

# LAKESIDE RESORTS OF LACEY

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**Woodland Driving Park**  
*Courtesy Lacey Museum*

For decades Lacey was the place to go for the summer fun. Horse race enthusiasts could watch the races at the Woodland Driving Park, opened in 1891 by Isaac Ellis. A mile in circumference, it covered the site of today's Lacey Downs shopping center and the Clearbrook subdivision. With its picturesque farms and lakes, Lacey was also the favored destination of people out for a ride or a picnic.

Lakeside resorts emerged during the time when a few residents on Hicks and Pattison Lakes opened their homes to guests. With the advent of the automobile Lacey became easily accessible for many people in Thurston County and the mid-1920s saw an explosion in the growth of resorts on Hicks, Long, Pattison, and Southwick Lakes.

The resorts offered a variety of activities: swimming, fishing, boating, picnicking, camping, high dives, water slides and chutes, dance halls, horseshoe courts and baseball. There were also campgrounds away from the lakes such as the Log Cabin Camp and the Travis Campgrounds. Golfers could enjoy playing on the nearby Mountain View Golf Course, now the site of Panorama retirement community.



**Mountain View Golf Course**  
*Courtesy Lacey Museum*

## Hicks Lake

Hicks Lake was originally called Rutledge Lake, named for William Rutledge who was the first to settle along its shores. The name was changed to Hicks Lake through the efforts of Gwin Hicks, at one time the state printer. He lived on the southwestern portion of the lake. His mansion, Gwinwood, became the center of one of the first resorts on the lake.



**Gwinwood Resort**  
*Courtesy Lacey Museum*

By the late 1920s, Hicks Lake held seven resorts along its shores. Clockwise around the lake starting at the top were: Sunrise Resort (*originally known as Campbell Beach*), Ingles Sandy Beach, Weirwood, Ritzman's Beach, Gwinwood, Madrona Beach, and Ineda Beach. Sunrise Beach spanned both Hicks Lake and Long Lake with swimming on Hicks and fishing on Long. Weirwood featured a lighted boardwalk. All the beaches provided fine swimming. Gwinwood is now the site of the Gwinwood Christian Conference Center. The former Madrona Beach was donated by Lettie Wanschers to the City of Lacey. It opened in 1995 as Wanschers Community Park.

## Long Lake

Long Lake was probably the lake the Hudson's Bay Company referred as Tyrrell's Lake in the 1840s. By 1853 it was known as Long Lake, likely because the lake is long. Five resorts graced the shores of Long Lake, although they were not all in operation at the same time. Clockwise around the lake starting at the top were: Pleasant Acres, Pioneer Park, Mrs. Lowery's Lakeside Villas, Long Lake Beach and the eastern portion of Sunrise Resort. Opening in 1926, Long Lake Beach was the grandest. It featured bathing, boating, fishing, camping, cottages, cabins, a baseball diamond, a horseshoe court, concession stands,

electric lights and a long chute. Pleasant Acres, later renamed Lakeside RV Park, was the last resort on the lake.

## **Pattison Lake**

Pattison Lake takes its name from the pioneer James Pattison. He crossed the Oregon Trail with his family in 1849 and a couple years later took out a Donation Land Claim on the southwestern portion of the lake. It is sometimes incorrectly called Patterson Lake. In 1910, Frank Mullen purchased property on the northern tip of the lake. Gradually the family homestead turned into a resort and in its heyday canoes and 16 cabins. Mullen's Resort was joined by four others. Clockwise around the lake starting from the top were: Mullen's Resort, LaVista Pavilion, Cedar Beach, Kelley's Beach, and the Forest Resort. LaVista Pavilion was a dance hall with a maple floor and a dining room that could seat 268 people. It became a roller skating rink in 1938. Kelley's Beach not only offered the usual swimming facilities, it also had a racetrack and a rodeo field.



**Mullen's Resort**  
*Courtesy Lacey Museum*

## **Southwick Lake**

Southwick Lake does not appear in the 1853 survey of Thurston County. Early residents referred to it as Ruddell's Lake because it lay mostly within the Donation Land Claim of Stephen D. Ruddell, who settled there in 1852. Both Stephen and his son, Stephen L. Ruddell died in 1891. Their heirs could not pay the mortgage and lost the property in 1898. James A. Southwick acquired the property from Ethel G. Strahlem in 1904.

The Southwick Resort, the only one on the lake, started in 1925. It featured picnic areas, swimming, boats, horseshoe courts, cabins, a small dance hall and a big chute. The chute was replaced in later years by a water wheel. The resort closed in 1942.

### **Lacey Museum**

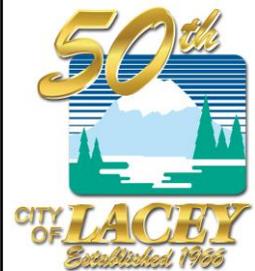
829 Lacey Street SE

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**(360) 438-0209**



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