



Lake Washington



Lake Washington Blvd.
maintained by Engr. Dept.
(1942 Ord.)

4.5 Acres
 Condmn. 1908: \$18,932 = '08 BF
 Gift 1910: J.C. Ford + J.W. Smith / Pac. Coast Co.
 "... for park purposes."

LAKE VIEW PARK

101674

The shores of Lake Washington have been popular for uncounted generations. Chief Leschi of the Nisqually Tribe had established a favorite campsite beside its waters and the pioneers were quick to follow the loggers on horseback or wagon - and later by stage - to find their own camp or picnic sites. Some of these sites must have become the "Trolley Parks" developed by realtors as an inducement combining "Sunday Outings" with real estate sales for their property that was "so far out of town. It is not surprising that the Olmsted Bros., landscape architects of Brookline, Mass., would propose a major parkway along the shores of the lake in their 1903 Plan for Seattle. They recommended leaving the shoreline of Denny-Blaine Park with a broad (600') parkway up the steep slope and into the ravine into Washington Park, crossing under the Madison Street trestle (a 50' deep ravine at this point). The abandonment of the shoreline MAY have been to avoid the existing (and undesirable) Madison Street Park with its amusement rides, theatre, etc., etc. Also, Judge McGilvra had developed his large estate into a feudal-like residential area. At any rate, the Olmsted proposal for this parkway was implemented with acquisition, though not into the ravine leading into Washington Park but alongside it. However, the "saddle" on the slope between the lake and ravine was acquired by gift and by condemnation and became LAKE VIEW PARK - the view of Lake Washington was spectacular from the knoll (160' above the lake).

So, the park's development in 1910 was for viewpoint purposes as a "resting spot on the parkway (where) a sweeping view of Lake Washington and the Cascade Mountains can be obtained (from) a slightly knoll . . ." The additional feature of a clay-surface tennis court was installed in the meadow south of the knoll. This segment of the parkway, known then as Blaine Blvd., had been developed as soon as acquisition was completed, as a connection to the shoreline from the Washington Park Blvd and its entry to the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Expo on the University grounds, plus the route "to town" via the new Interlaken Blvd to Volunteer Park and 14th Avenue - or the less scenic Madison Street. By 1931 clay tennis courts were being replaced with asphalt and even concrete surfacing, but the one here was still listed as "clay"; it was gone from a 1935 list of tennis courts, although a clay court continued to be listed for Frink Park through 1949.

By clearing alder trees from the slope east of Hillside Drive East and the boulevard a second viewpoint was developed in 1947; a lawn developed with a hedgerow along the top of the bank and a bench facing the view. In 1965, some of the neighbors led by Mrs. V. J. Blanchett, a member of the Municipal Art Commission, contributed funds to improve this viewpoint; a low, paving block wall was built in front of the hedge plus a paved area containing a new concrete bench. A plaque on the bench: "In loving memory of Francesca Street Ballinger from her friends and family. 1965." A plaque on the wall states: "Given to the citizens of Seattle by Frederick and Jacqueline Blanchett. 1966."

History: LAKE VIEW PARK
10/11/74