



July 12, 2018

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Dave Hutch, Manager, Planning and Research

SUBJECT : **Local Food Action Plan – Progress Update and Next Steps - Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to update the Board on the Park Board's ongoing work to support local food projects, policy development and initiatives.

The Park Board's work on local food in parks and community centres is guided by the Local Food Action Plan (2013) and the Urban Agriculture Policy for parks (2015). Both provide direction for how the Park Board can work with the community and the City to assist in local food and urban agriculture projects. This includes supporting new or expanded community gardens, urban apiaries (honey bees), pollinator gardens, farmers markets, food gardens in golf courses, access to community kitchens in community centres, and supporting food programming in our community centres and at events such as the Sustenance Festival and Wild Salmon Caravan.

Progress on Local Food Projects

Since the adoption of the Local Food Action Plan in 2013, the Park Board has initiated or supported a broad range of local food and urban agriculture projects.

A. Increasing Physical Food Assets

Community Garden Projects:

- Relocation of Still Creek Community Garden to Slocan Park (in process)
- Demonstration Garden at Sunset Park (in process)
- Medicine Wheel Herb Garden built at Trout Lake (2017)
- Garden Infrastructure Grants - \$5,000 every two years to support improvement and renewal of existing community gardens (ongoing)
- Support for a VanDusen Veggie Garden project to provide fresh food for soup kitchens and food banks (2017 and 2018)
- New collaborative community garden project at Riley Park and field house activation program in partnership with Little Mountain Neighbourhood House (2016)
- New community garden at Riverfront Park (2014)
- New community garden at Kingcrest Park (2014)
- New collaborative garden project at the Kitsilano Community Centre (2014)
- Trillium Park Artist Garden (2014)
- New community garden at Beaconsfield Park (2014)
- Langara Golf Course and other golf course food gardens (ongoing)



Apiaries and Pollinator Planting:

- Cathedral Square hives for humanity project (2017)
- Arbutus Greenway (support for the City's work to seed corridor meadows for pollinators (2017)
- Pollinator garden at Fifth and Pine pop-up park (2016)
- EYA-led pollinator garden in Oak Meadows Park (2015)

Fruit and Nut Trees:

- Fruit trees at Tree Sales including 1,700 fruit trees in the spring 2018 Tree Sale
- Nursery rebate program to support the purchase of trees by Vancouver residents
- Support for fruit tree planting in community gardens

Upcoming Projects:

- Braemar Park new community garden
- Balaclava Park new community garden
- Champlain Heights new community garden
- New planters at Barclay Heritage Square
- Sunset Park new community garden (pilot this year)
- Dunbar Community Centre Apiary Project

B. Supporting Sustainable and Local Food Economies

- Concession strategy to improve and diversify food and beverage at concessions
- Field House Activation Program which supports two local food field houses
- Farmer's Market pavilion at Riley Park, enhanced signage and ongoing coordination of farmer's market operation

C. Expanding Engaged and Capacity Rich Food Networks

- Creation of Garden Coordinator Network
- Ongoing support and coordination of Sustenance Festival including hiring Sustenance Festival community development position
- New Active Net Category for Food, Gardening and Cooking programming
- Neighbourhood Matching Fund support of \$50,000 per year for local food projects – pilot year 2018
- Support and coordination role at Wild Salmon Caravan 2017 & 2018

D. Planning Initiatives

- Pearson-Dogwood Farm (initial planning and securing through subdivision)
- Oakridge Centre – new park with community learning garden (concept development)



Local Food Action Plan Update

The Local Food Action Plan (LFAP) was approved by the Board in July 2013 and sets four priorities:

- Priority 1: Increase physical food assets
- Priority 2: Sustainable and local food economies
- Priority 3: Engaged and capacity rich food networks
- Priority 4: Generate soil through composting organic waste

The LFAP set a 5-year term for implementation of the priorities, goals and actions with a recommendation to conduct a review and renewal of the LFAP in the fourth year of the plan. Much progress has been made in meeting the goals outlined in the LFAP (see Progress Update section above) but as it comes to the end of its term, there is an opportunity to update the LFAP to reflect new priorities around local food. Park Board's Planning and Research team will be initiating a LFAP update in spring 2019 with the goal of Board review and approval by the end of 2019.

In advance of the update, we will initiate a preliminary review of the LFAP in October 2018 to set the foundation for the update, identify lessons learned since 2013, and to inform our understanding of the evolving local food landscape and emerging priorities. We will engage key members of the local food community, including members of VFPC, to help identify new directions and emerging priorities and to inform the development of a public engagement strategy. Specifically, the preliminary review will focus on the following questions:

- What are our greatest successes and accomplishments since the creation of the LFAP?
- What are the gaps in planning or implementation of the LFAP?
- What are the current trends and priorities for local food that have changed since the LFAP?
- Who are the stakeholders that we need to engage during the update?
- What are best ways to engage the local food community during the update?

Capital Plan Support for Local Food Projects

The Park Board's draft 2019–2022 Capital Plan includes a proposed \$400,000 for community garden and other local food projects.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hutch".

Dave Hutch
Manager, Planning and Research

Copy to: PB Senior Management Team
PB Communications