



Date: September 23 2013

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

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. THAT effective September 24, 2013 the Board grant a new Community Garden License Agreement for a term of five years for:**
- 1) Urban Diggers Society for Brewery Creek Community Garden (2390 Brunswick Street)**
  - 2) Urban Diggers Society for Mount Pleasant Community Garden (3161 Ontario Street)**
  - 3) False Creek South Neighbourhood Association for Charleson Park Community Garden (999 Charleson Street)**
  - 4) Marpole Oakridge Community Association for Cambie Park Community Garden (500 West 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue)**
  - 5) Village Vancouver Transition Society for Woodland Community Garden (705 Woodland Drive)**
  - 6) Adanac Park Community Garden Society for Adanac Community Garden (1025 Boundary Road)**
  - 7) Pandora Park Community Garden Society for Pandora Park Garden (2325 Franklin Street)**
- B. THAT effective September 24 2013 the Board approve the renewal of the Community Garden License Agreements (as revised) for a term of five years for:**
- 1) Urban Diggers Society for Elizabeth Rogers Community Garden (110 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue)**
  - 2) Urban Diggers Society for China Creek Community Garden (1255 E. 10th Avenue)**
  - 3) Urban Diggers Society for Robson Park Community Garden (565 Kingsway)**
  - 4) Urban Diggers Society for Sahalli Community Garden (2398 Fraser Street)**
  - 5) Urban Diggers Society for Tea Swamp Community Garden (266 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue)**
  - 6) Kitsilano Community Garden Association for Kitsilano Community Garden (2027 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue)**
  - 7) McSpadden Agricultural Project Society for McSpadden Park Community Garden (2125 Victoria Drive)**
  - 8) Environmental Youth Alliance for Means of Production Garden (China Creek Park North, 1001 East 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue)**
  - 9) Nelson Park Community Garden Society for Nelson Park Community Garden (1020 Bute Street)**
  - 10) Kiwassa Neighbourhood House for the Wall Street Community Garden (2099 Wall Street)**

## **POLICY**

A revised Community Garden Policy was approved by the Board on September 19, 2005, which outlines the terms and conditions under which the Board will consider community gardens to be operated on park lands (Appendix A).

The Board approved the Local Food Action Plan on July 8, 2013 which includes several actions supporting increased food growing on Park Board lands.

The Board endorsed Phase 1 of its new Strategic Plan on May 28, 2012, including the strategic objective to be “a Leader in Greening”, and more specifically “to support community based food production by contributing to the development of neighbourhood and city-wide food infrastructure programs and assets”.

Vancouver City Council approved “What Feeds Us: Vancouver Food Strategy” on January 29, 2013 including direction to increase the number of garden plots as well as improve security of tenure for community gardens.

Vancouver City Council approved the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (GCAP) on July 12, 2011. GCAP includes a target to increase local food assets by 50%, by 2020.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Park Board has been collaborating with non-profit societies to build and operate community gardens since the 1980’s. There are currently 24 community gardens operating in parks across the city. Existing gardens include traditional plots as well as wheelchair accessible plots, plants for pollinator species, collaborative gardening spaces, arts and culture focused gardens, beekeeping, fruit and nut trees, educational activities, as well as other types of uses. All of the gardens are operated by a non-profit society who takes responsibility for garden maintenance, governance, insurance, and other upkeep. Many policy drivers at the City and Park Board support the creation of new community gardens.

Each year the Park Board works with Engineering and Social Policy to receive expressions of interest for new garden projects and support those that are most feasible. Additional garden projects are proposed through park renewal processes and other initiatives. The Park Board is guided by the Community Garden Policy (2005) in the support that is provided (Appendix A). Earlier in 2013, Park Board, Social Policy and Engineering worked together with Legal Services to develop a common license agreement template that all new and renewed community garden license agreements will now use.

## **DISCUSSION**

There are 7 new gardens that do not currently have a license agreement in place. It is recommended that a new 5 year license agreement be approved for each garden.

<b>Garden Name</b>	<b>Year Established</b>	<b>Details</b>
Pandora Park Community Garden	2009	64 individual plots, 4 accessible beds, apiary, pollinator garden, 2 shared beds, shed with living wall, compost
Adanac Community Garden	2011	30 individual plots, accessible plots fruit trees, shed, compost
Brewery Creek Community Garden (Guelph Park)	2012	40 individual plots, shared gardening, food trees, shed, compost

Mount Pleasant Community Garden	2012	30 individual plots, food trees, shared gardening, shed
Cambie Community Garden	2013	28 individual plots, 6 universal access plots, pollinator garden, food trees, seating, shed, compost
Charleson Community Garden	2013	30 individual plots, 5 universally accessible plots, children's garden, pollinator plantings, food trees and bushes, seating, shed, compost
Woodland Community Garden	2013	64 individual plots, intergenerational garden, accessible plots, pollinator plantings, seating area, food trees, shed, compost

There are currently 10 license agreements that have expired and are ready for renewal. It is recommended that a 5 year license agreement renewal be approved. These gardens are all strongly established community assets that are well maintained, have strong volunteer-driven governance and operational practices in place, and are important community assets in city parks.

Garden Name	Year Established
Kitsilano Community Garden (Delamont Park)	1984
Sahalli Garden	1988
Elizabeth Rogers Community Garden (Jonathan Rogers Park)	1996
McSpadden Community Garden	1996
Robson Park Community Garden	1996
Wall Street Community Garden	1999
Tea Swamp Community Garden	2002
Means of Production (China Creek North Park)	2006
Nelson Community Garden	2008
China Creek Community Garden (China Creek South Park)	2008

**CONCLUSION**

The Park Board is committed to work with our community partners to create and sustain beautiful, productive, biodiverse landscapes within our parks in order to grow food, provide learning and teaching opportunities, contribute to the City's arts and cultural landscape, and build capacity and connections in Vancouver neighbourhoods. Community gardens are great contributors to all of these objectives, and more.

Prepared by:

Parks  
 Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
 /LC

## Appendix A: 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.