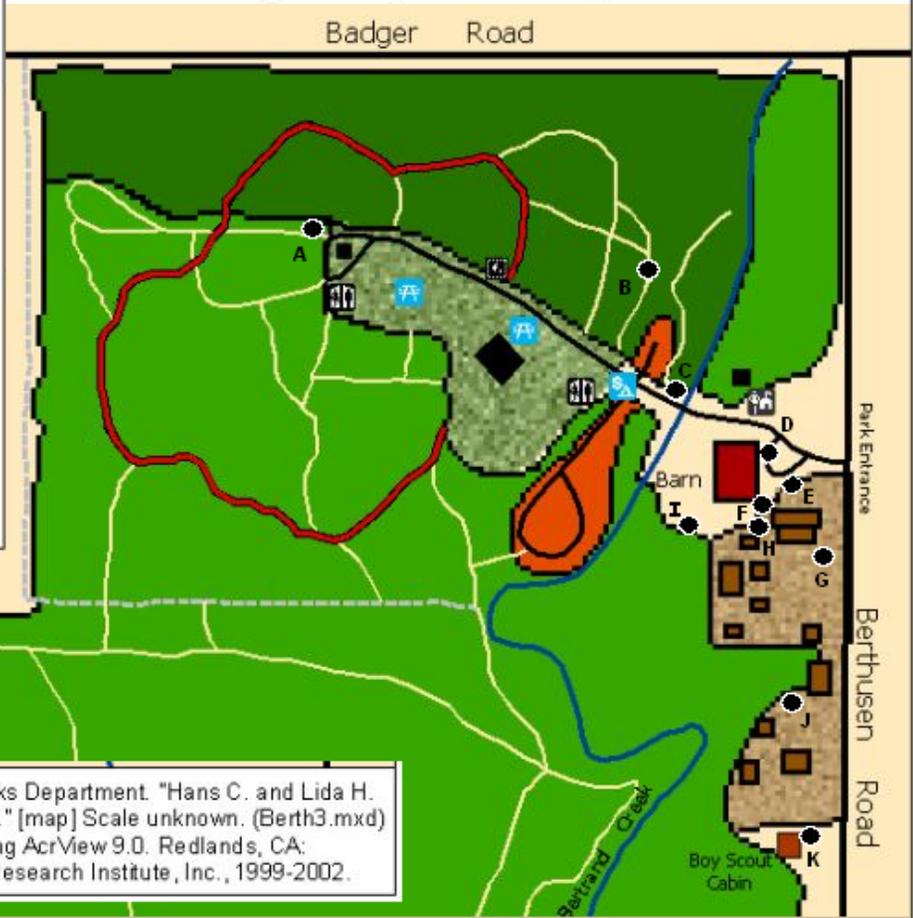


# Hans C. and Lida H. Berthusen Memorial Park Lynden, Washington

- A ● Interpretive Trail Sites
- 🏠 Park Office
- 🌳 Picnic Area
- 🚻 Restroom
- 🏕️ Camp Pay Station
- Trail
- Interpretive Trail
- - - Fire Road
- Road
- ▣ Park Building
- ▣ Tractor Club Building
- ▣ Camping Area
- ▣ Multi-Use Area
- ▣ Tractor Club
- ▣ Old Growth
- ▣ Second Growth



Data Source: Lynden Parks Department. "Hans C. and Lida H. Berthusen Memorial Park." [map] Scale unknown. (Berth3.mxd) Lynden, Washington. Using ArcView 9.0. Redlands, CA: Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., 1999-2002.

**"A" The Park** - Over one hundred years ago, Hans and Lida Berthusen settled and built a farm in this location. In 1943, Lida passed away and in February, 1944, Hans died. As a token of their great love and appreciation of the community of Lynden, they decided in their will to donate their farm to the city as a park. Part of that donation was the great stand of timber on the northwestern portion of the property known today as the Old

Growth Forest. Hans kept this area of the park intact, as a reminder of the natural beauty that Whatcom County had before logging and deforestation. A little further up this trail, you will find the Hans C. and Lida H. Berthusen Memorial Park Interpretive Trail. Anyone who is at all interested in the natural aspects of this park is encouraged to walk this trail with the corresponding pamphlet.

**"B" Old Saw Mill** - Near here is the foundation of the Axlund lumber mill that is said to have sawed the lumber that Dionysius Vander Griend hauled to town for the construction of the First Christian Reformed Church in 1902. It is another reminder of the early logging industry of Whatcom County. Remember, at one time, almost all of the areas now open to farming were covered in enormous stands of timber that were cut to be used in construction around the world.

**"C" Creek** - The body of water that runs through Berthusen Park is called Bertrand Creek. It was named after James Bertrand, an early settler in the Whatcom County area. Bertrand Creek begins in British Columbia, and runs many miles until it spills into the Nooksack River. The Bertrand Watershed encompasses a great portion of Northern Whatcom County and British Columbia. Keeping the creek in a healthy condition is very important to the ecosystem at Berthusen Park. Plants, fish, and other animals depend on a clean Bertrand Creek for survival.

**"D" Barn** - Perhaps the most famous landmark at Berthusen Park is the old barn. In 1901, Hans Berthusen and his helper Jack Jensen, built the new barn hoisting a single ridgepole fifty feet high. At the time, it was one of the largest and most impressive in barns of Washington. Atop the barn, the Berthusens built a massive water tank. The barn was falling into disrepair, but a group of Lynden supporters have succeeded in getting the Berthusen barn on the National Register of Historic Places and is working at shoring up the foundation so that it will remain an impressive and important reminder of the pioneers of Lynden.

**"E" House** - At this site, Hans and Lida Berthusen built the home of their dreams. The house, which is no longer standing, was a typical farmhouse of the area, but did feature running water, which came via pipes from the water tank on top of the barn. After the Berthusens passed away and donated their farm to the City of Lynden, their house fell into disrepair.

Like many fine historical landmarks, the house was deemed too expensive to maintain. It was demolished in the 1960's. Today, new legislation and local activism have brought about a new interest in the past and the preservation of historic landmarks, such as the Berthusen Barn.

**"F" Outhouse** - Hans Berthusen handcrafted this outhouse for farm use. Berthusen greatly enjoyed building things himself. His creativity in design is apparent in the structure's "tree stump" architecture. The "stumphouse" is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

**"G" Steam Engine** - The steam engine, along with many of the buildings that are in this area of Berthusen Park, was added sometime after the Berthusens donated their land to the City of Lynden. This steam engine is fairly typical of steam engines that were used early in the century around the world in various industries. However, it is one of the largest steam engines in Washington State. To see this steam engine hum to life, come to Berthusen Park in August during the Puget Sound Antique Tractor show. In the span of several days, you can see hundreds of tractors, threshers, and other farm equipment all roaring to life in the beautiful setting of Lynden's Berthusen Park. For more information, visit the Tractor Show's website at <http://www.psatma.com/>.

**"H" Smoker** - This concrete structure is what remains of the Berthusen's meat smoker. Hans Berthusen built this farm structure to cure and smoke all sorts of foods. Smoking meats and fish was one of several ways early pioneers used to preserve foods. Meat cuts were suspended above a fire. The smoker held in the smoke as it gradually dried and flavored the food from the burning wood. There is no doubt that this small structure held hundreds of hams, salmon, rabbits, deer, game birds and even bears! Both Hans and Lida Berthusen were legendary shots and used full advantage of the wild animals that lived in the surrounding forests.

**"I" Bachelors' Cabin** - When Hans Berthusen first moved to this area in 1883, he built a log cabin at this spot. He shared this first home with a friend, Mark Stone, who owned the adjoining property. Together, they worked to clear much of the land for farming, did everyday housework, and ran a shingle business. The arrangement lasted for about five years. After Hans married Lida, Hans and Lida continued to live in the cabin at this location until the above-mentioned house was built.

**"J" Lumber Mill** - This sawmill was built on this site in the early 1980's of antique parts collected by Robert L. Sorensen, Jr. This shows how the pioneers of Whatcom County logged the timber their property. When Hans Berthusen purchased his spread of land, there was a good stand of timber on it. He logged and sold much of the timber. Today, the area of land that was logged and farmed is known as the new growth area. To see this entirely functioning lumber mill in full swing, visit Berthusen Park in August during the Puget Sound Antique Tractor show.

**"K" Scout Cabin Heritage Site** - This cabin was built by the Boy Scouts and their family members in the 1950's. Founded in 1931 by Lord Baden Powell, Boy Scouts is an international organization dedicated to leadership, learning, and community service in the outdoors. The local Lynden Boy Scout Troop 4028 still holds weekly meetings at this cabin. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Scouting program, contact the Mount Baker Council – Whatcom District office in Bellingham, WA. New members are always welcome.

*Berthusen Advisory Committee: Marlin Hendricks (chair), Paul Debeeld, Terry DeValois, Bill Jennings, Harlan Kredit, Karen Steensma, and Alyce Werkema.*  
*Lynden City Parks staff member: Vern Meenderinck, Nancy Norris*

# HANS C. AND LIDA H. BERTHUSEN MEMORIAL PARK HISTORICAL TRAIL



NOAH JENNINGS  
TROOP 4028, LYNDEN, WASHINGTON  
EAGLE PROJECT