

SEWARD PARK - History

Bedrock exposed in the park is of "recent" (Blakely) formation preceding the Ice Age, mainly sandstone and conglomerates. Wave cutting and landslides formed the cliffs and steep slopes. The 4000' thick 2nd Continental Glacier (13,000 years ago) gouged the valley between the mountain ranges and placed till on the uplands, forming Lake Washington and, at Renton, blocking the sea that invaded the Duwamish Valley. The lake found an outlet through the till at Renton, forming the Black River which joined the Duwamish River at Tukwila. As the level of the lake rose, it moistened the clay underladen shorelines to the extent that a large section of forest on Mercer Island (also north of O. O. Denny Park) slid into the lake some 1100 years ago. Most trees remained upright and were first discovered when the opening of the Ship Canal lowered the lake level by 9'. Being a hazard to navigation, the tree tops were broken off by dragline or by blasting. A logging attempt removed 186 trees, the wood was sound and fresh due to preservation in the cold water; the age of the forest at the time of the submersion was found to be 150. The logging was abandoned due to difficulties of working in deep water. The rising waters caused by winter rains also made a "seasonal" island of the peninsular park until the canal was opened in 1917; filling of this marshy area began in 1911 and is now a meadow for sunbathers. The canal opening lowered the water table and many of original Douglas fir trees in the park died. Also the Black River outlet was abandoned. Ring counts taken on some of the fallen original trees reveal a severe forest fire on the peninsula in the 1490's.

Plant life to be found includes: rhododendron, sitka spruce, western hemlock, douglas fir, poison oak, western red cedar, sword ferns, bracken, moist-area ferns, salal, barberry, hazelnut, huckleberry, big leaf maple, western white birch, dogwood, blackberry, thimbleberry, salmonberry, madrona, blueberry alder, red alder, willow, flowering cherry, scotch broom, water lilies, cattails, "etc."

Animals to be observed: raccoon, douglas pine squirrel, mountain beaver, white footed mouse, song sparrow, nuthatch, oregon towhee, olive-sided flycatcher, chickadee, California valley quail, russet backed thrush, bullfrog, garter snake, game fish (hatchery), waterfowl, "etc.". (Deer has visited the peninsula until 1952-, swimming from Mercer Island until civilization and the Game Department "took" the last three. The deer feed shelter was built by WPA and provided with straw by the Park Foreman, Fred Haskell.)

2/26/69 No known Indian encampment or relics have been found but Indians certainly hunted and fished in and around the peninsula. In the 1880's a "Frenchman's Estate" is said to have been in the vicinity of the present amphitheatre. The peninsula was bought in 1886 by Walter Graham (Graham Street just to the south), sold to Philip Ritz, to William E. Bailey in 1890. Then it became known as BAILEY PENINSULA owing to the prominence of Mr. Bailey, a Pennsylvanian who invested heavily in real estate and buildings after the 1889 fire; owned The Press-Times (now Seattle Times). A homesteader on the adjacent mainland was W. R. Andrews (ANDREWS BAY); both men were Park Commissioners in the 1890s.

9 AMPHITHEATRE: (design based upon the ancient Greek pattern) built in 1953 (first concert 7/5) at a cost of \$35,000 (including site preparation, shaping the "bowl", utilities, stage, planting and seats (775)), its location takes advantage of the view of Mount Rainier, forested slopes and park trees. It was hoped it would replace the worn-out bandshell that had been removed from Volunteer Park in 1949 and to supplement the Green Lake Aquatheatre built in 1950. Led by an inspired Paul V. Brown, Superintendent of Parks, the Department sponsored lavish productions of orchestra, chorus and dance under the direction of Gustave Stern "Music in the Parks" program, featuring singers Martha Wright, Don Fleck, Jean Gray, Wally Snellenberg; dance companies of Robert Joffrey, Eleanor King, Dorothy Fisher, Martha Nishitani and Jan Collum; musicians from Seattle Symphony Orchestra. The concerts were so well attended that traffic conditions on the limited access one-way drive became intolerable. The last Music in the Parks series was here in 1960, use of the amphitheatre becoming more casual: Easter, Citizenship, PowWow, rock groups, etc.

continued

By 1955 the "southeast segment" of the shoreline ("loop") road had been eliminated and the balance of the drive had been paved.

CAMP FIRE RING: For many years the park had been the scene of Camp Fire Girl activities and ceremonies. In 1960 the organization petitioned through one of its members, also a Park Commissioner (Mrs. Robert Block) to construct a "Camp Fire Ring" in the park. It was dedicated to the memory of Dorothy Black (1926-1961) who held the organization's highest Service Award, was Secretary of Washington State Council for Children and Youth, officer in League of Women Voters, National Council of Jewish Women, active in Seattle Center and Metro planning, and Park Commissioner 1959-61 (her husband appointed 1961-1963). The camp fire ring is built in the shape of the organization symbol and contains symbols of significance to them.

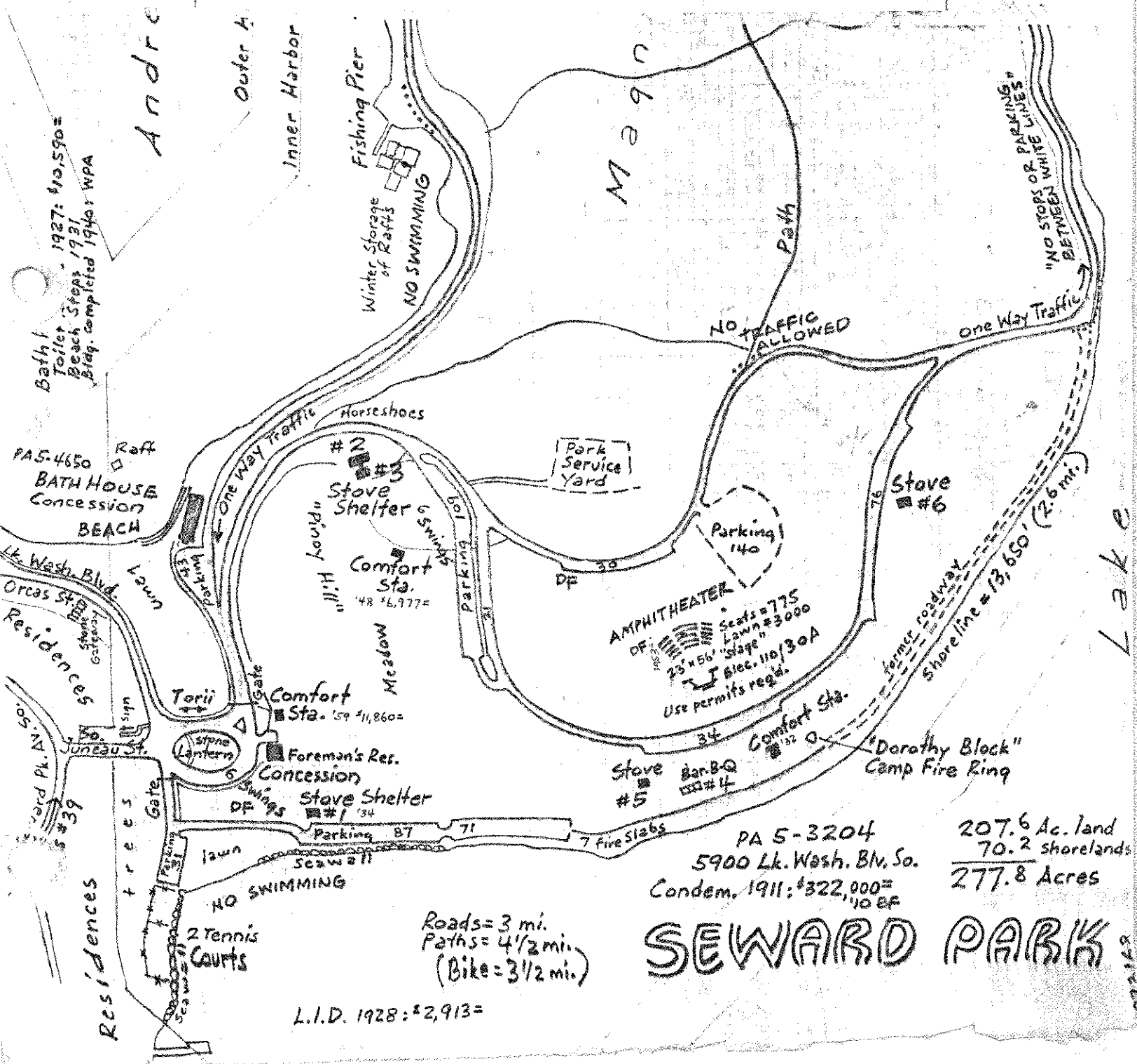
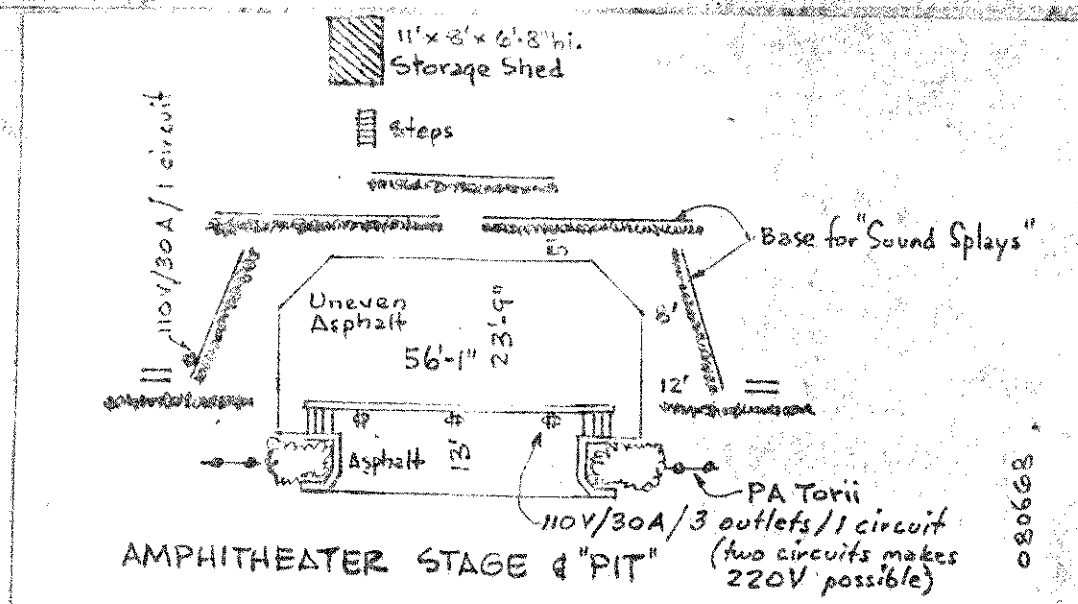
FISHING PIER: The King County Outdoor Sports Council, representing 40 clubs, promoted a plan to construct fishing piers around Lake Washington. An ardent sportsman-supporter was Rev. U. G. Murphy who successfully urged the first one to be built here (#6 on the plan). For his efforts advocating better fishing opportunities for youth and senior citizens, the pier was named in his honor in 1962 by the Sports Council. Rev Ulysses Grant Murphy (1870-1967) served as a missionary in Japan 1893-1903, then with the Issei on the West Coast; awarded the Medal of the Fifth Order of Sacred Treasure by Emperor Hirohito in 1960; cited in 1965 by the Greater Seattle Council of Churches for his "vigorous interest in human welfare" and named honorary member of the Council's House of Delegates.

Numerous complaints by citizens and Department staff re the use of the loop drive for other than "Park purposes", washing of cars, racing, etc., resulted in the Park Commissioners' recommendation in 1971 to close the shoreline (loop) drive from the upper picnic/amphitheatre loop on the east to the bathhouse on the west, allowing only bicycles and foot traffic (this also solved the need for paving a bicycle/foot path beside the drive).

ARTS AND CRAFTS STUDIO: In 1927 two restrooms were built with the funds available but the dressing rooms/office/first aid station in between was not constructed until 1940 - a WPA project. Bathing modes of that time required a space for changing from street clothing into swim suits, a room for clothing bag checking and showers after swimming. But the mores of community life change and the big bathhouse facilities were used less and less, as it became acceptable to wear swim suits on the street and in cars - or under street clothes which were removed on the beach. So Mildred Noble, Cultural Arts Director for the Department, saw in the empty rooms the space needed for a growing arts program. In 1970 a skylighted addition to this bathhouse provided an arts and crafts studio with classes for children and adults with minimum charge and no equipment fee. A wide range of offerings is presented to meet the needs at many levels: potters wheels, electric and gas kiln, jewelry classes, leathercraft, enameling, batik, weaving, drawing and painting. A small gallery provides a place for students and others (like the American Heritage Arts Fair) to display and sell their work. Various craftsmen have presented demonstrations and workshops.

DS

12/3/73



PA 5-3204
 5900 Lk. Wash. Blv. So.
 Condem. 1911: \$322,000^{10 EF}

207.6 Ac. land
 70.2 shorelands
 277.8 Acres

SEWARD PARK

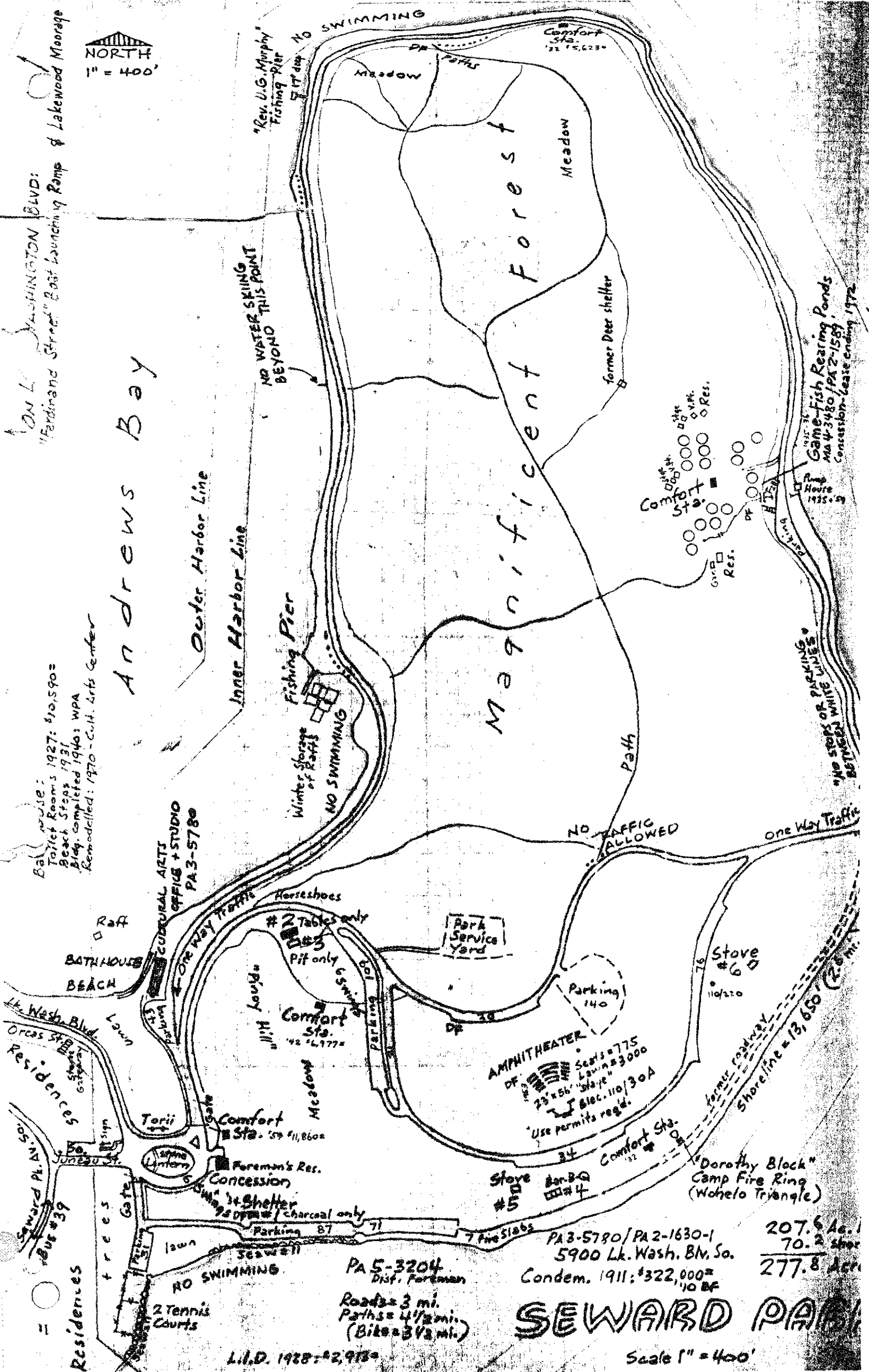
NORTH
1" = 400'

Andrews Bay

100 L. WASHINGTON BLVD.
"Ferdinand Street" Boat Launching Ramp & Lakewood Moorage

Ball house:
Toilet Rooms 1927: \$10,590=
Beach Steps 1931
Bldg. completed 1940: WPA
Remodelled: 1970 - C.H. Arts Center

Residences
Seward Pl. A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z, AA, AB, AC, AD, AE, AF, AG, AH, AI, AJ, AK, AL, AM, AN, AO, AP, AQ, AR, AS, AT, AU, AV, AW, AX, AY, AZ, BA, BB, BC, BD, BE, BF, BG, BH, BI, BJ, BK, BL, BM, BN, BO, BP, BQ, BR, BS, BT, BU, BV, BW, BX, BY, BZ, CA, CB, CC, CD, CE, CF, CG, CH, CI, CJ, CK, CL, CM, CN, CO, CP, CQ, CR, CS, CT, CU, CV, CW, CX, CY, CZ, DA, DB, DC, DD, DE, DF, DG, DH, DI, DJ, DK, DL, DM, DN, DO, DP, DQ, DR, DS, DT, DU, DV, DW, DX, DY, DZ, EA, EB, EC, ED, EE, EF, EG, EH, EI, EJ, EK, EL, EM, EN, EO, EP, EQ, ER, ES, ET, EU, EV, EW, EX, EY, EZ, FA, FB, FC, FD, FE, FF, FG, FH, FI, FJ, FK, FL, FM, FN, FO, FP, FQ, FR, FS, FT, FU, FV, FW, FX, FY, FZ, GA, GB, GC, GD, GE, GF, GG, GH, GI, GJ, GK, GL, GM, GN, GO, GP, GQ, GR, GS, GT, GU, GV, GW, GX, GY, GZ, HA, HB, HC, HD, HE, HF, HG, HH, HI, HJ, HK, HL, HM, HN, HO, HP, HQ, HR, HS, HT, HU, HV, HW, HX, HY, HZ, IA, IB, IC, ID, IE, IF, IG, IH, II, IJ, IK, IL, IM, IN, IO, IP, IQ, IR, IS, IT, IU, IV, IW, IX, IY, IZ, JA, JB, JC, JD, JE, JF, JG, JH, JI, JJ, JK, JL, JM, JN, JO, JP, JQ, JR, JS, JT, JU, JV, JW, JX, JY, JZ, KA, KB, KC, KD, KE, KF, KG, KH, KI, KJ, KK, KL, KM, KN, KO, KP, KQ, KR, KS, KT, KU, KV, KW, KX, KY, KZ, LA, LB, LC, LD, LE, LF, LG, LH, LI, LJ, LK, LL, LM, LN, LO, LP, LQ, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LW, LX, LY, LZ, MA, MB, MC, MD, ME, MF, MG, MH, MI, MJ, MK, ML, MM, MN, MO, MP, MQ, MR, MS, MT, MU, MV, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NB, NC, ND, NE, NF, NG, NH, NI, NJ, NK, NL, NM, NN, NO, NP, NQ, NR, NS, NT, NU, NV, NW, NX, NY, NZ, OA, OB, OC, OD, OE, OF, OG, OH, OI, OJ, OK, OL, OM, ON, OO, OP, OQ, OR, OS, OT, OU, OV, OW, OX, OY, OZ, PA, PB, PC, PD, PE, PF, PG, PH, PI, PJ, PK, PL, PM, PN, PO, PP, PQ, PR, PS, PT, PU, PV, PW, PX, PY, PZ, QA, QB, QC, QD, QE, QF, QG, QH, QI, QJ, QK, QL, QM, QN, QO, QP, QQ, QR, QS, QT, QU, QV, QW, QX, QY, QZ, RA, RB, RC, RD, RE, RF, RG, RH, RI, RJ, RK, RL, RM, RN, RO, RP, RQ, RR, RS, RT, RU, RV, RW, RX, RY, RZ, SA, SB, SC, SD, SE, SF, SG, SH, SI, SJ, SK, SL, SM, SN, SO, SP, SQ, SR, SS, ST, SU, SV, SW, SX, SY, SZ, TA, TB, TC, TD, TE, TF, TG, TH, TI, TJ, TK, TL, TM, TN, TO, TP, TQ, TR, TS, TT, TU, TV, TW, TX, TY, TZ, UA, UB, UC, UD, UE, UF, UG, UH, UI, UJ, UK, UL, UM, UN, UO, UP, UQ, UR, US, UT, UY, UZ, VA, VB, VC, VD, VE, VF, VG, VH, VI, VJ, VK, VL, VM, VN, VO, VP, VQ, VR, VS, VT, VU, VV, VW, VX, VY, VZ, WA, WB, WC, WD, WE, WF, WG, WH, WI, WJ, WK, WL, WM, WN, WO, WP, WQ, WR, WS, WT, WU, WV, WW, WX, WY, WZ, XA, XB, XC, XD, XE, XF, XG, XH, XI, XJ, XK, XL, XM, XN, XO, XP, XQ, XR, XS, XT, XU, XV, XW, XX, XY, XZ, YA, YB, YC, YD, YE, YF, YG, YH, YI, YJ, YK, YL, YM, YN, YO, YP, YQ, YR, YS, YT, YU, YV, YW, YX, YY, YZ, ZA, ZB, ZC, ZD, ZE, ZF, ZG, ZH, ZI, ZJ, ZK, ZL, ZM, ZN, ZO, ZP, ZQ, ZR, ZS, ZT, ZU, ZV, ZW, ZX, ZY, ZZ



L.I.D. 1928: 22,913

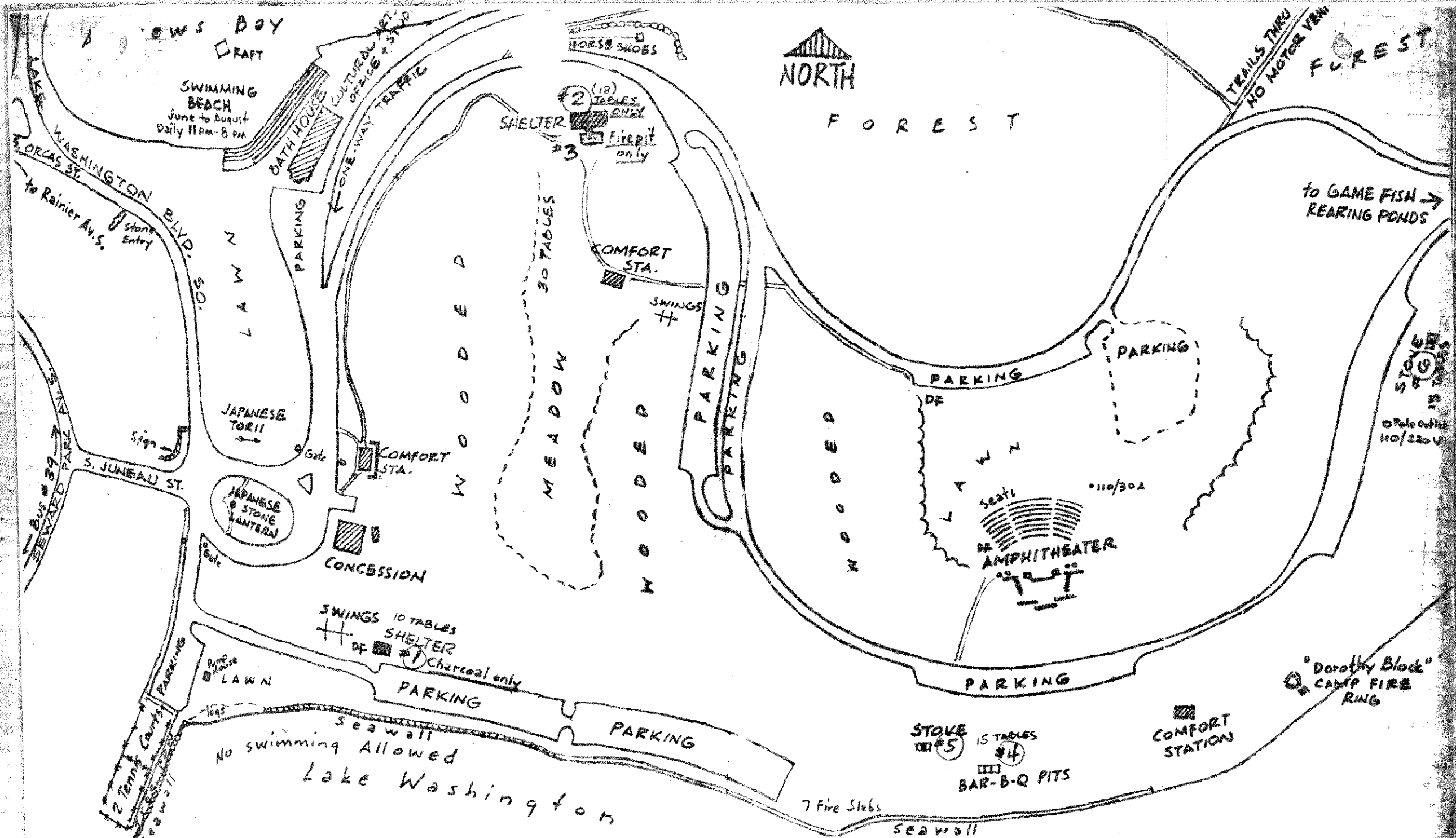
PA 5-3204
Dist. Foreman
Roads = 3 mi.
Paths = 4 1/2 mi.
(Bike = 3 1/2 mi.)

PA 3-5780 / PA 2-1630-1
5900 Lk. Wash. Bld. So.
Condem. 1911: \$322,000 =
10 BF

SEWARD PARK

Scale 1" = 400'

207.6 Ac.
70.2 shore
277.8 Ac.



SEWARD PARK

PICNIC AREA

FIREWOOD OR CHARCOAL IS NOT FURNISHED
FOR PREFERRED REGISTRATION TO AVOID CONFLICTS
IN SCHEDULING GROUP PICNICS.
CALL 535-5811

No swimming Allowed
Lake Washington

View of Mt. Rainier