

# WELCOME!

## What's happening?

We are transforming a PARKING LOT into a PARK...

The Vancouver Park Board is undertaking an exciting design process that will create a new park at the intersection of Smithe and Richards Streets. It will serve as a place for community recreation, culture, and tranquility in the bustling downtown neighbourhood.



## We want to hear your ideas!

Creating a new park in downtown Vancouver is a rare and exciting opportunity, and today we want to hear your input on how to make it a great public space!

You can have your say in the design of the future park in a few ways:

**ONLINE OR ON THE PHONE BY JULY 12TH**

 **Online Questionnaire:** [vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards](http://vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards)

 @ParkBoard #SmitheRichards

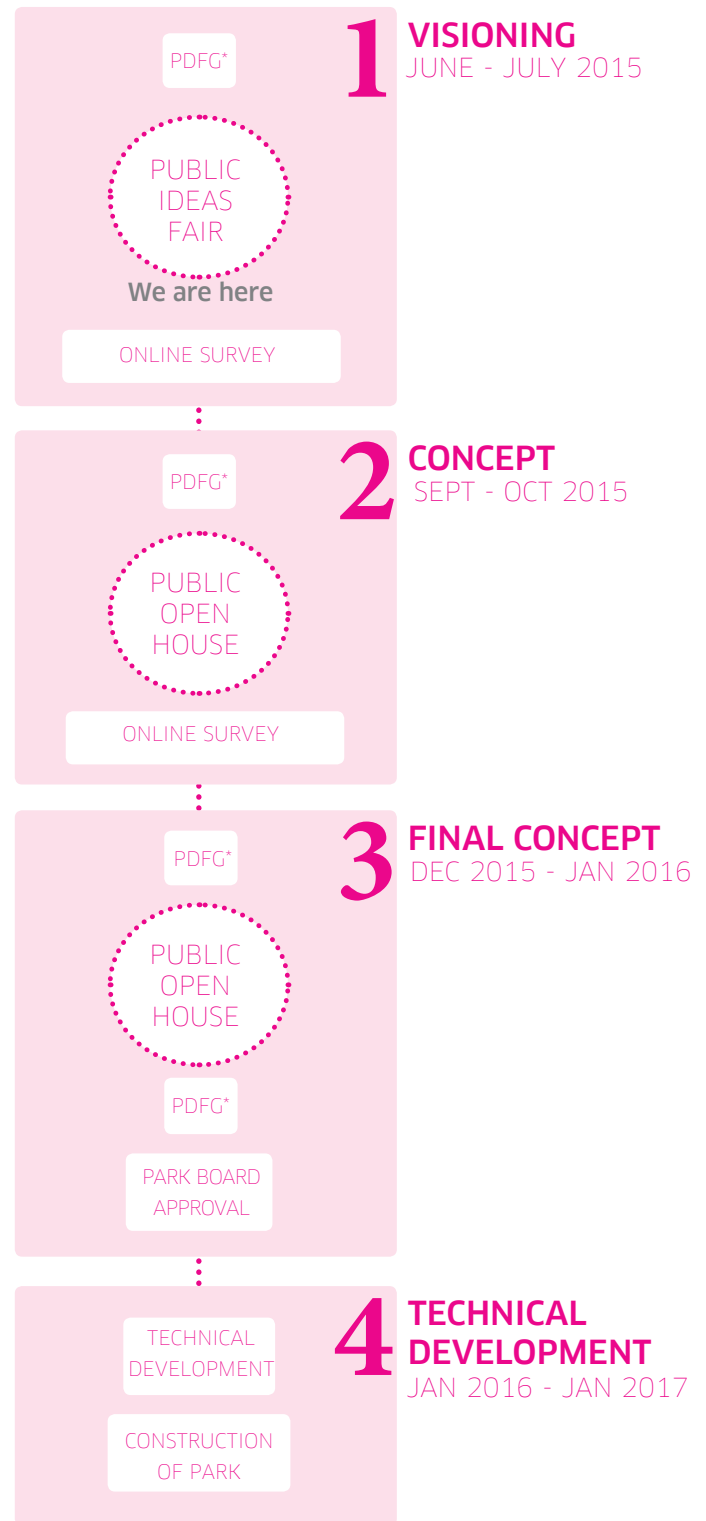
 [facebook.com/ParkBoard](https://www.facebook.com/ParkBoard) #SmitheRichards

 [SmitheRichards@vancouver.ca](mailto:SmitheRichards@vancouver.ca)

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**IN PERSON**

 Fill out a paper questionnaire today!



**PARK COMPLETED EARLY 2017**



\*The PDFG (Park Design Focus Group) is comprised of community stakeholders who offer input into the process during workshops and share information with their networks.

Learn about...

# THE SITE

## Where will the new park be?

The park will introduce a new public place in the south downtown neighbourhood, just a short walk from where you are right now.



Future Park Location

## How will the park fit into the bigger picture?

The new park will help meet the Vancouver Park Board's vision to connect people in Vancouver to green space, active living, and community.



Elements of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation's Strategic Plan

**Take the Online Questionnaire:** [vancouver.ca/SmithRichards](http://vancouver.ca/SmithRichards)

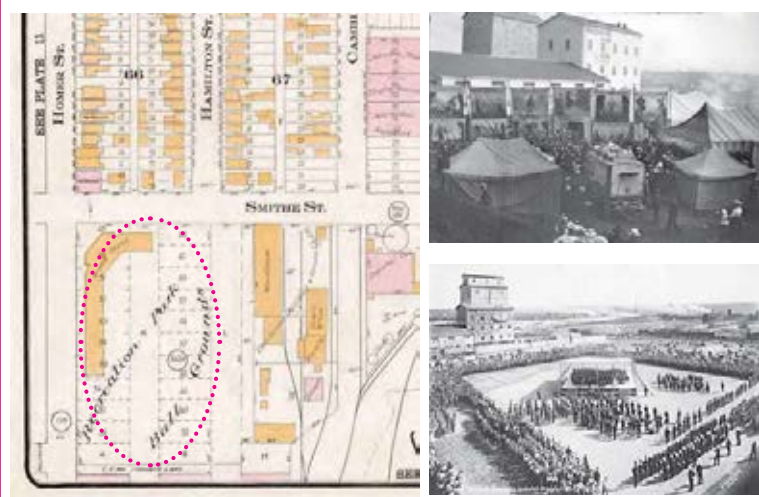
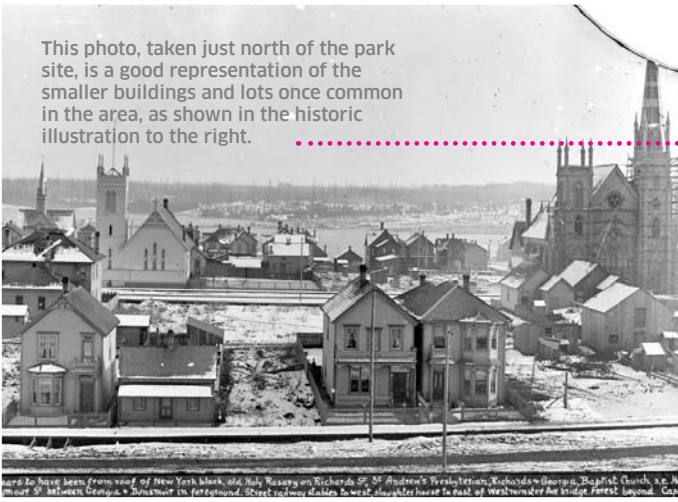


Learn about...

# THE SITE

## Looking back...

This photo, taken just north of the park site, is a good representation of the smaller buildings and lots once common in the area, as shown in the historic illustration to the right.



Intersection of Richards and Smithe (1970s)



These photos and map are from around 1900, and depict the location and types of events that took place at Recreation Park. Located at the corner of Smithe and Homer Streets, this park was just a stone's throw from the future park location.



Demolition of the building at the south part of the site at Smithe Street (early 2000s)

 **Take the Online Questionnaire:** [vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards](http://vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards)



Learn about...

# THE SITE

## Today...

The site is a parking lot, surrounded by condo towers and retail units at street level. A service lane, which is a prominent characteristic of the site, runs along the eastern edge.



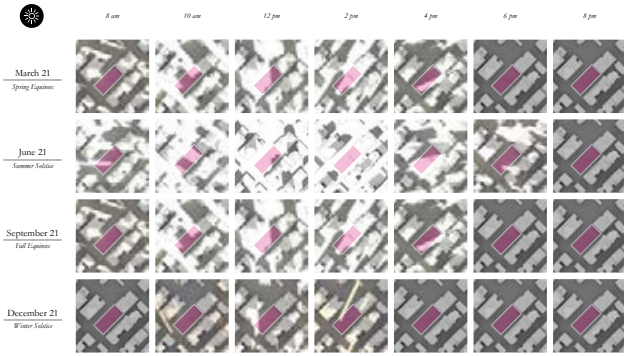
 **Take the Online Questionnaire:** [vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards](http://vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards)



Learn about...

# THE SITE

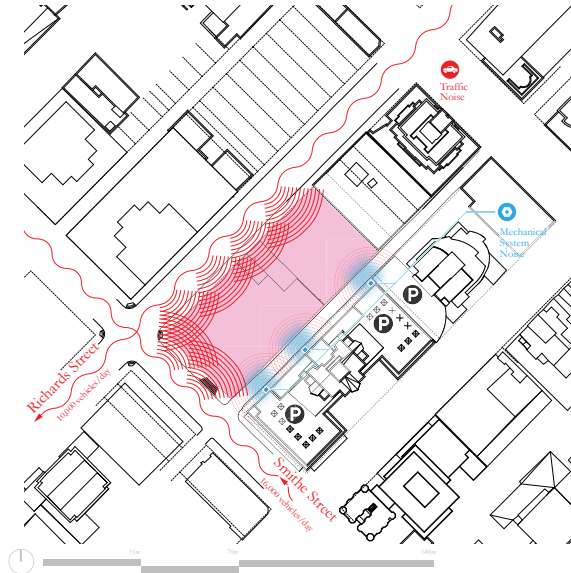
**Solar Access:** Except in winter, the site has sunny spots that move across the space throughout the day.



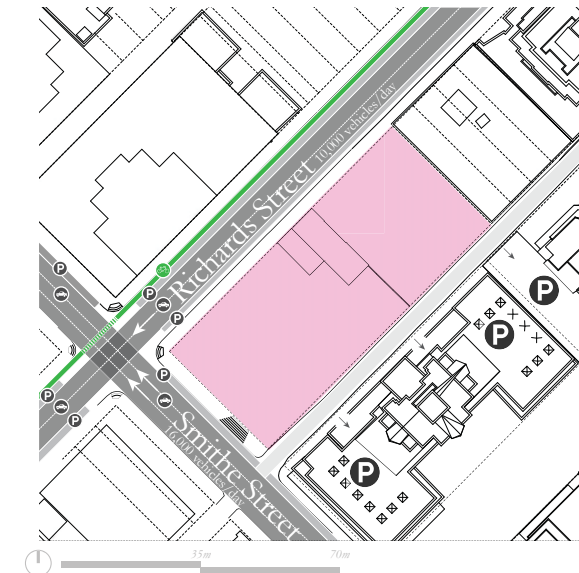
**Slope:** The site slopes significantly from Richards down toward the alley at Smithe.



**Noise:** There is considerable traffic noise on the site.



**Vehicular Circulation and Traffic:** Thousands of vehicles pass by the site via Smithe and Richards Streets.



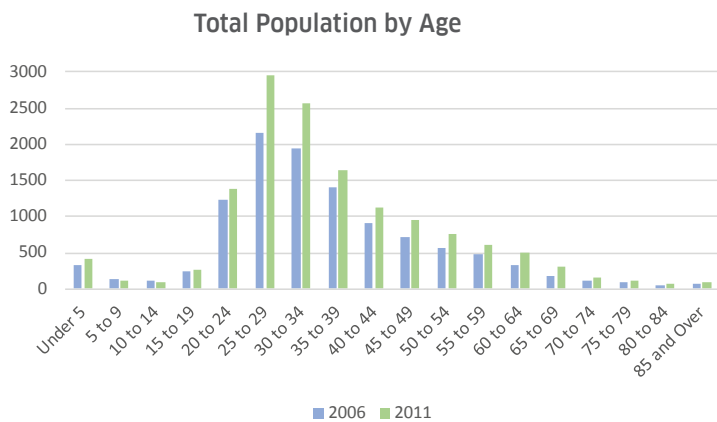
**Vegetation:** There are 12 mature trees on the site, primarily along Richards Street.



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# THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

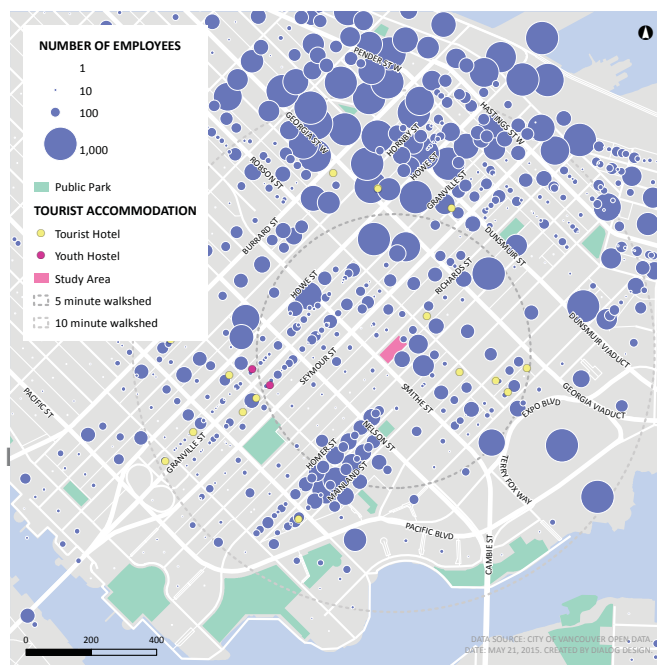
## Who lives nearby?



This is a neighbourhood with **young adults and young families**.

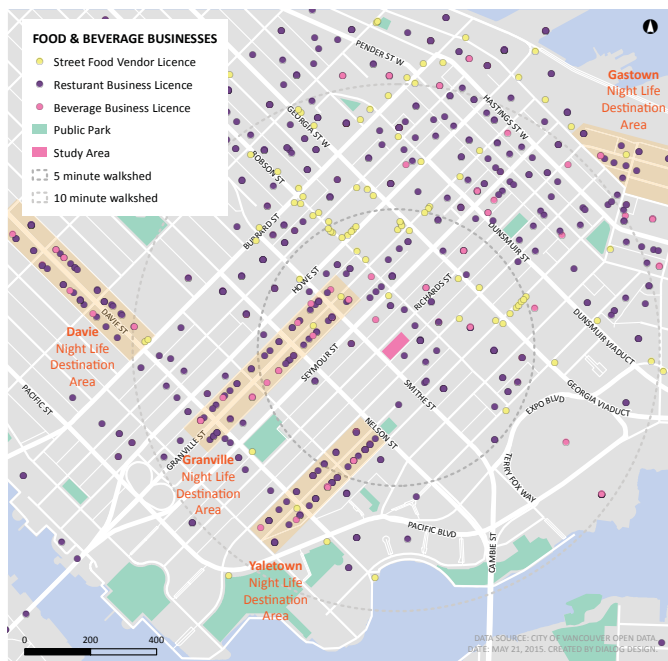
The largest age group in immediate area around the future park site is 20-39 years. Nearby Yaletown is home to the largest percentage of households with children in all of downtown.

## Who works + visits?



Several thousand more people are going to be working in new high-tech businesses, building on the current 17,500 people working within a 5-minute walk of the park. Several hotels and youth hostels are also in the area.

## What happens here?



There are **lots of destinations for food, beverages, and night life** nearby.

## Which cultural spaces are here?



There are **many nearby cultural spaces** ranging from museums and galleries to theatres and studios. Public art, on the other hand, is sparse.

Take the Online Questionnaire: [vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards](http://vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards)





# THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

## How do people travel here and pass by?

### Walking



There are several important pedestrian connections in the area, including Robson Street, Granville Street, and the seawall.

### Cycling



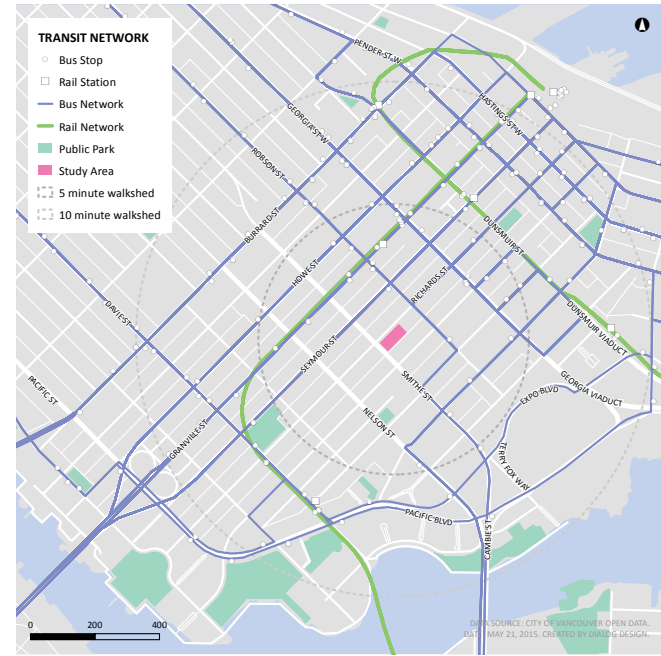
The site is adjacent to bike-ways, connected to a broader cycling network.

### Car-Sharing



The site is also well serviced by car-share options.

### Transit

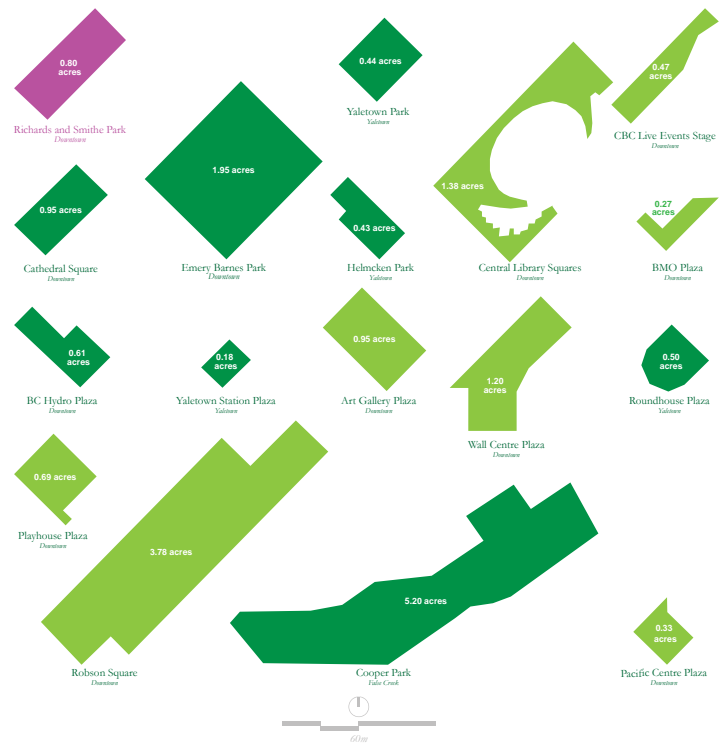
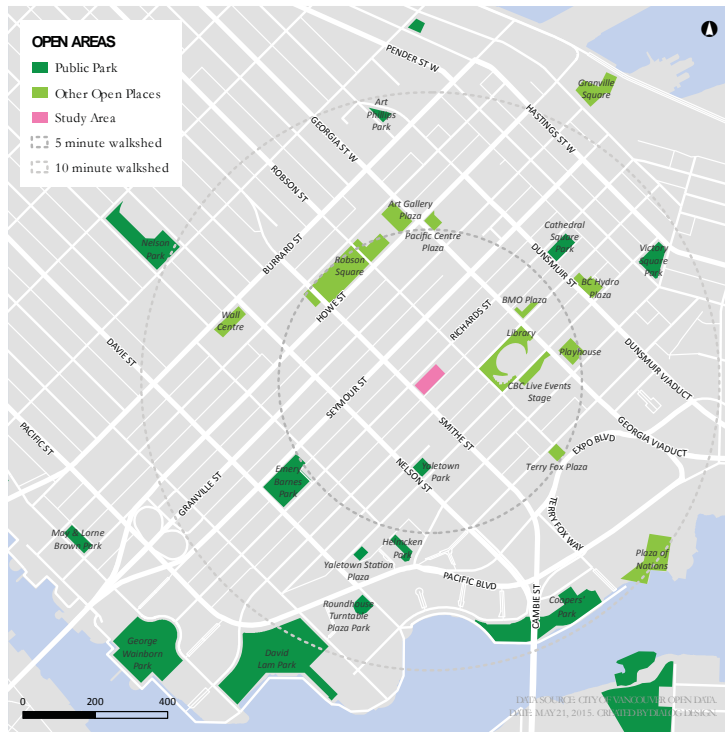


This area is well serviced by transit, with several bus stops and one Canada Line station within a 5 minute walk of the site.

Learn about...

# NEARBY PARKS

To help guide your input on the new park, take a look at what already exists in the neighbourhood:



1. Emery Barnes Park



2. Yaletown Park



3. Helmcken Park



4. Central Library Square



5. CBC Live Events Plaza



6. Art Gallery North Plaza



7. Robson Square



8. Queen Elizabeth Plaza



9. Pacific Centre Plaza



10. Cathedral Square Park



11. BC Hydro Plaza



12. Wall Centre Gardens



13. Yaletown Station Plaza



14. Roundhouse Turntable Plaza



15. Coopers Park



16. Bank of Montreal Plaza

Take the Online Questionnaire: [vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards](http://vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards)



Learn about...

# NEARBY PARKS

PARK/ OPEN SPACE	PARK/ OPEN SPACE CHARACTERISTICS											PARK/ OPEN SPACE PROGRAM + ACTIVITIES													
	SIZE	PARK/SPACE TYPE	SOON ACCESS	PAVED GATHERING AREA	SMALL INTIMATE SPACES	SEATING AREAS	LUSH PLANTING	COVERED/SHADE	TREE CANOPY (ESTABLISHED)	ACCESSIBILITY	IDENTITY/HERITAGE	WELL USED	FELS-SAFE	FOOD	PLAY (2-6 YRS)	PLAY (0-1 YRS)	SPORTS COURTS	WATER PLAY	WATER FEATURE	DOG FACILITIES	COVERED GATHERING AREAS	PERFORMANCE AREA/ STAGE	SEASONAL ACTIVITIES EVENTS	SPECTACLE/ VISUAL	PUBLIC ART
1 EMERY BARNES PARK	1.95 acres	R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 YALETOWN PARK	0.44 acres	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3 HELMCKEN PARK	0.43 acres	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4 CENTRAL LIBRARY SQUARE(S)	1.38 acres	PS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5 CBC LIVE EVENTS STAGE	0.47 acres	POPS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6 ART GALLERY PLAZA	0.95 acres	PS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7 ROBSON SQUARE	3.78 acres	PS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8 PLAYHOUSE PLAZA	0.69 acres	POPS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9 PACIFIC CENTRE PLAZA	0.10 acres	POPS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10 CATHEDRAL SQUARE PARK	0.75 acres	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11 BC HYDRO PLAZA	0.61 acres	POPS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12 WALL CENTRE PLAZA	0.70 acres	POPS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13 YALETOWN STATION PLAZA	0.44 acres	POPS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14 ROUDHOUSE TURNTABLE PLAZA	0.50 acres	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15 COOPERS' PARK	5.20 acres	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16 BMO PLAZA	0.30 acres	POPS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



## What is missing in these parks?

Take the Online Questionnaire: [vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards](http://vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards)

# WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

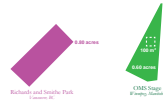
## Show us which park “ingredients” could work here

Parks are diverse, with different qualities that influence how they look, feel, and function as places for people. Place your dots below to identify which ingredients from parks around the world you think could work well here.

### Ingredient: TRANSFORMATION AND RITUAL

Due to the design and detailing of the chainmail-like shroud as the operable walls to this stage, its can quickly transform both the experience of the stage and the park around it.

Park + Location: OMS Stage, Winnipeg



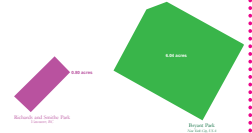
Owner: Winnipeg Exchange District B2 | Designer: S468796 Architecture Inc.

Place a dot here if you like **TRANSFORMATIVE** ideas for the new park

### Ingredient: PROGRAM

“Program” is a catch-all word used when describing a range of organized activities that help activate park spaces. Program has a lot to do with the success and popularity of this Manhattan park, with a great number of activities and events happening throughout the year, and encouraging people to mix and engage with one another. As a result, this park has become one of the most well used public parks in the city.

Park + Location: Bryant Park, NYC



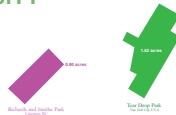
Owner: Bryant Park Corporation | Designer: Lyndon Miller

Place a dot here if you like the idea of many **PROGRAMS** for the new park

### Ingredient: URBAN GREENING AND BIODIVERSITY

Native plants and soils were used in creating this park, resulting in high degree of biodiversity. Planting including robust tree planting to enhance Vancouver Urban Forest, with the potential for horticultural specimens to soften the Urban context.

Park + Location: Tear Drop Park, NYC



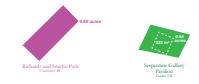
Owner: Battery Park City Parks Conservancy | Designer: Michael Van Valkenburgh + Associates

Place a dot here if you like **GREEN AND BIODIVERSE** ideas for the new park

### Ingredient: SPECTACLE AND INTEREST

The temporary pavilions in this park provide an ever changing platform for art and culture. They also create a sense of wonder and engagement that is fostered by the unique designs of the structures themselves, as well as the performances and program they accommodate.

Park + Location: Serpentine Pavilion, London



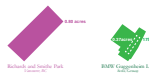
Owner: Serpentine Gallery | Designer: Several

Place a dot here if you like the idea of **INTEREST** for the new park

### Ingredient: ADAPTABILITY

This structure was used as a theatre space to host diverse events and engage a wide range of audiences. Although it was designed to be temporary and transient in nature, it is a great example of how an idea can be distilled down to a simple idea to fulfill an important purpose.

Park + Location: BMW Guggenheim Lab - New York City, Berlin, Mumbai



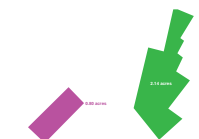
Owner: BMW | Designer: Various

Place a dot here if you like the idea of having an **ADAPTABLE** quality for the new park

### Ingredient: IDENTITY

Colour is used in dramatic and creative ways in this open space, blurring the realms between distinct recreation and those spaces for every day city living, while also defining a strong sense of place and bold identity.

Park + Location: Superkilen, Narrebro, Copenhagen



Owner: Copenhagen Municipality | Designer: Topotek + BIG Architects + Superflex

Place a dot here if you like the idea of **BOLD IDENTITY** for the new park

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# WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

## Show us which park “ingredients” could work here

Parks are diverse, with different qualities that influence how they look, feel, and function as places for people. Place your dots below to identify which ingredients from parks around the world you think could work well here.

### Ingredient: SCALE AND COMFORT

This scale of this community library allows for a variety of uses, resulting in a site that is comfortable for a single person, a small group, or a large gathering.

Park + Location: Open Air Library, Magdeburg



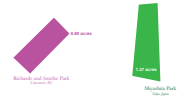
Owner: City of Magdeburg, Germany | Designer: KARO Architekten, Architectur + Netzwerk

Place a dot here if you like the idea of a **VARIETY OF SPACE AND SCALE** for the new park

### Ingredient: LAYERS AND MULTIPLE USES

Miyashita Park is a retrofitted community park built upon an existing parkade structure that required upgrading. It provides an example of how multiple experiences and activities can co-exist in a busy downtown urban site where space is limited.

Park + Location: Miyashita Park, Tokyo



Owner: Shibuya, Tokyo | Designer: Atelier Bow Wow

Place a dot if you like the idea of **LAYERS** that allow for **MULTIPLE USES** for the new park

### Ingredient: PLAY

Immersive and challenging play spaces that provide a different level of experience than afforded by typical play structures are becoming increasingly popular. Likewise, adult play elements such as ping-pong, enable young and old to equally engage with public spaces and programmed activities.

Park + Location: Areana Playground, Frew Park, Brisbane



Owner: Brisbane City Council (City Projects Office) | Designer: Guymer Bailey Architects

Place a dot here if you like the idea of **PLAY** for the new park

### Ingredient: CONNECTIONS

Back lanes can become well-used pedestrian routes with vibrant commercial destinations. There are many great examples of this, some of which are in Vancouver.

Locations: Blood Alley, Vancouver + Melbourne City



Images: Blood Alley, Vancouver + Melbourne City

Place a dot here if you like the idea of creating **CONNECTIONS** for the new park?

### Ingredient: INVITATION

Food is a powerful magnet that invites passersby to explore and visit parks and open spaces. Communal tables and chairs, along with access to a variety of food and refreshments, can create a sense of invitation, comfort, and shared experiences in a public setting. Food vendors also provide ‘eyes onto a space’, which promotes a sense of safety.

Park+Location: Bryant Park, New York City | Snack Bar Patio on the Highline, New York City | Food Truck Pod, Seattle



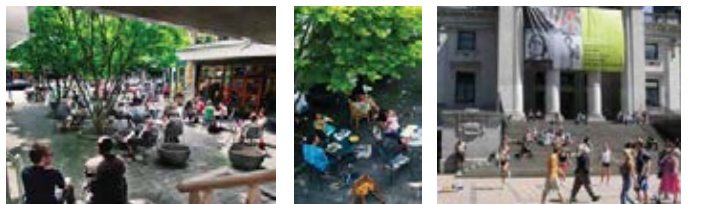
Precedents: Bryant Park, New York + Snack Bar Patio on the Highline, New York + Food Truck Pod in Seattle

Place a dot here if you like the idea of **INVITATION** for the new park

### Ingredient: ENGAGING EDGES

A space is defined by its surrounding edges. Creating engaging edges allow people to catch some sun, spontaneously strike up a conversation, buy a coffee, or just perch for a few moments and observe the theatre of life.

Locations: Whole Foods, 4th Ave. + Art Gallery Steps, Robson St.



Precedents: Whole Foods + Art Gallery Steps

Place a dot here if you like the idea of having **ENGAGING EDGES** for the new park

Take the Online Questionnaire: [vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards](http://vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards)

# FUNDING OPTIONS

## Businesses and activities that generate funds

Many of the examples of parks and open spaces shown in previous panels include activities or businesses that generate funds. These funds go toward helping sustain program and activities within parks, making them active, engaging, and successful people places. Place your dots below to identify which of the suggested possible revenue generators you think could work well here.

### WOULD YOU PAY A TOONIE TO SIT IN A DECK CHAIR IN THE PARK?

The ability to position your chair to share in a conversation or capture a sunny spot in the garden can also be achieved in a public park setting. It might also help to pay for other program in the park.

Location: Hyde Park, London UK



Place a dot here if you can imagine renting a deckchair for \$2 in the new park

### WOULD YOU RENT A SPACE IN THE PARK FOR AN EVENT?

A number of parks and city-owned buildings in Vancouver provide facilities that can be rented for private functions.

Location: Queen Elizabeth Park + Mountain View Cemetery, Vancouver BC



Place a dot here if you can imagine renting a space in the park for an event

### WOULD YOU BUY A COFFEE OR SNACK IN THE PARK?

Food attracts people. A variety of food options that cater to the quick, spontaneous snack can add another layer of character, ritual, and energy into a space. They can also provide a sense of wellbeing and safety for the park users.



Location: JJ Bean at the CBC in Vancouver + Shake Shack in Madison Square Park, NY



Place a dot here if you can imagine visiting a kiosk in the new park

### WOULD YOU DINE IN THE PARK?

By providing food outlets for lunch and dinner, along with weather protection and patio heaters, these popular venues can help activate public spaces in Vancouver parks all year round.

Location: Cactus Club - English Bay, The Water Mark on Kits Beach & The Mill Bar and Bistro at Coal Harbour Vancouver, BC



Place a dot here if you can imagine visiting a restaurant in the new park

### WOULD YOU VISIT A PARK WITH PARKING HIDDEN BENEATH IT?

The current use of the site as a parking lot earns the Vancouver Park Board revenue. By creating underground parking spaces, could the new park earn revenue from private parking or the increasingly popular car-share programs, similar to the examples below?

Location: Coal Harbour Community Centre parking lot and an adjacent development's garden amenity space over a parkade.



Place a dot here if you can imagine visiting the park with parking beneath it

### DO YOU HAVE OTHER IDEAS?



Take the Online Questionnaire by July 12th:

[vancouver.ca/SmithRichards](http://vancouver.ca/SmithRichards)



# ART IN THE PARK

## What are your ideas for art in the park?

Art will be an integral part of the new park. An artist is working with the design team to explore ways to incorporate art in new and interesting ways. Some examples are provided below. We want to hear your ideas!



**Take the Online Questionnaire by July 12th:**  
[vancouver.ca/SmithRichards](http://vancouver.ca/SmithRichards)



Mary Miss's interactive art installation 'CaLL' asks: by what means can we foster roles for artists and designers to shape and bring attention to the pressing environmental issues of our times?

*Location: Manhattan, New York*



'Black Cloud' was conceived by Heather and Ivan Morison, and designed with architect graduate Sash Reading. This temporary structure was open to the public over from July until December 2009 and hosted a number of live events.

*Location: Bristol, England*



'Art with Flooded Chambers Maid', a site-specific multimedia installation on and around Madison Square Park's Oval Lawn by artist Jessica Stockholder

*Location: Manhattan, New York*



This free annual winter festival at Bloor-Yorkville includes ice carving demonstrations staged at key locations in the public plaza.

*Location: Yorkville, Ontario*



With the help of volunteers, Joseph Beuys planted 7,000 oak trees over fifteen years in the town of Kassel, Germany, each with an accompanying basalt stone.

*Location: Kassel, Germany*



Artist Jaume Plensa worked with Krueck and Sexton Architects to realize 'Crown Fountain', an iconic water fountain that incorporates projected photographic portraits.

*Location: Millennium Park, Chicago, USA*

# NEXT STEPS

## Have your say!

Thank you for your input! What we heard will be used to develop three concept options for the future park.



**Take the Online Questionnaire by July 12th:**

[vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards](http://vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards)

### OTHER WAYS TO STAY INVOLVED:



Fill out a paper questionnaire today



Stay tuned for **upcoming events**, including another open house in the fall, when three park concepts will be brought to the community for input.



@ParkBoard #SmitheRichards



facebook.com/ParkBoard #SmitheRichards

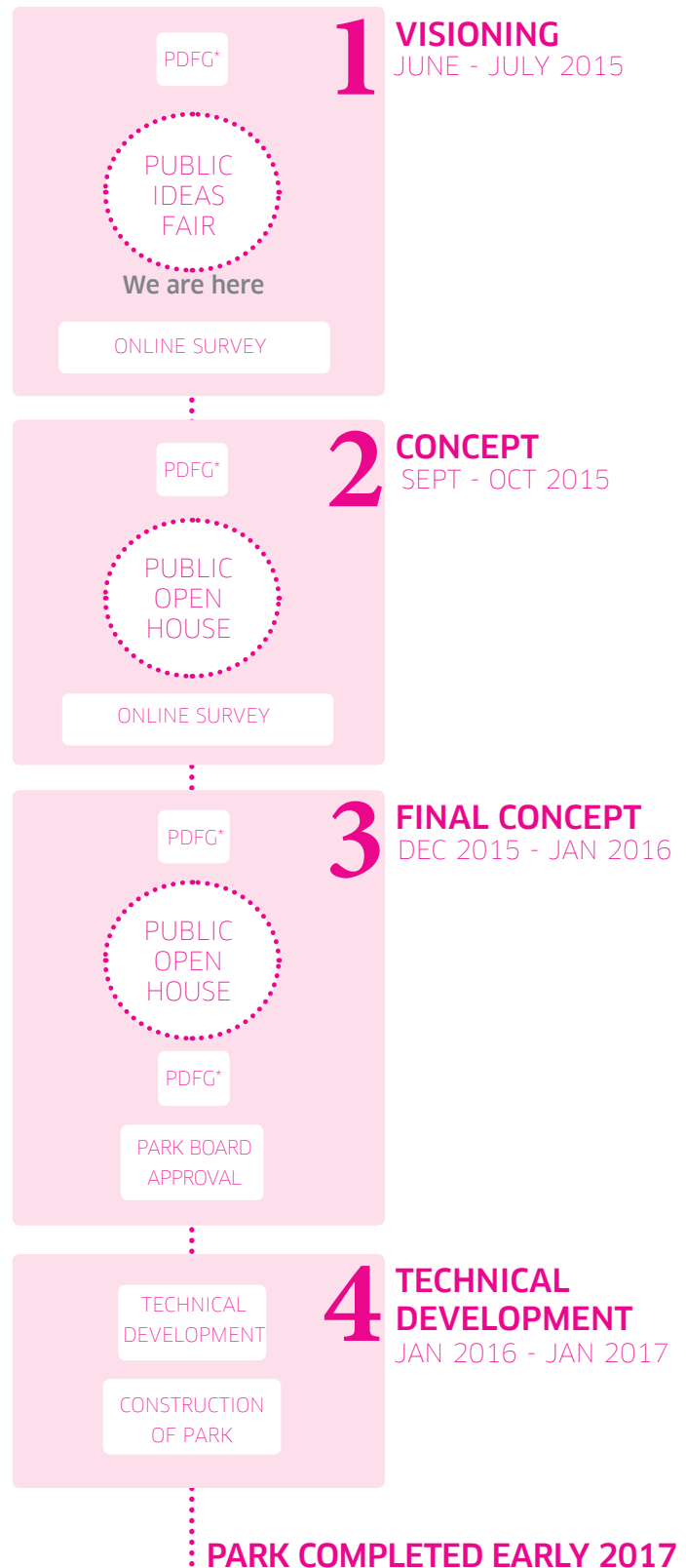


SmitheRichards@vancouver.ca



3-1-1

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS - EVERYONE WELCOME!**



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