



Cowen Park + Ravenna Blvd. originally were a deep ravine like Ravenna Park, having been cut by drainage from the post-Ice Age "Lake Russell" (formed by melt-off from the "Vashon Glacial Ice Sheet" 50,000 years ago. The glacial basin remaining is "Green Lake" which continued to drain through this ravine until about 1911; installation of sewer and first fill in Boulevard; most recent fill @ Cowen Park in 1961 w/dirt from Seattle Freeway. Stream is now mostly spring-fed. (some are mineral). Drains into Union Bay; shoreline (until 1917) is indicated by big curve of railroad.

**COWEN PARK:** (west of 15th Ave.) as inscribed on stone Gate Posts, is named in memory of Charles Cowen (of the Haynes-Cowen Co, real estate + insurance) who, in 1906, gave this park to the City of Seattle: "Man does not live by bread alone."

The present 15th Ave. Bridge built (1938), replacing wooden street car trestle; a spur track went along Service Drive 'til 1941.

**RAVENNA PARK:** named c. 1889 by the original owner and developer: W. W. Beck, because ravine reminded him of Ravenna, Italy, famed for its pine trees. [Ravenna, Italy, was a Roman naval base, seaport + capital of Italy under Byzantine Empire; scene of Battle of 1512] Other names used by Beck were "Big Tree Pk.", "Ravenna Springs", + "Twin Maple Lane." After purch. by Seattle, the name was changed in 1919 to honor Teddy Roosevelt who had died that January. However a popular petition in 1931 restored the name Ravenna. By then the huge trees had died + been removed. By another petition the southeast corner was filled for a playground + WPA (1931) built a large scenic wading pool fed by Ravenna Creek. It was abandoned in 1950, after a long stagnation caused by drain failure; filled in 1964 by Metro Sewer excavation.

X.F.D.R 1933-1945

sheet 1  
**COWEN/RAVENNA PK.**  
**RAVENNA BLVD. sheet 3**  
**(BECK PL.) ENGR. 041668**