

Semisich Park Improvements

Open House #2 Questionnaire and Online Survey – Tabulation

Overview:

The second open house for Semisich Park Improvements was held on Wednesday June 27th in Semisich Park from 4:00-7:00 pm. The open house panels were posted on the City website and the online survey was available for input until July 6th. 53 hard copy questionnaires were submitted and 33 online surveys were received. In addition, 6 emails/letters were submitted to City staff. 5 of these emails/letters expressed opposition to the proposed idea for an off-leash dog area in North Semisich.

Q1. How did you hear about the Open House? (check as many as apply)

1	City Website	4	Facebook/Twitter	44	Signs in Park
25	Word of Mouth	3	CityView e-newsletter	9	Email

Other (please specify):

- Erin, my neighbour
- Poster in building (2)
- Advance notice sign posting at our premises (250 West 1st)
- Newspaper
- North Shore News Classifieds
- Sign in park lead me to google what was going on
- Phone call

Q2. Where do you live?

68	Neighbour to Semisich Park (within 2 blocks)	13	City of North Vancouver Resident
5	District of North Vancouver Resident		

Other (please specify):

- Overlooking the park
- Alongside park, east side
- Work at 1st and Semisich (District of North Vancouver Resident)
- Right beside it – main floor
- Owner in 252 West 2nd (District of North Vancouver Resident)

Q3. We are proposing to remove the section of lane currently extend into the park to create a larger play area. What are your thoughts on expanding the play area?

- Great idea. (10)
- Good idea. (5)
- Agree. (2)
- Yes, expand it. (2)
- No comment (2)
- I think it is a good idea.
- The way this question is worded is suggestive. The turnaround is vital as dozens of people a day use this alley as a cut through. With removing that, drivers will be forced to use our back door as a turn around. With the slope of the alley, our parking providing a blind spot will put unnecessary vehicle pedestrian interactions.
- Sounds good, but I hope noise is contained.
- There are too many kids play areas, we need dog parks.
- I think we already have too many kid parks, which are NEVER used in Lower Lonsdale.
- Please expand. With PL to PL development (or minimal pedestrian SRW) there is not enough play space for local residents. Decentralized play space so play time can be more often with less planning.
- Yes, make it a play area for children. Stop the cars from parking in the lane.
- Very positive.
- Ok with me.
- No problem.
- Excellent! Currently often used as a garbage drop for old furniture, etc.
- I think it is a good idea- I would like to see a few more trees, to create more shade for hot days.
- Hate children don't want to hear them scream.
- NO – did not buy my property for this.
- Good. Lots of kids around here and they need green space.
- Don't want this to bring extra noise. Play area is big enough.
- I am in agreement with creating a larger play area between 1st and 2nd Street.
- I think that is an improvement to the use of an under-utilized laneway. Park expansion is much better use of the space.
- The turn around serves no purpose. Remove and use to increase the park value.
- Yes.
- Sure, but what about parking?
- Makes sense.
- Check.
- In favour.
- Sounds fine.
- Expanding the play area is a great idea to help people recognize that this is a kids park (not a dog park).
- We think the park improvements will enhance and benefit the neighbourhood.
- No opinion.

Q3. Responses continued

- It would do a good job expanding the play area – it would also help to prevent any junk from being dumped into the lane.
- No, there is plenty of room in the park itself. No need to take out parking.
- It's a great idea. Expanding the play area certainly provides good opportunity for the children and people to make use of the park.
- Great idea! Adding useable space to the park will allow for a more functional layout.
- Yes please! This playground pretty much serves Lower Lonsdale. The one at 1st and St. Georges is too dark, small and boring. With a growing Lolo young family population, we need a better playground to suit our community needs. Also, the current play(slide) structure is hard for toddlers to climb unassisted. Black step is too far off the ground.
- Ok.
- Please do! The cul-de-sac is used by drug dealers and other shady people.
- Excellent.
- Don't want a play area. Make a dog park.
- Yes, good idea.
- Like it a lot!
- Even though I don't have children, I say go for it! Kids need to get out of the house more and enjoy the outdoors.
- I am for it!
- Always good.
- I think that is a positive community plan.
- Better use of what is now an unused eyesore.
- Remove the end of the lane, expanding the park is much more valuable than an infrequently used turn-a-round. The City should also seriously think about converting Semisch Avenue to park altogether. Other than providing a little unrestricted parking, it serves very little purpose. Gaining the green space seems more valuable than the access to the lane or the parking it currently provides.
- Sounds great – I do not have children but a larger play area would be a good idea as there are many young families moving into the area.
- I am all in favour of expanding the park into the round about.
- I am for it.
- That section of the lane is unused anyway.
- Expanding the play area is indifferent to me as I have no children. My main concern is any type of construction or improvement causing residents of the neighbourhood from temporarily being unable to use the park. This would be frustrating for me as I am at this park every day and enjoy the peace and quiet.
- I have a one year old and think expansion is great!
- Sounds great.
- I'm all for it! I've always thought the park is under utilized.
- I think it's fine the way it is. I've seen this park improved twice in the last few years. I'd rather see this money spent beautifying something else.

- How will vehicles turn around to exit the alleyway if the cul-de-sac is removed without entering private property to turn around which could become annoying to the people that live off those balconies?
- Why not
- While I do not need it, more room for kids to play outside is a good thing.
- I like the idea just as long as there is a covered seating area for parents to watch their children but not so >><< that it becomes a place for homeless people to sleep. Is it a good idea to have off leash area for dogs so close to running toddlers.
- Great idea, it will make the park better for the kids.
- If traffic surveys and planning can ensure that this does not block or increase volume on a major transport artery then expansion can only be beneficial.

Q4. We are proposing to provide swings for toddlers and school aged children. We are also proposing to include a basket swing. A basket swings offers an accessible play opportunity. What are your thoughts on increasing the number and type of swings in the park?

- Great idea. (7)
- N/A (6)
- Agree. (3)
- Good idea. (4)
- Neutral. (2)
- Check mark (2)
- Yes. (2)
- No comment (5)
- The more the better. I have two kids and we often go to other parks because they are better equipped.
- Please do.
- I don't think extra swings are needed in the section between 2nd and 3rd, add them to the park between 1st and 2nd if needed.
- We need a dog park, there is 3 play areas right near here.
- Yes, accessibility for all children is a great idea.
- Yes, lots of swings and playground equipment for the children.
- No comment on this; kind of an ambivalent feeling on this issue.
- All for it.
- Don't want to hear children scream.
- This park was built for kids and no dogs so a few more swings will work?
- This is fine, however I don't want this to attract teenagers at night. Perfect place for drinking and smoking.
- Sounds great. The current play structures seem dated.
- Outdoor play areas are always good for children and adults alike.
- Sure, but what about parking?
- Sounds fine.

Q4. Responses continued

- Wonderful! Could you please ensure that the swings are regularly maintained. Currently the swings are VERY squeaky and people use them all hours of the day and night. I have personally applied WD-40 once to mitigate the squeak but don't think it's my job.
- Safety/reasonable cost.
- More swings is a great idea. The current swing set is insufficient to foster co-play amongst children.
- Yes! Get the kids outside.
- More swings the better! Merry go round would be welcome and more benches, picnic tables.
- There is no need. There is a playground park directly across the street.
- Anything to improve the playground would be welcome.
- No thoughts.
- Agreed. There are lots of new families in the neighbourhood.
- Great idea! Kids love swings and the current ones aren't enough if we are planning for increased density in the area.
- They're very noisy!
- Swings are good for a variety of ages.
- I support.
- Love it! But keep in mind the type of material the seats are made of. Someone's dog keeps attacking and chewing the rubber seat of the current swing.
- Lots of children in the area so another great idea.
- Yes. This makes me happy!
- I am for it!
- Okay.
- More swings the better, please include wheelchair inclusive swing.
- What's not to like.
- I think adding more elements to the playground makes sense. If these types of swings are the best option or not, I'd defer to the park designers and City staff. I'm sure feedback from those with playground age children would be helpful. Can choices made for playground equipment in other North Shore parks inform the choices made for Semisch Park?
- More accessible play opportunities are always a great idea!
- In favour, so long as the overall sprawl of the swing set doesn't detract from too much grassy area.
- Definitely for it.
- Sounds great for kids.
- This seems like a great idea as long as the swings and play area remain in the south Semisch Park area. The northern part of the park is more peaceful and I'd like to keep it that way.
- Wonderful!
- Love the idea.
- Why not.
- The more the better.
- Doesn't matter to me....I've never been on the swings.
- No issues either way.

- All good
- More fun for the kids.
- Any feature that makes the park more enjoyable for kids I support.
- Excellent idea
- Definitely need swings for school aged children - normal old school swings. People keep removing them from playgrounds when they are the most popular largely used. They keep putting in basket swings which doesn't help kids learn anything. It takes coordination to learn to swing. If you need an accessible swing that is one thing, but don't take away from the rest just for one group. There is an accessible swing at Grand Blvd. Or if room put in both and forget wood structures that the kids don't play on. I keep seeing playground with swings for toddlers and no normal swings. Toddlers aren't toddlers for very long yet as a 47 year old I still love to sit and swing on a swing.
- It would make it more accessible
- Swings are a nice idea with a disclaimer for injury. Lots of injuries happen with kids running in front of swings. Love swings though.
- Fantastic, the more the merrier.

Q5. We are proposing to use a wood climbing structure to provide a unique and challenging play experience. What are your thoughts on providing this type of feature?

- Great idea. (9)
- Good idea. (4)
- Yes. (4)
- N/A (4)
- Checkmark (2)
- Excellent idea (2)
- No comment (5)
- Please do.
- Great but in the existing play area, between 2nd and 3rd.
- The one near waterfront park is good enough
- Yes, variety is good.
- Very good idea, we need more unique play areas.
- Yes, lots of playground equipment of all types.
- As long as there is safe material for kids to fall on.
- Good idea, or a rope based play equipment.
- Same as above (do not want to hear children scream).
- ?
- Fine.
- Agree.
- Same as above; only comment re:use of wood – I wonder if there are other materials that would last longer in this climate.
- Exposing children to a little more risk is great in terms of long term safety
- Sure, but what about parking?
- Makes sense.

Q5. Responses continued

- Sounds fine.
- Great! Can adults play too! No dogs! Please enforce.
- Safety. Reasonable cost.
- It sounds wonderful.
- There is no need. There is a playground park directly across the street.
- Anything to improve the playground would be welcome.
- No thoughts.
- Very good.
- Yes, you could include a variety of age related apparatuses.
- Great idea to also cater to a larger demographic.
- Great idea for adventure / risky play.
- Love it! Hopefully it can suit a variety of ages.
- Ok.
- Keep the kids moving and climbing.
- I support.
- Sure.
- Older kids love to climb up high. The higher the better!
- Good, it's needed.
- Love it.
- I am for it!
- Maintenance?
- Natural wood seems like a lovely addition.
- I think adding more elements to the playground makes sense. If this *type of equipment* is the best option or not, I'd defer to the park designers and City staff. I'm sure feedback from those with playground age children would be helpful. Can choices made for playground equipment in other North Shore parks inform the choices made for Semisch Park?
- I agree with this proposal. Playgrounds lately tend to err on the side of smooth plastic surfaces that offer little challenge, especially for older children who would like to be able to play with younger siblings and friends but find the area too toddler-oriented.
- I believe this is a good idea - there are a wide range of age for the children that play in this park and more challenging features will be attractive to the older group.
- I am for it as long as there is other play structures for younger toddlers.
- Makes it more attractive for kids.
- I think it is a good idea.
- All for it.
- As long as it is safe.
- Good, but building with a design that prevents teenagers from setting up a hang out spot will be beneficial.
- Great! I loved those as a kid.
- No issues either way.
- I think someone will burn it.

- Like it
- Exercise their developing strength and coordination.
- Any feature that makes the park more enjoyable for kids I support.
- Needed
- Stop with the wood structures that no one plays on – put in a merry go round with the rope climbing (rotating climber), something that kids actually play on.
- It would be a great idea. Older children love more challenging apparatus.

Q6. At the 1st Street entrance, we are proposing to add a ramp and improve views into the park. We are also proposing a small seating area on 1st Street. What are your thoughts on these proposed changes?

- Great. (12)
- Good idea. (5)
- Checkmark (2)
- Good. (2)
- Fine. (2)
- Yes. (2)
- No comment (4)
- I'll find it helpful.
- Remove the concrete wall around the oak tree.
- Sure, sounds great!
- Yes, sounds good. Ramp provides accessibility for all.
- I like the seating idea. Ramp is good for accessibility. (Not necessary for visitors).
- Ramp is a good idea – easy access to the park and its improvements.
- Open up the park, remove all bush. Add a ramp and improve the view. Seating is good in the open.
- Am definitely in favour of these changes.
- Great idea to include a ramp.
- Good. Again provide some shade. Trees that provide dappled shade would work well.
- N/A
- ?
- Agree
- Currently there are great views from the park as it is, hopefully view improvement does not involve removal of large mature trees.
- Anything to make it more accessible.
- Needed.
- Sounds fine.
- Sounds lovely. Looking forward to park improvements.
- The ramp provides better access. I believe that extensive seating in this area would provide numerous opportunities for multiple people to enjoy the beautiful views of the City. Improving this area can also improve crime reduction. Open vistas/sightlines and lighting.
- That would be wonderful. It is difficult to push a stroller through that area.

Q6. Responses continued

- This would improve what is already there.
- Nice.
- No thoughts.
- Yes, yes, yes. We need more seating areas and benches so that seniors have places to sit to enjoy sun.
- You may be creating a comfortable place for drunks and patrons of Ship and Anchor after the bar closes. These changes are great ideas but you need to include the businesses and get them onside.
- I would be cautious of creating an opportunity for late night loitering and potentially dangerous activity. It should be well lit and without obstructions.
- Very nice. Seating is needed.
- Anything would be an improvement to the current situation. So much wasted space at that end of the park. Suggestions here sound good.
- Okay.
- Excellent, better for people with walking/moving issues and opens the park to them.
- I support.
- Sure.
- Like it but currently find lots of folks sit to smoke pot, cigs and drink beer bought from Sailor Hagar's. Seating area could increase this. Would like to see more lighting at night and especially in summer to have police patrol both daytime and at night.
- It makes an otherwise underused park a feature.
- Great idea. I'm surprised this wasn't something that was done a long time ago.
- I am for it!
- Seating is a good idea.
- Better accessibility is always a good step.
- Greater visibility into the park from 1st seems important. Many people at the open house spoke of the park being uninviting at night. Opening up the north/south view corridor could help along with some well thought-out lighting that illuminates the park without disturbing the adjacent residences.
- In support of providing accessible areas.
- This would be a good addition. While there is already a good amount of loitering in this area, increasing views may reduce the amount of unruly behaviour (i.e. underage drinking), that occurs in this park.
- This sounds good. Public seating areas make it easier and more accessible for the public to interact with the park and play area users.
- I'm not certain how a ramp can improve views into the park, however adding accessibility into the park is a plus.
- I am for it.
- These updates will add to the usability and attractiveness.

- I feel like the ramp is unnecessary as the walk up is already pretty short. If it is for wheelchair accessibility then sure but if not it seems unnecessary. More seating areas by the 1st Street entrance to the park sounds like a good idea.
- Ramps are key for stroller access etc.
- Wonderful.
- I'm glad to see the stairs will be improved, I never liked them.
- That is exactly what it needs. It's a bit hard to access from that direction...plus more seating for people to relax would be great!
- Like it.
- Excellent idea. Might even calm the alcohol consumption at that end of the park.
- Sounds reasonable for better accessibility.
- Sounds like a good idea, would make the park more accessible.
- Great ideas.
- The ramp is a must. Seating in shade is always good.
- Sounds like a good idea.
- Seating would be good. Also more shade/covered areas and recycling bins.
- I think that makes sense, I walk along 1st and seeing into the park would be nice.
- I think seating area should be in the park and on 1st.

Q7. At the first open house we received support for the idea of creating a small off-leash area in the park. We are proposing that a portion of North Semisch be used as a small, fenced artificial turf space for dogs and their owners. What are your thoughts on this proposal? *Funding for the off-leash area is subject to approval of the 2019 Capital Budget.

- No comment (2)
- Great, because even though they are not allowed in the park they are often brought here. Having a designated dog area may help keep the playground dog free. So I support the idea.
- Do south so parents with dogs can let both kids and dogs play.
- NO, this would restrict access for many people, could potentially be noisy, people need somewhere to sit and wander with sun and shade areas
- So many dog owners already have their dog off leash here everyday, I have lived next door for over a year and there has never been a problem, but noise. I don't want more dog owners to come here. If anything please restrict the hours from at least 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. I live right next door and have a dog and I do not want this park.
- Absolutely needed. Our city is missing dog parks and many residents are sad about this. We have to go very far to let our dogs off leash. We need a bigger park than what is being proposed. How about Waterfront North?
- I support an off-leash area. The City has approved an off-leash area in Lower Lonsdale. With that said, this park would be great, however, this area is very small. I don't want them to say this will be the only off-leash area in Lower Lonsdale. This park should be in addition to a large off leash dog park in lower Lonsdale.
- Excellent idea! Need more safe dog areas. This way families can play together. Do it!

Q7. Responses continued

- More off leash parks are needed. I approve this proposal strongly. It would add a diversity to the parks in a positive way.
- Yes, we need a dog park. Fenced would be good. Don't mix the dogs with the kids.
- This would be an amazing addition to Lower Lonsdale.
- Great; More open space for dogs to romp about!
- Not in support of this idea – noise, even more dog excrement, no place for people to sit out on the grass.
- I think this is a terrible idea. I live beside the park and I do not want a dog park next to my condo. It is too small an area. I'd prefer a multi-use area where dogs on leash are welcome as well as people.
- I am totally opposed and I have two dogs. The area is too small for a dog park. This park is already well used for reading, bocce playing, sunbathing, ball catch, adults and some dogs. The south side park is up for change. Please leave the little park as it is – a quiet and appreciated little oasis!!
- Totally agree!
- Definitely against it.
- My dog will not urinate on artificial turf – I thought this was for park improvements not to put toxic plastic on the ground.
- Nope – Don't want the added noise. People tend not to clean up after their dogs.
- Absolutely not. We did not buy our properties to have a noisy dirty dog park. People are not considerate when they are with their dogs and do not realize they are impacting others. Absolutely not.
- Yes, fully supportive. I am a dog owner and work at 1st and Semisch. I would like to have a safe area for my dog to play at lunch. Park on Esplanade at Semisch is dangerous (not fenced to 4 lane street).
- The park already attracts enough dog owners and noise. Our window is facing the park and is very noisy at night and in the morning. We do not want this to turn into a dog bathroom. We like the greenery and bench.
- I vehemently oppose an off leash dog area. I live on the main floor of 252 2nd St. West and my patio faces directly onto the park. Barking, fighting dogs, owners yelling at their dogs, the offensive odour of dog urine and feces – all unacceptable. This park is used by people – to play croquet and bocce ball, to picnic, sunbathe, teach their kids to play ball and ride bikes. It is used by at least 100 people a day for various uses – access from Sea Bus to 3rd Street buses, to sit on the bench and enjoy the view, to take photos. Putting a fenced off-leash dog park would lower property values in the surrounding condos. Parking is already a problem – people would be driving their dogs to this area. This park is a beautiful piece of green space – the view is worth a million dollars. Don't let it go to the dogs!!
- I am supportive. This creates a safe environment for neighbourhood families with dogs and means dogs are separated from kids play areas. We live in a vibrant area with a large population

Q7. Responses continued

of residents with pets so it is important they have a safe place to be exercised off leash. Need to mitigate the noise concerns of adjacent owners with vegetation buffers.

- I think the area is too small and the wrong spot for what you are proposing. Above 2nd Street is very small and has water issues (too much or too little depending on season) and will create issues between park users. The bottom of Semisch has a big underused piece of land away from residential areas that would be great, is used for dog owner's.
- There should be an off leash dog park in the neighbourhood. Areas from 137 East 1st might be a better idea or off Esplanade and by the SeaBus would be good but there should be an off leash dog park.
- Smart idea, but what about parking?
- Can't wait, good idea.
- Overly needed.
- Fantastic idea.
- Excellent idea. This is badly needed in the neighbourhood. There is such a lack of dog parks and areas. It almost feels as though the City has turned a blind eye to the increase in density and growing dog owner population. It transfers the responsibility and challenges to the residents. Please build the park!
- Disagree – parking is already an issue in this area
- Bad idea – artificial turf is ugly and not environmentally friendly. It will smell and be dangerous for small dogs as there are many aggressive pitbulls in the neighbourhood. It will also ruin property values in the area.
- I think this would encourage dog owners to stop using the kids area as a dog toilet. Please enforce!
- Yes, we need this
- Absolutely not! As a property owner that directly faces the park, I do not approve of a "dog toilet" beside my property or building. We do not want to experience: smell from dog feces and urine, noise pollution from barking dogs and owners yelling, alteration of an expensive City view, quiet park, loss of privacy, significant reduction in our real estate value, increase to traffic in an already busy area from non-residents. This is high end real estate with City views. Dogs do not need a view. Dogs don't pay taxes. This area is not big enough for numerous dogs to run around. There is more space in Waterfront Park by the railroad.
- Absolutely not. This will create noise and chaos. We need the park instead of the rubber surface. This is a small park surrounded by residential buildings. We have our bedrooms on this side.
- The park is already very small. A fenced in portion would make the space look even smaller and be an eye sore. It will also create the already small park into a destination for dog owners. This park already is used by owners who do not clean up after their animals. This will only encourage them. Why not add a dog park to the large, underutilized park by the waterfront? Nobody uses that park.
- Good!
- Yes! We have a small dog and would love a place to have him off leash and play with other dogs.

Q7. Responses continued

- Great idea.
- The park you are purposing is too small. There is not enough room for 2 large dogs to run around at once. There is a much better option only 2-3 blocks down on 1st Street. It is already being used as an unofficial off-leash park and it is much bigger.
- Yes, yes, yes! We have no off leash dog areas within walking distance. There are so many dog owners in the area, we are tax payers too. In general, I have found that our dog owner community is very responsible and would clean up after their dogs. I just don't foresee the issues that I have heard the neighbours discuss. While a dog park in the large area off Esplanade would be great, it's not going to happen for years.
- Yes! It is really needed and dogs are there regardless so why make it more safe for dogs and kids.
- In view of a large number of residents in the community with dogs, this is certainly a good idea.
- Lie! Misleading. 80% of the park as per your diagram is not a small portion. You need to rewrite this question and your answers to this question have no correlation at all to the reality of your proposal. Not a small portion.
- Great idea. There has to be a system put in place to ensure proper and regular maintenance and community responsibility and ownership over cleanliness.
- Yes please! We need a fence off-leash area on our street.
- Love it. I don't have a dog but think it's a nice amenity for the neighbourhood. Probably a good idea to have curfew so it's not loud for neighbouring buildings. Don't currently use it. Just use the park for playground. I like the dog park idea. Maybe clean it up a little so families can have picnics there?
- Lots of dogs already.
- A dog area is great, but should be enforced. What is the point of a dog area if the dogs roam off leash in no dog areas without penalty.
- I support and hope that the City pursues other such areas as well. This is a huge problem.
- Yes, please!
- Like it as it would deter dog owners taking dogs onto the south side grass lawn to poop.
- So many dogs in the area, it would be well used.
- People already utilize the north and south areas to walk their dogs, so this is a wonderful idea. The proposed area is quite small though. I think it would be a great idea to use the whole area instead of just a portion. As far as I know, there aren't any other off-leash dog parks in Lower Lonsdale and more and more people now have dogs.
- Not for it.
- Absolutely.
- I think having an open leash dog park area so close to people's residences is a bit of a disaster. Dogs barking and owners yelling at them will be a complete nightmare.
- That's a great idea, there are almost no legal places for dogs to run. People are using it anyway for dogs.
- No I do not agree with an off leash dog park, it needs to go someplace else
- Unsure, so close to residents.

Q7. Responses continued

- That's great, there are so few legal places dogs can play.
- As an owner of two dogs that works on Lower Lonsdale, I am very much in support of this.
- Dog owners are a seriously underserved group in Lower Lonsdale - especially as the area continues to develop. Having an off-leash dog park would be hugely beneficial to dogs and dog owners, as well as other residents as it could: 1. Reduce the amount of dog waste dispersed in the area, 2. Reduce the number of dogs using other areas as off-leash parks (when not the intended use), 3. Serve the dog owning community of Lower Lonsdale.
- Yes! Please, please put a dog park here! Local dog owners (including myself!) would love to have a space close by to bring our dogs for off leash fun. Nearby parks are limited in dog play areas, with dogs prohibited from most parks and off leash parks only available if you have a car. The option of a fenced off leash area would encourage dog owners to be more respectful of on-leash/no dog zones and would keep dogs much safer as well! Our dogs live in apartments-they need space to run!
- An off-leash park here is a great idea and a welcomed one to the neighborhood. I'd much rather see it as grass rather than artificial turf or sand.
- I am for it as long as it doesn't infringe on the child play areas and that is enforced regularly for non-compliance, as various dog owners in the area have their dogs off leash a lot, as well as let them poop in the park without cleaning it up.
- That's great, there are so few legal dog areas in the City.
- I am absolutely against this idea. North Semisch Park is already a small area and should remain a space where people can sit on the bench or grass and enjoy the view. As someone who sits on that bench every day, it would be extremely annoying to have dogs running around barking there all the time. It ruins the peaceful atmosphere of north Semisch Park. If you want to create a small dog park, it should go in the south Semisch park area where there are already children playing and noise is no issue.
- I love the idea of a fenced dog park in Lower Lonsdale. However, a small artificial turf space seems useless to all but tiny dogs. We need a large fenced area that would accommodate all sizes of dogs and allow them to really run around. I would propose choosing a different area, such as the north part of Waterfront Park, to create a dog park.
- Lower Lonsdale very much needs some off-leash dog parks both on the west and east of Lonsdale. I'm a dog owner who has been pushing for a dog park over the last several years. If there was data on dog ownership geographically in the City, I expect Lower Lonsdale would be near the top in "dog density". That being said, I'm not sure that this is the right spot. It would be more costly, but a reworked Waterfront Park, particularly the very under-utilized north side, would be a much better location. That north section of Waterfront is so rarely used outside of a few events each year. Most often it is vacant of park users and especially so in the winter. The drainage is poor, so the grass is very mushy during rainy times. Even if it is deemed necessary to keep this as an event space, I would urge the City to look at the lower, sloped, part of the park adjacent to the railway fence as a potential site for an off leash area. Because of the steep slope it is of low value during events. Already being fenced on one side, perhaps some creativity and excavation could convert this portion to something more useful, like an off-leash area?

Q7. Responses continued

- I'm all for it, there are lots of dog owners in the neighbourhood. Maybe they'll stop throwing their poop bags in the bushes.
- No dogs in parks!
- I think this park is too small for that. A small section of Waterfront Park on the Esplanade side would be much better suited.
- Yes, on the dog park but it would have to be patrolled by City employees to make sure there are no needles.
- Would deter dog owners taking dogs onto the south side grass lawn to poop.
- Adding off-leash with many small children not a good idea.
- The walkway is part of a path that takes you down to Waterfont Park. I think it would be a shame to take it out. Even if you do remove it the park is still too small for a dog park.
- Why not it's underused as it is and the dogs get a safe place.
- Don't bother unless you have by law-enforcement around from time to time. Very few dog owners will abide by this.
- Yay, that's what I need. An off-leash area within walking distance.
- No off-leash in a kiddy park, just asking for trouble on a few levels. Fur babies are not a new priority for the city I hope.
- I love fenced in off leash dog parks, although if it's really small it wouldn't be useful. You need the ability to throw a ball.
- Not keen on this. Can't guarantee that a child wouldn't be hurt by a dog potentially and not all dog owners pick up poop.
- Not too keen and it's not that I don't love dogs. I've been a four time dog owner. Even being fenced in I'm not for it. Don't see the benefit for such a small area.
- Is there enough space for both off leash space and a good sized play area?
- This is a terrible idea that I am writing to you to oppose. The residents of this area consistently use that area of the park to sit and enjoy the view. The area is frequently used by people for various activities, including sunbathing, picnics and games. The area is already welcoming for dog owners, with facilities provided for poo bags. The area is so small that it would be meaningless to have an off leash area in the first place. There are numerous other areas that are suitable for this kind of facility, namely in the park near the train tracks only a couple of blocks away, which, is not near any residential areas and is infrequently used. It is large enough to support an off leash area that would actually provide value to dog owners.

There is no other dog park within the greater Vancouver area that is right next to a residential building let alone 6 buildings in this particular case. This off leash dog park not only robs residents of natural greenery, but it also takes away the ability of residents to sit and enjoy the view (it is one of the few parks that has a fantastic view of the city and the ocean). Placing this off leash park will also have negative effects on the neighbourhood, specifically in terms of parking, traffic and eventually to the overall value of the buildings themselves. The proposal is not supported by any of the neighbouring buildings. My condo has a bedroom and a balcony that overlook this park. I am very allergic to animal dander, specifically very allergic to dogs. The

introduction of this park will have a negative effect on my quality of life, and will actually infringe on my rights as a homeowner. Please, do not pursue this course of action or I will have to consider alternatives in opposing this proposed changes.

- As a local resident it is noticeable that there is an overwhelming local need for a large easily accessible dog park in lower Lonsdale. Currently residents are restricted in what opportunity they have for their dogs to safely exercise and engage with others in the community, particularly if they do not have access to a car or work unsocial hours. The geography of Lower Lonsdale also restricts older residents or those who are ill who do not have a car or the ability to hike up the avenues. These residents as a consequence walk their dogs on local streets and alleys which deprives the dog of the exercise it requires and the individual of the social interaction that owning and walking a dog brings. These alleyways and streets are also unappealing to these individuals beyond a certain time at night where on more than one occasion my neighbours have said they don't go to far as it's not safe. The reasons for owning a dog are numerous however a number of older local residents own a dog for social reasons and utilize it to meet and communicate with others in the community maintaining their sense of mental wellbeing and inclusion. It's not uncommon for these individuals to say they miss the social interaction and sense of community that they once enjoyed while residing in another area now that they have moved to the north shore through a lack of dog park/ exercise area. Young professionals and family also suffer as a consequence of not having a local accessible dog park in which to exercise their pet. Spending time with the family dog is currently restricted to jumping in the car and planned family outing or walking the dog on the streets or waterfront (leashed). This really isn't good enough for an area such as Lonsdale or the family and animals that reside here. The societal benefits of observing and interacting with animals whilst not always being quantifiable are profound. I regularly frequent a number of cafes on at the waterfront and the number of individuals from all walks of life be they families, tourists, pensioners or special needs children who engage with Russel (my dog) is immense. The joy that a simple interaction with my dog has for these people and how subsequently they open up and interact with me and those around is astounding. This is why it is essential that any facility is integrated into a wider community space as dogs really do break down barriers to communications and are excellent ice breakers. So whilst I and the community welcome the prospect of a small play area for our dogs I urge you and the city council to install a large facility in the lower Lonsdale area that can be utilized by the entire community to engage in play opportunities, build bridges between different age groups and grow the sense of community spirit.

Q8. Proposed improvements to West 2nd Street include reducing the width of the pedestrian crossing, adding a raised crosswalk, and new planting areas. What are your thoughts on these potential improvements?

- Good idea (6)
- No comment (6)
- Neutral (2)
- Checkmark (2)
- Yes (2)
- Fine (2)
- Great idea (3)
- I am for it! (2)
- Ok, but is it really a priority? The top section of the park/roadway between 2nd and 3rd is more important as it is currently wasted space.
- Check. Please.
- We need a dog park, priority one.
- This seems like an unnecessary cost, the money should be allocated to areas of Semisch Park improvements that make a difference. Accessibility to all types of users (wheelchair, disability, etc) and dogs (safe area to play).
- Yes, cars drive very fast down 2nd street. Raise the cross walk, slow cars down. Pedestrian and dogs need to be seen.
- Whatever is needed.
- I like it.
- Definitely in favour of!
- Good idea, please slow down the traffic on 2nd Street West.
- Fine as long as pedestrians can continue to walk through to 3rd Street.
- If you want to eliminate traffic on 2nd, stop access from Front/Esplanade Street.
- It should not be all about the cars and dogs. More about pedestrians and people.
- Fine. I drive to work and park on 4th or 2nd if available. Fine with traffic slowing measures.
- Feel the width doesn't need to be increased. Planting area is fine.
- I think the reduced width is an excellent traffic calming measure and provides a more pedestrian scale to the street crossing.
- Bump outs would be great for pedestrian safety. The bump out should allow for rain gardens to collect the water from the street as they are low points/drainage for the whole block.
- Sure.
- Good if it is within reason.
- In favour.
- Great!
- Safety is good, calming device. Keep costs down. Do not reduce parking on street, parking is already limited. Look to expand parking opportunities.
- It would definitely help visibility especially for young children.
- Yes, it is a dangerous crosswalk. People speed on the street.

Q8. Responses continued

- Improvements I am ok with. But as an owner of a large dog, the park you are wanting to use is just too small.
- As long as it doesn't cut into street parking.
- Lovely!
- We need a raised crosswalk, many times nearly hit.
- Very good. I support this.
- Good, the sooner the better.
- Great idea. Really like the traffic calming/raised crosswalk idea and planting. Can you please consider putting a speed bump in the 300 block of West 2nd. Cars speed a lot coming off Forbes.
- Sure. Sounds good. Don't feel strongly about this one way or another. But I'm always in favour of change and improvements.
- Need more healthy trees.
- I drive through frequently and support.
- Sure.
- Again it improves the neighbourhood.
- Another great idea! A raised crosswalk would be smart as a lot of people drive way too fast and if there are more children in the area, this would make sense.
- Planting area sounds good.
- Sounds good!
- I think safety should be paramount, cars find it too easy to speed over the wide raised crosswalk right now.
- I support these ideas. Slowing the traffic down through this section would be beneficial for residents and pedestrians. Perhaps a traffic circle with a pedestrian path would be an option?
- Steps to reduce speeding in this area would be a positive improvement.
- New planting areas could include colourful flowers as well as a focus on native Coast Salish plants and bee friendly varieties.
- Anything to slow vehicles down on this road is a welcomed improvement. All too often vehicles speed down the narrow street, avoiding traffic on Third and Esplanade, and ignore the playground speed zone and the speed bump currently installed.
- Makes it safer and more attractive.
- This seems like a good idea. More plants can benefit the insect life and overall ecosystem of the area.
- I think crosswalk lights should be installed.
- Make it safe and pretty.
- I think there are other areas of Lower Lonsdale that would benefit from improvements. The streets west of Lonsdale are all new and have nice landscaping, whereas the streets east of Lonsdale could use some work.
- Sounds good! 2nd Street is a surprisingly busy road.
- This should be done in every park and school zone as a priority. A sidewalk table is not safe enough - it should be a proper speed bump.

- Sound fine to me. To be totally honest, I wonder why this was never an issue until the new development came in and luxury condo owners moved into the neighborhood. Money talks unfortunately.
- The more safety improvements, the better.
- Keep the crosswalk as is but go ahead with planting areas
- Makes it safer and more attractive.
- Beautify to your hearts content!
- Not sure.
- Sounds okay.
- Raised crosswalk is a good idea and must be very well lit.

Q9. At the first open house we received positive support for making pedestrian improvements to Semisch Ave. (between 2nd Street and 3rd Street). We are looking into funding opportunities to make future improvements to this area.

Please tell us how you currently use Semisch Avenue (between 3rd Street and West 2nd Street) and what improvements you would like to see.

- No comment (15)
- To get access to 3rd from 2nd (3)
- I don't use. (2)
- I regularly walk through it to access 3rd Street from 2nd. It seems like wasted space at present, the park should be extended into this area.
- To take my dog out, walk to the SeaBus.
- Walk dog on sidewalk. No pedestrian improvements needed.
- Neutral.
- Lights at night, better walk way. I don't use Semisch Ave, I walk to Chesterfield then up to 3rd, feel safer.
- I don't use it currently.
- I occasionally walk up to 3rd Street via this route, would like to see a designated pedestrian walkway (sidewalk) on at least one side.
- I walk up to 3rd to shop. The area of Semisch up to 3rd should be repaved.
- A much higher/raised crosswalk. Cars do not slow down presently.
- Sometimes only for visitor parking.
- As long as you use permeable surfacing, improvements for pedestrians are ok.
- Parking where car to go and Evo can't park.
- It is fine, does not need to change.
- I use the lower portion more between 2nd and 1st. Stairs get slippery and creek forms down it during big rains. OK for this.
- Access from my home to 3rd Street shops, post office, etc. I suggest extending the green space and walkway all the way to 3rd Street.
- I only use it as a through way on walks. Suggest more greening and landscaping improvements.

Q9. Responses continued

- Change where the pathway enters the alley as it is dangerous with the fence and vines there. You could put a ramp in through the last >><< that would put you on the west side of the road.
- Ramp is needed.
- Better landscaping.
- In favour.
- I use for parking when streets are full.
- I am a daily pedestrian and appreciate any improvements to park safety and keeping dogs away from the kid's park.
- What you proposed.
- This area is already easily accessible. No need to make any changes. That is a waste of money.
- I walk through it to get to 3rd Street.
- I like to get off the bus on 3rd and walk through North Semisch Park, but the road is so uneven and that would be nice to be a wide smooth safe lit up path to use.
- I agree that the green space needs to be extended so it stretches between 2nd and 3rd Street. There is already a play area between 2nd and 1st. Green area should include trees/shrubs, seats. Not everyone has children, not everyone has somewhere to sit/be outside.
- It is a quiet place for those of us that live here in this neighbourhood. The kids park is across the street and this is used by adults. Having lunch, just catch some shade or catch up with neighbours.
- Just to walk through. A good sidewalk and angle parking would be good.
- Only to walk my dog. Not a very pleasant area. Would be great to improve that area.
- Walk thru – with safety.
- One way street (heading North), angled parking to the East of that and a walkway to the East of the angled parking.
- Walk here all the time.
- Walking, so I encourage improvements.
- Re paving and clear walking area. The strip is used for parking and walking.
- Currently just walk through.
- Don't use as uneven pavement a hazard. Like to see sidewalks and lighting here.
- Walking to and from Marine Drive and walking my dog.
- I rarely use this area at all. It's very gravel-like and slippery. It would be good to see it paved. I know a lot of people park their cars there. Or it could be closed up and added to the park area with a walkway. Could also make a dog park area even larger then.
- I would like to see it cleaned up and more manicured.
- Often just walk through.
- Better lighting.
- Replace Semisch Avenue with park entirely. I bet its serving as free parking for commuters more than anything right now. Even if it is adjacent residents parking there, it is only a few cars and the added green space is more valuable than the current alley access it provides.

- There is currently no reason for me to use this area.
- I mostly use this area to walk my dog and as a through street for biking. Since I have no other immediate use for the area I do not have any specific suggestions at this time.
- I use this area to access North Semisch Park from third or north of 2nd and Lonsdale. I also walk my dogs through the area and down the alley. Providing some proper parking spots in this area and cleaning up the pavement could go a long way; or, removing parking altogether and expanding the park would be even more desirable.
- I rarely use that part. I prefer the child playground area if the park between 2nd and 1st.
- That pedestrian area should be used for a dog park instead.
- Park to visit friends, needs paving and better parking.
- As a walk through.
- I don't think I've ever used it. If the park was more appealing to walk through (trees, landscaping, flowers, etc.) then I would likely utilize it more often.
- I usually just drive through it, the road is horrible.
- Walk. This park is not that pleasing – litter, cigarette butts, etc.
- Just walking through. Don't really go there as a destination.
- Casual use, and walk through the park. Quiet green space and pedestrian improvements would be nice.
- Use it to avoid the traffic on 3rd Street due to never ending construction.
- A lane to connect 3rd and 2nd.
- More benches, some more lights to make it safer to use at night.
- I use it daily and would appreciate the road being re-surfaced. Cautionary signage (not a stop sign) would be good for the intersection with the lane running east/west.
- I only come up from Cherterfield Place to the park at this time.
- Use when in the area, but don't live there.
- Do not regularly walk that way.
- I actually live in proximity but don't frequent park that often. Now that I'm a grandma I probably will. Like I said.... some shade provision would be nice.

Q10. Are there any other comments you wish to share with us?

- The open grass area is ideal. Keep it.
- We need more green space. The rate of building in Lower Lonsdale is exponential and appears unlikely to slow down, unfortunately. We need green space to offset the buildings and increasing green areas for the increasing numbers of people.
- No dog park please. We go to bed early and get up early. Dogs and their owners are already annoying (coming from a dog owner).
- We need a dog park.

Q10. Responses continued

- It's time to revisit the approved off leash dog park in Lower Lonsdale. It's been over 2 years, it was left at the point where the City was trying to find the best location. What about East 2nd Emerald or Hamersley Park? Or the North side of Waterfront Park, Esplanade side. This could be restructured to deal with drainage issues and maybe use a section near the train tracks for dogs (fenced).
- Best idea is dog off leash area. Garbage disposal for smokers (not large garbage cans).
- I live close to the area and work even closer. I would use the off leash area all the time.
- The tall dense vegetation on west side of current park space (from lane south to 1st Street) should be trimmed down or changed altogether to prevent vagrants and late night partiers from hanging out in this locale. This has been an issue of concern for residents of adjacent Chinook House for a long time!
- Make the park child friendly. More open spaces. More light, wheel chair access. The view is beautiful, remove the trees and shrubs. I never go the park, feel unsafe. Never walk through at night without my husband or a group of friends.
- No dog park.
- Please leave North Semisch Park as it is. Which is perfect. No tree or bush cutting. Excited dogs create too much noise and the size of the park is too small and inappropriate for that use.
- Put the 2nd bench back. Have bylaw officer on site much more often for No Dog park to fine owners which will bring down taxes. The amount of people breaking laws-no dogs, is similar to drivers on their cell phones. A lot of people are allergic to dogs and no consideration from dog owners is given to them. Noise pollution is hazardous to health and yapping, barking dogs. So NO more dogs.
- The thought of an off-leash dog park right beside my patio disgusts me. This park is used by so many people. I have an excellent view and know this to be a fact. Please, City of North Vancouver, give a thought to the people who live beside and near Semisch Park – dogs must be secondary.
- Overall, the concepts proposed look great.
- We need an off leash dog park.
- Bringing more people to the area will effect parking on street, I am made to park 3 blocks away already at high times. Resident parking only on street is needed and required.
- Please enforce the dog bylaws. The property with gate entrance to park frequently has dogs coming and going, please talk to that strata. Improvements look great. Thank you for public open house.
- Make selling of dogs and cats through pet stores illegal.
- We have just learned about this proposal 1 day before this meeting. We were shocked to learn this was a 2nd meeting. We were never notified about this dog park that directly affects our property. This is not appropriate that CNV made special visits to BC Housing and private school and did less than adequate notification to residents. This situation feels like a special interest group (dog owners) are trying to railroad residents for their own benefit. I am very concerned

Q10. Responses continued

about this proposal. Why are residents in the neighbourhood directly affected only given 1 week to respond? CNV needs to expand this comment sheet to allow all residents in this neighbourhood to respond. Thank you!

- People in the area ignore rules about where their dogs poop/pee. I have walked through the park and saw a dog owner allow his dog to urinate on the children's slide. It was on a leash. Please keep the green spaces a priority for children in the area. They will become taxpayers. The dogs never will.
- Why are other parks in North Vancouver so well maintained and Semisch look like a dump. More people would utilize this park if it was mowed regularly. Also, it seems that the City of North Vancouver lacks the manpower to maintain a regular park, how will it keep a dog park clean and who will deal with all the dog poop. There are certainly a lot of owners who don't clean up after their dogs judging by the amount of poop in parks.
- We need more benches, "picnic tables" and shady places to relax on, more greenery. Even some privacy for benches. There are adults and seniors liking to use the park as well. 2 or 3 picnic tables, how about 1 or 2 barbeque pits and flower gardens to decorate large boulders are fun and plush grass with cement paths rather than muddy mess. At least 2 well contained garbage containers for park. Also, intimate lighting would be nice.
- If the dog park doesn't go through, consider a dog park at the park on Esplanade. There are so many dog owners in this area that would love to have a place for their fur babies.
- Really need the dog park and crosswalk!
- I am a senior citizen. I love to come out and sit on the bench specifically to enjoy the sun. I also stroll there. Some more vegetation like some ornamental trees and some more benches will be very useful to people to really enjoy this park.
- Re: north Semisch, more attractive place to sit, less outdated vegetation, more useful spaces.
- Use your imagination a little further, why use one of the smallest park areas in the whole neighbourhood for such a use. Adults need a park they can use, not dogs. Find a bigger space with no living space so close. With this idea you are setting up the neighbourhood for constant quarreling and disharmony. Find a better location for an off-leash dog area.
- We urge you to consider the North side of Waterfront Park as an option for a fenced in dog park.
- Speed bump in 300 block of West 2nd please. Thank you for this great "pop up" engagement opportunity. The City does a wonderful job with engagement and getting out and connecting with us. Thank you.
- Dreaming big here....water playground would be amazing. Basically, I welcome any kid friendly amenities. We are the heaviest park users (it seems to me). Also, there's a lot of cigarette butts. Is there a way to curb this? Maybe cigarette butt holders? No smoking signs? Also, if there is a dog area, then the kids area should have more signs saying no dogs. Dog poop in the kids area sucks! Also, water fountain and more garbage and recycling would be great.
- Noisy swings that squeak at all hours. Need oiling?
- More light and less places for people to drink and cause ruckus. Thanks for addressing this area!
- I think the park area just needs a bit more care, love and landscaping. It sometimes becomes a bit of a dumping ground.

Q10. Responses continued

- Be mindful of the location as it's an attractive place for junkies and teenagers at night. I'm always finding folks sleeping under the bushes and keeping an eye out for needles, condoms and garbage dumped by locals. Would like park caretaker visiting and cleaning twice a day in the spring and summer months.
- A face lift is definitely something that is needed for the park... for both people and dogs to enjoy.
- Please patrol the park and reprimand misusers such as smokers/drinker/garbage dumpers and dog owners leaving their dogs poop everywhere.
- Please reconsider the location of the dog park. I believe that Lower Lonsdale should have a dog park area, but I am not sure that somewhere so close to peoples windows and balconies.
- I welcome the updates the park is under used as it is and a little rundown.
- There always seems to be a lot of smokers and cigarette butts around the children's play area. Is there any way this can be stopped?
- I think it is great expanding the dog friendly areas in CNV and especially the Lower Lonsdale area. This is something lacking as the community is rapidly growing and the proposed (albeit small) improvement to this is a welcomed addition.
- The east-west traffic in this neighborhood is aggressive and careless. All too often I find cars speeding toward the pedestrian crossing on 2nd street, oblivious there are children playing. It would be nice to see the RCMP have a bit of a speed trap on this street to remind some commuters that they are in a quiet residential area with a park spanning both sides of the street where kids are playing. I appreciate the proposed improvements to this crossing and look forward to seeing everything installed in the coming years.
- Please enforce the park more regularly for people doing drugs/smoking/drinking as it happens frequently. I saw two people drinking and one smoking on the benches by the swings when I went there with my daughter this morning (2018-07-03 @ 10:00am).
- Please don't take away North Semisch Park from the residents of this street. It's perfect as is. All I could suggest is some landscaping maintenance but that's really it. Putting a dog park there is a mistake. It is too small and already has the peaceful atmosphere of being an area for people to come sit and relax while enjoying the view. I sit on the bench in north Semisch Park every day, taking away my experience is going to be infuriating.
- As is the case with the majority of residents I speak to we welcome the proposals for Semisch Park. Having this facility for the community is long overdue and I have no doubt, will have a significant impact on community spirit through bridging the gap between generations by creating a new space that brings all ages together.
- There is a privately owned park on East 1st. The city should propose to buy it and turn it into a permanent public park, to preserve the green space in Lower Lonsdale amid the ever increasing density.
- I guess I shouldn't complain about improvements. But it says something that it takes new development and money moving into the neighborhood to get this stuff done. Cheers
- This National Trust house in the UK has an epic playground <https://ntbeltonadventureplayground.wordpress.com/>

Q10. Responses continued

- This park is an important part of my daily life and was a key reason for me purchasing a condo in the building right next to it. Turning it into an off leash dog park and doing these fenced off artificial changes would rob me of something that is of value to me as a homeowner. The park is key for the enjoyment of the view of the residents of this area. Please do not proceed with the dog park.
- Thanks for proposing these improvements!
- Thanks for noticing the park was inaccessible to us babysitting grandparents with stairs only when strollers are mode of transportation.
- Use rubber or whatever it is they use in good playgrounds for the surface. It makes so much difference.
- So happy and proud of the City for keeping the land as a public park!
- Please have ample provision for garbage and prompt pick up by the City so it doesn't become a haven for rodents.