

Urban Agriculture Policy In Vancouver BC

OUR MISSION

One of the City of Vancouver's Greenest City Goals is to increase the amount of local food produced. Community gardens are one of the targeted methods for increasing the amount of food produced in the city and building community.

Increasing accessibility to information regarding funding and the policies that impact community gardens contribute towards reducing the barriers to starting community gardens.

From our project, we hope to reduce barriers to informed civil society planning and advocacy around community gardening issues.

OBJECTIVES

1. To better understand the complexity of individual municipal policies and practices with regards to community gardens, including zoning, by-laws and start-up processes.
2. To compile Vancouver community gardens municipal and regional policies, as well as supporting documents into one, centralized document.

KEY CONCEPTS

Community gardens "can be an important way to gain access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally or ethnically acceptable food"³



Community food security defined as a situation in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes self-reliance and social justice.⁴

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



The Public Health Association of BC has a vision of "a fair and healthy British Columbia for all."¹



The faculty of land and food systems is "where science meets society's urgent needs."²



PHABC's project, Can You Dig It (CYDI), aims to:

Achieve better health and wellbeing for British Columbians

Connect and empower people with different backgrounds and abilities

Support the development of, and participation in, community gardens

Community gardens "can be one type of response, as long as participants try to address their limitations, struggles, and challenges such as social inaccessibility and social exclusion".



Food justice is defined as "ensuring that the benefits and risks of where, what, and how food is grown and produced, transported and distributed, and accessed, and eaten are shared fairly".

WHAT DID WE DO?



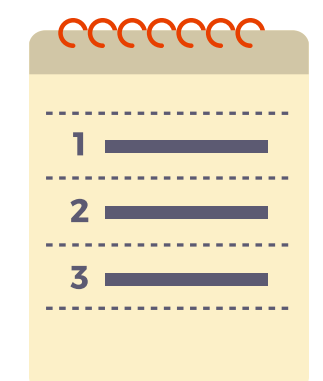
ANALYZED 8 POLICY DOCUMENTS

- Vancouver Guide to Community Gardens
- Parks Master Plan
- Vancouver Food Strategy
- Vancouver Charter
- Official Development Plan
- Corporate Plan
- Greenest City 2020
- Zoning and Development By-Laws



RESEARCHED AND IDENTIFIED PUBLIC COMMUNITY GARDENS

- Name
- Address
- Website
- Land Type (Park board, City, other)
- Type of Community Garden



REVIEWED AND IDENTIFIED STEPS TO START A COMMUNITY GARDEN

- Type of Urban Agriculture Project
- Location
- Project Feasibility
- Community Partnerships
- Community Support



CHARACTERIZED 8 TYPES OF COMMUNITY GARDENS

1. Allotment Gardens
2. Community Shared Gardens
3. Backyard Gardens
4. Temporary Gardens
5. Healing Gardens
6. Community Orchards
7. Victory Gardens
8. Institutional Gardens



1 Comprehensive Report

FINDINGS

vancouver policies are aimed to increase the participation and efficacy of community gardens

Land use policies in vancouver can be scattered across multiple documents.

IMPLICATIONS

our document can help enhance and support more community gardens



contributes to **improved** local food production and community development

NEXT STEPS

submit our report to phabc for reviewing, revising, and publishing to be easily accessible to the public

compile reports on community gardens from all across bc so that they can be accessed in one central location

evaluate which policies contribute to success in community gardens to improve existing or future community gardens

SIGNIFICANCE: Highlighting key policies and supporting documents contribute to reducing barriers to informed civil society planning and helps enhance the understanding of our political environment surrounding community gardens

REFERENCES

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5. Gottlieb, R. and Joshi, A., 2010. *Food justice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
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