



Date: September 23, 2010

**TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board**  
**FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: Adanac Park Community Garden**

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## RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board approve the use a portion of Adanac Park as a community garden, with all specifications to the satisfaction of the General Manager.*
- B. THAT the Board grant a 5 year license to operate the community garden to Adanac Park Community Garden Society, with all terms consistent with the Community Garden Policy*

## POLICY

The Board approved the revised Community Garden Policy (Appendix 1) on September 19, 2005. The Community Garden Policy provides for community gardens to be operated on park land.

## BACKGROUND

In May of this year the Board received a proposal from the Adanac Park Community Garden Society to build a community garden in Adanac Park. Adanac Park is located in East Vancouver on the corner of Boundary Road and Adanac Street.

The Adanac Community Garden Society is incorporated under the Society Act. The purpose of the Society is to:

- a) Provide opportunities for local residents to grow affordable organic produce, flowers and herbs;
- b) Provide an informal, safe environment and occasion for horticultural, social, recreational, educational and community interaction between gardeners and between gardeners and the community and to build community;
- c) Add to the aesthetics of the surrounding community.

## DISCUSSION

Adanac park is located in East Vancouver on the corner of Boundary Road and Adanac Street.

The proposed site for the community garden is in the south east corner of the park. The size of the proposed garden is 125 feet by 95 feet. Fifty-six plots are planned for the garden.



The Adanac Park Community Garden Society will be responsible for the cost of the garden pathways, fencing and a small tool storage shed. The cost for the water service for the community garden will be covered by the Park Board's existing capital budget for park development.

### Public Consultation

In June of this year staff undertook a consultation process that involved distributing approximately 150 flyers to the area surrounding the park.

The Park Board received 9 responses from local residents, 7 supported the proposal and 2 opposed it.

The following comments were made by the people opposed to the proposal:

“The proposed site may not be a designated sports area; however it is a well used spot where people play volleyball, badminton and frisbee. The area is used for children who practice soccer and football and for family picnics”

“The park has a lovely look and flow to it. The community garden would spoil that look. I don’t understand using a public space for a garden that will entertain 56 people.”

However due to it’s size (4.18 hectares), staff believe that Adanac Park will be able to satisfy both current users/uses as well as the proposed community garden.

## **SUMMARY**

The proposed plan for a Community Garden at Adanac Park meets the criteria of the Community Garden Policy.

Prepared by:  
Vancouver East District  
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
Vancouver, BC

## Appendix 1

# COMMUNITY GARDENS POLICY

REVISED SEPTEMBER 19, 2005

### Definition

The Board recognizes [community gardening](#) as a valuable recreation activity that can contribute to community development, environmental awareness, positive social interaction and community education. The Board will collaborate with interested groups in assisting the development of community gardens.

For the purposes of this policy, a community garden is defined as a community development program operated by a non-profit society. The program has one or more of the following features:

- A piece of land is utilized by the society to produce food and flowers for the personal use of society members.
- A community development program is in place which encourages the involvement of schools, youth groups and citizens who do not have an assigned plot in gardening activities.
- An organic community garden is maintained, that will increase the ecological biodiversity of Vancouver and provide increased understanding of local food production

### Clause One

The Board will support the development of community gardens in Vancouver through the following means:

- Providing access to information on the development and operation of community gardens.
- Assisting interested groups in searching for suitable land for the development of community gardens. This inventory must include City-owned land, land controlled by other government agencies, and privately owned land.
- Assisting in the development of user agreements with the owners of sites chosen.
- Assisting with the development of a community led environmental education program.

### Clause Two

If it is determined that park land is the most suitable site for community gardens, the following conditions will apply: • The garden is developed at no cost to the Board, except that prior to the first season, the Board will, at its cost, prepare the site for planting by removing grass, ploughing the soil and adding compost.

- A community consultation process indicates neighbourhood support for the garden.
- A garden site plan must be drawn up and approved by the General Manager. The plan must include the layout of the plots and indicate any proposed structures or fences.
- A non-profit society agrees to develop and operate the gardens according to a users agreement which will specify the term of use, management responsibilities, user fees and access procedures including the following specific terms:
  - a. "The standard term of the user agreement will be five years. The Board may consider the granting of multiple terms in exceptional circumstances. The issuance of such longer terms is warranted in circumstances where the Society can demonstrate that the standard five year term would significantly restrict the Society's ability to:

1. comply with Park Board policies and direction
  2. conduct community outreach programming beyond the Societies members
  3. implement a long term plan
  4. execute significant approved site improvements
  5. such other circumstances that the Board deems relevant
  6. For terms longer than five years, a review and formal reporting to the Board will be required at each 5 year period and the agreement will incorporate a strengthened termination clause to allow both the Society and the Park Board the option to terminate the agreement with adequate notice."
- b. Allotments of space must be made from a waiting list on a first come first served basis.
  - c. While community gardens are a neighbourhood initiative, membership in the Society, and the opportunity to be allotted a plot, must be open to any resident of Vancouver.
  - d. Organic gardening methods and integrated pest management principles are to be followed.
  - e. Allotment fees charged by the society must be reported to the General Manager.
  - f. The Society must adhere to maintenance standards set by the Board.
  - g. No barriers to general public access to the site can be erected.
  - h. Garden practices shall comply with all Park Board and City Policies and Bylaws.

Although located on Parks with the prior approval of the Park Board, Community Gardens are operated by volunteers from the community.