

# LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM ACTION PLAN Update

#### Park Board Committee Meeting Monday, November 15, 2021





#### Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation RECONCILIATION MISSION, VISION & VALUES

#### MISSION

#### Decolonize the Vancouver Park Board

The Park Board recognizes the institution's colonial history and upholds the Board's commitment to the 11 Reconciliation Strategies.

#### VISION

An evolvable organization in which every employee and Commissioner recognizes the humanity in themselves by recognizing and respecting the humanity of First Peoples; and an organization that sets a worldwide example in treating Reconciliation as a decolonization process.

#### VALUES

These values are your compass to help guide the way you work, interact with colleagues, external partners and the public.

#### PATIENCE



Colonialism didn't happen overnight. Untangling it takes time. We will pace ourselves for the marathon, not the sprint. We will adjust deadlines to ensure things are done well and respectfully.

#### CLARITY

We will focus on how colonialism functions to exclude, not on how to include.

#### PRAGMATISM

All staff are inheriting a system not of our making. The Park Board Reconciliation Team (PBRT) is here to assist colleagues with examining the ways colonialism continues to damage others. Blame is unproductive.

#### LEADERSHIP

We will nurture and sustain each other, demonstrating Indigenous principles in the way we function as a team.

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We consent to learn in public. We will make mistakes. We will sit with those mistakes, be transparent about them, and use them both to learn and to teach. Our mistakes will be diagnostic tools.



With respect to the Park Board's practice of territorial acknowledgements, we have taken this opportunity to attempt to manifest that acknowledgement in the work.



**Purpose of Presentation** 



- Provide an overview of the proposed "Local Food System Action Plan"
- Seek Board approval for the proposed plan
- Receive endorsement on the fiveyear Implementation Plan as a basis for future capital planning discussions





- First plan co-managed and coauthored with the DAC department
- First Park Board plan that makes decolonization and equity central to the goals and actions of the plan.
- Priority shift: increasing the # of assets and services to improving the access and equitable delivery of assets and services in parks and facilities.









# Background



- 2013 LFAP five-year term completed
- New plans and policy
- Work to understand and dismantle the effects of racism and colonization
- Vancouver local food system facing different demands





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## Aims of 2021 Update

- Align with VanPlay and Park Board's commitment to Reconciliation
- Reflect a deeper understanding of how historical and social contexts impact the local food system
- Address current local food system demands: food insecurity, Indigenous food sovereignty, climate change, COVID-19 pandemic.







#### Timeline







# Local Food System Action Plan Overview



## LFSAP Summary





Outlines the current state of Park Board food assets and services and proposes an ambitious five-year implementation plan.



## **LFSAP** Overview



- New vision and objectives
- Park Board food assets and services inventory
- Research and engagement insights
- Spatial analysis
- Challenges and opportunities
- Implementation plan and four goals





## **LFSAP** Vision



Vision: To move towards a sustainable, just and decolonized local food system by making space for Indigenous food sovereignty, increasing equitable access to food assets and services, and working towards food system resiliency as part of climate action.



## **LFSAP** Objectives



- Provide a 5-year plan for the future implementation and management of Park Board food assets and services;
- Identify actions the Park Board can adopt to ensure that community members benefit from inclusive and accessible spaces that contribute to a sustainable and just food system;
- Identify opportunities to support and remove barriers for Indigenous ways of relating to the land and food systems, in alignment with the Park Board's decolonization goals and commitment to Reconciliation;

- Advocate for needed resources to meet increasing demand for local food system assets and services offered within the public realm;
- Prioritize those disproportionately impacted by food insecurity and increase inclusivity and accessibility of food spaces; and
- Improve accountability and the measurement of impact and progress by setting guidelines on monitoring and evaluation of goals and actions.



## Food Asset and Service Inventory





| Food Asset & Service Type          | Number<br>in 2013 | Number<br>in 2021 |  |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| Food & Culture Gardens             | 26                | 41                |  |
| Food Trees (including<br>orchards) | 743               | 642               |  |
| Community Centre<br>Kitchens       | 24                | 25                |  |
| Food & Garden<br>Fieldhouses       | 0                 | 4                 |  |
| Food Markets                       | 5                 | 13                |  |
| Meal Retail Locations              | 37                | 46                |  |



#### Example: Food & Culture Gardens





| Garden Type                       | Number of Gardens | Number of Plots | Total square metres | Percentage of square<br>metres out of all food<br>and culture gardens | Percentage of square<br>metres out of all park<br>land |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Community Gardens                 | 18                | 651             | 11,084              | 27%                                                                   | 0.1%                                                   |
| 50%+ Collective Community Gardens | 13                | 676             | 25,627              | 62%                                                                   | 0.2%                                                   |
| Cultural Learning Gardens         | 8                 | 39              | 4304                | 10%                                                                   | 0.04%                                                  |
| Indigenous Led Gardens            | 2                 | 5               | 260                 | 1%                                                                    | 0.002%                                                 |
| Food and Culture Gardens          | 41                | 1371            | 41,275              | 100%                                                                  | 0.4%                                                   |



## **Research Insights**



#### Review of:

- Relevant Park Board and City policies, strategies, reports, and decisions
- Trends in local, national, and international food systems.



#### **Priority themes:**

- Equity, climate change, climate justice and Reconciliation
- Globally, equity-denied groups face barriers to accessing park-based food assets and services
- Park Board COVID-19 emergency food response



## Engagement

#### VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

#### Phase 1:

- Gaps and priorities
- Needs in emergency food planning
- Barriers and improvements to accessing food assets and services
- Opportunities for capacity-building, relationship building, and supporting food work in community

#### Phase 2:

- Share findings
- Feedback on the draft goals and actions

#### **Engagement tools:**

- Public Meetings
- Public Surveys
- Community Advisory
  Committee
- Targeted Interviews



## Spatial Analysis







#### **Challenges:**

- the lasting impact of colonialism
- competing demands in parks and recreation
- inequitable allocation of resources
- a lack of coordination

#### **Opportunities:**

- Decolonization
- equitable allocation of resources
- making better use of available assets
- supporting city-wide goals









# Implementation Plan

- Four goals and 38 actions recommended over the next five years
- Action items include:
  - Departments responsible
  - Supporting policies and reports
  - Anticipated timing and cost
- Designed to guide implementation, while being relevant and flexible







Goal 1: Centre Indigenous Voices in Food System Work to Honour the Teaching that "Food is Medicine"

- Improved access to Park Board land for x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əýəm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səlilwətał First Nations and Urban Indigenous peoples for food and medicine practices
- Increased funding for Indigenouscentered food spaces and initiatives.





#### Goal 2: Improve Equity in Park Board Food Assets, Services, and Programs

- Decreased barriers for collective and low-barrier food growing initiatives in historically underserved areas
- Increased access and funding for food programs and events led by equity-denied groups.





Goal 3: Strengthen Food Partnerships and Collaboration to Support a Decolonized, Sustainable and Just Food Economy

- Increased staff time and funding dedicated to implementation
- Prioritized cross-departmental and partner collaboration
- Increased opportunities and access to fieldhouses, community food markets, and community centre kitchens to target gaps in service and address food insecurity.





#### Goal 4: Build Long-Term Food System Resiliency, Sustainability, and Increase Biodiversity

- Increased food and garden educational opportunities
- Contributed to future emergency food planning
- Contributed to city-wide goals by increasing biodiversity and zero waste initiatives



## **Implementation Considerations**





#### Expertise





- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the proposed updated "Local Food System Action Plan", attached as Appendix A, to guide the planning and implementation of food assets, services, and capacity-building in the Vancouver Parks and Recreation system; and
- B. FURTHER THAT the Board endorse the 5-year Implementation Plan attached within Appendix A, as the basis for submissions to future capital budgets, the City's 2023-2032 Capital Strategic Outlook, and future capital plans.



