



Date: February 11, 2015

**TO:** Park Board Chair and Commissioners  
**FROM:** General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
**SUBJECT:** Community Garden License Agreement for Stanley Park  
Community Garden

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## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Board grant a new Community Garden License Agreement for a term of one year to the Stanley Park Community Garden Society for the Stanley Park Community Garden (975 Lagoon Drive).

## POLICY

The Park Board Community Garden Policy (2005) outlines the terms and conditions under which the Board will consider community gardens to be operated on park lands.

The Park Board Strategic Plan objectives include a focus on becoming “a Leader in Greening” and “Engaging People.”

The Park Board approved the Local Food Action Plan in July 2013, which includes several actions supporting increased food growing and pollinator projects on park lands.

## BACKGROUND

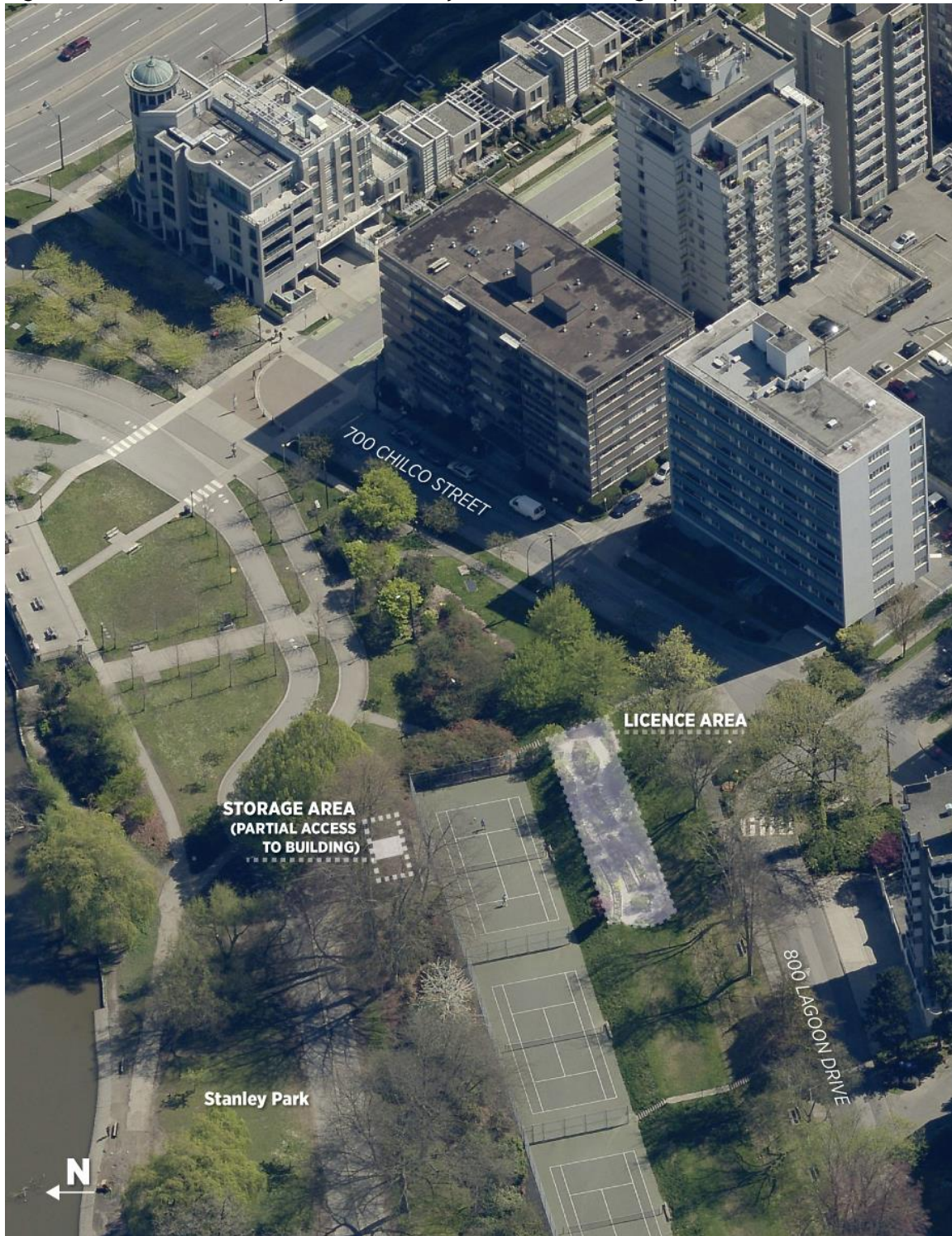
The Park Board has been collaborating with non-profit societies to build and operate community gardens since the 1980’s. There are currently 28 community gardens operating in Vancouver parks and with community centres. As the terms of the agreements expire or new gardens are established, the Board is requested to approve new/extended license agreements.

In 2013, Park Board staff worked with colleagues in Legal Services and Engineering to develop a standard license agreement for urban agriculture projects operating on civic property. Each of the gardens is operated by a non-profit society who takes responsibility for garden maintenance, governance, insurance, and general upkeep.

## DISCUSSION

The Stanley Park Community garden has been in operation since 2003 through an informal agreement between the Park Board, the West End Residents Association, and the Stanley Park Ecology Society. The location on Lagoon Drive is ~280 square meters in size and includes about 30 plots. In addition the group has been permitted to store tools in a nearby building (see Figure 1). The garden focuses on growing ornamental plants for the benefit of gardeners, neighbours, pollinators, and visitors to the park and the Stanley Park Ecology Society maintains a native plant demonstration garden as well.

Figure 1: Location of Stanley Park Community Garden and storage space.



This garden is currently lacking a formal license agreement, which is now standard practice for urban agriculture projects operating in parks. In order to comply with the Park Board requirement for an agreement, the gardeners have established the Stanley Park Community Garden Society, whose mission is to “improve and maintain quality of life for West End residents of Vancouver by allowing residents the opportunity to enjoy and participate in

gardening with neighbours; to encourage community members and visitors to Stanley Park to become actively involved in the ever-changing nature of the park and its gardens through respect, tolerance and education of the nature of gardening methods.”

This garden has operated successfully for more than 10 years, and provides a valued resource for community members to connect with each other, engage in healthy living, learn about plants and nature, and provide a beautiful amenity within Stanley Park.

## **CONCLUSION**

Park Board staff are committed to working with community members to create and sustain beautiful, productive, biodiverse landscapes within our parks in order to grow food, provide learning opportunities, contribute to the city’s arts and cultural landscape, support healthy and active lifestyles, and build capacity and connections in Vancouver neighbourhoods. Community gardens are great contributors to all of these objectives, and more.

Staff recommend the Board approve a license agreement with the Stanley Park Community Garden for the current garden location at 975 Lagoon Drive, for a term of one (1) year.

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