

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME
Historic Lake Sacajawea Park

and/or Common
N.A.

2. LOCATION

UTM References See continuation sheet
Zone _____ Easting _____
Northing _____

Street & Number
Unplatted blocks 57,58,59,60,61; 119, Longview Addtn. #8 - not for publication

City, Town Longview - vicinity of

State Washington County Cowlitz

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership: public private both
Status: occupied unoccupied work in progress
Present Use: agriculture commercial educational entertainment government
industrial military museum park private residence
religious scientific transportation other:

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name City of Longview c/o J. Walter Barham, City Manager

Street & Number 1525 Broadway

City, Town Longview State Washington
- vicinity of 98632

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hare, S. Herbert, Landscape Architect. Fowler's Slough Construction Drawings. Kansas City, 1923 - 1926. Deposited in Longview Public Library.
Long-Bell Files, Correspondence with Hare & Hare, Longview History Room, Longview Public Library.
McClelland Jr., John M. R.A. Long's Planned City, The Story of Longview, Bicentennial Edition, Longview. Longview Publishing Co. 1976

6. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title Michael L. Neuschwanger, Architectural Apprentice

Organization City of Longview Date
Urban Services & Permits Department March 12, 1985

Street & Number 1525 Broadway Telephone 577-3330

City or Town Longview State Washington
98632

7. DESCRIPTION

Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed
Circle one: unaltered altered
Circle one: original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

attach photo

The crescent shaped, one and one half mile long Lake Sacajawea Park features a narrow body of water, undulating in shape, with several islands gently sloping banks and small fields. The lake was excavated and transformed from Fowler's Slough, which drained across the valley floor, to its present controlled and picturesque state. Located between the city's central core area to the east, and the Olympic and St. Helen's / Highland's additions to the west and southwest, the park is a major reference feature for the residential neighborhoods that surround it. The park is bounded along its entire length by the curving Nichol's and Kessler Boulevards. The park is intersected by three arterial avenues and a foot bridge, dividing the park into five sections.

The character of the park bears the influence of the Romantic, Landscape Gardening style, by its curvilinear, gently undulating forms and its picturesque, natural appearance. An abundance of plant species are employed in the making of the park's spatial character. The dominant types are deciduous and coniferous trees, shrubs and hedgerows. A canopy of elm trees rings the park, along the edges of the boulevards, along with a gravel path system which runs around the lake and through the park. Deciduous trees are often planted (see continuation sheet)

Verbal boundary description: see continuation sheet

Acreage: 112. Land: 60 Acres. Water: 52 Acres.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates	1923-1924	Builder/Architect	West Lake/Hare & Hare
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Level of significance: state

a. History

Lake Sacajawea Park was built by West Lake Construction Company under contract with the Long-Bell Lumber Company, as an integral feature of Longview's planned development. It was designed by S. Herbert Hare, of the Kansas City landscape architectural firm of Hare and Hare, which was also responsible for the layout of Longview's plan. S. Herbert Hare was widely respected in the midwest, serving as the president of the American Society of Landscape Architects from 1941-1945. George Kessler, who was important in the development of the Kansas City park system, was involved in the early stages of schematic design as a planning consultant, before his death in 1923. The boulevard running along the western banks of the park was named in his honor. The boulevard running along the eastern bank was named Nichols Boulevard by Chairman Robert A. Long of Long-Bell, in honor of J. C. Nichols, the Kansas City developer who volunteered his time to Long-Bell (see continuation sheet)

b. Evaluation of Significance

Lake Sacajawea Park is significant to the State of Washington for its development as a naturalistic park, strongly influenced by the Landscape Gardening style, which was popular in the United States in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and into the twentieth. The park's principle designer was S. Herbert Hare, of Kansas City, who was respected and a leader in the profession in the midwest. The park is historically important as the major natural feature of the city plan, about which the residential neighborhoods formed, and the schools, churches, hospital and community house were built during settlement. It is also important by its association with the Long-Bell Lumber Company, who built the park in its development of the planned, industrial city.

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
CONTINUATION SHEET

1. NAME Lake Sacajawea Park

7. DESCRIPTION - continued

in groups, with a few dominant species, such as oak, maple and ash, and accompanied by other individual specimens, such as flowering plums, and golden-rain trees. Spatially the groupings reinforce the park edges and lake shores, exploiting the "natural" features of the park landscape. Coniferous trees, such as white fir, pine, hemlock and cedar are planted more sparingly than deciduous trees, in groups and individually. Columnar poplar trees and willows are often located at or near bridge crossings and along the lake shore with alders. Small trees are often related to the edges of larger patterns, or with shrubs and hedgerows. Shrub and hedgerow groupings are typically located along paths, particularly where junctions occur, such as at street crossings. There are several deciduous and evergreen species ascribed in these positions, including oregon grape, forsythia, vibernum, abelia, honeysuckle and ceanothus.

At each bridge crossing, the shape of the lake necks down, with its banks forming a degree of closure within each section of the lake. The treatment of land forms in each section varies, in pattern and character from one another. In the central section of the park is the lake's largest island, which is accessible by a small, barrel vaulted, concrete bridge. This section is intersected on its northern end by a footbridge, built in 1969, in the position of the original. The layout of the south facing banks near the crossing are hospitable to large gatherings for water festivals and celebrations. Other sections of the park feature inaccessible islands, which were allowed to evolve naturally, after their initial grading and planting. At the end of Larch Street, in the West Side Addition, a low wall, balustrade and a set of steps constructed of rough cut stone terminates the axis, which runs to Jefferson Square, ten blocks to the east. Across the lake from the steps is the grounds of Robert A. Long High School.

Trees and shrubs planted during the park's construction have matured, becoming integrated with indigenous trees such as alder and maple, as well as shrubs and reeds. The fragile plantings along the lake edges have been the least successful of the original surviving plant types, although yellow iris, which was planted originally thrives along the lake's banks. Some water related trees have also been lost through the years, as well as a few of the hedgerows and shrubs of the upper banks.

The park underwent an extensive renovation in the 1970's, when several plinth-like docks, which often feature small pavilions, were constructed at intermittent points along the lake shore. Additional paths were also constructed during the renovation, extending under the bridges, and in the west bank of the central section, along the lake shore. Shrubs and hedgerows were introduced along the lake edges at these points, in a manner fairly consistent with the earlier plantings. The Veteran's Memorial Building was constructed in 1945. Two lavatory facilities, and an open pavilioned picnic shelter have been added to the original grounds.

The bridges are all located in their originally intended positions. The Twentieth Avenue Bridge is a timber piling structure with wood plank show vaulting constructed in the 1940's replacing an earlier structure at the same location. The Washington Way Bridge was constructed in 1934 of timber piling, but has been widened twice in later years. The Louisiana Street Bridge, constructed of reinforced concrete, was not built until 1967, in the originally intended position. The original foot bridge, on axis with Hemlock Street, collapsed on July 4, 1967. A steel, parabolic arched bridge was constructed in 1969 to replace the earlier wood structure.

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
CONTINUATION SHEET

1. NAME Lake Sacajawea Park

7. DESCRIPTION - continued

Contributing Elements:

Lake Sacajawea Park (original landscaping, trees shrubs and lake), 1923-1924)
Larch Street Terrace, (1923-1924)
Lion's Island Footbridge, (1923-1924)
Memorial Flower Garden Terrace, altered, (1923-1924)

Non-contributing Elements:

Twentieth Avenue Bridge, (1940)
Washington Way Bridge, altered, (1934)
Hemlock Street Footbridge, (1967)
Louisiana Street Bridge, (1967)
Veteran's Memorial Building, (1945)
Two Lavatory Facilities, (circa 1960)
Picnic Shelter, (circa 1960)
Timber Structure, (circa 1975)
Seven Terraces on Lake Edge (1976)
Bus Shelter, (circa 1980)

Verbal Boundary Description: unplatted blocks 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 119, Longview #8

Beginning at the north end of Lake Sacajawea Park, at Ocean Beach Highway, on the left hand curb, proceed south along Nichols Boulevard one and three quarters miles, (1 3/4), to Fifteenth Avenue. Then proceed along the left hand curb of Fifteenth Avenue 800 feet crossing Kessler Boulevard, northeast to Douglas Street. Then proceed northwest along left hand curb of Douglas Street 340 feet to junction of Kessler Boulevard. Then proceed north along left hand curb of Kessler Boulevard, one and three quarters miles to Ocean Beach Highway to point of origin.

USGS Quad: Kelso, WA-OR Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES:

- a. 10/504225/5110120
- b. 10/503950/5109140
- c. 10/504630/5107980
- d. 10/503730/5108730
- e. 10/503850/5110040

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

1. NAME Lake Sacajawea Park

8. SIGNIFICANCE

a. History - continued

in the schematic stages of city planning.

The Longview Daily News sponsored a city-wide contest in 1925 to name the park, which was previously called Fowler's Slough, for the farmer who had owned the property along its banks. The winning entry, Sacajawea, was after the famous Shoshone interpreter who accompanied Lewis and Clark down the Columbia River past the site of the eventual Long-Bell mills and the city, in their celebrated expedition of 1804. The park has served the city well as the site of early water festivals, which included swimming and boating events. Presently, the annual Independence Day celebration draws thousands to the day long Fourth of July festivities and fireworks display.

In 1937, several sections of the park which were still owned by Long-Bell were found to be delinquent in the payment of \$79,325 in back taxes. Threatened by public foreclosure and auction, the park was saved by the Bond Holders Committee and an accompanying fund drive, and then deeded to the city. The city presently maintains the park, which bears a high degree of integrity in its appearance. The park's trees, shrubs and hedgerows are now fully mature, pruned and clipped in a manner sympathetic to the naturalistic appearance of Landscape Gardening style.

Lake Sacajawea Park was a major feature of the City's plan, as a green belt running through the city's residential neighborhoods. Along the boulevards fronting the park, several important cultural buildings were constructed during the settlement period. These include: Longview Community House, (nominated); Robert A. Long High School, (nominated); Longview Community Church, (nominated); First Christian Church, (nominated); St. Rose Catholic Church, (demolished and replaced); Kessler Grade School, (demolished and replaced); and the Longview Memorial Hospital, (altered). Many of these buildings are largely intact and continue to function as they did originally. In addition to its role as a naturalistic park, the greenbelt served to divide the city's core area and prestigious West Side Residential Addition, to the east, from the less expensive residential additions extending to the west.

LAKE SACAJAWEA PARK

CONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS:

1. Larch St. Terrace
2. "Lions" Island Footbridge
3. Memorial Flower Garden Terrace

NON-CONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS:

4. Twentieth Ave. Bridge
5. Washington Way Bridge
6. Hemlock St. Footbridge
7. Louisiana St. Bridge
8. Veterans' Memorial Building
9. Lavatory Facilities (2)
10. Picnic Shelter
11. Timber Structure
12. Terraces (7)

