

W.C. Shelly Park expansion

Engagement summary



What's happening

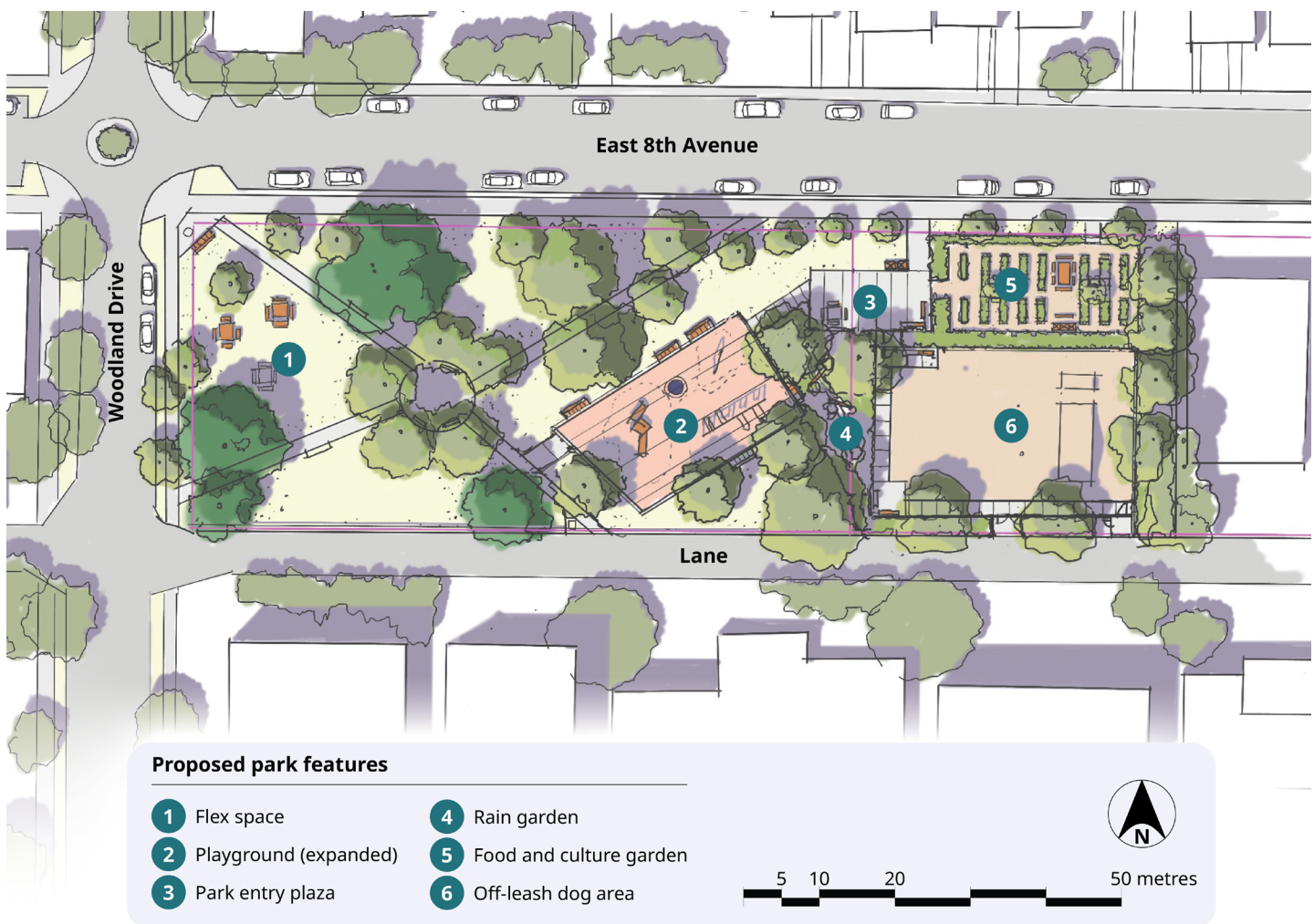
The Vancouver Park Board is expanding W.C. Shelly Park, introducing new and upgraded amenities. The vision is to create a safe and welcoming space for a diverse range of users, improve accessibility, and protect existing natural elements.

The existing park contains an open lawn area, playground, mature trees, and a number of benches. In 2022, the project site was expanded after the Park Board acquired neighbouring land. This expansion area is the focus for new park programs and activities.

We developed a concept design for the park guided by past community feedback and Park Board policies. It features an expanded playground, a new off-leash dog area, a rain garden to capture and slow stormwater, and a communal food and culture garden. In June, we shared the concept design and invited public input through an online survey and a pop-up event in the park.

This report summarizes the feedback we received on the proposed concept during the public engagement period.

Draft concept



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Highlights



55 visitors to the public in-person event held at the park on June 14.



1.8k visitors to the Shape Your City webpage and 255 survey responses.



250 posters were posted along Commercial Drive, and signage was posted on site.



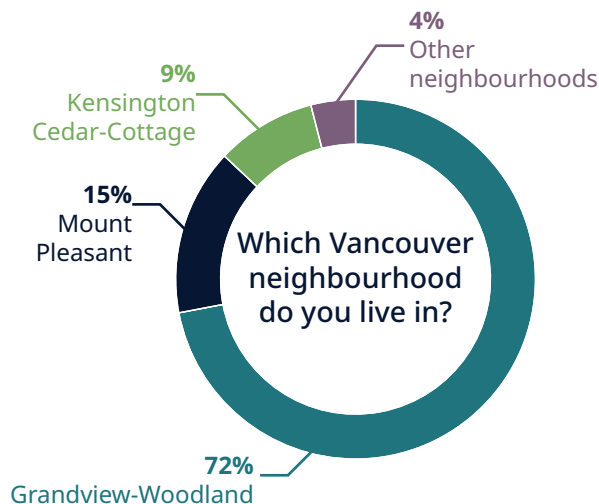
Connected with direct neighbours including BC Indigenous Housing Society's Wilp Bilah, and Kettle Society's Friendship Court.



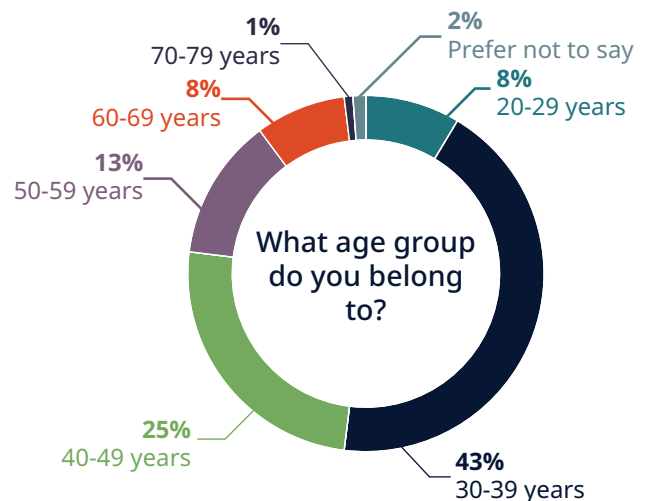
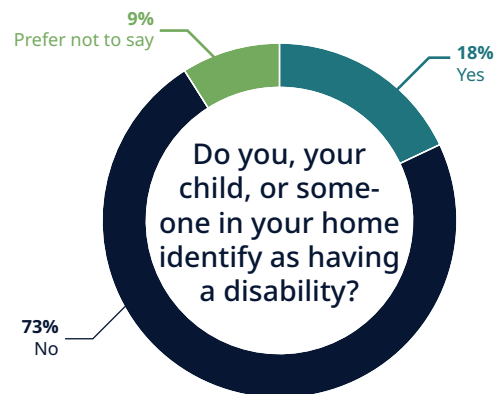
13,000+ reached through paid and organic social media posts.

Who we heard from

In the survey, we asked some demographic questions to understand who we are hearing from:



The majority of respondents have European ancestry (70%), followed by East Asian (11%) and North American Indigenous (9%). Most respondents identify as a woman (69%), followed by man (32%) and non-binary (4%). Finally, most respondents do not have someone under the age of 18 in their household (70%).



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Existing park sign and entry

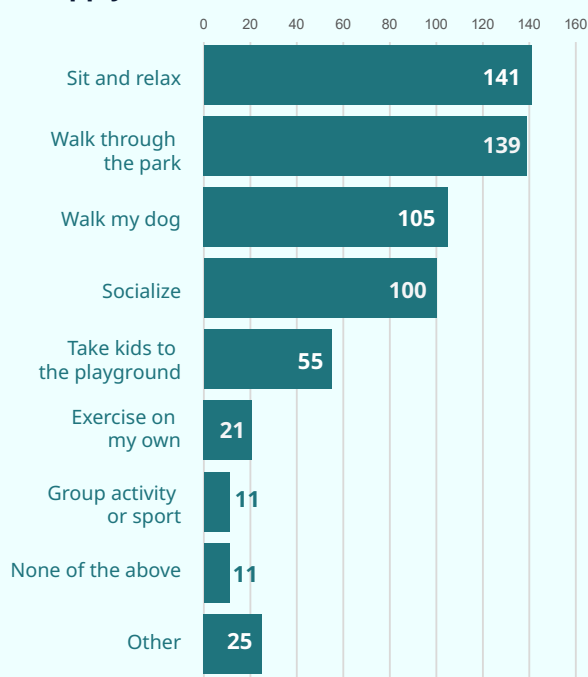
What we heard: survey results

On Shape Your City, we shared the draft concept plan with the public and asked visitors to complete a survey to gauge public support for the proposed concept. The feedback from this survey will be used to further refine the proposed concept design.

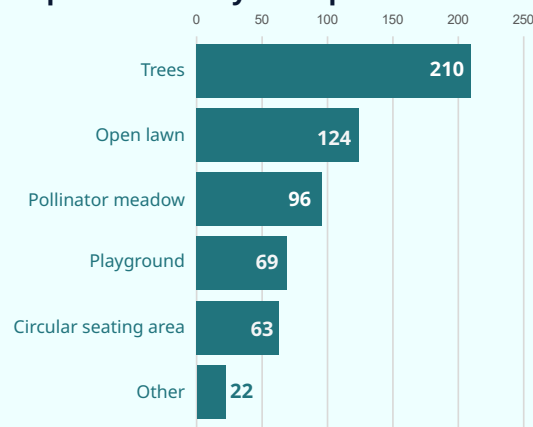
How people use the park today

We asked a few questions to understand how the park is currently used and experienced:

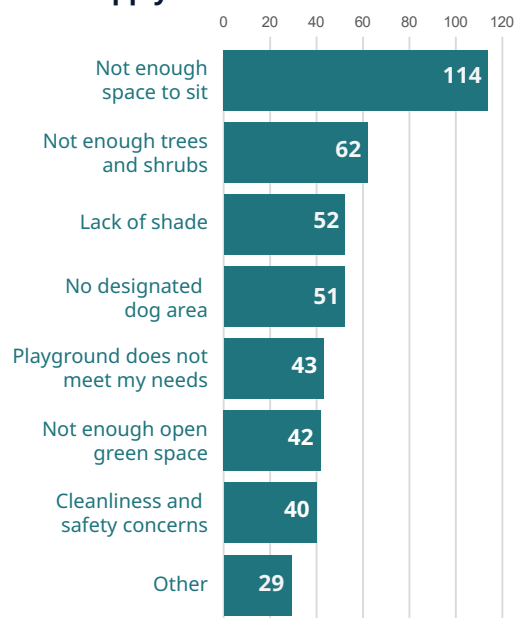
How do you use W.C. Shelly Park? Select all that apply.



What do you most enjoy about the existing park space? Choose your top three.



What challenges or barriers do you encounter in using the existing park? Select all that apply.



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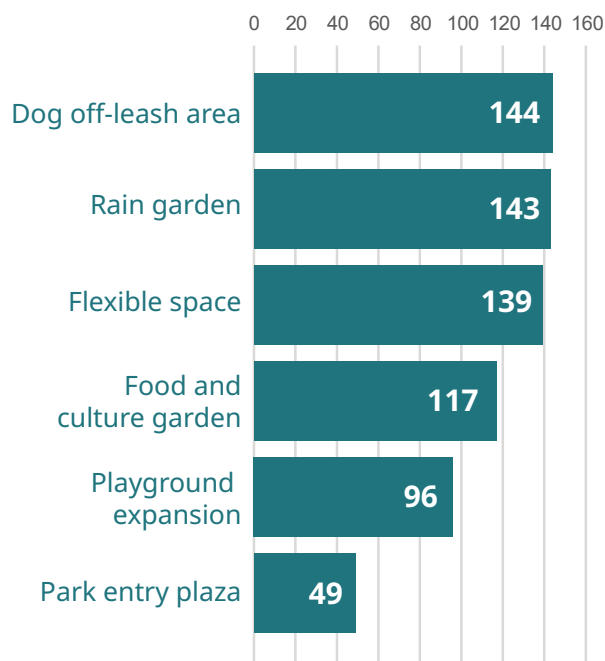
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What we heard

Both in person and in the survey, we received overall support for the major features proposed for the park expansion.

What features do you like the most in this concept? Choose your top three.



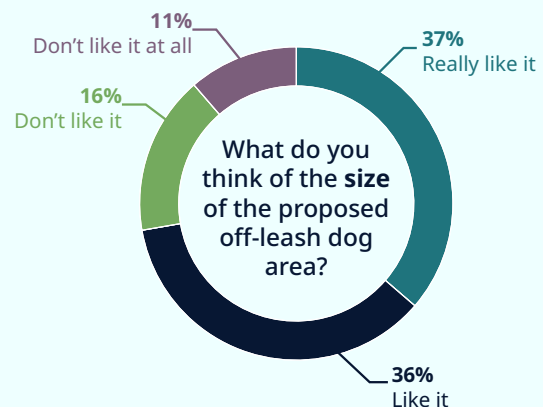
Off-leash dog area

We asked respondents to share their thoughts on both the location and size of the proposed off-leash dog area.

Location: 80% of respondents either **really like** or **like** the proposed location.

Size: 73% of respondents either **really like** or **like** the proposed size.

While most feedback was positive, some respondents felt the area was **too small** and suggested including a separate space for **small dogs**.



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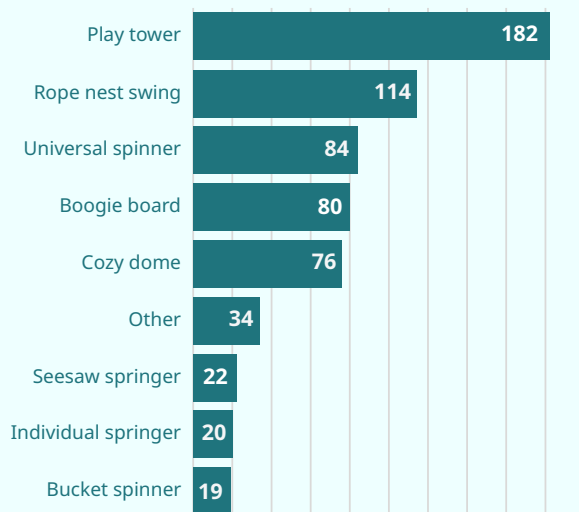
What we heard

Playground expansion

Survey participants were asked about new play equipment for the playground expansion.

Some respondents requested equipment for **pre-school age children** (ages 2-5) as there are playgrounds nearby that serve the needs of school age children.

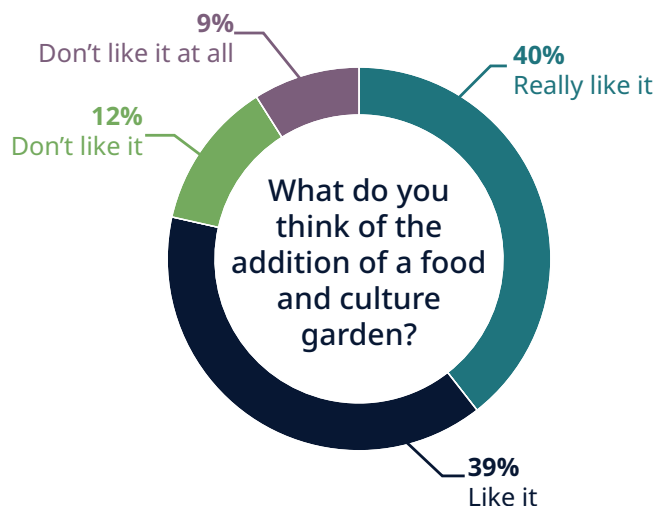
Which type(s) of new play equipment would you most like to see in the playground expansion? Choose your top three.



Food and culture garden

The addition of a food and culture garden received positive feedback with **79% of respondents** indicating they either **really like** or **like** the idea.

While overall sentiment was positive, some respondents raised concerns about **maintenance, garbage**, and the garden's **appearance during winter months**. There were also some questions around the addition of the garden, being located near the private-plot community garden at 8th Ave and Commercial Drive.



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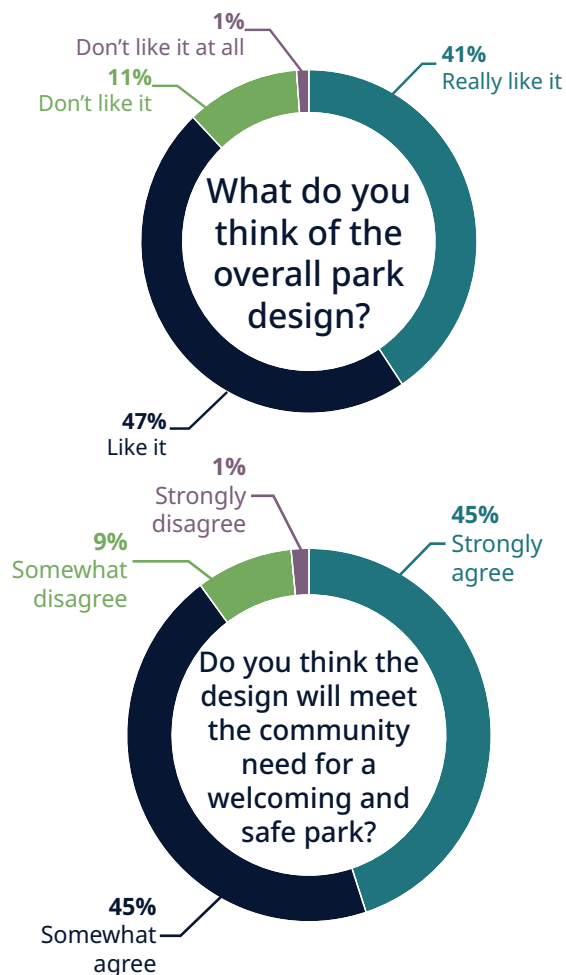
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Artistic sketch of proposed W.C. Shelly Park concept

What we heard

The design received **strong support**, with **88%** of respondents saying they **really like** or **like** it. Additionally, **90%** either **strongly** or **somewhat agree** that the proposed plan will help create a **welcoming and safe park**.



The following themes were consistent in both in-person and open-ended survey responses:

Open green space

Strong desire that the park expansion retains enough **green space** to support casual use. Many comments about reducing the size of the paved entry plaza or dog off-leash area in favour of green space.

Trees and shade

Strong support for the addition of **drought-tolerant shade trees**, and for the **retention of existing trees** as Vancouver summers continue to get warmer.

Park maintenance

Desire for more **consistent maintenance** and improvement of **garbage service**.

Washrooms

Desire for safe, well-maintained **public washrooms**.

Safety

Some respondents had concerns about **safety** and drug use in the park. Our goal is that the **variety of new park features** will bring in park users at various times through the day, and promote an increased sense of safety.

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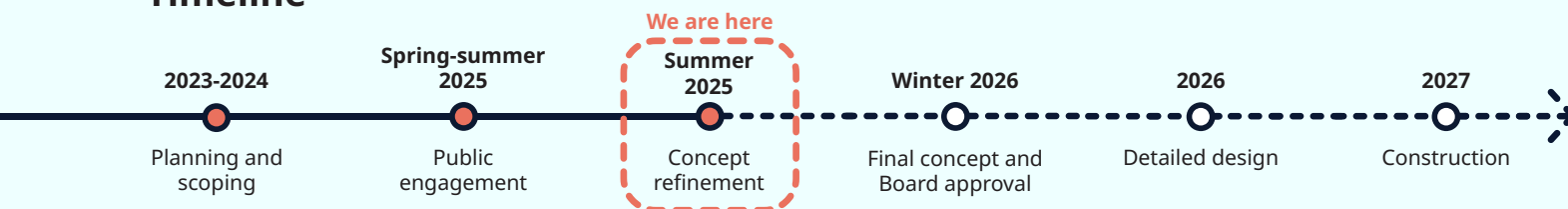


June 14, 2025 - Pop-up at W.C. Shelly Park



February 28, 2025 - Meeting with neighbouring community members

Timeline



What's next?

Your input will help us refine and develop a final concept plan which will be shared with the public and presented to the Park Board in winter 2026.

To stay informed on this project, go to our Shape Your City webpage and sign up for updates!



shapeyourcity.ca/wc-shelly-park-expansion



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Call 3-1-1