

Original development was a ballfield in 1911.

- 4 kiddie swings
- 6 std. swings
- 1 sandbox
- 1 tetherball

Comfort Sta. 1923 \$1007= (?)
(moved in 1930 to present site)
Tennis Courts (day in 1915)
concrete in 1932 \$3,937=
resurfaced 1971
lights 1970 \$11,156=

P.G. Condem. 1910 \$14,017=
'08 BF
3.8 Acres
+ "Blvd." prop.
WE 2-5504 (CENTER)
5817 SW Stevens

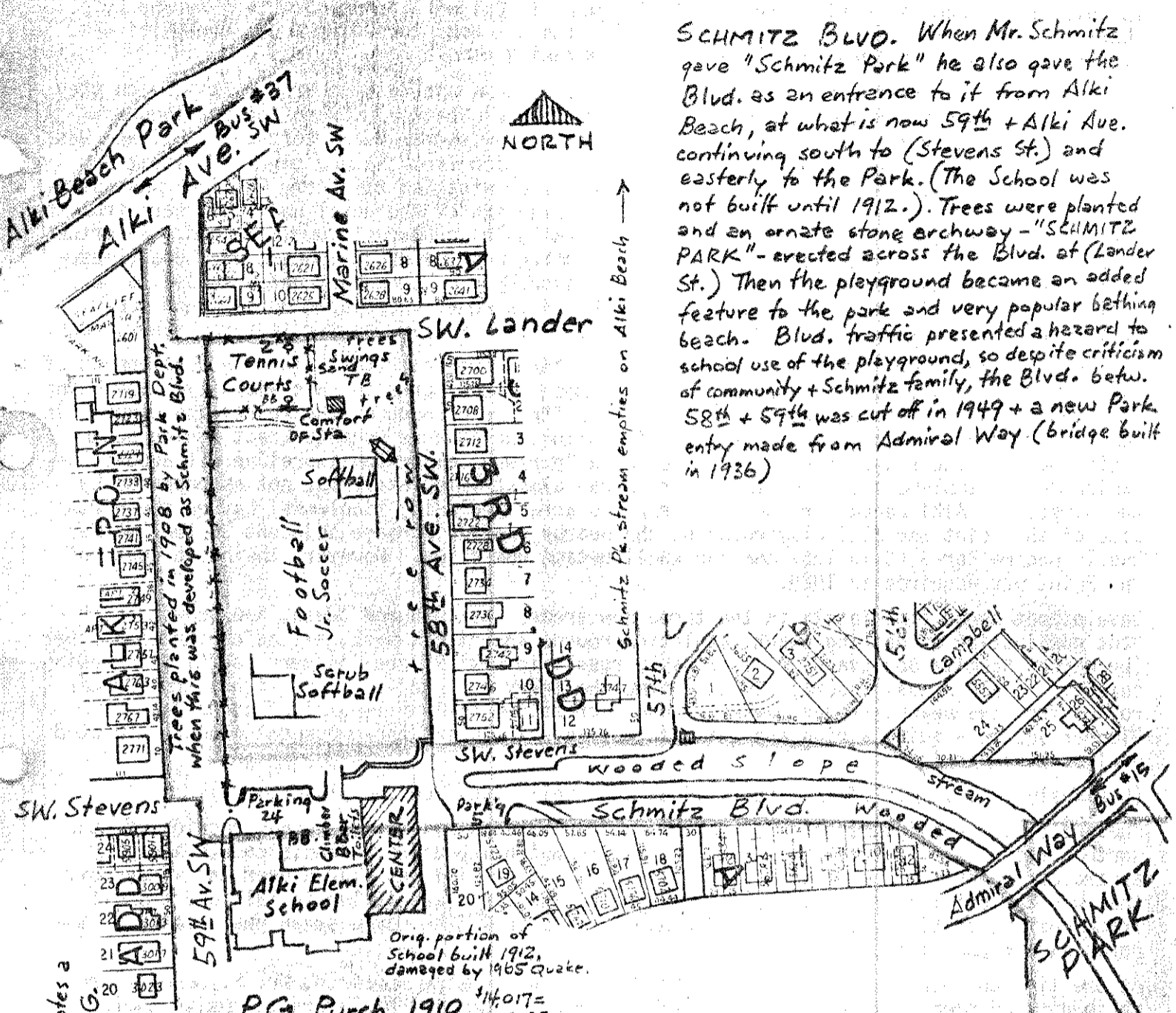
(SCHMITZ BLVD.) CLOSED 1971
0.4 mi.
4.2 Acres

Gifts 1908: 9 owners
+ waiver of street use
"...for park and parkway purposes."
"...conveyances urged and motivated by donor of Schmitz Park... as mean. of access..." Corp. Counsel

RECREATION CENTER:
1954 \$138,500 = '48 BF + CR + St. Funds.
Constr. in cooperation of School Distr. thru a Joint-use Agreement incl. closure of Blvd. to School P.G. use + prop. for Recr. Ctr.
Gym: 60' x 98' = 857 persons (Dept. paid for 1/2)
Social Rm: 38' x 60' = 343 persons.
Kitchen + Fireplace.
Game Rm: 24' x 38'
School Lunch Rm, etc. by School use permit

ALKI. P. G.
SHEET 1 OF 2
(SCHMITZ BLVD.)
CLOSED 1971

01-27-71



SCHMITZ BLVD. When Mr. Schmitz gave "Schmitz Park" he also gave the Blvd. as an entrance to it from Alki Beach, at what is now 59th + Alki Ave. continuing south to (Stevens St.) and easterly to the Park. (The School was not built until 1912.) Trees were planted and an ornate stone archway - "SCHMITZ PARK" - erected across the Blvd. at (Lander St.) Then the playground became an added feature to the park and very popular bething beach. Blvd. traffic presented a hazard to school use of the playground, so despite criticism of community + Schmitz family, the Blvd. betw. 58th + 59th was cut off in 1949 + a new Park entry made from Admiral Way (bridge built in 1936)

A 1912(?) Kroll map indicates a "Golf Links" on the P.G.

P.G. Purch. 1910 ^{\$14,017 =} '08 BF
 3.8 Acres
 + "Blvd." prop.
 WE 2-5504 (CENTER)
 5817 SW Stevens
 WE 5-2520

4 Kiddie Swings
 6 Swings
 1 Sandbox
 1 totterball

SCHMITZ BLVD.

0.4 mi.
 4.3 Acres
 Gifts 1908, '09, '10
 WE 5-2520

Name derived from district -

Charles Terry named site "New York-Alki" in honor of home - "alki" is Chinook word for "by-and-by"; pronounced AL-KEY.

L.I.D. 1926-31,0122

"A" Recreation Center = joint program of School and Park Board: (\$134,748 = 48 BF, CR + St. Fds.) 1953
 Gym: 60' x 100' = 857 persons
 Social Rm. 40' x 60' = 343 persons
 Kitchen + Fireplace
 Game Rm.
 By School Permit: use of Lunch Rm.

ALKI P.G.

SCHMITZ BLVD.

196280

The playground name is derived from an Indian word in Chinook jargon: Al-key ("by and by"). Charles Terry of the pioneer party combined it with his home town name - New York Alki - his dream for the new town. Alki became the community name.

Although the Denny Party of pioneer settlers in 1851 came ashore at nearby (Alki) beach they soon moved across Elliott Bay to develop the new town of Seattle. Excepting for loggers, fish canners, shipyard carpenters and fitters plus a few summer beach cottages, Alki and West Seattle were slow in developing because of the separation from the new town by Elliott Bay and the broad tidal flats of the Duwamish River. The "West Seattle Ferry Service" was established in 1888 by the area's developers together with one of the novel new cable cars from the ferry to the cluster of homes (and real estate available) on top of Duwamish Head. A further inducement to Seattle's townsfolk for a Sunday outing was the establishment of "Luna (Amusement) Park" near the ferry landing in 1907, although by then Luna Park was intended to be a business venture, for the ferry had made Alki Beach extremely popular; the view and sandy beach were spectacular. And so West Seattle was annexed in 1907 as were several other areas.

The Olmsted Bros. were commissioned to prepare a "Supplemental Report" for the development of parks and parkways in the new areas. They recommended two parks in this vicinity: one being the "wooded knoll" plus adjacent acreage next to the shore south of the Point; the other being some 52 acres of a densely wooded ravine, including the 40-acre Schmitz tract (which became a gift park). The report further recommended a "parkway" along the shoreline all around Duwamish Head. Implementation of the report began almost immediately but not as prepared by the Olmsteds: Alki Beach Park was acquired (10 acres including tidelands) but on the north side of the Point and Alki Playground on the nearby meadow; acreage adjacent to the "wooded knoll" became Bar-S PG in 1957 and the knoll became homesites. However, the beach south of the Point was acquired in 1929.

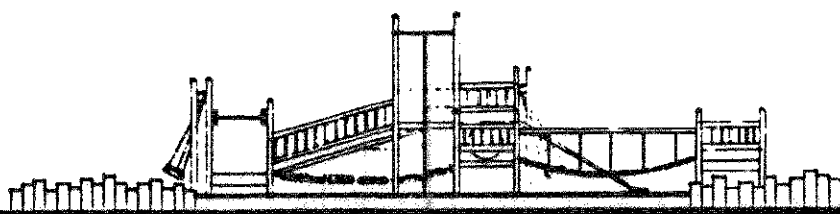
Development began immediately in the three new areas: Alki PG and Beach, and Schmitz Park - "the combination of bathing beach, athletic grounds and picnic park, all adjoining each other (by way of Schmitz Boulevard) will probably result in Alki PF proving very useful this coming season." (1910 Annual Report) By this time the ferry had been replaced with a trolley car routed from the beach, around Duwamish Head, across the newly filled tideflats and on to Pioneer Square - quite a ride and quite an outing - including the amusement rides and heated pool at Luna Park!

(Curiously, a 1912 map of the city indicates a "Golf Links" on the playground!)

"Recent (1914) readjustments of surrounding street grades has made a reconstruction of (the north portion of) the tract necessary by filling and bulkheading. Tennis courts and play apparatus are provided in addition to ballfield." (The fill was placed over the sandy soil that was the original meadow.) The remainder of the field was filled in 1917 and a small frame comfort station built on the 58th Avenue side in 1923 - moved seven years later to the north end of the field.

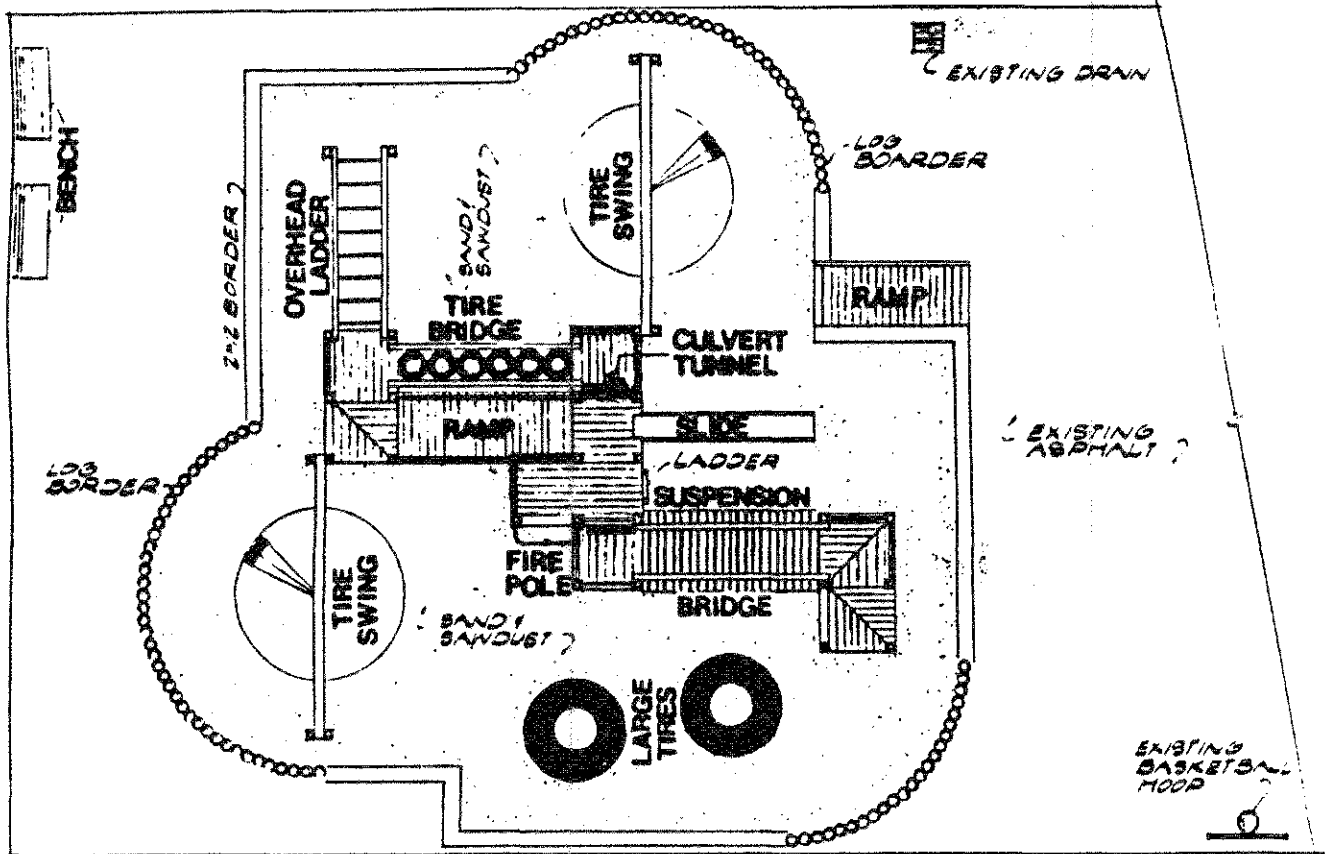
At the time the beach, playground and Schmitz Park were being acquired, Mr. F. Schmitz urged the owners of property along the route of the proposed Schmitz Boulevard to "waive their rights" to the use of the right-of-way as standard street so that it could be used henceforth "for park and parkway purposes". A post and lintel entry to Schmitz Park was built across (59th) at Lander - a log lintel with boulder posts flanked with a flower pot on a short post (also made of stones) on each side - which remained until 1953 when it was declared a "hazard and detriment to the landscape." Also the boulevard ceased to be an entry to Schmitz Park in 1949 when traffic became a hazard to school children using the playground. Although the community and Corporation Counsel adversely viewed the closure, the Schmitz family endorsed a new entry into Schmitz Park from Admiral Way - similar to an Olmsted proposal. The remainder of the original boulevard was closed to traffic in 1971.

Facilities for gym and club rooms were included in the Alki Bathhouse in 1911; major rehabilitation was required 30 years later, but community pressure was a major factor in the decision to enter a joint development project with the school to enlarge the 1912 school in combination with a recreation center: 1954.



ELEVATION 1/8" = 1'-0"

↳ DIRT ?



PLAN 1/8" = 1'-0"

↳ DIRT SLOPE ?

NORTH Δ

ALKI P. G.
SHEET 2 of 2