



# Promoting Inclusivity of Community Gardens



## Brewery Creek Community Garden

### The Issue

How can we increase **inclusivity** and public awareness of growing food in **Vancouver community parks**?

### Our Goal

To create a more inclusive community garden experience for park visitors using interpretive signage

### Why It Matters

The Park Board's mission is to provide, preserve, and advocate for parks and recreation services to benefit all people, communities, and the environment.<sup>1</sup>

There are currently **230<sup>1</sup> public parks** in Vancouver with **24<sup>2</sup> community gardens on Park Board land.**

- Community gardens:**
- reconnect people in urban settings by allowing them to grow food together
  - provide an opportunity for the community members to come together to address community food security



Being in the garden for me is about the feeling of connection - to the community, to family, to the soil, and to the food we eat.

-community garden member



### How We Approached The Issue



### What We Found

#### Responses from the Workshop

3 Participants

Q1: What does a community look like?

#### Keywords:

- 1 Connectivity
- 2 Belonging
- 3 Learning
- 4 Sharing
- 5 Welcomeness
- 6 Meeting

“ A community garden is:

- a place for connecting different members of the neighborhood
- a place for learning and sharing of experiences and resources
- a place that promotes support, acceptance, and inclusivity

-community garden members

Q2: What is a welcoming space?

#### People feel most welcomed into a space when:

- there is welcoming and clear signage
- the space hosts activities and events

Q3: What do garden members want the public to know?

- geographic history of the Brewery Creek neighborhood
- community garden history
- respect for gardeners' plots

### Take Home Message

- Storytelling is a helpful method to connect people.
- Welcoming signage is a stepping stone towards inclusivity.



### References

1. The City of Vancouver (2018). Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation. Retrieved from: <https://vancouver.ca/your-government/vancouver-board-of-parks-and-recreation.aspx>
2. Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (2013). The Local Food Action Plan of the Vancouver Park Board. Retrieved from: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/Local-food-action-plan.pdf>

