

Fall 2024 Engagement

Preliminary Directions

The first phase of community engagement on the Wesbrook Place Neighbourhood Plan update took place October 29 to November 15, 2024. The engagement focused on four preliminary directions, which built upon the big ideas and strategies developed through Campus Vision 2050 and were guided by the Land Use Plan, Housing Action Plan, Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan, and other supporting plans and policies.

Four preliminary directions

1. Complete the network of neighbourhood parks, including a new ecological park at the forest edge
2. Provide retail and amenities to support everyday life in Wesbrook Place South
3. Enable more housing and prioritize a livable, human-scaled neighbourhood experience
4. Complete the Wesbrook Place mobility network with transit, neighbourhood streets and greenways

Community members, the majority of whom were families, staff, faculty, and students that currently live in Wesbrook Place Neighbourhood, participated in a workshop or community conversation, attended an open house or a walking tour, and/or provided their feedback through an online survey. Staff also engaged with the University Neighbourhoods Association, Planning Advisory Committee, External Advisory Committee and had targeted conversations with adjacent users such as Pacific Spirit Park Society, TRIUMF, and UBC Farm.

What we heard: key takeaways

Open spaces

- A diversity of preferences for open spaces and parks, ranging from a desire for more quiet and calm spaces that prioritize passive uses, to those that are lively and dynamic, prioritizing active uses and recreation

Movement and connectivity

- Support for prioritizing the pedestrian experience (e.g., walkability, natural light, wider pathways, engaging ground floors), and safety (e.g., pedestrian, cycling and driving) was a major driver of preference for the types and layouts of public spaces
- Some tension between modes of transportation in the community, with some prioritizing wider sidewalks at the expense of road space, and others prioritizing roadways, at the expense of sidewalks and curbside space

Building orientation, tower height and placement

- A range of perspectives, including a desire to maintain views from existing buildings and public spaces, minimize shadows on surrounding areas, and preservation of trees; some prefer an approach of fewer but taller towers to accomplish this
- How people can safely and efficiently move in, out and through Wesbrook influenced people's preferences around the layout of buildings and the arrangement of amenities

Public spaces and amenities

- Interest in more spaces targeted to different age groups (e.g., sports courts and later opening hours for teenagers and wide, flat paths for seniors)
- Strong desire for another grocery store as well as more diverse food options

Engagement process

- Some concern about the limited scope of choices due to many of the land use and development parameters having already been determined through the Campus Vision 2050 and Land Use Plan process



(LEFT) PRELIMINARY DIRECTIONS WORKSHOP.
(RIGHT) PRELIMINARY DIRECTIONS WALKING
TOUR OF WESBROOK NEIGHBOURHOOD.