

Klee Wyck Park improvement project

Engagement Summary Report

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July 2022

1.0 Executive Summary

The following report summarizes the engagement results of the District of West Vancouver's public consultation on Klee Wyck Park improvement project.

At the December 7, 2020 Council meeting, Council received the Klee Wyck Site 2020–2029 Plan and directed staff to implement the short-term plan in 2020–2022, including the demolition of the main house and studio and partial restoration of the site.

Council also directed staff to engage with the community to determine the level of interest in community gardens and to explore options for a potential facility to support community programming.

There were 364 public and stakeholder interactions including 278 survey responses. Notification was by direct mail letter to residences in the Klee Wyck Park neighbourhood, North Shore News ads, posters, signage, social media, website, and email. Three meetings were held: one virtual and two in-person at Klee Wyck Park.

The engagement results indicate that there is support for community gardens and improved park access. Other uses that are valued by participants include:

- park benches and/or picnic tables
- washroom facility
- improved/accessible trail network to and from Klee Wyck
- children's amenities (e.g., playground)
- public art and/or historical information to honour the donor's legacy
- tennis/ pickleball courts

A breakdown and analysis of the engagement results can be found in section 4.0.

2.0 Background

Location and History

Klee Wyck Park is located at 200 Keith Road, in the Cedardale neighbourhood of West Vancouver. The 6.2-acre property was donated to the municipality in 1960 by Dr. Ethlyn Trapp, under an agreement that the District of West Vancouver would use the property for recreation, nursery garden, playground, or other community use. Dr. Trapp, who lived on the property until her death in 1972, named the property "Klee Wyck" in honour of her friend, the renowned artist Emily Carr.

Community Heritage Registry

The Klee Wyck property was listed on West Vancouver's Community Heritage Registry in 2008. Its heritage significance was attributed to the extensive gardens and the former house, which was significant for its association with Dr. Ethlyn Trapp and Emily Carr. The property was an example of a "rustic" estate, and has mature landscaping, proximity to Capilano River, and the landscape design includes many unusual, introduced plant specimens.

Past Park Use

The District uses part of the park as a plant nursery for parks operations, and, from the 1980s to 2011, the house served as a satellite facility for arts and culture programming.

Until 2015, the District had no program to invest in the capital maintenance of its assets, and the house at Klee Wyck fell into disrepair. It was closed to the public in 2011 and demolished in the fall of 2021.

Overview of Council Direction

In 2020, Council received the Klee Wyck Site 2020–2029 Plan and directed staff to implement the short-term plan in 2020–2022, including the demolition of the main house and studio. Nursery structures were removed, and the site was restored to highlight the gardens and improve public access.

At the same time, Council directed staff to:

- consult the community to determine the level of interest in community gardens
- explore options for a potential facility to support community programming
- install interpretive signage to commemorate Dr. Ethlyn Trapp
- create pathways through the gardens featuring the historical plantings
- review the trail network in the area and connections to Klee Wyck

3.0 Community Engagement: April 8 to May 2, 2022

3.1 Purpose

The purpose of this engagement was to collect community feedback on proposed improvements and changes to Klee Wyck Park.

3.2 Participation

There were 364 public and stakeholder interactions during the consultation period from April 8 to May 2, 2022.

- 57 people attended two in-person meetings in Klee Wyck Park
- 15 people attended one virtual meeting
- 278 people completed surveys (242 online and 36 paper)
- No written submissions were received by Mayor and Council
- 14 written submissions were received by the staff project lead

3.3 Engagement Topics

The District's engagement process sought feedback on the value of potential park features and possible uses for the current gate house. Additional open-ended comments were captured at the end of the survey.

3.4 Notification

Identification of opportunities to participate in the consultation included:

Newspaper Advertising

Advertisements ran in the North Shore News on the following dates:

- Wednesday, April 13, 2022
- Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Print Materials

Posters advertising the public engagement was posted at the following facilities:

- West Vancouver Community Centre
- Gleneagles Community Centre
- Seniors' Activity Centre
- West Vancouver Memorial Library

Social Media

A social media campaign notifying the public of the engagement opportunity included:

- two Facebook posts, on April 8 and April 12, 2022, reached 355 people
- three Instagram posts, on April 8 and 14, 2022, reached 1,022 people
- two Twitter posts ,on April 8 and April 12, 2022, reached 685 people
- one post on Nextdoor post on April 13, 2022, reached 1,196 people

Engagement Website

The engagement website (westvancouverite.ca/kleewyck) hosted information materials, reports and illustrations, milestone dates, background material, and a survey.

District Website

The homepage of westvancouver.ca featured a promotional image from April 8 to May 2, 2022, which connected visitors to the engagement website. Meeting dates were also posted to the website events calendar.

Email

- An email announcing the Klee Wyck Park improvement project was sent to 3,795 westvancouverITE subscribers on April 8, 2022
- An email newsletter promoting the Klee Wyck Park improvement project was sent to 1,613 subscribers on April 14, 2022

Stakeholders

- Letters was mailed to 2,128 households in the Klee Wyck Park area

3.5 Engagement Methods

3.5.1 Online Information Materials and Survey

On the engagement website, the public were provided with comprehensive background information materials, including the 2020 Asset Management Update, the original agreement with Dr. Trapp, and previous council reports.

From April 8 to May 31, 2022, 907 people visited the web page and 278 respondents filled out the survey (including paper submissions that were received and entered by staff).

*Note: the web page statistics extend beyond the public engagement period to account for the manual entry of paper surveys by staff.

Paper copies of the survey were available at the following facilities:

- Seniors' Activity Centre
- West Vancouver Memorial Library

3.5.2 In-Person and Virtual Engagement Meetings

Virtual Meetings

One virtual information meeting was held to inform attendees about the goals and objectives of the Klee Wyck Park improvement project, followed by a question-and-answer period. Staff from Parks, Cultural Services, and Community Relations &

Communications were present to share information, answer questions, and record feedback.

The meetings were advertised and open to anyone with an internet connection. The meeting lasted one hour and 30 minutes.

The presentation portion of the meetings was recorded and posted to the website for others to watch. The questions and answers from the meeting were also posted to the website.

In-Person Engagement

An information booth was set up at Klee Wyck Park on April 13 and 23, 2022, to raise awareness, inform attendees about the goals and objectives of the Klee Wyck Park improvement project, answer questions, and collect feedback.

Display boards provided information on various topics for which staff were seeking feedback, including the future of the gate house, level of support for community gardens, and more.

Staff from Parks, Cultural Services, and Community Relations & Communications were present to share information, answer questions, and record feedback.

4.0 Community Engagement Results

4.1 Survey

278 surveys were collected (242 online and 36 paper). Please note:

- Not all respondents answered every question.
- Because respondents self-selected to participate in the engagement, these results do not reflect a random sample.
- Postal code data, submitted by survey respondents at the time of westvancouverITE registration, identified the following location demographics for the 242 online surveys:
 - 85% are residents of West Vancouver
 - 11% are residents of North Vancouver
 - 2% are residents of other municipalities (Delta, New Westminster, Vancouver)
 - 2% unknown (postal code error / not provided)
- Results do not notably differ between responses from West Vancouver residents compared to responses from residents of other municipalities.

- Postal code data is not collected for 36 paper surveys. Location demographics represent online survey respondents only.

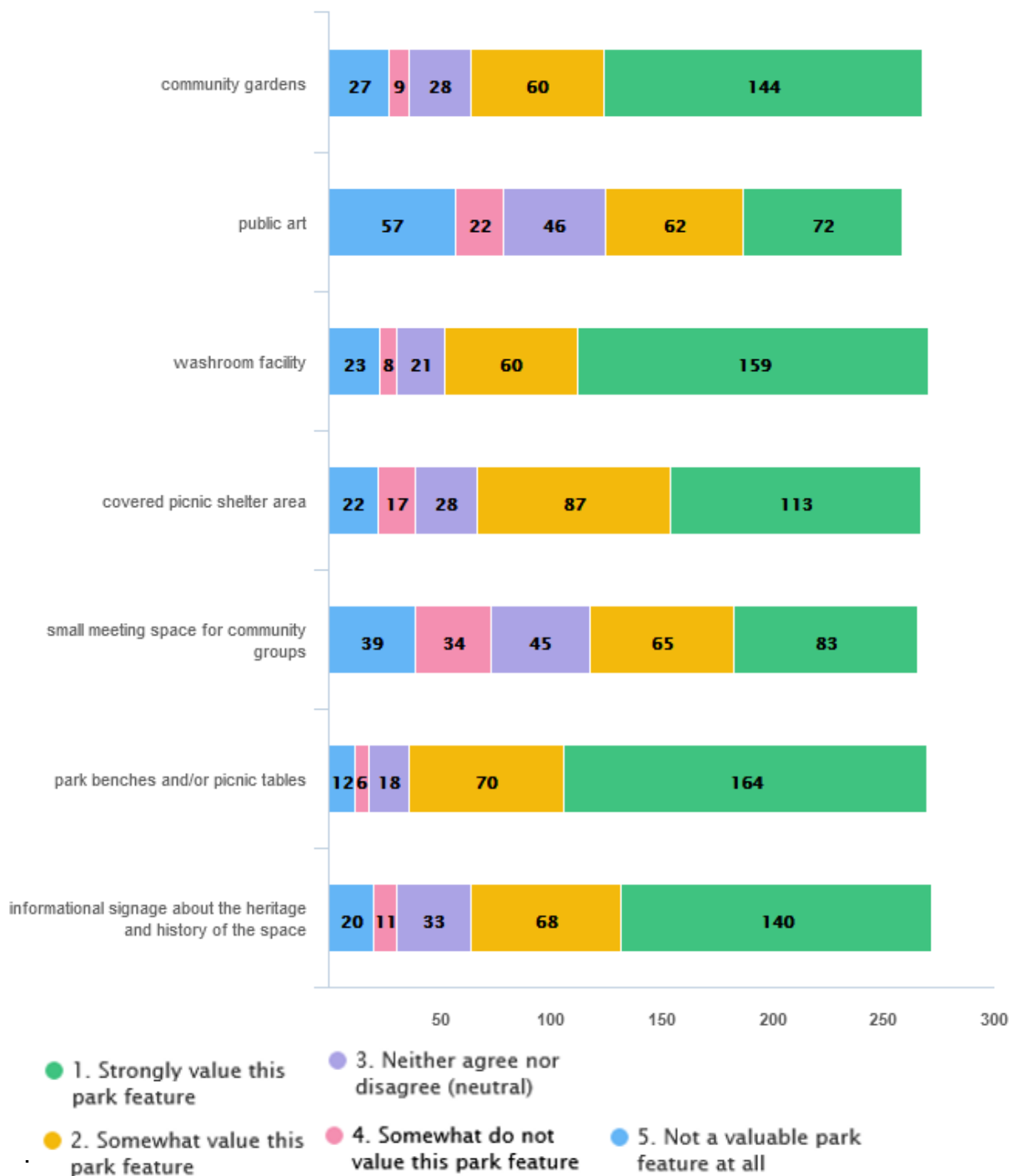
4.1.1 Survey: Quantitative Results

Quantitative results include closed-ended questions that have specific answers for respondents to choose from. The data can be easily measured and displayed in the form of graphs and pie charts.

The following charts display results from the quantitative questions:

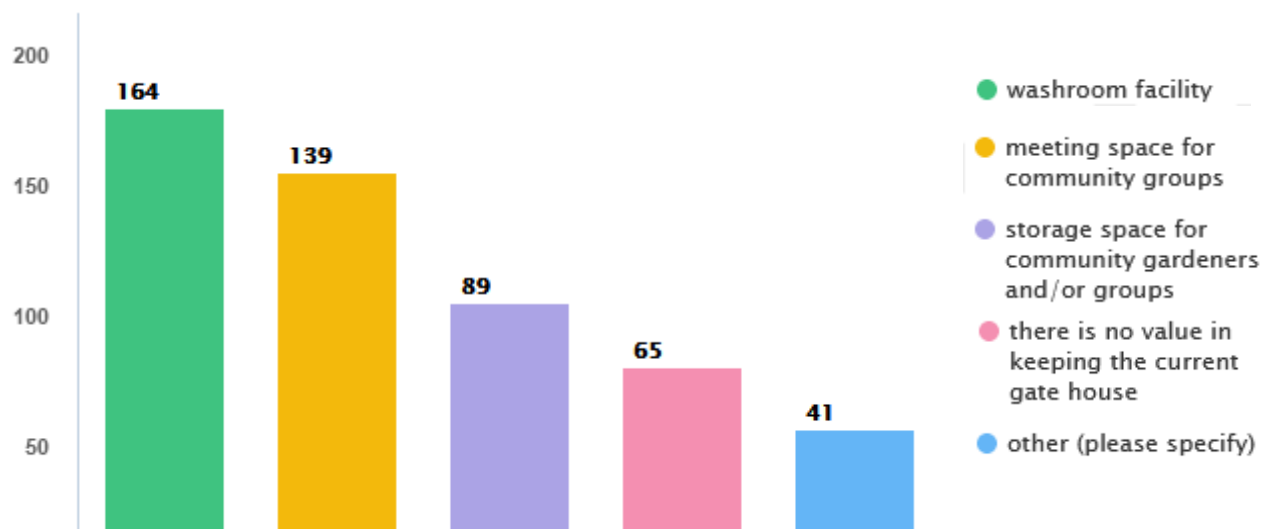
Question #1: Please tell us which park features you think would add value to Klee Wyck Park by ranking the following on a scale of 1-5. (1 being strongly value and 5 being not valuable) (275 responses)

Note: This question enabled respondents to check all that apply. Many respondents selected more than one option



Question #2: Please review the list of potential uses for the current Gate House and let us know which you support. Check all that apply.

270 responses



Key themes mentioned by those who selected “other “ and specified.	# of Mentions
Consider removal if potential uses are not needed or cost efficient	11
Art-related use	5
Workspace/office/meeting room	4
Coffee shop/café/teahouse	4
Retain as caretaker’s house	4
Express/satellite library	2
Nature house	2

4.1.2 Survey: Qualitative Results

Qualitative results include open-ended questions that provided an opportunity for respondents to provide general feedback. The responses are analyzed by identifying key themes and counting the number of times a key theme is mentioned.

The following chart display results from the qualitative question, presented by number of mentions of key themes.

Question #3: Do you have any other comments and/or ideas to share with staff about enhancements to Klee Wyck Park?

Key themes regarding question #3	# of Mentions
Support for community gardens and/or walking path through gardens to view and enjoy nature	38
Support for tennis courts and/or pickleball courts	37
Support for improved/accessible trail network to and from Klee Wyck	27
Support for children's amenities (e.g., playground)	25
Support for public art and/or historical information to honour the donor's legacy	20
Support for an arts centre at Klee Wyck	18
Support for picnic space and tables	15
Support for revenue opportunities (e.g., events, programs, weddings)	15
Concerns about park maintenance and upkeep	15
Support for fenced off-leash dog area	14
Support for washrooms	14
Support for arts and/or nature programming	12
Concerns that washrooms and/or picnic shelters will attract negative activity	11

Key themes regarding question #3	# of Mentions
Concerns about costs	7
Concerns about making any park improvements (i.e., do not change anything)	7
Support for prioritizing Indigenous heritage and representation	6
Support for housing at the site	4
Support for a viewing deck near the river	4
Support for more parking	3
Support for planting trees	3
Concerns about potential noise in park	2
Support for bicycle storage space	1

4.2 Virtual Information Meeting Key Themes

One virtual information meeting was held to provide information about the Klee Wyck Park improvement project, consisting of a 20-minute presentation, followed by a 25-minute feedback period, and a 10-minute question-and-answer period.

The following are summary results of the key themes that arose during the feedback period and question-and-answer period of the meetings. A detailed record of discussion from the meetings can be accessed at westvancouverite.ca/kleewyck.

Virtual Information Meetings	
Meeting	Key Themes
Thursday, April 21, 2022 7–8:30 p.m. (approximately 15 attendees)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and interest in community gardens • Interest in community involvement opportunities • Support for trail accessibility and connections to existing trails • Concerns about costs and suggestions to generate revenue through the park • Support for amenities for children (e.g., playground); some concern about noise and costs related to playgrounds • Support for beautifying the existing gardens (particularly rhododendrons) • Concerns about parking

4.3 In-person Engagement Meetings at Klee Wyck Park

An information booth was set up at Klee Wyck Park to provide an opportunity for residents to come to the park, learn more, and ask questions.

In-person Engagement Meetings at Klee Wyck Park	
Meeting	Key Themes
Thursday, April 21, 2022 7–8:30 p.m. (approximately 15 attendees)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and interest in community gardens • Support for a fenced off-leash dog area • Support for washrooms • Support for beautifying the existing gardens and park trail • Support for children’s amenities (e.g., playground) • Low interest in retaining the gate house • Support for connecting Klee Wyck Park to existing trails • Support for having pickleball and/or tennis courts at Klee Wyck Park

5.0 Summary

Analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data collected during the engagement period indicates:

- Of the potential park features included in Question #1 of the survey, most respondents strongly value or somewhat value the proposed park features. The park features that are most strongly valued are:
 1. park benches and/or picnic tables
 2. washroom facility
 3. community gardens
- Of the potential uses of the gate house included in Question #2 of the survey, the top potential uses of the gate house are:
 1. washroom facility
 2. meeting space for community groups
 3. storage space for community gardeners/ and or groups
- Of the key themes mentioned in Question #3 of the survey, the most mentioned key themes are:
 1. Support for community gardens and/or walking path through gardens to view and enjoy nature
 2. Support for tennis or pickleball courts
 3. Support for improved/accessible trail network to and from Klee Wyck Park
 4. Support for children's amenities (e.g., playground)
 5. Support for public art and/or historical information to honor the donor's legacy
- The key themes mentioned at the virtual and in-person engagement meetings are consistent with what was heard in the survey, with the following observed differences:
 1. While the survey results showed that there is support for various uses of the gate house, staff heard no interest in keeping the gate house at the in-person engagement meetings.
 2. While support for pickleball and/or tennis courts emerged as theme in the survey, a small number of attendees at the in-person engagement meetings mentioned pickleball.

6.0 Conclusion

The survey responses, and comments and suggestions provided during the engagement period illustrate the community's desire for future improvements at Klee Wyck Park.

In addition to the proposed park uses, feedback from participants demonstrated an interest in improving the park in a variety of other ways to support the interests and activities of the respondents.

Overall, the engagement process represents community support for the improvements made to the park to date, and support for future improvements like community gardens to enhance public access and use of the park.