Elliott Bay named for a member of the 1841 Wilkes Expedition; many claims it was Rev. J.L. Elliot, spelling but Benson believes it was midshipman Samuel Elliott. An 1854 map shows it as "Duwamish Bay."

Puget Sound named for St. Peter Puget of the 1791 Vancouver Expedition, but at that time it applied to waters south of Pt. Defiance. An 1854 map shows the name extended to present usage. Indian name was "Wulche."  

Duwamish Head: headland at the mouth of the Duwamish River - from a Chinook word "Duwamish" meaning "muddy-colored river."  

Was one of the first names proposed for town (Seattle). Duwamish River becomes Green River at Tukwila at point of junction with the abandoned Black River which had drained Lake Washington before Ship Canal was built. (Res. South Area Athletic Field)

An amusement park named LUNA PARK and patterned after its Coney Island namesake was built here, including a salt water pool and rides, etc., built on pilings (state still visible at low tide). A ferry dock was built at "Atlantic Ave" and the "West Seattle Ferry" service established (1894-1902). A cable car line curved its way up from the ferry dock to show the real estate opportunities of West Seattle. 1902 the beach area was so popular that one of the new electric street railway lines was built all the way from Seattle.

In 1908 the first flight over Seattle was made with a hot air balloon piloted by L.S. Mecklenburg from Alaska. The Seattle Rose Tree on Georgetown - Luna Park was destroyed by fire in 1913. Indian Reservation was built in 1912. The abandoned Luna Park site was bought in 1945, the old pool filled in planted in 1956. In 1958 the Northwest Drivers Club placed a 9,400-lb. ANCHOR from a sailing vessel and placed it here with a plaque. (WSBR 2487-188)  

During World War II, 1942, a marker was placed to commemorate the 1946 disaster of the crossing of the steamer DIX in which 85 persons drowned after a collision with the steamer JEANIE A. Haggard.
A considerable party had assembled on the beach to greet Capt. Folger and his company of 12 adult and as many children, youngest of whom was Roland Denny at 2 months—the early arrivals from the East and Chief Seattle, accompanied by many tribesfolk. Many hands soon roofed the cabin against the winter rains and made it habitable for the entire party. The ferry family were New Yorkers and urged the group to rename this settlement, combining with it a Chinook word meaning "by and by." New York Alki (pronounced AL-KAY). But wind-lashed winter storms, high tides, and a beach that was wide and shallow caused the settlers to move to the shore of Elliott Bay where the water was quite close to shore—a quite suitable, for the great harbor they hoped their town would become. "New York" was dropped by 1853, but "Alki" stuck (during Prohibition Days the good folk changed its pronunciation to "ALKE-EYES"). The new town's doctor Maynard persuaded the settlers to name the town in honor of his close friend—Chief Seattle.

Logging and fishing (canning) became the obvious first industries of the settlers. A sawmill was built on the east shore of Duwamish Head; William Renton tried to build one on this beach but soon agreed with the Pioneer Party's decision to relocate. The point of land known as McGowen-mouths & Point Roberts was low and hard to see from a ship, so the need for a guiding light was soon evident. By 1858 the place was called Battery Point and a keystone lantern hung on the lonely shore by members of Hans Hansen's family. In 1887 the U.S. Lighthouse Service took over the task and called it Alki Point. A road was opened from the Alki Point along the beach, cutting its way up along (Bonair Drive) to the top of Duwamish Head and the cluster of homes of mill hands and fishermen being identified as West Seattle. California Avenue had been "improved" for about 2 miles and a wagon road branched off from it down the slope past Young's town, southward along the edge of the wide tidal flats of the Duwamish River delta to another settlement named South Park. Crossing the River on a bridge another road skirted the delta to arrive at Seattle. Obviously West Seattle was slow in developing. In 1888 the West Seattle Improvement Co. (Rattler) built Seattle's first ferry line from Seattle across Elliott Bay to a terminal on the east shore of Duwamish Head at (SW Atlantic St.), adjacent they built a cable car line up the steep slope (California Way) to a powerhouse, then near 46th and Admiral Way and back down via (Ferry Ave.). A railroad was built on a trestle across the tidal flats on (Spokane St.) to serve the developing waterfront around Duwamish Head; fish canneries, ship builders, mills and warehouses.

Alki Beach had been a favorite campsite for the Indians and, upon the installation of ferry service, it became a popular Sunday outing for Seattle: walking along the sandy beach at low tide from the ferry terminal to Alki Point lowlands; or at high tide, taking the cable car and walking down Bonair Drive. It became so popular that the enterprising consolidation of cable and trolley car lines in Seattle decided to run a trolley car on a trestle across the tidal flats in 1902 and replaced the one-boat ferry service. Before long the line was extended from the old ferry-cable car terminal on a fresh on the beach around Duwamish Head to Alki meadows. West Seattle was annexed in 1907. The Olmstead Supplemental Plan of 1908 proposed Alki Ave. as part of the Boulevard system and a park at Alki Point including the Knoll and shoreline south of the Lighthouse. This growth potential and popularity induced Chas. Loomis to build, on pilings, a big amusement attraction called LUNA PARK on the point of Duwamish Head. Completed in 1907, the park contained an indoor "Powers Aquarium and Bathhouse" with several heated salt water pools, a gigantic enclosed German Carousel (built on Rhode Island), a restaurant, roller coaster, boat chute into a "tide" of water, ferris wheel (popularized at the 1893 Exposition in Chicago), hot dog stands, etc. A first feature event was the first flight over Seattle in 1908, made with a hot-air balloon piloted by L.G. Meekham, from the park to Meadowlark Race Track, in Georgetown. But Luna Park's
Mt. Olympus named by Capt. John Mears in 1780's. Name taken from the peak in Macedonia, famous in Greek mythology as the abode of the 12 highest deities under Zeus. Capt. Geo. Vancouver extended the name to the whole range of mountains; individual peaks have been named by others, like Lt. George Davidson (see Lincoln Park).

(Olympia, Greece, was birthplace of Olympic Games: 776 B.C.)

Waterfront property acquired with intention of creating a boulevard, but legislation to establish "Alki Boulevard" was never approved by City Council. However, the seawall was built and filled behind, to create Alki Avenue along the original shoreline.

Donaire Dr. was one of first roads down to beach from W. Seattle.

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(Olympia, Greece, was birthplace of Olympic Games: 776 B.C.)
This beach area had been a favorite camp site of Chief Seattle and his tribe. So they were on hand to "greet" the Erectors, along with Henry Van Asseff and David Denny who started a log cabin (see GB-94, ALC-18) for the pioneer party. (Presently the beach is the scene of the famed yearly Salmon Barbecue of the Indians - open to the public.)

At a later date, Capt. Wm. Kenton arrived to build a sawmill here, but was discouraged from it by the wind and tides.

"Statue of Liberty", a small, bronze replica of the one in the New York Harbor by the French sculptor Bartholdi, presented by DeGraff H. Persons and the Bay Scouts of America, Seattle Council, Feb. 23, 1922, as a pledge of everlasting fidelity and loyalty to the faith and courage of their forefathers who made possible the freedom of these United States.

The original bronze, "Liberty Enlightening the World", is 151 ft. high mounted on a pedestal 181 ft. high, gift of France in 1886 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of American Independence, presented to City of Seattle, 1886 office.

The Alki Monument, a shaft of stone marking the "Birthplace of Seattle," at this place on 13 Nov. 1851, there landed from the schooner Exact, Capt. Felger and the little colony which developed into the City of Seattle. Adults of the pioneer party: Anthony A. (Mary Birt) Denny, John A. (Lida) Low, Gerson D. and (Mary) Denny, Wm. A. and (Grace) Bell, Louis Boren.

The children of the pioneer party: Louise Denny, Gertrude Boren, Lenora Denny, Laura Bell, Robert Denny, Olive Bell, Alice Low, Virginia Bell, Mary Low, Lavinia Bell, John Low, Mineral Low.


The old time capsule placed by the Seattle Centennial (1952) bearing foundry and city builders, dedicated in the Seattle of 2051 A.D.

Designation: New York-Alki; the Terry family were New Yorkers and named this first settlement New York, using the Chinnook word "Alki" (pronounced A-le-ki) which meant "by and by." The New York was dropped by 1853 (founding of town across the bay, naming it "Seattle") but Alki remains.

**ALKI BEACH PARK**
Sheet 4

**TOTAL WATERFRONT PROP. = 154.1 Acres**
WE 5-2520 (foreman) Walkway = 2 mi. Shoreline = 2½ mi.

*Origin of Park name ---*

Beach became a favorite camp of the pioneers, as did the Indians (see above) and this portion of beach became the first portion of park in 1900, the first MUNICIPAL salt water Beach on West Coast. (P.O. about 10 at the 1850s) to be.

BATHHOUSE is on site of first bathhouse in Seattle proper (1911) but was much larger than present structure. First "refurbish" operated by Park Dept. was included in the Bathhouse.

A Boat Stand was adjacent. Private refreshment stands later sprang up across the street.
Known to Indians as "Me-kwah-mook", named "Roberts Point" in 1891 by Lt. Wilkes Expedition to honor his memory and that of 3 other officers.

In 1858, it was known as Battery Point. The Light House was built in 1880 thru efforts of Edna Hunt, who became first tenant of the lighthouse keepers, created in 1915.

ALKI POINT

L.I.D. 1915-10-5648307

ALKI

15.41 Acres

of tidelands

Total square = 2.59 mi

Purch. + Deeds since 1910

40 BP + 120 BR + 60 BP

4.7 Acres

BAR-S "Little League" P.G.

Use approved, Council Recommendation 1957-1961, Soccer Trailway Inc. Bar-S agreement w/ Seattle Parks Co. 1962, signed 10 y

Bar-S name + development of Bar-S. 1962-5y, Park Dept. to completely maintain site; after

1962-5y, Park Dept. to determine dates of need for site.

WE 5-2520

ALKI BEACH PARK

Sheet 5

L12271