

West Seattle lies on a peninsula to the South of present day Seattle. The peninsula is shaped like a bear's head and was referred to as 'Me-Kwa-Mooks' by the native Duwamish Indians.¹ The area is constrained primarily by its topography. Elliot Bay to the North, the Duwamish River separate off West Seattle from main Seattle to the East and Puget Sound lies on its Western border. Along the shoreline are steep grades and the coastlines restrict expansion.

West Seattle has a few very distinct areas. The Admiral neighborhood is the one of the most prominent neighborhoods in West Seattle. It lies on the north part of the peninsula. Alki is a favorite cruising spot for residents and tourist alike. The point of the Denny Party landing is now cluttered with restaurants and shops, while the beach is full of recreational activity. Continuing along the west side of the peninsula is Fauntleroy. It is a very gated residential area and has the best views of Puget Sound for its homeowners. Along the East side of the peninsula is the industrial area of West Seattle commonly referred to as Delridge. This area is not one of the more popular places in which to reside in West Seattle. The SeattleRentals.com website warns, "...explore this neighborhood carefully before selecting a place."²

West Seattle offers a range of diverse neighborhoods for the diverse population it has attracted over the years. Typically known as a 'white-middle class' area, the West Seattle today is

filled with people of every class and race.



"The Healthiest, Cleanest and Most Select Residence District of Greater Seattle, situated on an elevation commanding a view on all sides most sublime and inspiring—a panoramic scene of the Sound, Mountains, Bay and City of exquisite grandeur and charm. AN IDEAL HOME-PLACE, of natural beauty, provided with modern improvements and conveniences, accessible by a delightful ten-minute's ride across the bay on a palatial ferryboat or by a speedy and pleasant trip on trolley cars. This is the very place in which you should buy, build and establish your home, invest your money, reap the profits to be gained and enjoy life in the happiest mood."

*From the Map of West Seattle
Published by Morrison & Eshelman
Seattle, 1907⁴*

¹ Seattle/ King Co. History Link.org. www.historylink.org. <Date Accessed: 16 May 2004>.

² West Seattle Maps and Information. www.seattlerentals.com. <Date Accessed: 16 May 2004>.

³ Seattle/ King Co. History Link.org. www.historylink.org. <Date Accessed: 16 May 2004>.

⁴ West Side Story. West Seattle Herald/ White Center News. Robinsons Newspapers, July 1, 1987, back cover.