

## 4.0 ***PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT INSIGHTS***

Phase 1  
Phase 2

**PICTURE:** HIVES FOR HUMANITY APIARY, CATHEDRAL SQUARE PARK







Public engagement for the 2021 LFSAP was conducted in two phases, as described in the Timeline (page 18). This section highlights the key insights from the public engagement feedback.

## PHASE 1

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; opportunities for capacity-building, relationship building, and supporting food work in community.

### VANCOUVER FOOD POLICY COUNCIL MEETING

There were 46 participants – including both council members and the public – in attendance at the session hosted in collaboration with the Vancouver Food Policy Council on November 12, 2020. Themes that emerged from the discussion included:

- A desire for collective use and equal access to food and culture gardens, community spaces, and Park Board resources
- Valuing the importance of knowledge and

cultural resources, and supporting ways to share food, knowledge, and culture

- Prioritizing spaces and facilities for Indigenous traditional food practices, including returning land and management of spaces to the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliwətaɫ peoples
- Supporting soil generation, water conservation, and biodiversity in the actions of the 2021 LFSAP

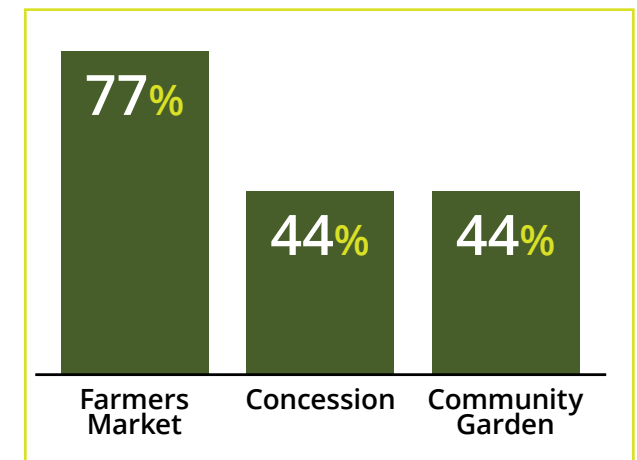
## PUBLIC SURVEY

The survey was active on the Shape Your City website during the initial stage of the project from December 30, 2020 to January 28, 2021 in English, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, and Tagalog. There were 737 respondents, of which 686 are Vancouver residents. All surveys were completed online and in English. While paper copies of surveys were made available through various Park Board facilities, no paper surveys were submitted.

Survey respondents indicated farmers markets (77%), concessions (44%), and community gardens (43%) were the most accessed food assets during 2020 and identified community gardens (64%), farmers markets (57%), orchards (57%), and cultural learning gardens (55%) as the top food assets to prioritize for the 2021 LFSAP. Food growing assets such as community

gardens, cultural learning gardens, and orchards were identified as the most difficult to access, with community garden waitlists being the most common theme noted as a barrier. The COVID-19 pandemic may have had an impact on the survey responses, since gatherings and indoor activities were more restricted. Respondents noted a need for food assets in the parks and recreation system to be shared equitably and for resources to be directed towards people who are in need of support for food security.

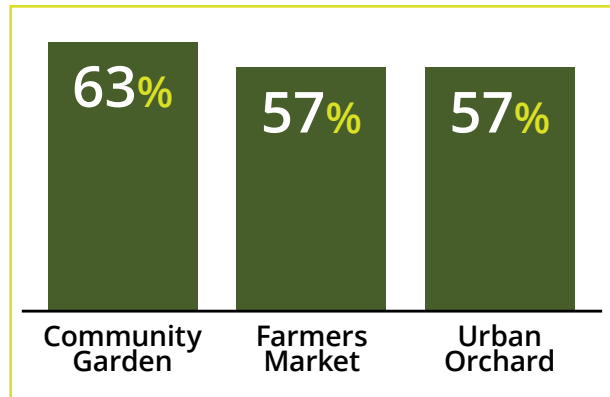
**What are the top three Park Board food assets that Vancouver residents visited or were involved in the past year?** (% of survey respondents)



**FIGURE 3:** WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE PARK BOARD FOOD ASSETS THAT VANCOUVER RESIDENTS VISITED OR WERE INVOLVED IN THE PAST YEAR?



**What were the top three Park Board food assets that Vancouver residents want to prioritize for the 2021 Local Food Action Plan?**  
(% of survey respondents)



**FIGURE 4:** WHAT WERE THE TOP THREE PARK BOARD FOOD ASSETS THAT VANCOUVER RESIDENTS WANT TO PRIORITIZE FOR THE 2021 LOCAL FOOD ACTION PLAN?

The demographic profile of survey respondents did not reflect the demographics of Vancouver. Notably, 75% of respondents were women and 73% were of European descent, while Vancouver's respective demographics are 51% female and 41% those of European descent. There were some notable differences in responses based on demographics such as home ownership, equity initiative zones (defined on page 56), and ethnic origin. Additional engagement (see Community Advisory Committee on page 51) was conducted to address the demographic disparities and data gaps in the survey.

**Renters and those with postal code areas with a higher density of equity initiative zones:**

1. tend to use more food growing assets and community kitchens or community centre programming,
2. have more difficulty accessing food growing assets (community gardens, cultural learning gardens, native berry shrubs), concessions and restaurants, and
3. prioritized food growing assets, community kitchens or community centre programming, and meal programs more than homeowners.

**Homeowners and those in postal code areas with a lower density of equity initiative zones:**

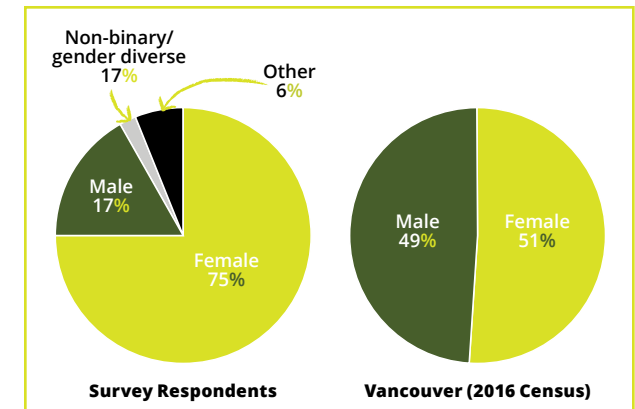
1. appear to go to restaurants more,
2. prioritized concessions and restaurants more, and
3. more often reported they did not use any food assets in parks in the past year.

**Non-European identified respondents:**

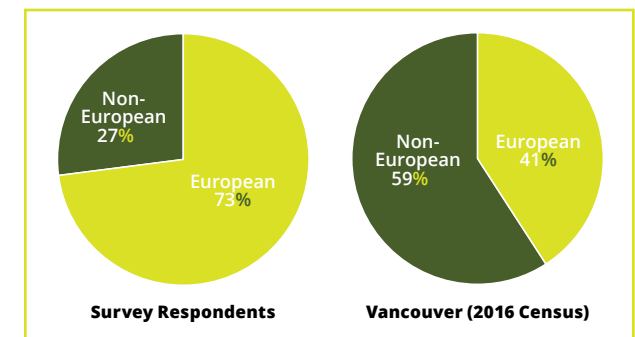
1. used community kitchens or community centre programming and meal programs more,
2. have greater difficulty in accessing concessions, farmers markets, community kitchens or community centre programming, and meal programs and,

3. prioritized community gardens and cultural learning gardens less than European identified respondents.

European identified respondents used farmers markets more.



**FIGURE 5:** GENDER OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS COMPARED TO VANCOUVER DEMOGRAPHICS.



**FIGURE 6:** ETHNIC ORIGIN OR ANCESTRY OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS COMPARED TO VANCOUVER DEMOGRAPHICS.



## What are transactional relationships?

Transactional relationships are typically short-term and focused on getting to a desired outcome. Relational relationships are about building trust over the long-term and are mutually beneficial.



## What is land back?

Land back is an Indigenous-led movement aimed at restoring Indigenous control over colonized lands. Land back can take many forms and can be demonstrated in a number of ways, including governments, organizations, and individuals literally “giving land back” to Indigenous communities. It can also take the form of regaining stewardship over lands. At its core, land back is about the right for Indigenous Peoples to have self-determination on the land.

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The community advisory committee was formed featuring community leaders with lived or work experience in food systems, land, programs, facilities, resources, decolonization and equity. Membership on this committee was selected to address gaps due to historically low representation in typical public engagement by Indigenous, racialized, and lower income people. To ensure a culturally safe space for all members, recruitment ensured representation from xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətał Nations, urban Indigenous peoples, racialized, newcomer, and low-income residents (see Acknowledgements for list of member organizations on page 2). The 12 members of this committee met in January 2021 to discuss challenges they face with the parks and recreation local food system and to identify opportunities for the 2021 LFSAP. Themes that emerged from the discussion included:

- The need to provide a more welcoming, accessible and inclusive space and ways of working with Indigenous peoples and equity-denied groups in the parks and recreation system. The current way of engaging Indigenous peoples and equity-denied groups feels transactional rather than relational. While the Park Board has committed to Reconciliation, deeper and more meaningful actions such as actively

working towards land back and centring decisions on land management based on xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətał input are still to be addressed.

- Resources are not allocated equitably from the Park Board. Groups with established relationships are better positioned to access grants, permits, and in-kind support compared to Indigenous and equity-denied groups that are newer to working with the Park Board.
- A desire for the Park Board to build relationships and reach out to groups that are under-served when working on initiatives to expand food assets and services.
- An interest in having leadership and paid opportunities in food work for community experts with the Park Board.



**PICTURE:** WEST END FARMERS MARKET



## PHASE 2

The goals of phase two of engagement were to:

1) share findings from the research review, food asset and service assessment, and feedback from phase one of engagement and 2) ask for feedback on the draft goals and associated actions.

### VANCOUVER FOOD POLICY COUNCIL MEETING

There were 22 participants – including both council members and the public – in attendance at the second session hosted in collaboration with the Vancouver Food Policy Council on April 8, 2021. At this meeting, participants discussed the proposed goals for the 2021 LFSAP and ideas for actions to support the goals. Themes that emerged from the discussion included:

- Overall support and excitement for the goals, in particular for having a goal focused on centring Indigenous voices.
- There is a perception that food initiatives within the Park Board are under-resourced and not prioritized. To implement actions and achieve these goals, the Park Board needs to allocate adequate staff, monetary, and physical resources.
- A recognition of competing priorities, not just between recreation and food, but also

different types of food assets and services because people have different needs.

- A need to increase equitable partnerships between the Park Board and community groups/leaders for implementing actions (e.g. relational versus transactional way of work, compensating people for their work, elevating voices of equity-denied groups).
- A general sentiment for the actions to support people who are in greatest need, such as those experiencing food insecurity, racism, and other barriers to participating in the parks and recreation system.

### COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The community advisory committee met for a second time in May 2021. Seven committee members attended this meeting. Committee members who could not attend the meeting were invited for individual follow-ups. Members were given a draft of the plan for review and asked to select which actions were the highest priority for discussion. This was cross-compared with key actions staff had identified as needing community input. Themes from the discussion included:

- The need to be mindful on how to approach the transition towards collective gardens. A one-size-fits-all approach to collective

gardening fails to account for the various reasons individuals participate in community gardening (or gardening in general). Sufficient resources and funding are critical to ensure 1) that people from equity-denied groups feel safe, welcome, and supported in collective gardens and 2) that the garden coordinators are trained in conflict resolution, are paid well, and, wherever possible, are hired from within the relevant community to ease transition.

- Staff hired for food work at Vancouver Park Board need to be well supported. Members expressed a strong need for additional staff resources to support food work (the suggested three positions was perceived as a bare minimum to support the proposed work). These positions will be exposed to potentially charged and emotional situations and will need to be well supported throughout the Park Board and skilled in working with equity-denied groups. There are also potential opportunities for hiring additional temporary support from priority areas (see Spatial Analysis section on page 54) to help run some of the programs.
- Ensure efforts in decolonizing food work maintain a focus on improving relations and empowering equity-denied groups, and include accessible intercultural engagement. Deep relationship building goes beyond



decolonization as a 'check-box' item. Members expressed that valuable lessons can be learned from the land back movement that go beyond land acknowledgements and instead acknowledge Indigenous Rights and Title. The Park Board should commit to more tangible decolonization actions. Decolonization should also include intercultural engagement to reach communities and Elders from other cultures that have also been displaced/experienced colonial impact. Intercultural engagement means the use of more accessible language, approach and terminologies.

- Supporting Indigenous food sovereignty requires resources and land. Indigenous peoples in Vancouver (both MST and other Indigenous peoples) have very little space, support, and land to grow food. Indigenous peoples are not a monolith and there are diverse needs and priorities. Opportunities for joint management and co-governance of spaces around food should also be considered.
- Support initiatives for dialogue, sharing, and relationship building around food between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. It is important to create spaces of dialogues across different cultures, and build bridges with newcomers, refugees, Indigenous peoples, and others. Opportunities to create

spaces of dialogues and sharing of cultures in Park Board managed spaces can spark opportunities for communities to learn about new foods, the use of new ingredients, and better relationships and understanding between different cultures.

## COMMUNITY CENTRE SUPERVISOR SURVEY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT SURVEY

- Vancouver community centres need food programming resources. Of the community centre supervisors who provided feedback on food programming needs, 62% indicated they would benefit from ongoing resources and a city-wide lead for food programming.
- Community Centre Association presidents that responded to a survey identified a need for more dialogue with the Park Board and funding for food programming.

**PICTURE:** ART & FUNGI WALK, ARTIST IN COMMUNITIES, KITSLANO COMMUNITY CENTRE

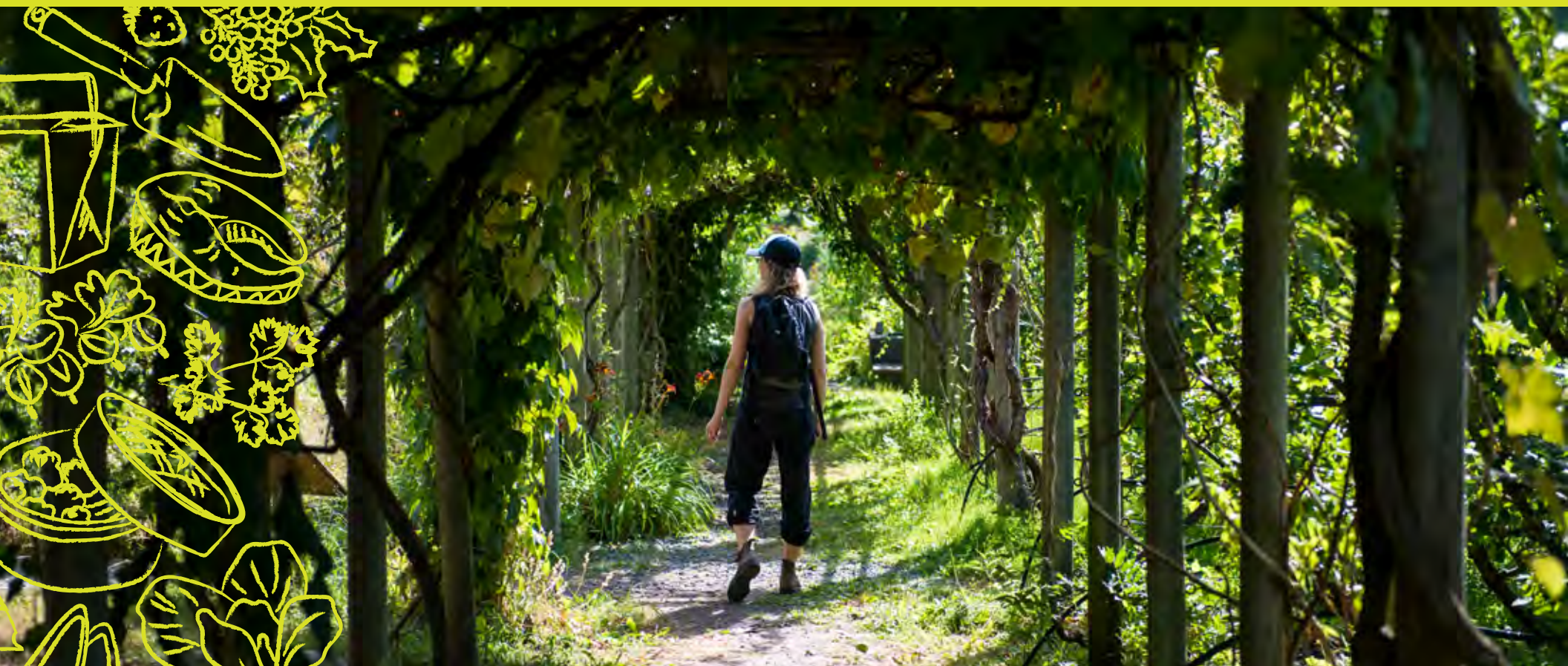




## 5.0 ***SPATIAL ANALYSIS***

Food Growing Assets  
Community Food Programming Assets  
Food Retail Assets

**PICTURE:** STRATHCONA COMMUNITY GARDEN







In order to determine where future resources may best be prioritized, spatial analysis was conducted to identify which areas of the city 1) are currently under-

served, 2) are expected to increase in population density and 3) indicate gaps or opportunities for each food asset. As outlined in *VanPlay Strategic Bold Moves* regarding spatial data, “equity-seeking [sic] groups are often missing from the data and the data does not elevate their knowledge or voice. As a result, these communities are not meaningfully represented nor is the data culturally reflective of all populations.”

In response to this, VanPlay states, “the Park Board will collaborate with partners, equity-seeking [sic] groups, and others on the Equity Analysis Factors so that the community is directly involved in the data gathering process and data interpretation, leading to greater equity.”

With this, it is recognized that the following spatial analysis reflects a start to understanding where food assets and services may be prioritized and further collaboration with equity-denied groups will be required in order to more accurately identify priority areas, assets, and services.

### **Priority Areas are spatially identified as follows:**

#### ***Highest Priority Area:***

Areas with a high concentration of three Equity Initiative indicators within a growth area.

#### ***High Priority Area:***

Areas with a high concentration of two Equity Initiative indicators within a growth area OR areas with a high concentration of three Equity Initiative indicators not within a growth area.

**PICTURE:** HASTINGS COMMUNITY LEARNING GARDEN







## MAP 8: PRIORITY AREAS

This map locates areas of the city which are a priority for 1) allocating resources to existing or in-progress food assets and services and 2) allocating resources to future food assets and services as outlined in the actions of this plan. The priority areas in the map are used as a base layer in the following maps to assess specific gaps and opportunities for existing food assets and services.

Priority areas were identified using two data sets: equity initiative zone indicators and growth area projection data. Equity Initiative Zone (EIZs) are identified in VanPlay as “historically under-served areas” of Vancouver mapped to locate where future “projects, programs, and resources can be focused geographically” to address historical inequity. Three indicators were used to identify EIZs: 1) park access gaps (areas with low access to park space), 2) demand for low-barrier recreation (areas with a higher demand for affordable low-barrier recreation services), and 3) urban forest canopy gaps (areas of the city with a less robust urban forest). Growth areas are identified in VanPlay, based on City plans available at the time, as the areas of Vancouver anticipated to have the greatest amount of development and population growth. These data sets were overlaid in 1 km square grids (areas) across Vancouver.

**PICTURE:** KILLARNEY SENIORS CENTRE KITCHEN



Priority Areas 1km<sup>2</sup> Grid

- High
- Highest

Mission 1

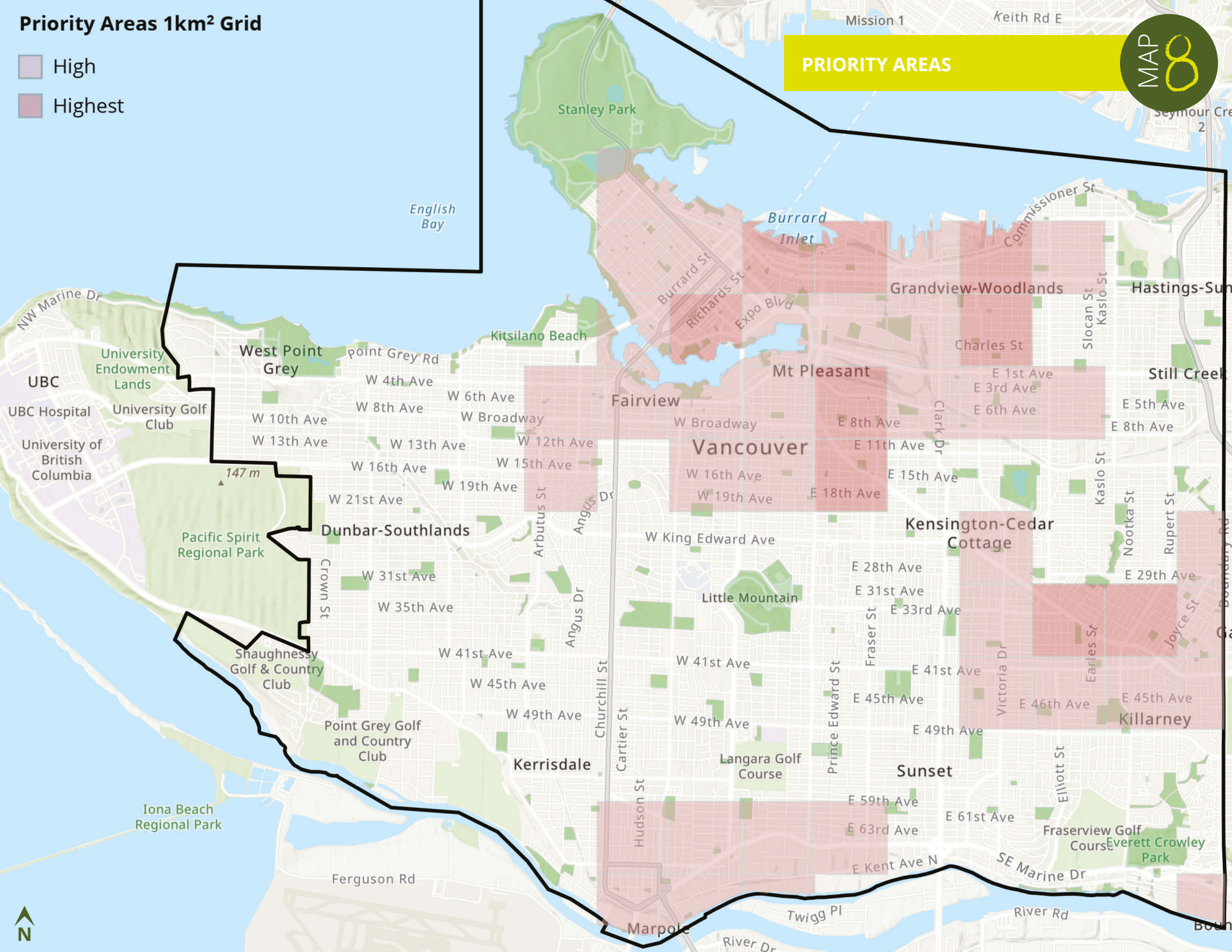
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PRIORITY AREAS

MAP 8

Seymour Cr

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## FOOD GROWING ASSETS

### **MAP 9:** FOOD & CULTURE GARDEN PRIORITY AREAS

Twenty-nine of the 41 food and culture gardens are located within the priority areas, accounting for 71% of all food and culture gardens. The hatched blocks identify areas with no food and culture gardens within priority areas. In 2020, there were 1,010 people on waiting lists for garden plots, and increasing opportunities for food growing was a top priority for survey respondents. This map informs where resources for new and existing food and culture gardens can be prioritized over the next five years in order to meet the demand for growing opportunities. Prioritizing cultural learning gardens, which do not operate on a membership and waitlist model, may ensure more people are able to access and benefit from public growing opportunities.

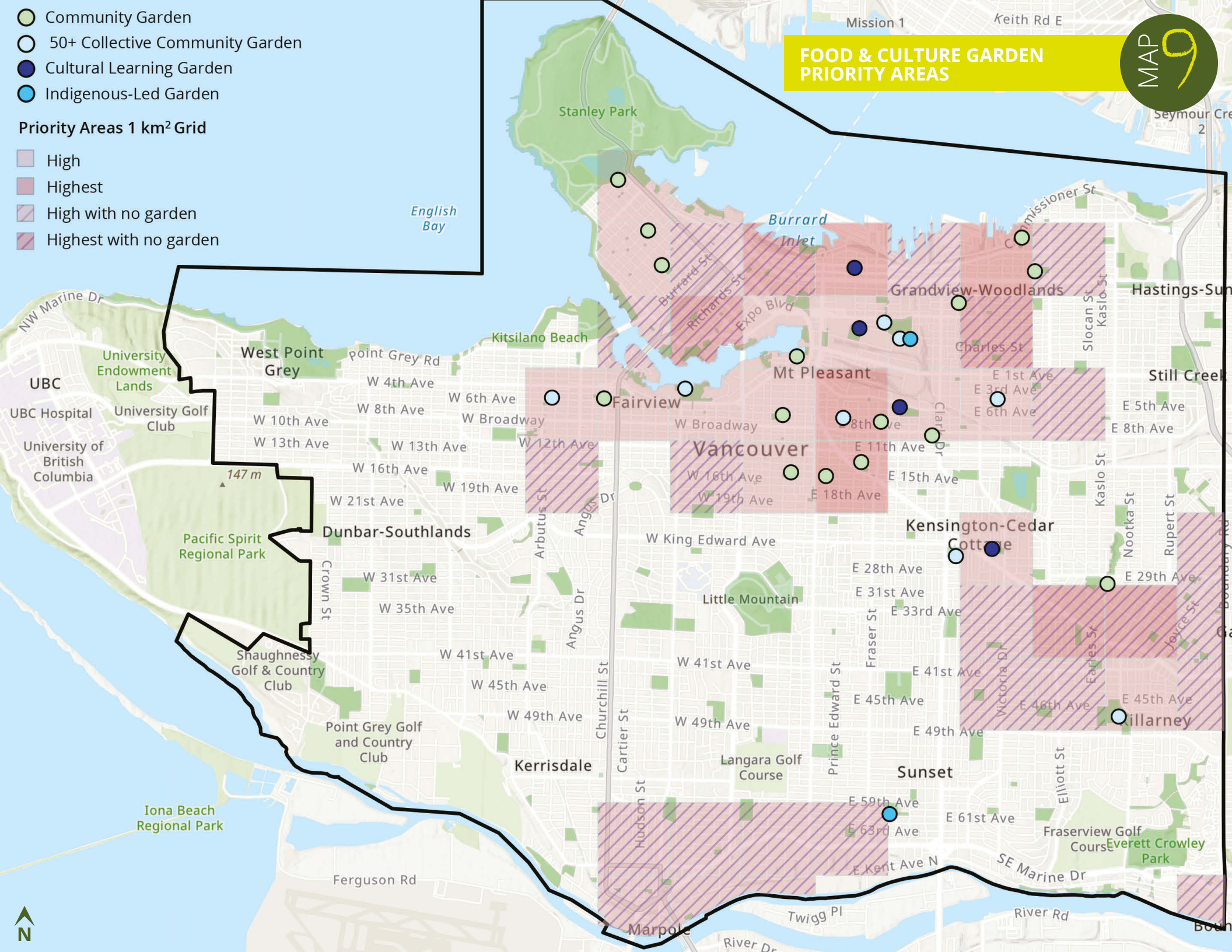
**PICTURE:** RILEY PARK FIELDHOUSE, RILEY PARK GARDEN GROUP



- Community Garden
- 50+ Collective Community Garden
- Cultural Learning Garden
- Indigenous-Led Garden

Priority Areas 1 km<sup>2</sup> Grid

- High
- Highest
- High with no garden
- Highest with no garden







## **MAP 10:** FOOD TREE AND ORCHARD PRIORITY AREAS

Eight food trees and 13 orchards are located within the priority areas, totalling 325 of the 642 food trees, accounting for 51% of all food trees. The hatched blocks identify areas with no food trees within priority areas. This informs where resources for new and existing food trees can be prioritized over the next five years.



**Food Trees**

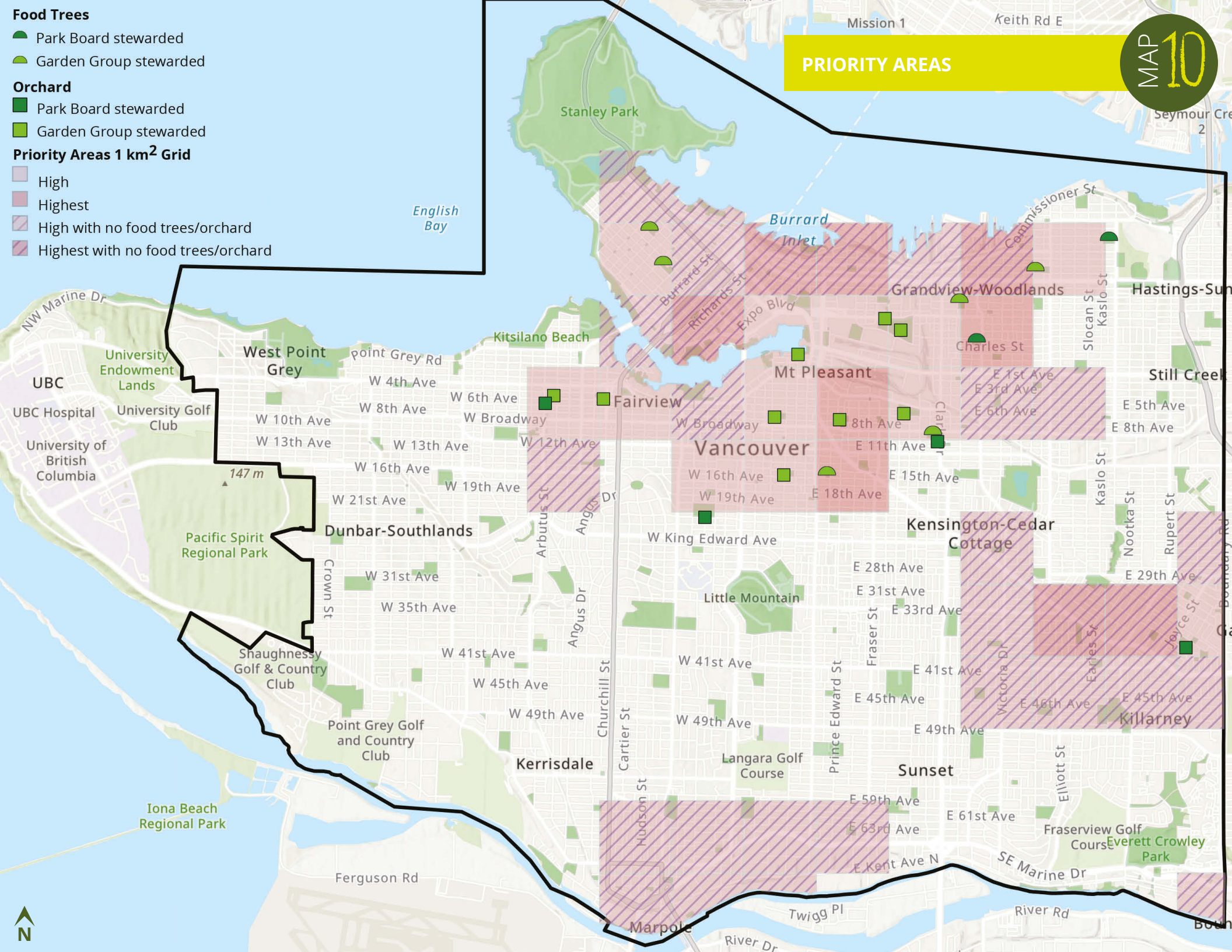
- Park Board stewarded
- Garden Group stewarded

**Orchard**

- Park Board stewarded
- Garden Group stewarded

**Priority Areas 1 km<sup>2</sup> Grid**

- High
- Highest
- High with no food trees/orchard
- Highest with no food trees/orchard





# COMMUNITY FOOD PROGRAMMING ASSETS

## MAP 11: COMMUNITY CENTRE KITCHEN PRIORITY AREAS

Thirteen of the 25 community centre kitchens are within a priority area. Kitchen demand was determined using kitchen usage data and program waitlist data. In the 2016 Opportunities for Community Kitchen Facilities in City Affiliated Organizations report, kitchen usage was rated as high, medium and low based on demand kitchens face in order to meet community needs as well as lack of kitchen infrastructure to support food programming (based on 2016 data). In the report, the community centres identified as having high usage were: Douglas Park, Hastings, Hillcrest, Kensington, Kerrisdale, Ray-Cam, Strathcona,

and Trout Lake. Waitlist data from 2017-2020 for programs categorized as “Food, Cooking & Gardening” was pulled from Activenet, the Park Board program enrollment software. When assessing the total percentage of people on a waiting list compared to the total number of people enrolled in a program, the five community centres with the highest relative demand were: Strathcona, Renfrew Park, Britannia, Roundhouse, and Killarney.

When cross-comparing the food, cooking, and garden programs of 5% or higher relative waitlist demand with kitchens identified as having high use, the three community centre kitchens located in priority areas identified as having high demand were Ray-Cam and Strathcona. Both had high use and a relative waitlist demand higher than 5%. While most community centres had a relative waitlist demand between 0% to 13%, Strathcona Community Centre had a substantially higher relative waitlist demand of 41%. Six other community centre kitchens in priority areas were

identified as having medium demand (Britannia, Creekside, Douglas Park, Killarney, Roundhouse). They had either high kitchen usage or a relative waitlist demand greater than 5%.

Type	Number of Programs	Total Enrolled	Total on Waitlist	% on Waitlist Compared to Enrolled
In or within 750 m of priority area	444	3,831	330	9%
Not in priority	197	2,404	73	3%

**TABLE 3:** RELATIVE WAITLIST DEMAND FOR FOOD, COOKING AND GARDEN PROGRAMMING IN PRIORITY AREAS COMPARED TO NON-PRIORITY AREAS.



**PICTURE:** SUSTENANCE FESTIVAL, ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE, 2019



Community Center Kitchen Usage

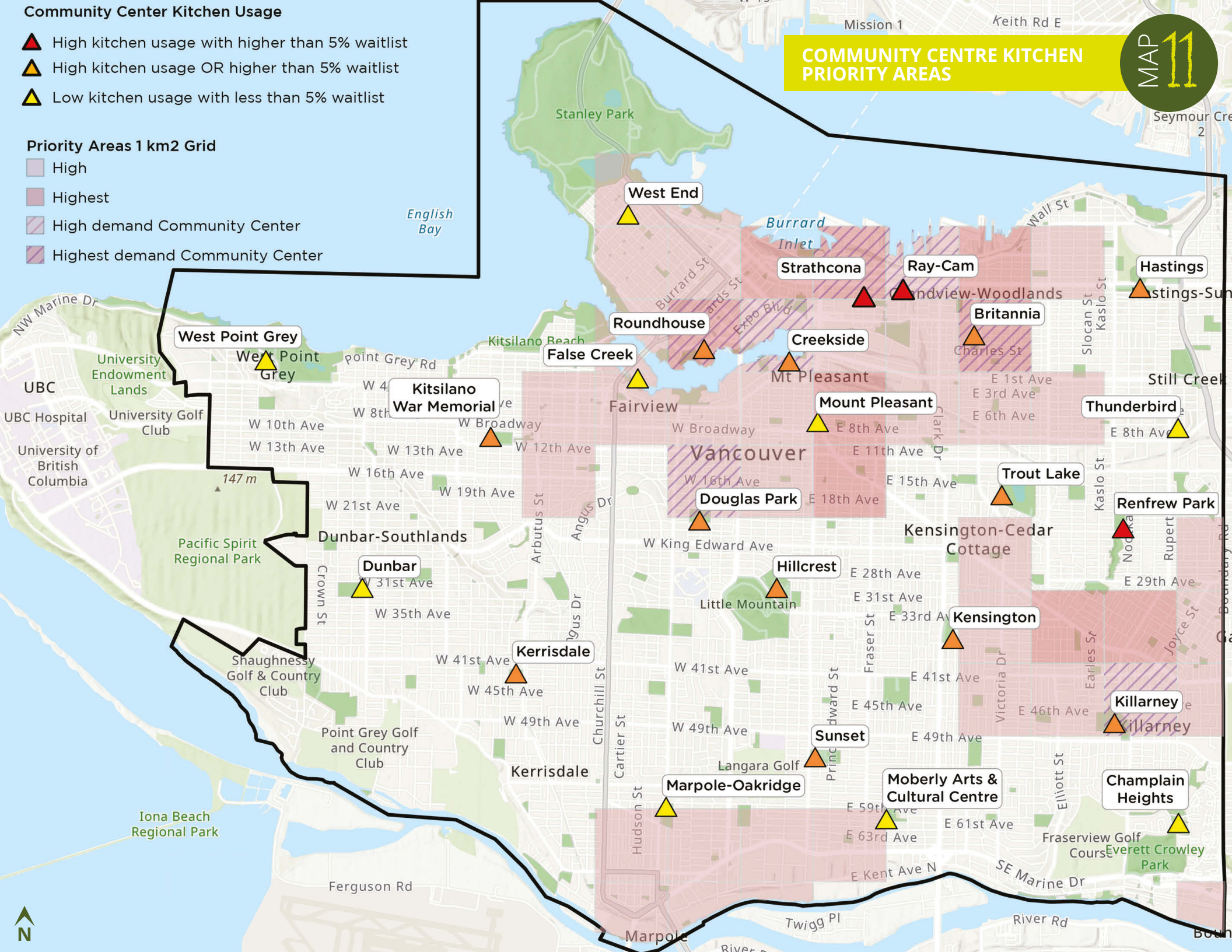
- ▲ High kitchen usage with higher than 5% waitlist
- ▲ High kitchen usage OR higher than 5% waitlist
- ▲ Low kitchen usage with less than 5% waitlist

Priority Areas 1 km2 Grid

- High
- Highest
- High demand Community Center
- Highest demand Community Center

COMMUNITY CENTRE KITCHEN  
PRIORITY AREAS

MAP11





## MAP 12: FIELDHOUSE PRIORITY AREAS

Of the 74 city-wide, 28 fieldhouses are located within the priority areas, totalling only 38% of fieldhouses. Two are food and garden fieldhouses, 13 are part of the Fieldhouse Activation Program (FHAP), and 13 are used for a variety of other purposes. Fieldhouses can be supportive infrastructure for a variety of food assets and services such as community food and garden initiatives/programs, food markets, and needed amenities for gardens and garden groups. While fieldhouses have this potential, only four of 74 fieldhouses are currently used for food and garden activations, and only two of those four are in high priority areas. The hatched blocks indicate where fieldhouses are located within priority areas to show where there may be opportunities to support various types of food assets and services. This is also a start to identifying priority areas for food and garden fieldhouses as part of the FHAP.

**PICTURE:** RILEY PARK FIELDHOUSE, RILEY PARK GARDEN GROUP



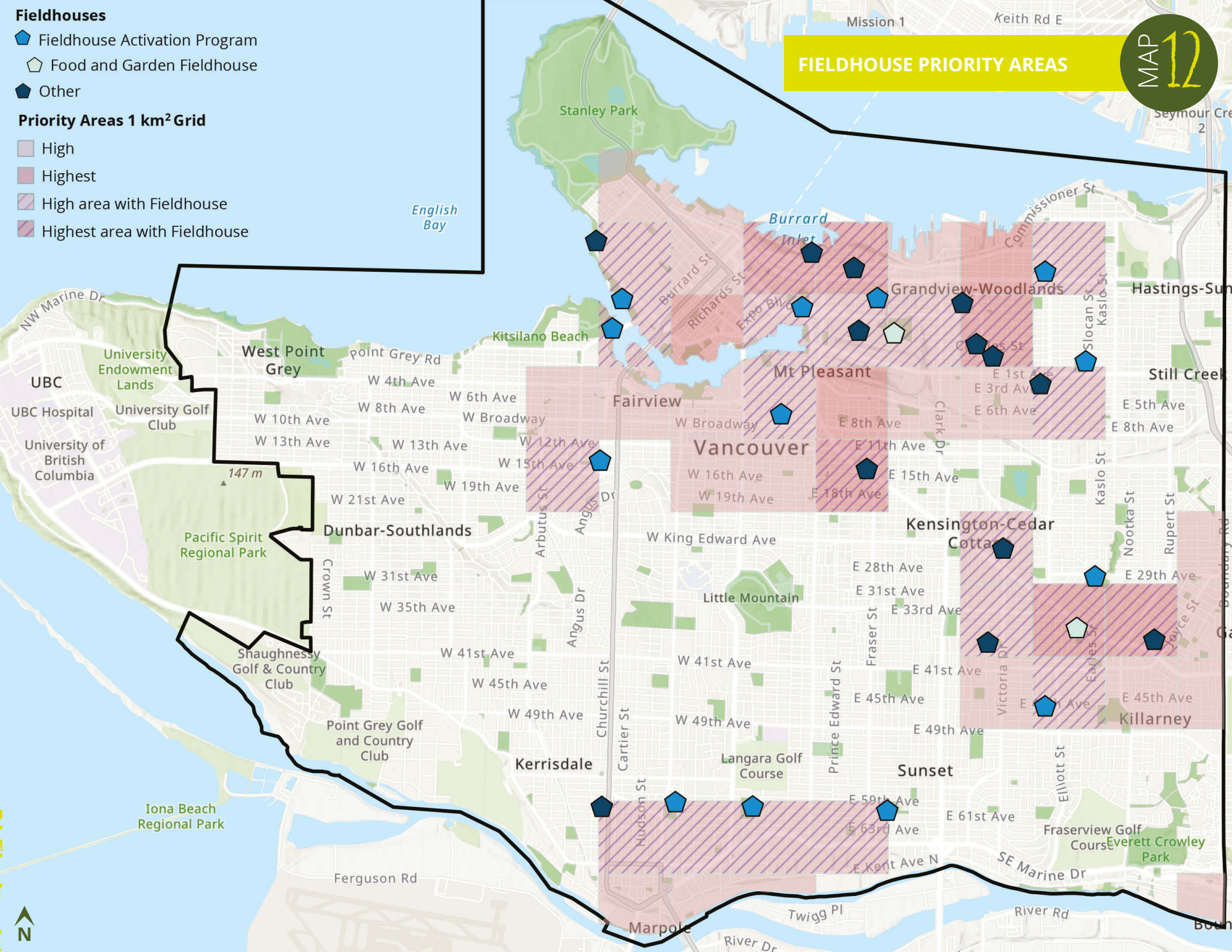


**Fieldhouses**

- Fieldhouse Activation Program
- Food and Garden Fieldhouse
- Other

**Priority Areas 1 km<sup>2</sup> Grid**

- High
- Highest
- High area with Fieldhouse
- Highest area with Fieldhouse







## FOOD RETAIL ASSETS

### **MAP 13:** FOOD MARKET PRIORITY AREAS

One community food market and two farmers markets are located within the priority area, leaving large gaps in service. The hatched blocks indicate where these gaps are located and where to prioritize future food markets. Community food markets, in particular, present opportunities to address areas with higher food insecurity as they allow residents to purchase more affordable fresh food in locations where there are fewer stores and/or challenges accessing healthy and culturally diverse food.

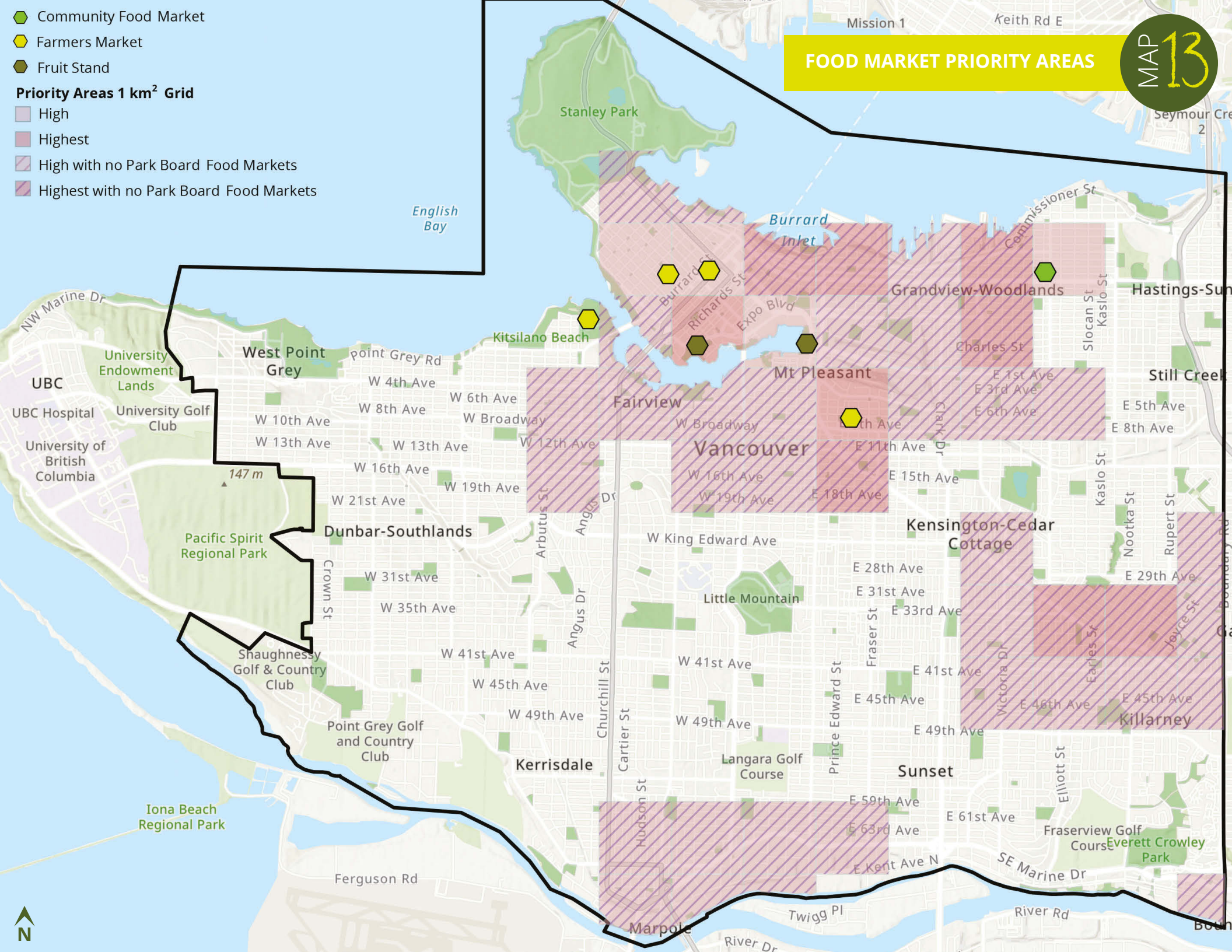
**PICTURE:** PANDORA PARK COMMUNITY FOOD MARKET



- Community Food Market
- Farmers Market
- Fruit Stand

Priority Areas 1 km<sup>2</sup> Grid

- High
- Highest
- High with no Park Board Food Markets
- Highest with no Park Board Food Markets











## **MAP 14:** MEAL RETAIL LOCATION PRIORITY AREAS

Sixteen of the 46 meal retail locations are located within the priority areas, accounting for only 35% of locations. Meal retail locations outside the priority areas were included in this map if they were located within a 400m radius from major transit routes in order to consider accessibility, accounting for 22 locations. It is recognized these types of facilities are generally destinations for recreation and tourism rather than neighbourhood-based assets.

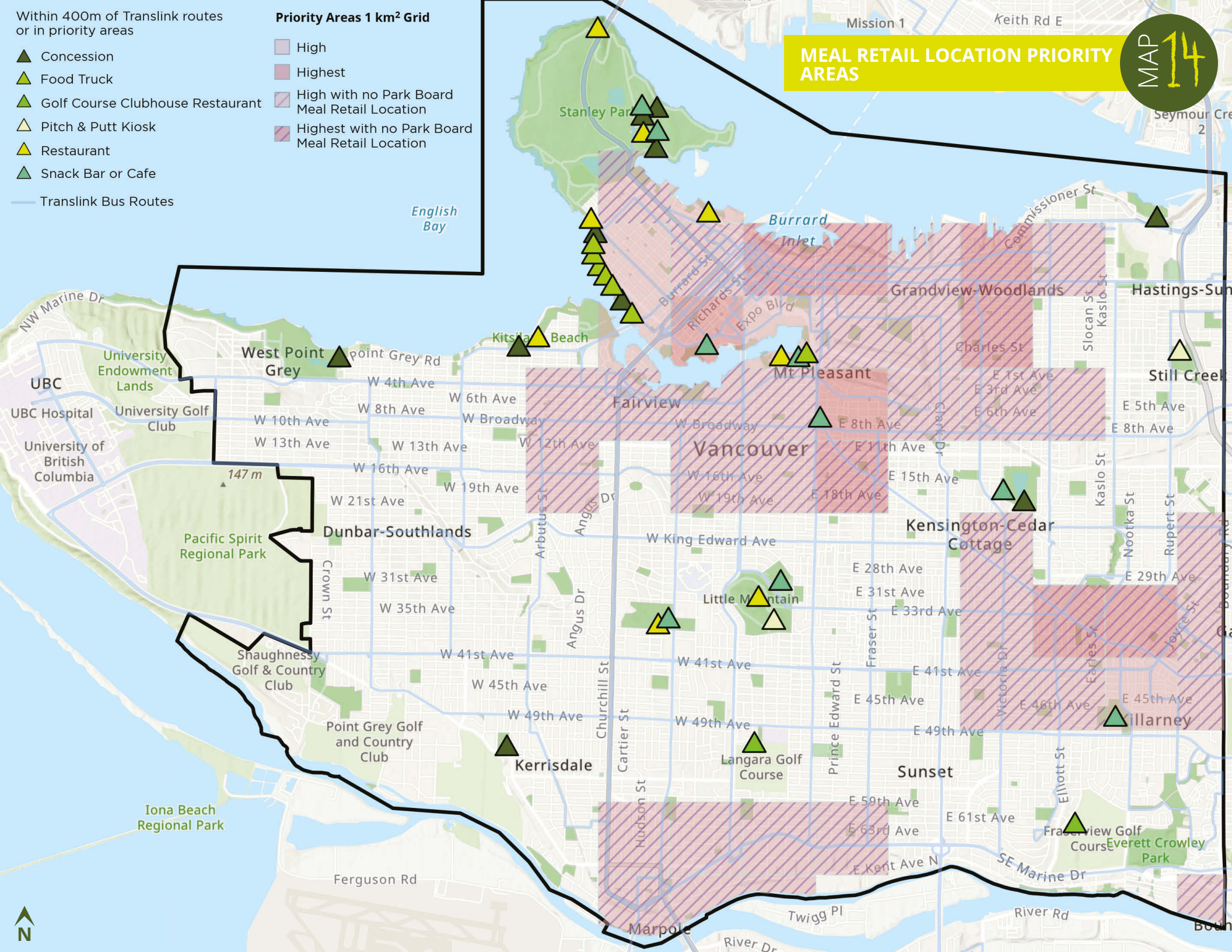


### Priority Areas 1 km<sup>2</sup> Grid

-  High
-  Highest
-  High with no Park Board Meal Retail Location
-  Highest with no Park Board Meal Retail Location

## Translink Bus Routes

## MEAL RETAIL LOCATION PRIORITY AREAS







## **MAP 15:** MULTIPLE CRITERIA PRIORITY AREAS

The purpose of this map is to show where there are multiple criteria indicating a gap or opportunity in service within the priority areas. These spaces were identified by counting the number of times a hatched block (area identified as having a gap or opportunity in one type of food asset or service) overlapped in each 1km square area. The blocks with the darkest green are the areas where five or more gaps or opportunities in service were identified. Understanding which areas have a high count of overlap indicates where there have been multiple gaps in service and could help identify where best to allocate resources within the priority area.

**PICTURE:** NORQUAY PARK FIELDHOUSE, NORQUAY NEIGHBOURHOOD FOOD HUB



# Priority Areas Overlap

- 1 Overlap
- 2 Overlap
- 3 Overlap
- 4 Overlap
- 5 Overlap

Mission 1

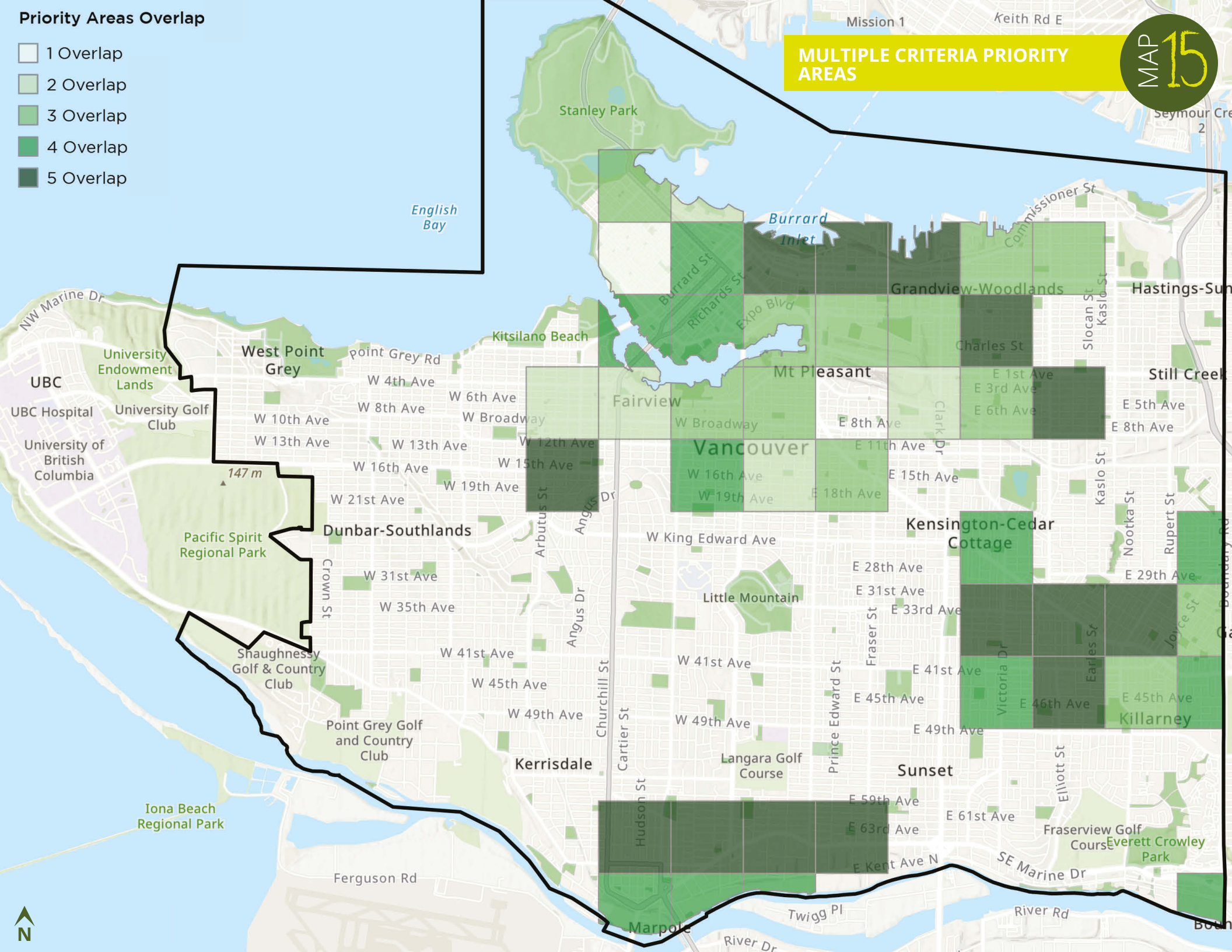
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**MULTIPLE CRITERIA PRIORITY AREAS**

MAP 15

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## 6.0 ***CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES***

Challenges  
Opportunities

**PICTURE:** INDIGENOUS SEED HERITAGE GARDEN, STRATHCONA PARK







Based on the 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

### LASTING IMPACT OF COLONIALISM

- Indigenous food projects have not been given the same amount of in-kind support or land access compared to established Park Board projects such as community gardens and environmental conservation initiatives.
- Indigenous food initiatives/programs have not been prioritized in comparison to non-Indigenous food initiatives/programs. There is a lack of Indigenous workshop facilitators and limited availability of food programs and traditional, spiritual, and cultural services.
- There is a lack of economic opportunities in the parks and recreation system for Indigenous owned businesses.
- Harvesting, processing, and serving traditional Indigenous foods currently does not have a place, and in many cases, is discouraged and misunderstood by Park Board staff and the public.

- Strategies and action plans, including the 2013 LFAP, focus more on physical assets or tangible outcomes rather than relationships, resulting in a checklist of actions that reinforces a transactional relationship between the Park Board and Indigenous partners.

### COMPETING DEMANDS

- Park Board assets have multiple uses, of which currently fitness-related recreation and passive-use turf grass make up the biggest proportion of park land use. As the Park Board tries to serve the spectrum of Vancouver residents, balancing diverse needs becomes ever more important with dwindling land resources. Demands may shift during and following the COVID-19 pandemic as food security, equity, and resilience issues take more prominence.

### INEQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

- With varying staff support (from zero to 0.5 full-time equivalent) allocated to implementation, the Park Board fell short of achieving all the actions in the 2013 LFAP and meeting community needs. The implementation of the 2021 LFSAP will face a similar problem if it is not properly resourced.
- Less than half of all food assets and services in the parks and recreation system are

located in priority areas. This presents a challenge for implementation actions, in particular those that require an existing park facility (e.g. community centre).

- Around 40% of food and culture gardens are primarily focused on private allotment beds rather than collective growing. There is often a low turnover rate for new members and long waitlists, thereby limiting the number of people who benefit from these spaces.
- The types of community food programs being offered are mostly tailored for a Western diet, even though nearly half of the residents of Vancouver identify with non-European ethnicities (see survey results on page 50).

### LACK OF COORDINATION

- Policies, data management, and initiatives within the City of Vancouver are siloed. This has created conflicting interests, duplication of efforts, and inconsistent data on Park Board food assets and services. As a result, it has been challenging to track progress on the 2013 LFAP.
- Community centre associations and community centres are important providers of essential services such as food security, mental health, and community support, yet were shut down by the Public Health Officer in the initial COVID-19 response.





**PICTURE:** WILD SALMON CARAVAN, JOHN HENDRY PARK, 2017

## OPPORTUNITIES

### DECOLONIZATION

Decolonization represents significant opportunities to address multiple challenges at once. Indigenous models of stewardship have long shown resilience and adaptability, and modern Indigenous stewardship makes extensive use of traditional and western modes of knowledge to address climate change and other environmental challenges. As well, Indigenous spaces are by their

nature inclusive and welcoming. Decolonizing parks space for food use makes space for Indigenous people to demonstrate traditional modes of community care. Opportunities to decolonize food in the parks and recreation system include:

- Park Board facilities can serve as spaces for celebrating Indigenous foods, offering Indigenous-centred community food programming, and creating a space of healing and opportunities for intergenerational

knowledge sharing.

- Indigenous focused cultural learning gardens can support Indigenous food sovereignty and increase public awareness of Indigenous food practices. Cultural learning gardens are also often lower cost to develop and maintain than regular community gardens.
- Facilities rooted in colonial history can be reimagined through a decolonized lens to be more welcoming and suitable for a broader



range of people. Indigenous ways are welcoming to all cultures and inherently more inclusive spaces. For example, there can be Indigenous-led education on Indigenous plants, local history, and land-based practices.

- A new type of land-based agreement can be co-created between the Park Board and Indigenous Cultural Practitioners. Such an agreement would incorporate Indigenous principles such as reciprocity and Indigenous sovereignty and *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm*, *Skwxwú7mesh*, and *səlilwətaɬ* rights and title and frame Indigenous cultural practice as a land use typology (similar to Community Gardens or Stewardship Groups).
- The Park Board can actively participate in the land back movement (see definition on page 51). Since the Park Board does not own the land that it has jurisdiction over (the land is owned by the City of Vancouver), it cannot restore ownership of the land to MST. However, the Park Board can demonstrate land back by restoring Indigenous stewardship and decision-making power to MST. Formal co-management structures can be set up with Indigenous partners to steward parks and recreation spaces, land, and waterways. Any action towards land back by the Park Board will inherently support Indigenous Food Sovereignty.
- Procurement policies can be revised to

prioritize Indigenous businesses to enable more economic opportunities through food retail in the parks and recreation system.

- Training can be offered to increase staff knowledge and awareness of Indigenous food sovereignty.
- Funding can be allocated to support Indigenous fieldhouse residencies, food programs, and events.

## EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

By addressing equity issues in accessing food assets, the Park Board can address its goals around inclusion while reaching a broader spectrum of residents. Creating equitable access to food is shown to be generative and useful in making cross cultural connections. Opportunities for equitable allocation of resources include:

- Instead of taking a passive role in waiting for equity-denied groups to approach the Park Board, there can be dedicated staff for actively seeking and developing partnerships with equity-denied groups to better serve their food-related needs.
- More people can benefit from food growing opportunities if gardens that are more accessible to the public (i.e. do not have memberships and waitlists) are prioritized
- The criteria for the Urban Agriculture

Expressions of Interest applications can be revised to focus resources towards priority areas (see Map 9 on page 59), collective gardening, and gardens centred around equity-denied groups.

- Procurement policies can be revised to prioritize businesses from equity-denied groups to enable more economic opportunities through food retail in the parks and recreation system.
- Funding can be allocated to implement recommendations from the *Role of Food in Cultural Inclusion Report*, which includes supporting year-round grassroots community food engagement with equity-denied groups and changing priorities in food systems staffing positions within the Park Board to promote equity.
- Staff training can be offered to develop cultural competency and build staff capacity in developing programs for and working with diverse peoples.

## MAKING BETTER USE OF AVAILABLE ASSETS

While much work has been done to maximize the benefit of available Park Board and other City of Vancouver land and resources, there are efficiencies and opportunities still within the system that can be better leveraged to assist in making the food system more resilient and accessible, including:



- The Park Board can work with the City of Vancouver to conduct a city-wide assessment of gaps and opportunities in food assets and services, taking into account the potential of other public land such as street rights-of-way (32% of Vancouver), library land, school land, and other underutilized spaces.
- There are minimally used turf spaces, strips or linear spaces of land around built infrastructure (e.g. parking lot islands), and resource-intensive horticultural beds that can be rewilded into pollinator gardens and/or incorporate food growing opportunities (e.g. edible landscaping). The Park Board's operational resources for maintenance of these spaces can also be transitioned in order to create additional habitat for pollinators and birds, and harvesting opportunities.
- Generation of soil amendment already occurs on Park Board sites through leaf composting. These resources can be leveraged to develop community composting sites in priority areas (see Map 8 on page 57) and increase composting education while cycling nutrients locally.
- Several Park Board assets can support emergency response such as for growing food, storing food, processing food, and distributing food. The Park Board can build food system resiliency by planning how

facilities will be used during an emergency and coordinating with other City departments to reduce duplication of efforts.

- Community garden non-profits can serve multiple purposes beyond allowing residents to grow food. They can also contribute to sharing knowledge, building capacity within new garden organizations, or co-managing new locations in order to help new groups establish new gardens.
- As community centres are redeveloped and joint operating agreements are renewed, supporting food systems can be integrated as a core priority. For example, community centres can serve as food hubs with centralized kitchens and gathering areas. Food programming can be integrated into the design or redesign of kitchens.
- Community centre kitchens can be used by the local neighbourhood and/or food-based organizations to run food programs and initiatives that cater to the unique and diverse needs of their community. Increasing low-barrier and equitable access to kitchen facilities and programs supports social connections, ensures programs reflect the wants and needs of the community, increases access to affordable and culturally-appropriate foods, and empowers the community to engage in the food system on their own terms. This could include food making, sharing, storage, and distribution.

## SUPPORTING CITY-WIDE GOALS

The values of Vancouver residents are shown to be consistent across many fields and subjects. Those values emerge through other City and Park Board initiatives and strategies, and those goals can be contributed to through the implementation of this Action Plan. Opportunities include:

- In areas with appropriate growing conditions, culturally diverse edible and pollinator plants, fruit and nut trees, and Indigenous food and medicine plants can be planted in place of ornamental plants to support the City's Biodiversity Strategy.
- Reusable food service ware can be piloted for food service outlets and installations of Zero Waste stations can be expanded in Park Board facilities to support the City's Zero Waste Goals.
- Aligning with Vancouver Plan's commitment towards Reconciliation, Equity, and Resilience, the 2021 LFSAP can advance city-wide policies and actions that work towards more just and sustainable food systems.
- As the City of Vancouver is a signatory to the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, the Park Board can use its Monitoring Framework for tracking progress of the 2021 LFSAP.



## BROADER CONSIDERATIONS

### SYSTEMIC ISSUES

It is recognized that addressing the systemic impacts of colonialism, racism, and inequity in the parks and recreation system more broadly is outside of the scope of this plan and will need to be addressed in broader policy and organizational interventions. This plan focuses instead on how these systemic issues occur and can be addressed through specific food systems work in parks and recreation facilities.

### ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC ISSUES

It is also recognized that addressing the aforementioned issues 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.

**PICTURE:** WILD SALMON CARAVAN, JOHN HENDRY PARK, 2017





## 7.0 **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Goals and Actions  
Conclusion

**PICTURE:** STRATHCONA BACKPACK PROGRAM







This five-year implementation plan outlines the recommended Goals and Actions of the *Local Food System Action Plan* and aligns them with specific policies and resources wherever possible. The matrix provided in the following pages identifies 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.

## GOALS AND ACTIONS

The following four goals and 38 actions were developed based on the direction of relevant Park Board and City of Vancouver policies, plans, and strategies and learnings from the assessment, research, and public and staff engagement phases of the plan update process. The approach for creating the goals and actions:

- Ideas and best practices from the community advisory committee, staff steering committee, public engagement meeting, survey, research and municipal scan were compiled and merged into general themes. These themes were then written as goals.
- Actions in the 2013 LFAP were identified as completed, in progress, on hold, or not started. Actions that were in progress or not started were discussed by the project team and staff to determine if they align with updated priorities of the 2021 LFSAP.



**FIGURE 7:** LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM ACTION PLAN GOALS



- Ideas and best practices related to each goal were then refined and written as actions. Some of these were merged with outstanding actions from the 2013 LFAP.
- Based on the VanPlay Diagnostic Tool and priorities identified by the community advisory committee and survey respondents, actions to include were short-listed with a focus on those that serve under-served communities within priority areas.
- During the second phase of public engagement, stakeholders and staff were asked for feedback on the goals and actions. Actions were assessed for budget implications and anticipated timeframe for completion.

The Goals and Actions are designed to guide implementation, while being relevant and flexible to support the success of local food systems work in Vancouver into the future.

**Goal:** A theme that is a container for a set of actions. The goals are interconnected and meant to be achieved together through building meaningful relationships between the Park Board, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətał Nations, and community partners.

**Action:** A specific recommendation intended to fulfill stated Goals.

## GOAL 1:

### CENTRE INDIGENOUS VOICES IN FOOD SYSTEM WORK TO HONOUR THE TEACHING THAT “FOOD IS MEDICINE”

*Improve access to Park Board land for xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətał First Nations and Urban Indigenous peoples for food and medicine practices and increase funding allocated to Indigenous-centered food spaces and initiatives.*

The xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətał peoples have lived here since time immemorial. As the original inhabitants of this land, they have a long history of caring for their communities and the land and waterways that have sustained them. The teaching that “food is medicine” recognizes that food has the capacity to nourish the body, mind and spirit. By centring the voices of Indigenous peoples in food system work, the Park Board can prioritize Indigenous food sovereignty and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in working towards a more just and sustainable food system for all peoples.

#### Policy Rationale:

- VanPlay Recreation Initiative (R.3.2): Work with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətał First Nations and Urban Aboriginal

communities to support Indigenous food systems in parks and recreation.

- Park Board Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values

## 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.*

Research indicates that Park Board food assets, services, and programs are not accessed equally by all Vancouver residents. There is a need for food assets in the parks and recreation system to be shared more equitably and for resources to be directed towards people who are food insecure. The goal seeks to address disparity in the local food system by targeting resources towards those who have typically been excluded from Park Board food assets, services and programs.

#### Policy Rationale:

- VanPlay Local Food Asset Need: Increase inclusive local food projects and access to healthy, culturally diverse, local, and sustainable food in parks and at community centres.



- VanPlay Local Food Asset Target: All new community gardens on Park Board managed land have at least 50% of total area dedicated to collective food growing.
- VanPlay Local Food Asset Target: Complete at least one project per year that supports sharing and gathering to cook or eat food in parks.

## 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.*

The Park Board can leverage its network of food and culture gardens, orchards, community kitchens, community programming, fieldhouses, markets and concessions to contribute to a thriving short food supply chain and play an important role in supporting a sustainable, just, safe and resilient local food economy. The Park Board will also need to foster new and

existing partnerships and collaboration using a community development approach. This includes prioritizing long-term relationship building, leadership development, and capacity building. Strong partnerships will also enable the pooling of resources, skills, and expertise to achieve the goals and priorities of the 2021 LFSAP.

#### Policy Rationale:

- VanPlay Recreation Initiative (R.3.1): Encourage food-focused programming and infrastructure for formal and informal gatherings that facilitate growing, cooking, eating, and sharing of food in parks and community centres.
- VanPlay Recreation Initiative (R.3.3): Facilitate access to local, secure, healthy food through concessions and restaurant partners (leases), community centre kitchens, farmers markets, community gardens, and field houses.
- VanPlay Local Food Asset Need: Adding appropriate food nodes [aka assets] (i.e., gardens, local markets, mobile food vendors or concessions, community kitchens) along the Citywide Parks and Recreation Network (Strategic Bold Move Tool) and in locations with community centres, multiple playing fields, destination playgrounds, beaches, and other key destinations where people stay for a few hours and engage in food learning and programming.

- VanPlay Local Food Asset Need: Improve infrastructure to support farmers markets.

## 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.*

Global issues like climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic impact every aspect of our food system. Park Board food assets and services can contribute to long-term food system resiliency and also support other City of Vancouver sustainability strategies and ensure accountability during implementation.

#### Policy Rationale:

- VanPlay Local Food Service Need: Enhance resiliency by incorporating post-disaster food planning at community centres.
- City of Vancouver Biodiversity Strategy
- City of Vancouver Zero Waste 2040



### VanPlay Asset Needs<sup>17</sup>:

- Consider adding appropriate food nodes (i.e., gardens, local markets, mobile food vendors or concessions, community kitchens) along the Citywide Parks and Recreation Network (Strategic Bold Move Tool) and in locations with community centres, multiple playing fields, destination playgrounds, beaches and other key destinations where people stay for a few hours and engage in food learning and programming.
- Increase inclusive local food projects and access to healthy, culturally diverse, local, and sustainable food in parks and at community centres.
- Improve infrastructure to support farmers markets.



### VanPlay Service Needs<sup>18</sup>:

- Implement recommendations from the Park Board Concession Strategy: A Fresh Approach (2018).
- Update Park Board's Local Food Action Plan (2013).
- Enhance resiliency by incorporating post-disaster food planning at community centres.

### VanPlay Asset Targets<sup>19</sup>:

- All new community gardens on Park Board managed land have at least 50% of total area dedicated to collective food growing.
- Complete at least one project per year that supports sharing and gathering to cook or eat food.



### VanPlay Approach for Action R.3 Local Food<sup>20</sup>:

Support access to sustainable, local and healthy food.

- R.3.1 - Encourage food-focused programming and infrastructure for formal and informal gatherings that facilitate growing, cooking, eating, and sharing of food in parks and community centres.
- R.3.2 - Work with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations and Urban Aboriginal communities to support Indigenous food systems in parks and recreation.
- R.3.3 - Facilitate access to local, secure, healthy food through concessions and restaurant partners (leases), community centre kitchens, farmers markets, community gardens, and field houses (Update the Local Food Action Plan).





## Responsibility

Actions are classified by which Park Board or City department will lead or support implementation, while taking into consideration that cross-departmental collaboration and partnerships will be needed to move towards implementation.

## Supporting Policy and Reports

There are other Park Board or City policies, plans, and reports that either support or can help achieve Actions. However, many of the Actions proposed are new initiatives that will require new resources and partnerships to implement.

## Indicators

Indicators are identified for each Action to track progress made during implementation. Unlike action plans with easily quantifiable outcomes, a plan that emphasizes relationships and social equity will require new and different indicators to determine success. Therefore, non-traditional indicators are provided for evaluation purposes.

## Timing

Timing estimates are based on anticipated time it will take to implement an Action. In some cases, Actions will be ongoing or relational in nature and will therefore be tracked for their long-term success rather than for completion. Timing takes into consideration current and additionally required staff capacity and should remain flexible as required to work with partners' timelines. Table 4 categorizes timing for implementation.

Timing	
Underway	has begun and will occur continuously
Short-term	1-2 years
Medium-term	3-4 years
Long-term	5+ years

**TABLE 4:** TIMING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS

## Cost

Cost estimates are based on the anticipated costs to implement an Action over five years. In some cases, Actions could vary in cost depending on whether they are implemented through partnerships, staff time, or grants. Cost takes into consideration capital costs such as project materials and associated staff time for implementation. Table 5 categorizes cost for implementation.

Cost (over a five-year period)	
Low	Less than \$10,000
Medium	\$10,000-\$100,000
High	\$100,000+

**TABLE 5:** COST FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS

The costs estimated for implementation of all Actions and associated staffing over five years, based on a rough order of magnitude, range from \$1,500,000 to \$4,810,000 capital costs. The actual costs will depend on direction set by the Park

Board and management, changing costs of project materials, depth of involvement from MST, and staff time allocated to implementation, and will be refined throughout the implementation process.

While some Actions can be addressed with existing resources or through current projects underway, new funding will be required for many of the Actions and associated staffing. Funding will be sought through the four-year Capital Planning process, partnerships, and co-funding opportunities. Commitments to Reconciliation and equity will need to be prioritized in funding requests. The implementation of these Actions will likely create annual operating requirements. This required budget funding request will need to be addressed through the operating impact of the capital investment process as part of the overall City of Vancouver budget process.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

***"When leaders prioritize the community's voice there is a level of witnessing that can support their accountability."*** (Community Advisory Committee Member)

To ensure accountability and measure impact, it will be important to monitor and evaluate the progress of the following Actions. To facilitate the monitoring process, the Park Board will work with the City of Vancouver to apply the *Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Monitoring Framework* and will evaluate progress annually for the five-year span of the plan, at which time it will need to undergo an update.



# GOAL 1

## CENTRE INDIGENOUS VOICES IN FOOD SYSTEM WORK TO HONOUR THE TEACHING THAT “FOOD IS MEDICINE”

	Action	Responsibility	Supporting Policy or Report	Indicators	Timing	Cost
1.1	Work together to draft a new type of agreement between Park Board and Indigenous Cultural Practitioners to frame Indigenous cultural practice as a land use typology, similar to Community Gardens or Stewardship Groups. Ensure the agreement incorporates Indigenous principles such as reciprocity and Indigenous sovereignty and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətał rights and title.	Planning & Park Development Led  Decolonization, Arts & Culture Supported	Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values  VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets  VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.2	Conversations are continuing with new and existing Indigenous partners  Agreement completed  Agreement being used	Underway	Low
1.2	Work with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətał First Nations and Urban Indigenous communities to identify and convert preferred sites within the parks and recreation system for Indigenous-centred spaces. This includes parks being considered for renewal. This can include spaces for celebrating Indigenous foods, offering Indigenous-centred community food programming, Indigenous food growing, naturalizing areas for foraging, and creating a space of healing.	Planning & Park Development  Park Operations & Decolonization, Arts & Culture & Recreation Services Supported	Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values  VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets  VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.2, 3.3	Conversations are continuing with Indigenous leaders and partners  # spaces identified	Underway	High
1.3	Audit relevant policy, guidelines and by-laws that may prohibit or impact Indigenous food sovereignty and equitable access to food assets and services.	Decolonization, Arts & Culture Led  Planning & Park Development and Park Operations Supported	Truth-Telling: Indigenous Perspectives on Working with Local Government (2017)  Vancouver Community Leaders on the Role of Food in Cultural Inclusion and Engagement Report  Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values	Documents are audited	Short-term	Low



	Action	Responsibility	Supporting Policy or Report	Indicators	Timing	Cost
1.4	Prioritize resources to co-create story-telling tools (signage, newsletters) at existing and new cultural learning gardens.	Planning & Park Development Led Decolonization, Arts & Culture Supported & Park Operations Supported	Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.2, 3.3	Cultural learning garden partners are using the story-telling resources provided	Medium-term	Low
1.5	Develop a training session on Indigenous Rights and Title as it relates to Food Sovereignty and foraging in parks. Train staff and partners (such as Park Rangers, Urban Forestry staff, Stanley Park Ecology Society staff, and others) likely to encounter foragers.	Planning & Park Development Led Decolonization, Arts & Culture & Park Operations Supported	Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values VanPlay Approach for Action R. 3.2	# staff trained MST community members are able to forage in parks Conversations are continuing with Indigenous leaders and partners	Medium-term	Low
1.6	Increase annual resources (land, funding, staff time, program space, and materials) allocated to cultural learning garden development and maintenance and seek partnerships with Indigenous-led organizations to create these gardens based on park locations identified by xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliwətał First Nations and Urban Indigenous peoples as key sites.	Planning & Park Development Led Decolonization, Arts & Culture Supported	Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.2, 3.3 VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets (50% collective gardening)	m² of land \$ amount funding allocated New and existing Indigenous-led organizations are working with the Park Board	Long-term	High
1.7	Increase annual resources (funding, staff time, program space and materials) for Indigenous-related food initiatives led by Indigenous partners. Initiatives this funding may support include Indigenous educational toolkits, feasts, celebrations, fieldhouse residencies, youth land-based food programs, intergenerational food knowledge sharing, and the services of Indigenous cultural practitioners.	Decolonization, Arts & Culture Led Recreation Services, Planning & Park Development Supported	Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.2, 3.3 VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets (1 food event per year)	\$ amount funding allocated # initiatives supported New and existing Indigenous partners are requesting / receiving funding	Long-term	High





## IMPROVE EQUITY IN PARK BOARD FOOD ASSETS, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS

	Action	Responsibility	Supporting Policy or Report	Indicators	Timing	Cost
2.1	In collaboration with City of Vancouver Engineering, develop Park Board Boulevard Gardening Guidelines for boulevards adjacent to parks to enable increased low-barrier access to small-scale growing spaces. Target boulevard gardens in priority areas (as per Map 9).	Planning & Park Development Led  City of Vancouver Engineering & Park Operations Supported	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets  VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.3  Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values	Guidelines developed and made public  # of new boulevard gardens  # of equity-denied groups who are stewarding a boulevard garden	Underway	Low
2.2	Improve kitchen infrastructure and access by considering community centre kitchens as priority spaces in the Community Centre Strategy (underway) and collaborating with CCAs, community partners, Indigenous partners, and staff when renovating an existing kitchen or designing a new kitchen to ensure kitchens accommodate short and long-term intended use, including use in post-disaster food response.	Planning & Park Development & Real Estate and Facilities Management Led  Food and Beverage Park Operations Supported  Recreation Services supported	City-affiliated Facility Kitchens Design Guidelines  Community Centre Strategy (underway)  VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets  VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.3	Kitchens considered priority spaces in the Community Centre Strategy  New and renovated Community Centre kitchens support intended use	Underway	Low
2.3	Revise the Urban Agriculture Expression of Interest (EOI) process to prioritize cultural learning gardens, equity-denied groups, priority areas (as per Map 9) and VanPlay targets of 50%+ garden area being collectively grown. Streamline the application and intake process, decision-making criteria, and community engagement process. Prioritized groups and projects can move forward with General Manager approval rather than Board approval. Provide collective gardening educational resources focused on creating space where equity-denied groups feel safe, confident, and supported.	Planning & Park Development Led  City of Vancouver Arts, Culture, & Community Service Supported  Decolonization, Arts & Culture Supported	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets (50% collective gardening)  VanPlay Approach for Action R. 3.3	EOI process is updated and opened for intake  EOIs are being prioritized in priority areas and for equity-denied groups  Equity-denied groups are applying and willing to work with the Park Board	Short-term	Low



	Action	Responsibility	Supporting Policy or Report	Indicators	Timing	Cost
2.4	Review and revise the <i>Park Board Urban Agriculture Policy</i> and the <i>Urban Agriculture Garden Guidelines</i> to align with the 2021 LFSAP and the revised EOI process.	Planning & Park Development Led Decolonization, Arts & Culture Supported	VanPlay 2040 Asset needs VanPlay Approach for Action R. 3.1, 3.2	The <i>Park Board Urban Agriculture Policy</i> and the <i>Urban Agriculture Garden Guidelines</i> are revised	Short-term	Low
2.5	Identify successful free, pay as you can, and low cost food-based programs and work with CCAs and staff to integrate successes and learnings at high priority and underutilized Community Centres (as per Map 11).	Recreation Services & Decolonization, Arts & Culture Led Planning & Park Development Supported	Healthy City Strategy - Feeding Ourselves Well VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets VanPlay Approach for Action R. 3.1, 3.3	CCAs and staff have additional resources to support their work	Short-term	Low
2.6	Commit to annual funding support for an ongoing intercultural food sharing event, that culminates from a series of engagements happening throughout the year, to foster dialogues and bring people across different cultures together and ensure stability for long-term relationship building.	Decolonization, Arts & Culture Led Recreation Services & Planning & Park Development Supported	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.3 Truth-Telling: Indigenous Perspectives on Working with Local Government (2017) Vancouver Community Leaders on the Role of Food in Cultural Inclusion and Engagement Report (Recommendations 1a, 1b)	Intercultural food sharing event funded annually	Short-term	High
2.7	Amend the current permitting policy and process to include an equity-based guideline and criteria as it relates to food services and events.	Business Services Led Environmental & Stewardship Supported	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.2, 3.3	Amended permitting policy and process that includes an equity guideline	Medium-term	Low



	Action	Responsibility	Supporting Policy or Report	Indicators	Timing	Cost
2.8	As garden licence agreements are up for renewal, work with garden groups to transition towards 50% collective food growing area and increase access and benefit to more people, and to integrate updated policies. Provide collective gardening educational resources focused on creating space where equity-denied groups feel safe, confident, and supported. This action would require garden management staff to oversee the transition process and ensure broader participation.	Planning & Park Development Led	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets (50% collective gardening) VanPlay Approach for Action R. 3.3	# of gardens with 50%+ collective food growing spaces. # of households/groups benefiting from gardens # equity-denied groups participating in gardens	Long-term	High
2.9	Collaborate with CCAs and Park Board recreation staff to explore increasing food and garden programming for and by equity-denied groups. This could include using the VanPlay Test <sup>21</sup> in selection of food programming and workshops, recruiting food and garden practitioners from equity-denied groups to lead programming at community centres as program staff and/or instructors, increasing the allocation of programming budgets for these programs and compensating food practitioners accordingly, developing leadership opportunities, and working with CCAs to update kitchen policies to include equity-based priorities and offer staff training to ensure food practitioners feel culturally safe and supported.	Recreation Services & Decolonization, Arts & Culture Led Planning & Park Development Supported	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.3	# and % food programs led by food practitioners from equity-denied groups People from equity-denied groups are participating in programs % of food programming budget allocated # kitchen policies updated	Long-term	High
2.10	Create opportunities for community-based data gathering and interpretation as locations for new food assets and services are being determined in priority areas (see Map 8).	Park Board Planning & Development Led	Van Play Bold Moves (page 25)	Equity-denied groups are participating in data gathering and interpretation	Long-term	Low





## STRENGTHEN FOOD PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION TO SUPPORT A SUSTAINABLE AND JUST FOOD ECONOMY

	Action	Responsibility	Supporting Policy or Report	Indicators	Timing	Cost
<b>3.1</b>	Continue partnering with UBC Land and Food Systems, CityStudio Vancouver, and other academic partners to increase capacity for research, monitoring, engagement, and educational resource development for Park Board food assets and services.	Environmental & Stewardship Led	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.3	# partnerships # students projects completed	Underway	Low
<b>3.2</b>	Dedicate additional staff time to the implementation of the 2021 LFSAP. These roles can include 1FTE position to oversee the implementation of the LFAP, 1FTE position to address food security and accessibility in parks and recreation, and 1FTE position to coordinate food and culture gardens. Staff will require specialized skills in community development (e.g. community capacity-building, intercultural relationship-building, fundraising, improving equitable access, and working within a decolonized approach).	Park Board Planning & Development Led  Decolonization, Arts & Culture & Recreation Services Supported	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets VanPlay R.3.1, 3.2, 3.3  A Vancouver Park Board Role of Food in Cultural Inclusion Report on Research and Relationship-Building	2021 LFSAP is being implemented and evaluated	Short-term	High (includes all operational costs)
<b>3.3</b>	Identify two fieldhouses in high priority areas (see Map 12) to be designated for local food activations by 2022 as part of the Fieldhouse Activation Program (FHAP) to address gaps in food asset and service provision.	Environmental & Stewardship Led  Park Operations Supported	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets VanPlay Approach for Action R.1.1, R.3.3	# fieldhouses dedicated to local food # community organizations accessing fieldhouse # activation hours and # community members benefiting from activations	Short-term	Low-high (depending on which fieldhouses are chosen)



	Action	Responsibility	Supporting Policy or Report	Indicators	Timing	Cost
3.4	Establish a food systems steering committee of cross-departmental Park Board staff leading food and garden initiatives in order to streamline and facilitate implementation. Meet quarterly with City of Vancouver staff leading food and garden work to support city-wide food planning.	Environmental & Stewardship Led	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets VanPlay Asset Need VanPlay Approach for Action R.1.1, R.3.3	Steering committee established and meeting regularly	Short-term	Low
3.5	Prioritize business relationships with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətaɬ food businesses and suppliers through leases, contracts and supplier selection to enable more economic opportunities through Park Board food retail.	Business Services Decolonization, Arts & Culture Supported	Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.2, R.3.3	MST businesses are engaging with the Park Board	Short-term	Low
3.6	Work with CCAs, community centre staff, fieldhouse proponents, and concession stand operators to partner as locations (e.g. on-site storage) for community food markets in priority areas (see Map 13) to help address gaps in food access. Develop partnerships with organizations who aim to make low cost food available. Integrate community food markets into food programming with focus on healthy, sustainable, culturally diverse and local food options.	Planning & Park Development Led Recreation Services & Decolonization, Arts & Culture & Business Services & Park Operations Supported	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.3	# markets, partnerships, programs # people who use the market The markets carry affordable food options that are local, healthy, sustainable and culturally diverse.	Medium-term	Low
3.7	Facilitate collaboration between food and culture gardens and community food programs in priority areas (see Maps 10 and 13) to provide mutually beneficial opportunities for learning about growing, cooking, eating, and sharing food.	Decolonization, Arts & Culture & Recreation Services Led Environmental & Stewardship Supported	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.2, 3.3	Programmers, instructors, and garden leaders are creating new programs	Medium-term	Low



	Action	Responsibility	Supporting Policy or Report	Indicators	Timing	Cost
3.8	Explore options for longer-term tenure to increase stability at farmers markets and community food markets locations. Conduct an analysis to determine which Park Board sites can accommodate and benefit from longer-term market infrastructure (e.g.. bike racks, signage, water access, washrooms, etc.)	Business Services Led  Environmental & Stewardship Supported	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets  VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.3	Long-term tenure options for markets have been identified  Analysis of PB sites has been conducted  Findings are communicated with market partners	Medium-term	Low
3.9	In partnership with CCAs, work towards balancing demand on community centres kitchens and programs city-wide and in priority areas (see Map 11). Target resources to high demand community centre kitchens and explore options for increasing the use of low demand underutilized community centre kitchens.	Park Board Planning & Development & Recreation Services Led	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets  VanPlay Asset Need  VanPlay Approach for Action R.1.1, R.3.3	Residents in priority areas are able to access programs	Long-term	Medium



## BUILD LONG-TERM FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND INCREASE BIODIVERSITY

	Action	Responsibility	Supporting Policy or Report	Indicators	Timing	Cost
4.1	Identify opportunities to create new pollinator gardens/edible landscapes in under-utilized areas of parks. Support operation staff in growing pollinator plants in existing horticulture beds by creating pollinator plant and procurement guidelines, developing long-term maintenance plans, and increasing funding for the maintenance of naturally managed spaces.	Park Operations led  Planning & Park Development Supported	Biodiversity Strategy  VanPlay Approach for Action R. 3.1, 3.2, 3.3	Amount of area transitioned  Biodiversity increase	Underway	High



	Action	Responsibility	Supporting Policy or Report	Indicators	Timing	Cost
4.2	Provide progress updates at Vancouver Food Policy Council (VFPC) meetings to ensure progress and accountability on the actions in this plan. Ensure VFPC feedback is communicated to relevant staff teams.	Planning & Park Development Led	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets	Monthly updates are provided to the VFPC VFPC members providing feedback	Underway	Low
4.3	Partner with a community stewardship organization to establish an Indigenous food forest to increase the urban forest canopy and create accessible educational opportunities in a park in a high priority area (as per Map 10).	Planning & Park Development Led Park Operations Supported	Urban Forest Strategy (2018) VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets VanPlay Approach for Action R. 3.1, 3.3	One Indigenous food forest is established in a park	Underway	Medium
4.4	Create educational signage for the public on how to harvest from food trees in parks (stewarded by Park Board) to ensure seasonally appropriate harvesting, safe harvesting practices, and increased harvest. Explore a partnership with an organization dedicated to food tree stewardship and harvesting.	Planning & Park Development Led Park Operations Supported	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets VanPlay Approach for Action R. 3.1, 3.3 Urban Forest Strategy	All PB stewarded trees have signage Food trees are being harvested safely and seasonally	Short-term	Low
4.5	Allocate specialist urban forestry staff time or partner with a community stewardship organization to maintain existing food trees on Park Board/City land. Explore the feasibility and determine an approach (i.e. possible models, required resources, and partnership opportunities) for planting additional food trees on Park Board/City land and private property to increase the urban forest canopy. Prioritize new food trees in priority areas (as per Map 10).	Park Operations Led	Urban Forest Strategy (2018) VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets VanPlay Approach for Action R. 3.1, 3.3	Park Board stewarded food trees are being properly maintained The feasibility and approach for planting additional food trees is determined.	Short-term	Med-high (depending on if staff time or partner)
4.6	Pilot a horticulture garden learning opportunity (i.e. a program and/or a horticulture display) with Park Board garden staff in partnership with a community centre in a high priority area (see Map 15) where garden staff offer gardening education opportunities for community members at existing Park Board horticulture gardens. Evaluate pilot and implement at additional sites if successful.	Park Operations Led Planning & Park Development Supported Recreation Services supported	Biodiversity Strategy VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.3	Garden program developed, evaluated, and piloted # of participants	Short-term	Low



	Action	Responsibility	Supporting Policy or Report	Indicators	Timing	Cost
4.7	Participate in the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Emergency Management Agency COVID-19 emergency food response debrief and planning for future responses to hazards. Identify and commit Park Board food assets and services (i.e. land, facilities, infrastructure, staff, programs, etc.) that could be used in an emergency food response and develop agreements and processes for operations post-disaster.	City of Vancouver Arts Culture Community Service Led  Vancouver Emergency Management Agency & Park Board Supported	VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets  VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.3  Vancouver Build Back Better  Resilient Vancouver Strategy	Park Board participated in planning and implementation  Park Board food assets and services identified and agreements are established	Short-term	Low
4.8	Use the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Monitoring Framework (see Monitoring and Evaluation on page 83) in partnership with the City of Vancouver to measure progress, harmonize the data collected, and to facilitate knowledge sharing with other municipalities in Canada and around the world that also use this framework.	Planning & Park Development Led	Milan Urban Food Policy Pact  VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets  VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.2, 3.3	Park Board is contributing to the monitoring framework	Short-term	Low
4.9	Partner with a food and culture garden group to develop a small-scale community compost education site to promote composting and educate the public on cycling nutrients from organic materials back into the soil.	Planning & Park Development Led	VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.3  Rewilding Vancouver: An Environmental Education & Stewardship Action Plan	Partnership is established  Site is developed  # participants  Amount of organic material that is kept on site and cycled back into the soil	Medium-term	Low



	Action	Responsibility	Supporting Policy or Report	Indicators	Timing	Cost
4.10	Establish a standard food recovery and donation procedure for all Park Board food retail locations in accordance with the <i>Vancouver Coastal Health's Food Standards</i> to support a closed-loop food system. Prioritize donations to Park Board and City programs in priority areas (see Map 11). Once the procedure is developed, reduce end of season concession stand waste by 10% and recover 50% of food per clubhouse kitchen event.	Business Services Led Planning & Park Development & Recreation Services Supported	Vancouver Coastal Health Food Standards (2018) Park Board Concession Strategy: A Fresh Approach (2018) VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.3	Standard procedure is created and implemented # food retail locations working with Park Board on food recovery End of season concession stand waste reduced by 10% and clubhouse kitchen food recovered by 50% per event	Medium-term	Low
4.11	Ensure the 2021 LFSAP is considered as parks undergo renewal, acquisition, and infrastructure is built or renovated (e.g. fieldhouses or washrooms). Develop internal garden site selection guidelines to inform the implementation of future food and culture gardens (garden requirements and design details to be determined through engagement). Flag fieldhouses as having high potential to support food assets and services.	Park Board Planning & Development Led		Local food system assets, services, and actions are being flagged in park development processes Site selection guidelines are written	Medium-term	Low
4.12	Contract a service provider to pilot the use of reusable food service ware such as cups, food containers and cutlery at one Park Board food retail site. Evaluate pilot and implement at additional sites if successful.	Business Services Led	VanPlay Approach for Action R.3.1, 3.3	Pilot is running and under evaluation Number of single use items reduced Other sites starting to use reusables	Long-term	Medium





**PICTURE:** RILEY PARK FIELDHOUSE, RILEY PARK GARDEN GROUP



## CONCLUSION

The City of Vancouver is facing numerous local food system challenges, including rising levels of food insecurity, barriers to Indigenous food sovereignty, and the impacts of COVID-19 and climate change. With jurisdiction over 1160 hectares of land, numerous recreation facilities, funding and staff capacity, the Park Board is in a position to contribute to addressing these issues. By increasing access to Park Board land,

resources, and facilities for food-based initiatives that are grounded in equity and Reconciliation, the Park can contribute to a healthy local food system and meet key organizational directives. With the approval of this plan and the implementation of the actions herein, the Park Board will be able to deliver on its vision 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. The Vancouver Board of Parks and

Recreation hopes this work will set a precedent in food systems planning at the municipal, provincial, national, and even international scale and that it will encourage all levels of governments to reflect on their potential to contribute to a decolonized, just, and sustainable local food system and subsequently inspire bold action for change.



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## 9.0 **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Collective Gardening:** Food and medicine growing spaces that benefit more than one household and/or group of people. There are many ways collective gardening can take place. Examples of collective gardening include shared plots, areas dedicated to organizations or community groups, harvesting for food sharing or donating to a community program, areas open for use by non-members, or co-ordinated group gardening efforts such as work parties or schedules for maintaining designated areas. The general goal is that more people will be able to benefit from the growing space.

**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.<sup>22</sup> While the term equity-seeking group was used by the Park Board in previous strategies<sup>23</sup>, this term has received criticism as it implies that these groups need to seek equity from those with privilege. The term equity-denied group is growing in use to acknowledge that these groups deserve equity.

**Food Assets/Services:** Resources, facilities, spaces, infrastructure, programs, systems, knowledge, organizations, relationships, and policies related to a local food system.

**Food Security/Insecurity:** 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." Conversely, someone is considered to be facing food insecurity when they are unable to access a sufficient quantity of affordable, safe, and nutritious food.

**Food Sovereignty:** According to the Declaration of Nyéléni, "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"<sup>24</sup>. 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"<sup>25</sup>.

**Naturally Managed:** Areas of parks that are intentionally minimally managed, relatively undisturbed in an urban context, contain native plant species, and provide wildlife habitat. In Vancouver's park system these include forests, ponds, wetlands, stream riparian zones, some sections of coast, meadows, treed areas without mown understorey, and un-

manicured sections of golf courses.

**Land Back:** an Indigenous-led movement aimed at restoring Indigenous control over colonized lands. Land back can take many forms and can be demonstrated in a number of ways, including governments, organizations and individuals literally "giving land back" to Indigenous communities. It can also take the form of regaining stewardship over lands. At its core, land back is about the right for Indigenous Peoples to have self-determination on the land.

**Transactional Relationships:** typically short-term and focused on getting to a desired outcome whereas relational relationships are about building trust over the long-term and are mutually beneficial.

### Acronyms

- **CCAs:** Community Centre Associations
- **2013 LFAP:** 2013 Local Food Action Plan
- **2021 LFSAP:** 2021 Local Food Systems Actions Plan
- **FHAP:** Fieldhouse Activation Program
- **NFPs:** Non-profit societies
- **BIPOC:** Black, Indigenous, and people of colour.
- **MST:** Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh
- **DTES:** Downtown Eastside
- **EIZ:** Equity Initiative Zone



VANCOUVER PARK BOARD  
LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM  
***ACTION PLAN***

