

Winegarden Park, overview and design considerations

This memo summarizes input to date from the Winegarden Park Advisory Committee and input from community members. The park's identity is captured as well as a tentative outline of design considerations for the landscaping plan.

Identity

Right in the heart of Gibsons Landing, Winegarden Park overlooks Gibsons harbour and marina, with stunning views of Keats Island, Howe Sound and the Coast Mountain range. The park is one of the main parks for Gibsons and the surrounding area. The park is often an attractive picnic spot for families on a summer's day, and becomes the seating area of the annual Sea Cavalcade fireworks and for the Music in the Landing program throughout the summer. Also, the park is a popular part of people and four-legged friends taking their regular walk along the waterfront, sometimes pausing in the park for a moment of reflection.

Questionnaire results highlights

An online survey posted from February 4 – March 14 provided a large amount of information including the following:

- Play equipment – in keeping with park – natural, non-conventional
- Water feature
- Stage location
- Multi seasonal park
- Viewpoint/visual artistic accents
- Open space – but not empty space
- Retention of views
- Passive space
- Use shade of building as an advantage – “Prospect refuge”
- Seating
- Waterfront habitat – adaptable with climate change
- Elements for 18-30 year olds
- Festival usability
- Accessibility
- Grading – key issue
- Terracing – in relation to views and the stages
- Acoustics – amphitheatre
- Washroom with baby change facilities
- Raising of the walkway
- Possibly more urban
- Is there enough space for all these ideas?
- Trees to frame the view, and provide shade
- Orientation of the park is a key issue
- Goose dropping number 1 negative factor
- Buffering of neighbouring properties.

Essential features

Through a park user questionnaire the following features were commonly identified as vital to the Park:

- Public Washrooms
- Garbage and Recycling Containers
- Summer music stage
- Trees
- Accessible paths for wheelchairs and strollers

Desirable features

The park user questionnaire identified other features that were vital to some groups but not for everybody:

- Seating Areas/benches
- Doggie bag dispensers
- Music Festival lawn
- Access and seating areas on waterfront (i.e. rock steps)
- Drinking water fountain

Design considerations

The main reason for the review of the parks design is the pending development of the George Hotel and Residences project adjacent to the park. This will result in changes to the waterfront walkway, the location of the performance stage and changes to the context of the parks south side.

At the basis of this, quite literally, is a major design consideration about the current and possibly a changed orientation of the terrain of the park. The main question is if the orientation continues to be towards the south east corner, or could it be re-oriented to the water views or the north east corner?

The second major design consideration is a new location for the performance stage. In discussions to date some people can see it as a central focal point on the waterside whereas others prefer a more secondary location, with the primary focus of the park on the water and mountain views.

Other design considerations should consider the other features listed above, including the priority of those features as expressed by the results of the questionnaire and the Committee's discussions.