall old-growth trees, was logged in 1929. The City of Surrey acquired 400 acres in 1966 and later cleared 42 acres to develop a sports complex, leading to public outcry. In 1987 the **Green Timbers Heritage Society** formed and spearheaded a successful public campaign to save the forest in its natural state. After two public referendums, Green Timbers was secured as what it is today.



7 PORT KELLS PARK

19340 88 Avenue

Port Kells is one of the earliest settlements in Surrey with a small farming community growing up around the train station at what is now 88 Avenue and Harvey Road. Today the community hall, church, school and park remind us of that early life. **Port Kells Park** is one of the oldest parks in Surrey, opening in 1933. It is home to one of the oldest trees planted in a Surrey park, a European beech planted in 1898, as well as several 70+ year old English oaks planted along the park entry.



8 REDWOOD PARK

17900 20 Avenue

This area was first homesteaded by David Brown, the area's first postmaster and a justice of the peace for B.C. Later, he gave his twin sons each 16 acres of his land. The brothers planted California redwood seeds, followed by dozens of other trees from all over the world, then built and lived in a tree house on the property all their lives. Today **Redwood Park** is home to the largest stand of redwood trees north of California, an arboretum, and a replica tree house.

Inspired by these stories of the past?

[Learn](#) more about what shaped Surrey into what it is today.

JOIN US NEXT WEEK
FOR A NEW
Park Crawl