

Prior to acquisition the Camp had been operated as a recreation ranch by the Recreation Services Corp. Had been leased under SEEC program of Schools + Model City for outdoor education.

39.96 Acres Model City Fund
 Purch. 1970 (City) \$235,000.00
 "...recreation facility for Model City Program + open space purposes... jurisdiction of Dept. Parks + Recreation. Operated by Executive Dept.

RED BARN RANCH

080370

NORTH

ROAD

SMITH

BUNKHOUSE
DINING RA
KITCHEN

BASKETBALL
COURT

RESIDENCE

SHED

BARN

SILO

Parking

POOL

Drainage ditch

RED BARN RANCH

122370

The soil is composed of drift deposited by the Vashon Ice Sheet 50,000 years ago and is extremely dense (hard) and rocky. This soil condition combined with the flatness of the slope on this site tends to encourage ponding and marsh areas. The area was a forest in character composed of Douglas fir, cedar, pine and maple, with typical Northwest ground cover of ferns, mosses, etc.

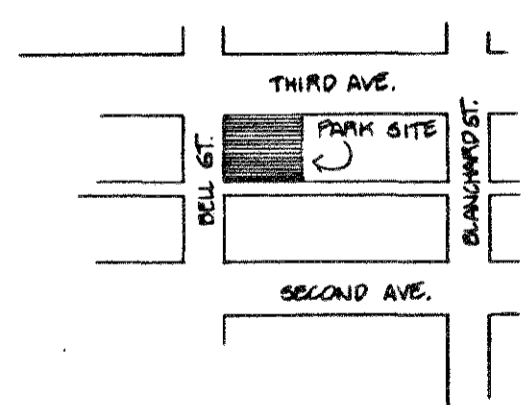
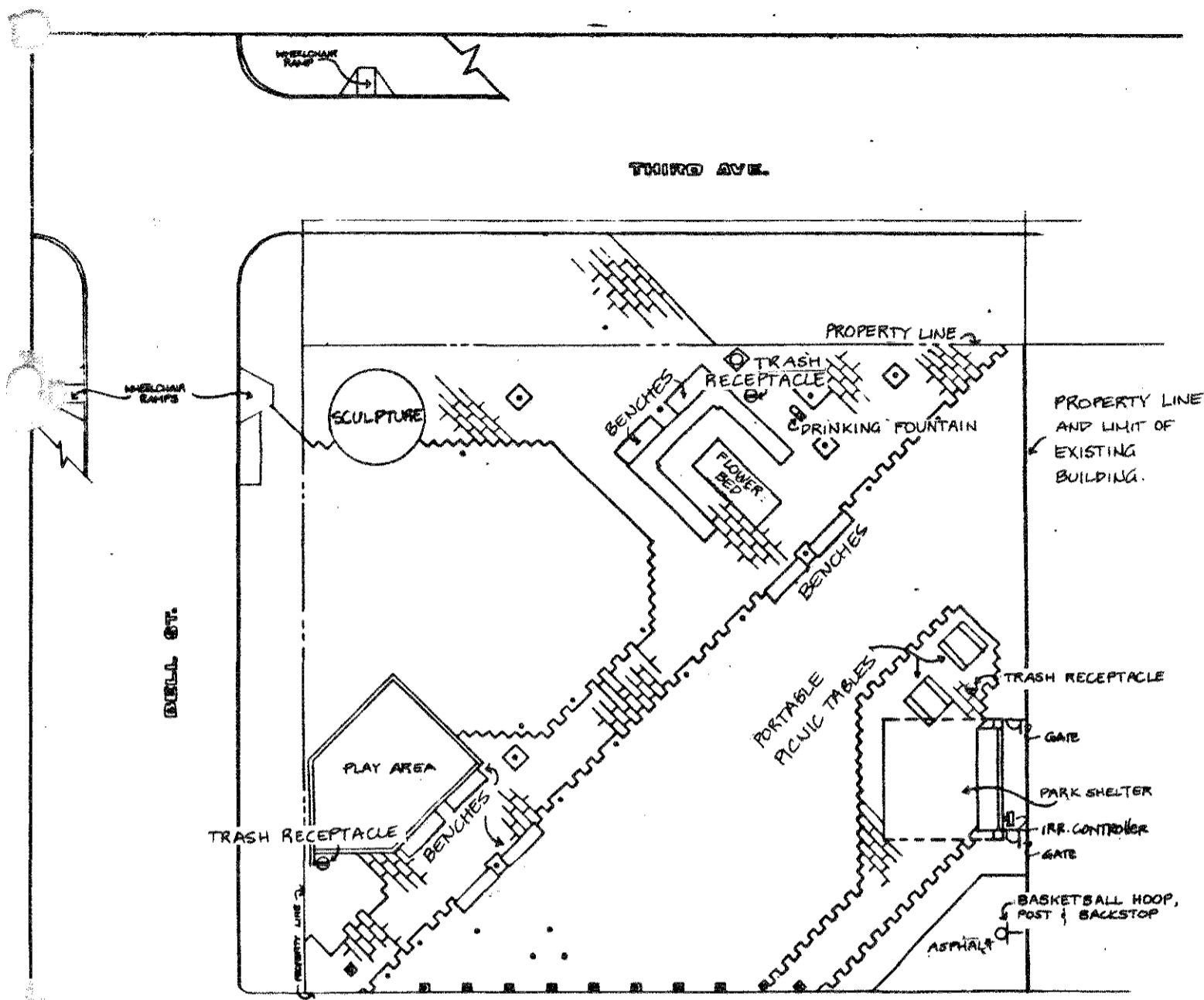
The original Federal Land Survey came through here in 1856, and a section corner happened to lie within this site. In 1910 the area was divided into 40-acre tracts, of which this was one. About this time the area was logged for the Moneysmith Mill located on the shore of the (Moneysmith) lake. Eight families settled nearby as logger/mill hands; then clearing the land of stumps and developing never-ending piles of rocks, such as the one in the southeast corner of the Ranch. The valley became cattle and chicken ranches.

Moneysmith Road originated as a forest trail that became a horse trail which the ranchers soon developed into a wagon road and built fences alongside to contain their livestock. The road became part of the county system and designated as Road #212; it was paved on its existing route and the watermain located alongside (the ranch spring was diverted into a ditch and the well capped for later use of irrigation and livestock).

Raising livestock and dairy farming was the most successful venture in this rocky valley and the Red Barn Ranch was so developed in 1949 with a barn, chicken hutches and a farmhouse, plus the necessary silo for converting fodder into cattle feed by fermentation. In 1960 the Ranch was sold to Dr. Singer of Tacoma who added the building now used as a bunkhouse, rebuilt the barn and two-story farmhouse, for the intended use as a convalescent home for his patients. But the doctor's plans were cut short by a fatal heart attack, and in 1966 his widow, Vera Singer, sold the site to Recreation Services, Inc. for development as a sports camp by Elgin Baylor and the Sonics basketball team. They added the swimming pool, four basketball courts, and a large kitchen in the bunkhouse, and drilled the 90' well.

The Seattle School District, the Model City Program, and the Park Department joined resources in an effort to find a site suitable for outdoor education. Several site potentials were inventoried: Red Barn Ranch was proposed by MCP and, with the backing of the Mayor's Office, became the selected site. Negotiations for a lease began, but a fire caused considerable damage to the upper floor of the bunkhouse, and the program had to be restructured for day camping only during 1969. MCP with State and Federal aid bought the Ranch, adding a dining room to the repaired bunkhouse and four classrooms in the Red Barn. But a severe windstorm revealed a structural weakness in the barn, so it was condemned in 1971. (And so, the "Red Barn" banished!). Although (Seattle) communities were opposed, MCP completed the project - the Silo became the only feature remaining of the original ranch; improvements included a new dining hall, new staff bunkhouse and a Director's residence, a new orchard, parking lot, storage building, corral, bridle trail, a new amphitheatre replaced one basketball court, and another court was converted to tennis. The new design by architects Hobbs/Fukui won an AIA Honor Award in 1973.

History: RED BARN RANCH
11/8/74



REGRADE PARK

2229 3rd Ave

Purchase: 1976

Acreage: .3

Develop: 1979 Construction of Park \$131,870.37; Garden Enterprises/Myers/Shimono

Element: Play area
Sculpture
"Gyro Jack" Lloyd Hamrol
1979
Shelter
Basketball hoop
2 Picnic tables
Benches
Lawns, walks, landscaping

072880 JMP

360 REGRADE PK.