Upon the request of the Joint School-Park Staff Committee in 1950, and subsequent approval of City Council, the City Planning Commission made a study of the playground needs of the community recommending this site as suitable and available. Its topography had permitted development by Park & School Boards & local citizens (L.D.D.); and subsequently all three groups gave approval. The PTA & Neighborhood Council became "enthusiastic and enthusiastically" active in the project positioning to clear the site under the blessing of the City thru the guidance of the Park & Engineering Department, as well as developing improvement plans for the site together with the Planning Staff of the Park Dept. Many disagreements arose over the timing of various work projects, as well as the feasibility of improvements desired related to the rough topography.

Design was done with donated Navy equipment and operators (until 1956 there was a large Navy Housing Project, "Magnolia Manor", just south of the Park) plus equipment from the Park Dept.

The School District shared in payment of the cost of improvements and entered into a Joint-Use Agreement with the Park Dept. (recap below). Formal dedication, including the trail thru 20th Pl., was in 1959.

"Mt. Suntangle (Youki)" after long arduous hours of labor on a development model of the park, the finishing touches was placing a flag in the spirit of the line-hoist WWII victory. During the dedication the flagstaff raising was repeated.

PARK (and the school) assume name from the District whose major feature, since its purchase in 1897 and naming in 1909, has been Fort Lawton. Honored is the fort's first Commanding Officer, Maj. Gen. Henry W. Lawton, famed captor of the Indian Chief Geronimo in 1886, who was killed in action in the Philippines in 1899.