West Point Timeline

3000 BC | 2000 BC | 1840 | 1850 | 1860 | 1870 | 1880 | 1890 | 1900 | 1910 | 1920 | 1930 | 1940 | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | Present

ABOUT 5000 YEARS AGO
West Point beach is formed by natural forces: winds, earthquakes, tides, and sea level rise and fall

ABOUT 4500 YEARS AGO
Early Native American inhabitants establish seasonal/ permanent settlements

1841
West Point area named by an officer in charge of sailing expedition

1850
First permanent European settlement in Seattle area

1869
City of Seattle is incorporated

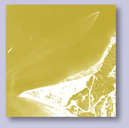
1881
West Point Lighthouse is built, continuing the importance of West Point as a navigational aid to mariners

1886-7
Seattle swaps lighthouse and 700 acres with owners and deeds to United States Army

1889
Seattle voters approve a bond issue to build a sewage system

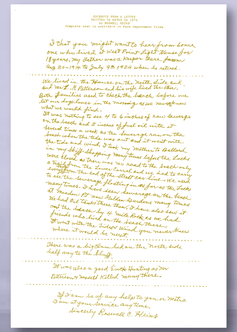
1897
Government gives land parcels of Fort Lawton to individuals

1900
Fort Lawton established



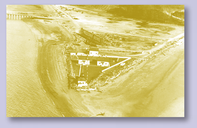
1911-1913 Fort Lawton tunnel built as 12-foot diameter brick pipe to discharge untreated Sewage from City of Seattle into Puget Sound

1918
Fort Lawton established as a military fort



1940
First City of Seattle primary treatment plant built on Duwamish River

1941-1974
Fort Lawton plays major military role in WWII and Korean War as a command post and base for returning soldiers. At least 20,000 troops at a time (over one million total) are stationed at Fort Lawton during WWII.



1958
Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle forms to manage wastewater

1963-66
Construction of West Point primary treatment plant

1971-1974
Military land transferred to City of Seattle to create parkland

1972
Discovery Park opens to the public. West Point treatment Plant installs sludge dewatering system to recycle sludge

1972
Federal Water Pollution Amendment

1973
West Point starts to recycle sludge to use as fertilizer for land application

1977
Federal Clean Water Act amends 1972 legislation

1977
Seattle acquires 534 acres from Fort Lawton to expand the park

1980
South Beach restored. Biosolids used to restore sites of buildings demolished in Discovery Park

1984
State requires West Point to upgrade to secondary treatment

1984-85
West Point starts up the cogeneration process recovering and producing renewable energy from waste gas.

1977-present
Compost (GroCo) production starts

1986-1991
Siting and design process for West Point secondary expansion

1991
Metro designates $25 million for Seattle and $5 million for King County for shoreline mitigation

1991-1995
Construction of secondary treatment at West Point

1996
Metro merges with King County

1993
During construction, discovery of middens from Native American settlement stops work and prompts large scale dig

1995-1998
West Point secondary mitigation funds are used to provide community and park amenities: Magnolia community pool, West Government Way, improved traffic safety features, Discovery Park Education Center, acquisition of Kiwanis Ravine property, landscaping and roads in Discovery Park; and created a demand for native plants

1998-present
West Point maintains current capacity and continues upgrades to protect public health and the environment, comply with local, state, and federal regulations, and to continually improve efficiency of plant operation

1998-present
Discovery Park, Seattle's largest park, continues to provide a beautiful, semi-natural area with diverse environments for urban dwellers to enjoy. The park also serves as an amazing outdoor classroom

King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

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