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The Corporation of **THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER**
ENGINEERING, PARKS & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

INFORMATION REPORT

To: Mayor Linda Buchanan and Members of Council

From: Margaret Shipley, Parks Planner

Subject: PARK RECREATION SHELTERS UPDATE

Date: March 16, 2022

File No: 12-6120-01-0001/2021

ATTACHMENTS

1. "What We Heard" Report Spring – Summer 2021 ([CD#2159223](#))
2. Ray Perrault Park - Site Plan – Park Recreation Shelter ([CD#2156873](#))
3. Heywood Park - Site Plan – Park Recreation Shelter ([CD#2156871](#))

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Park Recreation Shelter project, including a summary of the site selection process and results of the public consultation completed in 2021.

BACKGROUND

Covered picnic shelters are a common amenity in many park systems, enabling use throughout the seasons in our temperate, rainforest climate. The Parks Master Plan identified the need to develop picnic shelters in City parks and in 2020, the first shelter was constructed at Moodyville Park. A budget of \$400,000 was approved as part of the 2021 Project Plan for the planning, design and installation of two additional recreation shelters in City parks to provide flexible outdoor space for year-round public enjoyment.

The public has consistently expressed interest in having access to more covered outdoor areas that offer protection from the rain and sun. As the use of public open space increased through the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for outdoor covered spaces for the community has grown. With increasingly wet winters and hot/dry summers as a result of climate change this trend is expected to continue. Shelters can be used to deliver park programs, organized events, or for informal use such as meet-ups or picnics.

As part of the planning process, City staff collected input from North Vancouver Recreation and Culture (NVRC) programming staff. The NVRC have a strong interest in using the shelters to host classes or events if the covered space remains flexible with moveable seating arrangements.

In order to identify potential sites that could accommodate recreation shelters, City staff identified the following design criteria:

- Availability of washrooms (existing or planned);
- Proximity to a bike and/or transit route;
- Access to parking; and
- Availability of flat, open areas suitable for the installation of a park structure upon a concrete pad.

Based on that criteria, four City parks were identified as potential sites and presented to the public for feedback, including Heywood Park, Victoria Park West, Ray Perrault Park, and Loutet Park. All parks have existing year-round washrooms, except Victoria Park, which currently has portable toilets. However, permanent washrooms are proposed for Victoria Park in 2024. Mahon Park would also be an appropriate site and covered outdoor space for public use is being designed as part of the new Mahon Childcare and Public Washroom building, scheduled for completion in fall 2023.

DISCUSSION

Summary of Community Consultation

In the summer 2021, City staff sought feedback on the location of the proposed recreation shelters through the City's public engagement platform, *Let's Talk*. Project notice boards were installed in each of the four potential park sites: Heywood Park; Victoria Park West; Ray Perrault Park; and Loutet Park. The *Let's Talk* page received over 600 visits and 277 surveys were completed. Twenty emails were received by staff which included one letter to Mayor and Council. The detailed consultation results are attached to this report for further reference (Attachment 1).

Survey respondents were asked which option was their preferred location and why. The following overall quantitative results indicate a preference for Ray Perrault Park:

- 33.6% - Ray Perrault Park;
- 28.2% - Victoria Park West;
- 19.5% - Heywood Park;
- 18.8% - Loutet Park.

Ray Perrault Park

Ray Perrault Park was the most popular location selected by survey respondents for a park recreation shelter. Participants noted the site's large open spaces, central location, ease of access, existing playgrounds and its family friendly environment.

Victoria Park West

Victoria Park was the second most popular location, with respondents highlighting its central location, proximity to their residence, and overall popularity and use of the space. However, it should be noted that Victoria Park also received the most opposition to the proposed addition of a shelter. Twenty-eight survey respondents and nine emails were received in opposition to this proposed location. Generally, respondents felt the addition of park shelters may exacerbate their existing concerns regarding litter, the existing washroom facilities, as well as noise associated with increased park use due to COVID 19, the permitted consumption of alcohol, and disturbance from after-hours activities.

Heywood Park

Heywood Park and Loutet Park were closely ranked by survey respondents. The Marine and Hamilton neighbourhood is continuing to densify, bringing more families and other park users to enjoy Heywood Park. Providing more picnicking opportunities, including the addition of a picnic shelter, was a recommended action from the Heywood Park Master Plan (2010) and supported during the public consultation process. Survey participants identified Heywood Park as their favourite site because it provides a family and child friendly setting, the surrounding natural elements, including Mackay Creek and the forested ravine, and its close proximity to their residence.

Loutet Park

Loutet Park was the least popular location, but participants noted its large open spaces, close proximity and relationship to Loutet Farm, the existing playground, and close proximity to local residents.

Final Site Selections

Based on the results of the community feedback, site conditions, and further geotechnical site analyses, staff will pursue the installation of shelters at both Ray Perrault Park (Attachment 2) and Heywood Park (Attachment 3). The structure in Ray Perrault Park will be situated in close proximity to existing uses such as playgrounds, washrooms, sport courts, fields and parking. The selected location on the existing concrete area is outside of the liquor permitted zone, minimises impacts to surrounding grass open space, and ensures good visibility.

As identified in the Heywood Park Master Plan, the shelter in Heywood Park would be placed adjacent to the parking lot and meadow in the southeast corner of the park, away from the bustle of Marine Drive. This location is proximate to the natural ravine adjacent to Mackay Creek as well as the playground, washrooms and the Mackay Creek Hatchery field-house. Staff will be enhancing the landscape at the park entrance off of Hamilton Avenue to ensure appropriate visibility into this section of the park.

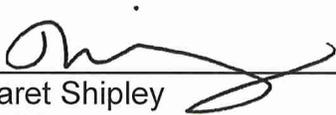
Additional covered areas are planned as part of the improvements to Kings Mill Walk as well as future parks near 1600 Eastern Avenue and 16th and St. Andrews Avenue. Victoria

Park West will remain an option for future consideration once plans for the permanent washroom facility are confirmed in 2024.

NEXT STEPS

Signage will be posted in Ray Perrault Park and Heywood Park to inform the public of the selected sites. The “What We Heard” report from last year’s public engagement, as well as updates and notifications will also be provided to residents through the City’s public engagement tool, *Let’s Talk* and the City’s project webpage, <https://www.cnv.org/Parks-Recreation-and-Culture/Parks-and-Greenways/Park-Projects/Park-Recreation-Shelters>. Construction of the two park recreation shelters is anticipated to begin in fall / winter 2022.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Margaret Shipley
Parks Planner

Park Recreation Shelters: What We Heard Report

MARCH 2022 | ENGINEERING, PARKS & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Engagement Snapshot



277

survey responses received



20

emails received



85

visits to City of NV webpage



2

e-Newsletters

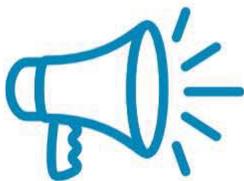


4

on-site signs



4 posts each on Facebook, Twitter, 1 Instagram post
35,000 people reached
45 comments received
social media



620

visits to Let's Talk CNV



1

earned media piece

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1.0 Introduction & Overview

The City of North Vancouver will be installing multi-purpose park shelters in two parks (one shelter per park) with the intention of exploring more options in the future.

In the spring of 2021, we reached out to the community to seek their input on four selected parks: **Heywood Park, Loutet Park, Ray Perrault Park, and Victoria Park West**. These four park candidates were selected using criteria such as:

- permanent washrooms (existing or planned)
- Proximity to a bike route
- Access to parking (street or lot)
- Available flat, open areas suitable for the installation of a park structure on a concrete pad.

Project Timeline



2.0 Community Engagement: June - July 2021

2.1 Purpose

Our goal for this phase of engagement was to gather community input on the proposed locations as potential candidates for park recreation shelters.

2.2 What We Asked

The City asked for feedback on the following topics:

1. Level of community support for the proposed locations.
2. Level of community support for proposed activities and features associated with park recreation shelters.

2.3 How We Encouraged Participation

A communications and engagement plan was developed to ensure public awareness of the project, timeline, and opportunities for input. The plan reflected the approved scope of this project phase and meeting met COVID-19 public health guidelines.

Platform	Details
City of North Vancouver website	Webpage launched on June 14, 2021.
E- Newsletters	Sent June 18, 2021, and July 1, 2021.
Social Media	A social media campaign notifying the public of the engagement opportunity included: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Four Facebook and Twitter posts on June 14, 19, 23, and 30, 2021.2. One Instagram post on June 14
Stakeholder notice	Sent to North Vancouver Recreation Commission.
On-site signage	Installed four signs in Loutet Park, Heywood Park, Ray Perrault Park and Victoria Park providing project information and ways to give input.
Engagement webpage	Launched a Let's Talk project page on June 14, 2022.
Earned media	Coverage in one unique news source.

3.0 What We Heard

A total of 277 survey responses were received. Please note:

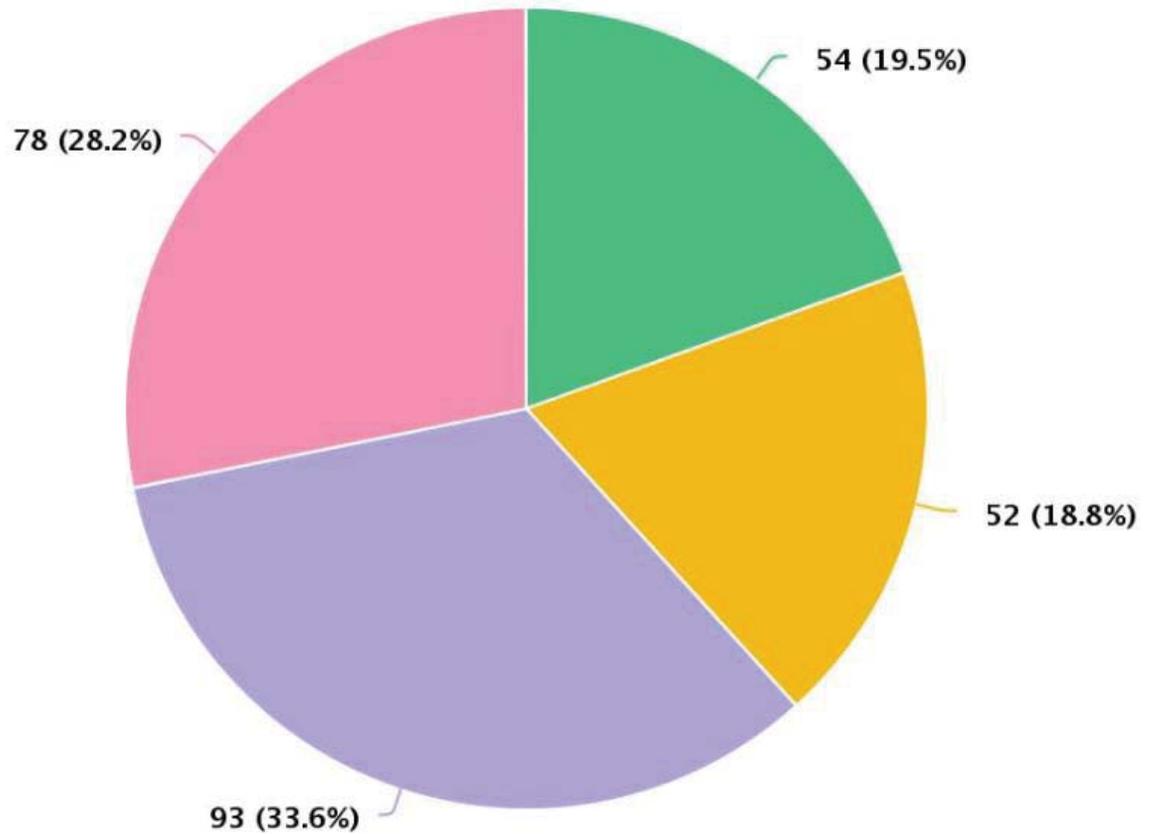
1. Each survey question provided an opportunity for comments, in addition to an open-ended question at the end of the online survey.
2. Not all respondents answered every question, as some questions were optional.
3. Some respondents may have repeated similar comment themes in each open-ended question.
4. The views represented in the survey results reflect the priorities and concerns of the respondents. They may not be representative of the overall view of the public and other stakeholders because respondents elected to take the survey, and therefore do not reflect a random sample.
5. The City of North Vancouver has read and will consider all feedback.

3.1 Online Survey: Quantitative results

Question 1. Please rank the park options in order from your favourite location (#1) to your least favourite location (#4).

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Ray Perrault Park	2.14
Victoria Park West	2.47
Loutet Park	2.66
Heywood Park	2.74

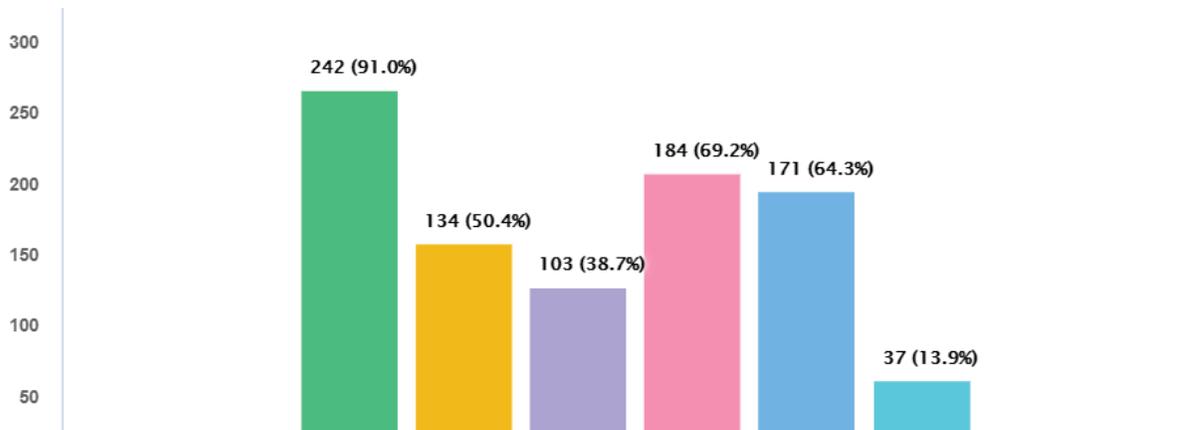
Question 2. Which park option is your favourite?



Question options

- Heywood Park
- Loutet Park
- Ray Perrault Park
- Victoria Park West

Question 3 (optional). Which of the following activities would you enjoy in the park shelters?
Check as many as applicable.



Question options

- Picnics & Barbeques
- Exercise Classes (e.g. yoga, tai chi, etc.)
- Art Classes (e.g. landscape painting)
- Birthday Parties
- Live Music
- Other (please specify)

“Other” examples of activities

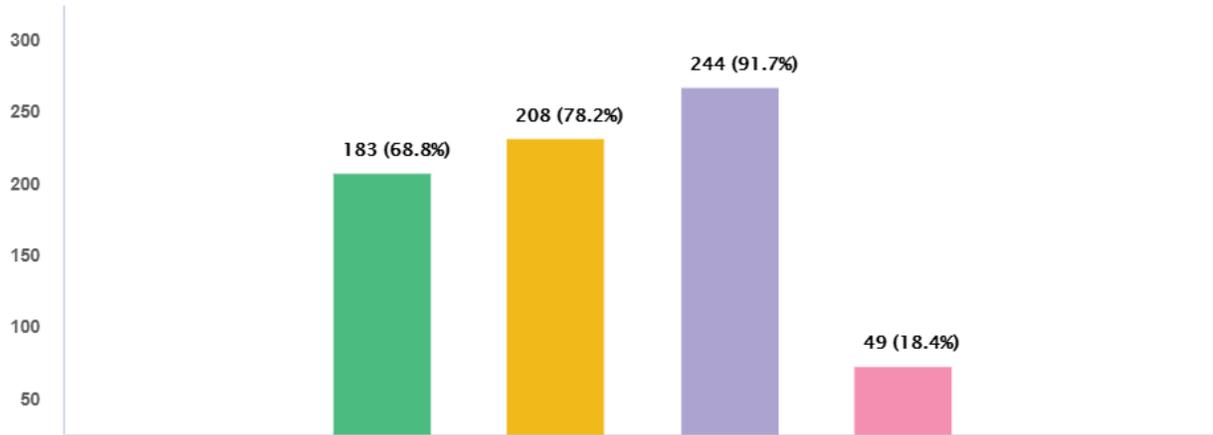
A place for groups to meet ups to stay dry, for example: school, work, friend, families, coffee & book clubs, Boy Scouts/Girl Guides etc., sports teams, fundraisers, on leash dog friendly area, farmers markets

A place for education: First Nations knowledge sharing, local schools, library story times, children’s music

A flexible space: to write, dance, skateboard, play, meet, connect, stay dry, out of sunshine

Not: live music, a permanent structure

Question 4 (optional). Which of the following features would you enjoy in the park shelters? Check as many as applicable.



Question options

- Designated Spots for Barbeques
- Access to Drinking Water
- Picnic Tables
- Other (please specify)

“Other” examples of features

garbage / recycling	permanent washrooms
a place to wash your hands	flexible seating - not just static picnic tables
compost / dog waste / butt disposal bins	bike racks
exercise equipment	skateboard park
storage	device charging
wind break	Ability to book / reserve the shelters
subtle lighting	heat lamps / fire pits

3.2 Online Survey: Qualitative results

Comments related to park shelters are summarized by themes and in order of most mentioned in the following lists. All of these questions were optional.

Question 1 (optional). Why is Heywood Park your favourite option?

1. Family / children friendly
2. Natural elements
3. Close proximity to their residence
4. Existing playground (s), washrooms and ease / availability of parking

Question 2 (optional). Why is Loutet Park your favourite location option?

1. Large open spaces
2. Proximity / programming of urban farm
3. Close proximity to their residence
4. Lots of existing park amenities including washrooms
5. Surrounding trail network

Question 3 (optional). Why is Ray Perrault Park your favourite location option?

1. Large open spaces
2. Central, accessible location in the City
3. Existing park amenities including the existing playground (s) that are family / children friendly
4. Existing park amenities including the washrooms

Question 4 (optional). Why is Victoria Park West your favourite location option?

1. Central location in the City
2. Close proximity to their residence
3. The overall popularity / use of park
4. Provides outdoor space to residences that may not have access to outdoor space
5. Accessibility + Access to transit

Question 5 (optional). Please share any final thoughts, questions, or concerns about the proposed park shelter locations.

1. Opposed to proposed location of Victoria Park West
2. Concerns over waste management
3. Concerns over washroom facilities (or lack of permanent ones)
4. Positive about the addition of shelter from rain
5. Concerns over reserving the shelters
6. Noise concerns that may be associated with the shelters

4.0 Correspondence

The following are a summary of key themes from the emails received by Council and the Parks Team during the engagement period.

Theme (21 pieces of correspondence)	# of Mentions
Victoria Park West – clearly opposed to proposed location (email)	9
Noise concerns	6
Victoria Park West – clearly in support of proposed location (email)	3
Loutet Park – clearly in support of proposed location (email and phone)	2
Washroom facility concerns	2
Loutet Park – clearly opposed to the proposed location (email)	1
Ray Perrault Park – clearly opposed to the proposed location (phone)	1
Waste management concerns	2
Booking and permit concerns (email and phone)	1

For More Information & Next Steps

Together with further site analyses, the City will use the feedback received to guide their decision of two of the park parks candidates to house park shelters within the current context.. In spring 2022 we will present the final decisions for the park shelter locations, and construction is scheduled to begin in fall/winter 2022.

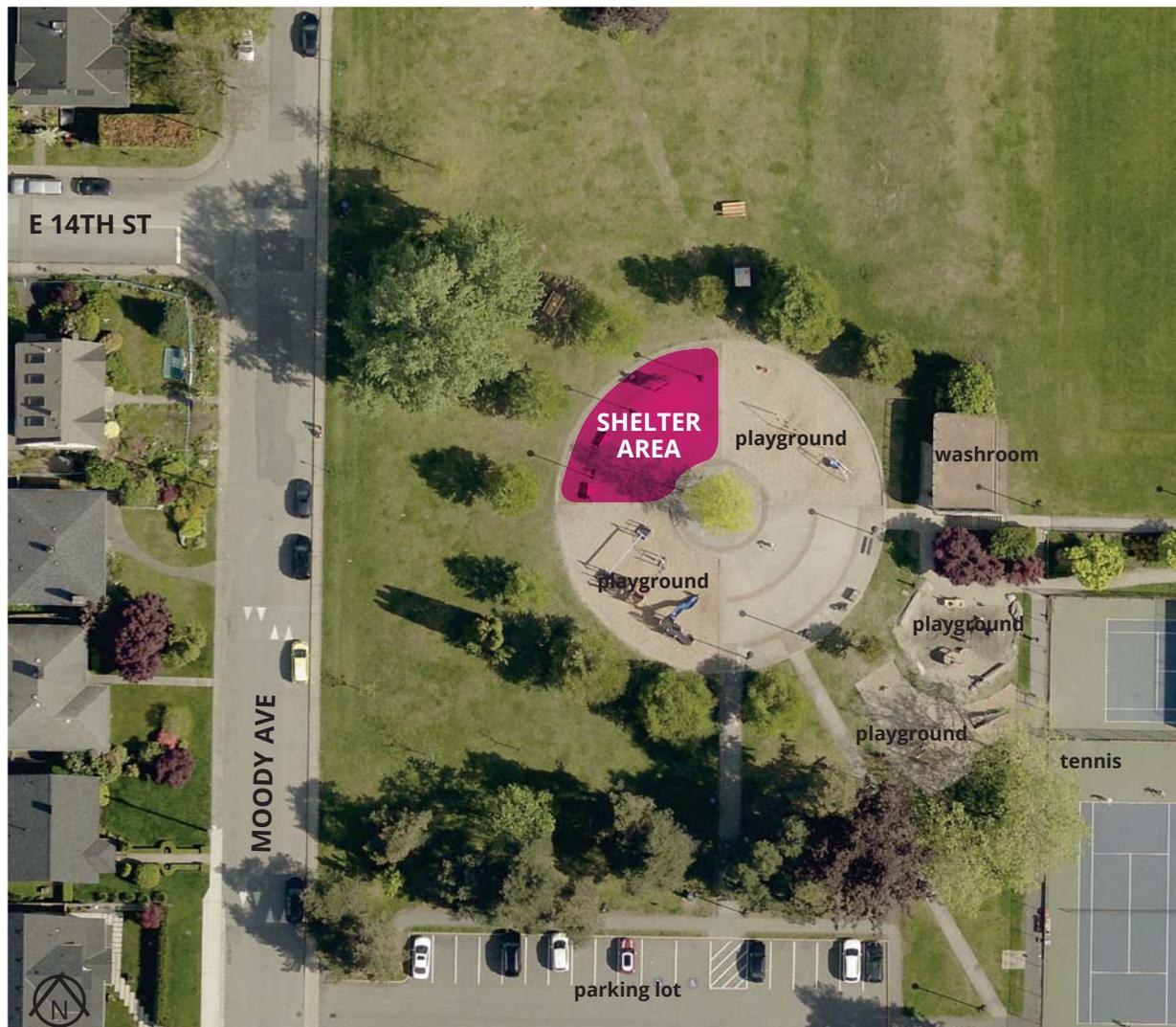
FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the project webpage at letstalk.cnv.org/park-rec-shelters
- Contact the Parks Team at eng@cnv.org or 604-983-7333

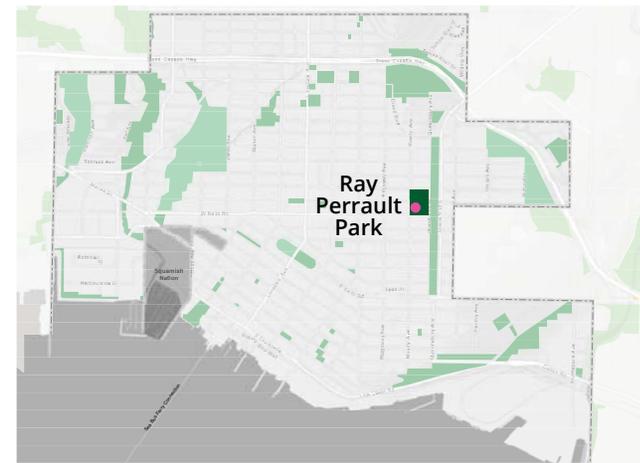
Thank you to everyone who participated in this engagement on the Park Recreation Shelter project. Your input and feedback is important and will be considered in the park selection process.

Ray Perrault Park: Site Plan

MOODY AVE AT E14TH ST



SITE PLAN



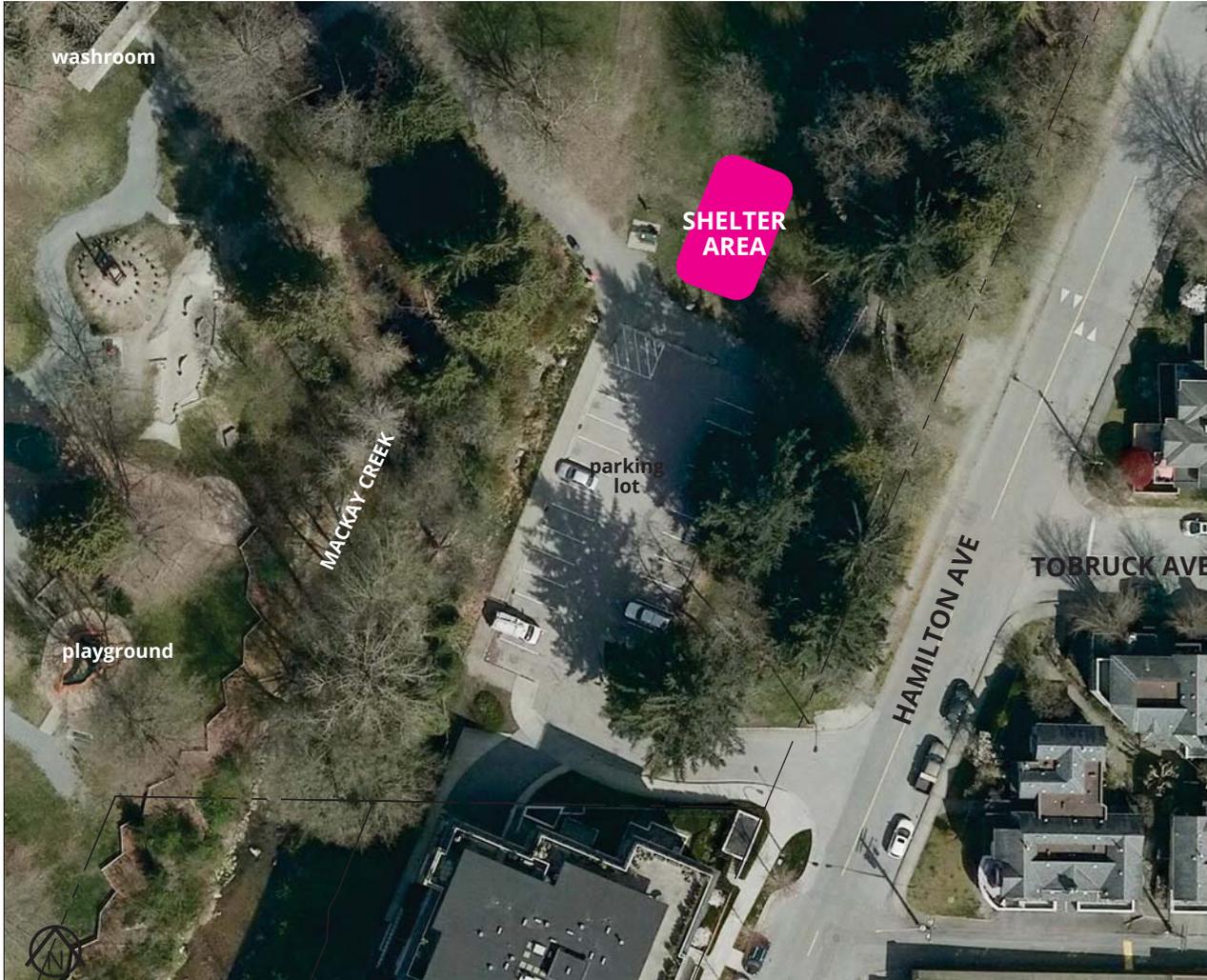
CONTEXT PLAN



SITE IMAGE

Heywood Park: Site Plan

OFF HAMILTON AVE NEAR TOBRUCK AVE



SITE PLAN



CONTEXT PLAN



SITE IMAGE