

Semisich Park Improvements

Open House #1 Questionnaire

Q1. How did you hear about the Open House?

13	Word of Mouth
9	Signs in Park
4	Facebook/Twitter
2	Notice in our building
2	City Website
2	Email
1	Neighbour
1	City view newsletter
1	Notice posted

Q2. Where do you live?

16	Neighbour to Semisich (within 2 blocks)
14	City of North Vancouver Resident
2	District of North Vancouver
1	Vancouver
1	West Vancouver

Q3. Do you bring children to the park?

7	Yes
5	No
26	No response

What are their ages?

3	3-5years
3	6-9years
1	Less than 1 year old or under
1	Between 2-3 years
1	9-12 years

If you do bring children to the park, what are their favourite activities?

3	Monkey bars
3	Climbing/jungle gym/ladder
2	Swings
1	Running in grassy slopes
1	Playground
1	Teeter totter
1	Water features
1	Walking dogs
1	Ambleside Park is preferred (with instruments)
1	Slide

Q4. How often do you frequent the north side of Semisch?

12	Rarely
5	Daily
4	Few times a week
3	Once per week
2	Once per month
1	Near area to walk my dog
1	Walk through the park
9	No response

Q4. How often do you frequent the south side of Semisch?

4	A few times a week
3	Daily
3	Once per week
3	Rarely
1	Only walk thru, no places to sit, taken by families and dogs running around
1	Near area to walk my dog
1	Walk through park
20	No response

Q5. What activities do you typically do in the park?

11	Walking thru
6	Dog walking
5	Enjoy the view
4	Meeting friends
4	Bringing children to play
1	Sit if there is space on the few benches
1	Watching little kids play

Q6. What do you enjoy most about Semisch Park?

- 10** **LOCATION**
It's a neighbourhood park.
It's small.
All people live within a couple of blocks.
Close to home, can walk anytime, walking distance to home.
It is near where I live, proximity to my apartment.
Green space west of Lonsdale.
In a great neighbourhood! Close to so many things!
- 8** **GREEN SPACE**
The great view. (4)
Trees
It has a lot of green space to enjoy rare moments of precious relaxation.
Quiet green space with beautiful trees and birds.
Grass area.
- 5** **CONNECTIONS**
Short distance to West 1st and West 3rd
Connectivity between 1st and 2nd
Using it to walk through as opposed to on a street.
Walking around it.
- 3** **SOCIAL**
Meeting friends.
Get to be with neighbours and different pets.
It's nice for the families with young children.
- 2** **DOG WALKING**
Walking my dog through when in the area.
Taking my dog there.
- 1** I really enjoy the swings.
1 Clean.
1 Little, nothing to do, nowhere to sit.
1 Potential
1 I don't usually go to this park but if there was an off leash dog area I would certainly walk a little bit extra to get to it.

Q7. What needs to be improved?

- 7 MORE TREES AND LANDSCAPING IMPROVMENTS**
More trees etc. for reducing sound.
Need more trees.
Better landscaping to complement the natural surroundings of the area.
Bench from north park to be removed.
Landscaping needs improvement.
Not many amenities or landscaping, plain, underutilized area.
Open up the view, remove the bushes.
- 6 PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS**
Walking upgrades.
Pedestrian light to cross road.
Greater connectivity and accessibility to pedestrian pathway from 3rd to 1st with traffic calming needed on 2nd and alley.
Stairs at south.
Make street narrow between the two sides of the park to make a safer crossing.
Ramp accessible access between 1st and 2nd
- 6 MAINTENANCE**
Better maintenance.
Cleaned up-tidied.
Lots, particularly the north side. It is really sad. The landscaping feels completely neglected and the whole thing is very old and tired.
It looks sad and run down.
Cleaned up to be inviting.
- 4 PLAY EQUIPMENT**
Something for the parents while they watch their kids. 3-4 work out stations?
New thing for the kids to play on.
More play equipment.
A bigger playground with more climbing equipment, a variety between younger children and older children equipment. More swings and maybe a cool like one of those swings where kids sit or lay on.
- 4 DOG PARK**
Dog park fenced in. Keep children safe and dogs have a place finally in the City that is close to walk to (without having to drive too).
Off leash dog park.
Needs a fenced area for dogs to enjoy.
Need a safe/fenced off leash area for dogs of Lolo.
- 3 SEATING**
More seating, a place to read in the sun.

- 3 **DOG USE LIMITED**
 No dog park, too small and too close to residential, don't want to draw in non-local crowd (ie ppl who would go to the automall for off-leash now come here).
 Dog prohibited enforcement.
 Less dogs coming in South Semisch.
- 1 In a very diverse neighbourhood.
- 1 More family friendly - kids need to be outside.
- 1 Create sense of communities other than young families and space for dogs.
- 1 Not many amenities.
- 1 Make it less scary.

Q8. What are your thoughts on creating a fenced off-leash dog area in a portion of North Semisch Park?

- 25 Strongly support. There are no off leash do areas in the Lower Lonsdale area. Ideally Waterfont Park would be an off-leash area that connects to Semisch. Yes, this could help to encourage dog owners to keep dogs out of the children's play area.
 Great idea. Lower Lonsdale does NOT have any off leash fenced areas for dogs. Let's promote - car free, easy and fast to walk to anytime day/night. Also keeps crime down as people are with dogs at all hours then youth don't hang there to drink.
 Great, want this.
 Very good idea, need a fenced in area for off-leash dogs.
 It would be safer for dogs and people.
 Lower Lonsdale badly needs this. Dog owners currently break the rules because of no other choice.
 100%
 Would love a fenced off leash dog park as there are no dog parks in neighbourhood.
 Yes, we need this desperately.
 Definitely needed!
 Absolutely! There needs to be more safe and accessible options for dog walking. A fenced dog area there would be well-used and appreciated.
 It would be a great idea. North Vancouver needs more safe places to take your dog.
 I think it is a great idea!
 I think a fenced off leash dog area is a great idea and very much needed in the Lower Lonsdale area. There are a lot of dogs living in condos so a place that they could run around safely and socialize would be a fantastic and make living in Lower Lonsdale with a dog much more enjoyable.
 Good idea. The layering of different park amenities, such as what the City of Vancouver has done with their downtown, very urban parks, is wonderful in inviting all different demographics to use a space.
 This is fine but not too large and make some parking only 1 hr to offset demand.
 This is what I was going to suggest!! Lower Lonsdale is in dire need of an off-leash area. I walk my dog multiple times a day and there are so many dogs in this area. It is very frustrating that Semisch Park is technically a no-dog zone

even leashed. And this is completely ignored anyway.
I am in this area multiple times a day and the people walking through north Semisch is minimal. In fact, its usage overall is sparse.
A dog area would be FANTASTIC.
I don't mind if you keep south Semisch no-dogs if north Semisch is a dog-sanctioned zone.
I think it's a very good idea because I have a dog.
I'm a dog owner and highly support an off leash dog area.
There are none in this neighbourhood.

- 2 Definitely not. I'm a dog owner and utilize dog parks but it will draw in too many, too often. Instead of a quick visit to take a dog for a pee, they will stay. Hate it. It's too small and we need to make space for people not dogs.
- 2 The view is great in the north side. If you were to put it in, which I like the idea of, put it in the south side closest to 1st street or by the improved lane turn around. Don't want to be distracted by barking dogs when trying to enjoy the view.
Good idea for the area, but feel that both the off leash area will be too small for a good park, and the park itself is too small to dedicate that size an area to said off leash area. However, the park on the south side of Esplanade, 1 block south of this redevelopment, would be an ideal spot for this due to its size and under utilization.
- 3 No response
- 2 Don't know.
This would increase noise level.

Q9. What are your thoughts on creating more park space in South Semisch by removing the lane turn around (between 1st and 2nd Street)?

- 21 Yes! Get rid of that, reclaim.
Let's make this a larger area for all family members to enjoy (kids and dogs).
Removing the turn around (lane) seems like a good idea.
The more that can be created the better.
100%
Great idea! Maybe put workout stations here or public art?
Still have a lane turnaround just not in the park.
No brainer. Unnecessary to have park space used for this.
Limited parking so good idea.
No concerns.
I think more park space is always a good idea, especially as the density of the area grows.

While, I'm not sure south Semisch needs more space - I think the current space is underused -- the turn-around is NEVER used and it's ugly, so it would be a definite improvement to convert it park space. Also, if you get pushback from non-dog-owners about north Semisch, you can argue that there will be more space in south Semisch and that south Semisch will get far fewer dog-owners walking their dogs there since they will go to north Semisch. Brilliant idea, guys!
Yes! Make a nice path like the treed ones between Jack Loucks Court and 2nd Street.

- 1 Turn around is needed, a lot of cars go up and down the lane.
- 1 A lot of trucks park there.
- 10 No response

Q10. What are your thoughts on making changes to East 2nd Street to improve the wide crossing between North and South Semisch?

- 13 Yes, great for safety.
It's fine it seems. I'm okay with that.
Sounds like a good plan; traffic calming measures would be good.
It is so dangerous to cross, any improvements would be welcomed.
Need a higher speed bump to slow down traffic, put two in, one in between Mahon and current crosswalk; one between crosswalk and Chesterfield.
No problem.
More speed bumps.
Add a median with flowers and trees just like on East 1st Street. Safer crossing!

Traffic patterns have changed and people are turning off of 3rd and driving along 2nd to drive east in the afternoons. More speed bumps along the whole stretch of road and possibly narrowing the road (bump outs) at the crosswalk to cut the crossing distance in half, making it safer for the younger and older generations.

Traffic slowing/management is a good idea in an increasingly busy area.
Yes!! Add bump-outs and trees.
All for it, definitely makes it less scary (I do not walk there after dark).
- 3 Not needed. I use that crossing every day. There's nothing wrong with it as far as I can see. There is very little traffic- I never have a problem crossing. I guess it depends on the changes. I don't mind the cross walk the way it is. Not sure.

1 Perhaps a wider raised section, maybe with colour added to highlight this crossing, but I do not support park/curb incursion into the street. I ride my bike down the street 3-4 times per week and appreciate the extra road width. Additionally, when I run down the street with a stroller I like to stay on the road as it is much smoother than the sidewalk and I don't have to deal with run-ins with dogs/ pedestrians on the sidewalk.

14 No response

Q11. What are your thoughts on making pedestrian friendly improvements to the area between north Semisch and 3rd Street?

20 Yes!
Popular pedestrian corridor so makes good sense to enhance pedestrian access. Pedestrian traffic in this area has increased dramatically. This can only help. Safety for kids and dogs.
Pave walkway and need lights.
Less loose rocks.
Street needs repairing and a sidewalk would help.
It is a nice short cut from 3rd to Second Street.
100%
Wide, multi-use sidewalk which leads to the park! That way it is safer for Pedestrian and bicyclists!
I am always for any improvements increasing pedestrian safety.
I think it would be a great idea to have less traffic.
Great idea.
Yes! Lots of trees + benches.
If it is improved for safety, I'm all for it.
Oh...that area is really ugly. It could certainly use a simple facelift, but that's about all. Pave it properly, maybe add a little landscaping. But no more than that.
Fully support this, especially if the east-west lane connection was removed and the park could be continuous from 2nd to 3rd.

2 Need to keep parking as it's the only overnight non-permit parking. Maybe angle one side and walkway on the other.
It would be nice to keep some of the parking there as it is the only non-permitted parking in the area.

2 Speed bumps in back alley to slow traffic.
Traffic calming would have to be done to the alley along with a realignment of the pathway at the north end of the park as the blind corner that is currently there, and the speed of traffic make it a very dangerous spot to cross calming would have to be done to the alley along with a realignment of the pathway at the north end of the park as the blind corner that is currently there, and the speed of traffic make it a very dangerous spot to cross.

1 3rd Street is already quite congested, and I am not sure that installing yet another traffic congester is a good plan.

10 No response

Q12. Are there any other comments you wish to share with us?

- We need to keep it a neighbourhood park but with a look to the future. Younger owners, families etc. Parks should have people use it not keep them out.
- A water fountain in both sides of the park. North and South. Where the dog park is, make sure there is a water fountain for them.
- The bench in north Semisch is worth a million dollars. It has to remain. Better landscaping/lighting would clean up the look of the area. Ensure any trees planted on the south side of this won't grow to interfere with the view. I have a ground floor alley apartment, so this bench is my(communities) view.
- With more residents that often have dogs the city needs to allocate more space for them as well, more trash receptacles. We also need more education about how to be a courteous dog owner that abides by the leash laws.
- It would be great to plant cherry trees throughout the park to create a linear "pop" of colour in the springtime. The connection between the Ventana and Sky buildings from 2nd down to Jack Loucks Court is fantastic.
- Please, no more benches in the north Semisch Park! Currently there is one bench here which is mostly used at night and frequently to smoke marihuana or drink alcohol. This small area is surrounded by residential buildings with bedrooms facing the park. The noise level at night interrupts our sleep and occasionally the police have been called to intervene with these parties. This park is just too small to be used for social life at night!!!
- We really need a safe/fenced off leash area for our dogs in Lolo.
- Please put in a dog park.
- I like all the plans but have very large reservations about an off leash dog park.
- Would dislike having a dog park under my windows. Dog owners seem to be walking thru the neighbourhood and parks at all times of the day and night with little consideration of their neighbours. Regularly I am woken at 6 am for dog groups barking and running around on the street and still at 11 pm even midnight. Attracting more dogs to this small space would be awful. We need places for more people to use the parks not attracting even more dogs.
- Some dogs fight, bark loudly. Swings squeak very loudly.
- Please please please PLEASE enforce the Dog Prohibited portion of South Semisch park before the arguments escalate into fights, or more children have to roll around in dog poo and pee. Hand out some fines! (Great revenue for the city!!)
- There are so many benefits of a dog park. Keeps crime down, keeps youth away at night (hanging to drink/drugs), people can walk to at anytime (no car required, no parking issues because people can walk there, promotes healthy lifestyle for everyone (kids, adults, dogs), gets people out of their homes and enjoy watching dogs play (some people can't have a dog but still want to enjoy seeing/meeting them). Too much new density in the area. We need dog parks, safe to play.

- I can't stress enough the need for dog-friendly area in Lower Lonsdale. It's very frustrating that only the grassy area north of the tracks of the big waterfront park can be used by dogs, but it's only on-leash, so it's not very helpful. And the fact that the south Waterfront Park is no-dogs is crazy. I don't understand why dogs aren't allowed on the walkway. That should change so dog walkers can enjoy that part of the park (and keep the grassy areas non-dogs.) Thanks so much for considering all this. I really look forward to your plans.
- My dog Toulouse Leuvrec really wants this park too!
- Thank you for considering the needs of dogs and their owners in City Planning!
- I am very pleased with the concepts.
- Thank you for doing this.
- Concerns with the area under the sycamore tree. Since the shrubs on the south side of the park conceal it from the street, there are often people there drinking or using drugs, being loud and belligerent and making the area feel unsafe. I'm a 22-year-old female who lives in the neighbourhood, and I often prefer to walk around the block rather than cross through the park alone after dark as a result of this. I think the park would be vastly improved by removing some of the vegetation there and opening up that corner to the street, as it would prevent people from hanging out there and remaining out of sight.

Thank you for sharing your comments with us!