# MINET'S POINT PARK

## CONCEPTUAL PLANNING PROJECT

### PROJECT INFORMATION PACKAGE

### JUNE 2026

Barrie

SHIFT
landscape architecture

# MINET'S POINT PARK

Minet's Point Park is a 3-acre waterfront park on Barrie's south shore featuring a beach, playground, washrooms, and parking. It is primarily used for swimming and is also popular for watersports such as windsurfing, canoeing, and kayaking, as well as ice fishing in the winter.

Minet's Point Park draws more visitors than other South Shore parks, largely because of its well-used waterfront and water-based recreation opportunities. Its convenient access from major roads and clear signage also contribute to its visibility and ease of access.

# MINET'S POINT PARK REDEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

The City is preparing to deliver three individual, yet coordinated, projects within Minet's Point Park, each with its own defined scope and objectives.

## WHISKEY CREEK CULVERT & CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS

**LEAD:** INFRASTRUCTURE - DEVELOPER AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Installation of two new culverts and enhancement of the watercourse from The Boulevard to Kempenfelt Bay to reduce flooding and increase Whiskey Creek's capacity.

## PUMP STATION RECONSTRUCTION

**LEAD:** INFRASTRUCTURE - VERTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Reconstruction of washroom/control building and wet well to reduce flood vulnerability and ensure long-term service reliability.

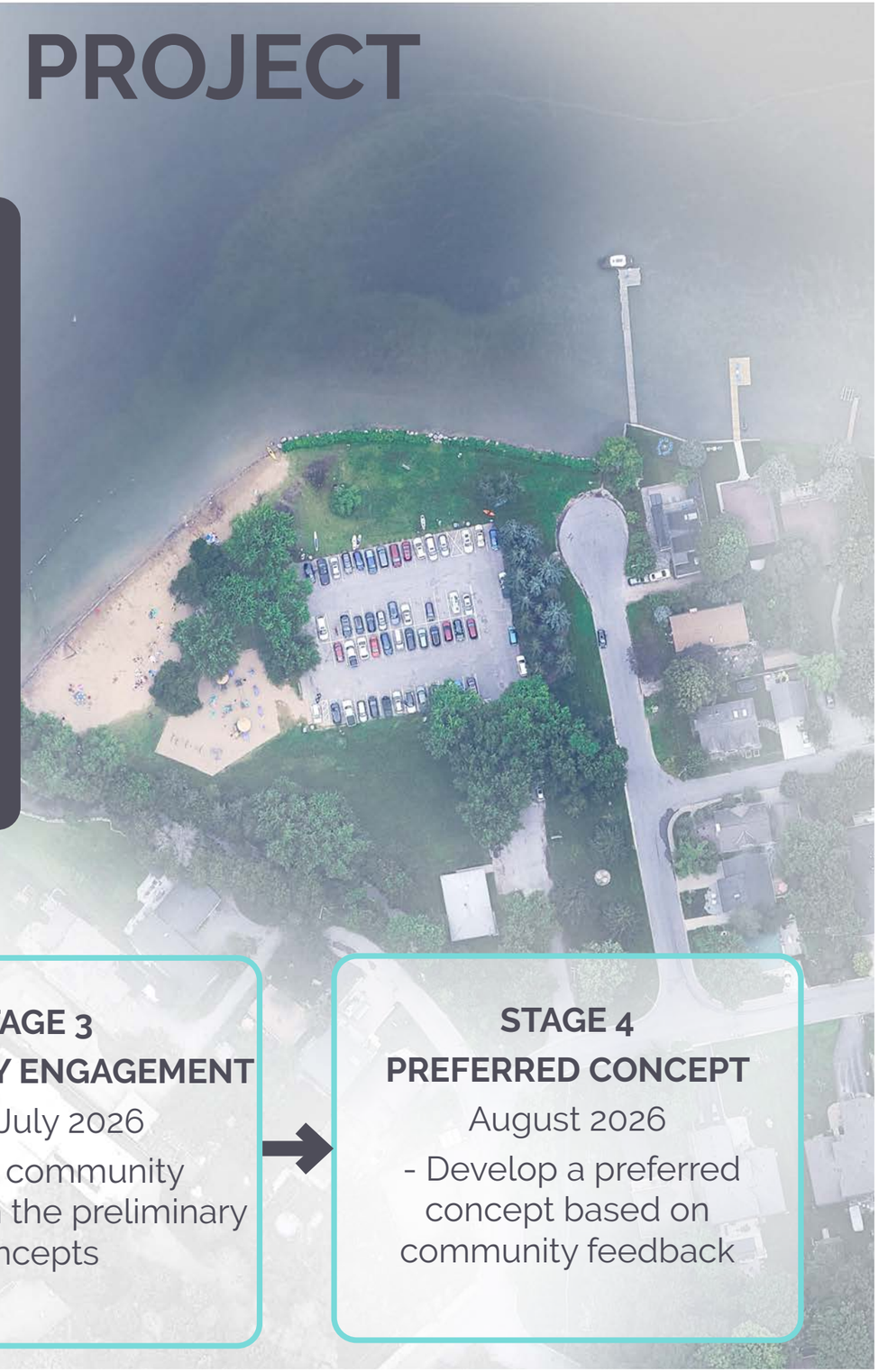
## WATERFRONT PARK REDEVELOPMENT

**LEAD:** DEVELOPMENT SERVICES - PARKS PLANNING

Park revitalization to serve community interests and needs by improving accessibility, providing new and renewed amenities, and enhancing the natural environment.

# THE CONCEPTUAL PLANNING PROJECT

## SCOPE, STAGES & TIMELINE



### PROJECT INTENT

The Conceptual Planning Project is a coordinated initiative between the City's Development Services and Infrastructure Departments to create a unified vision for the future of Minet's Point Park.

This shared vision will guide the alignment of the three interconnected projects, helping to reduce disruption, support efficient construction, and ensure that infrastructure and public realm improvements come together as a cohesive and resilient waterfront space.

Through an iterative conceptual design process involving community engagement, a comprehensive vision will be developed for the park.

The final conceptual design will serve as a clear foundation for future detailed design and implementation.

### PROJECT STAGES

**STAGE 1**
**BACKGROUND RESEARCH**
February-March 2026
- Site inventory and analysis
- Background research

→

**STAGE 2**
**PRELIMINARY CONCEPTS**
March-May 2026
- Preparation of two design concepts

→

**STAGE 3**
**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
June-July 2026
- Gather community feedback on the preliminary concepts

→

**STAGE 4**
**PREFERRED CONCEPT**
August 2026
- Develop a preferred concept based on community feedback

# PARK HISTORY

## NAME EVOLUTION

**Monett's Point** • • • Manett's Point • • • Minett's Point • • • **Minet's Point**

**1812**
The land was named 'Monett's Point' in honour of the first settler.

**Mid-1800s**
Overtime errors in transcription it evolved to Manett's Point.

**Early 1900s**
Common on postcards and local references of this time

**20th Century**
It gradually evolved into what is now known as Minet's Point.

### Peter Monett

**1812**

Former British soldier

Awarded the land in recognition of his service in defence of Canada during the War of 1812.

Established as a private recreational area for the Monett family.

### Strathy Family

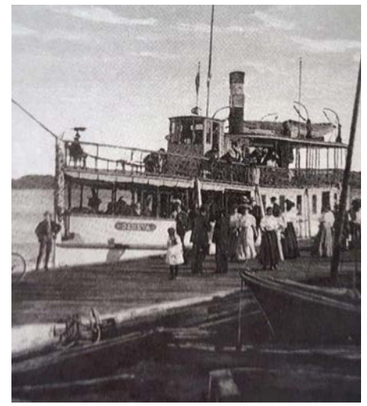
**1833**

The Strathy family had the vision of turning the area into a Wasaga Beach-style attraction. A boardwalk was built with refreshment booths, a dance pavilion, a park, and bathing beach, and 54 rental cottages.

### During WWII

**1939-1945**

Young soldiers from Camp Borden often took a ferry from Barrie to Minet's Point to enjoy evenings at the dance pavilion before heading overseas.



### Minet's Point

**Post-War Period**

Minet's Point featured over 100 cottages, a summer population of 1,200, and attracted thousands of additional day visitors.

### Major Disasters

**1954 & 1958**

In October 1954, Hurricane Hazel caused severe flooding at Minet's Point.

On July 10, 1958, a fire destroyed the popular dance pavilion.

### Minet's Point Annexation

**1982**

Minet's Point was permanently changed. The area gradually transitioned into a suburban community with modern residential development.

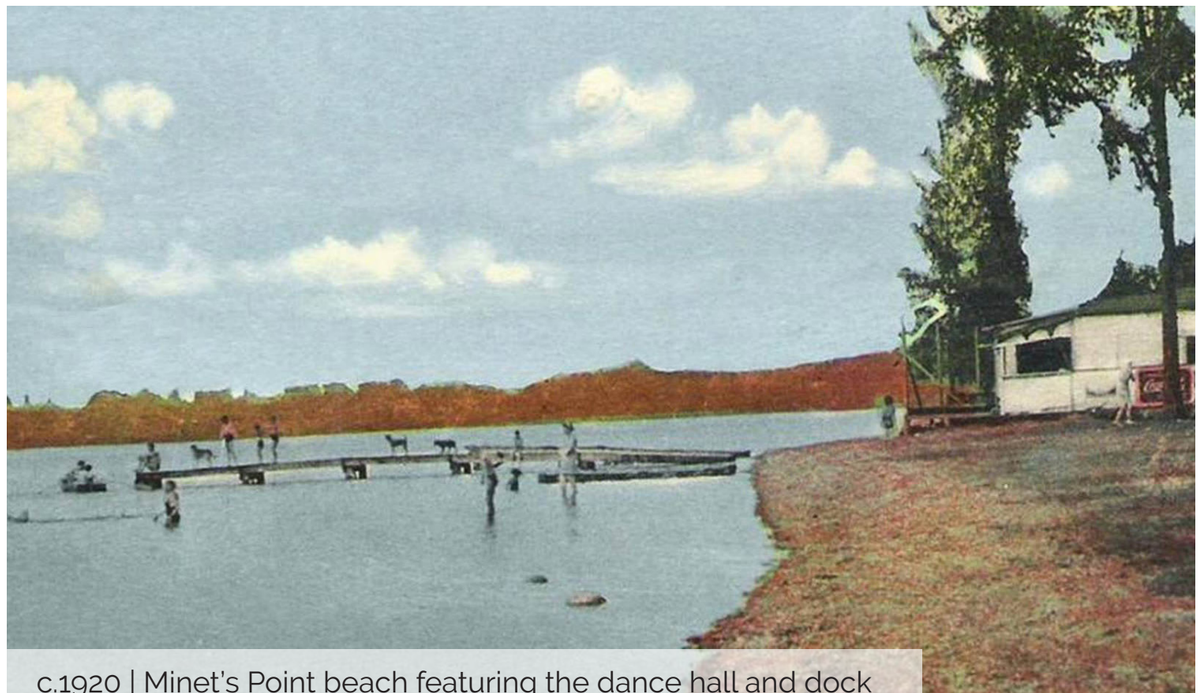
On January 1, 1982, Minet's Point was officially annexed by Barrie from Innisfil.

### Minet's Point Park

**Today**

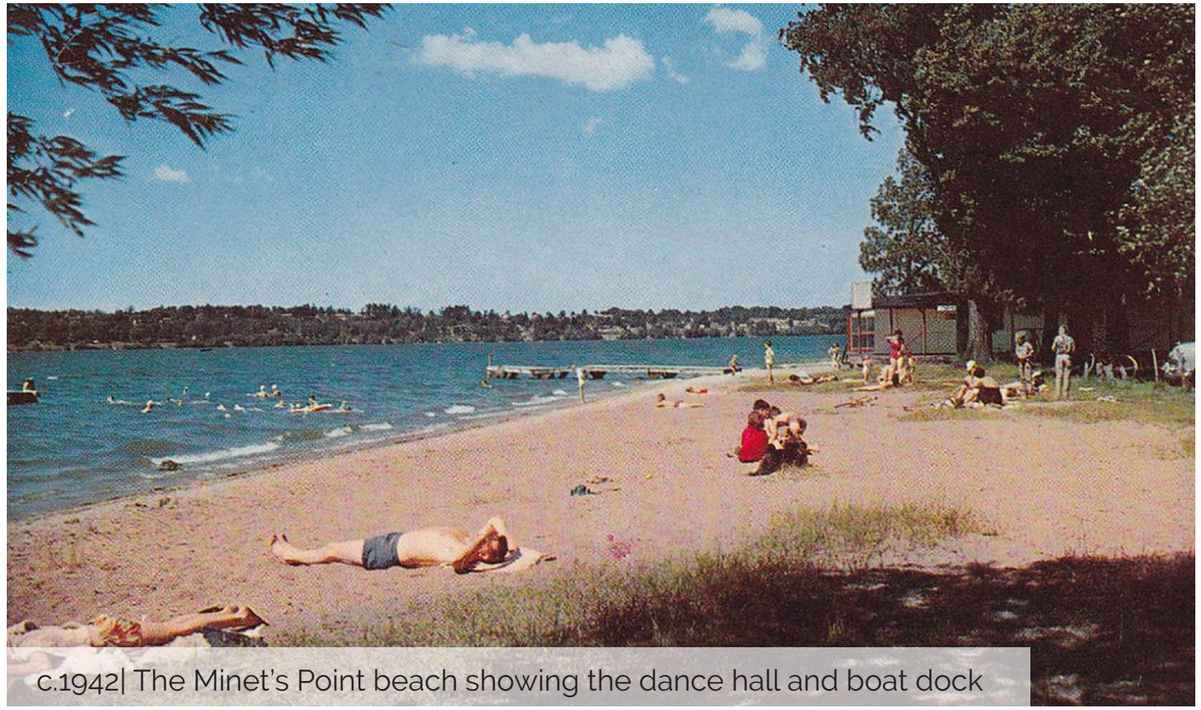
Minet's Point Park continues to be a popular destination for swimming, watersports, and ice fishing for both locals and tourists.

Images used with permission from the Barrie Historical Archive.

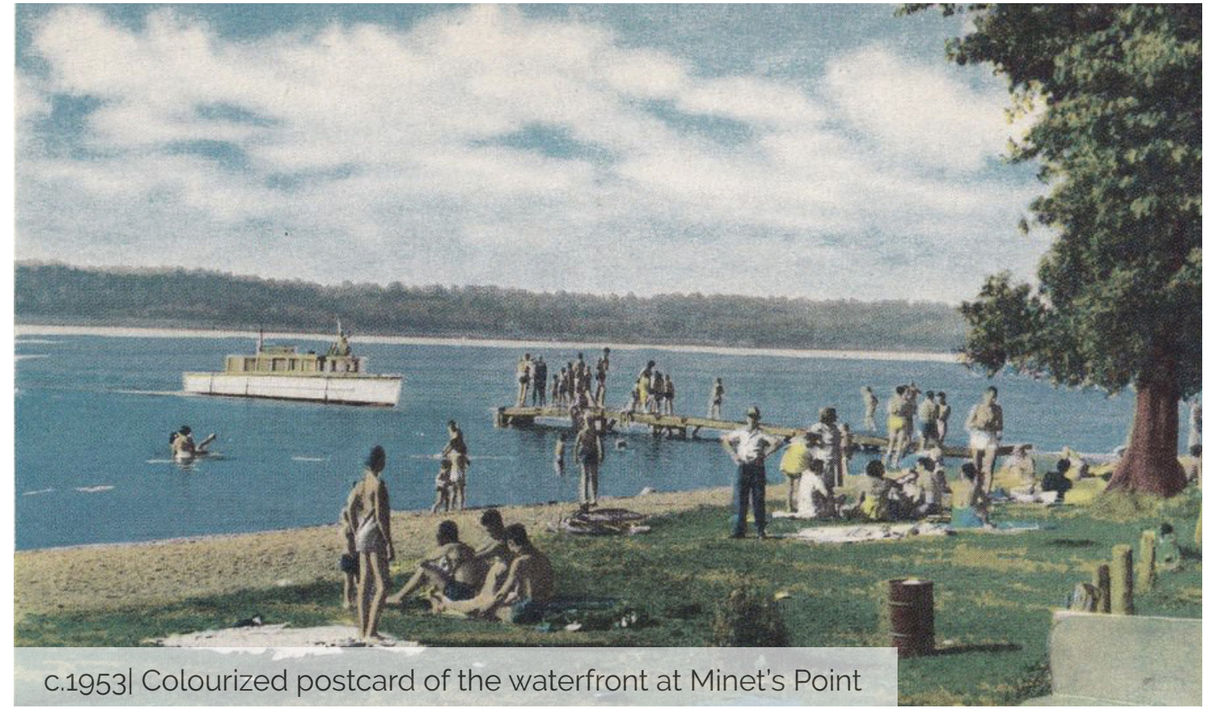


c.1920 | Minet's Point beach featuring the dance hall and dock

c.1920 | A postcard of the Minet's Point beach



c.1942| The Minet's Point beach showing the dance hall and boat dock



c.1953| Colourized postcard of the waterfront at Minet's Point

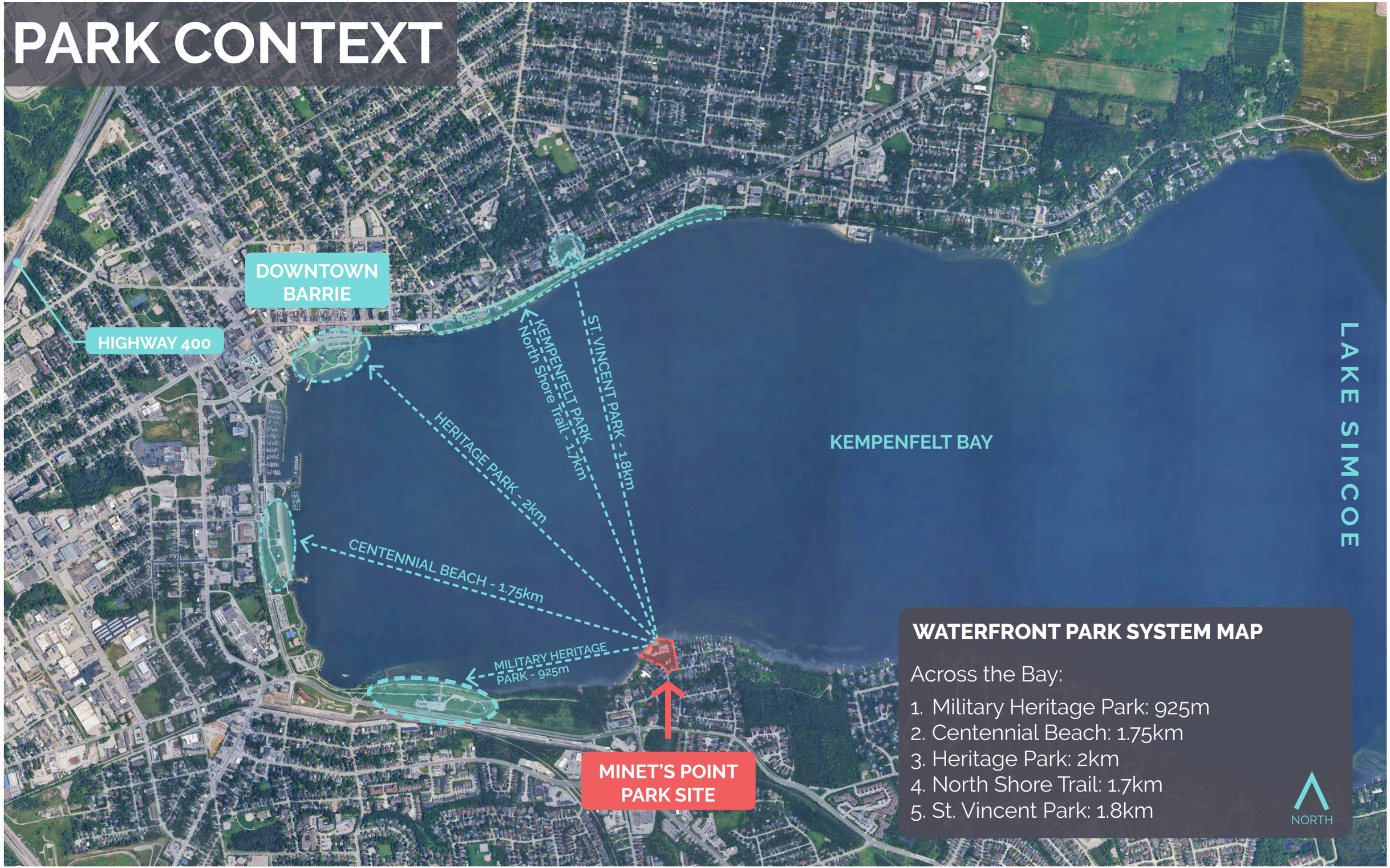
**These images capture the historical patterns of use and community life at Minet's Point.**

**Images used with permission from the Barrie Historical Archive.**

c. 1970| An aerial view pointing East showing the area surrounding Minet's Point.

Images used with permission from the Barrie Historical Archive.

# PARK CONTEXT




**WATERFRONT PARK SYSTEM MAP**

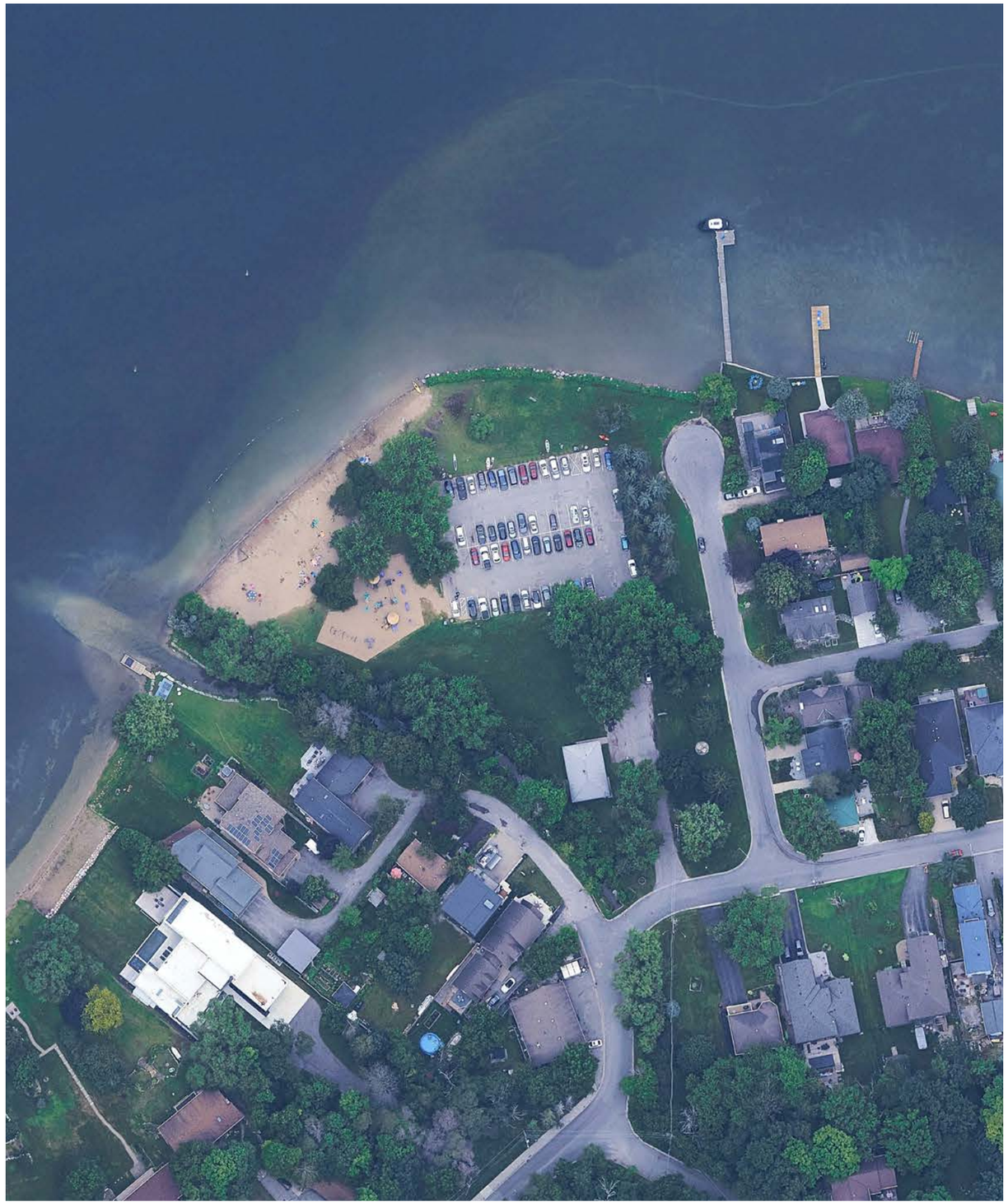
Across the Bay:

1. Military Heritage Park: 925m
2. Centennial Beach: 1.75km
3. Heritage Park: 2km
4. North Shore Trail: 1.7km
5. St. Vincent Park: 1.8km

## YEAR-ROUND INTEREST

Minet's Point Park supports year-round use. While summer activity centers on swimming and waterfront recreation, winter brings ice fishing and shoreline use. Aerial images from both winter and summer show a consistently busy parking lot, reinforcing the park's four-season demand and opportunity for resilient, year-round design.

February, 2021



July, 2024

# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## SITE ACCESS

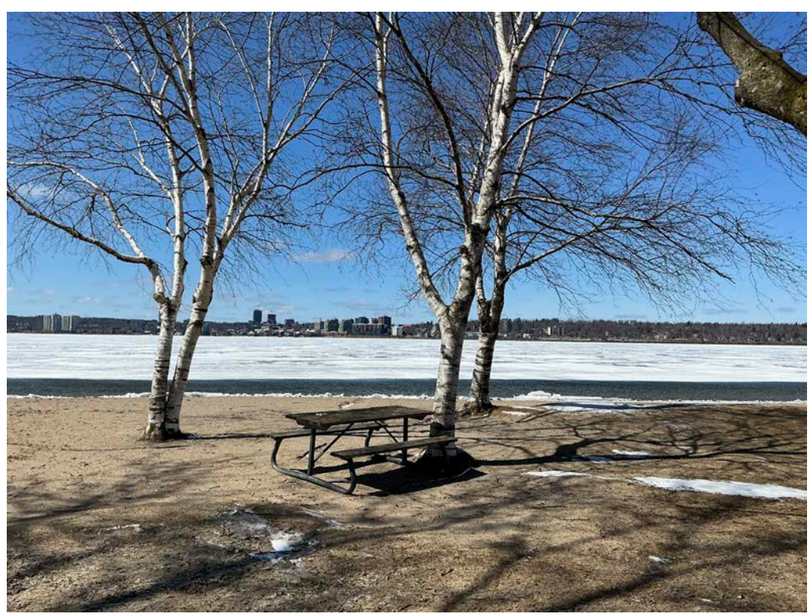
# SITE PHOTOS

## APRIL 2026

Existing parking lot

Existing playground

Existing washroom and pump station control building



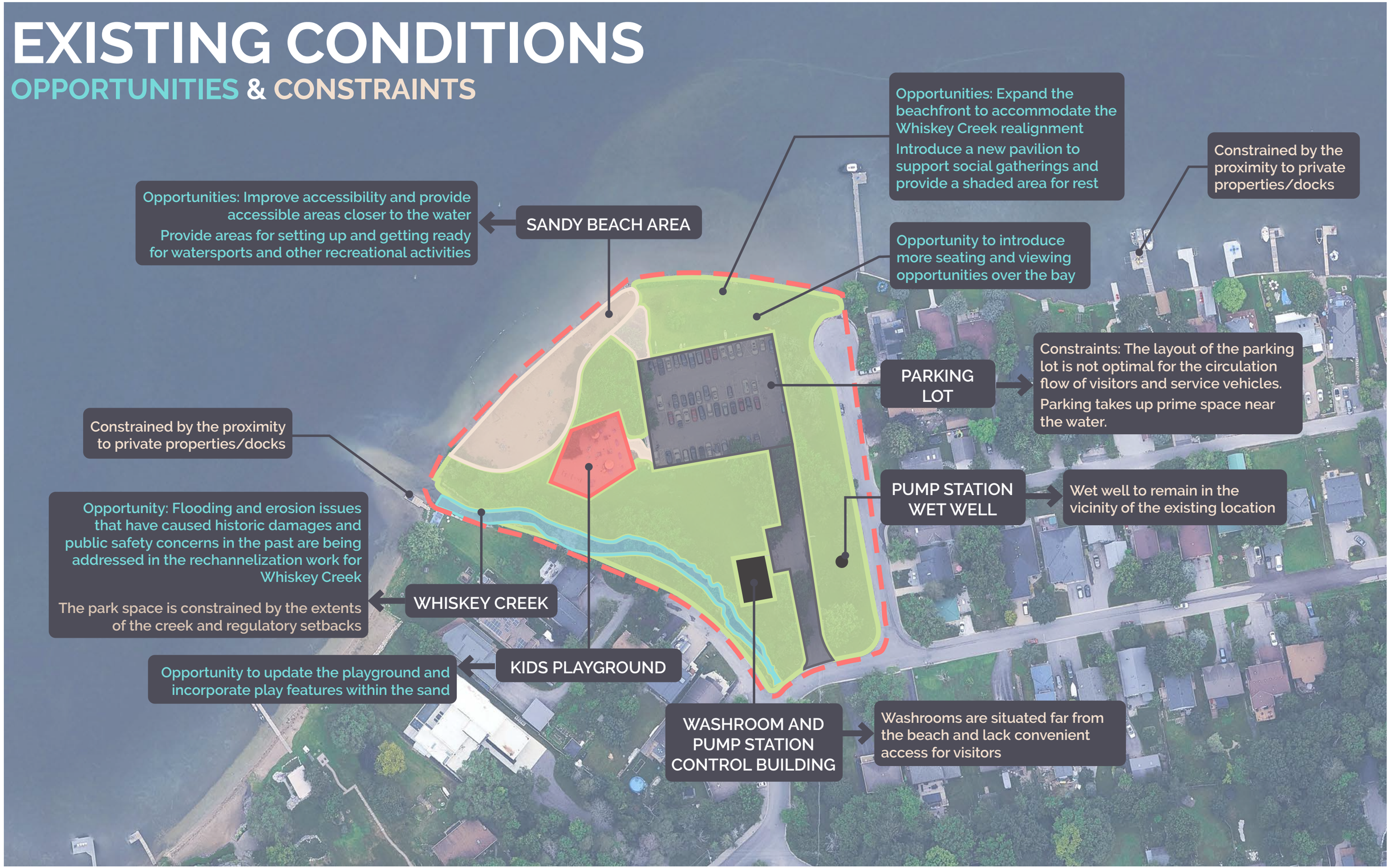
North-facing view toward Kempenfelt Bay

Northeast-facing view across Kempenfelt Bay

Northeast-facing view of the Minet's Point Park shoreline

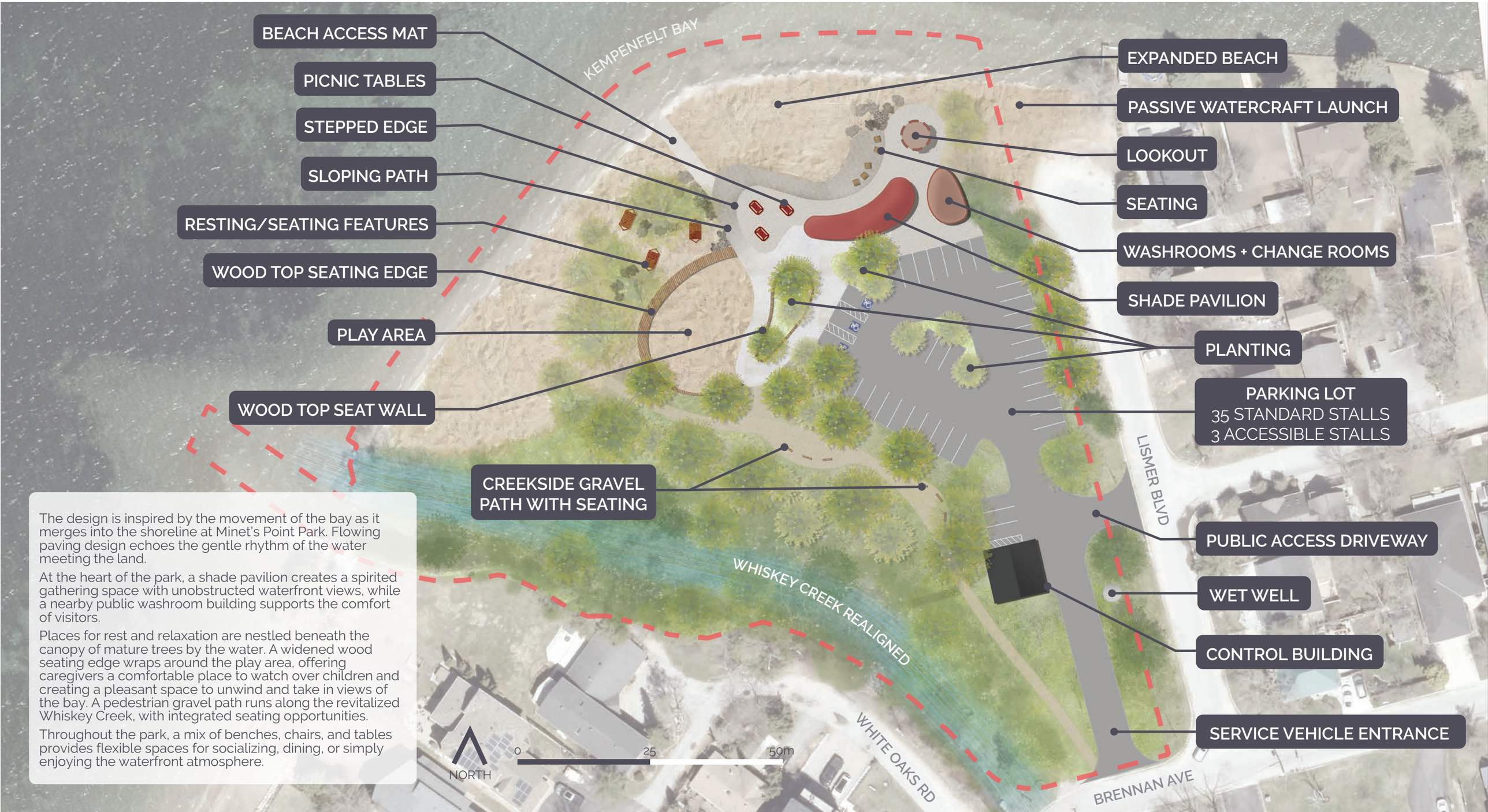
# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS



# PRELIMINARY CONCEPT 1

## PLAN




The design is inspired by the movement of the bay as it merges into the shoreline at Minet's Point Park. Flowing paving design echoes the gentle rhythm of the water meeting the land.

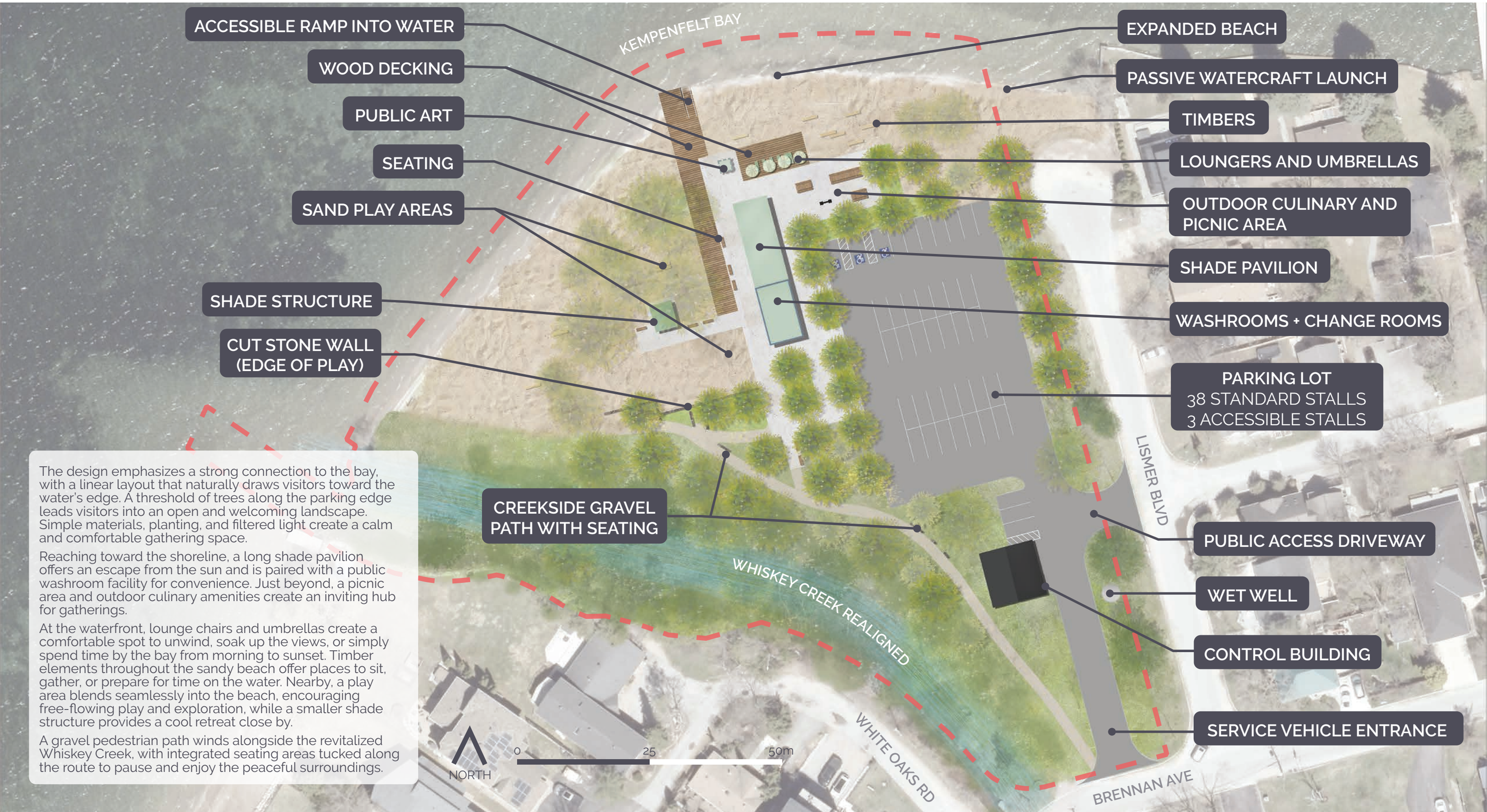
At the heart of the park, a shade pavilion creates a spirited gathering space with unobstructed waterfront views, while a nearby public washroom building supports the comfort of visitors.

Places for rest and relaxation are nestled beneath the canopy of mature trees by the water. A widened wood seating edge wraps around the play area, offering caregivers a comfortable place to watch over children and creating a pleasant space to unwind and take in views of the bay. A pedestrian gravel path runs along the revitalized Whiskey Creek, with integrated seating opportunities.

Throughout the park, a mix of benches, chairs, and tables provides flexible spaces for socializing, dining, or simply enjoying the waterfront atmosphere.

# PRELIMINARY CONCEPT 2

## PLAN




The design emphasizes a strong connection to the bay, with a linear layout that naturally draws visitors toward the water's edge. A threshold of trees along the parking edge leads visitors into an open and welcoming landscape. Simple materials, planting, and filtered light create a calm and comfortable gathering space.

Reaching toward the shoreline, a long shade pavilion offers an escape from the sun and is paired with a public washroom facility for convenience. Just beyond, a picnic area and outdoor culinary amenities create an inviting hub for gatherings.

At the waterfront, lounge chairs and umbrellas create a comfortable spot to unwind, soak up the views, or simply spend time by the bay from morning to sunset. Timber elements throughout the sandy beach offer places to sit, gather, or prepare for time on the water. Nearby, a play area blends seamlessly into the beach, encouraging free-flowing play and exploration, while a smaller shade structure provides a cool retreat close by.

A gravel pedestrian path winds alongside the revitalized Whiskey Creek, with integrated seating areas tucked along the route to pause and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

**Thank you for your interest in the Minet's Point Park project!**

For more information on this project and to participate in the project survey please visit:

www.buildingbarrie.ca