

# Semisich Park Improvements

## Welcome to Open House #1



The City of North Vancouver is proposing to make improvements to Semisich Park. The overall aim of the improvements is to create a more accessible park with engaging play opportunities and new programming elements.

We are looking forward to hearing your thoughts on how this park can be improved!

### PROJECT SCOPE

- Improvements will be made to both North and South Semisich.
- We will be working with the City's Public Art program to integrate a public art component into the park.
- Improvements will be made to the 1<sup>st</sup> Street Entrance and the park lighting will be upgraded.

### GOALS FOR TODAY

- Learn more about Semisich Park from you!
- Collect feedback on design goals and preliminary programming ideas for the park.



# Design Goals and Considerations

## PARKS MASTER PLAN



### Connectivity and accessibility

Interconnect parks, trails, and greenways, with as much universal accessibility as possible.



### Dogs in parks

Work with dog owners and local residents to identify and develop new off-leash areas that are geographically distributed in relation to the existing off-leash areas.



### Programming and changing neighbourhoods

Design and program parks and open space to maximize their potential, recognizing the limits of parkland supply and changing demographics.



### Parks as social spaces

Design parks with recognition for their role in providing spaces for shared social connections and experiences.

The Parks Master Plan (2010) outlines the vision for the development and renewal of City parks and open spaces.

The master plan goals highlighted on this board are most reflective of the unique needs of Semisch Park.

***Are there any goals missing? Let us know on the questionnaire or share a post-it note here.***

# Neighbourhood Context



1. Future site of Alcuin College Independent School (Kindergarten-Grade 12)
2. John Braithwaite Community Centre
3. Ottawa Gardens
4. Waterfront Park
5. Chief August Jack Park
6. Jack Loucks Court
7. Roger's Plaza
8. The Shipyards

## LEGEND



# Existing Conditions

## NORTH SEMISCH



1. North Semisch is an underutilized park space. Spectacular views to the water present an opportunity to create more programming and activity.



2. The existing connection between the park and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street is not pedestrian friendly or accessible. There isn't a sidewalk and the surface is uneven.



3. Some of the mature vegetation is in poor health and may require removal.



4. The central Hedge Maple tree gives the park character and provides a layer of privacy for neighbours.



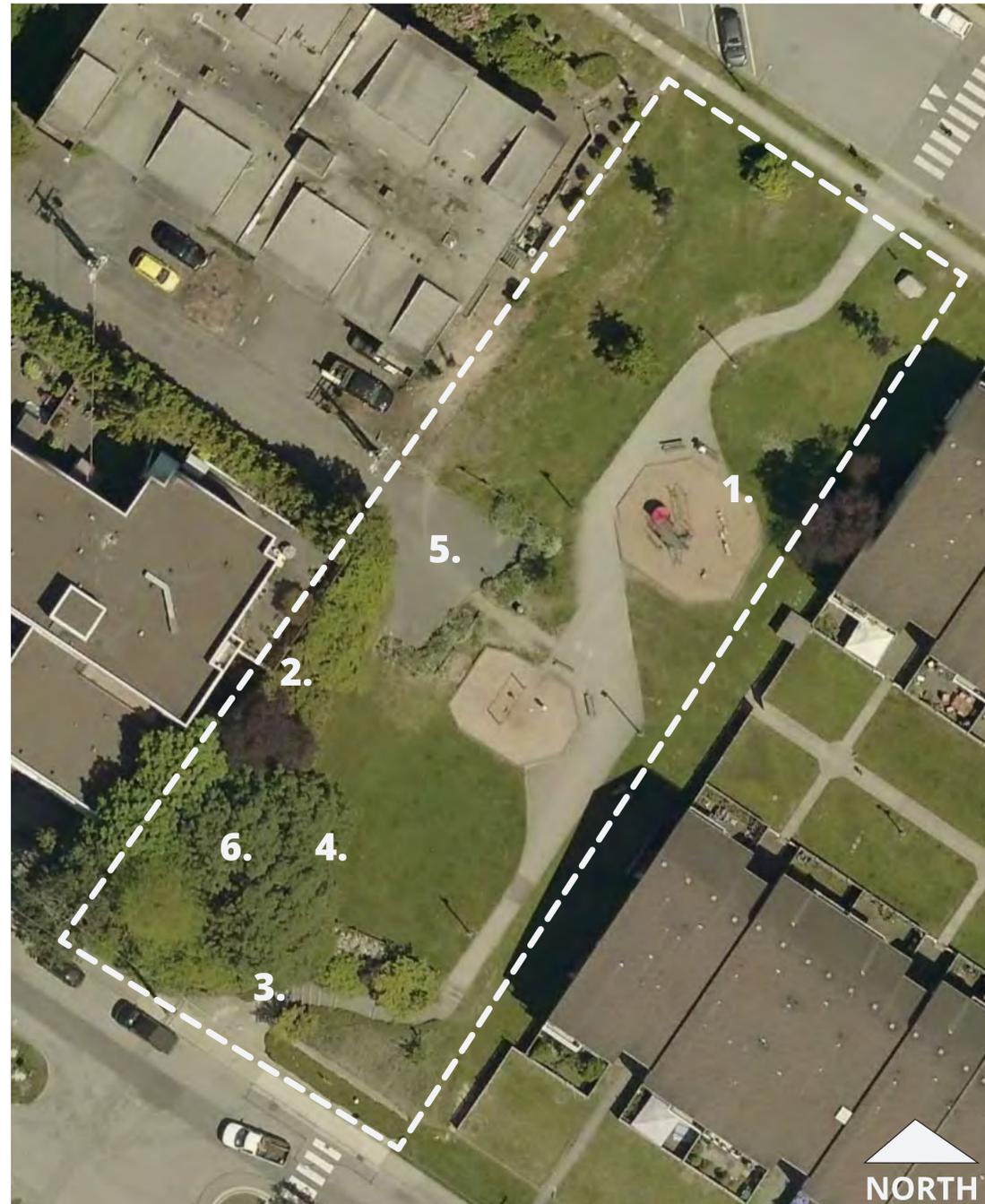
5. Neighbours live in close proximity and have access points directly leading into the park.



6. Traffic volume on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street is double than what is expected for a local road. Traffic speed is an average of 10km over the posted 30km limit.

# Existing Conditions

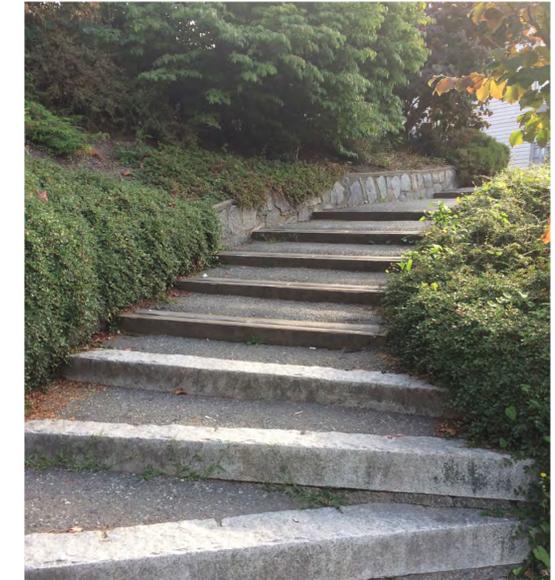
## SOUTH SEMISCH



1. Aging equipment does not provide diverse play experiences for a range of children. The edges of the play surface are a barrier to wheelchairs.



2. A mature row of hedges provide a green edge in one section of the park.



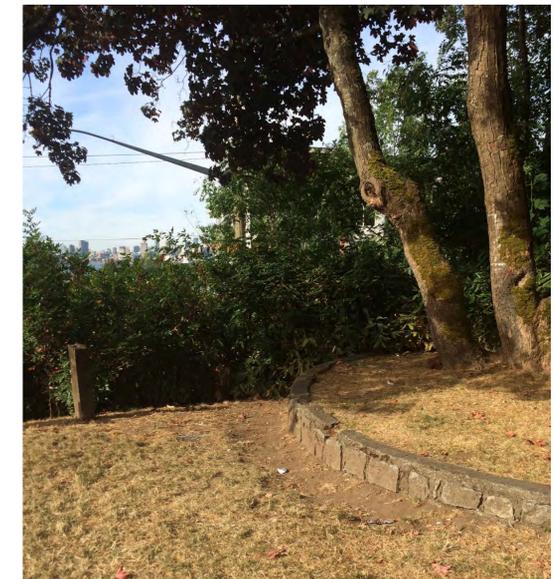
3. The uneven stairs at the 1<sup>st</sup> Street entrance create a barrier to residents with strollers or mobility challenges.



4. Although dogs are prohibited in both the north and south sides of Semisch, dogs are frequently seen in the park. Open grassy areas such as this are valuable spaces for play and picnicking.



5. The turn around is not necessary for traffic circulation and it has been used for illegal dumping. It's removal presents an opportunity to expand the play area.



6. The area underneath the heritage Sycamore tree is often littered and is used after park hours. Mature vegetation along this edge block the views to the water and site lines into the park.

# Ideas for Improvements

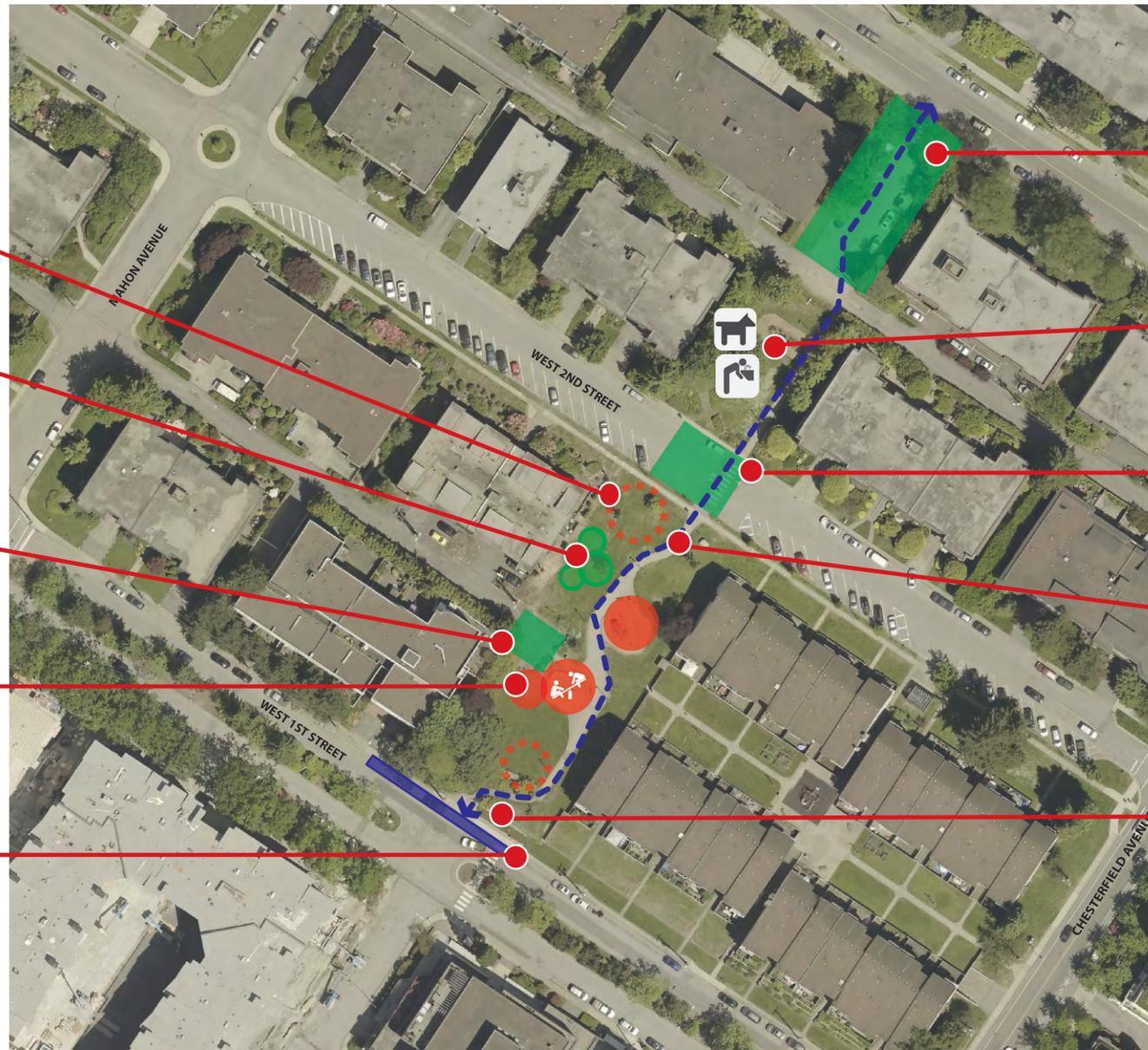
Provide social seating or picnic area to take advantage of views to the water.

Increase the number of trees in the park to provide shade and frame views to the water.

Remove the turn around to create more useable park space.

Expand the play area and provide more accessible experiences for a wider age range and ability.

Improve the pedestrian experience on 1<sup>st</sup> with a bump out and site furnishings.



Make pedestrian friendly improvements to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street connection.

Maximize the use of this underutilized park space with a fenced off-leash dog play area in a portion of the park. Consider other park amenities.

Enhance the pedestrian connection across 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Reduce the grades of the central path to improve safety and accessibility.

Replace stairs with a ramp to improve accessibility for park users.

*Is there anything we are missing? Let us know on the questionnaire or share a post-it note here.*

# Programming - Play Area

WHAT PLAY FEATURES ARE IMPORTANT TO INCLUDE? USE STICKY DOTS TO CHOOSE YOUR TOP THREE CONCEPTS.



Musical elements



Rope climbing



Disc swings



Traditional big swings

The south side of Semisch Park has always had a playground. With new residents in the neighbourhood and St. Alcuin School building a new school close to Semisch, the playground will see an increase in use.

We have an opportunity to increase the size of the existing play area and provide more engaging and diverse play experiences for a wider age range and abilities.



Overhead "monkey bars"



Spinning and climbing elements



Roller slides



"Messy" water play

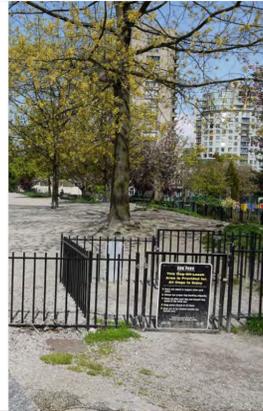
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# Programming - Off-Leash Area

## IMAGINING NEW PROGRAMMING AND PARK USE FOR NORTH SEMISCH.



Clear and effective off-leash boundaries with code of conduct



Amenities can include water fountain, benches, shade, waste bins



Off-leash areas can be social places that foster a sense of community in neighbourhoods



Rubber surfacing and topography

The City of North Vancouver currently has three off-leash dog areas: **Kings Mill Walk, Mosquito Creek West and Lynnmouth Park.**

As identified in the Parks Master Plan, we are working with with dog owners and local residents to identify and develop new off-leash areas that are geographically distributed in relation to the existing off-leash areas.

With the number of dogs increasing in Lower Lonsdale, a designated off-leash area would help take the pressure off parks where dogs are prohibited.



Gravel surfacing is typically used in small urban settings



Boulders can create different levels of play



Artificial turf surfacing with playful elements



Logs can provide informal seating and playful elements for dogs

*What are your thoughts on a portion of North Semisch becoming a fenced off-leash area?*

*Let us know on the questionnaire or share a post-it note here.*

# Project Timeline

