

HISTORY - DISCOVERY PARK

To meet the maritime needs of a developing Territory, particularly the logging/sawmill industry following the 1851 Pioneer Landing at Alki Beach, the U. S. government in 1881 built the West Point Lighthouse on the dense, stony rim of a salt marsh (on property bought from John Leary, partner of Capt. Ballard). Original kerosene light was French-built brass-and-glass and, by hand-crank, fog horns are activated at 4-Mile Rock and Shilshole. (The Alki Point Light was built this same time.) The bluff had been logged prior to 1880 and their roads formed the basic layout for the new Fort.

The first official suggestion to locate a military post on Magnolia Bluff was in an 1894 report by Brig. Gen. Otis, followed by an Act of Congress in 1895 authorizing the Secretary of War to choose a suitable site on Puget Sound donated by citizens! An inspection trip by Gen. Otis, Capt. Fisk (C.E.) and Capt. Crosby (Q.M.) resulted in the acquisition of 613 acres from 27 owners at \$1 per owner. Seattle viewed the project with great interest and anticipation: "the Army post will undoubtedly make this the most popular Sunday outing in the neighborhood of Seattle." (P.I. 1896) The Post was established in 1897, and named in 1900 in honor of Maj. Gen. Henry Ware Lawton, United States Volunteers, famed for his capture of Chief Geronimo (1886) who was killed in action at San Mateo, Philippine Islands, in 1899. Development of the Fort included a pier to the north on Salmon Bay, a vegetable garden, large stockade for cavalry horses, a water line from Seattle, plus the usual barracks, etc. (As the city grew, the demand on the water line increased so that, at peak hours, there wasn't enough pressure to obtain a drink of water.)

In 1910 John C. Olmsted (Olmsted Bros., Brookline, Mass.) prepared a Report on the Improvement of the Fort: essentially a continuation of the bicycle path along the Bluff (Magnolia Blvd.) giving the people access to the beach, ravines and forests of the Fort area, connecting with the Olmsted-proposed Gilman-Kinnear-Queen Anne Blvd. system; tidal-fed swimming pools were suggested on the salt marsh at West Point. The military development was in the center of the area and would be "protected" from civilians by a fence. The Report disappeared in military red tape.

Fort Lawton was occupied by the Coast Artillery until 1902, returning during WW I; Infantry 1902/1927; then Army Engineers until 1941; the outbreak of WW II and the war in the Pacific when it became a staging area for the Port of Embarkation. As such, the facilities were greatly expanded at the expense of the forests, needing to accommodate more than 20,000 troops at peak periods of debarkations, plus an operating personnel of 12,524 military and 10,766 civilian personnel, plus German and Italian prisoners of war housed while performing work details and some construction. In 1953 Personnel Processing was moved to Fort Lewis in exchange for the 26th AAA group to establish the Nike Ajax, then to Nike Hercules Missiles in 1959, being redesignated the 26th Artillery (Air Defense) Group, joined by the 635th Radar Squadron (Air Force) in 1960. Then the Fort became the Command Operation and Administrative Support of the U.S. Army Reserve Forces and ROTC's of the Northwest. In 1961 the House Appropriations Committee suggested the Fort be declared surplus. This brought on a flood of proposed uses by the Military, Federal, State and School agencies. In 1966 Metro constructed a sewage treatment plant on the salt marsh area.

Following the 1910 effort at co-development, the Seattle Park Department began efforts to lease the Fort for park purposes in 1927, resulting in a Senate Bill which was rejected by the Secretary of War, declaring the Fort to be indispensable. Efforts continued periodically, becoming massive after 1961, culminating in the surplus of 391 of the 1150 acres in 1971. Northwest Indian groups also made application for the land and at the request of Federal Government a mutual development plan was agreed upon: a Developmental Agreement with the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, subject to many controls and conditions for the City, for a Cultural and Social Service Center (value of the 391 acres \$5,225,000): deed "delivered" to the City in 1972 by Patricia Cox, daughter of President R. M. Nixon.

ECOLOGY - DISCOVERY PARK

DR. STEVEN C. PORTER: The Fort Lawton sea cliffs are basically a promontory forming the southern headland of Shilshole Bay (from an Indian Word: "cilcole" meaning "shoving a threat through a needle") rising to a height of 250' above high tide. The upper plateau

continues to rise to a summit of 360'. The nearly vertical cliffs expose an unparalleled record of the advance and retreat of the last great Ice Age glacier 15,000-13,500 years ago. The layers of sediment reveal a history of 25,000 years; wood fragments obtained from the sediments have been radiocarbon dated from 18,000 to 22,000 years old.

The lowest layer revealed on the seacliffs is an interglacial sediment deposited by northward-flowing streams, with some even-laminated clays, some containing fossil shells of fresh water mollusks representing deposition in shallow lakes. At this interglacial time, this region was apparently a broad plain, perhaps a flood plain of a stream, containing fossil pollen indicating forests dominated by pine and spruce, suggesting a climate both cooler and moister than at present.

Overlying these layers is a thick unit of dark gray lake silt and clay indicating deposition in a large fresh water lake apparently generated by the southward flow of a massive glacier that blocked the north flowing streams at the east end of the Strait of Juan de Fuca: the massive Puget Glacier Lobe, 18,000 years ago.

Above these is a thick section of cross-bedded yellowish sand extending nearly to the top of the cliffs. The bedding and structure of the sand indicates it was deposited by streams of meltwater flowing southward off the advancing glacier front. The earlier lake had apparently been largely filled with sediment and streams wandered across the vast outwash plain that extended over the present Puget Sound area.

The entire seacliff is capped by a hard, dense stony sediment deposited by the Vashon Glacial Sheet: Vashon Till (after Vashon Island: first identified). The Till mantles the Puget Sound lowland to a maximum depth of 30'. Over this occur patches of sand and gravel laid down as the glacier melted back. The deep troughs of Puget Sound owe their origin to excavation by the glacier.

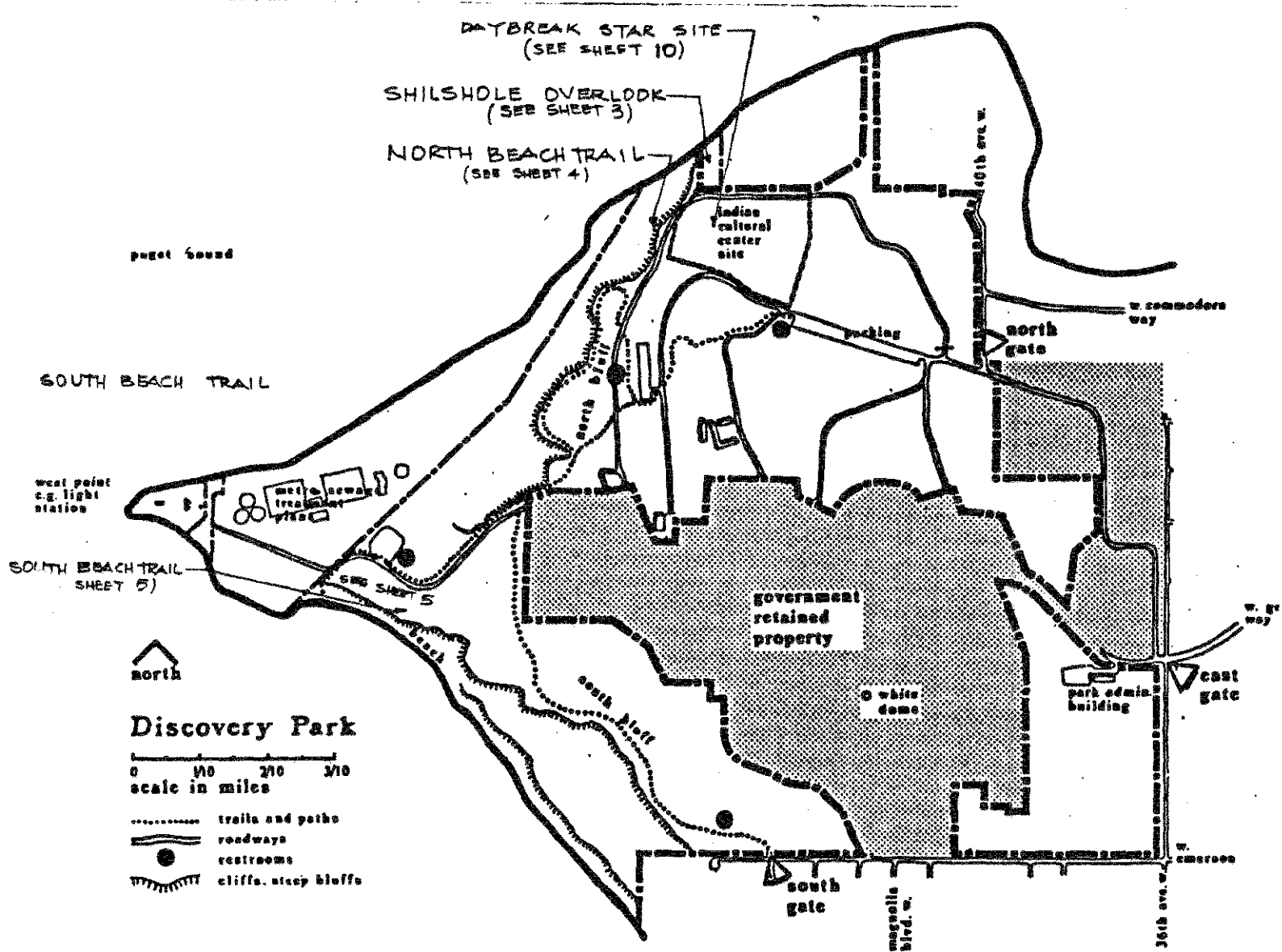
ROBERT PYLE:

In pioneer days the Beach teemed with sea life, but the growth of urban life introduced new sewage near the shoreline and the beach became uninhabitable for sea life and unfit for human enjoyment. With the construction of Metro, the sea life is beginning to return; sea cucumbers, some seaweed, kelp crabs, small coiffids and sand dollars. High tide means wading at the base of the cliffs but low tide reveals a wide, sandy beach.

Natural vegetation (differentiated from ornamental landscaping in Fort area) includes: second growth Douglas fir with an inter-mixing of Western Red Cedar, Oregon Maple, Green Ash, Alder, Madrona, Pacific Dogwood, Hazel, Western Hemlock. The thickets abound with Scotch Broom, Salal, Indian Plum, Sword Fern, Oregon Grape, Red Elderberry, Red Currant, Miner's Lettuce, Horsetails, Stinging Nettles, Shelf Mushrooms on logs, Foxglove, Fireweed, Thistles, Salmonberries, Blackberries, Licorice Ferns on logs, wispy Ocean Spray, False Solomon's Seal, Coltsfoot, Groundsel, Huckleberry, Butterfly Bush, Honeysuckle, Wild Cherry, Briar Rose, Bracken Fern, Skunk Cabbage, Nursery Logs, Mosses.

A wealth of woodland birds: Yellow Barred Finches, Warblers, Sparrows, Thrushes, Flycatchers, Waxwings, Woodpeckers, Hummingbirds, Chickadees, Jays, Hawks, Swallows, Screech Owls, Horned Owls, Northern Shrike, Red Crossbill, Swifts, Grosbeaks, Wrens, Quail, Pheasant, Goldfinches, Towhees, Nighthawks, Snowy Owls, and an occasional Bald Eagle.

Animal life must be abundant.

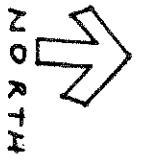
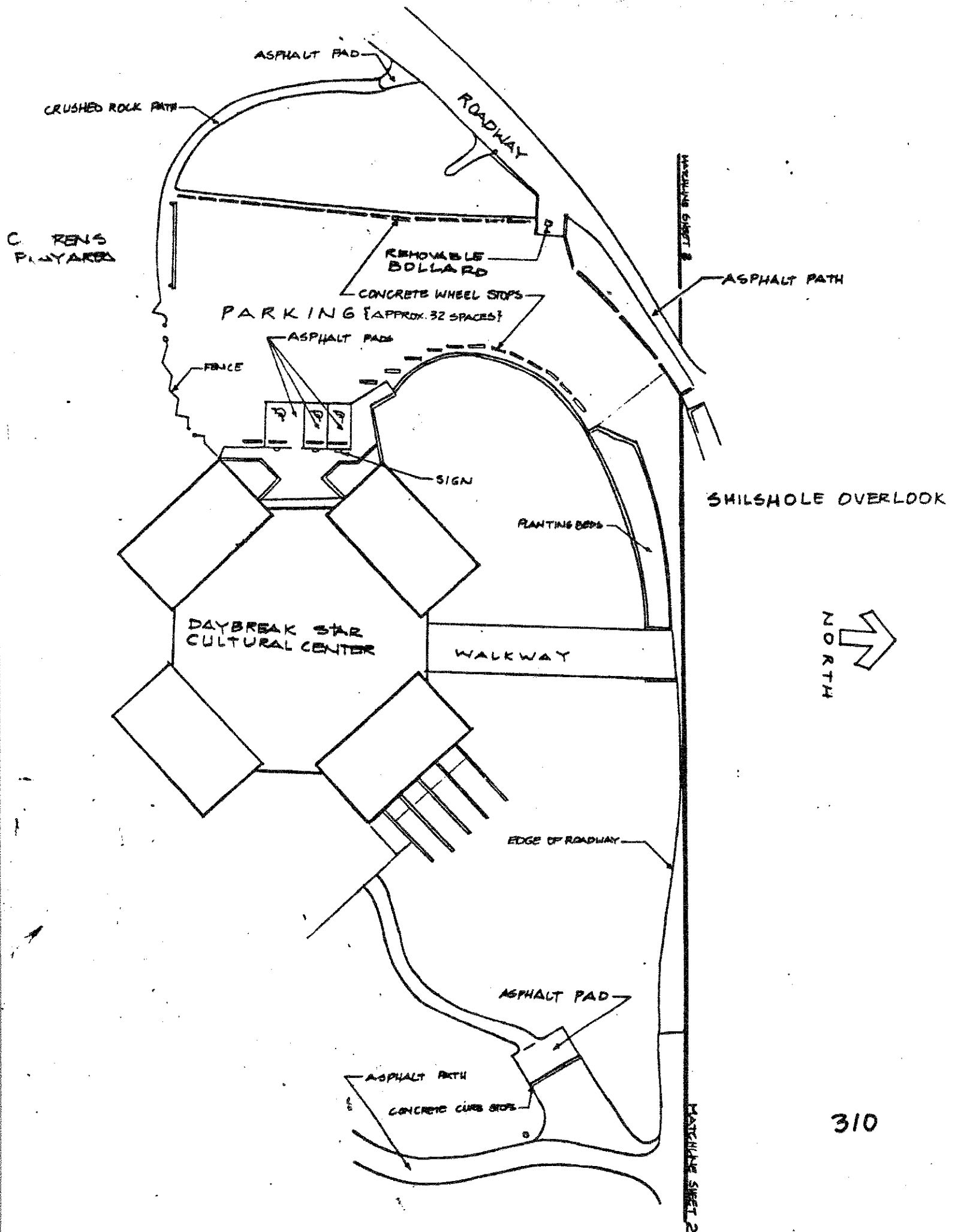


Discovery Park

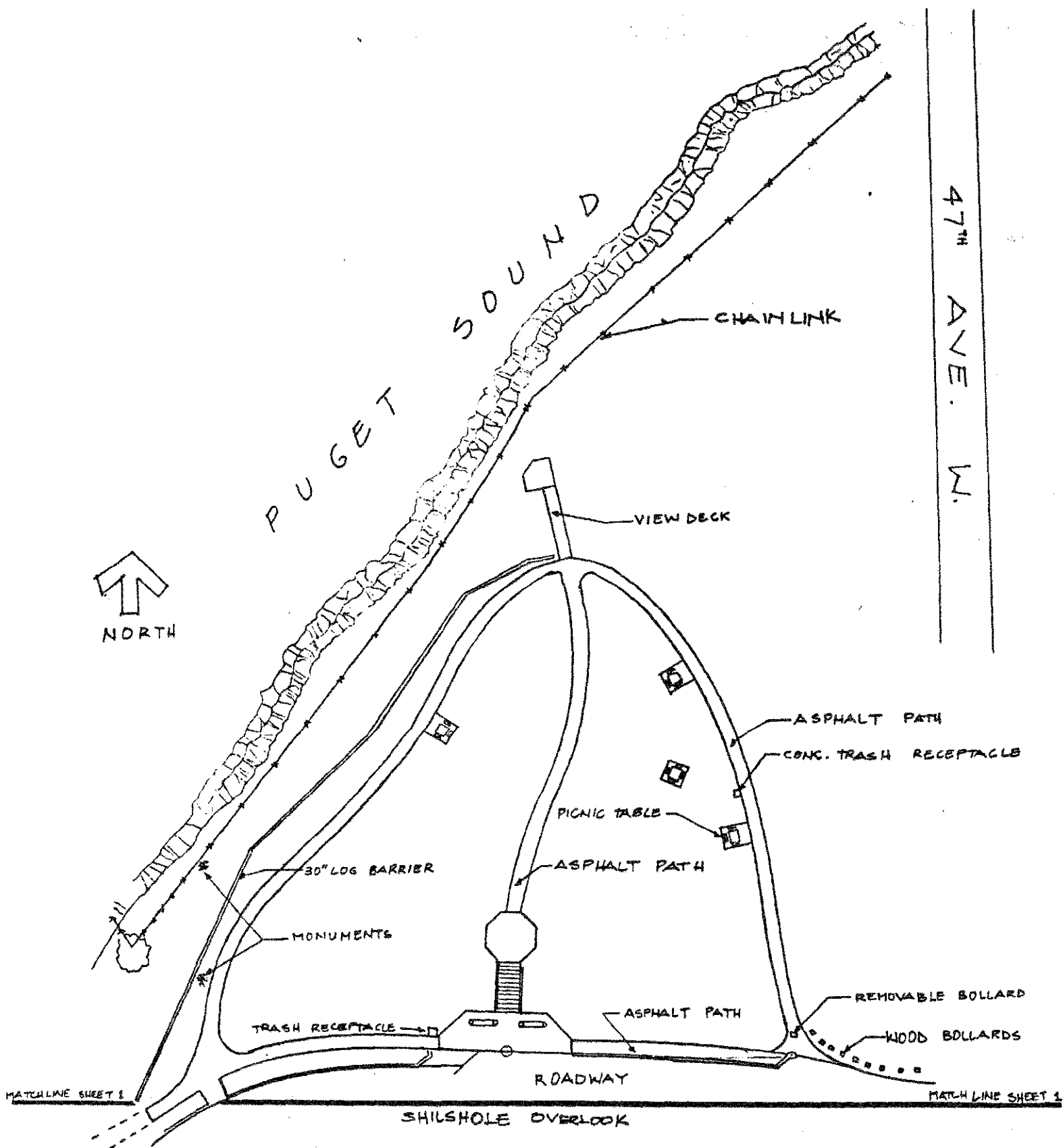
0 1/10 2/10 3/10
scale in miles

- trails and paths
- roadways
- restrooms
- ▬ cliffs, steep bluffs

310



310



COST OF PURCHASE: NO COST {FED. SURPLUS PROPERTY CONVEYANCE PROGRAM}
 SIZE OF PROPERTY: 2.5 ACRES
 YEAR COMPLETED: 1983
 DESIGNER: E. BODE
 COST OF DEVELOPMENT: \$139,667.92
 SOURCE OF FUNDING: FORWARD THRUST
 ADDRESS: 5401 - 47th AVENUE WEST

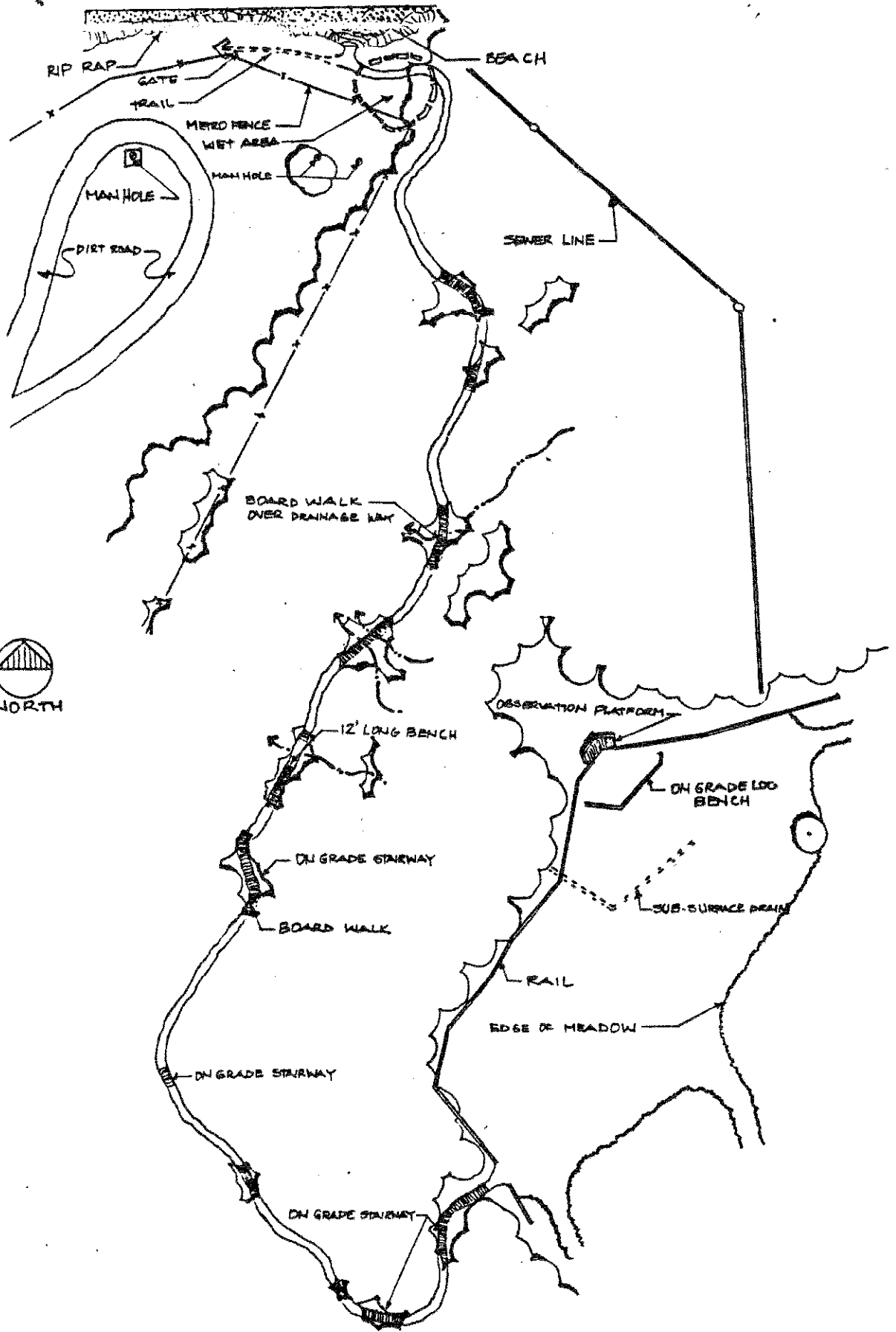
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12 16 85

12 05 85

DISCOVERY PARK - SHILSHOLE OVERLOOK

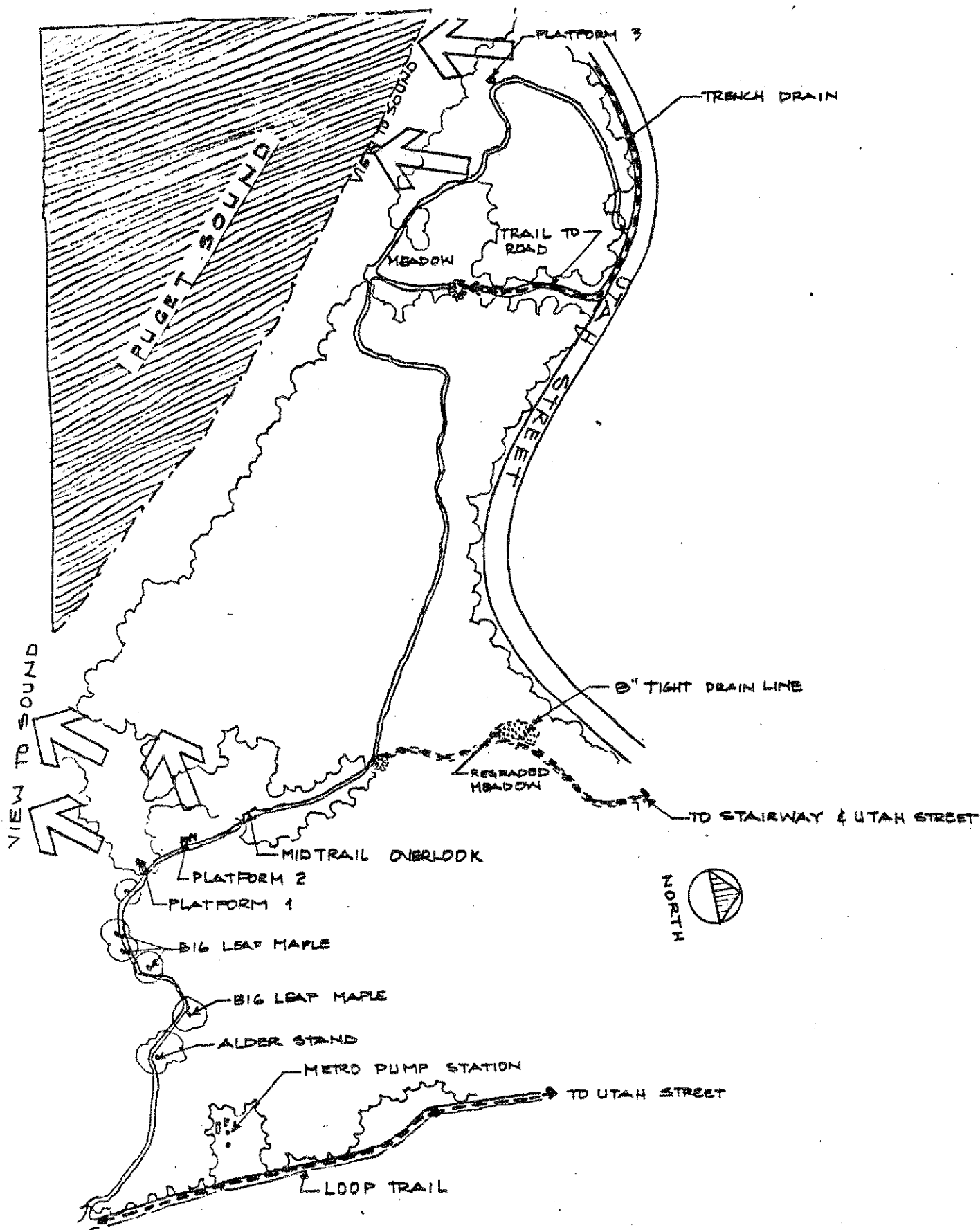
SHEET 3 OF 11



310

12-18-86
 DISCOVERY PARK
 NORTH BEACH TRAIL

SHEET 4 OF 11



COST OF IMPROVEMENT: \$ 152,123.81
 YEAR OF IMPROVEMENT: 1984
 DESIGNED BY: ART RICE EDAW

310

12-18-85

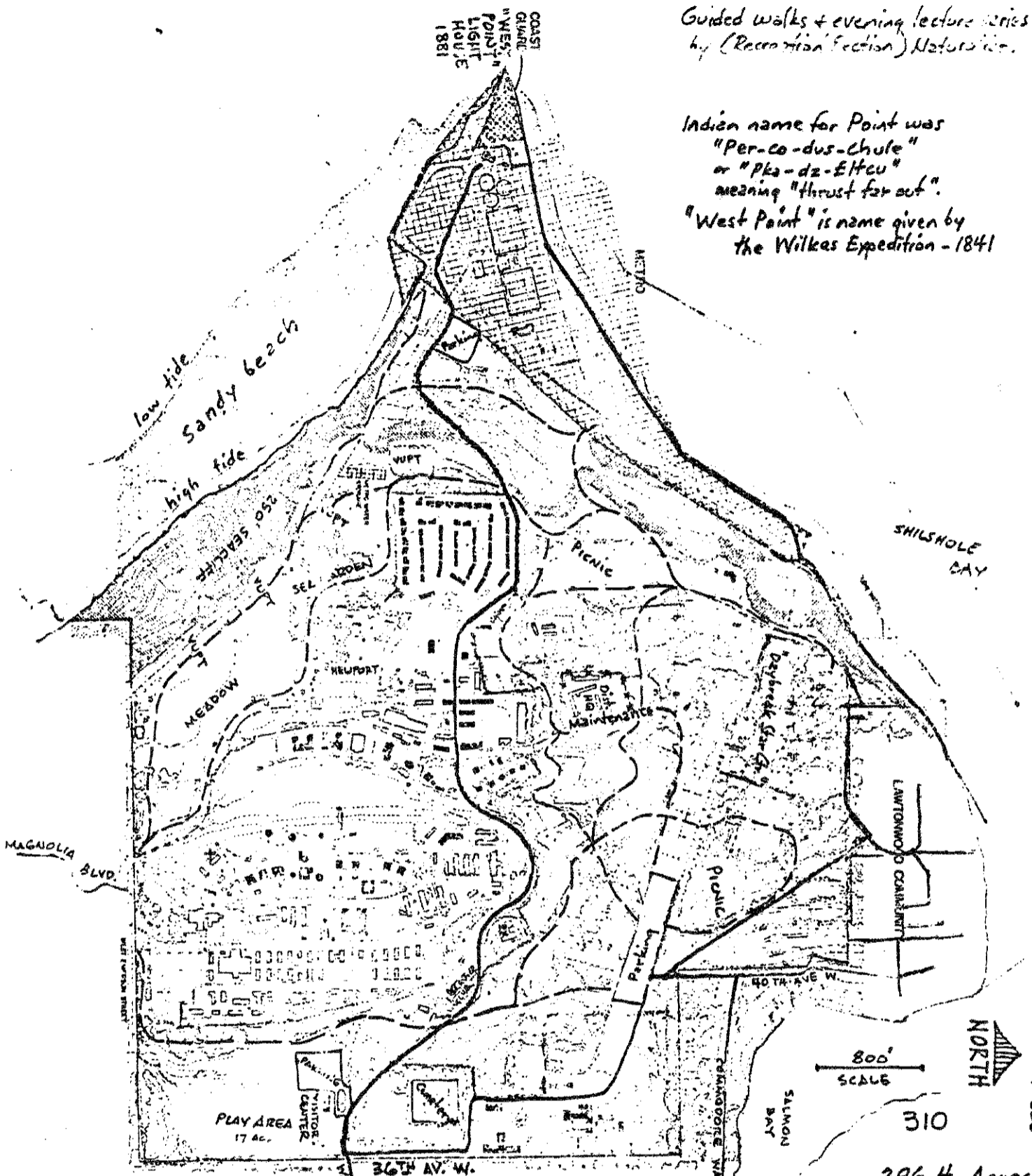
DISCOVERY PARK
 SOUTH BEACH TRAIL

PUGET SOUND

Guided walks + evening lecture series
by (Recreation Section) Naturalists.

Indian name for Point was
"Per-co-dus-chute"
or "Pka-dz-Etlu"
meaning "thrust far out".

"West Point" is name given by
the Wilkes Expedition - 1841



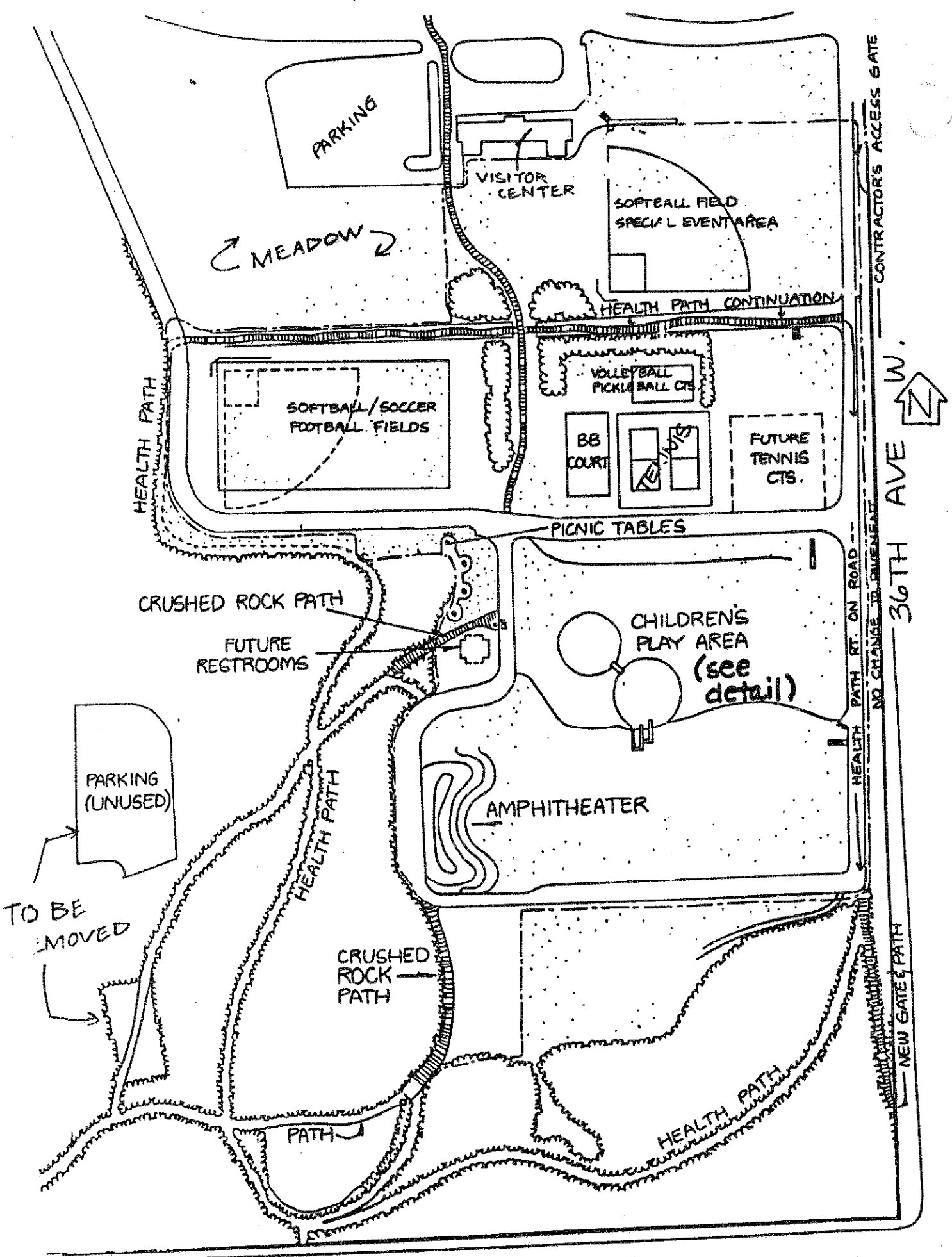
— PATH —
Federal Grant: 1972 "Legacy of Parks"
"for public park or recreation."

Fort: 282-0100
V. CTR. 3801 W. Government Wy./583-2254
4215-36th Av. W.

DISCOVERY PARK
TRUST 6 OR 11

396.4 Acres
(- 17.03 Indian Ctr.
+ 351.8 Tidelands
30 yr. lease)

91276



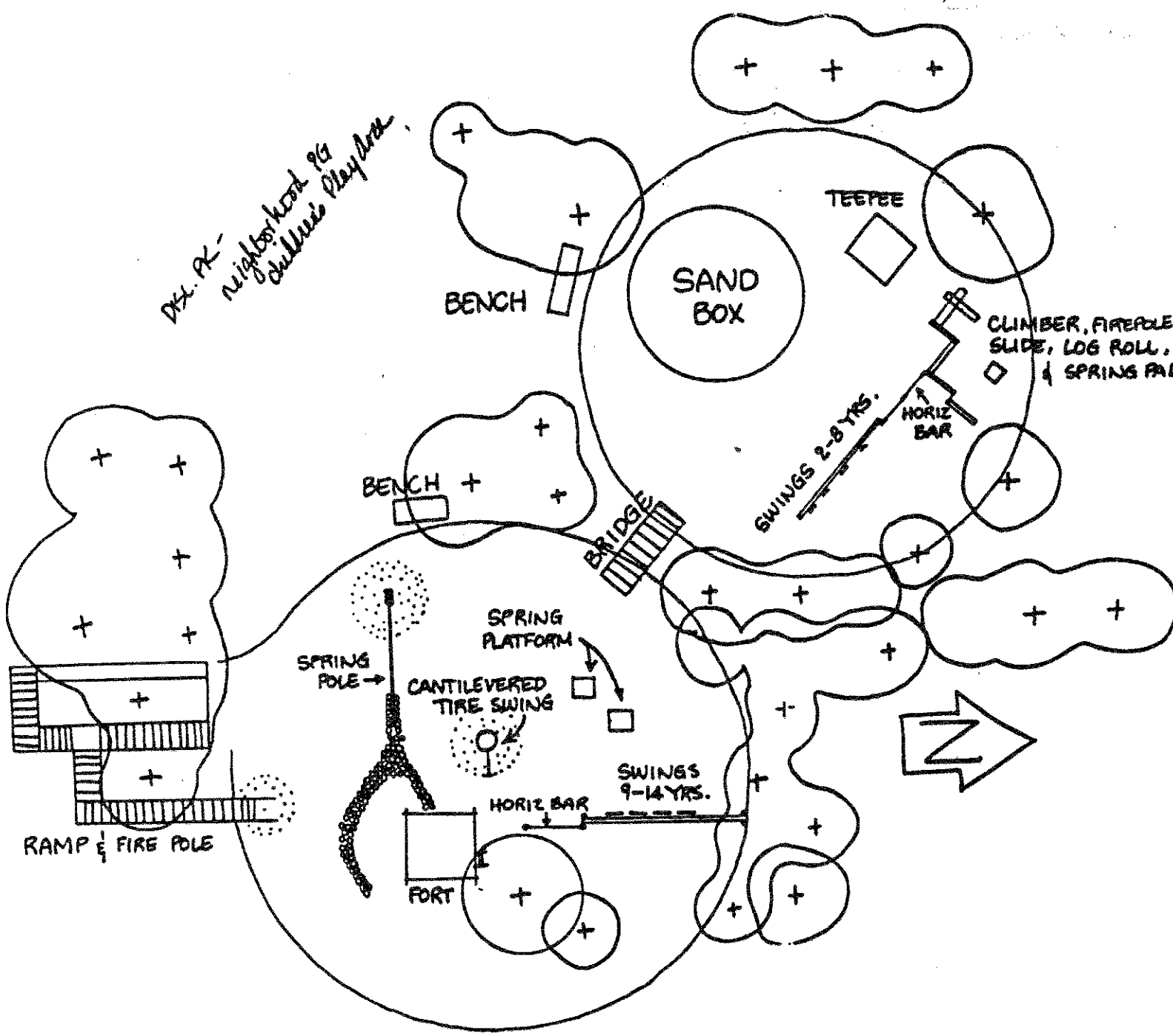
082280 JMP

1977 Construction
 \$139,460.02 Valley Crest Landscape Inc.

310

310 DISCOVERY PK.
 NEIGHBORHOOD
 P.G.

Discovery PK -
Neighborhood PG
Children's Play Area

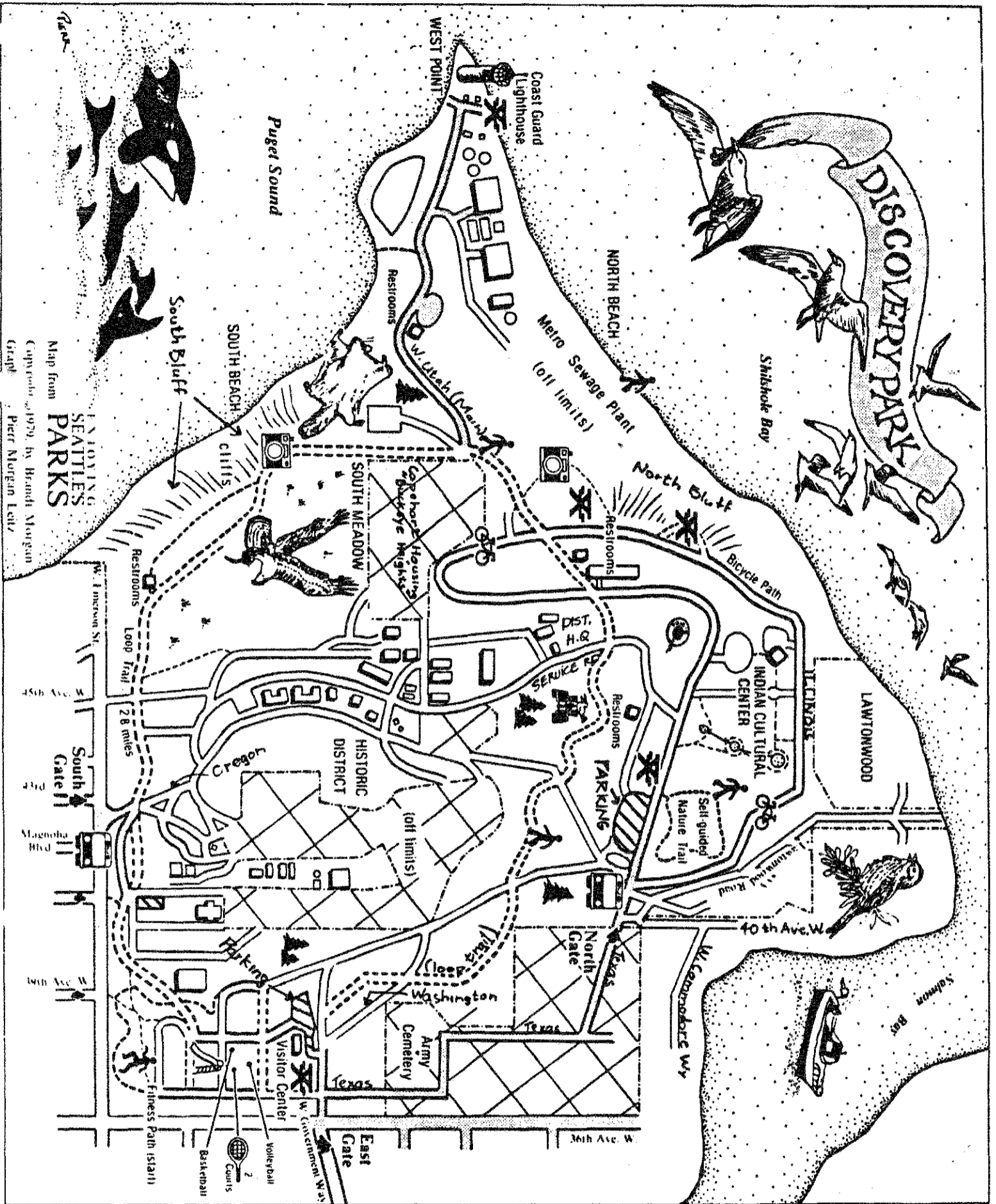


AREA COVERED BY 12" OF
50% SAND & 50% SAWDUST

08788 110

(detail)
310 DISCOVERY PK.
NEIGHBORHOOD
P.G. CHILDREN'S
PLAY AREA

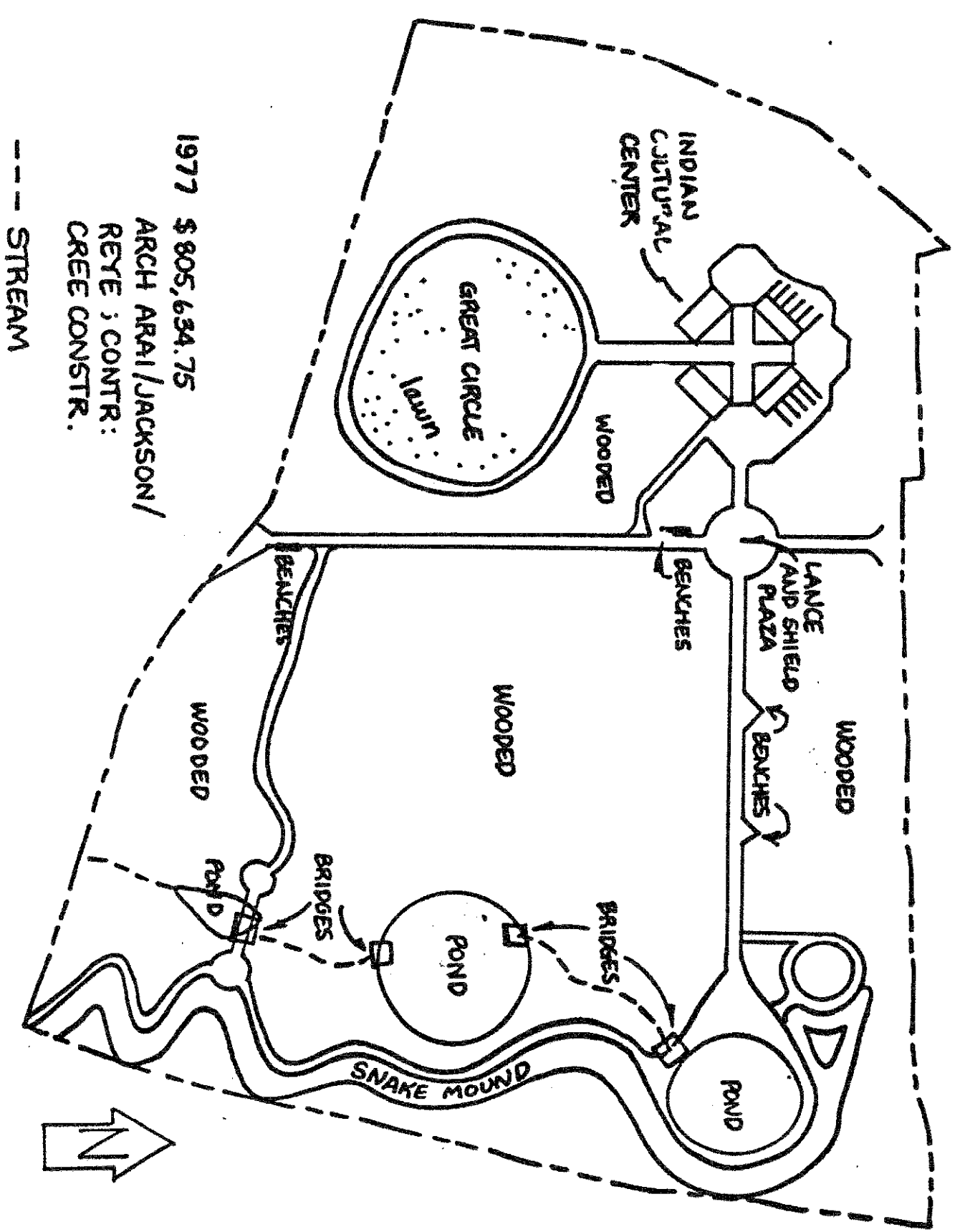
North →



Map from
ENJOYING
SEATTLE'S
PARKS
Copyright © 1979 by Brandt Morgan
Graphic
Pier Morgan Ltd.

1975 - Loop Trail Designated as "National Recreation Trail"

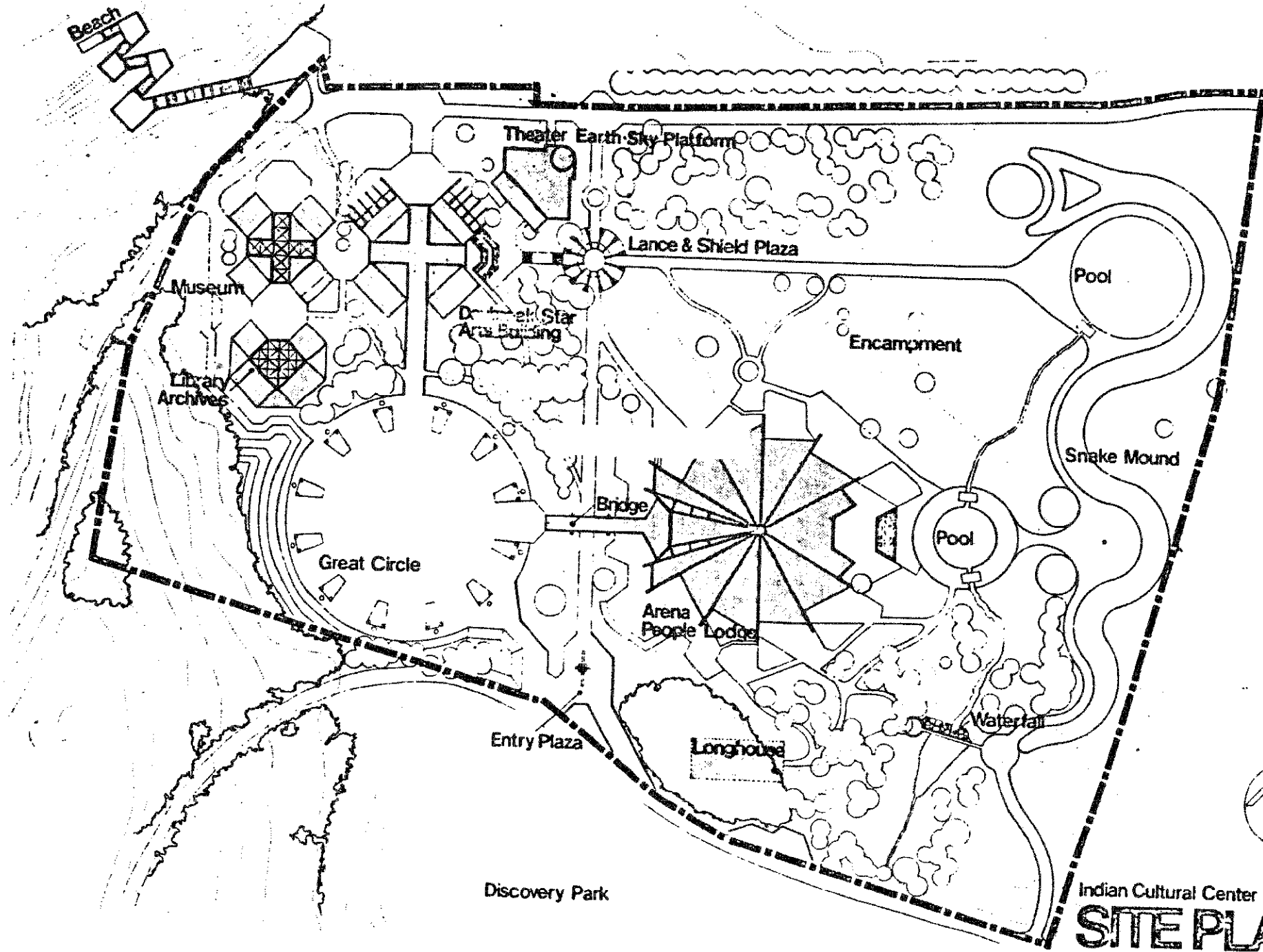
310 DISCOVERY PARK
527 ACRES
(351.8 AC. TIDELANDS) SHEET 9 OF 11



1977 \$805,634.75
 ARCH ARAI/JACKSON/
 REYE ; CONTR:
 CREE CONSTR.
 --- STREAM

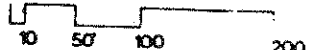
310 DISCOVERY PARK

INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER



SHEET 110611

Indian Cultural Center
SITE PLAN



United Indians All Tribes Foundation
 Arai/Jackson/Reyes-L... gn Team