



March 19, 2020

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Malcolm Bromley
General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Local Food Action Plan Update – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to inform the Board of progress made on the [Local Food Action Plan \(2013-2018\)](#) (“LFAP”), and the work underway to update this strategy.

The 13-year history of developing and implementing local food policy in the City of Vancouver began with the [Vancouver Food Charter](#) (2007), which was followed by the [Greenest City Action Plan](#) (2011), and the [Vancouver Food Strategy](#) (2013), all of which were developed by the City with Park Board input. The Park Board is uniquely positioned to play a vital role in providing a just and sustainable food system.

In May 2012, the Board approved the [Local Food Assets Task Force motion](#) that led to the establishment of a task force comprised of members from the Vancouver Food Policy Council, Vancouver School Board, Neighbourhood Food Networks, food-focused non-profit organizations, and City and Park Board staff. This task force was supported by three working groups focused on themes of land, facilities, and programs, and included more than 35 representatives from a range of non-profits, other public sector organizations, and City and Park Board staff from several departments. In July 2013, the Board approved the [recommendations for a Local Food Action Plan](#), setting a 5-year term for implementation of the priorities, goals, and actions.

The LFAP has advanced the availability of local food assets in the park system measurably, with notable achievements including:

- establishing 10 community gardens;
- supporting community-based and place-based food projects by providing funds and resources through the Park Board’s Neighbourhood Matching Fund;
- co-producing a resource guide to increase use of publicly accessible kitchens for food-based programming;
- broadening the spectrum of possible food assets that can be accepted in a community garden to include things like bee keeping, orchards, food forests, collaborative gardens and cultural food assets;
- endorsing the [Park Board Concession Strategy](#) and implementation plan to increase the provision of healthy, sustainable and local food at park concessions;
- expanding public area recycling and increased supply of zero waste stations at park concessions throughout the city to support zero waste initiatives; and



- establishing an Indigenous food-focused field house in partnership with the Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty at Strathcona Park.

The need to update the LFAP so that it reflects both the current food landscape and future needs is demonstrated by:

- Vancouver's continued population growth and new housing in primarily attached forms;
- the expansion of food assets across the Park Board system in all three areas: land, facilities and programs since 2013;
- local food specific asset targets identified in [VanPlay](#) (2019), which include working towards at least 50% of the total area for new community gardens dedicated to collective food growing;
- an absence of policy to support decolonizing the local food systems and encourage indigenous food sovereignty in the current plan;
- continued demand for equitable food assets, particularly in equity initiative zones;
- an increasing desire to weave together ecological and local food landscapes;
- other trends and changes that will be researched and documented in the early phases of the update.

Staff are currently establishing a LFAP update project team that will include representatives from the CoV Social Policy Group, which oversees food policy for the city. The project's scope will include an analysis of the parks and recreation system to understand the current state of food assets, relationships, utilization, distribution, trends, and future directions. The update will also consider Park Board commitments to reconciliation, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and goals outlined in VanPlay. Public engagement is currently targeted to begin in late spring and continue into summer 2020, and will include establishing an external stakeholder group to assist in policy development.

An updated robust plan that complements and collaborates with other citywide food-related plans is needed to guide the implementation of an adaptable, equitable, and sustainable local food system. It is anticipated that the proposed Local Food Action Plan Update will be presented to the Board for consideration by the end of 2020, with updates provided at key milestones.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malcolm Bromley".

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/kl/dm/ct

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Environment & Sustainability
PB Communications