

PROJECT BACKGROUND

DeHart Community Park is a key amenity in Kelowna’s Lower Mission neighbourhood. Park development has been a goal for both residents and the City of Kelowna for many years.

In 2010, a concept plan for the park was created with input from the community, however, there was no capital funding at that time, and the park remained undeveloped. Funding is now available through the City’s Development Cost Charge (DCC) Program to proceed with design development and construction through 2023-24.

PROCESS

To update the park plan, the City and design team have taken the following steps:

- Reviewed existing park conditions and past land uses;
- Studied the potential climate impacts of park development;
- Engaged with the public on priorities desired for future amenities and features; and
- Reviewed relevant policy and guiding documents.

City of Kelowna staff identified the following seven goals for the project:

1. Create a community-level park in the Lower Mission. The park shall include, at minimum, a multi-purpose field that functions as a space for both active and passive recreation, and amenities that can be enjoyed by all generations.
2. Engage the community in participatory workshops during the park planning process to ensure a user-driven design solution.
3. Improve pedestrian and cycling access from adjacent transportation corridors into the park site, as well as along the park’s edges.
4. Build upon the park’s location adjacent to the Okanagan Mission Community Hall and consider the block holistically, integrating and improving connections between the two sites.
5. Preserve healthy, existing mature trees and the low-lying natural area that may be a remnant stream channel. Increase biodiversity and create wildlife habitat, restore natural processes and ecological function, and manage stormwater on site.
6. Achieve carbon-neutrality for the park improvements by 2050. Communicate the park’s carbon neutrality and sustainability goals and the measures used to achieve them, through design of the park, and/or interpretive elements.
7. In keeping with objective 10.3 of the 2040 OCP, ensure parks reflect their unique cultural context.



Existing park site condition, Fall 2022

TIMELINE

NOVEMBER 2022



Consultation to inform updating the park plan

MARCH 2023



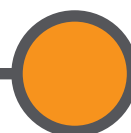
WE ARE HERE!
Consultation to finalize the schematic park design

FALL 2023

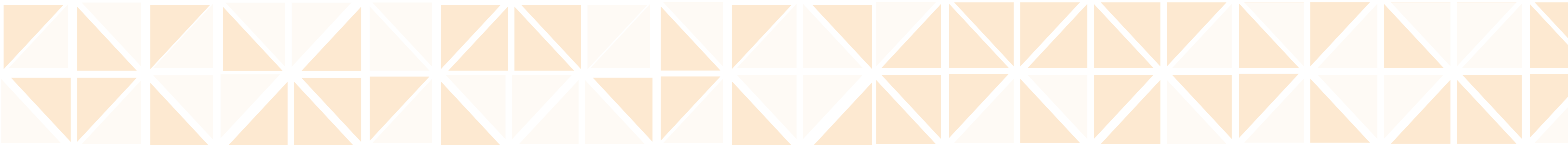


Permits and tendering

2023-2024



Construction



WHAT HAS CHANGED?

During the 12 years that have elapsed since the 2010 DeHart Community Park community engagement and master planning process took place, numerous events and influences at the local, national and global scale have changed the way parks are planned, designed, built and used. This has made it

necessary to re-engage with the community at this time, in order to allow the City of Kelowna and the consulting team to understand if and how community needs and preferences have changed, to ensure that these are reflected in the design of the park.



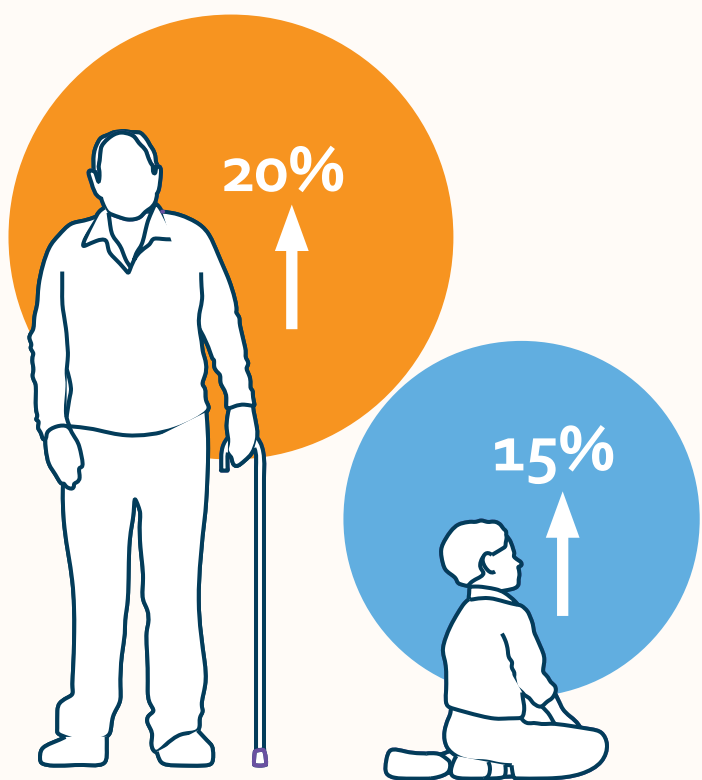
Kelowna Official Community Plan 2040

The park design will align with the Kelowna Community Vision created during Imagine Kelowna. This community park will serve the broader Mission neighbourhood and will be designed to be carbon neutral to align with the City’s emission reduction goals.



Trends in Recreation

The park amenities should accommodate current trends in recreation while being flexible to future change. Recently there has been an increased interest in pickleball, nature walks, and basketball. There is also an increased desire to introduce more technology in parks.



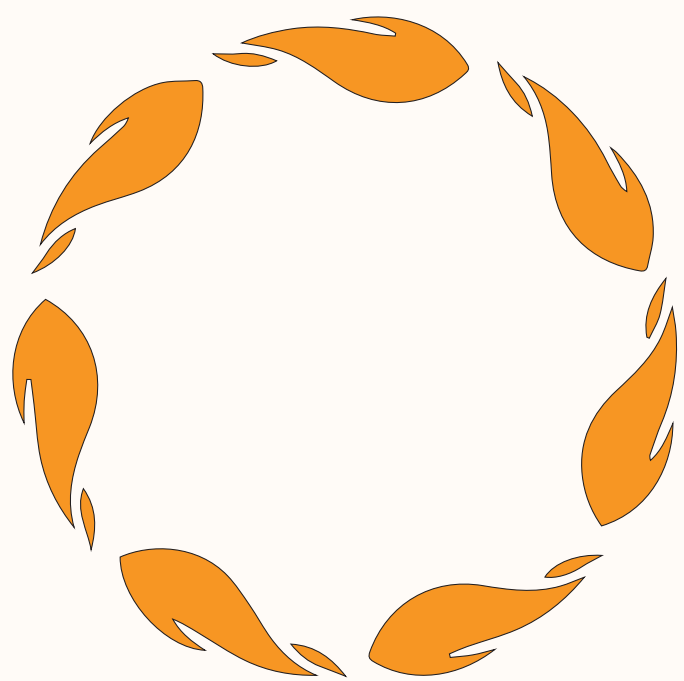
Demographic Shift

Kelowna is one of the fastest growing communities in Canada. People are continuing to retire in Kelowna; the population of young adults and youth in the region is also increasing by 5x and 3x the national average, respectively. The Mission neighbourhood is home to a higher-than-average number of families with children.



Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

In the Okanagan, the impacts of climate change will include: warmer temperatures year-round, hotter and drier summers, increased duration of growing season, frequency, intensity, and impacts of extreme weather and flooding. Parks must be designed to be resilient to these future conditions.



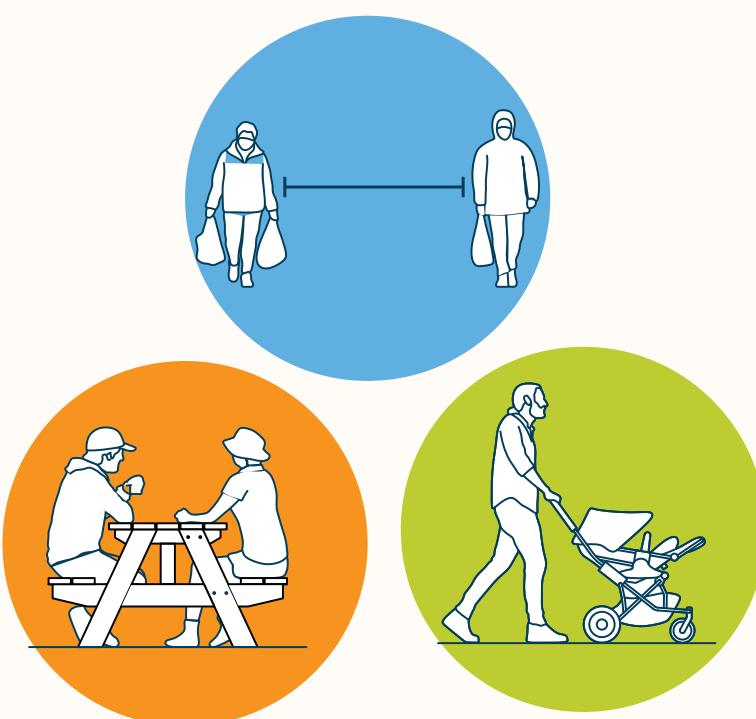
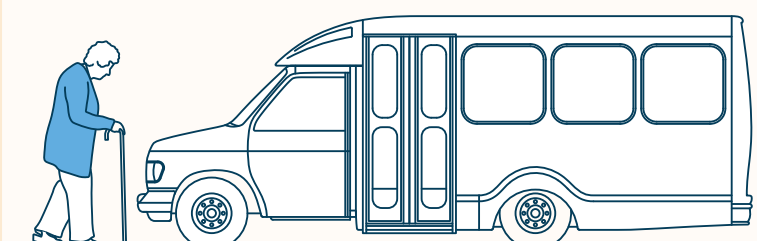
Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action

Published in 2015, the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission included 94 Calls to Action which are actionable policy recommendations to address the ongoing impact of residential schools on survivors and their families. The design of the park may provide an opportunity to meet Calls to Action 43 and 87.



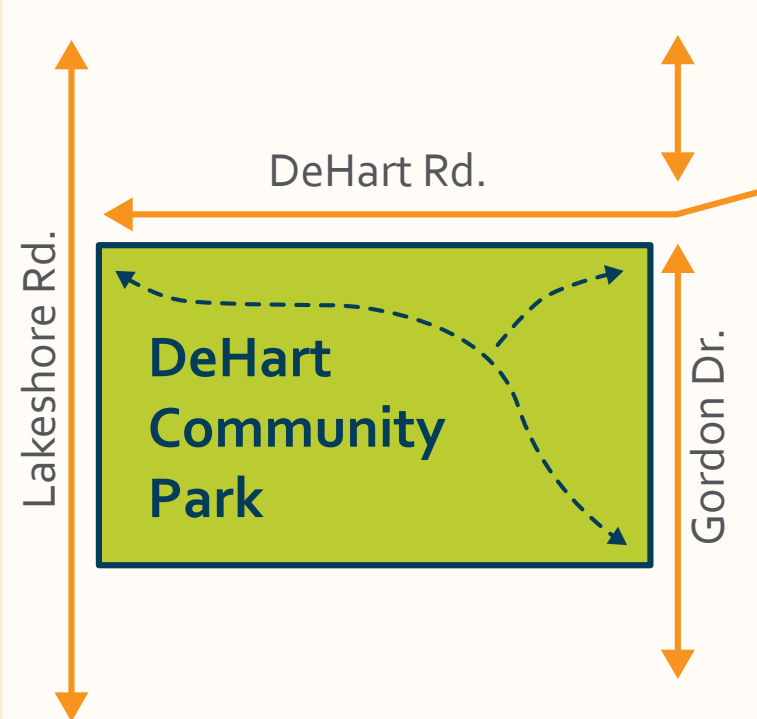
Transportation Mode Shifts

Citizens are shifting to more sustainable modes of transit: cycling, car-share, electric vehicles and e-bikes. To accommodate these shifts in transport, the park may need to provide end-of-trip facilities such as bike storage or electrical vehicle charging.



COVID-19 Pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, parks became one of the only spaces in cities where people could socialize safely. People began to use parks in new ways, at different times of day, and during different seasons, than they had in the past. It is likely that many of these habits will endure beyond the end of the pandemic.



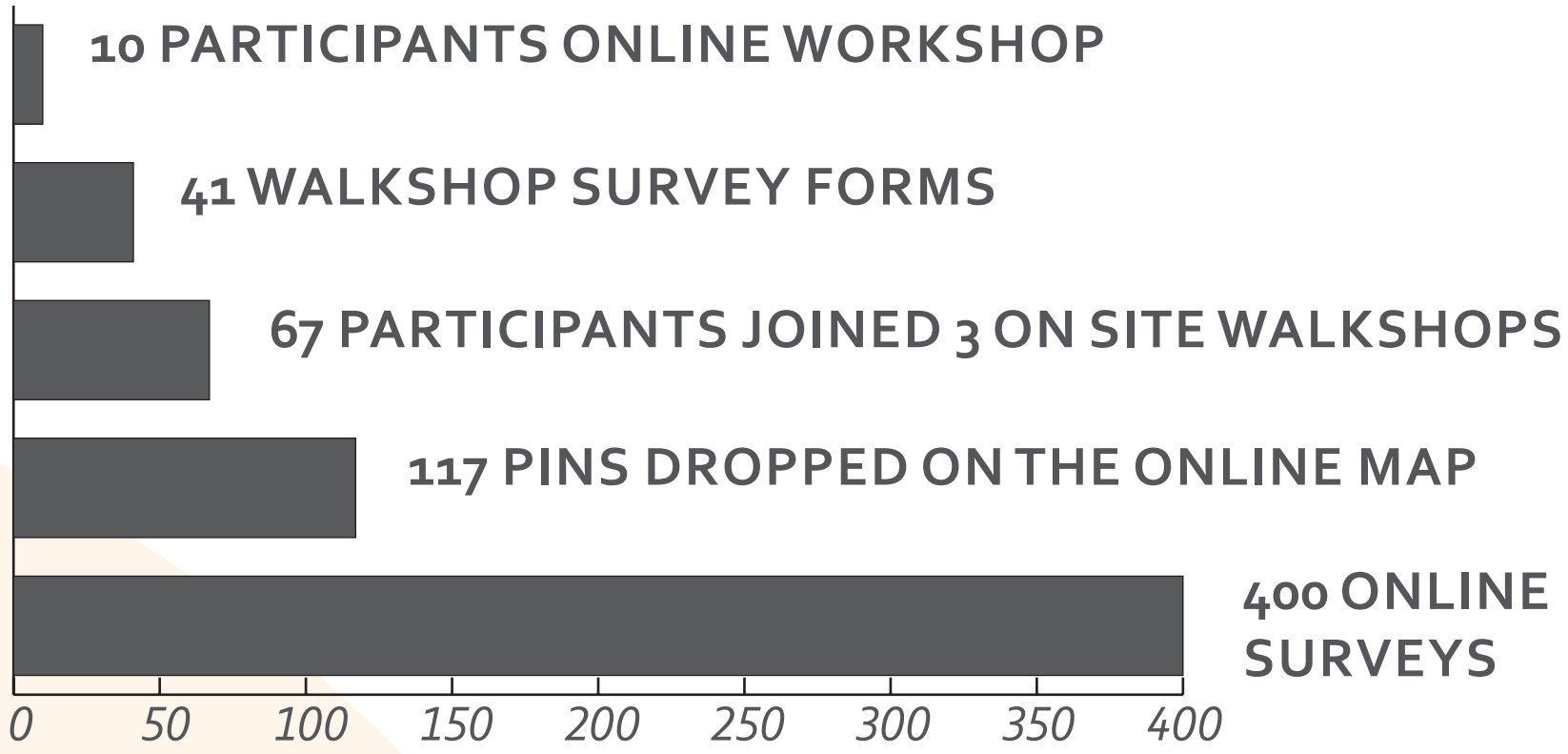
Evolving Transportation Networks

The park is now situated between two Active Transportation Corridors and a connection between them is planned along DeHart Road, immediately adjacent to the DeHart Community Park site. Increased bus service is also anticipated in the near future. The park design will respond to this evolving transportation network.

WHAT WE HEARD: KEY THEMES

During the fall of 2022, Phase 1 community engagement took place to gather input on park programming objectives and priorities for amenities. The following themes emerged from this process and helped to guide the proposed park concept design.

477 residents participated in the consultation last fall



PRESERVATION OF NATURAL ELEMENTS

The park preserves as many of the existing mature trees and native vegetation as possible. Shade and canopy cover is retained with park amenities developed around existing vegetation.



DIVERSITY OF USES

Existing activities like walking, dog walking, gardening, and cycling continue to be supported. More recreational amenities and play spaces are added to reflect the diversity of ages and abilities in the Lower Mission including: families, children, teens, and seniors.



COMMUNITY SPACE

Amenities to support interaction and gathering like covered spaces for weather protection, picnic area, and resting benches. Invite neighbours to connect and use the park as a community space. Washrooms identified as important infrastructure to meet the needs of the community.



ACCESS AND SAFETY

Access and safety getting to the park and moving within the park. Desired amenities include lighting, safe pedestrian sidewalks, road crossings and pathway connections on all sides, safe vehicle parking and bike racks.



NOISE

Amenities are positioned to minimize the effects of traffic noise and also consider the sound interface of uses with the surrounding residential neighbours.



SITE ANALYSIS

The design team analyzed the neighbourhood context, historic site conditions, vegetation, site access, existing uses, drainage, soils, and sound levels.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES:

- Protecting more sensitive vegetation areas, which currently provide habitat.
- Improving pedestrian and cyclist access along the north edge of the park in tandem with parallel design process for the DeHart Active Transportation Corridor (ATC).
- Supporting existing uses that are consistent with the park vision, such as walking, community gardening, and dog walking.
- Re-using materials found on-site to minimize environmental impact.
- Pursuing carbon neutrality.

KEY CHALLENGES:

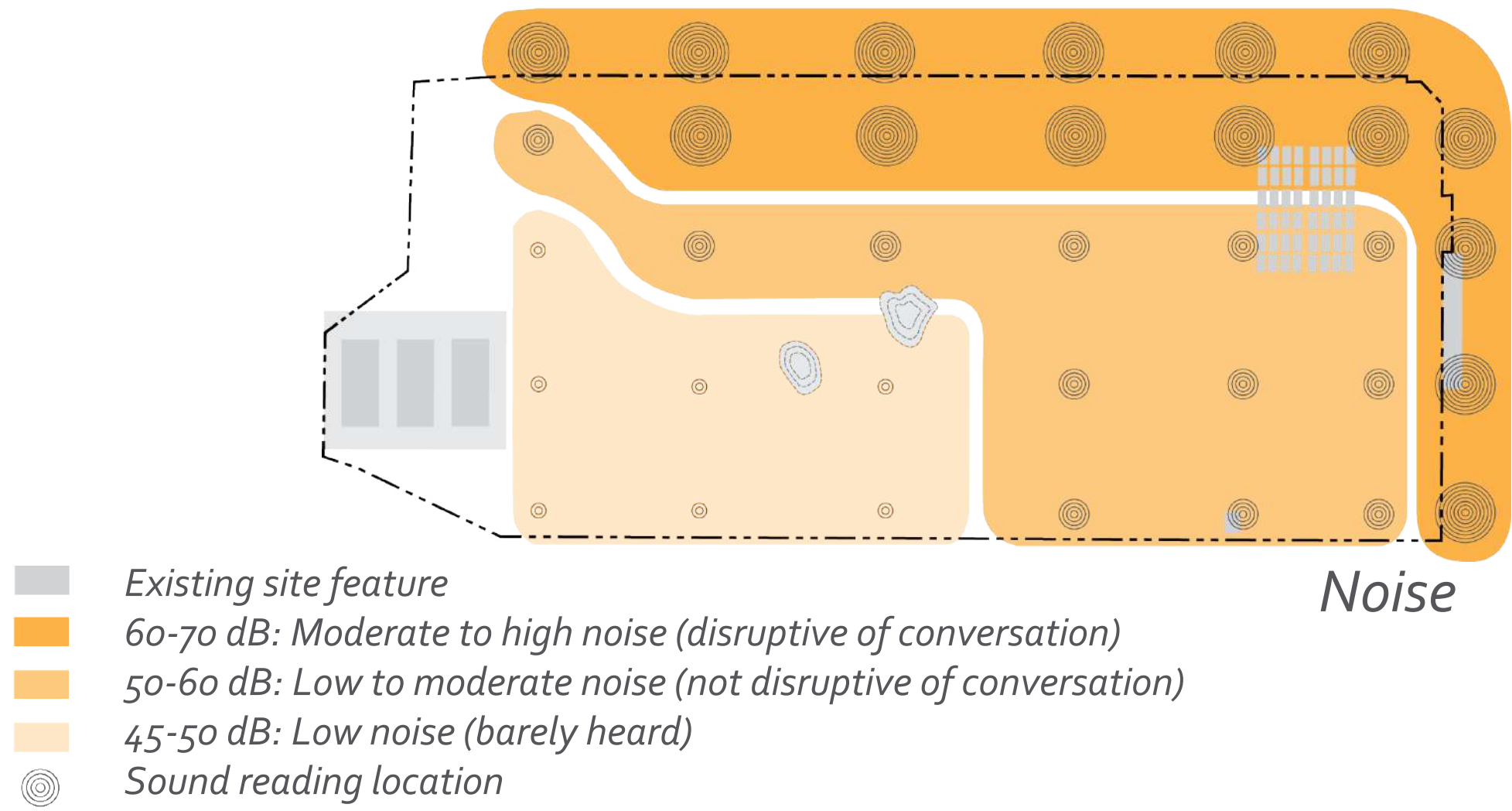
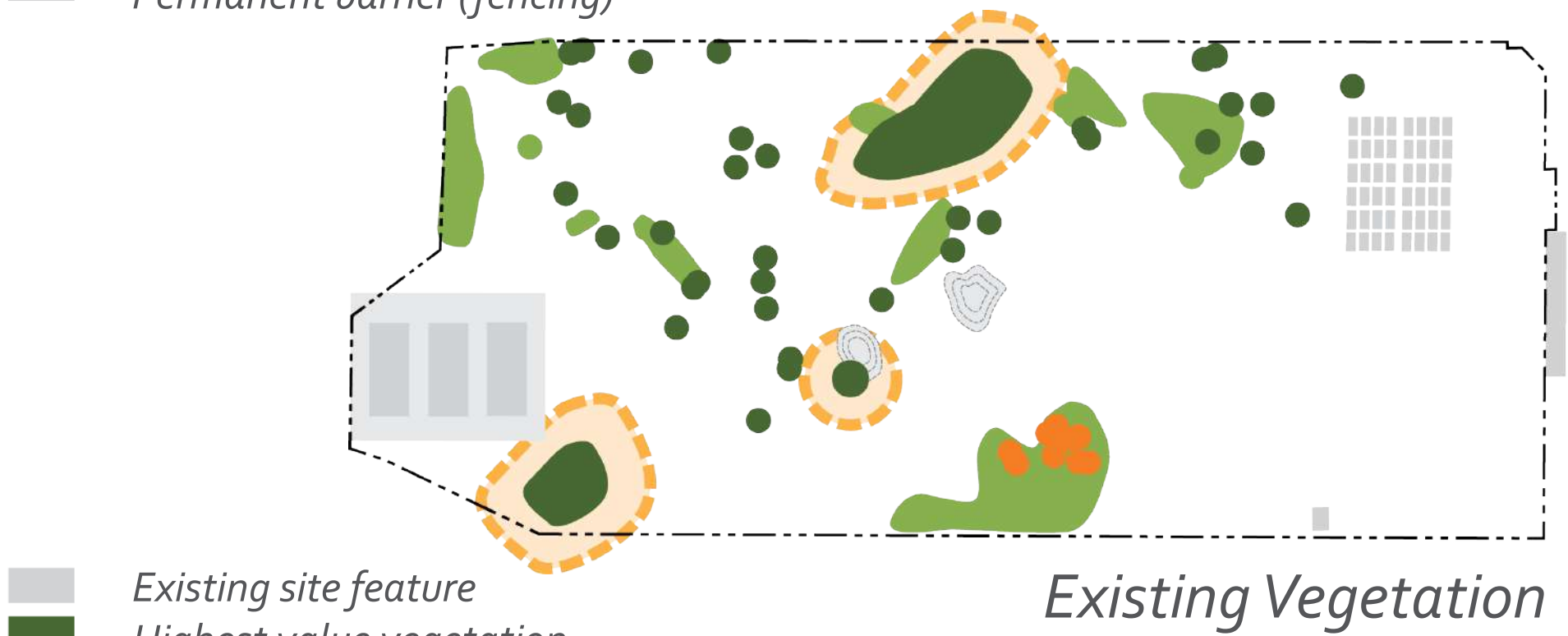
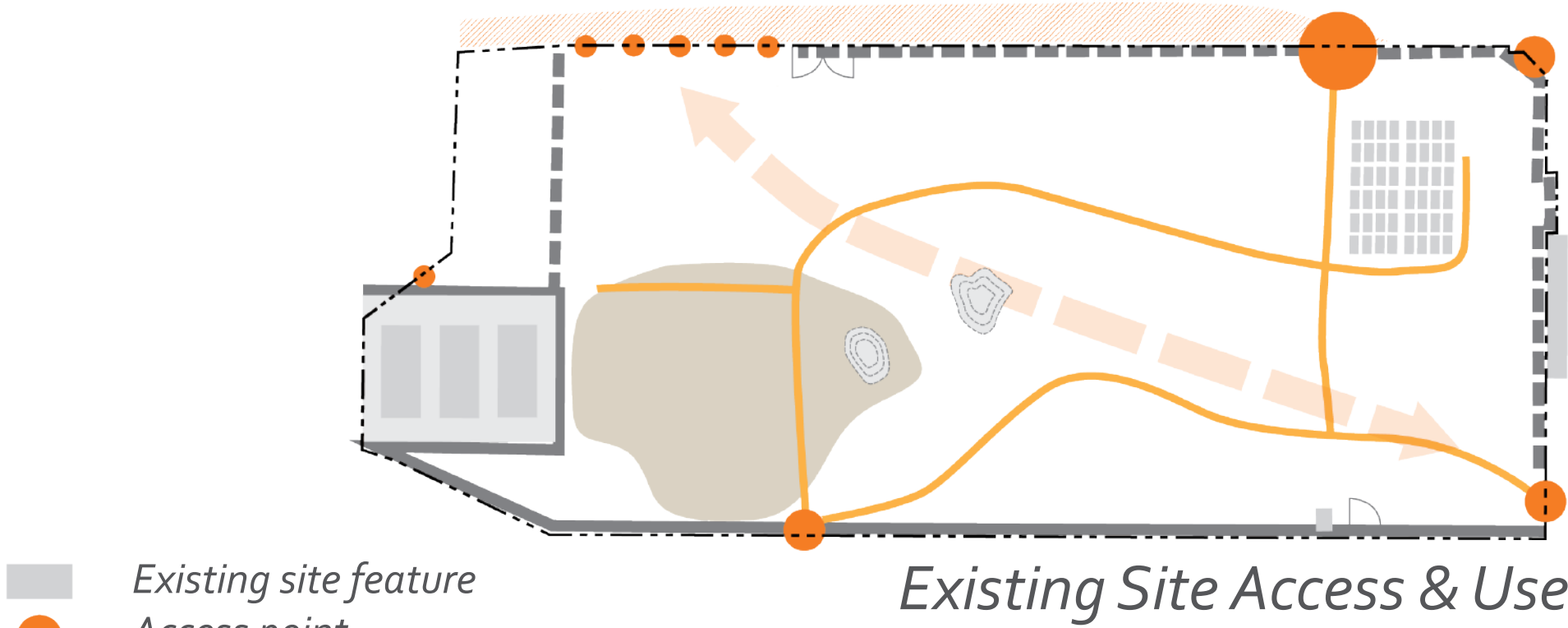
- Busy roads to the north and east.
- High pressure natural gas right-of-way on the eastern edge limits improvements next to Gordon Dr.
- Soils are highly compacted throughout the park, which could impact plant growth.
- Fencing around the park reduces visibility.

GUIDING DOCUMENTS

Direction from City policies and initiatives also helped to shape the park design. Specifically, the Kelowna Parks Master Plan Principles provided direction for the plan.

INFLUENTIAL DOCUMENTS AND POLICIES INCLUDE:

- City of Kelowna Parks Master (Phase 1, 2023)
- City of Kelowna 2040 Official Community Plan, Bylaw 12300 (2022)
- 2020-2025 Cultural Plan (2019)
- Weaving Our Collective Threads: Offering a Pathway for Syilx Creativity Within the City of Kelowna (2019)
- Imagine Kelowna (2018)
- Kelowna Community Sport Plan (2018)
- City of Kelowna Parkland Acquisition Guidelines (2011)



KELOWNA PARKS MASTER PLAN PRINCIPLES

1. **Stewardship:** Natural areas are protected and managed to support ecological health and to provide natural experiences for present and future generations.
2. **Equity:** Parks and amenities are provided and designed inclusively for the safety and enjoyment of everyone, including equity-seeking groups (Indigenous people, people experiencing homelessness, women, racialized communities, LGBTQ2S+ communities, veterans and people with disabilities).
3. **Connectivity:** Parks are walkable and connect our communities by providing recreational and leisure routes to support active living.
4. **Adaptability:** Parks and amenities are managed adaptively to respond to changing needs, ensure resiliency, and respond to future opportunities.
5. **Vibrancy:** Parks contribute to community vibrancy by supporting a variety of year round activities, experiences, and needs in shared spaces.
6. **Celebration:** Parks bring people together, foster a sense of place and community, and express the diverse culture and histories of our region.
7. **Collaboration:** The city works with regional partners, community organizations, and the private sector to fund, acquire, develop and program parks.



CARBON NEUTRALITY

As stated in the 2040 Official Community Plan, the City of Kelowna aims to reduce absolute community greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 2007 levels by 2050.

To support this effort, one of the goals of the DeHart Community Park is carbon neutrality.

WHAT IS CARBON NEUTRALITY AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR DEHART COMMUNITY PARK?

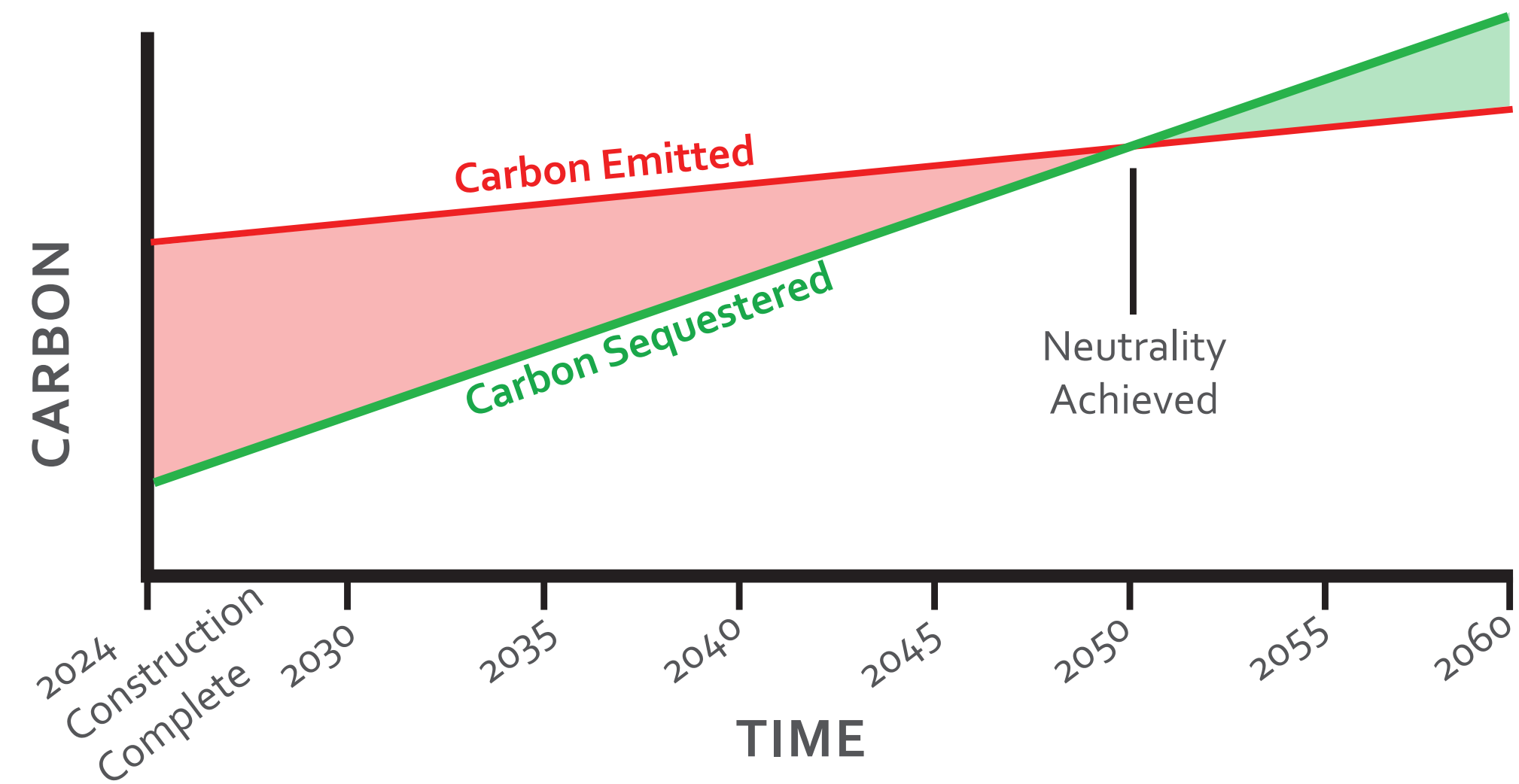
For the DeHart Community Park project, carbon neutrality means balancing the amount of carbon dioxide emitted (e.g. through the construction and operation of the park), and the amount of carbon dioxide sequestered by the park (e.g. absorbed and stored long-term in plant structures and soil through photosynthesis) , by no later than the year 2050.

This is a low carbon resilience approach to park development, meaning that the park concept will minimize its carbon output, store carbon where possible, and help the community adapt to a changing climate.

The plan proposes the following strategies to help achieve the carbon neutrality goal:

- 1. Reduce carbon emissions
- 2. Store carbon over the long-term
- 3. Strengthen ecosystem services
- 4. Design to adapt to climate change
- 5. Enhance the user experience

LONG-TERM CARBON NEUTRALITY GOAL



Embodied Carbon in the Park
Which parts of the park contribute to carbon dioxide emissions?



Carbon Sequestration in the Park
Where can we explore storing carbon in the park?



DEHART & GORDON PARK ENTRANCE

The corner of the park adjacent to the busy DeHart and Gordon intersection serves as the front door to the park, and it's meant to be noticed by passers-by. It's a vibrant, welcoming social space with youth-focused features, responding to its proximity to nearby schools, and the demographics of the surrounding neighbourhood. Features here include ping pong tables, large-scale raft benches, a multi-sport court, and a skate spot.

Low berms hug this space, creating a sense of protectedness, and helping to dampen traffic noise from Gordon Drive.



Perspective A: Looking southwest into the park from the intersection of Gordon Dr. and DeHart Rd., past the traffic noise-buffering berms, through the active, youth-focused social space, and toward the multi-sport court and field. The new ATC is on the right.

LEGEND

- 1

Sport Court / Special Event Area
- 2

Infiltration Garden
- 3

Bookable Gathering Space
- 4

Future Modular Micro-Cafe
- 5

Field
- 6

4m Wide ATC
- 7

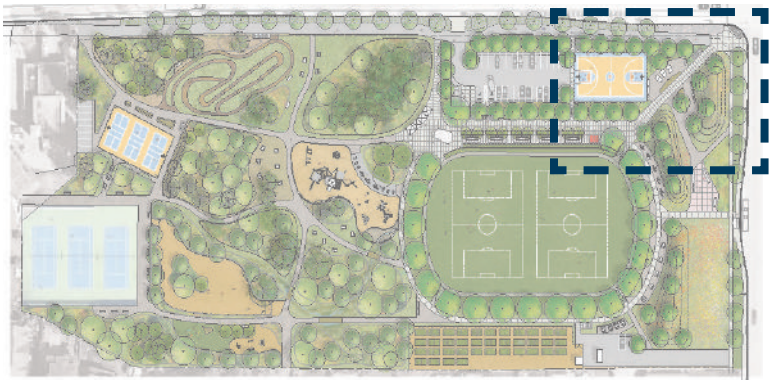
Games (e.g. Ping Pong)
- 8

Traffic Noise Reducing Berm
- 9

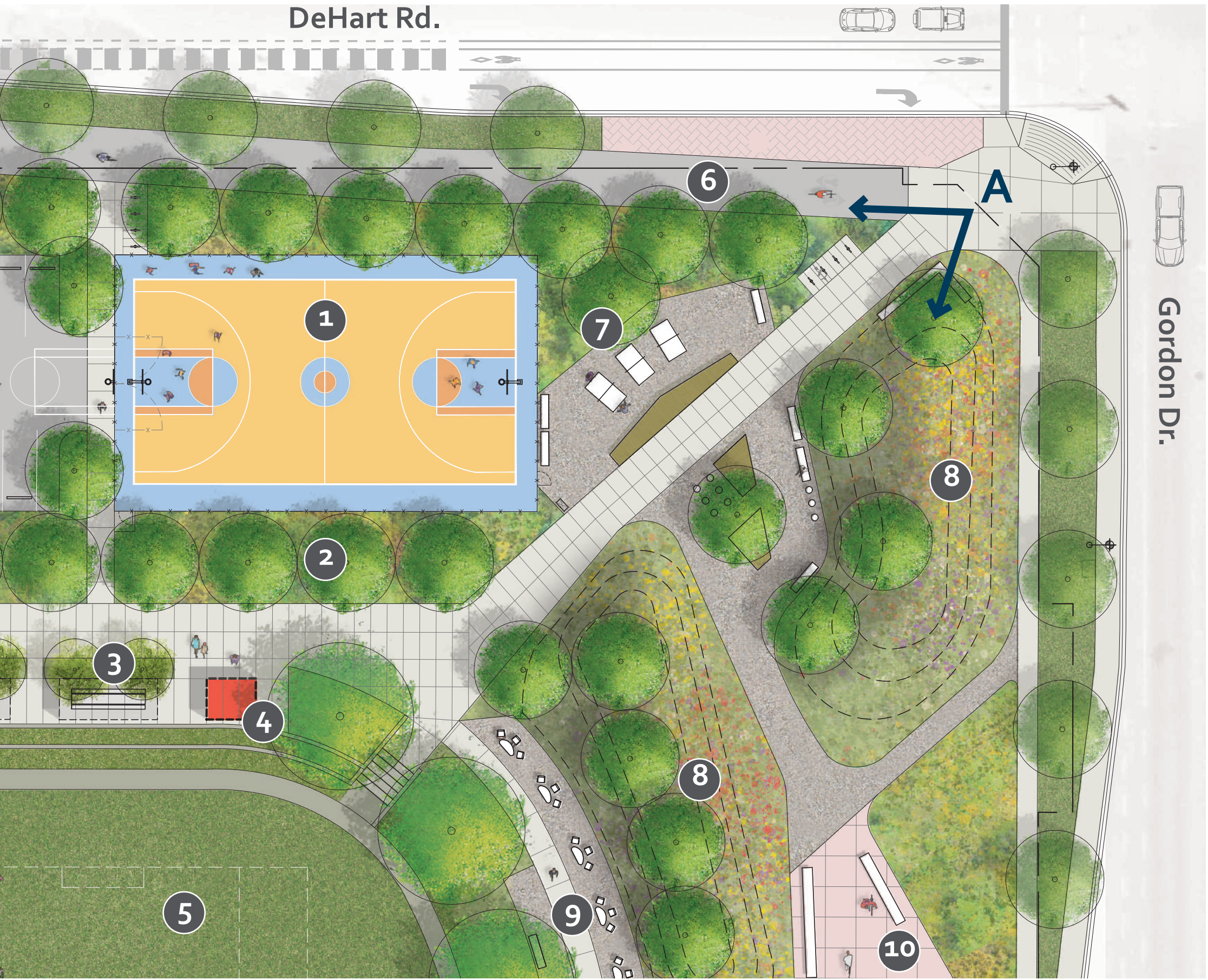
Concrete Walking Loop
- 10

Skateboard Spot

PLAN ENLARGEMENT: DEHART & GORDON PARK ENTRANCE



Key plan



Scale: 1 : 300



Colourful, playful court markings enhance the park's distinct identity



Skate spot

A brightly coloured multi-sport court is located in this youth-focused zone of the park. Its fencing becomes a recognizable feature rather than a rudimentary utilitarian necessity, and the court doubles as overflow parking or staging for special events.

A small skateboarding plaza is located near the east edge of the park. This high-visibility amenity includes street features that multiple skaters can use simultaneously, and is paired with bermed seating for resting and socializing.

PROMENADE & COMMUNITY

As one proceeds further west into the park along a central promenade, there are a series of weather-protected gathering spaces to the south, that can be booked for diverse events such as a community harvest dinner, a child’s birthday party, a study group, a watercolour lesson, a syilx pine needle basket weaving workshop, a language class, or a family reunion.

To support such gatherings, a small washroom building is located just to the west, providing convenient access to the nearby playground, too.

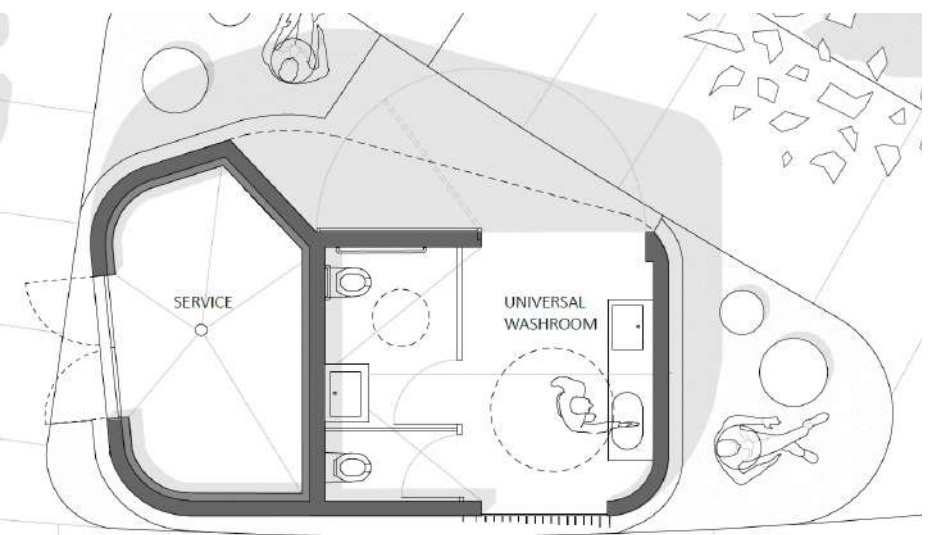
The grove of mature existing Douglas fir and Ponderosa pine trees beyond remains undisturbed.



Perspective B: Looking west along the promenade, with gathering spaces in the foreground on the left, the washroom building in the middle ground, and event tents and mature existing forest in the background.

LEGEND

- 1 4m Wide ATC
- 2 Existing Grove of Mature Conifers
- 3 Playground Seating Area
- 4 Existing Walnut Trees
- 5 Park Washroom Building
- 6 Space for Event Pop-up Tents
- 7 Food Truck Parking
- 8 28-Stall Parking Lot
- 9 Bookable Gathering Space
- 10 Field



Aberdeen Park washroom building, Richmond, BC. (Precedent plan: Carscadden Stokes McDonald Architects)

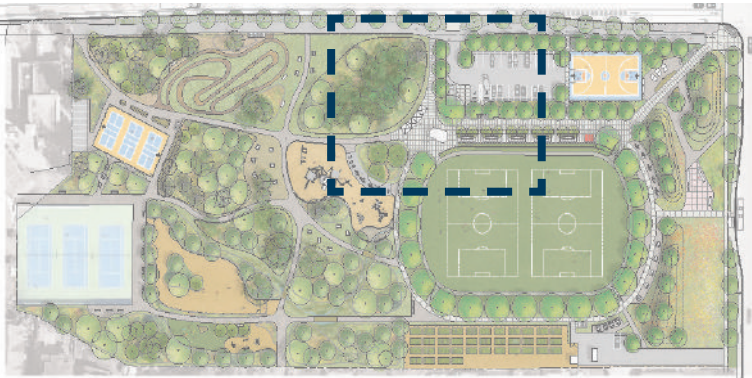


Dedicated food truck parking

The image to the left shows an example of a layout of a small park washroom building that could be suitable for DeHart Community Park. The park washroom building should be safe, bright, welcoming, accessible, durable, and easy to maintain.

An oversized loading stall in the parking lot near the gathering spaces and the washroom building is reserved for a food truck, which can provide refreshments for special events or rotating weekly offerings.

PLAN ENLARGEMENT: COMMUNITY HUB



Key plan

NORTHWEST PARK ENTRANCE

The northwestern entrance of the park forks off of the new DeHart Active Transportation Corridor, near the adjacent fire hall. As you enter the park from this corner, a multi-sport court with several seating options is on your right, and a pump track is on your left. Here and throughout the park, amenities are interspersed with ecological enhancement areas.

An 8-stall parking area accessed off of the lane supports the firehall.



Perspective C: Looking southeast into the park toward the multi-sport court and along the new DeHart Rd. ATC

LEGEND

- 1

4m-Wide ATC
- 2

Ecological Restoration Area
- 3

8-Stall Parking Area
- 4

Multi-Sport Court
- 5

Picnic Tables
- 6

Park Access from Mission Community Hall
- 7

Terraced Spectator Seating
- 8

Social Seating
- 9

Bike Parking
- 10

Pump Track



4m-wide active transportation corridor

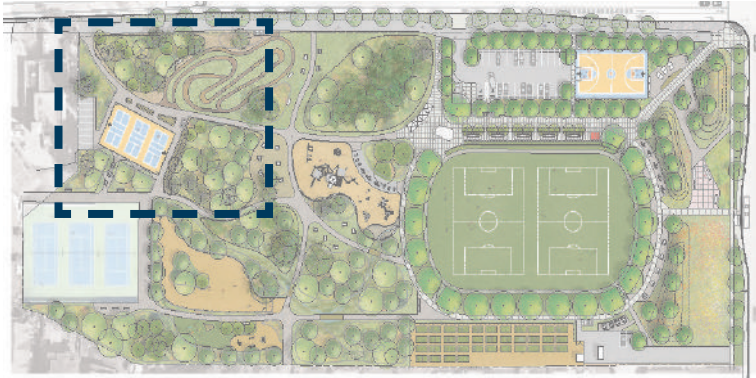


Multi-sport court for pickleball and basketball with low fence

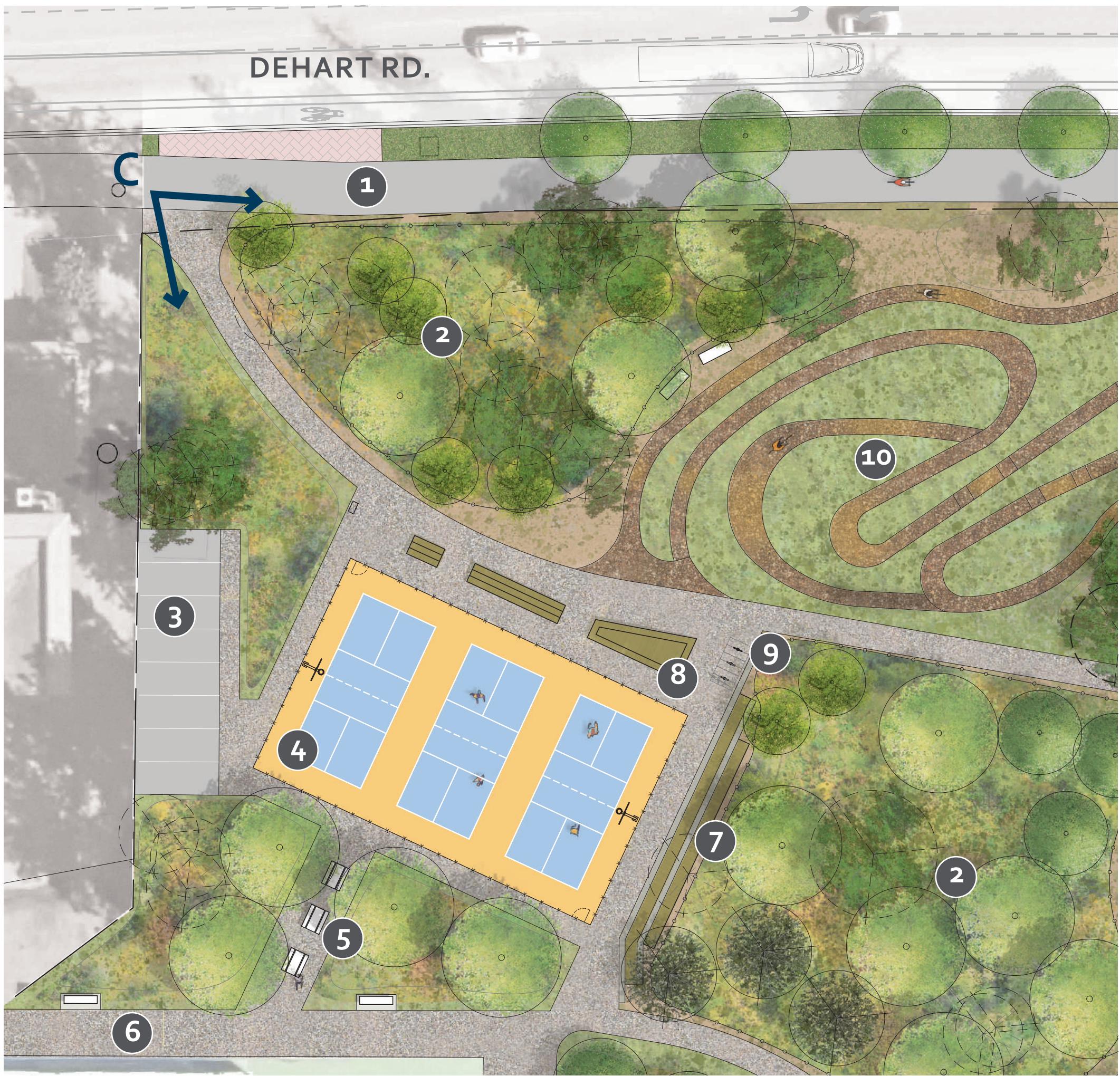
A new 4-meter wide active transportation corridor will run parallel to DeHart Rd. along the north edge of the park site. A 2+m-wide boulevard will separate cyclists and pedestrians from vehicle traffic

A second multi-sport court can be found near the western edge of the site. Three pickleball courts fit into this space, and it can also be used for basketball. The natural grade change to the east is used to create seating for spectators.

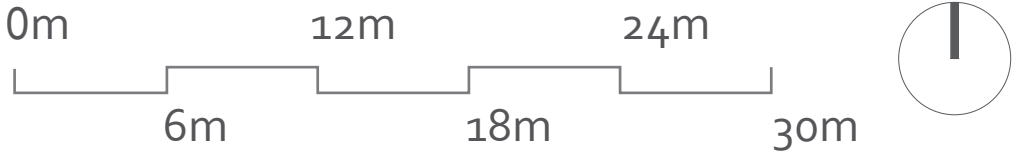
PLAN ENLARGEMENT: NORTHWEST PARK ENTRANCE



Key plan



Scale: 1 : 300



PUMP TRACK & PICNIC MEADOW

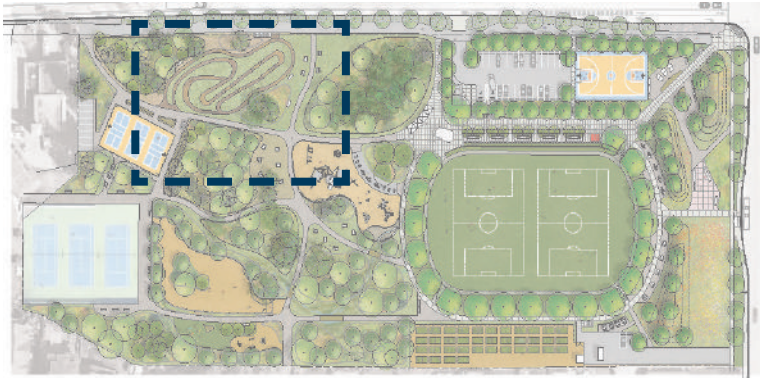
The pump track is located next to the ATC for convenient bike access. There are good sightlines into the heart of the park from this entrance, inviting ATC users to stop for a rest or a snack at a picnic bench, try a lap on the pump track, or pause for a break at the playground.

Since many park users will be arriving by bicycle, bike racks are located at entrances and near amenities throughout the park.



Perspective D: Looking south from the new DeHart Active Transportation Corridor into the pump track and picnic meadow

Can you find the pileated woodpecker in the park visualization above? When you walk around the site, see if you can spot woodpecker cavities in some of the trees. Although these trees are declining in health, they have great value to wildlife that use the park, too.



Key plan

LEGEND

- 1

4m Wide ATC
- 2

Bike Parking
- 3

Pump Track
- 4

Existing Grove of Mature Conifers
- 5

Multi-Sport Court
- 6

Terraced Spectator Seating
- 7

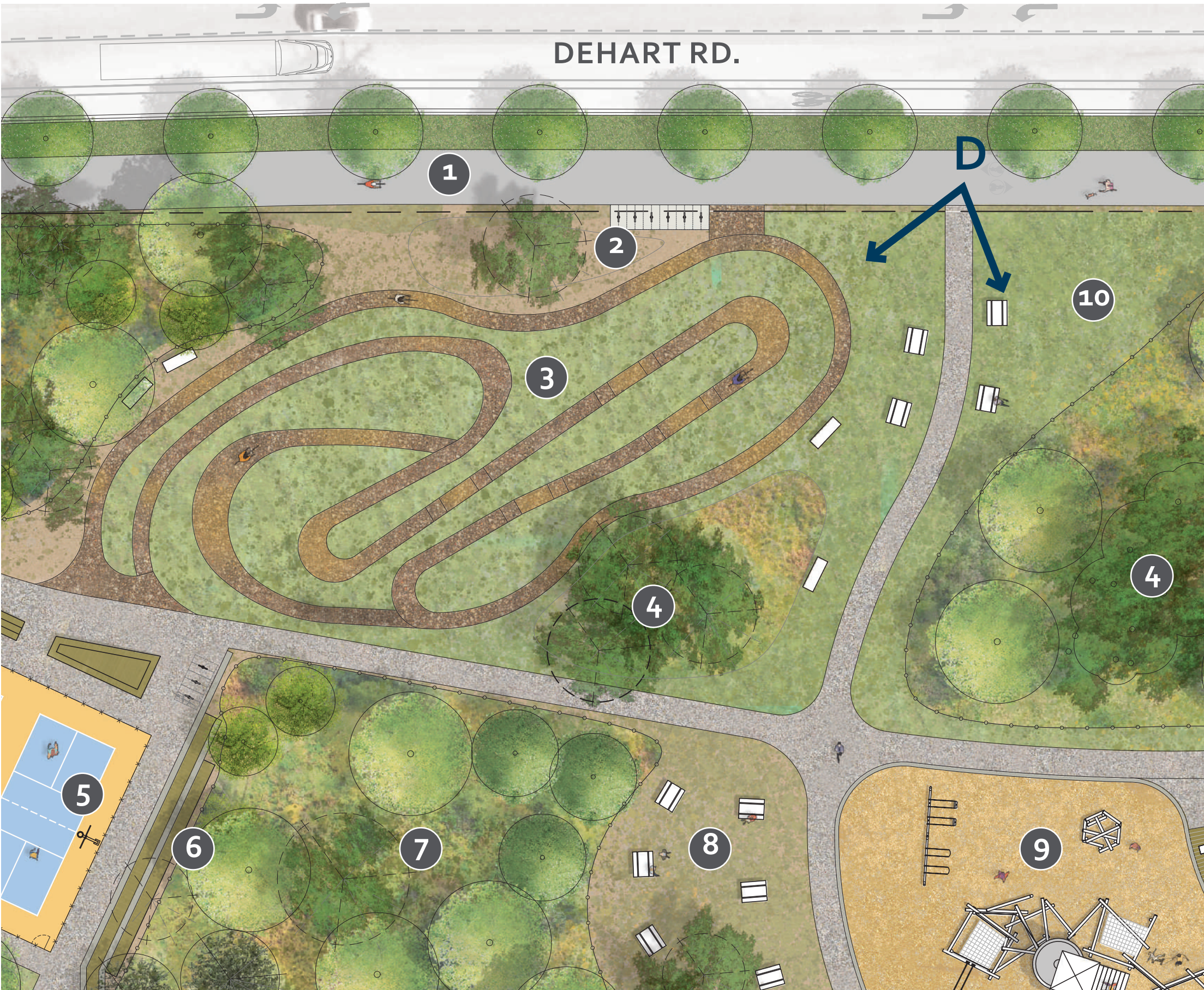
Ecological Restoration Area
- 8

Forest Clearing Picnic Area
- 9

Playground
- 10

Dryland Meadow

PLAN ENLARGEMENT: PUMP TRACK & PICNIC MEADOW



Scale: 1 : 300



Pump track



Meadow

A pump track intended to be accessible and appealing to first-time cyclists on balance bikes, BMXers and mountain bikers alike is located along the north edge of the park, near the ATC.

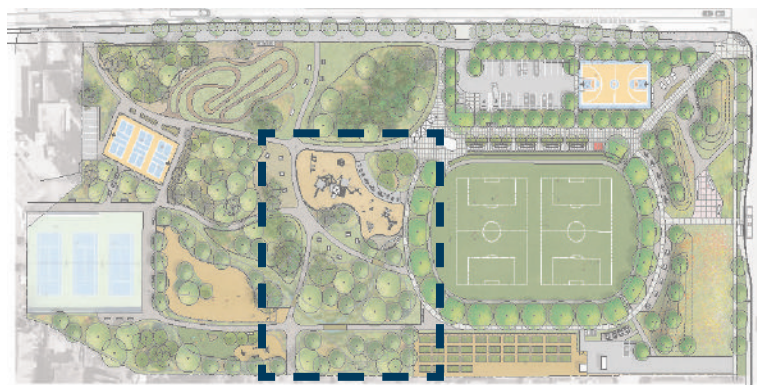
West of the mature grove of existing coniferous trees is a dryland meadow with picnicking amenities.

PLAYGROUND & INFILTRATION GARDEN

A large playground with diverse, accessible and inclusive features is near the centre of the park, where there are more existing trees, and where canopy cover will increase over time. The playground features encourage nature-based exploration, and are constructed primarily of natural materials. The playground is surrounded by a range of seating options which allow parents and caregivers to observe from a comfortable distance. Runoff from a small water play feature spills into an infiltration garden which slowly absorbs this moisture into the ground water table.



Perspective E: Looking northwest across the infiltration garden and toward the playground.



Key plan

PLAN ENLARGEMENT: PLAYGROUND & INFILTRATION GARDEN



Scale: 1 : 300

0m 6m 12m 18m 24m 30m



LEGEND

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Forest Clearing Picnic Area | 6 Ecological Restoration Area |
| 2 Playground | 7 Community Garden |
| 3 Existing Large Ponderosa Pine Tree | 8 Infiltration Garden |
| 4 Baffle Gate Entrance to Dog Run | 9 Concrete Walking Loop |
| 5 Fitness Node | 10 Playground Seating Area |



Exciting play elements, natural materials



Water and sand play



Protect healthy, mature trees

A playground with accessible and inclusive features, is composed of natural materials such as wood, rope, stone, and sensory plantings encourages nature-based play.

An interactive water feature expands the diversity of play experiences in the playground. The runoff from this feature drains into an adjacent infiltration garden, where the water feeds a unique, ephemeral ecosystem that mimics that of a relic channel of Bellevue Creek, which may once have flowed across the park site.

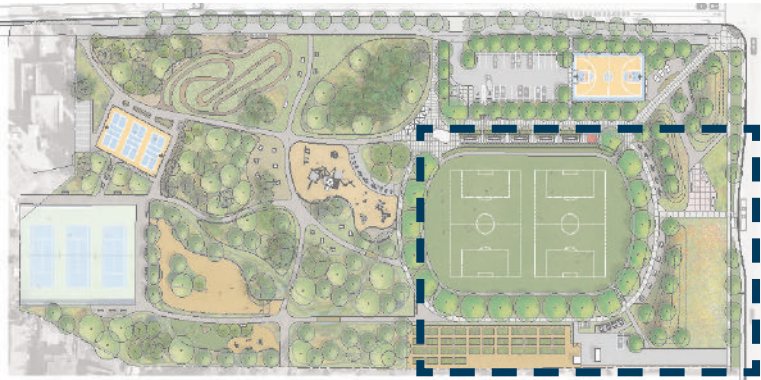
Remaining clusters of healthy mature trees are preserved and enhanced through the addition of new trees for forest succession. Plantings of low-growing native shrub species such as snowberry and Oregon grape protect tree root zones from disturbance and compaction, and create valuable wildlife habitat, while maintaining clear sightlines throughout the park.

FIELD & COMMUNITY GARDEN

A field of mowable, drought tolerant fescues, clovers and wild strawberry sits slightly lower than the rest of the park, creating gently sloped meadow edges that are perfect for spectating or reading a book in the shade of a tree. The field is surrounded by a walking loop, and to the south is the proposed location of a community garden. To the east is a large pollinator meadow that provides food and habitat to diverse insect species throughout the year.



Perspective F: Looking west past the berms and harvest tables, toward the field and community garden



Key plan

LEGEND

- 1 2-Stall Park Washroom Building
- 2 Field (Accommodates 2 U9/10 Soccer Pitches)
- 3 Gently Sloped Mowable Meadow
- 4 Concrete Walking Loop
- 5 Community Garden with Shed
- 6 Grasscrete
- 7 Harvest Tables with Trellis
- 8 Bookable Gathering Spaces
- 9 Future Modular Micro-Cafe
- 10 Berm
- 11 Skateboard Spot
- 12 Pollinator Meadow
- 13 Maintenance Access to Pump House
- 14 Existing Bus Stop

PLAN ENLARGEMENT: FIELD, COMMUNITY GARDEN AND MEADOWS



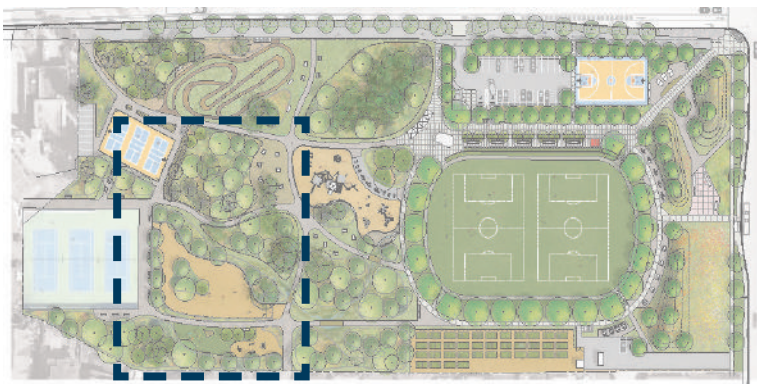
Scale: 1 : 300

0m 6m 12m 18m 24m 30m



FITNESS NODE & OFF-LEASH DOG RUN

In the proposed plan, a fenced off-leash dog run is located near the existing tennis courts in the shadier southwest corner of the park, away from busy roads. Dog owners will help to animate the park year-round, at all times of day, and as such, low-level lighting is provided on the surrounding trails. Nearby is a fitness node, and beyond is a fenced ecological enhancement area, in which native plant communities are restored and healthy soils are built over time to create a resilient forest ecosystem.



Key plan



Perspective G: View from the southeast corner of the existing tennis court, looking northeast toward the fenced off-leash dog run and fitness node.

PLAN ENLARGEMENT: FITNESS NODE & OFF-LEASH DOG RUN



Scale: 1 : 300
0m 6m 12m 18m 24m 30m

LEGEND

- 1 Multi-Sport Court
- 2 Access to Mission Community Hall
- 3 Existing Tennis Courts
- 4 Existing Cottonwood Trees
- 5 Fitness Node
- 6 Fenced Dog Run
- 7 Ecological Enhancement Area
- 8 Forested Clearing Picnic Area



Fenced off-leash dog run

The fenced off-leash dog run will include a baffle gate at each of the two entrances. Bag dispensers and waste disposal bins will also be provided.



Outdoor fitness equipment

Durable, low-maintenance fitness equipment that can be used for a body-weight fitness circuit, Crossfit classes or parkour is part of the fitness node near the southwest corner of the park.



Open lawn for organized or informal group fitness activities

Also located in the fitness node is a shady open lawn space with a platform to support yoga, pilates, tai chi, or other organized or casual group exercise activities.