VANCOUVER PARK BOARD LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM ACTION PLAN

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Prepared for the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, 2021

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The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (Park Board) operates on the unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəýəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh)

Nations. The local First Nations continue to steward the land since time immemorial. The Park Board recognizes its own legacy of colonialism, including the forced removal of Indigenous peoples from their land to create parks and the resulting loss of traditional places for gathering food and medicine. The Park Board hopes this work can contribute to meaningful Reconciliation and restore places for traditional land-based practices within the parks and recreation system. In the spirit of Reconciliation and as per learnings achieved through working with Indigenous cultural practitioners, the Park Board recognizes its responsibility to contribute to a just and sustainable local food system for seven generations and beyond.

PICTURE: ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH ALLIANCE TEA MAKING WORKSHOP

The Park Board would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the many contributors of the Local Food System Action Plan, including the participants in the Vancouver Food Policy Council public engagement sessions, all the survey respondents, the Community Centre Associations (CCAs), and committee members for their ideas and feedback during the development of this plan.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (Park Board) approved the five-year Local Food Action Plan in 2013 (2013 LFAP) to strengthen the local food system in Vancouver. Now that the five-year period has elapsed, an update is necessary to align with current policy directions and the Park Board's commitment to Reconciliation and equity, as well as reflect current local food system priorities and evolving needs and opportunities. This update to the 2013 LFAP – now called the Local Food System Action Plan (2021 LFSAP) – will guide the Park Board food system work over the next five years. The plan was developed based on broader policy directive, research asset assessment, public engagement, and spatial analysis. It outlines the current state of Park Board food assets and services and proposes an ambitious five-year implementation plan.

The 2021 LFSAP represents a shift in priority from increasing the number of assets and services in parks and facilities to improving access and equitable delivery of these assets and services. It reflects a deeper understanding of how historical and social contexts impact the local food system

PICTURE: CREEKSIDE COLLABORATIVE GARDEN

in Vancouver and takes into account broader issues such as ongoing colonialism and barriers to Indigenous food sovereignty, rising rates of food insecurity, the climate emergency and the COVID-19 pandemic. The Park Board is well positioned to address these issues because of its jurisdiction over large portions of land and its wide variety of food assets, services, and staff resources. By understanding and working to address these issues, the Park Board can better provide for Vancouver residents.

Social and Environmental Context: For

generations, the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples (referred to throughout

this document in their respective languages: x^wmə0k^wəýəm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səlilwətał or by the agreed upon acronym, MST) lived and thrived on the abundance of food in their traditional territories. Since its conception the Park Board has operated on their unceded and traditional territories. Forced removal from their lands displaced entire communities from many of their food, medicine, and gathering spaces, which were replaced by parks and recreational facilities. There is an ongoing demand for access to resources that would promote Indigenous food sovereignty such as land, space, facilities and programs. The Park Board recognizes the importance of decolonizing the LFSAP as part of its commitment to Reconciliation.

Vancouver's rates of food insecurity are disproportionately high and are more likely to impact vulnerable community members. These effects are compounded by the climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, which both escalate existing threats to food security, especially for the poor and already food insecure. Many of the Park Board's current food assets and services are not accessed equally. By addressing food insecurity and ensuring equitable access to food assets, the Park Board can further its goal of fostering equity and benefit to all in the parks and recreation system.

Vision and Objectives: This updated plan builds on the VanPlay vision to be the leader in parks and recreation by connecting people to greenspace, active living and community. The vision of the 2021 LFSAP is:

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.

The objectives of the 2021 LFSAP are to:

- Provide a five-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: All food assets and services currently offered in Vancouver parks and recreation facilities were assessed and included in a comprehensive inventory. This current-state analysis of food assets and services also highlights changes and progress made since the 2013 LFAP. This inventory data is then used to identify equity gaps and opportunities for asset and service delivery.

Research: During the research phase of the plan, a review of all relevant Park Board and City policies, plans, and reports, as well as a review of trends in local, national, and international food systems revealed themes of equity, climate change, climate justice and reconciliation as emerging priorities worldwide. An analysis of those sources highlighted that, in cities around the world, people from equity-denied groups face multi-dimensional barriers to accessing parkbased food assets and services through structural inequities such as racism, income inequality, transportation contraints, and time scarcity. Highlights of the Park Board's involvement in the COVID-19 emergency food response are also included.



Engagement: Two phases of engagement with the public served to ground the research and assessment in accountability, transparency and social needs. The goals of phase one of engagement were to identify gaps and priorities in food assets and services, needs in emergency food planning, barriers and improvements to accessing food assets and services, and opportunities for capacity-building, relationship building, and supporting food work in the community. The goals of phase two of engagement were to: share findings from the research, food asset and service assessment, and feedback from phase one of engagement; and to ask for feedback on the draft goals and associated actions.

Spatial Analysis: A spatial analysis was also conducted to identify priority areas for targeting resources to address existing equity gaps. Priority areas were identified using equity initiative zones, outlined in VanPlay as historically under-served areas of Vancouver, and growth areas, identified in VanPlay as areas expected to have the greatest amount of development and population growth. Gaps or opportunities were analyzed for each food asset mapped in the inventory.

Challenges and Opportunities: Based on the asset assessment, research, engagement findings, and spatial analysis, key challenges and opportunities for Park Board food system work were identified to provide direction and rationalization for the implementation plan. Challenges that emerged include the lasting impact of colonialism, competing demands in parks and recreation, inequitable allocation of resources, and a lack of coordination. Opportunities include decolonization, equitable allocation of resources, making better use of available assets, and supporting city-wide goals.

Implementation Plan: A detailed

implementation plan outlines four goals (as shown in Figure 1) and 38 actions recommended over the next five years. This includes the Park Board or City of Vancouver departments responsible to implement each action, supporting policies and reports, and the anticipated timing and cost of implementation. The goals and actions were designed to guide implementation, while being relevant and flexible to support the success of local food systems work in Vancouver into the future. They outline steps to move towards a just, sustainable, and decolonized local food system within the parks and recreation 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.

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

Improve access to Park Board land for x^wməθk^wəýəm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səlilwətał First Nations and Urban Indigenous peoples for food and medicine practices and increase funding allocated to Indigenous-centered food spaces and initiatives.

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

Decrease barriers for collective and low-barrier food growing initiatives in historically underserved areas of the city and increase access and funding for food programs and events led by equity-denied groups.

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

Increase staff time and funding dedicated to the implementation of the plan, prioritize cross-departmental and partner collaboration, increase 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

Increase food and garden educational opportunities, contribute to future emergency food planning, and contribute to city-wide goals by increasing biodiversity and zero waste initiatives.

Cost: While some elements in the Implementation Plan can be addressed with existing resources or through current projects that are underway, new funding will be required for many of the implementation actions and associated staffing. Funding will be sought through the four-year Capital Planning process, partnerships, and cofunding opportunities.

Considerations: It is recognized that addressing systemic issues such as colonialism, racism, and inequity, by working towards improving access and the equitable delivery of assets and services rather than just increasing the number of assets and services requires additional time and expertise. Staff will require specialized skills in community development such as community capacity-building, intercultural relationship-building and working within a decolonized and anti-oppressive approach. It is integral to the success of this plan to have proper staff resourcing if the associated equity and Reconciliation goals within the food work are expected to be met.

Conclusion: This is the first Park Board plan that makes decolonization and equity central to goals and actions of the plan. The approval and implementation of this plan will help the Park Board to deliver on its vision of contributing to a sustainable, just and decolonized food system and set a precedent in food systems planning at the municipal, provincial, national and even international scale.



FIGURE 1: LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM ACTION PLAN GOALS

1.0 **INTRODUCTION**

Background What is a Local Food System? Role of the Park Board in the Local Food System What are Food Assets and Services? Social and Environmental Context Related Plans, Strategies, and Reports since 2013 Timeline Vision & Objectives

ORGANIC WE REAL

PICTURE: COLLINGWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE, COMMUNITY DINNER





A healthy and thriving local food system is a critical component to a healthy and thriving community. Through this plan the Park Board will build on existing strengths and broaden access to the local food system, recognizing that a strong

local food system can connect communities to one another, enable diverse cultural expressions, provide healthy and culturally relevant food, support environmental resiliency, and increase opportunities to develop skills and reciprocity with the land. A decolonized, sustainable and resilient local food system would play an integral role in helping achieve social, cultural, recreational, environmental, economic and health goals set out by the Park Board and City of Vancouver for the benefit of all residents.

This document is a 2021 update to the *2013 Local Food Action Plan* (2013 LFAP) and will be referred to as the *Local Food System Action Plan* (2021 LFSAP). The 2021 LFSAP reflects a shift in priority from increasing the number of assets and services in parks and facilities to improving the access and equitable delivery of these assets and services. It is also the first Park Board plan that makes decolonization and equity central to goals and actions of the plan. The plan's four goals and 38 actions outline steps to move towards a just, sustainable, and decolonized local food system within the parks and recreation 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. **By enabling access and use of Park Board land and facilities for food related initiatives rooted in Reconciliation and equity, the Park Board can further strengthen and support the local food system, while also achieving key directives and targets.**

BACKGROUND

In 2013, the Park Board approved the first Local Food Action Plan to strengthen the local food system and contribute to Vancouver's goal of becoming a global leader in urban food systems by reducing the environmental impact of food production and transportation and contributing to human health. The 2013 LFAP was a five-year plan that built on pre-existing strategies and plans, including the Greenest City Action Plan (Goal Area: Local Food) and the Vancouver Food Strategy. The plan identified eight goals and 55 actions in four priority areas: Increase Physical Food Assets, Sustainable and Local Food Economies, Engaged and Capacity-Rich Food Networks, and Soil Generation. As of 2021, 29 of the actions have been completed. Of the remaining actions, ten are underway, nine are on hold, and seven have not had progress made.

The five-year term of the 2013 LFAP has elapsed. Since 2013, the Park Board has undergone significant long-range planning efforts to guide ongoing work and adopted several new strategies, plans, and commitments relevant to the local food system (see Related Plans, Strategies, and Reports, page 15), as well as undertaken work to understand and dismantle the effects of racism and colonization within the organization. Two of the main references for this update are VanPlay: Vancouver's Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan, which prioritizes the equitable delivery of services, and the Park Board's commitment to Reconciliation. The local food system in Vancouver has also changed and is facing different demands than in 2013. An update to the 2013 LFAP was needed in order to reflect broader policy directives and current local food system priorities.





WHAT IS A LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM?

A local food system is a community-supported system within a specific geography (e.g. the City of Vancouver) that encompasses the whole food cycle, including producing, harvesting, gathering, processing, preserving, procuring, storing, transporting, sharing, and eating food, as well as managing food waste. This plan focuses on the role of the Park Board within the broader local food system of Vancouver.

This definition differs from the commonly used term 'local food', which is defined by the City of Vancouver as food that "is raised, grown, produced, or processed within BC". There are numerous critiques of focusing on this understanding of local food because: it is often expensive; it is perceived as having lower greenhouse gas emissions and fair labour when this is not always the case; and it excludes imported foods that are culturally significant. For this reason, this plan uses the term and definition of 'local food system' instead.

ROLE OF THE PARK BOARD IN THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

The Park Board manages more than 230 public parks in Vancouver (roughly 1,160 hectares of land or 11% of the City of Vancouver), 24 community centres, 74 field houses, and numerous other recreation facilities. This parks and recreation network is home to numerous food and culture gardens, orchards, community food programs, kitchen facilities, food markets, concessions and restaurants, potential harvesting areas and more. The land managed by the Park Board also plays an important role in supporting a healthy ecosystem – which is essential for a robust food system – by conserving biodiversity, protecting pollinator habitats, and preserving green spaces.

The Park Board's current role in the local food system includes: oversight of how Park Board land is allocated for different food uses; design, maintenance, and operations of kitchens and facilities used for community food programs; maintenance of select food growing assets (e.g. fruit trees); managing food and beverage operations and contracts for restaurants and concessions; coordinating, funding, and/or collaborating on food-related programs, events, and initiatives; partnering with and creating employment for food and culture organizations, practitioners and instructors; planning for future

PICTURE: VILLAGE VANCOUVER SEED SORTING

emergency food responses; and facilitating the use of Park Board spaces (e.g. field houses) for food initiatives (see Asset and Service Inventory on page 22). Given the Park Board's jurisdiction over all parks and recreation facilities, it is responsible for managing access to a large amount of current and potential food-growing and food-sharing spaces in Vancouver. The Park Board can further strengthen and support the local food system by facilitating access and use of Park Board land and facilities for food related initiatives.

WHAT ARE FOOD ASSETS AND SERVICES?

Food assets are tangible or intangible resources available to residents of the city, which are used to support the urban food system. The term "food asset" has been problematized due to its association with capitalist implications. While the term food asset will be used throughout this document, the meaning is intended to include community and cultural values of food, not just its economic value.

With this in mind, this plan defines food assets and services as resources, facilities, spaces, infrastructure, programs, systems, knowledge, organizations, relationships, and policies related to a local food system. The parks and recreation system offers a variety of current and potential food assets and services. These include, but are not limited to food and culture gardens, urban orchards, native berry shrubs, food and gardening programs, community kitchens, food access programs, markets, concessions, partnerships, funding, and foodrelated events (see Asset and Service Inventory, page 22).

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Broader issues such as food insecurity, barriers to Indigenous food sovereignty, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate emergency are impacting the local food system and the residents of Vancouver. By understanding and working to address these issues, the Park Board can better provide for Vancouver residents, especially those most impacted. The Park Board is well positioned and has a responsibility to address these issues because of its jurisdiction over large portions of land and its wide variety of food assets, services, and staff resources.

What does **BIPOC** mean?

It is a commonly used acronym that stands for Black, Indigenous, and people of colour.



What are Equity-Denied Groups?

Equity-denied groups are those facing barriers to equal access due to attitudinal, historic, social and environmental barriers based on characteristics not limited to sex, age, ethnicity, disability, economic status, gender, gender expression, nationality, race, sexual orientation. While the term *equity-seeking group* was used by the Park Board in previous strategies, this term has received criticism as it implies that these groups need to seek equity from those with privilege. To acknowledge that these groups have been historically denied equity, the term *equity-denied* will be used throughout this plan.

FOOD SECURITY

The Food and Agriculture Organization's definition of food security is when "all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." Household food insecurity is defined as "the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints."¹ A main cause of household food insecurity in Canada is income insecurity. Food insecurity disproportionately impacts Black, Indigenous and people of colour (BIPOC) in Canada. Across Canada, 28% of Indigenous households and 29% of Black households are food insecure, while only 11% of white households face food insecurity.²

Food insecurity is a major public health concern and has a profound impact on health and wellbeing. Those experiencing food insecurity are more vulnerable to physical and mental health issues, including diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, anxiety, depression and premature death.

Considering the overall wealth in Vancouver, the city's rates of poverty and food insecurity are disproportionately high. Twenty percent of residents live with income poverty³ and 9% are food insecure⁴. In the Strathcona neighbourhood, the rate of food insecurity is 26%⁵. Strathcona includes the Downtown Eastside (DTES) neighbourhood, which is home to one of Canada's largest urban populations of Indigenous peoples, as well as high numbers of other vulnerable populations, including people experiencing homelessness, single parent households, people who use drugs, and seniors, all of whom are more likely to be impacted by food insecurity.

THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND FOOD RESILIENCY

In the City of Vancouver the impacts of climate change, a reliance on the global industrial food system, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted the importance of bolstering the resilience of the local food system⁶.

A significant threat to a resilient local food system in Vancouver is the city's reliance on the global industrial food system, which is closely connected to the climate emergency worldwide. The industrial food system we depend on is both extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and a major contributor to climate change. Climate change is having a profound impact on all aspects of the food system, from the production of food to its availability, which is contributing to rising rates of food insecurity worldwide. Climate change also threatens the availability of traditional foods, in particular amongst Indigenous peoples around the world. As climate change worsens, so will food insecurity⁷. The industrial food system accounts for about half of all human generated greenhouse

What is food system resilience?

According to the John Hopkins Center for a Liveable Future, "resilience is the ability to prepare for, withstand, and recover from a crisis or disruption. A **resilient food system** is able to withstand and recover from disruptions in a way that ensures a sufficient supply of acceptable and accessible food for all."



gas emissions, and as such is one of the major factors contributing to climate change⁸. Reducing our dependence on the industrial food system can help make our local food system more resilient, while mitigating the effects of climate change over time.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed the fragility of the global industrial food system and the necessity for a more resilient, equitable and sustainable model for feeding the world. In Vancouver, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated and contributed to higher rates of food insecurity with more people than ever dependent on charities. However, many such charities and food businesses have closed down as a result of the pandemic. Overall there has been tremendous strain on the food supply chains that Vancouver residents depend on.⁹ Further action is needed to ensure that Vancouver's local food system is resilient to ongoing and future events like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parks and recreation systems are uniquely positioned to help cities mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance local food resiliency.¹⁰ They provide large areas of land that can function as potential climate mitigation and food growing areas and recreation facilities have infrastructure and programming to support community food security. As we work towards food system resilience, it is of the utmost importance to seek leadership from Indigenous leaders and practitioners, as Indigenous peoples have a long history of stewarding the land and food systems that sustain us. Indigenous food sovereignty can help address the issues above by offering a framework for challenging and transforming the global industrial food system into a more ecological model that benefits all peoples and the earth.¹¹

INDIGENOUS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

The high rate of food insecurity among Indigenous peoples living in Canada is the direct result of the ongoing process of colonization in Canada, which has had devastating impacts on Indigenous food systems, depleting important food sources and disrupting the intergenerational transmission of food related knowledge. Vancouver is no exception. All Park Board land remains unceded. This land was acquired - without treaties - through the dispossession, oppression, and erasure of the x^wməθk^wəýəm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səlilwətał peoples. Village sites, food and medicine gathering areas, and spiritual and ceremonial places of importance were replaced with parks and recreational facilities such as sports fields, golf courses, pools, rinks, community centres, fitness centres, and marinas used predominantly

What is food sovereignty?

The term "food sovereignty" was coined in 1996 by a global movement of peasants, farmers, landless people, Indigenous peoples, and migrant and agricultural workers called La Via Campesina. In 2007, at the World Forum for Food Sovereignty, representatives from over 80 countries provided the following definition of food sovereignty: "Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems ... and a precondition to genuine food security." Indigenous food sovereignty in particular is defined by the Working Group for Indigenous Food Sovereignty as a "specific policy approach to addressing the underlying issues impacting Indigenous peoples and our ability to respond to our own needs for healthy, culturally adapted Indigenous foods."



by non-Indigenous residents. While the parks and recreation system contains many food assets and services, most of these serve a non-Indigenous population. Park land continues to have ongoing use and spiritual importance to the **x^wməθkwəýəm**, Skwxwú7mesh, and səlilwətał peoples. There is also demand for access to resources that would promote Indigenous food sovereignty such as land, space, facilities and programs. However, Indigenous cultural practices such as harvesting food in park spaces, are often misunderstood and discouraged.

While food security, as defined above, can be a useful lens for evaluating food inequality, critcs argue the concept of food sovereignty is a more appropriate framework for Indigenous food issues because it centres Indigenous voices and confronts issues like colonization, capitalism, environmental degradation, and selfdetermination.^{12,13} According to Dawn Morrison, the founder of the Working Group On Indigenous Food Sovereignty, Indigenous food sovereignty can be seen as a way of achieving long-term food security, while addressing the ongoing legacy of colonization on Indigenous food systems because it offers "a framework for exploring, transforming and rebuilding the industrial food system towards a more just and ecological model for all."¹⁴ For the purposes of this plan, the terms "food security" and "food sovereignty" are both used and the term "Indigenous food sovereignty" is used when discussing Indigenous food-related challenges and opportunities.

The local host First Nations, x^wməθk^wəýəm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səlilwətał, have a long history of caring for entire communities, with values rooted in sustainable prosperity for all community members. The Park Board can learn from Indigenous leadership how values of care and reciprocity must inform approaches to colonial redress. This includes responsibility and care for people experiencing food insecurity, as well as Park Board's role in fostering Indigenous food sovereignty for seven generations and beyond.



PICTURE: SUSTENANCE FESTIVAL, ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE, 2019

RELATED PLANS, STRATEGIES, AND REPORTS SINCE 2013

- Park Board Decolonization Strategy (ongoing) (2020): The Park Board received an update on Reconciliation achievements and directed staff to develop a decolonization strategy to identify specific goals, metrics, and strategic directions, and to articulate a framework for implementing targeted decolonization goals throughout the organization. This strategy is to come.
- Park Board VanPlay, Vancouver's Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan (2020): Guides the work of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation with a mission to provide, preserve, and advocate for parks and recreation to benefit all people, communities, and the environment. VanPlay sets out 10 goals to guide provision of more equitable, accessible, inclusive, and resilient parks and recreation over the next 25 years, along with asset targets and an implementation plan. VanPlay uses Equity Initiative Zones to highlight historically underserved areas so that projects, programs and resources can be focused geographically. There are two asset targets and three approaches to actions directly related to

the local food system, as well as other interconnected areas such as horticulture and natural areas that also affect the local food system.

- **Park Board Park By-laws (2020):** In the General Regulations, it states "no person shall cut, break, injure, remove or in any way destroy or damage any rock, soil, shrub, plant, turf or flower...". In other words, foraging or harvesting from parks is not permitted.
- City of Vancouver Poverty Reduction Plan, What We Heard: Phase 1 (2019):

A summary of findings from a public engagement which identified solutionfocused recommendations to improve equity, access, and connectivity to resources, safety and economic inclusion for people experiencing discrimination, poor health, gendered and racial violence, and poverty in Vancouver.



PICTURE: BREAKFAST PROGRAM, STRATHCONA COMMUNITY CENTRE

- Park Board Initial Findings for a Colonial Audit (2018): The Park Board received initial findings and directed staff to undertake a comprehensive Colonial Audit, an analysis of long term practices, impacts, and ways in which colonialism is woven into the Park Board. Themes from initial findings included dispossession of land, widespread disturbance and erasure of archaeological evidence of the local First Nations, excluding cultural expression of local First Nations in parks, and prioritizing non-Indigenous ways of knowing.
- Park Board Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values (2018): These were written after deeply considering the input received from the x^wməθk^wəýəm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səlilwətał Nations, as well as from other Urban Indigenous engagement touchpoints. This was endorsed by the Park Board and set a mission to decolonize the Park Board.
- Park Board Concession Strategy: A Fresh Approach (2018): Set direction for a concession program that includes prioritizing locally sourced high quality foods, healthy choices, and green and sustainable food service operations.

• City of Vancouver - Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy (2018): Brought

forward a set of by-laws to dramatically reduce waste from single-use items such as disposable cups, take-out containers, straws, and disposable utensils. Start dates for some of the by-laws have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

• City of Vancouver - City-Affiliated Facility Kitchens Design Guidelines (2018):

Included in the City of Vancouver's Social Amenity Design Guidelines to be used when renovating an existing kitchen or designing a new kitchen in a City-affiliated social or recreational facility.

- Vancouver Coastal Health Food Standards (2018): Non-prescriptive standards that use the pillars of quality, access and inclusion to guide contract negotiations and program planning that support dignified access to food.
- Park Board Truth-Telling: Indigenous Perspectives on Working with Local Government (2017): A consultation with Indigenous cultural leaders, artists, and cultural practitioners on their experiences working with the Park Board. The report includes the recommendation that the Park Board supports cultural sharing and reciprocity through feasting and sharing food.

- Park Board Vancouver Community Leaders on the Role of Food in **Cultural Inclusion and Engagement:** A Vancouver Park Board Sustenance Festival Report (Role of Food in Cultural Inclusion Report) (2017): Findings showed that members of racialized and other underrepresnted communities reported experiencing discrimination in institutional spaces (including Park Board spaces), and erasure of their contributions or expertise. The report identifies a need to fairly compensate participants from equity-denied groups for their contributions, support food and cultural empowerment, and celebrate cultural food expertise.
- City of Vancouver Vancouver Food Strategy Update (2017): An update to the 2013 strategy identified three new areas of focus for 2017 to 2020 centred around equity. These areas are diversity of voices and inclusion, food access (financial accessibility and availability), and resilience.
- Park Board 11 Reconciliation Strategies

 (2016): Park Board passed 11 strategies
 based on the Truth and Reconciliation
 Commission Calls to Action. The first strategy
 called for the Park Board's adoption of the
 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of
 Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as a reference
 framework for Park Board's Reconciliation
 initiatives.

- Milan Municipality Milan Urban
 Food Policy Pact (2016): An international
 agreement signed by more than 200 cities
 around the world, including the City of
 Vancouver, "to develop sustainable food
 systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe and
 diverse, that provide healthy and affordable
 food to all people in a human rights-based
 framework, that minimize waste and conserve
 biodiversity while adapting to and mitigating
 impacts of climate change". Cities committed
 to this pact are expected to use a common
 monitoring framework to track progress of
 their actions.
- **Park Board Biodiversity Strategy (2016):** Supports enhancing pollinator habitat and local indigenous plants.
- City of Vancouver Opportunities for Community Kitchen Facilities in City Affiliated Organizations (2016): A citywide assessment of the condition, usage and needs of publicly accessible community kitchen facilities in Vancouver, including community centre kitchens.
- Park Board Urban Agriculture Policy

 (2015): Encourages collaboration and sharing
 to maximize access to green space, making
 connections between different stakeholders,
 and assisting groups to access land for urban
 agriculture.

- City of Vancouver Greenest City Action Plan (2015): Included actions to develop an urban farming policy, increase participation in food assets and services, and create a food hub.
- Park Board Urban Agriculture Garden Guide (2015): A guide on how to successfully apply for, design, and construct an Urban Agriculture project on Vancouver publicly owned land.
- City of Vancouver Healthy City Strategy (2014): Sets 13 long-term goals for the wellbeing of the City and its people, including ambitious targets to reach by 2025. Several goals are relevant to local food in parks, which prioritize food production, empowering residents, and providing food access.



TIMELINE

The timeline for updating the 2013 LFAP is outlined below. More details on the outcomes of these steps are summarized in subsequent sections of this plan.

Research Review	Food Asset & Service Assessment	Phase 1 Engagement
(October to December 2020):	(October to December 2020):	(November 2020 to January 2021):
•	•	\bullet \rightarrow
Reviewed international and	 Assessed the progress of the actions from the 2013 LFAP and identified priority items to include in the 2021 LFSAP. Revised the definition of food assets and services. Updated the inventory of current food assets and services in the parks and recreation system. Identified key challenges, successes, and opportunities and required changes for managing food assets and services over the next five years. 	• Public Engagement Meeting: Hosted a meeting in collaboration with the Vancouver Food Policy Council to both share progress and seek input on the 2021 LFSAP. Members of the public were invited to attend.
local trends, City of Vancouver reports, collaborative garden		 Public Survey: Posted a survey on the Shape Your City website (also available as paper copies) in English, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, and Tagalog. Sought feedback from respondents on how they use food assets and services in parks and facilities and ideas on what to prioritize in the 2021 LFSAP.
models, innovative food policy, and planning examples from comparable jurisdictions in Canada.		 Community Advisory Committee Meeting: Recruited food system practitioners and diverse community organizations involved in various aspects of community food security to form a committee to advise on the 2021 LFSAP. Formed committee to centre voices of equity-denied groups who often face barriers to participating in public engagement opportunities. Representation on this committee included x^wməθk^wəýəm and Skwxwú7mesh members, urban Indigenous food leaders, and individuals who come with lived experience as racialized, newcomer, and/or low-income residents. Provided background and sought guidance on priorities to include in the 2021 LFSAP.
		 Staff Steering Committee Meeting: Held a meeting with Park Board and City of Vancouver staff involved in various aspects of food, Reconciliation, and equity work to provide a progress report and identify priorities for the 2021 LFSAP.
		 Targeted Staff Interviews and/or Feedback Requests: Conducted interviews and/or sought feedback from staff on food initiatives and the COVID-19 emergency food response actions.

Phase 2 Engagement Materials (February to March 2021):	Phase 2 Engagement (April to May 2021):	Spatial Analysis (April to June 2021):	2021 LFSAP Proposed Draft (July - October 2021):
•	•	•	•
Summarized findings from the research review, food asset and service assessment, and feedback from phase 1 of engagement. Drafted associated goals and actions for review.	 Public Engagement Meeting: Hosted a meeting in collaboration with the Vancouver Food Policy Council to share the proposed goals for the 2021 LFSAP, seek feedback on how well the goals align with the equitable provision of food assets and services, and ask for input on potential actions. Members of the public were invited to attend. Community Advisory Committee Meeting & Staff Steering Committee Meeting: Held a second meeting with each committee to share an update on the research, assessment, engagement phases, and proposed goals and asked for feedback on the proposed actions in the 2021 LFSAP Draft 1. 	Identified under- served areas of the city in relation to current food assets and services in order to target resources to existing equity gaps.	Revised the first draft based on feedback from Phase 2 of engagement, staff input and findings from the spatial analysis.
	 Community Centre Association Presidents Survey: Community Centre Association presidents were updated on the 2021 LFSAP findings and invited to complete a brief survey about food programming needs. 		
	 Community Centre Supervisors Survey: Community centre supervisors were invited to complete a brief survey about food programming staffing needs. 		

VISION & OBJECTIVES

Based on *VanPlay*, the Park Board vision is to be the leader in parks and recreation by connecting people to greenspace, active living, and community. Building on that vision, the 2021 Local Food System Action Plan vision is:

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.

PICTURE: SUSTENANCE FESTIVAL, ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE, 2019

The objectives of the 2021 LFSAP are:

- To provide a five-year plan for the future development and management of Park Board food assets and services;
- To identify actions the Park Board should adopt to ensure that community members benefit from inclusive and accessible spaces that contribute to a sustainable and just food system;
- To 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;
- To advocate for needed resources to meet increasing demand for local food system assets and services offered within the public realm;
- To prioritize those disproportionately impacted by food insecurity and increase inclusivity and accessibility of food spaces; and
- To improve accountability and the measurement of impact (see Monitoring and Evaluation, page 83) and progress by setting guidelines on monitoring and evaluation of goals and actions coming out of the 2021 LFSAP.



