

When the first Indian looked upon this valley and named the river Duwam-psh (meaning "many colored river"), the waters of the river and tides were flowing through and across a wide tidal basin that stretched from (Duwamish Head) to the foot of this hill and from (Jackson Street) south to (South Seattle), except for an irregularly shaped peninsula extending from (Jackson Street) along (First Avenue South) to about opposite this viewpoint. Twice a day up to 16' of saltwater flooded against the foot of this hill - the park meadow below is the result of a second filling: by the Freeway. The valley to the north (Dearborn Street) was then a low saddle in the ridge between (Beacon Hill) and (First Hill). Untold generations later came ships with great, white wings, heralding the coming of the white man whose way of life could not let him be content to live with the land as it was but rather to make his own image of the land. So Henry Yesler brought a sawmill on a ship and complied with the command of the Oregon Territory Donation Land Act of 1850 and built Seattle's first industry to help "clear the wilderness" so it could be "cultivated . . . and occupied for four years." Some settlers developed farm lands in the rich soil of the river valley - above the reach of the salty tides - while others cut logs from the abundant conifer forests into pilings and drove them in rows across the tidal flats. On these they built piers and warehouses for shipping, ship repairs and shipbuilding - the forests yielding fine masts - and threads of steel for wood and coal burning steam engines to haul the freight. Then came Eugene Semple in the 1890s. A former governor who had become a member of the State Harbor Line Commission, he had a plan endorsed by businessmen and the Army Engineers, so he formed a company with Elisha P. Ferry and signed a contract with Gov. John McGraw to dig a canal from this end of Elliott Bay to Lake Washington, using the excavated earth to fill the tide flats. They brought teams of horsepower dragging scoops plus men with picks and shovels and the ridge's saddle moved down onto the tide flats. Meanwhile the growing town was demanding better streets, so regrading projects were bringing more fill to the tide land and to the town's waterfront. And a dredging project straightened out the river and two channels, creating Harbor Island. Semple's great project came to a sudden halt when "North End" businessmen and property owners went to court with many litigations because they wanted the prosperity represented by the ship canal to become a part of the growing Ballard-Fremont shipping and fishing community. Work on the cut between Beacon and First Hills became another project completed in 1912, but to provide for the flow of vehicles on Dearborn Street; it also provided for the swifter flight of the trolley cars from Seattle to Renton by eliminating the car's original zigzag route over the ridge. Additional cutting and creating of the park meadow came in 1967 with development of the Freeway interchange. The filled tidal flats were rapidly developed with manufacturing, wholesale and retail business, together with railroad yards and thoroughfares. And Beacon Hill was developing, too, linked to First Hill with the 12th Avenue bridge and Beacon Avenue down to Airport Way. The need for a seamen's hospital was filled in 1933 with building of the 16-story 300-bed Federally sponsored structure identified then as the Marine Hospital, renamed the Public Health Service Hospital after the 1949 Veterans Hospital was able to absorb the Armed Services duties of this unit.

Obviously the excavation projects here created terminal slopes for both Beacon Hill and First Hill. In 1917 the City condemned the property upon this new slope of Beacon Hill for purposes of retaining walls, drains, terracing . . . park and public use . . . for a dangerous slide area was anticipated; then the City Engineer directed to draw up a new plat because it developed that more land was taken than necessary. So "Gold Heights Add'n" was filed in 1919 (origin of the name is not identified), the new "streets" and lots conforming to the new contours; but no park areas shown or dedicated, so the property was held by the Building Department until authorized to sell. In 1928 the City Council donated 12 acres of the plat as a site for the U. S. Marine Hospital. Compensation from the state for property taken for the Freeway interchange was held for purposes of landscaping this remaining portion of "Gold Heights Addition" - and the Engineering Department was proceeding with such plans when it was determined that the "park purpose" of the 1917 ordinance prevailed over the "omission" of the 1919 plat to identify jurisdiction. So in 1971 jurisdiction of property and funds was turned over to the Department and an off-street parking strip developed on the "bench" along 12th Avenue and trees thinned to provide a viewpoint. Hospital patrons eagerly took over the parking and you couldn't see the view for the cars - controlling parking was a headache.

History: JOSE RIZAL PARK  
9/10/74

(over)

Reminders of Seattle's deep involvement in the Spanish-American War of 1898 are many: a major park honors the VOLUNTEERS who responded with "perfect ecstasies" over the prospect of a war - war fever, spawned by the blowing up of the USS Maine in Havana harbor with loss of 250 lives; plaques cast from the Maine were placed in City Hall Park, Volunteer and Woodland Parks; 2 naval cannon and "The Hiker" statue were placed in Woodland Park; in 1919 Ravenna Park and 10th NE were renamed to honor "Teddy" Roosevelt whose "Rough Riders" participated in the conflict (the park name "Ravenna" was restored in 1930); Admiral Way and District honors Adm. Dewey whose Pacific fleet destroyed 10 Spanish ships at Manila. The treaty with Spain ceded her holdings, including the Philippine Islands to the U.S. which precipitated the Filipino and Cuban insurrection. The establishment of a civil protectorate government in 1900 opened Seattle as a port of entry for the Filipino nationals to The Land of Golden Opportunity. Only a few remained in Seattle, so they became a "minority within a minority" population. They turned to "barrio" living for mutual assistance and to privately preserve their culture - trying to survive by being "invisible" in the International area of Pioneer Square district (the District may be viewed from the park). In 1934 the Filipino was declared an "Alien" and migration drastically reduced. Establishment of the Republic of Philippines in 1946 further reduced migration to 50 a year - a high price for independence. The struggle for equality in the economic and community life was almost with any successes and became identified with the Civil Rights Revolution of the 1960s.

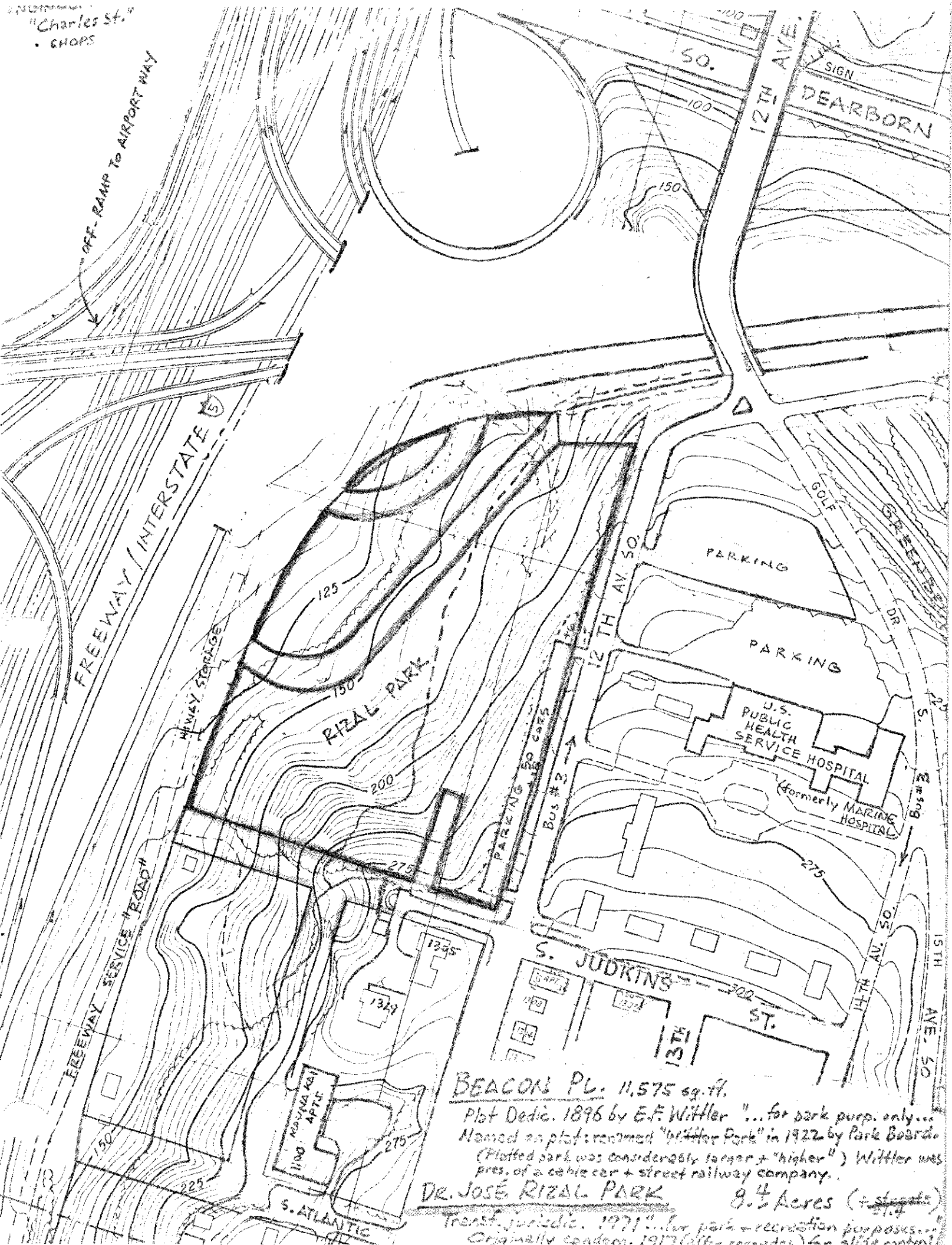
The Filipino community found a favorite spot, the upper picnic area in Seward Park, and it became identified with their nickname - PINOY HILL.

Since establishment in 1960 of the local chapter of the Friends of Rizal in the U.S., efforts have been made to dedicate a suitable feature in Washington to the honor of the heroic man who led the Filipino people to realize their dignity and worth among the cultures of the world - particularly the Spanish who held them in slavery. In 1974 this park and 12th Avenue South bridge were named to honor DR. JOSE RIZAL. Although he was born in the small Philippine Islands (named for Philip II of Spain in 1560s) he soon became an intellectual of the world; his stature comparable with Sun Yat Sen in political leadership, the equal of Sir R. Tagore in literature and art and with M. Ghandi in his personal high morality in political action. He was a writer, poet, novelist, essayist, dramatist, botanist, zoologist, surveyor, engineer, agriculturist, medical doctor, ophthalmic surgeon, painter, sculptor, caricaturist, linguist (22 languages), historian, sociologist, psychologist, anthropologist and philosopher. A fervent patriot, many of his writings sought political and social reforms for the Filipinos and chronicled Filipino history predating Spanish rule. Even though he was en route to Spain when the Filipino insurrection against Spain began in 1896, he was returned to Manila and executed by a feudalistic military tyranny supported by a corrupt clergy for "his complicity in the insurrection". (1861-1896) His studies in Europe (1882-92) and the Philippines embraces all religions and science: his principles of religion were too liberalized for the church. A typical Filipino, Rizal was a blend of many Malayo-Polynesian-Spanish-Japanese ancestors and, by anthropological studies, a part of all the world's cultures: his Treatise on Race (1880) pioneered in exposing the myth of racial superiority. (Ref: Austin Coates: Rizal, Philippine Nationalist and Martyr/Trinidad A. Rojo)

In 1973 the Filipino Alumni Association petitioned the City to name a suitable feature in honor of the heroic man who led the Filipino people to find their dignity and ultimate freedom: this park was selected in 1974 and named to honor DR. JOSE RIZAL.

**RIZAL, JOSÉ** (1861-1896), Filipino patriot and inspirer of Philippine nationalism. sought to prove throughout his career that Filipinos were the intellectual and moral equals of their Spanish masters; he also worked for fundamental political and social reforms. These aims pervaded his writing, most of which was done in Europe, where, with one brief interruption, he resided between 1882 and 1892. His education, centering in medicine but extending to many fields, was acquired in the Philippines and Europe. His two novels, *Noli Me Tangere* (1887) and *El Filibusterismo* (1891), vividly pictured the evils of Spanish rule in the Philippines. In 1890 he published an annotated edition of Morga's *Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas*, hoping to show that the Philippines had its own history before Spanish rule. He also wrote articles for *La*

*Solidaridad*, a Filipino reformist periodical published in Spain. Rizal returned to Manila in 1892 and founded a nationalist reformist society (Liga Filipina), with the result that the Spanish exiled him to Dapitan on northwest Mindanao (1892-96). When the Philippine revolution of 1896 began, Rizal, who was on his way (via Spain) to Cuba for medical service with the Spanish army, did not take any direct part. He was, nevertheless, arrested aboard ship and brought back to Manila to stand trial for complicity in the insurrection. A military court found him guilty, and he was shot Dec. 30, 1896. His death enhanced his already great prestige among Filipinos and stimulated national sentiment. See Rafael Palma, *The Pride of the Malay Race*, trans. by Roman Ozaeta (New York, 1949); Frank C. Laubach, *Rizal: Man and Martyr* (Manila, 1936); W. Retana, *Vida y Escritos del Doctor José Rizal* (Madrid, 1907). (E. C. Cx.)



"Charles St."  
• CHOPS

OFF-RAMP TO AIRPORT WAY

FREEWAY / INTERSTATE 5

HIWAY STORAGE

FREEWAY SERVICE ROAD

RIZAL PARK

PARKING 50 CARS  
BUS #3

PARKING

PARKING

U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE HOSPITAL  
(formerly MARINE HOSPITAL)

S. JUDKINS

13TH ST.

S. ATLANTIC

DEARBORN

12TH AVE.

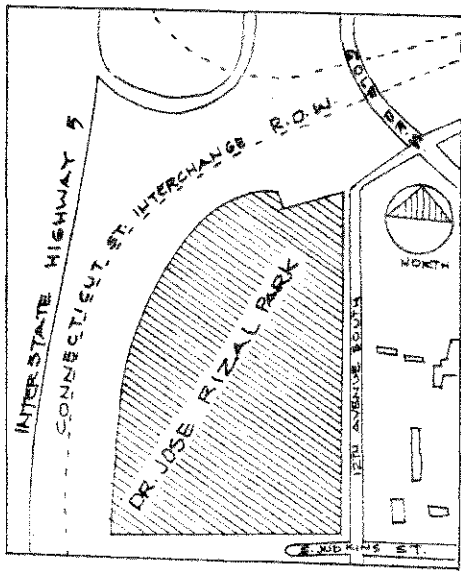
15TH AVE. SO.

BEACONS PL. 11,575 sq. ft.

Plot Dedic. 1896 by E.F. Wittler "...for park purp. only..."  
Named as plot; renamed "Wittler Park" in 1922 by Park Board  
(Platted park was considerably larger + "higher") Wittler was  
pres. of a cable car + street railway company.

DR. JOSÉ RIZAL PARK 9.4 Acres (± 91.4)

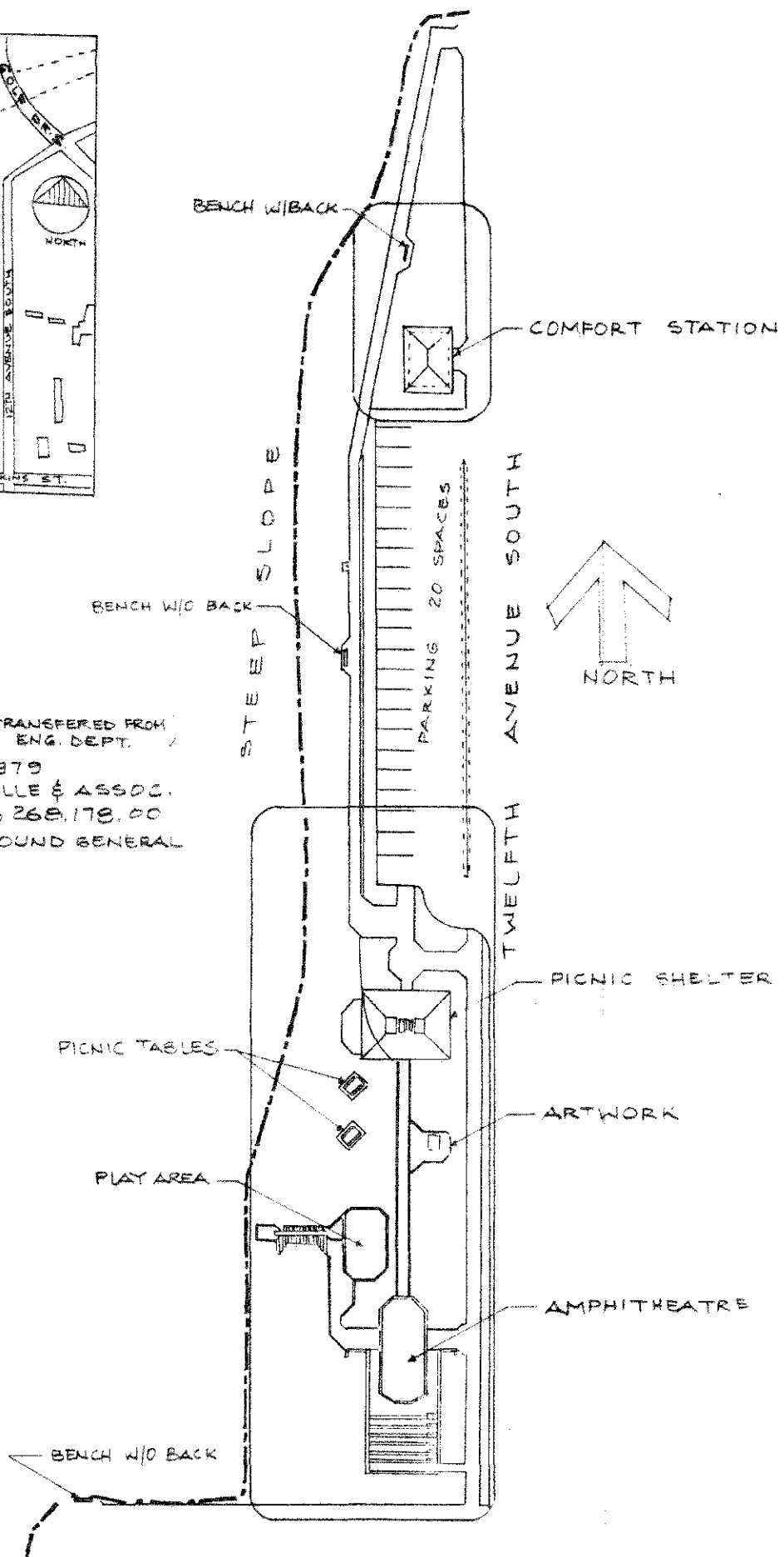
Transf. jurisdic. 1971 "...for park + recreation purposes..."  
Originally ceded. 1917 (after records) for all the contents



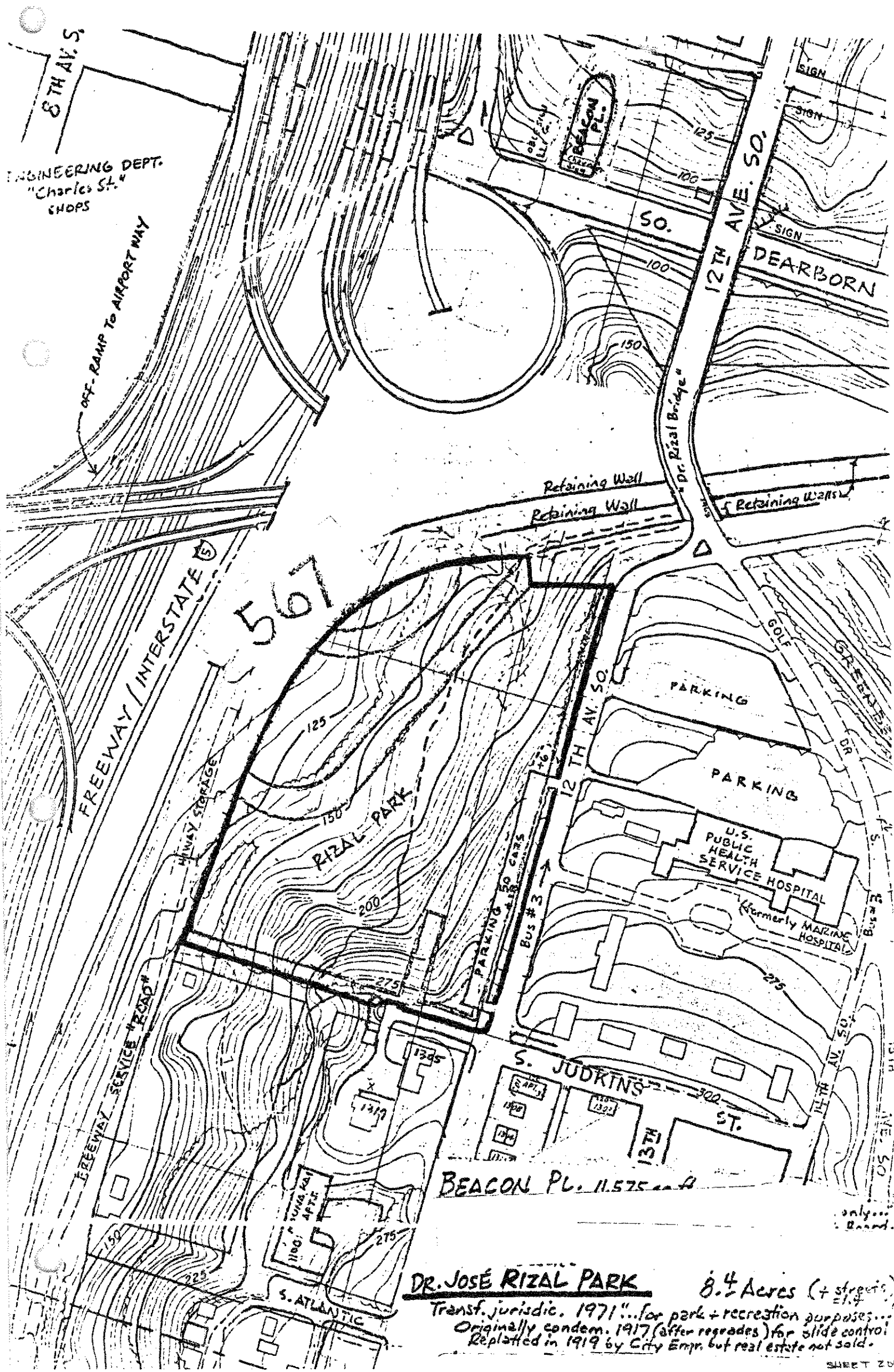
VICINITY MAP

COST OF PURCHASE: NO COST (TRANSFERRED FROM  
ENG. DEPT.)  
 YEAR OF IMPROVEMENT: 1979  
 DESIGN FIRM: ED. L. TOURELLE & ASSOC.  
 COST OF IMPROVEMENT: \$ 268,178.00  
 NAME OF CONTRACTOR: SOUND GENERAL

ART WORK:-  
 SUBJECT: TILE MURAL  
 ARTIST: VAL LAIGO  
 YEAR: 1981







**DR. JOSÉ RIZAL PARK** 8.4 Acres (+ streets)  
 Transf. jurisdic. 1971 "...for park + recreation purposes..."  
 Originally condem. 1917 (after regrades) for slide control  
 Replatted in 1919 by City Emp. but real estate not sold.