

Summary of comments received at Chief Mathias Joe Open House held on February 12, 2014

Total questionnaires submitted: 24 (10 completed at the open house, 13 submitted online, 1 delivered to City Hall)	
<b>How did you hear about the open house?</b>	
• Flyer in mail	4
• Newspaper ad	1
• Email	2
• Facebook/twitter	2
• Sign at park	5
• Word of mouth	10
• Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PEAC/cnv.org</li> <li>• Workplace</li> <li>• Playgroup</li> <li>• Posters at JBCC</li> <li>• Missed the open house, referred by neighbour to this site</li> </ul>
<b>Where do you live?</b>	
• Lower Lonsdale	21
• District of North Vancouver	1
• Other part of the City of North Vancouver	2
• Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two houses down from Chief Joe Park</li> <li>• Right by park</li> </ul>
<b>How often do you visit Chief Mathias Joe Park?</b>	
• Daily	2
• Weekly	11
• Monthly	1
• Seldom	5
• Never	4
• Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walk past it on my way home everyday too</li> <li>• 2-3 times per week</li> <li>• Maybe twice</li> <li>• 2x week, more in the summer</li> </ul>
<b>How do you use the park?</b>	
• Playing	13
• Relaxing	6
• Picnic	3
• Walking through	6
• Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Never have</li> <li>• I used to use this park everyday</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing</li> <li>• Meeting other friends with kids</li> <li>• Dog walk or neighbours kids playing with dog</li> </ul>
<b>Do you have children that use the existing playground?</b>	
• Yes	14
• No	8
If yes, to which age groups do the children belong:	
• 0-2 years	5
• 2-5 years	6
• 5-12 years	10
<b>What do you like best about the existing park?</b>	
• It's a park	
• Green space left in our community for families to take kids for play and connect with nature	
• Large area with grass	
• Green space, location	
• Nothing	
• n/a just moved back to North Vancouver from Montreal	
• Trees	
• Picnic area	
• Nothing, it's just a spare plot of land	
• Good size, greenspace and play equipment, slopping hill for some tobogganing, keep the 2 trees that provide shade	
• Size, large space, close to our home	
• Location	
• Convenience, I generally use early in the morning and evening and the park is generally quiet	
• Ground of the play area is covered with wood chips which is safer to kids and looks nice and natural	
• Nothing	
• Location and that it is suitable to small children (ie no high climbing structures)	
• Location, close to home, easy walk for little ones	
• Open space	
• Close to home, swing set, bench	
• Location and the swings	
• Definitely the location as it's only a block from our house.	
• Location, there isn't anything else toddler friendly close by	
• Good for small children, location	
<b>What do you like least about the existing park?</b>	
• Not enough shade, no water feature, no imagination	
• Not many structures or play areas like sand, water, and opportunities for gross motor development in children	
• The vandalism and garbage, it looks run down	

• Alley safety
• It is untidy, filthy, garbage all around
• n/a
• n/a
• Equipment old and too young for the kids in the neighbourhood, teenagers at night-very noisy and well past 11pm
• Play structures are out dated, for young kids, large amount of unused space, too open to alley behind
• Access from the street
• Not sure you can control for this project but the only thing I dislike is the problems created by young teens and slightly younger who leave considerable garbage and have no respect for some of the little kids and their mothers with the use of terrible language. They can also be a problem in the evening smoking and drinking in the park. Some neighbours seem determined to use the park for old furniture and waste.
• Even though there is a sign saying no dog allowed, there are so many people taking dogs for a walk into the park, actually mainly for the toilet. I can see those from my window all the time and there are poo everywhere which make me sick especially I have small children who run around and sit down there. I saw some people even throw those garbage bags under the shrubs in the park not into the garbage bin.
• Wasted space
• Age of the play equipment and lack of variety of play equipment. Current equipment doesn't hold children's attention for a very long time.
• Not enough play structure, on a busy day it can be hard to manage
• Not many playing options for children
• It looks directly into an ugly rental housing complex, with loud people that often smoke and swear on their balconies. It is also on a very steep slope.
• The playground equipment is outdated and not maintained.
• The playground is dated, falling apart, and doesn't hold the interest of my 2 yr old son (which is saying a lot because the most basic playground holds his interest. It would be great to have a more toddler friendly play area, as well as sand box for the little ones.
• Very old, run down, not much variety
• Does not entertain older children, old play equipment, graffiti, vandalism
<b>If necessary, would you support the possible removal or possible partial removal of the hedges on the east/west edges of the park? Why or why not?</b>
• I'm indifferent
• Not sure
• If it were necessary but I would want to know why it is necessary before hand. It seems as though it acts as a barrier between the park and residences.
• No, it needs to be defined and some barrier between the permitted housing
• Yes, if it was for a good reason
• Yes, more light
• Yes, I support the removal
• Would not support, it is a noise stopper
• NO – Too noisy and creates privacy for the houses beside

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, provides an unsafe play area for kids behind hedges, lots of garbage and beer bottles, fencing/trees would be preferable</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do support</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would be mostly ambivalent to this although a lot of younger kids appear to like playing and hiding in the hedge up top. If I was the neighbour on the east side I would probably be a bit choked because the hedge must act as a sound buffer from the older kids at night who can be a problem. I would probably just trim clean up and maintain that area better. Should not that there are a lot of skunks, racoons, and stray cats in the area. They must get attracted to some of the garbage that gets thrown into the trees.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I support the removal. I have seen young teenagers hanging out behind the hedges between next door's fence with a bong. And those trees overgrown and don't look pretty.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would support any removal of hedges as long as some trees/bushes remain to provide some park like feel.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, kids are attracted to playing in there but often lots of garbage behind</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, as long as there are more options for kids to play in those areas</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would not remove the hedges. They offer privacy to the park. In fact, I would add hedges along the south perimeter of the park so park users don't have to look into the rental housing complex.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only if it was necessary. My boys love playing hide and seek at that part (possibly because they don't really enjoy playing on the playground as much as other playgrounds)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, I don't normally support removing greenery, but if it meant making better use of park space in a highly residential neighbourhood, I'm in full support.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not sure of the reason, but if it's a good one, then yes (ie safety, or lower maintenance costs)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• yes</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. These are beneficial to noise dampening and absorption.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Do you have any stories to share about this neighbourhood or park which make this place unique or special? Your stories could help inspire the public art component of this project.</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sorry, nothing</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any public art should be indestructible and not able to be defaced. It needs to be kept clean.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• n/a just moved back from Montreal for last 8 years</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is nothing but noise, youth hanging around on a night in the summer</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picnics under the trees, tobogganing</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My kids have been using the park since they were babies</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only that it is convenient and the smaller kids seem to enjoy it. Although against the rules my dog likes it as some of the kids like to take her over and play (just so you don't freak out, I have to monitor this and if certain or too many kids are there I won't let my dog stay).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This park is used for so many generations and many kind of people in the neighbourhood. I have seen old ladies sitting on the bench and chatting, construction workers having a lunch at the seat, young girls were sun bathing, nannies were meeting up while kids were playing, birthday party, slide when snowed, blackberry picking in the summer, some kids eating apples (are they edible??), and of course kids and mothers in the neighbourhood are regulars).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We live within block of the park and would go to the park daily with our young children in the summer. I have many memories of randomly meeting neighbours at the park and our children</li> </ul>

making friends and playing together spontaneously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unlike many other parks, it's quiet serene and relaxing</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My children like to watch the apples grow on the trees and pick blackberries from the bushes. They also like to roll down the slope of the park.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No, we just moved to North Vancouver</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I used to play at his park 36 years ago when I was 6 years old and attending grade 1 at Ridgeway Annex. We only lived there for a year and then moved back to Lynn Valley. I just moved back to the area last month, a mere half block from where I lived 36 years ago. Now my children (boy 22 months, and daughter due in 5 weeks) will use the park/playground too!</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both our children loved this park when they were 2-3 years old</li> </ul>
<b>What additional elements or programming ideas would you like to see included in the new design?</b> <b>Any other comments?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WATER FEATURE, more creativity to inspire, the better, incorporate sand, on/off buttons, a variety of play areas for multiple kids at the same time</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playgroups in summer for families in this area like the one happening in Derek Inman Park</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking at all the boards the elements that jump out to me incorporate the natural elements of the park. The design should encourage kids to participate and use their imaginations. Too many parks these days are all about looking flashy and modern. Simple is better.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living huts, musical fence</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should be dogs on leash, not prohibited.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water or sand play activities (used to build, touch, create),</li> <li>• Elements that make sound, create music,</li> <li>• Trike/bike paths/loops to keep kids busy, traffic safety elements, stop signs, green light intersections</li> <li>• Water park elements</li> <li>• Picnic tables, seating for picnics</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural materials to play on or in</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees, water, nature (John Lawson), etc.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sell the land, build apartment on it</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canvas covers so can use in the rain, equipment for older children, 6+, picnic table on east side as well as west</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usable for kids of all ages, larger play structures/slides/swings/climbing</li> <li>• Natural elements, wood, sand, water</li> <li>• Improved fencing, barrier from alley, neighbours</li> <li>• Utilize entire space</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Something for adults</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would probably get rid or move the picnic tables. They are in the only level spot that the kids could use to play on and they are used primarily by the older kids.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I really like the fence just like the one in St. Andrew's park so it limits dog walkers coming in. Also I want cherry trees which blooms in the spring and more maple leaf or some kind which turns colour in the fall so that we can sit under the tree and enjoy the seasons.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think this is a COMPLETE waste of taxpayers money. This is a residential area and I have never seen many children in this area. I suspect the noise from screaming children will be deafening and I suspect youths will gather in this new park on an evening and I suspect graffiti. When the city planted trees along the main road a couple of years ago, it didn't take long before several</li> </ul>

<p>youths destroyed the trees and were arrested for it. We were witness to this destruction. \$250,000 is a lot of wasted money and the noise will be deafening for people living in this area. City of North Vancouver sell this property and develop it into apartments and reduce taxpayers money.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please keep a swing set in the park especially the infant swing as that is one of the most used elements in the current park.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An aboriginal motif seems appropriate</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would like to see a better playground facility. The park is on a steep slope and I think it would be fun to incorporate a slide at ground level, down the slope. Since the slope would be impossible to remove, why not incorporate it? Also, it would be nice to have better access from the north side, either stairs or a path.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All the parks in the area are designed for older kids. The equipment at the park is good for younger kids, like my 2 year old. However, we don't play there long because they get bored easily. It would be great to see more playground equipment added that is both geared to smaller kids but also fun for 5-7 year olds.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sandbox would be lovely. We just moved from Kitsilano and the newer toddler park/slide is fantastic there. I would recommend incorporating a similar design to this park.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would love to see something fenced like the park at the church on 11<sup>th</sup> (I think). It would also be great to incorporate a small water park and some picnic tables so families could also have a picnic while letting their kids have a good time.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate the hillside into the play area of the park</li> </ul>

<p><b>What programming ideas from the open house boards did you like?</b> (This was asked for the online form).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like the refreshing of play equipment</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not sure what you mean by programming but I thought that some of the newer play options looked good and would be a refreshing change</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The boards looks amazing although I know we can't have them all! I like the water park idea or some kind, but it might be too small for that?? Also, I want the access from the 4<sup>th</sup> Street as well. My daughter likes bridge and something to climb and I like to sit down and watch and chat with other mothers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unfortunately did not learn about the open house until after the event.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I did not attend the open house.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We were unfortunately unable to attend the open house.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did not know about the open house and am sorry I missed it.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I like the idea of a slide or rock steps down the hillside (incorporating the hill into the play area of the park), a path from the north/south through the playground, better/updated play equipment, additional seating</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I did not attend the meeting although I was informed there would be some metal equipment installed and again I have concerns over the noise this will bring. Teens often loiter in the park and metal equipment will add to the noise. Especially if the shrubs come down. I also fell the budget for this excessive, the park doesn't need art. Maybe the playground needs updating but plastic is preferable.</li> </ul>