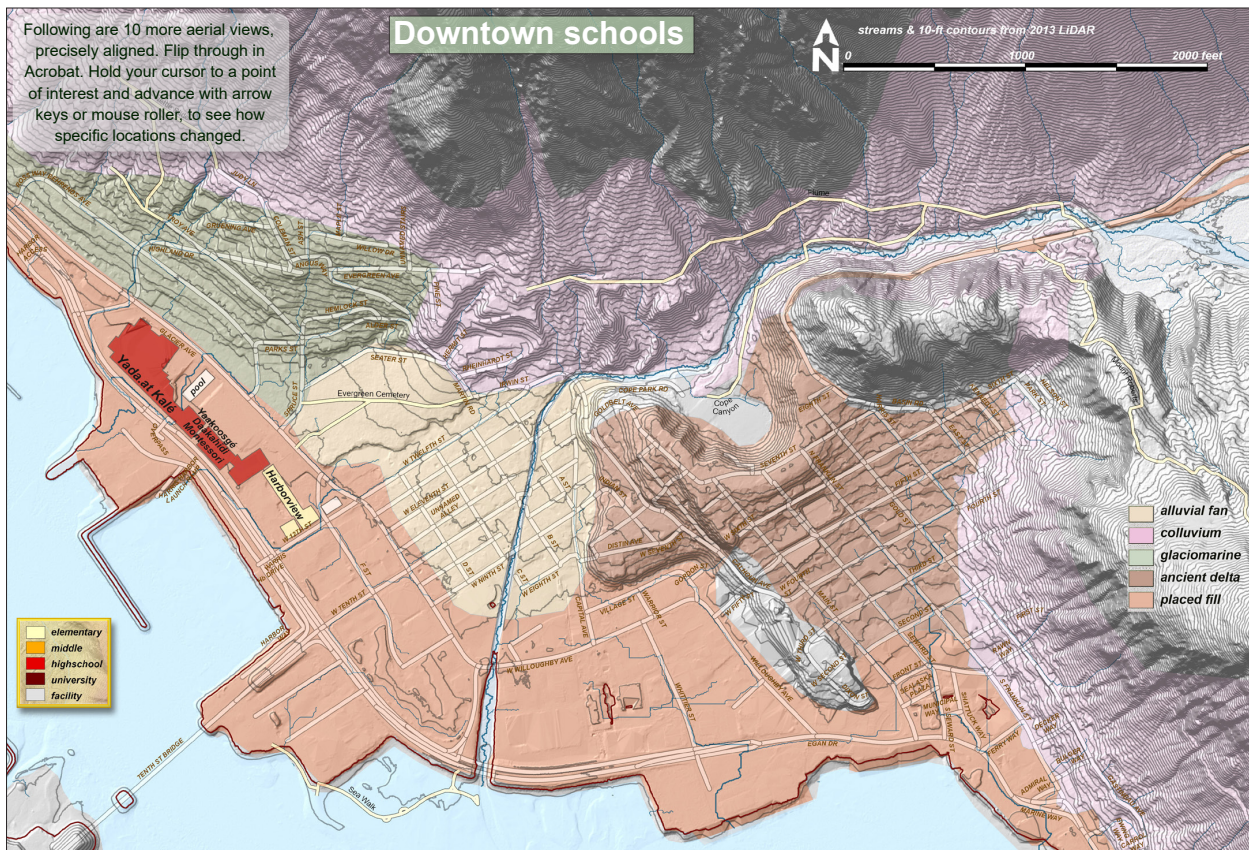


Historical series

Preface 2021: Back in the 1990s when we offered the first Discovery school-site workshops, slideshows were *actually made from slides!* I photographed 9x9-inch aerial images, scaled, cropped and rotated for teachers to project in their classrooms. Alignment was imprecise :). Today, with Arcmap & Photoshop, overlaying and georeferencing is easier—not to mention sharing digitally and online. *And*, we have more imagery, from subsequent flights and prior historic missions.

Bare earth

Hillshade from 2013 LiDAR gives topography, landmarks & placenames for the following series. Surface colors are [fluvial](#), [colluvial](#), [marine](#) and [built deposits](#). Although 'nature walks' on foot from these urban schools take longer than from others in the District, they're just minutes to harbor marine life. Sea Walk's only 1,000 feet from Harborview, and rugged bushwacks beckon from goat-slopes above.



Before first airphoto missions over SE Alaska, we must rely on maps. Fortunately, in much of CBJ, we have a fine-scale map by USGS. Topography, roads and streamlines from WJ Peters in 1902, updated for the downtown area 16 years later. I've exported it at 66% transparency so subsequent topography from LiDAR can also be seen.

On this map and most following photos, I've overlaid trails, roads and the school outline. Few were actually present until the 1970s when development accelerated in the upper Valley.

1918

XXXXX

XXXX



US Navy flew the first South-east cartographic missions in 1926 & 29—now offering nearly a century's retrospective on fluvial migration, succession, and expansion of built-environments.

1929

XXXXX

XXXX



The Navy returned to Southeast Alaska for a second post-war mission in 1948. Many of today's USGS topographic maps are still based on this 1948 imagery. Planes flew quite high, so it's the lowest resolution of my series.

1948

XXXX

XXXXXX



In the late 1950s & early 60s, USFS shot "*resource photography*," flying lower than prior Naval cartographic missions. Goal was timber assessment, but they also flew communities including CBJ.

1962

XXXXX

XXXXX



1979

NASA took xxxxx.

xxxxxx



USFS high-res "resource photography" wasn't rectified until late 1990s. Foresters worked mostly from overlapping 9x9" prints, [assessing stands in stereo](#). For 3D versions of these aerials, see our pdf reports from [JuneauNature>SCHOOLS>Natureneartheschools](#).

1984

XXXXXX

XXXXX



NASA flew super-high cartographic imagery, scanned, georeferenced & tiled by USFS.¹

1996

XXXX

XXXXXXXX

¹ This mission was similar to NASA's prior inch-to-a-mile 1979 color infrareds (CIRs). From U2s at 80,000 feet, some detail is forfeited, but tree-lean and mountain-slope warping associated with lower-elevation missions is minimized. At 6-foot pixel, it's coarser than subsequent imagery. USFS also converted from CIR to B&W. But this was the first SE AK-wide ortho-coverage, launching many of us into the world of digital cartography.



CBJ commissioned 4-foot-pixel true-color imagery for much of its developed lands. (2-fters also available, but my collection's incomplete).

2006

XXXX
XXXXX



In 2013, preparing for our [2014 wetland assessments](#), the City commissioned LiDAR-&-ortho-photography from Watershed Sciences Inc. At 6-inch-pixel, this remains our sharpest-res borough-wide imagery, exceedable only by drone-based orthos for relatively tiny areas.

Color infrared is superior to true color (eg, next page) for distinguishing conifer from deciduous stands.

2013

XXXX

XXXXXXX



[ArcGIS Online](#) (AOL) is now my go-to source for current online aerial imagery. You can set up a free personal account that allows toggling between a wide range of basemaps and ortho-imagery.¹

2020

XXXXXX
XXXXXX



¹ AOL historical archives, called [Wayback](#), allow search through earlier coverages. Populated areas like CBJ see ortho updates ~every 3 years.