Quantifying food and culture garden attributes as spaces for equitable access, climate action and community resilience

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DISCLAIMER

This report was produced as part of the UBC Sustainability Scholars Program, a partnership between the University of British Columbia and various local governments and organizations in support of providing graduate students with opportunities to do applied research on projects that advance sustainability across the region. This project was conducted under the mentorship of the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Park Board staff. The opinions and recommendations in this report and any errors are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Park Board or the University of British Columbia.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021, the Vancouver Park Board reaffirmed its commitment to advancing local food systems through its update to the Local Food System Action Plan. It emphasizes the need for sustainable, just, and decolonized food systems by prioritizing Indigenous food sovereignty, equitable access to food assets, and climate action. Community gardens play an integral role in this vision as essential food assets and community hubs that foster sustainability, social interaction and urban greening.

Building on these principles, this project aimed to evaluate the role of community gardens on park and city-managed lands in promoting community and climate resilience. By collaborating with the Park and Street Activity departments, the project developed a consistent methodology for assessing these gardens' contributions to these policy goals. The findings of this research highlight the diversity and adaptability of gardens that promote resilience, equity, and justice. There is no one-size-fits-all model for gardens as they vary in priorities and are reflective of the communities that they serve. The report also acknowledges that while the design of a garden plays a significant influence in its use, the animation of these spaces is often shaped by the underlying organizational structure and programming in place.

To gain a more comprehensive understanding of community gardens, this report recommends expanding future research to evaluate garden governance structure and programming to provide a more holistic analysis of their impact on community and climate resilience.

INTRODUCTION

In 2021, the Vancouver Park Board (VPB) approved the updated vision of the Local Food Systems Action Plan (LFSAP) – which is "to move towards a sustainable, just, and decolonized local food systems by making space for Indigenous food sovereignty, increasing equitable access to food assets and services, and working towards food system resiliency as a part of climate action." As stated in the Vancouver Food Strategy, community gardens are powerful community food assets and gathering places that promote sustainability, neighbourhood livability, urban greening, community building, intergenerational activity, social interaction, crime reduction, exercise and food production.

Recognizing their potential and building on the 2023 UBC Sustainability Scholar report Decolonizing Local Food Systems Policy, this project would like to further examine the ways community food and culture gardens on park and city-managed lands are potential hubs for demonstrating shifts toward more decolonized, sustainable and climate-friendly relationships with the land. The purpose of this project is a collaboration between Park and Street Activity departments to create a consistent methodology for evaluating how community gardens on park, engineering, and other city-managed land in Vancouver contribute to community and climate resilience. In addition, this report shares recommendations on future data collection and research to ensure policy objectives are influencing the design and purpose of community food and culture gardens.

This project was co-supervised by staff from the Vancouver Park Board and Engineering Services in producing this report.

1

VANCOUVER'S FOOD POLICY FRAMEWORK

VANCOUVER'S FOOD POLICY FRAMEWORK

Food System staff are spread across three service groups in the city, namely Arts, Culture and Community Services (ACCS), Engineering Services (ENG) and Parks and Recreation (P&R). For a more detailed description of each policy document, please see the annotated bibliography in Appendix A.

The following summarizes the key takeaways from the different levels of the food policy framework, from the high level:

- Strategic plans,
- Food system policies, to
- Guidelines directly influencing the operations of community gardens and urban agricultural practices.

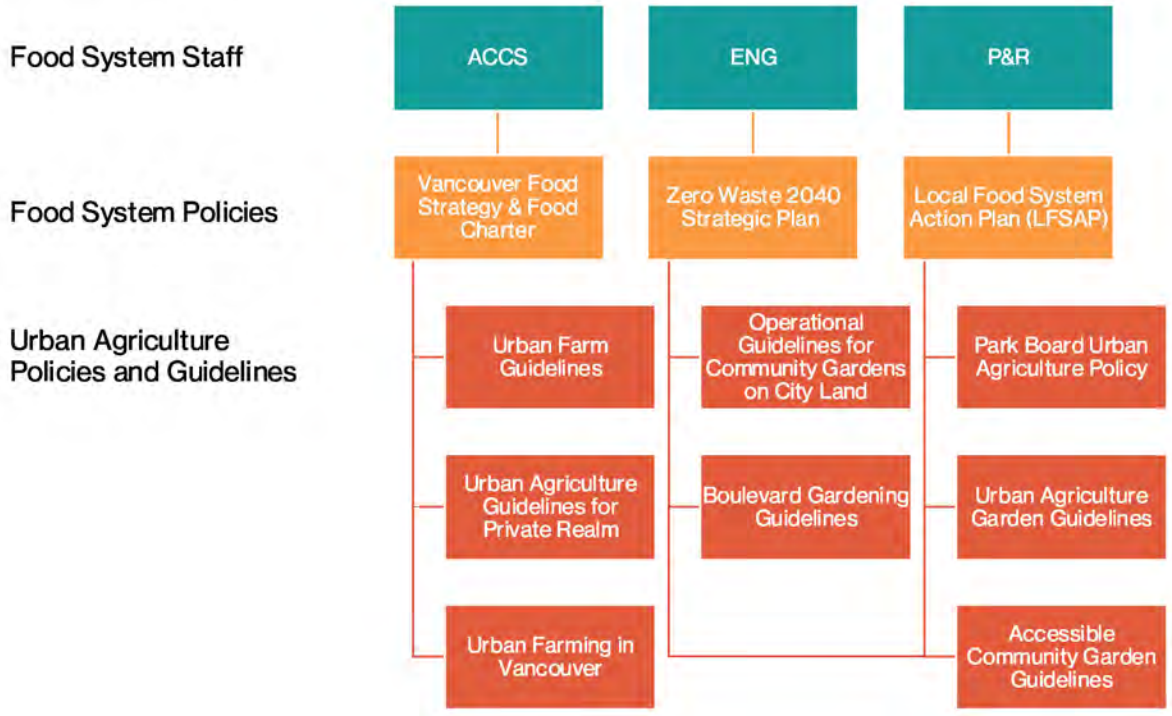


Figure 1: Vancouver's food policy structure and food system staff

1. Strategic Plans and Priorities

Relevant Policies: Vancouver Plan, Vibrant City Vancouver, VanPlay

- The theme of **equity** underlines the City's commitment to ensuring fair access to resources, services, and opportunities for all residents. This includes addressing housing affordability, supporting diverse cultural communities, and promoting access to healthy food and outdoor spaces.

- **Climate action** is a central theme across the strategic plans, reflecting the city's commitment to addressing the climate crisis and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Plans include strategies to mitigate climate effects, reduce carbon emissions, and encourage sustainable transportation options.

- **Community resilience** is a key focus area, recognizing the importance of building strong and resilient communities capable of adapting to and recovering from various challenges and disruptions. This involves supporting diverse neighbourhoods, local businesses, and essential services. The plans also emphasize safety and security through effective emergency response, recreation spaces, and social connections.

Figure 2 and 3: Vancouver Plan and VanPlay

2. Food Sytem Policies

Relevant Policies: Vancouver Food Charter 2007 (CoV), Vancouver Food Strategy 2013 (CoV), Local Food System Action Plan 2021 (VPB)

- The City of Vancouver's food policies are primarily guided by **sustainability**. They focus heavily on reviewing and updating existing policy frameworks to facilitate the creation of more food assets. There is a strong emphasis on creating a **sustainable food economy** through policies that support local farmers, producers and the creation of food markets. **Ecosystem diversity** is enhanced through food assets such as edible landscapes, urban farms, and community gardens.

- The Vancouver Park Board's food policy adopts an **equity** lens with a strong focus on programming and efforts in **decolonization**. The VPB takes on an advocacy role by providing educational resources, workshops, and other community engagement activities to support Indigenous and equity-denied program partners. Commitment to equity is evident in its thorough approach to addressing **social justice** and its proactive stance in working with diverse community groups.

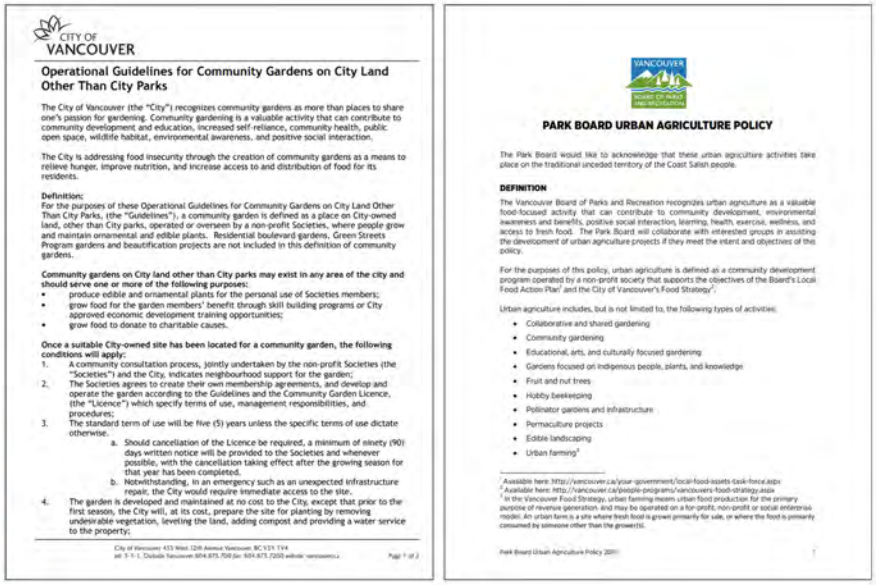
Figure 4 and 5: Vancouver Food Strategy and the Local Food System Action Plan

3. Community Garden Policies

Relevant Policies: Operational Guidelines for Community Gardens on City Land Other Than City Parks (CoV), Urban Agriculture Policy (VPB)

- While the Urban Agriculture Policy is prescriptive in nature, the City's Operational Guidelines for Community Gardens are more flexible. These policies and guidelines primarily focus on outlining the responsibilities of the City, the Park Board, and the gardens themselves.

- Neither the City nor the Park Board allocates dedicated resources for the ongoing management of these gardens, aside from conducting inspections when necessary. Additionally, these policies and guidelines do not mandate a specific design or governance structure for the gardens.



CITY OF VANCOUVER

Operational Guidelines for Community Gardens on City Land Other Than City Parks

The City of Vancouver (the "City") recognizes community gardens as more than places to share one's passion for gardening. Community gardening is a valuable activity that can contribute to community development and education, increased self-reliance, community health, public open space, wildlife habitat, environmental awareness, and positive social interaction.

The City is addressing food insecurity through the creation of community gardens as a means to relieve hunger, improve nutrition, and increase access to and distribution of food for its residents.

Definition:
For the purposes of these Operational Guidelines for Community Gardens on City Land Other Than City Parks, (the "Guidelines"), a community garden is defined as a place on City-owned land, other than City parks, operated or overseen by a non-profit Societies, where people grow and maintain ornamental and edible plants. Residential boulevard gardens, Green Streets Program gardens and beautification projects are not included in this definition of community gardens.

Community gardens on City land other than City parks may exist in any area of the city and should serve one or more of the following purposes:
- produce edible and ornamental plants for the personal use of Societies members;
- grow food for the garden members' benefit through skill building programs or City approved economic development training opportunities;
- grow food to donate to charitable causes.

Once a suitable City-owned site has been located for a community garden, the following conditions will apply:
1. A community consultation process, jointly undertaken by the non-profit Societies (the "Societies") and the City, indicates neighbourhood support for the garden;
2. The Societies agrees to create their own membership agreements, and develop and operate the garden according to the Guidelines and the Community Garden Licence, (the "Licence") which specify terms of use, management responsibilities, and procedures;
3. The standard term of use will be five (5) years unless the specific terms of use dictate otherwise.
   a. Should cancellation of the Licence be required, a minimum of ninety (90) days written notice will be provided to the Societies and whenever possible, with the cancellation taking effect after the growing season for that year has been completed.
   b. Notwithstanding, in an emergency such as an unexpected infrastructure repair, the City would require immediate access to the site.
4. The garden is developed and maintained at no cost to the City, except that prior to the first season, the City will, at its cost, prepare the site for planting by removing undesirable vegetation, leveling the land, adding compost and providing a water service to the property;

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PARK BOARD URBAN AGRICULTURE POLICY

The Park Board would like to acknowledge that these urban agriculture activities take place on the traditional unceded territory of the Coast Salish people.

DEFINITION

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation recognizes urban agriculture as a valuable food-focused activity that can contribute to community development, environmental awareness and benefits, positive social interaction, learning, health, exercise, wellness, and access to fresh food. The Park Board will collaborate with interested groups in assisting the development of urban agriculture projects if they meet the intent and objectives of this policy.

For the purposes of this policy, urban agriculture is defined as a community development program operated by a non-profit society that supports the objectives of the Board's Local Food Action Plan[1] and the City of Vancouver's Food Strategy[2].

Urban agriculture includes, but is not limited to, the following types of activities:
- Collaborative and shared gardening
- Community gardening
- Educational, arts, and culturally focused gardening
- Gardens focused on indigenous people, plants, and knowledge
- Fruit and nut trees
- Hobby beekeeping
- Pollinator gardens and infrastructure
- Permaculture projects
- Edible landscaping
- Urban farming[3]

[1] Available here: http://vancouver.ca/your-government/local-food-assets-task-force.aspx
[2] Available here: http://vancouver.ca/people-programs/vancouvers-food-strategy.aspx
[3] In the Vancouver Food Strategy, urban farming means urban food production for the primary purpose of revenue generation, and may be operated on a for-profit, non-profit or social enterprise model. An urban farm is a site where fresh food is grown primarily for sale, or where the food is primarily consumed by someone other than the grower(s).

Park Board Urban Agriculture Policy 2011

Figure 6 and 7: Operational Guidelines and Urban Agriculture Policy

2 CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDIES

Case Studies from other municipalities reveal shifting priorities in food system policies in North America. Moving beyond the concept of food security and accessibility, the policies reflect an increasing attention to food justice and cultural revitalization.

It is a recognition that inequity in the food system is a result of broader systemic issues and other factors. This includes but is not limited to the lack of representation from marginalized communities, social inequalities, poverty, colonization, racism, and inadequate resources/ support. The broader policy shift is seen in the adoption of equity-based metrics to measure policy performance and the change in policy languages.

Locally, Vancouver's LFSAP replaced "equity-seeking group" with "equity-denied group", as the former implies that members of the community have to seek equity from those in power/ a more privileged position while the latter points to the systems of oppression that created the injustice. It also differentiates "Indigenous food sovereignty" from "food sovereignty" to capture not only the fundamental impact climate change and land loss have had on Indigenous food-related cultural practices, but also the distinct historical and ongoing colonial harms aimed at Indigenous erasure within the local agricultural economies and governance.

CASE STUDY 1: DETROIT

The Detroit Food Policy Council (DFPC) was formed following the adoption of a food security policy by the City of Detroit in 2010. The challenges Detroit faces in its food system are heavily intertwined with its social inequalities, systemic racism, legacy of discriminatory urban planning practices, lack of representation in the food system, and inadequate resources and support for local organizations (Detroit Food Policy Council, n.d.). Hence, its food policy is centred around food security, defined as "the condition which exists when all of the members of a community have access, in close proximity, to adequate amounts of nutritious, culturally appropriate food at all times, from sources that are environmentally sound and just." In particular, it focuses on areas related to food access (spatially and financially), food insecurity, health, economic injustice, urban agriculture, education, and emergency response.

Partnership is the foundation of Detroit's food policy. DFPC emphasizes ongoing collaboration with the city's network of community-driven organizations that contribute to enhancing Detroit's food sovereignty. The vision of DFPC is a Detroit where residents can not only access affordable, adequate, and healthy food but also financially benefit from the city's food economy (Detroit Food Policy Council, 2010). Detroit is a recognized leader in urban agriculture because of its innovative efforts in converting vacant lots into urban farms and gardens. Despite its success, many of the urban farms are currently under significant threat of displacement or removal in parts of the city where there is increasing commercial and residential development pressure. Injustices in the food system often manifest in access to capital, acquiring land and infrastructure, training for job advancement, and the availability of local businesses.

To better understand and measure the impact of racial injustice in the food system, Michigan State University identifies a list of existing and suggested metrics related to racial equity in the food system. The metrics are divided into four themes: food access, food and farm business, food chain labour, and food movement. The report provides a foundation for organizations and governments to track their progress toward an equitable food system.

CASE STUDY 2: MINNEAPOLIS

Minneapolis' Food System Policy is a 10-year plan encapsulated in the Minneapolis Food Vision (MFV) and Action Plan, aiming to establish a resilient and equitable local food system by 2023. This vision is supported by the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative, a city-wide effort under the Minneapolis Health Department. A study by The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and Wilder Research identifies price and distance as the most significant barriers to healthy food access in Minneapolis. The report also finds that supercentres like Walmart and Costco are associated with less healthy purchases compared to grocery stores.

The MFV aligns with the City's Climate Equity Plan and emphasizes six priorities: local food supply, urban agriculture, local food businesses, healthy food skills and access, reducing food waste, and conducting food system outreach and research. The document uses the term "food apartheid" instead of the federal term "food desert" to highlight the policies, systemic racism, and other factors that have prevented certain areas from accessing affordable grocery stores (City of Minneapolis, 2023). The Minneapolis food system policy, led by the Health Department, frames food apartheid as a public health issue on a municipal level.

The strategy selection is guided by criteria ensuring alignment with food justice principles, feasibility, proven effectiveness, and overall benefit. The food justice principles, identified by Minneapolis residents, guide the implementation of the plan and evaluate progress. These principles address social determinants of health, ensure inclusion and diverse leadership, recognize and address past injustices, consider interconnections between systems, and promote equitable food access, sustainable production, and food skills. Minneapolis, like Vancouver, has signed the Milan Urban Food Pact, an international agreement to develop sustainable food systems within a human rights-based framework. Additionally, it has partnered with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) as a Food Matters city to support its commitment to minimizing food waste.

CASE STUDY 3: SEATTLE

The City of Seattle Food Action Plan is a roadmap for creating an equitable, sustainable, and resilient local food system that supports healthy, vibrant communities. First released in 2012, it provides a framework to coordinate and align City departments managing food programs and policies. The Plan outlines specific strategies to improve the local food system while advancing goals of racial and social justice, food security and sovereignty, health, environmental sustainability, and fair labour. It includes four main goals: healthy food for all, growing locally, strengthening the local economy, and preventing waste (City of Seattle, 2012).

Since 2021, the Plan has been undergoing a policy update, shifting towards a holistic food sovereignty framework beyond food security and access. This update introduces new approaches to addressing injustices in the food system, responding to climate change, and adopting the Food Justice Values developed by the Environmental Justice Committee. The City evaluated the Plan's impacts on racial equity across the food system using Racial Equity Toolkits. The analysis highlighted that dominant traditions and knowledge often centre around white culture and norms without critique, contributing to disproportionate environmental and climate pollution exposures for BIPOC communities.

Regarding urban agriculture, Seattle's P-Patch Community Gardening Program, managed by the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, prioritizes historically underserved populations for garden plot assignments. Out of the 90 gardens, 60 have gleaning programs where food is grown for food banks and hot meals, with gardeners donating over 41,882 pounds of produce in 2021 (Seattle Department of Neighbourhoods, n.d.). The Market Garden Program allows low-income and immigrant families living at Housing Authority properties to sell their P-Patch produce to local residents. These initiatives are part of the recommendations for food systems policy in Seattle presented to the council to inform the policy update.

3

INTERRELATIONSHIP OF GARDEN ELEMENTS AND **GARDEN** FACTS

INTERRELATIONSHIP OF GARDEN ELEMENTS

The previous sections outlined Vancouver's food system policy and how it has evolved in response to policy shifts across North America. It is important to understand the interrelationship between the garden elements that operate within the policy framework. As with different components in an ecosystem, garden elements are co-dependent on one another. Evaluating the success of food assets, therefore, requires that we assess our performance in each aspect and their alignment with each other.

- **Policies:** Like soil in a garden, food systems and urban agriculture policy form the foundation of food assets. It provides a framework for food assets to grow and flourish throughout the city.

- **Physical Design:** In the process of establishing food assets, the design and physical attributes of the gardens must accommodate all human and non-human users and visitors to the space. They are the structures and plants that support habitat and biodiversity.

- **Management and Programming:** Garden governance and programming are the driving forces behind the animation of garden spaces. They encourage community engagement and create opportunities for placemaking. Similar to pollinators, they support species interactions and allow the garden to thrive.

Figure 8: Beaconsfield Community Garden

COMMUNITY GARDENS
DEFINITIONS, LAND USE AND REQUIREMENTS

It is important to clarify that "community gardens" and "gardens" in this report refer to community gardens on park and city-managed lands that have a licence agreement to grow plants for community use. The definitions of community gardens and their requirements are slightly different between the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Park Board.

Definitions

City of Vancouver - Engineering:
On engineering land, a community garden is defined as a place on City-managed land, other than City parks, operated or overseen by a non-profit Society, where people grow and maintain ornamental and edible plants. City-operated gardens, particularly those overseen by Engineering, are often temporary, and typically located on street rights-of-way or city-managed lots. These sites can be disrupted by street alignments, utility upgrades, or future housing developments.

Resident boulevard gardens, Green Streets Program gardens and beautification projects are not included in this definition. They do not hold a licence agreement and are, therefore, excluded from the report's analysis.

Vancouver Park Board:
On park-managed lands, community gardens are more commonly referred to as "Food and Culture Gardens" in the LFSAP. Similar to the prior definition, community gardens in parks are a type of community development program operated by a non-profit society. Park-operated gardens are usually more permanent, as they are not earmarked for housing or development. These parks generally offer more amenities, including washrooms, water fountains, and fieldhouses.

'Food and Culture Garden' is an umbrella term that describes "community-supported growing spaces that connect people with land stewardship and cultural programming designed around food-growing, plant medicine, pollination, and art materials" (Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, 2021). All of the subtypes have a licence agreement and are part of the report's evaluation.

Vancouver Park Board:

Food and Culture Gardens

- Community gardens & orchards
  - Community gardens with individual plots (less than 50% collective growing area)
  - Collective community gardens (50% + collective growing area)
  - Orchards and food landscapes (100% collective growing area)

- Cultural-focused gardens (may produce food but is not a priority)
  - Cultural learning gardens (100% collective growing area)
  - Indigenous-run gardens (100% collective growing area)

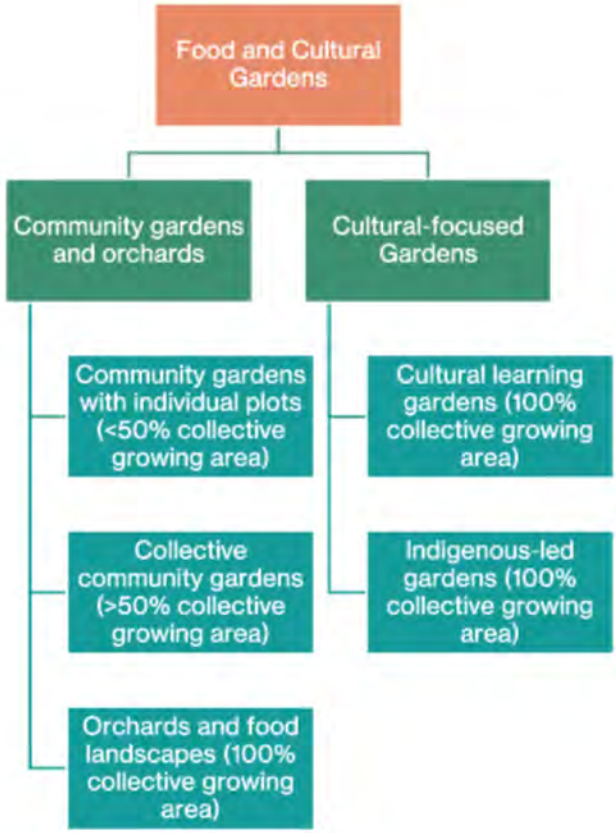


Figure 9: Garden Types in the Local Food System Action Plan (2021)

Garden Policies and Requirements

The Operation Guideline for Community Gardens on City Land Other Than City Parks outlines the requirements for community gardens on city-owned land other than parks and the conditions they are subjected to.

Gardens on parkland, on the other hand, are regulated by the Urban Agriculture Policy. It replaces the Community Garden Policy (2005) and now regulates all urban agriculture projects and activities that support the LFSAP and the City's Food Strategy.

Figure 10: Comparison of Engineering Services and Park Board Policies

<table>
<tr><td>Jurisdiction</td><td>Engineering-managed land</td><td>Park Board-managed land</td></tr>
<tr><td>Policy</td><td>Operational Guideline for Community Gardens on City Land Other Than City Parks</td><td>Urban Agriculture Policy</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Use of Plants</td><td>Produce edible and ornamental plants for the personal use of Societies members</td><td rowspan="3">Grow plants for:
Project member and community benefits;
Skills and capacity building;
Arts and Culture;
Benefitting pollinators;
Donating to charitable causes; and/or
Collaborating with other programs taking place in parks or recreational facilities</td></tr>
<tr><td>Grow food for the garden members' benefit through skill-building programs or CIty approved economic development training opportunities</td></tr>
<tr><td>Grow food to donate to charitable causes. Two plots of average size designated for
a) a local non-profit,
b) a neighbouring child-care centre, or
c) a common area for food grown for charitable purposes</td></tr>
<tr><td>Planting Type</td><td>n/a</td><td>Grow primarily edible, art and craft, and/or indigenous plants.</td></tr>
</table>

Community Involvement	n/a	Actively encourage and support a diversity of community members (e.g. age, ability, cultural background etc.) to participate in the garden from conceptual stages through to ongoing operations
Garden Design - Border	An ornamental perimeter garden must be provided between the community garden and the adjacent lands and street to create an attractive buffer	n/a
	Fences are permitted around the larger community area and may not be more than 1 metre high	
Physical Accessibility	All gardens shall include provisions for accessibility for seniors and/ or disabled persons, as well as fully accessible paths	Ensure accessibility of gardens with a variety of abilities
Public Access	The general public is to have access to the garden at all times; locked barriers are not permitted	Provide open access to the project at all times; locked barriers are not permitted

4 METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

An evaluation framework was developed for this project to assess the effectiveness of existing policy actions regarding food assets and physical attributes of the community garden. A series of indicators has been developed to analyze two key areas:

- **Equity** – To Create an Equitable, Inclusive and Welcoming Space
- **Climate Action –** To Support Climate Action and Biodiversity

The evaluation is intended to provide insights for both City/Park Staff and garden groups to identify potential avenues for additional support and resources in promoting community and climate resilience in the gardens. This data collection framework will be applied again in 5 years to measure change over the lifetime of the LFSAP to report on the impacts of the strategy.

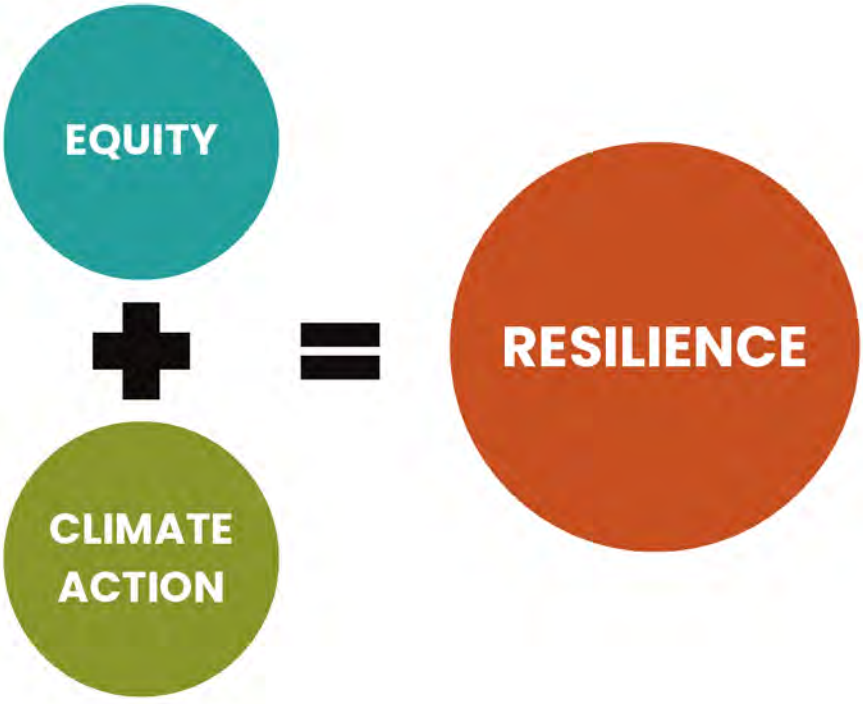


Figure 11: Diagram illustrating key themes in the strategic plans

4.1 Data Sources

This research makes use of two major datasets - the Annual Community Garden Survey and the City of Vancouver Open Data Portal.

- The Garden Survey conducted by Engineering and Vancouver Park Board collects general information on community gardens that are situated on City and Park-managed lands respectively. It keeps track of current garden use, infrastructure and amenities, planting types and community programming.

- The Open Data Portal hosts public open data collected by the City of Vancouver and its agencies. It provides information related to garden locations, transit and active transportation infrastructure, and amenities (e.g. drinking fountains, washrooms and facilities with public washrooms).

- In addition, the TransLink web portal provides additional information on the location of bus stops in the city.

Multiple site visits were conducted to collect supplementary information and to evaluate the practicality of applying the indicators both in person and in a virtual environment for staff.

4.2 Approach to Developing Indicators & Criteria

To develop indicators for the evaluation framework, a draft list was first proposed using information available in the Community Garden and the Open Data Portal. Two workshop sessions were held to gather feedback on the draft indicators from a diverse group of staff, ranging from social planning, park development, to the decolonization, arts and culture team. Appendix D provides a more detailed account of the suggestions received.

Separate discussion groups were held to address the framing of the evaluation framework, specifically how the indicators could capture the concept of equity and represent spaces that demonstrate resilience and justice. The final list of proposed indicators incorporated feedback from the workshops and discussions with staff.

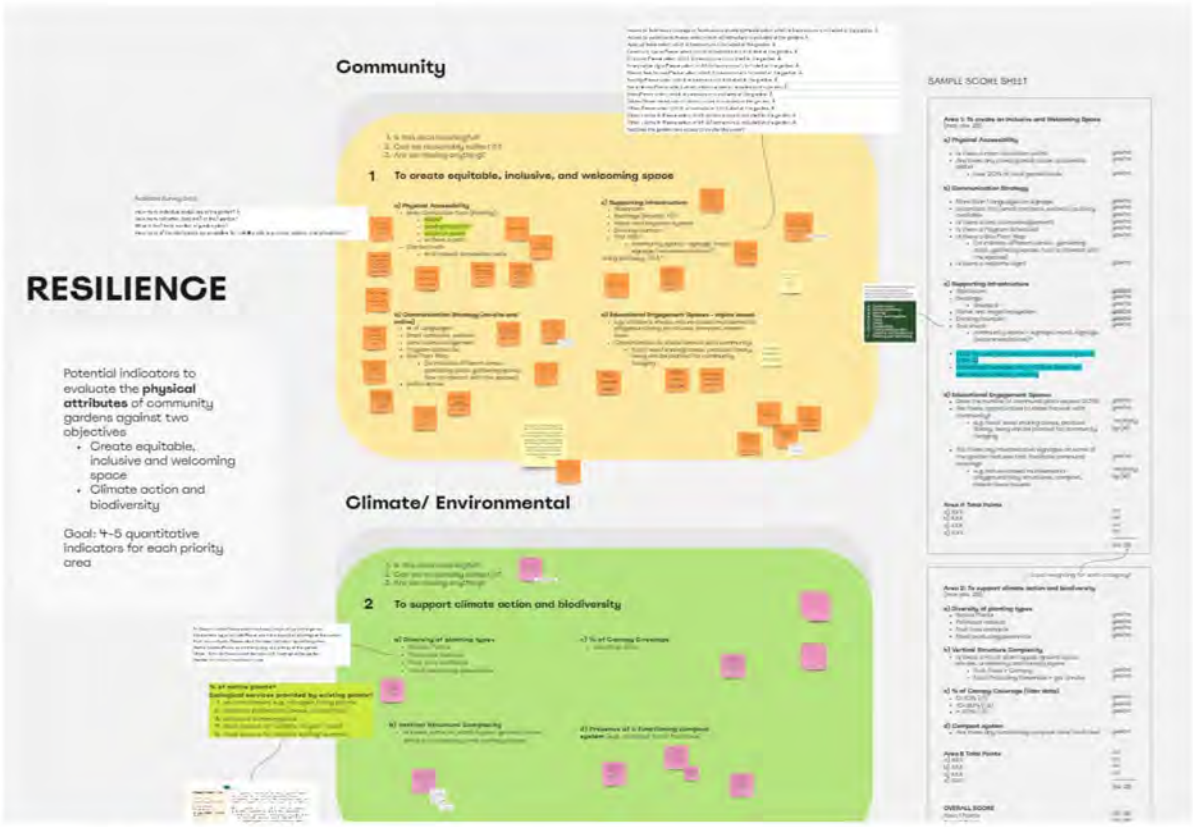


Figure 12: Screenshot of the online workshop session

4.3 Proposed Indicators

Given the relatively short timeline (May to August), this project prioritizes indicators that gardeners or staff can easily collect through site visits in combination with data from the Annual Community Garden Survey and Open Data Portal. Potential indicators that require measuring the dimensions of garden features or collecting specific plant details were discussed but are intentionally left out, as this information would be hard to gather consistently due to the varying capacities of the garden groups.

It is recognized that the proposed indicators on physical attributes in this report do not adequately measure the garden's full potential in supporting equity (e.g. cultural diversity of garden users and ethnic plantings). Indicators related to programming and governance are out of the scope of this project and are included as recommendations for future research direction.

* Existing Survey Item

Proposed Indicators

Part A. To Create an Equitable, Welcoming and Inclusive Space

Subtopic	Relevance	Indicator	+0	+0.5	+1
Welcoming Space	Indicates the garden is open to the public. Ensures that the garden is inviting to all members of the community.	1. Visible and apparent entrance and/or welcome sign			
	Provides a comfortable and welcoming environment, encouraging prolonged visits and social interactions, which are essential for creating a sense of community.	2. Comfort – Seating* Point Scale: +0.5 if available, +1			
		Comfort – Tables* Point Scale: +0.5 if available, +1			
	Ensures transparency and accessibility by creating a delineated garden space	3. Garden space is visible from the outside and has a clear boundary			
	Enhances the cultural and aesthetic appeal of the garden. Reflects community involvement in the space	4. Elements of Public Art Point Scale: +0, +1.5			
	Encourages collaboration and shared ownership among garden members, making gardening accessible to those who may not have their own plots and fostering a sense of community.	5. Communal gardening plots* Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)			
Ease of Gardening	Improves accessibility for all, including individuals with mobility challenges	6. A Clear Circulation Path Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)			
	Provides essential shared resources and storage for all gardeners, particularly for those who may not	7. Toolshed/ Storage Unit*			

	have the means to bring their own tools.				
	Ensures that the garden is inclusive of people with different mobility needs, allowing them to participate fully in gardening activities,	8. % of Total Accessible Plots for Mobility Aids* Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)			
Communica-tion and Community Engagement	Facilitates communication and engagement with the community	9. Contact Info on site (email/ phone number/ website/ social media)			
	Helps visitors to navigate the garden	10. Publicly available site plan/ Map (on-site/ online)			
	Keeps the community informed and engaged with ongoing activities and opportunities	11. An Actively Updated Community Noticeboard			
	Recognizes the traditional land and its cultural significance, promoting inclusivity and respect for Indigenous communities	12. Land Acknowledgement*			
	Ensures that the garden is accessible and beneficial to the gardeners and the broader community	13. Strategies to promote programs* Point Scale: +0 (not specified), +1 (on-site / community network), + 1.5 (Both)			
Cultural Features	Provides an area for cultural and ceremonial activities	14. Ceremonial Space*			
	Encourages the incorporation of culturally significant plants, fostering a deeper connection to cultural heritage	15. Fiber/ Dye/ Art Planting*			
	Supports traditional practices by acknowledging and valuing different cultural approaches to health.	16. Medicinal Planting*			
	Highlights and preserves Indigenous knowledge and traditions	17. Indigenous Cultural Planting*			
		# of checks	XX	XX	XX
		Multiply by	0	0.5	1

		PART A Subtotal (max. XX)	XX

Part B. To Support Climate Action and Biodiversity

Subtopic	Relevance	Indicator	+ 0	+0.5	+1
Stewardship	Reduces the garden's carbon footprint by composting garden debris on-site	1. Compost facilities*			
Educational Wildlife Features	Encourages the presence of pollinators	2. Apiary*			
	Encourages the presence of pollinators	3. Mason Bee House*			
	Increases public awareness and education regarding environmental and ecological practices within the garden	4. Interpretive Signage*			
	Facilitates seed exchange among community members and community learning	5. Seed Library*			
		6. Others (0.5 each, max.1) *			
Planting Type	Promotes local biodiversity by incorporating diverse planting types	7. Pollinator Habitat*			
		8. Food Producing Perennials*			
		9. Fruit Tree Orchard*			
		10. Native Species*			
		# of checks	XX	XX	XX
		Multiply by	0	0.5	1
		PART B Subtotal (max. XX)			XX
		TOTAL SUM (max. XX)			XX
		Relative Score to 100% = (Part A/max) *0.5 + (Part B/max) *0.5			XX%

Part C. Context Analysis

Subtopic	Relevance	Indicator	+0	+0.5	+1
Transportation	Facilitates community access to the garden, encouraging involvement	1. Transit (Skytrain Stations, Bus Stops) Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			
		2. Active Transportation (Bike Lanes) Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			
Access to Water-related Infrastructure	Essential for making the garden accessible and comfortable, encouraging longer stays and greater community engagement	3. Access to Water for Irrigation Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			
		4. Drinking Fountain Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			
		5. Access to Washroom Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			
Program Activation	Access to a fieldhouse or other indoor programming space provides a venue for community events and educational programs. Indoor programming space is defined as an indoor space in a building/ structure that is larger than 10x10 and meets the building codes.	6. Access to a Fieldhouse*/ Indoor Programming Space			
		# of checks	XX	XX	XX
		Multiply by	0	0.5	1
		PART C TOTAL (max. XX)			XX
		Relative Score to 100% = Part C/XX			XX%

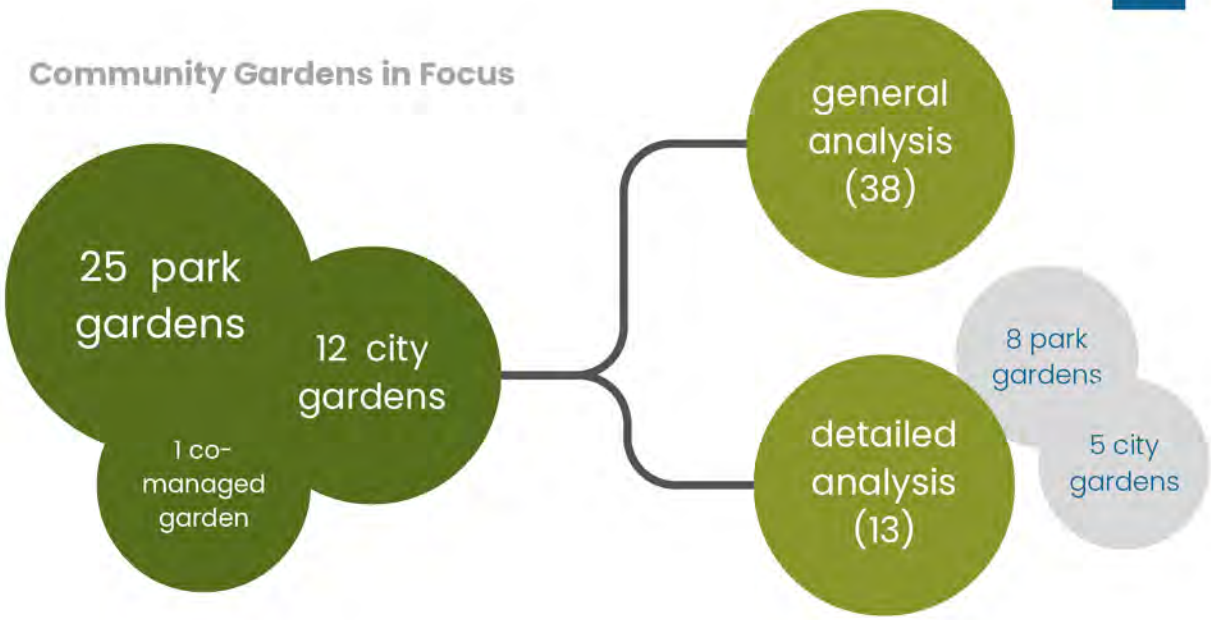
4.4 Structure of Analysis

The report's analysis consists of two parts.

The first half, **Garden Analysis**, focuses on indicators related to the **Social** (Part A) and **Environmental** (Part B) aspects of the evaluation framework. These sections reflect the decisions made by garden societies regarding the physical aspects of the garden spaces they manage directly. The second half, **Context Analysis**, aims to illustrate the gardens' locations and their proximity to existing infrastructure and programming spaces (Part C). This section serves as a starting point for assessing the resources provided by the city/parks and identifying opportunities to further support gardens as vital community spaces. An evaluation of the garden's programming and governance is not included in this report due to the limited project timeframe.

The Garden analysis has two layers: **General** and **Detailed**.

Instead of including all community gardens on city and park-managed lands, the evaluation framework is applied exclusively to the 38 gardens that completed the 2023 Annual Garden Survey. The general analysis uses only indicators for which survey data is available. From these, 13 gardens were selected based on their geographic locations and accessibility for a more detailed analysis. This detailed analysis evaluates gardens against the full set of proposed indicators using information from the garden survey, complemented with site observations and data from the open data portal.



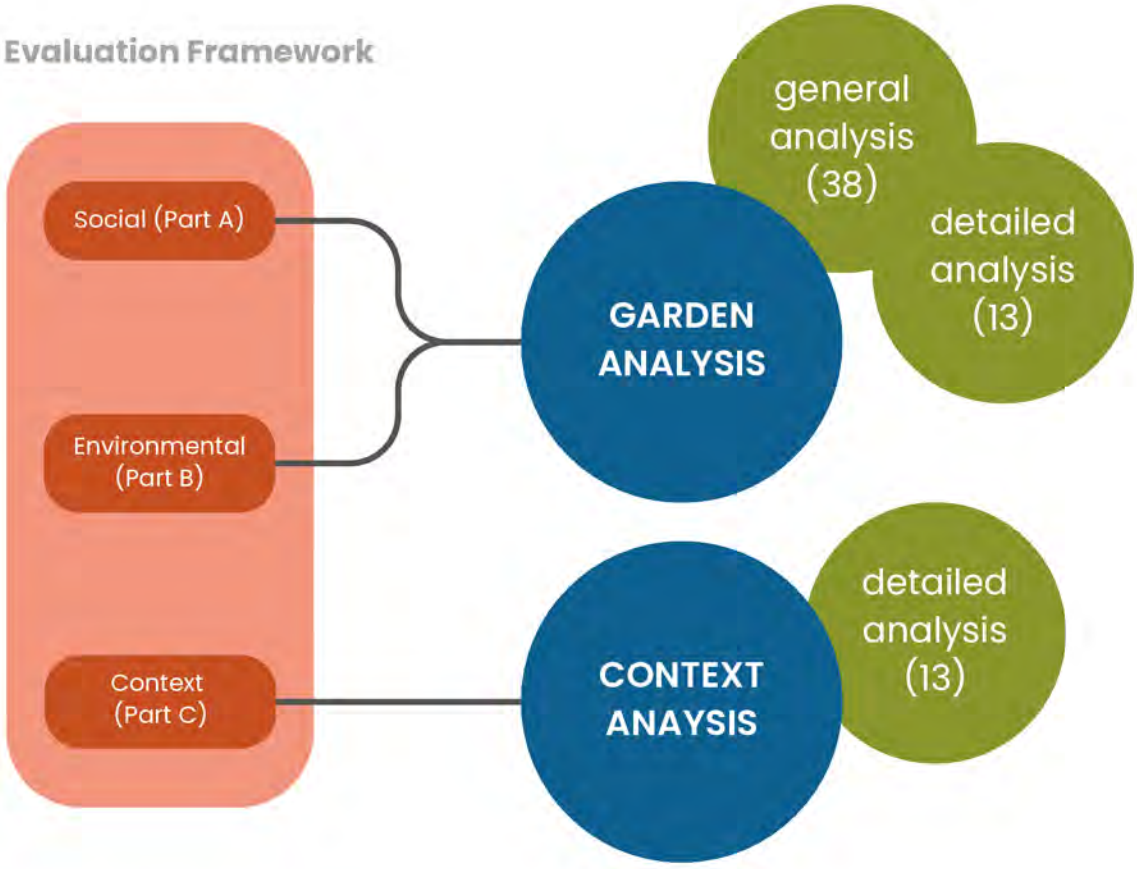


Figure 13: Structure of analysis for this project

4.5 Garden List (38)

* Garden included in the detailed analysis

Park Board Gardens (25)

- Aberthau Garden Project
- Beaconsfield Park Community Garden*
- Brewery Creek Community Garden
- Cambie Park Community Garden*
- Charleson Park Community Garden
- Clark Park Orchard
- Cottonwood Community Garden*
- Fraserlands Community Garden (Riverfront Park)*
- Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House Garden
- Hastings Community Centre Learning Garden
- John Hendry (Trout Lake) Park
- Kingscrest Park Community Garden
- Kitsilano Community Centre Garden
- Kitsilano Community Garden
- McSpadden Park Community Garden
- Means of Production Garden*
- Nelson Park Community Garden
- Pandora Park Community Garden
- Riley Park Community Garden*
- Sahalli Community Garden
- Stanley Park Community Garden
- Still Creek Community Garden*
- Strathcona Community Garden*
- Trillium Park North Artists Garden
- Woodland Park Community Garden

Engineering Gardens (12)

- Copley Community Orchard Society*
- China Creek Co-op Community Garden
- CROWS Point Community Garden*
- Creekside Community Gardeners
- Cypress Community Garden*
- Dundee Court Community Garden
- Up! Elgin Community Garden
- Groot Community Garden
- Kerrisdale Community Garden*
- Ladybug Community Garden
- Maple Community Garden*
- The Village on False Creek Community Garden

Co-managed Garden (1)

- Pine Street Community Garden

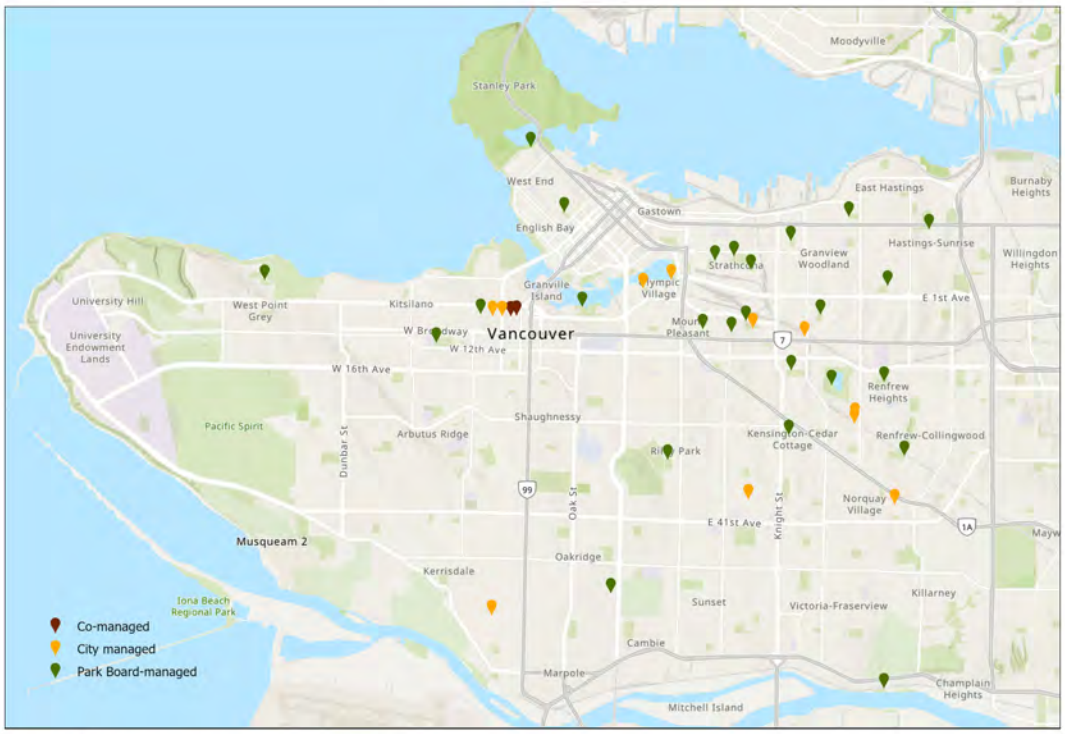


Figure 14: Selected community gardens for the general analysis

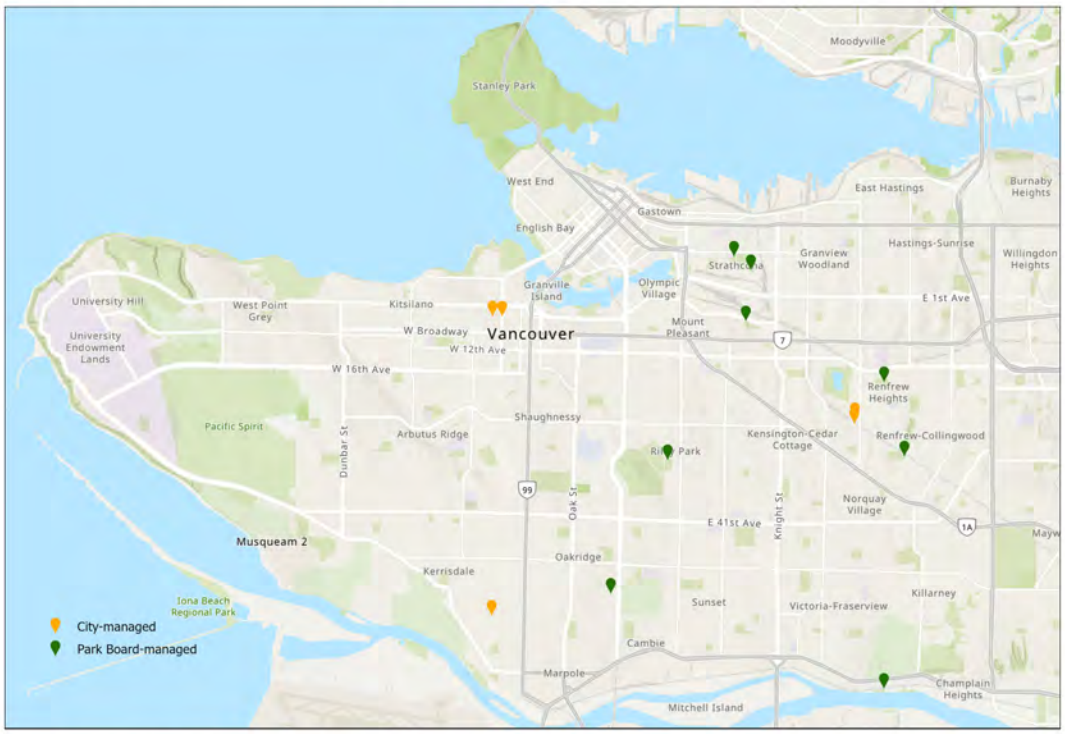


Figure 15: Selected community gardens for the detailed analysis

5 GARDEN ANALYSIS

GENERAL ANALYSIS

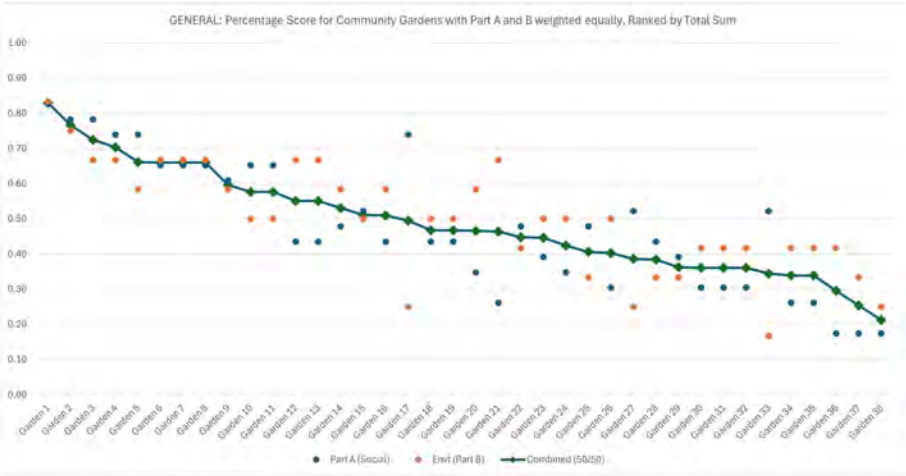


Figure 16:
Overall percentage score for all gardens

Figure 17:
Part A percentage score for all gardens

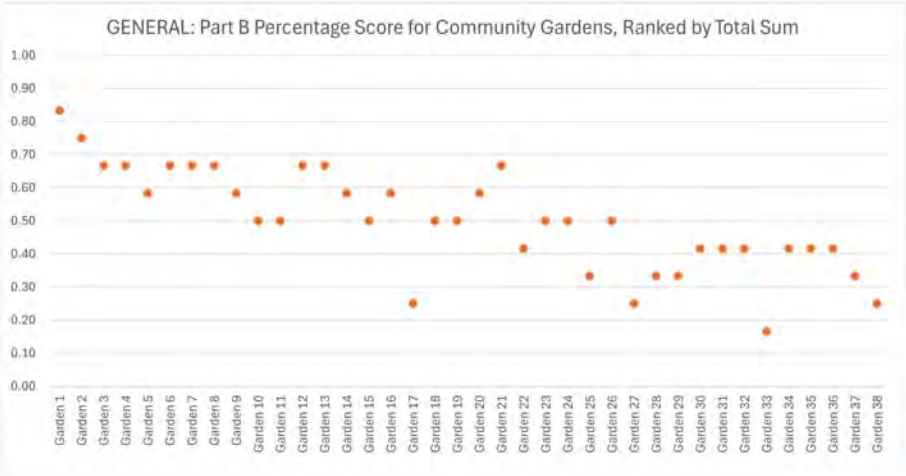
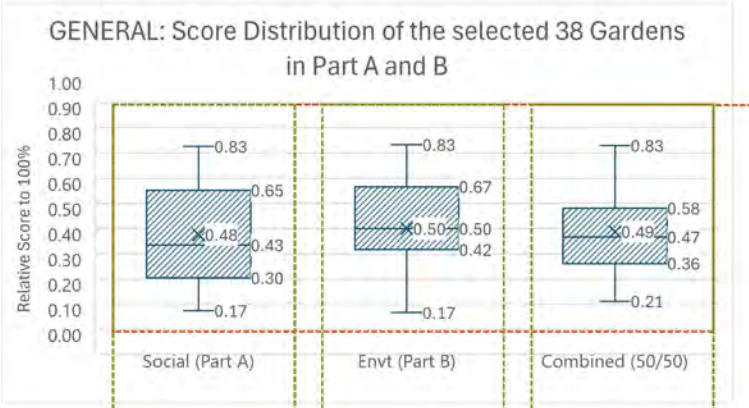


Figure 18:
Part B percentage score for all gardens

GENERAL ANALYSIS



1. Comparison between aspects (Part A vs B)

Figure 19:
Overall Performance (General)

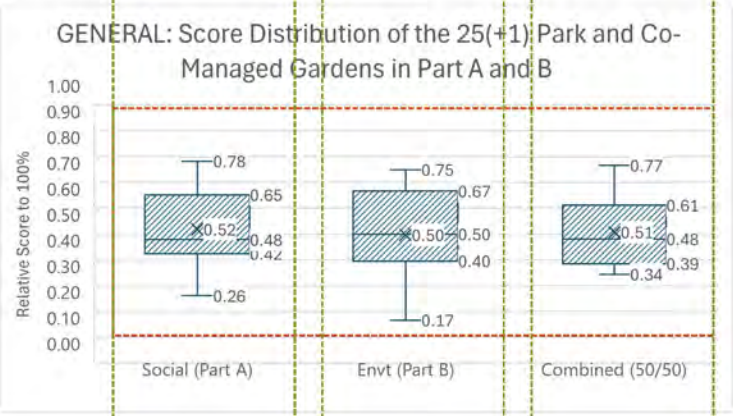


Figure 20:
Park Garden Performance (General)

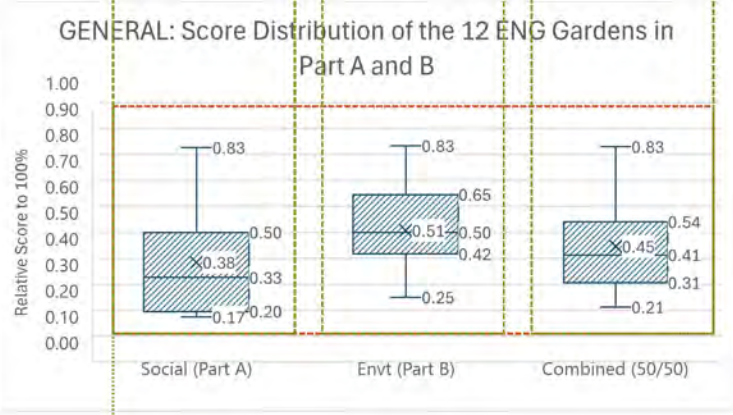
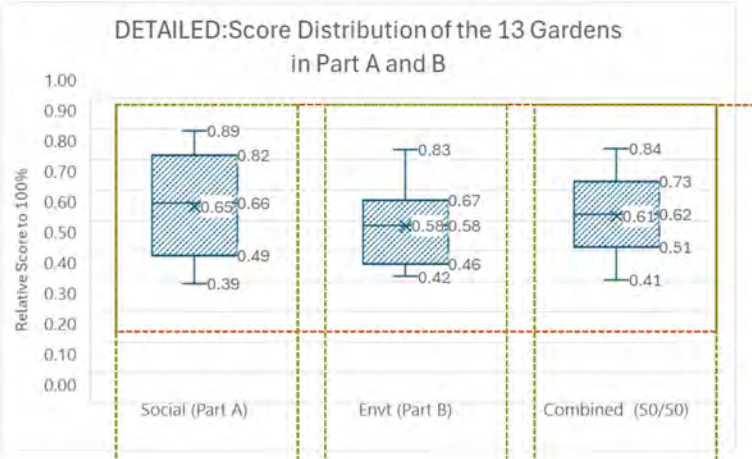


Figure 21:
City Garden Performance (General)

2. Comparison across jurisdiction (City vs Park)

DETAILED ANALYSIS



1. Comparison between aspects (Part A vs B)

Figure 22:
Overall Performance (Detailed)

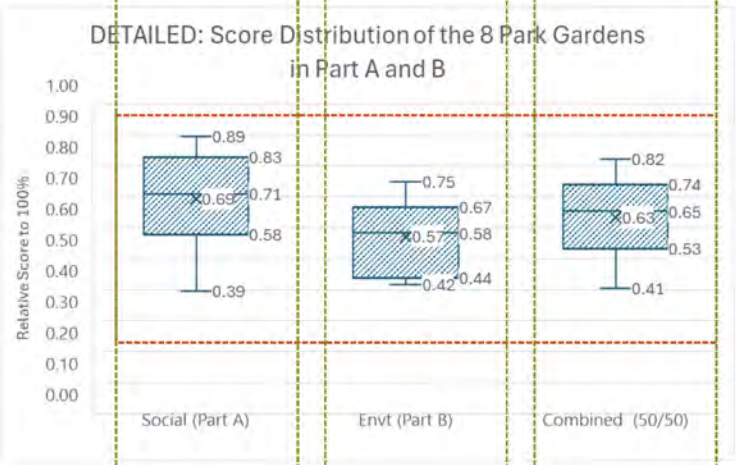


Figure 23:
Park Garden Performance (Detailed)

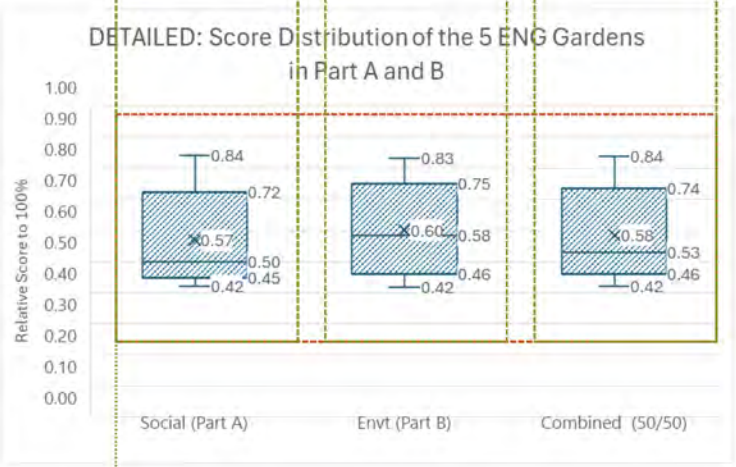


Figure 24:
City Garden Performance (Detailed)

2. Comparison across jurisdiction (City vs Park)

FINDINGS

Overall Performance - Part A and B

GENERAL - The score distribution indicates that community gardens generally perform better in the environmental aspect compared to the social aspect. Specifically, the median score for Part B (Environmental) is higher than that for Part A (Social) in the overall performance scores. The range and interquartile range (IQR) for the overall Part B scores are smaller compared to Part A scores as well. This suggests that performance in the environmental aspect is more consistent across different community gardens.

DETAILED - The detailed score distribution shows that community gardens have improved performance in both social and environmental aspects when additional site visit indicators are considered. Interestingly, the overall performance in Part A (Social) improves significantly in the detailed analysis and scores higher than Part B (Environmental).

Specifically, the median score for Part A (Social) is higher at 0.66, compared to the general findings (0.4). The range and interquartile range (IQR) for Part A are also lower, indicating a more consistent performance across different gardens. Similarly, Part B (Environmental) shows a smaller range and IQR, with a median score of 0.58, consistent with the general findings. The combined score for Part A and B in the detailed analysis is higher at 0.62, suggesting that including all indicators provides a more comprehensive and slightly improved view of the community gardens' performance.

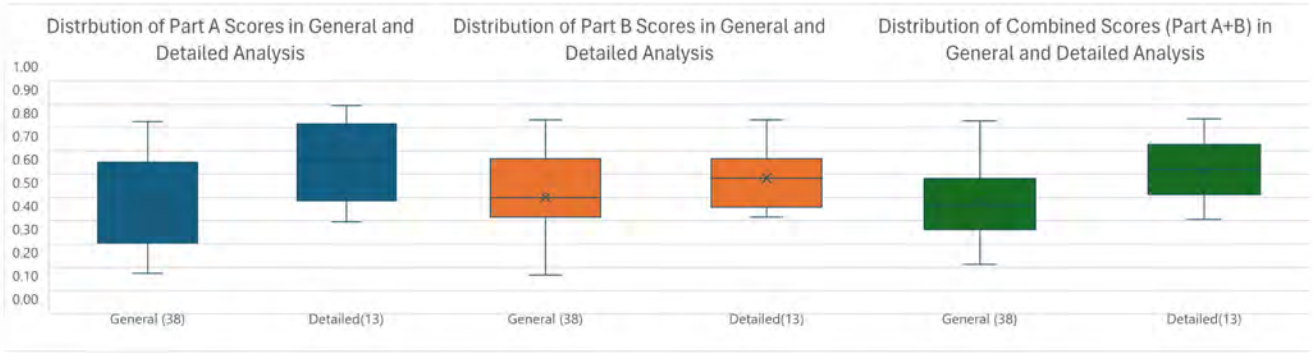


Figure 25: Comparison of Overall Part A and Part B Scores in both analyses

Engineering and Park Gardens

GENERAL - The data also reveal differences in performance between community gardens on city-owned lands and those in parks. Using only indicators with survey data, the median score for park gardens in Part A (Social) is 0.48, significantly higher than the 0.33 median score for engineering gardens. Engineering gardens show more variability in performance, as indicated by a higher range and IQR. However, both types of gardens have the same median score of 0.5 in Part B (Environmental), with similar score distributions. The combined score for Part A and B shows that higher score for Park Board gardens.

DETAILED - The detailed analysis reveals a nuanced comparison between community gardens on city-owned lands and those in parks. For Part A (Social), the median score for Park gardens is significantly higher at 0.71, compared to 0.50 for Engineering gardens. This indicates that Park gardens perform better in social aspects. Additionally, the range and IQR for Park Board gardens are smaller, showing more consistent performance.

For Part B (Environmental), both types of gardens have the same median score of 0.58, with Park gardens showing slightly less variability (lower range and IQR) than Engineering gardens. The combined score for Parts A and B is higher for Park Gardens at 0.65, compared to 0.50 for Engineering Gardens, reinforcing the conclusion that Park Gardens perform better overall.

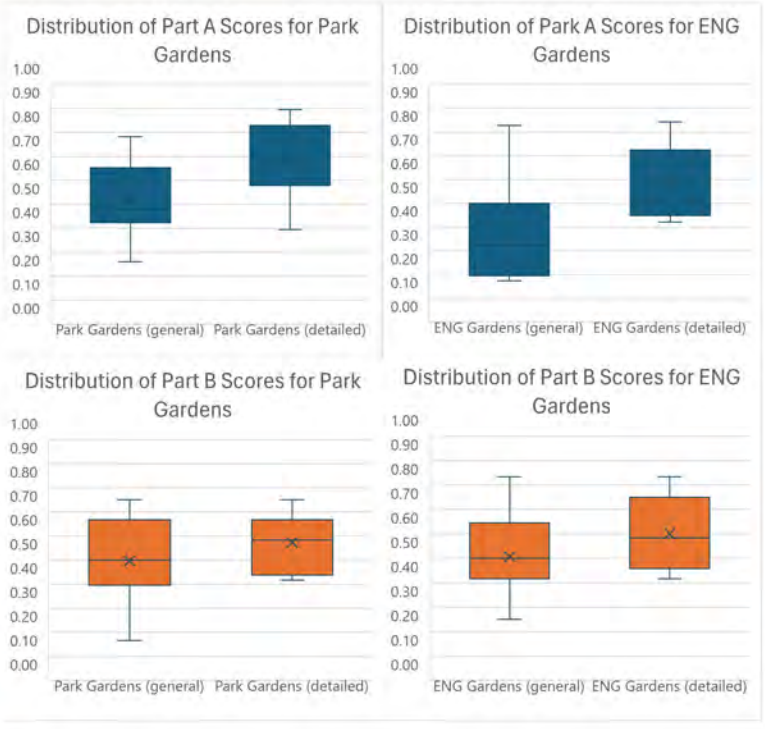


Figure 26: Comparison of Part A and B between Park and City Gardens in both analyses

ANALYSIS

Overall Performance - Part A vs B

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

- The **detailed analysis** shows **improved performance** in both social (Part A) and environmental (Part B) aspects compared to the general analysis, with a significant increase in social scores .
- **Social** (Part A) scores are **higher than environmental** (Part B) scores in the detailed analysis, contrary to the general analysis.

The increased number of indicators provides a more comprehensive evaluation of community gardens. Specifically, social scores (Part A) includes more indicators related to creating a welcoming space and fostering communication and engagement that were not fully captured in the survey. While having more indicators does not necessarily equate to better scores, it does allow for a more representative assessment of gardens. In this case, the detailed analysis showed that the 13 gardens in focus performed better than in the general analysis.

The policy framework and methods for data collection could provide some insights into the weaker performance in environmental scores (Part B) in both analyses. While the high-level food system strategies such as the Food Charter (2007) Food Strategy (2013) and Local Food Systems Action Plan (2021) mention of the potential to enhance ecosystem diversity through food assets, there is a relatively weaker emphasis on the community garden policies for both Engineering and Park gardens, suggesting it is not a priority in their operations.

Another potential explanation is the limited number of indicators. Unlike the social aspects (Part A), the detailed analysis does not include additional environmental indicators (Part B). Further, the improved scoring could be explained by sample size biases, meaning gardens selected for the detailed analysis merely perform better in Park B than the median of the general group.

Aside from the short project timeframe, the lack of new indicators in Part B also reflects the challenge in data collection in this aspect. Plantings change frequently in a garden due to many factors such as different weather conditions and the gardener's personal preferences. The degree to collect this information e.g. the type and number of plants thoroughly would depend on the resources

staff have available and the experiences of the garden groups. Many indicators are useful but challenging for gardeners and staff to collect feasibly and consistently in the long run. Hence, it is difficult to evaluate the ecological contributions of gardens in a representative way.

Engineering and Park Gardens

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

- **Park gardens perform better overall** in the combined score, with more consistent performance across the gardens and **higher scores in the social** aspect (Part A).
- **Engineering gardens show a more varied performance** in both Part A and B
- Both gardens have similar performances in Part B

The stronger performance in social aspects (Part A) for park gardens can be attributed to three factors: policy, garden types, and context.

On the policy side, the Local Food System Action Plan focuses on community advocacy and resilience through comprehensive programming for and led by the community. This is reflected in the Urban Agriculture Policy ("UA"), which regulates the park gardens and specifically mentions the role of the garden in encouraging and supporting diverse community members to participate in garden activities.

In terms of garden types, not all park gardens prioritize food production, but community engagement. Cultural learning gardens, for example, focus on sharing knowledge about food systems and/or sharing arts and culture. Strong programming has led gardens to include facilities and infrastructure that are welcoming and inclusive.

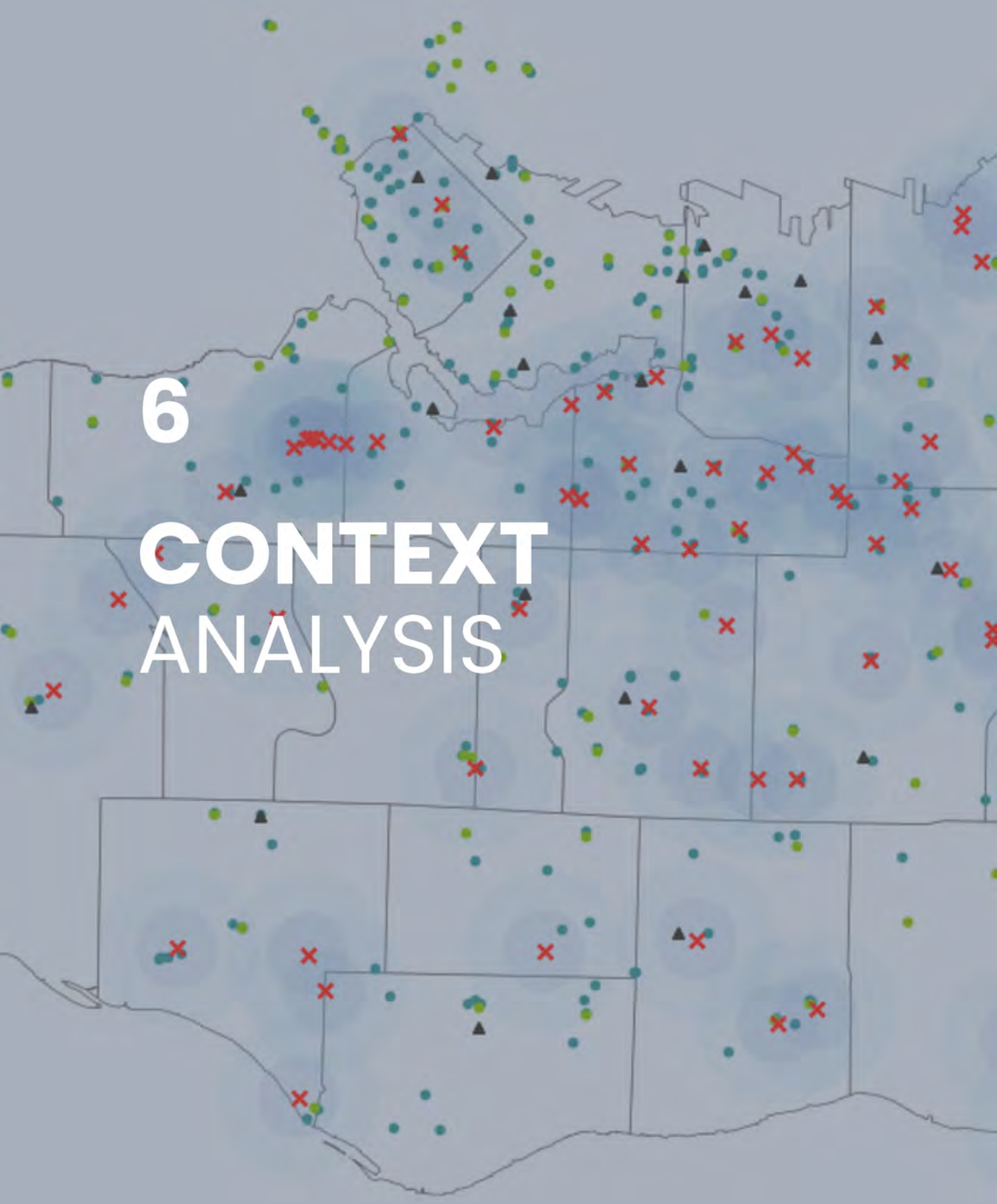
Park gardens have also benefitted from the proximity to other park programs and facilities. The UA encourages park gardens to collaborate with other programs taking place in parks or recreational facilities. For the garden groups, this provides more opportunities for programming as they can receive support from existing structures e.g. promotion, logistics, educational workshops and other community organizations such as neighbourhood houses. The resources available to garden groups have supported them in achieving better programming, which subsequently reflected in more inclusive physical attributes and infrastructure in the park gardens and a better performance in Part A.

Engineering gardens, on the other hand, show a more varied performance in both social and environmental aspects and lower scores for Part A (social).

Overall, engineering gardens are more oriented towards an individual plot model. The median percentage of communal plots of engineering gardens (8.6%) is much lower than its counterparts in parks (15%). An individual plot model often limits the programming opportunities within the gardens. While they are still open to public access, there is less incentive for garden groups to install infrastructure or facilities that would support community activities and engagement for non-garden holders and visitors, as reflected in the social scores (Part A).

The preference towards this model also reflects the varying abilities and resources of the garden groups to support programming, which explains the wider score distribution. Organizing community programming takes significant time and commitment from garden members and leaders. The City of Vancouver does not currently hold workshops for garden groups/urban agriculture projects. Smaller-scale gardens are more likely to struggle with a lack of time and external support for the garden's operation. From the garden groups' perspective, an individual plot model allows for easier management and administration when they have limited capacity for additional work.

Part B's (environment) score distribution for engineering and park gardens aligns with the overall performance analysis with little variations in their median score due to the limitations discussed above.



6 CONTEXT ANALYSIS

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

With the qualitative context of the gardens briefly discussed in the Garden Analysis, this section delves into the quantitative site context in terms of the garden's proximity to existing infrastructure and programming spaces. Assessing the proximity to existing infrastructure and programming spaces offers insight into the resources available in each neighbourhood to support gardens as community spaces or "third places".

Transit and active transportation infrastructure affect whether neighbourhood residents can easily commute to the gardens, influencing their level of engagement. Closer amenities such as washrooms and drinking fountains enable visitors and gardeners to spend more time in the garden and support community programs held there.

The Context Analysis is only applied to the 13 gardens selected for the detailed analysis as the additional indicators in Part C provide more information on the surrounding context than the survey data.

FINDINGS

The overall median score is 0.50 for the 13 gardens in focus. The score distribution shows a great disparity between engineering gardens and park gardens. The median score for park gardens is 0.67, with a highest of 0.92 and a lowest of 0.42. Engineering gardens, score 0.45 for the median, with a high of 0.5 and a low of 0.42. While the disparity can be attributed to the limited sample size, it also echoes the previous discussion around the difference in context between the two garden types.

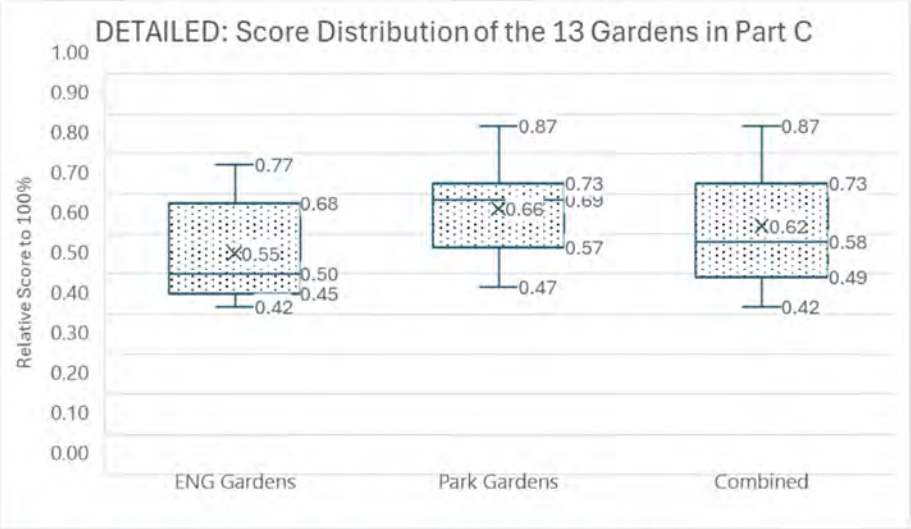


Figure 27: Score Distribution of the selected gardens in Part C

ANALYSIS

All 13 gardens have some access to transit or active transportation infrastructure (i.e. Skytrain, bus stops, bike lanes) within a 5-minute walking distance. Park gardens benefit from the existing amenities in parks such as close access to drinking fountains and washrooms. None of the 5 engineering gardens in this detailed analysis can reach a drinking fountain or a washroom/public facilities with washrooms within a 5-minute walking radius. Park gardens also have relatively better access to programming space since park fieldhouses and community centres are often co-located.

A separate study of drinking fountains and public washrooms (Appendix E) reveals that there is no correlation between a garden's average distance to these amenities and the distribution of gardens across the city's neighbourhoods. At first glance, this finding somewhat aligns with the food asset planning policy as VanPlay prioritizes placing food assets in historically underserved of the city. But this also illustrates that very few city amenities are added to the neighbourhoods after gardens are established, despite being situated in these equity initiative zones. This indicates a potential policy gap in long-term planning for food assets and highlights the importance of locating new gardens near existing city and park infrastructure.

Nonetheless, it is worth noting that many early gardens, whether in parks or on city-managed land, started as 'Guerrilla gardening', where people garden on under-utilized sites without legal rights to the land. These gardens were not 'planned' before their establishment and were later formalized as a community garden by signing a licence agreement with the municipality.

Some of these gardens are located on challenging sites with contamination or steep slopes and without access to amenities, including washrooms and drinking water nearby. Because of the high cost of these amenities, it is financially difficult for the city to install washrooms and drinking fountains after a gardens is established.

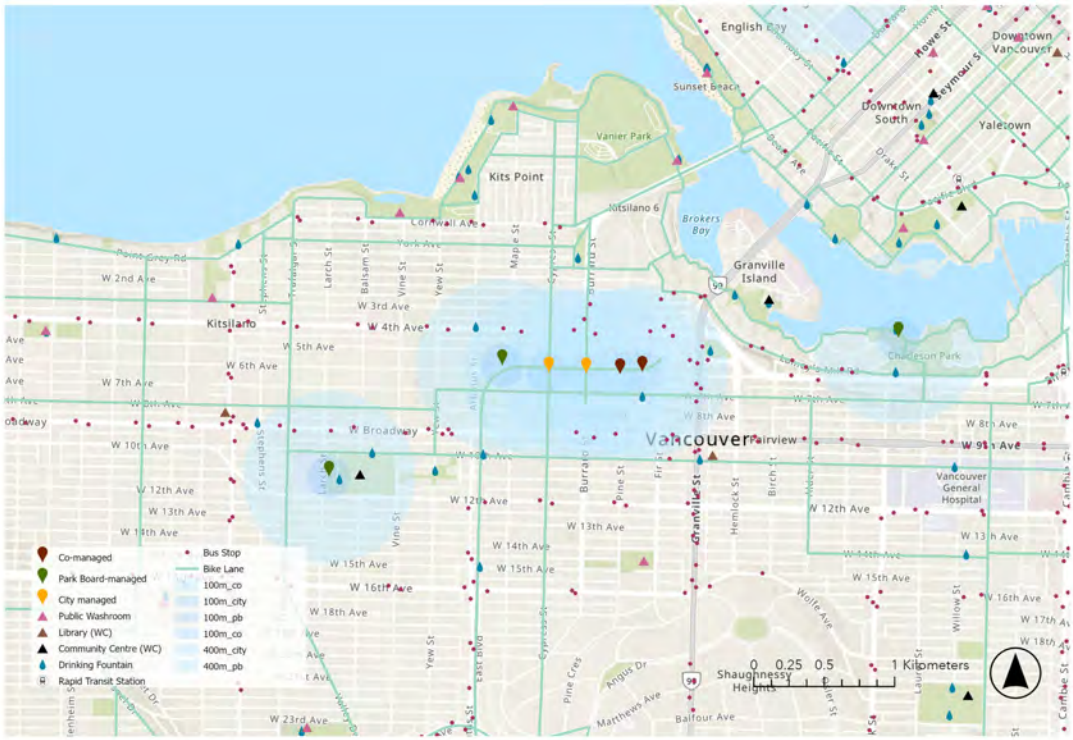


Figure 28: Community Gardens in Vancouver West

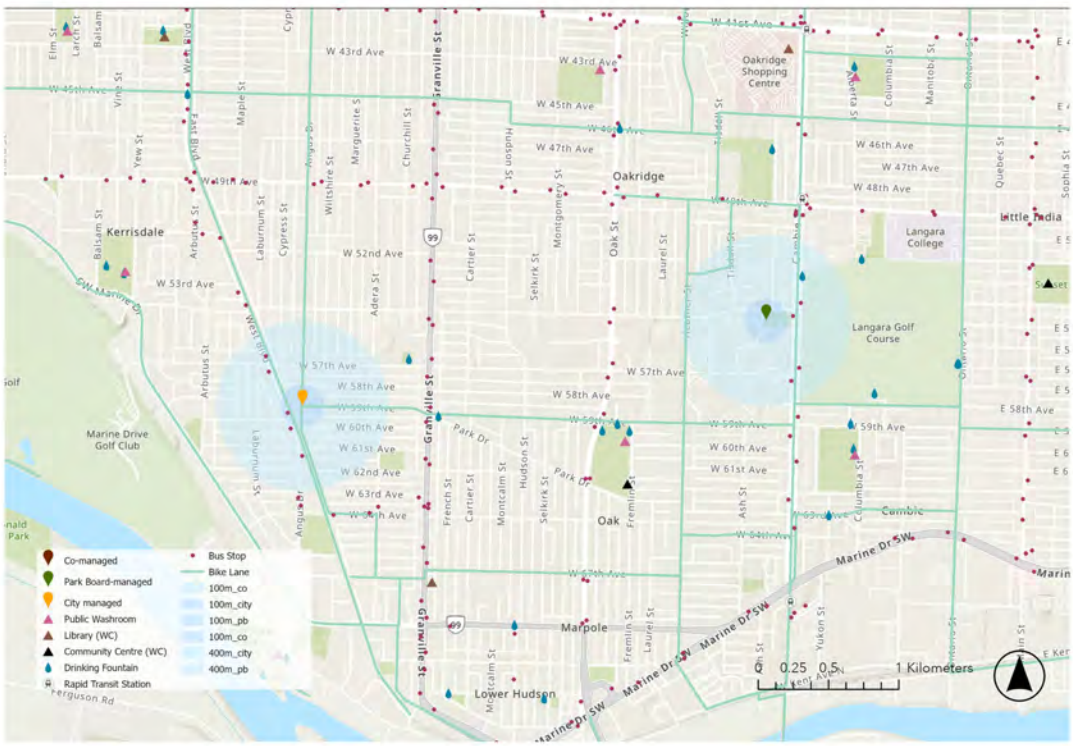


Figure 29: Community Gardens in South Vancouver

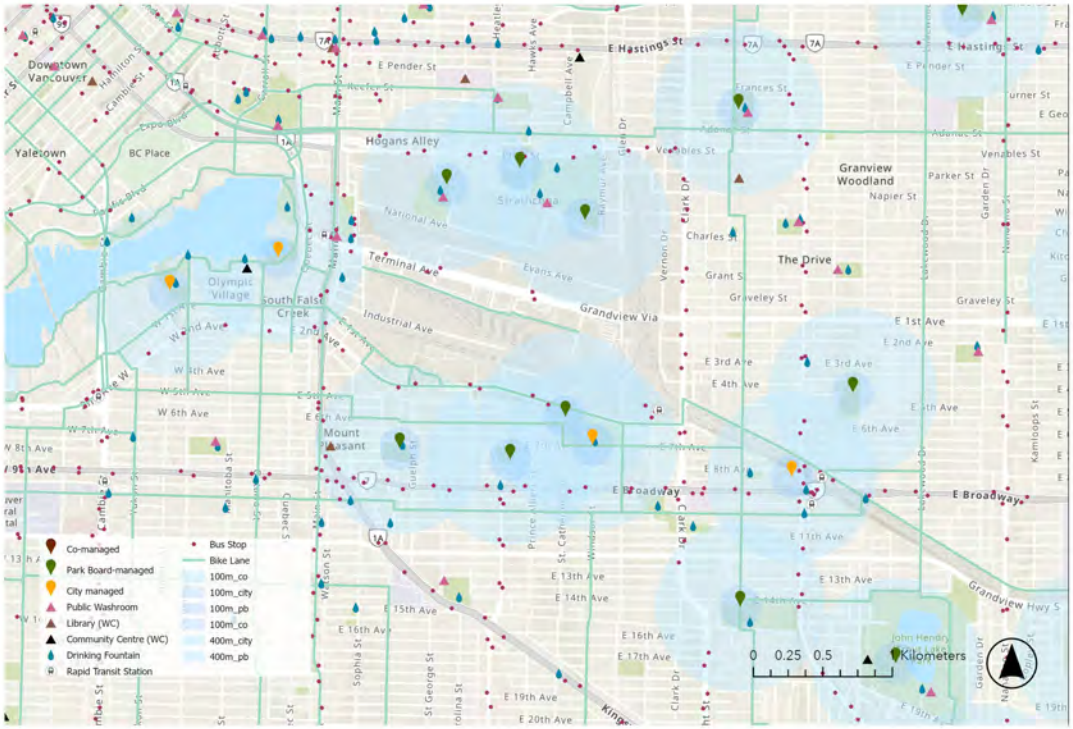


Figure 30: Community Gardens in East Vancouver

7

GARDEN TYPE STUDIES

GARDEN TYPE STUDIES

While the evaluation framework employs a scoring system, the intention is not for each garden to achieve full points in every category. Instead, the framework aims to assess the current conditions of gardens using indicators that reflect the quality of the physical environment and whether it embodies qualities conducive to community building and inclusion. A garden's score will naturally vary across different areas, depending on its unique priorities and focus. The following case studies highlight the strengths of each garden type and the specific areas in which they excel.


Rewilder Garden
LABYRINTH
viola
Produce Library
nodding onion
bunchberry
snowberry
blueberry
Compost Bins
7.1
Edible Food Forest
COLLECTIVE PLOT
RILEY PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN
Gathering Place
WHEEL CHAIR PATH
edamame
Shared Garden Beds
garlic
potatoes
swiss chard
SOUTH POLLINATOR BORDER
bee balm
sunflower
Aster

STUDY 1: COLLECTIVE PLOT
RILEY PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

Riley Park Community Garden was established in 2012 during a park redevelopment project. A group of volunteers from diverse backgrounds came together to create a new community gathering space. By adopting a 100% collective plot model, the garden aims to support food-insecure residents in the neighbourhood while fostering community engagement and connection (Little Mountain Neighbourhood House, n.d.). It is currently operated by Little Mountain Neighbourhood House.

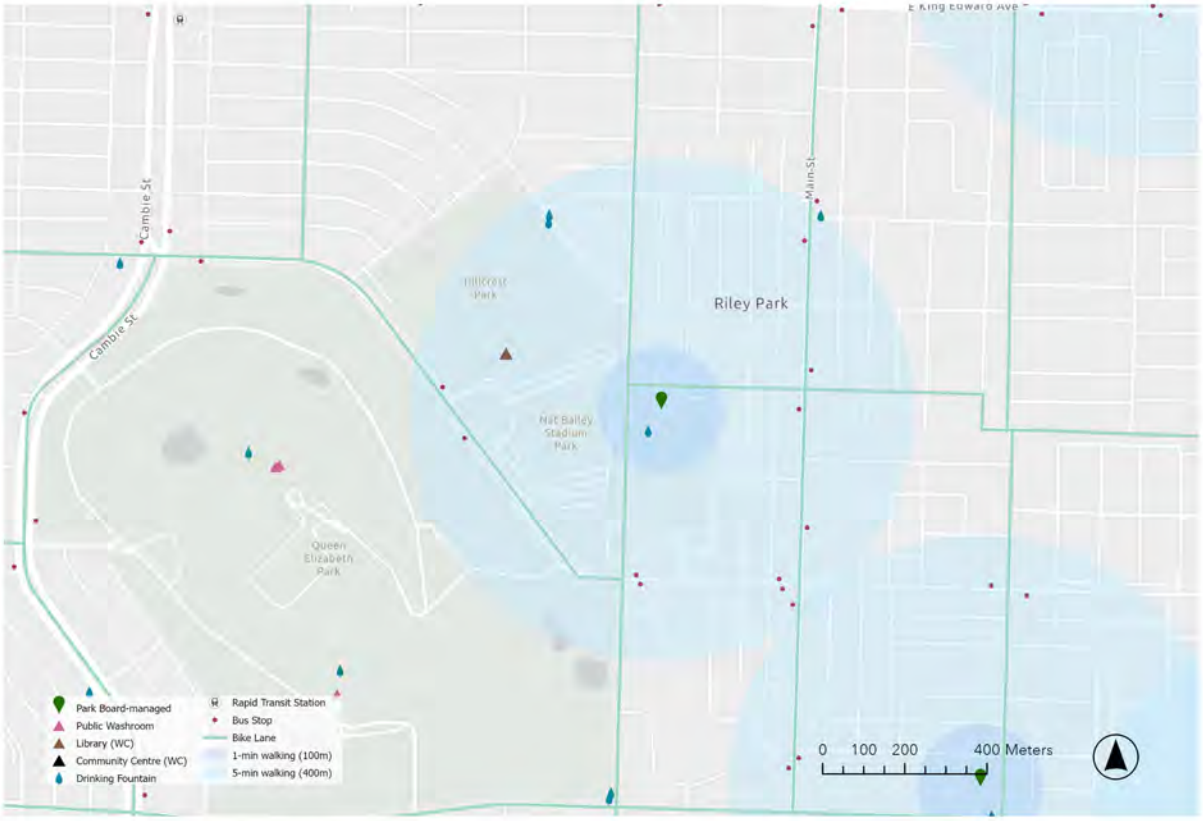


Figure 31: Surrounding context of Riley Park Community Garden

HIGHLIGHTED STRENGTH(S)

- **Part A: Welcoming Space, Communication and Community Engagement**
- **Part B: Stewardship, Educational Signages**

Among all the gardens that were evaluated in this report, Riley Park stood out in the evaluation in both Part A "Creating an Equitable, Welcoming and Inclusive Space" and Part B "Supporting Climate Action and Biodiversity". It has also benefited from its proximity to many city infrastructures and access to the fieldhouse, lending it the highest score in the context evaluation (Part C).

The garden features a well-designed and active community noticeboard, providing information about its vision and ways to participate in upcoming activities. Throughout the site, there are plenty of educational interpretive signs on topics such as composting, watering strategies, native plants, and ethnic food groups. These elements invite visitors to explore and observe the plants and wildlife around them. The "Learning Shed" is a particularly unique feature, powered by renewable energy (solar and wind), functioning as both a rainwater harvesting and collection station and serving as a storage shed. It showcases the potential for integrating various sustainable practices into the operation of a community garden.

In terms of biodiversity, the garden incorporated a mix of planting types—tall trees, shrubs, perennials, and ground covers to a multi-tiered ecosystem that supports a variety of wildlife. A medium-height pollinator plant border is also included in the design to provide additional habitat while defining the garden's boundaries

Figure 32: Community noticeboard at the garden entrance

Figure 33: The Learning Shed - demonstrating sustainable practices in the garden

Figure 34:
Communal gardening plot - blueberry patch

Figure 35:
Ethnic food plants in the garden

Figure 36:
Picnic tables and seating in shade

Figure 37:
Seating in the sun

7.2

INDIVIDUAL PLOT

STILL CREEK COMMUNITY GARDEN

STUDY 2: INDIVIDUAL PLOT
STILL CREEK COMMUNITY GARDEN

Still Creek Community Garden is operated by the Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society and was established in 2011. Initially located on a city-owned property, the garden was relocated to Slocan Park in 2018 when the original site was selected for a Temporary Modular Housing project. The garden's design was installed by the Vancouver Park Board, who assisted in site preparation and the placement of typical garden elements, and paving of surface materials.

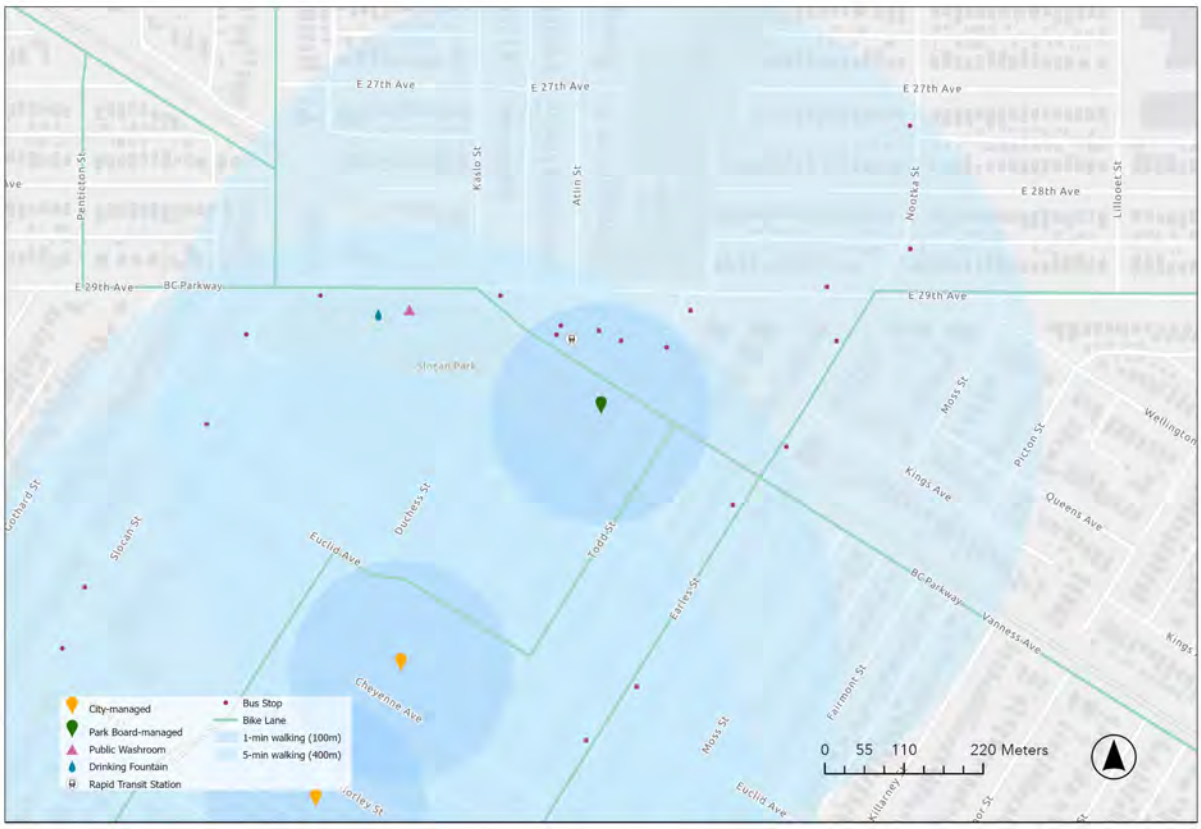


Figure 38: Surrounding context of Still Creek Community Garden

HIGHLIGHTED STRENGTH(S)

- **Part A: Ease of Gardening and Accessibility**

Still Creek Community Garden stands out for its high percentage of accessible plots, making it one of the most accommodating gardens in the detailed analysis. The garden is designed to meet the mobility needs of its gardeners, with a relatively flat site and a fully paved gardening area with compacted gravel or woodchips paved in a few areas. This design creates a circulation path that allows for easy maneuvering with mobility aids. Most plots are equipped with irrigation systems connected to water taps distributed around the garden, enhancing the ease of gardening. Additionally, a large storage unit provides a convenient space for gardeners to store their tools.

The garden is enclosed by a medium-height open fence that clearly defines the boundary without obstructing sightlines. The communal garden bed near the perimeter is planted with pollinator plants that enhance biodiversity and support the on-site beehives. Although the garden primarily consists of mainly individual plots, the decorated signs and ceramic tiles at the entrances reflect strong community engagement in the garden's setup.

Figure 39:
Raised planter for easy gardening

Figure 40:
Irrigation system

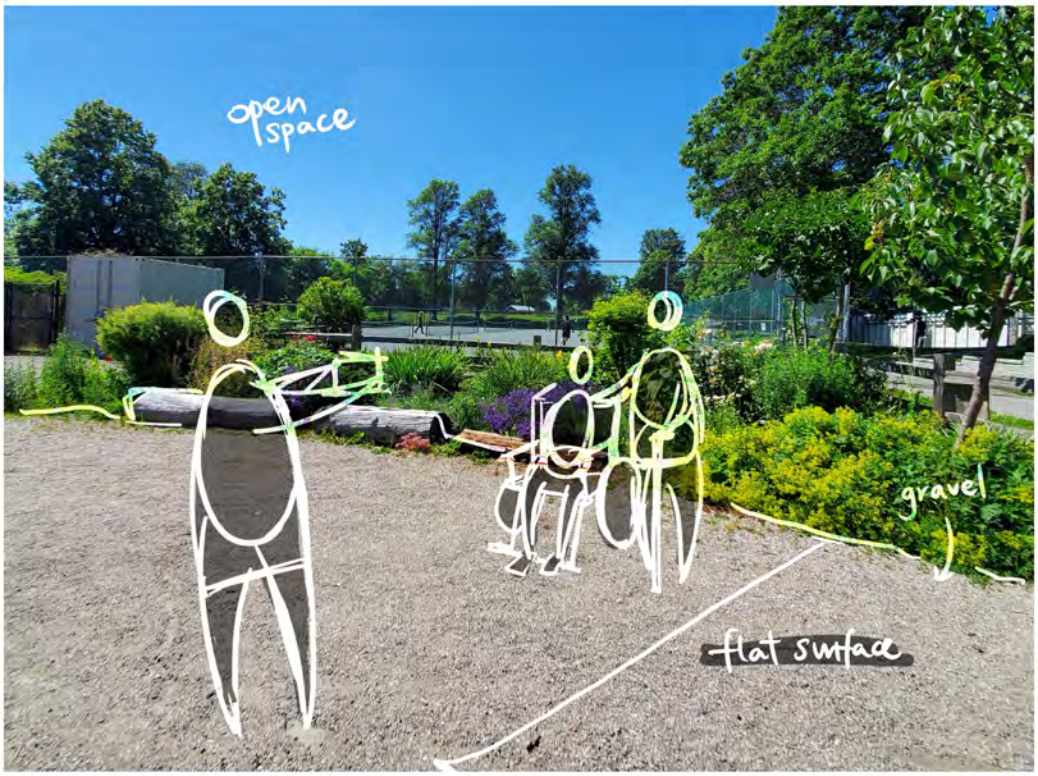


Figure 41: Open space in the garden

Figure 42: Garden view from outside

7.3

CULTURAL LEARNING GARDEN

MEANS OF PRODUCTION GARDEN

STUDY 3: CULTURAL LEARNING GARDEN
MEANS OF PRODUCTION

Means of Production Garden is a Cultural learning garden located at East 6th and St. Catherines in Vancouver's Mount Pleasant neighbourhood. Established in 2002 by artist Oliver Kellhammer as a public art project, it was created in collaboration with the Environmental Youth Alliance and the Vancouver Park Board. Its original concept was to blend art and ecology by allowing community members to grow botanical materials for use in arts and crafts. Operated by the EartHand Gleaners Society, the garden focuses on environmental art programs, offering opportunities for research, skill development, and skill sharing (Sharon Kallis, 2009). As an Arts and Culture Learning Garden, its primary goal is to foster community engagement in environmental art, with the garden serving as an active studio and social space.

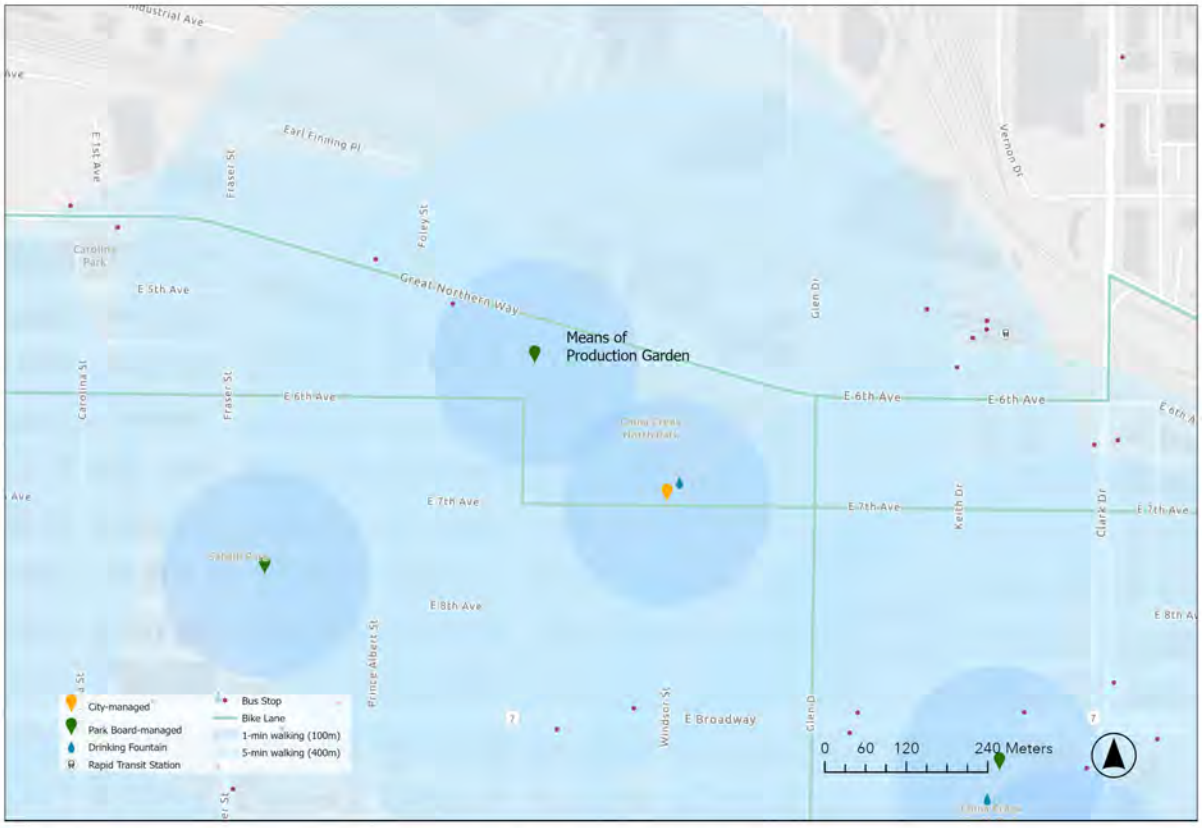


Figure 43: Surrounding context of Means of Production Garden

HIGHLIGHTED STRENGTH(S)

- **Part A: Cultural Features**

Means of Production Garden (MOP) stands out for its focus on cultivating plants for dye, fibre, woodworking, and basketry rather than traditional food growing. The garden features a rewilded area and a food forest, offering community grazing opportunities. MOP also organizes workshops and educational programs that utilize the materials grown on-site, such as basket willow for land weaving projects and tree clippings for botanical dyes.

MOP serves as an excellent example of converting under-utilized land, less suited for food production, into a vibrant community space where people engage with nature and plants through the lens of arts and culture.

Figure 44 and 45: Welcoming sign and garden history

Figure 46:
Photo taken in 2002 before MOP is fully established
Photo by Oliver Kellhammer

Figure 47:
Early on-site basketry workshop at MOP
Photo by Oliver Kellhammer

Figure 48:
MOP ten years after its establishment
Photo by Oliver Kellhammer

Figure 49:
Signage indicating the traditional name and use of plant

Figure 50:
Willow harvest

7.4

ORCHARD AND FOOD LANDSCAPES

COPLEY COMMUNITY OCHARD

STUDY 4: ORCHARD AND FOOD LANDSCAPES
COPLEY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Copley Community Orchard is an organic community orchard located in East Vancouver with a history of urban agriculture. Originally a private orchard owned by the Copley family in the 1910s, the property was sold in the 1940s. The land remained unsuitable for development due to the presence of an underground sewer main. In 2013, a group of dedicated volunteers, in collaboration with the Environmental Youth Alliance, decided to restore the site as a community orchard (Copley Community Orchard Society, n.d.).

The orchard is designed to be a sustainable and accessible green space where people can grow fruit, learn about permaculture, and connect with nature and one another. It features a diverse range of fruit trees, berry bushes, and other edible plants, all cared for collectively by garden members. The orchard promotes local food production and ecological stewardship, fostering a sense of community and connection to the environment.

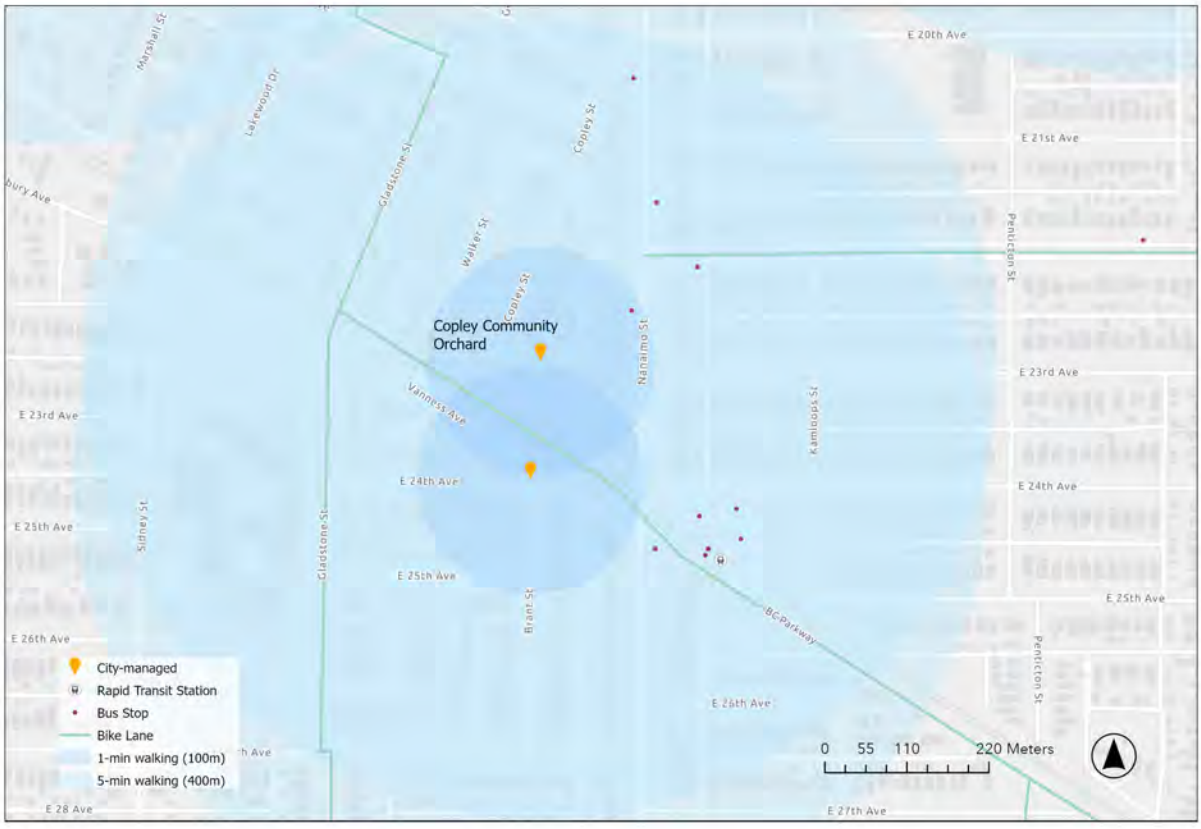


Figure 51: Surrounding context of Copley Community Orchard

HIGHLIGHTED STRENGTH(S)

- **Part A: Community Stewardship and Education**
- **Part B: Educational Wildlife Features, Planting Types**

The key strengths of Copley Community Orchard are its dedication to environmental stewardship and public education. Located on the former Gladstone Creek, the orchard has made significant efforts in restoration and rehabilitation by creating a rain garden that follows the historic stream while providing habitat for wildlife and plants.

It features a number of educational wildlife elements and planting types, including bat hotels, mason bee houses, the David Suzuki Butterfly Way, and a naturalized meadow area. This is accompanied by regular programming such as orchard tours, public talks, cultural ceremonies and music performances.

Figure 52 and 53: Welcoming Sign at the entrance and garden map

Figure 54: Educational interpretive signage

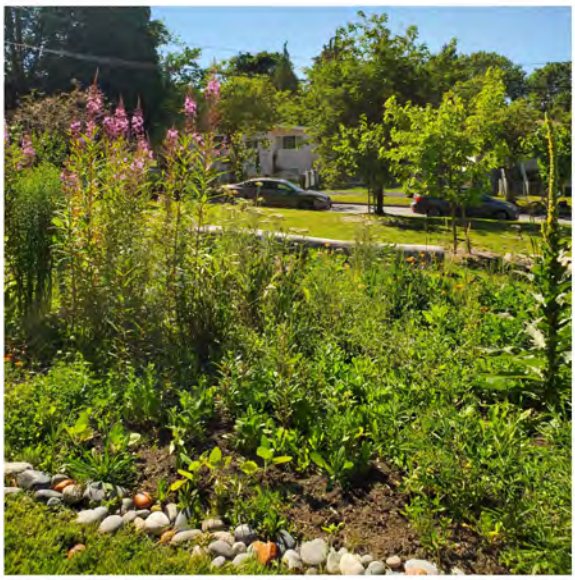


Figure 55: Naturalized meadow

Figure 56: Bat hotel

Figure 57: Mason Bee house

Figure 58: Educational interpretive signage

Figure 59:
Rain Garden

Figure 60:
David Suzuki
Butterflyway

7.5

INDIGENOUS-LED GARDENS

CHAYTHOOS GARDEN & INDIGNEOUS WOMEN RISE DRUM CIRCLE

STUDY 5: INDIGENOUS-LED GARDEN
CHAYTHOOS GARDEN*

* No score evaluation was conducted for this garden since it was installed in 2023.

Chaythoos Garden is an Indigenous-led Garden created by Squamish Nation artist T'uy't'tanat-Cease Wyss at the A-Frame building (8701 Stanley Park Drive) in what is known as Stanley Park.

Dr. Wyss is the second artist-in-residence participating in the A-Frame Activation project. The A-Frame Activation is a cultural residency project created in response to the Park Board's commitment to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. One of the objectives of the residency is to provide support to the Host Nation in establishing a visible presence on their lands and in practicing their cultures (Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, 2022). While the focus on interactive and educational opportunities is similar to other Arts and Culture Gardens, Indigenous-led Garden prioritizes Indigenous leadership in their operation and programming.

Chaythoos Garden is designed as a teaching and event space for Indigenous people and inter-cultural learning. Chaythoos is a historic midden and culturally-significant site that is protected by landscape fabric barriers. The garden continues to be a site for cultural ceremonies and features Salish designs outlined with oyster shells, over 40 native plants, repurposed logs and granite for seating.

Figure 61:
Garden bed outlined with oyster shells

Figure 62:
Garden reconstruction work in August 2024
Photo by Alan Chen

Figure 63:
Garden plants ready to be planted
Photo by Alan Chen

Figure 64:
Overall garden layout
Photo by Alan Chen

STUDY 5: INDIGENOUS-LED GARDEN
INDIGENOUS WOMEN RISE DRUM CIRCLE*

* No score evaluation was conducted for this garden since it was installed in 2023.

The Indigenous Women Rise Drum Circle is a First Nations-led food and culture garden that supports off-reserve First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people opportunities to connect with each other, the land, and cultural activities (IndigenousWomenRise, 2023)

The garden features an Every Child Matters Memorial Garden with a mix of food and ceremonial plants. Notably, the garden has planted the "Three Sisters" - an Indigenous companion planting type consisting of corn, legumes, and squash. The garden also includes a berry patch for harvesting. A ceremonial space is located around the garden, with log seating for gatherings and drumming.

Figure 65: Indigenous Women Rise Drum Circle

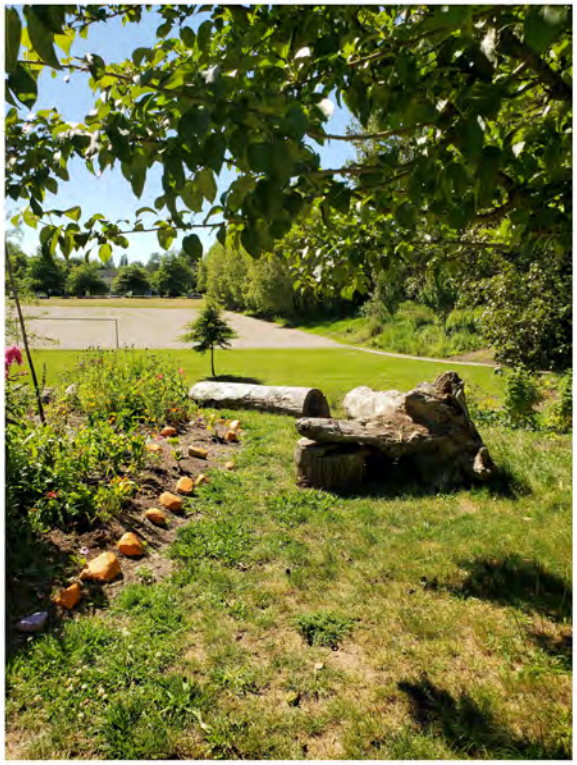


Figure 66:
Log seating for gathering before ceremony

Figure 67:
Painted stone in the garden

8

CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSION

Gardens that promote resilience, equity and justice can vary considerably, depending on their priorities and focus. The research has not provided a definitive answer to the question "What is a garden that promotes equity and justice?" Nor is there a single, definitive look that gardens should strive for. Gardens must be adaptable and reflective of the community that they serve.

The evaluation framework proposed in this project aims to assess whether gardens embody design qualities conducive to community building and inclusion. However, it is recognized that it is ultimately constrained by what is "measurable," even with extensive data. The connections that develop between people, and the symbiotic relationships between humans and non-humans, while perceptible, can be too nuanced and complex to be captured by an evaluation framework. The indicators, while useful, fall short of encompassing the full essence of these spaces; rather, they serve as tools for gardens and staff to identify pathways for improvement.

The way a garden is designed determines how the space is used, but these decisions about the physical environment are often shaped by the garden's governance structure and programming. While parts of our current policies promote equity and justice, they present significant opportunities for further enhancement.

Beyond their functional and aesthetic purposes, gardens should strive to create environments that foster social interaction, inclusivity, and relationship building. Through thoughtful design, management, and programming, these spaces have the potential to drive a more just, equitable, and resilient connection with the land.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Survey, Data Collection and Evaluation

Survey Expansion: The survey data available at the moment presents an entry point in creating an evaluation framework, but they are not extensive enough to conduct a fair assessment of the garden's performance. The city should consider the potential for survey expansion to improve the proposed framework. A majority of the newly proposed indicators in the detailed analysis can be collected through photo documentation. The format will follow the current structure of an online survey, with drop-down menus and write-ins for questions. However, gardeners are required to submit their photos to the survey for record-keeping purposes. Appendix D also includes several items that were recommended by staff to be included in future surveys.

Data Collection: The survey completion rate has been steadily increasing in recent years. To further improve data collection and analysis, the city could consider making survey completion a requirement for renewing license agreements.

Proxy Indicators/ Focal Species: Currently, plantings are recorded by general types for easy record keeping. Yet, it is incredibly difficult for staff to analyze the gardens' ecological values without a more detailed planting inventory. A low-hanging fruit is to clarify the planting types in future surveys by providing common examples that belong in these categories.

Due to the limited timeframe, other potential indicators for the environmental aspect were not explored in this project. However, a future research direction could be to collect data on the observations of focal species that are indicative of the habitat types that are present in the garden and its surroundings. This data could inform the relationship between community gardens and the city's broader ecological network. Staff could also explore the possibility of preserving the longevity of certain gardens if they are proven to be ecologically connected.

Baseline Scores: The implementation of a baseline score for each part/ subtopic was considered but not included in the final proposed evaluation framework as there are limited indicators available. As the survey expands in the future, establishing a baseline ensures each garden can meet minimum threshold/requirements in different aspects while recognizing their varying priorities.

Resources for Gardeners

Educational Workshops: While the City does not hold garden workshops due to limited capacity, engineering gardens could benefit by participating in the Park's public workshops and share these community resources. This presents an opportunity for collaboration and mutual support between City and VPB staff in enhancing their garden programs.

- **Invasive Species Control** - Educational workshops are valuable for providing gardeners with foundational knowledge in caring for and tending the garden-scape. The evaluation framework highlights stewardship as a key aspect of supporting climate action and enhancing biodiversity.

- These workshops can address various topics, such as management practices for invasive species in the Lower Mainland, and teaching gardeners how to identify and control these species within the landscape. Staff can also share these resources with garden groups, with a great starting point being the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver, which offers a list of technical guides for controlling common invasive species such as fire ants and Japanese knotweed.

Figure 68: Invasive - Japanese Knotweed

Figure 69: Invasive - Fire ant nest

Resources for Gardeners

- **Site Management Training** - The LFSAP (2021) highlights that collective garden governance often requires extra resources and expertise. Many shared gardens need coordinators or managers to oversee site maintenance and management. These coordinators should not only be trusted community members, but also trained in conflict resolution, anti-racism, and decolonization to create a safe and welcoming environment for equity-denied groups.

Funding Opportunities: To support the transition of community gardens into a collective gardening model and ensure they are accessible to all, it is imperative that staff allocate additional and adequate funding opportunities.

The research insight from the LFSAP (2021) reveals that the installation of raised beds increases the cost of installation and ongoing maintenance by approximately 30% compared to gardens without raised beds. Without sufficient funding, gardens may struggle to implement these vital changes, limiting their ability to serve diverse communities effectively. Allocating more financial resources is important in empowering gardens to fulfill these goals and continue to be inclusive, sustainable spaces for all.

Strategic Placement of New Garden

Pre-planning and context analysis are essential in choosing a community garden site. Better access to amenities ensures that they can effectively serve their communities and contributes to their long-term success. Installing amenities after a garden is established can be expensive and challenging if there is no demonstrated need in the broader neighbourhood.

Strategically placing gardens in areas with existing amenities not only supports their daily operations but also enhances their role as community-building and gathering spaces. VanPlay emphasizes placing food assets in Equity Initiative Zones to support parts of the city that have historically been underserved. New gardens should be prioritized in these zones, especially in areas with adequate amenities and are experiencing growth.

Figure 70: Drinking fountain at Fraserlands Community Garden (Riverfront Park)

Figure 71: Bike rack at Brewers Park Community Garden

Governance and Programming

Evaluation Expansion: As seen from the analysis, the qualities of a garden are often related to the policy framework and governance structure in place. This calls for further research on the governance structure and programming of community gardens. A garden can provide the necessary infrastructure to support equity and justice, but its success ultimately depends on the effectiveness of the programming and the commitment of the governing group in activating these spaces.

Further questions to be explored include: What are the strengths of different governing organizations e.g. standalone garden societies, neighbourhood houses, and community centres? How do garden societies communicate within their organizational structure and engage with the general public? How does leadership from equity-denied groups in governance structures impact cultural safety and participation?

Alternative Project Framing: Different framing options were explored with staff throughout the duration of the project. The project currently uses the term "resilience," emphasizing the social and environmental aspects that align with the policy language. However, there are concerns that it implies prioritizing human capacity to thrive in a space, potentially overlooking the environmental well-being of gardens.

Instead, the concept of "justice" may be more appropriate, as it emphasizes equity and fairness, which extends to the equitable use and habitation of space by human and non-human entities. Although this concept is not integrated into the project—given the preliminary nature of the evaluation of physical attributes—it represents a valuable opportunity for future exploration to enhance the research on governance and programming as well as the overall framework approach.

Policy Update

Standardize and Clarify Terminologies: The LFSAP (Local Food System Action Plan) uses the phrase "Food and Culture Gardens," to define community-supported growing spaces that are part of the mapped food system assets. In this report, community gardens are defined as gardens with a licence agreement, which, in this context, is equivalent to Food and Culture Gardens.

Under this broad category, "community garden" refers to two specific garden subtypes: 1) community gardens with individual plots, and 2) collective community gardens, where 50% or more of the growing area is collective. Other gardens, such as Indigenous-Led gardens, are not classified as "community gardens". However, aside from the distinction in gardening priorities (food growing vs. non-food growing), it is unclear how this categorization differentiates "community gardens" from other garden types, such as Food Orchards. There is a need for clearer definitions and guidelines to better distinguish between these garden types to ensure consistency and understanding across policies.

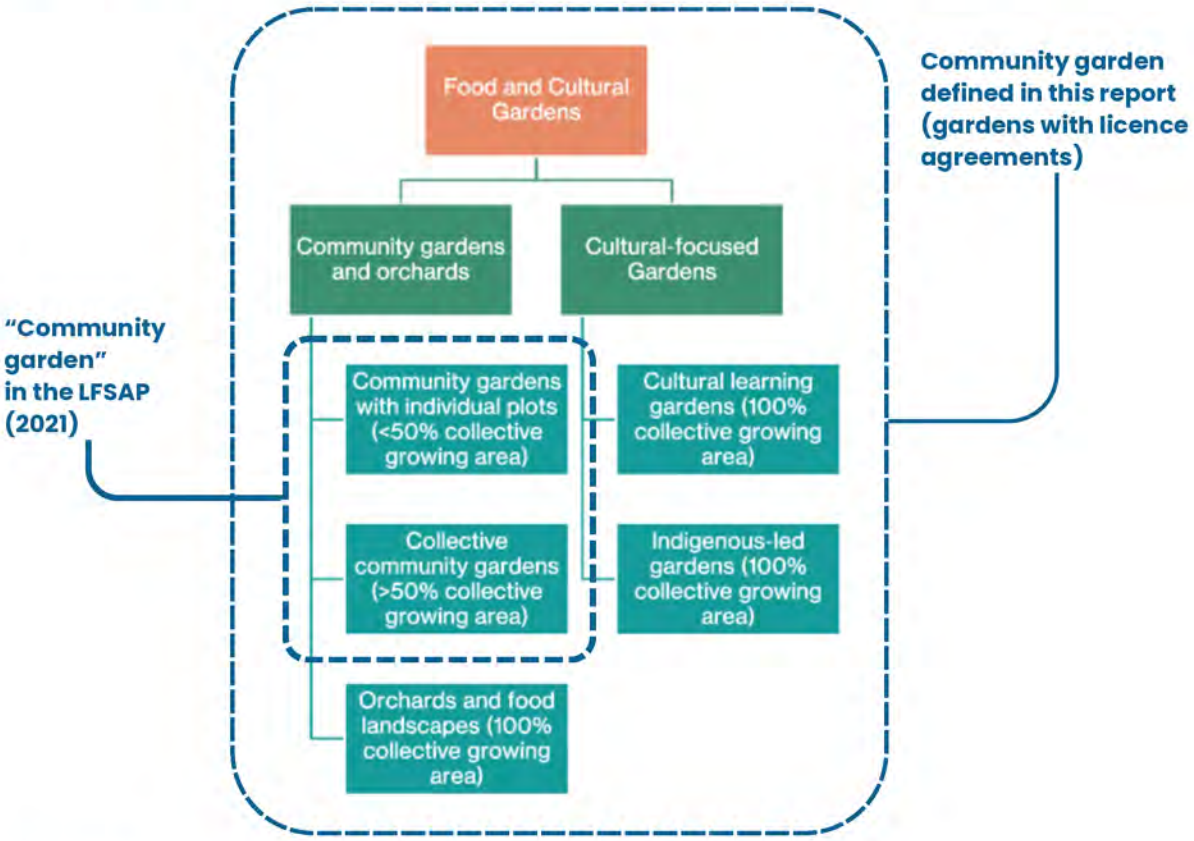


Figure 72: Diagram illustrating the different definitions of "community garden"

There is also a mix of terminologies across agencies. For instance, the City of Vancouver's website on Local Food Systems lists "Learning, Pollinator, and Culture Gardens" as one of the garden types concerning the LFSAP. This is contrary to the actual category in the plan, where it is referred to as "Cultural Learning Gardens."

While there may be an implicit understanding among staff, the varying terms can be confusing, especially since most pollinator gardens (ones without licence agreements) are not mapped as urban agriculture assets by the Park Board.

Update Accessibility Guideline: Community garden policies from both the City of Vancouver and the Park Board emphasize the importance of reducing design barriers and ensuring garden accessibility. The Accessibility Community Garden Guidelines 2011 offers detailed information on the specific design requirements for accessible garden features. As these guidelines have been in place for over a decade, an update is needed to reflect the advancements in accessibility standards and address evolving community needs.

9

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10

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Annotated Bibliography

This appendix summarizes key policies that establish Vancouver's food policy framework, outlining the priorities and goals that guide the creation and management of food assets on park and city-managed lands.

Strategic Plans

Vancouver Plan

The Vancouver Plan is the City's long-term land use designed to enhance the city's livability, affordability, and sustainability for its residents. It establishes a unified vision for the future land use of the City by outlining where growth and change will occur over the next 30 years. Several key themes of the Plan include expanding housing options in established neighbourhoods, addressing the climate crisis, and supporting businesses of all sizes. Section 11 (p.144-145) details the vision for the city's food system, it is one that "resilient ...supports people, the environment, and the economy. Residents have equitable access to food and food-related spaces and infrastructure." Specific food policies include the Vancouver Food Strategy and the Local Food Action Plan.

Vibrant City Vancouver

Vibrant City Vancouver encompasses the City Council's strategic vision to cultivate a dynamic and lively urban environment, rich with diverse cultural offerings and accessible amenities citywide. It serves as a guiding framework for decision-making by Council and staff. The nine objectives outlined include

- Fostering vibrant and inclusive public spaces,
- Addressing the local housing crisis,
- Supporting a resilient local economy,
- Ensuring efficient city services and infrastructure,
- Prioritizing safety and security through effective emergency response,
- Responding to the climate emergency through environmental initiatives,
- Promoting a healthy and equitable community,
- Advancing reconciliation with local Indigenous Nations and urban Indigenous Peoples, and
- Maintaining good governance practices through responsible stewardship of public funds and an efficient administrative infrastructure.

VanPlay

Vancouver's Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan ("VanPlay") is developed by the City of Vancouver to guide the management and development of parks, recreation facilities, and natural areas within the city. It focuses on enhancing the quality of life for residents by providing equitable access to outdoor spaces and promoting healthy lifestyles. At a high level, it recognizes the need for more food assets and services, which includes implementing recommendations from the 2018 Park

Board concession strategy, updating the Local Food System Action Plan, and incorporating post-disaster food planning. It sets the objective to allocate at least 50% of the total area of Park Board-managed community gardens for collective food growing. This goal is supported by items R.3.1-3.3 in the Local Food section, which encourage food-focused programming and infrastructure, collaboration with Indigenous communities and facilitating local food access through partnership.

Food System Policies

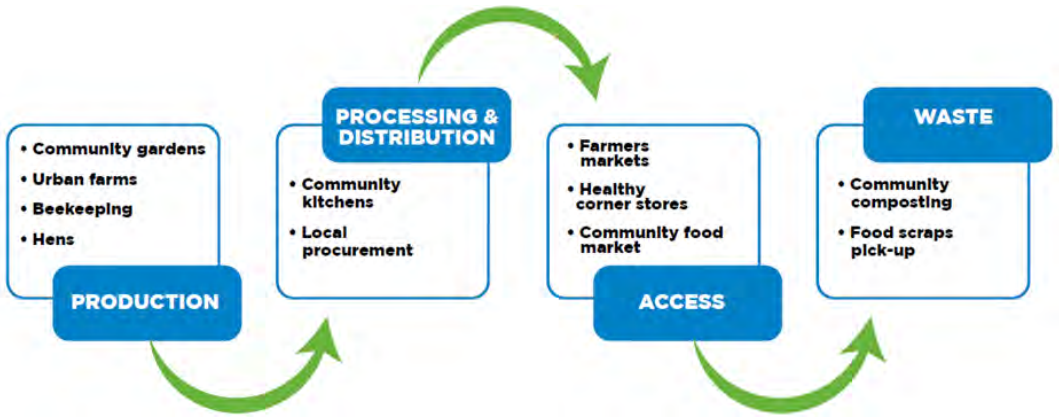
CoV: Vancouver Food Charter (2007)

The Food Charter outlines the City of Vancouver's ("CoV") overarching vision for a food system that benefits both the environment and the community. Five principles are listed in the chapter, including: 1) Community Economic Development, 2) Ecological Health, 3) Social Justice, 4) Collaboration and Participation, and 5) Celebration. A just and sustainable food system should contribute to the well-being of the society foster local production, enhance food security and sovereignty, celebrate the multicultural food tradition of the city, and adequately reflect the dialogue between all stakeholders involved in the system. These objectives align with the City's broader adaptation of sustainability as a fundamental approach to operations since 2002. The document also highlights the relationship between the city's reliance on food imports and its vulnerability to global factors such as natural disasters and economic setbacks. Another key focus of the charter is social justice, with a particular emphasis on the needs of children experiencing food insecurity.

CoV: Vancouver Food Strategy (2013)

The Vancouver Food Strategy provides a policy framework for future action across the City's food system targeting five priority action areas: 1) food production (urban agriculture), 2) resident empowerment, 3) food access, 4) food processing and distribution, and 5) food waste management. The document is organized around the four main components of the food system. Various programs and their respective action items could then support the five following goals:

- Support food-friendly neighbourhoods
- Empower residents to take action
- Improve access to healthy, affordable, culturally diverse food for all residents
- Make food a centrepiece of Vancouver's green economy
- Advocate for a just and sustainable food system with partners and at all levels of government
- The goals are derived from community consultations, the Greenest City Action Plan local food goals, principles identified in the Vancouver Food Charter, and precedent research on food strategies. The Strategy sets out a target of increasing food assets by 50% (double check) by the year 2020.



VPB: Local Food System Action Plan – LFSAP (2021)

The 2021 LSFAP's vision is to decolonize the local food system by creating space for Indigenous food sovereignty, increasing equitable access to food assets and services, and working toward food system resiliency as part of climate action. The inventory of food assets and services is utilized to identify equity gaps and opportunities for service delivery. Priority areas were identified using existing VanPlay's equity initiative zones. Monitoring and evaluation of plan implementation are done using the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Monitoring Framework. Four goals are identified in the LFSAP:

- Centre Indigenous Voices in Food System Work to Honour the Teaching That "Food is Medicine"
- Improve Equity in Park Board Food Assets, Services, and Programs
- Strengthen Food Partnerships and Collaboration to Support a Sustainable and Just Food Economy
- Build Long-Term Food System Resiliency, Sustainability, and Increase Biodiversity

Community Garden Policies

CoV: Operational Guidelines for Community Gardens on City Land Other Than City Parks

The guidelines lay out the process of creating a community garden ("the garden") and the conditions it operates under. Community gardens on City land other than City parks should serve one or more of the following purposes

- Produce edible and ornamental plants for garden members,
- Support skill-building programs/ training opportunities,
- Donate food to charitable causes

Maintenance and Services: The CoV is not responsible for developing and maintaining the community gardens, except for the site's preparation work before the first growing season. It will provide utility services (e.g. water and electricity) to the property, while maintenance work such as garbage removal is the garden's responsibility.

Physical Design: Regarding the physical design of the garden, an ornamental perimeter garden must be provided to create an attractive buffer with the neighbourhood. Paths should be fully accessible, with provisions for senior and/ or disabled persons. Fences are permitted but may not be taller than one metre. A comprehensive garden site plan must be prepared for and approved by City staff.

Programming: Two (2) plots of average size should be designated for one of the following - a) a local non-profit, b) a neighbouring childcare centre, or c) a common area for food grown for charitable purposes.

VPB: Urban Agriculture Policy (2015)

The Park Board prioritizes collaborative and shared gardening to maximize access to valuable green space. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation recognizes urban agriculture as a valuable food-focused activity that can contribute to community development, environmental awareness and benefits, positive social interaction, learning, health, exercise, wellness, and access to fresh food. It supports urban agriculture "UA" in parklands by facilitating the development and operations of UA projects, assisting project proponents in the search for an appropriate site, and connecting to landowners.

- Planting Choice: Project member and community benefit; skills and capacity building; benefitting pollinators, Charitable Cause, Collaboration with other PB programs, grow primarily edible, art and craft, and/ or Indigenous plants
- Diversity of Garden Users: Encourage a diverse range of community backgrounds (age group, ability, cultural background) to participate from the conceptual design of the garden to the operation stage.
- Garden Design and Access: open access to projects no locked barriers, ensure accessibility of garden to people

Other Relevant Policies

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact is an international agreement among cities across the globe to develop just, resilient local food systems. Each participating city develops a plan to provide healthy and affordable food for everyone in their community, minimize food waste, and care for the environment while addressing the impacts of climate change using a human rights-based framework. Its main aim is to support cities in developing sustainable urban food systems by fostering city-to-city cooperation and best practices exchange. The Local Food System Action Plan (VPB) applies MUFPP's Monitoring Framework to develop its strategies. The framework is developed to help identify the most appropriate indicators, criteria for selection, and the responsible stakeholders.

CoV: Vancouver Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2024-25

The Vancouver Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for 2024-25 is a comprehensive plan aimed at addressing the impacts of climate change on the city of Vancouver. This 2024-25 Strategy update is

structured around the five main climate-related hazards facing Vancouver (extreme heat, poor air quality, drought, extreme rainfall, and sea level rise) and takes a risk-based approach to adaptation planning. It recognizes the disproportionate climate impacts such as drought and sea level rise on equity-deserving groups, particularly on the impacts on traditional food, food foraging and other cultural practices of Indigenous communities.

CoV: Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Plan

Zero Waste 2040 is Vancouver's long-term strategy for achieving zero waste in the city. Aligned with the Climate Emergency Action Plan, it aims to generate renewable energy, prevent pollution, promote access to healthy food, and diversify the economy. In terms of the food system, the plan prioritizes educating, reducing, and recycling food waste.

Appendix B: Common Terminologies and Definitions

This appendix collects and compares the definitions of the commonly used terminologies in the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Park Board food system-related policies.

Abbreviations:

CoV: City of Vancouver

VPB: Vancouver Park Board

VFS: Vancouver Food Strategy

LFSAP: Local Food System Action Plan (2021)

UA: Urban Agriculture Policy (2015)

COMMON TERMINOLOGIES

Food Security	VFS (CoV): The most common definitions is from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): "... a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."
Food Access	VFS (CoV): The City of Vancouver adopts a broader notion of food access to allow a focus on policies and development levers designed to increase food retail options. These are aimed at improving access to healthier, fresher food options for all residents. The City of Vancouver understands food access as policies, processes or programs that create the conditions for the following food security attributes to be met: Availability, Accessibility, Adequacy, Acceptability, Agency.
Food Sovereignty	LFSAP (VPB): The LFSAP adopts the definition provided by the2007 World Forum for 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	LFSAP (VPB): 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."
Equity Denied Groups VS Equity Seeking Group	LFSAP (VPB): 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.
Local Food System	LFSAP(VPB): A community-supported system within a specific geography (e.g. the City of Vancouver) that encompasses the whole food cycle, which covers beyond the availability of local food.
Just and Sustainable Food System	VFS (CoV): The City of Vancouver defines a just and sustainable food system as one in which food production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management are integrated to enhance the environmental, economic, social and nutritional well-being of our city and its residents.

Just and Sustainable Food System	LFSAP (VPB): 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 working towards food system resiliency as part of climate action."
Food System Resilience	LFSAP (VPB): 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."
Urban Agriculture	UA (VPB): Urban agriculture is defined as a community development program operated by a non-profit society that supports the objectives of the Board's Local Food Action Plan and the City of Vancouver's Food Strategy. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation recognizes urban agriculture as a valuable food-focused activity that can contribute to community development, environmental awareness and benefits, positive social interaction, learning, health, exercise, wellness, and access to fresh food.
	VFS (CoV): The City of Vancouver understands urban agriculture as the production and harvesting of fruits and vegetables, raising of animals, or cultivation of fish for local consumption or sale within and around cities. In relation to the aim of creating a just and sustainable food system for the City of Vancouver, the main urban agriculture action areas are: community gardening (including fruit trees), urban farming, hobby beekeeping, backyard hens, and edible landscaping.

MAPPED FOOD SYSTEM ASSETS

Food Assets	Vancouver Plan (CoV): Food assets are places where people can grow, prepare, share, buy, receive or learn about food. There are two broad categories: • The food supply chain (e.g., urban farms, food wholesale, retail, and manufacturing infrastructure) • Community resources (e.g., urban agriculture and harvesting spaces, community kitchens, and locations for food sharing and celebration)
	VFS (CoV): Food assets are defined as resources, facilities, services or spaces that are available to Vancouver residents, and which are used to support the local food system. This includes physical assets such as community composting sites, community food markets, community fruit tree orchards, community gardens, community kitchens, farmers markets, street food vendors, urban farms

	LFSAP (VPB): Food assets are tangible or intangible food and cultural resources including: Land-based amenities, such as food, medicine, fiber, pollinator, and culture gardens; Built amenities, such as community kitchens, fieldhouse activations, markets, and concessions; Public programs and events that connect people with food and cultural plants or help address food insecurity; Community partnership support and funding for food and culture programs and amenities
Collective Gardening	LFSAP(VPB): 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 coordinated group gardening efforts such as work parties or schedules for maintaining designated areas. The goal is that more people benefit from the growing space.
Food and Culture Gardens (FCG)	LFSAP (VPB): Food and culture gardens are community supported growing spaces that connect people with land stewardship and cultural programming designed around food-growing, plant medicine, pollination, and art materials. They provide animated public spaces where the community can come together to learn about growing cycles, share food and culture, and build community. Food and culture gardens include: Community gardens with individual plots (less than 50% collective growing area) • Collective community gardens (50% + collective growing area) • Cultural learning gardens (100% collective growing area) • Indigenous-run gardens (100% collective growing area) • Orchards and food landscapes (100% collective growing area)
Community Garden	LFSAP(VPB): Community gardens are gardens primarily dedicated to individual allotment plots and have less than 50% of the total garden area dedicated to collective gardening. As of 2021 there are a total of 18, six of which were added since the 2013 LFAP. • 50%+ Collective Community Gardens: These are a sub-type of community garden that, in addition to individual allotment plots, self-report having 50% or more of the total garden area dedicated to collective gardening. As of 2021, there are a total of 13, nine of which were added since the 2013 LFAP.

	VFS (CoV): The City of Vancouver understands community gardens as land managed by a non-profit society or a group of individuals and used to grow plants and harvest food or ornamental crops. Crops can be used by those cultivating the land and their households, or be donated for use in the programs of partner non-profit organizations. Community gardens are treated as powerful community food assets and gathering places that promote sustainability, neighbourhood livability, urban greening, community building, intergenerational activity, social interaction, crime reduction, exercise and food production. The City strongly encourages community garden members to include the following in their garden activities: • a community development program which encourages the involvement of local schools, youth groups, senior citizens, ethnocultural groups and others who may not have an assigned plot but may wish to participate in garden activities; • an environmental enrichment program which offers demonstration activities to encourage urban agriculture outside of community gardens; • mechanisms to promote urban greening and environmental biodiversity; • activities to ensure that garden membership and participation reflect the diversity of the community in which the garden is located, and the city at large.
	Operational Guidelines (CoV): A place on City-owned land, other than City parks, operated or overseen by a non-profit Society, where people grow and maintain ornamental and edible plants. Residential boulevard gardens, Green Streets Program gardens and beautification projects are not included in this definition. Community gardens on City land other than City parks should serve one or more of the following purposes: • produce edible and ornamental plants for garden members • support skill-building programs/ training opportunities • donate food to charitable causes.
Cultural Learning Gardens	LFSAP(VPB): These are collective gardens that focus on food systems knowledge sharing and/or arts and cultural sharing. As of 2021 there are a total of eight: Oppenheimer Park, John Hendry Park, Templeton Park, Brewers Park, Trillium Park, China Creek North Park, Renfrew Ravine Park, and Sunset Park. Currently, seven of these gardens partner with Indigenous communities and practitioners, and one is managed by BIPOC youth. A total of five gardens were added since the 2013 LFAP.

Indigenous-Led Gardens	LFSAP(VPB): These are the cultural learning gardens that are led by Indigenous groups or practitioners. As of 2021, there are two: Moberly Park and Strathcona Park. Both have been established as Indigenous-led gardens since 2013.
Food Trees and Orchards	LFSAP(VPB): Food trees are trees that produce fruit and nuts and orchards are sites with more than four fruit trees. There are 642 food trees on Park Board land, including 29 orchards. This count does not include food trees on city streets that are maintained by the Park Board. Since the 2013 LFAP, the number of food trees has decreased by 101. The maintenance of food trees is resource intensive, therefore community stewards or groups (e.g. a community orchard or garden group) are integral to the longevity and health of these trees. Stewardship is also important to ensure food trees are being harvested at the correct time of the season in order to avoid large amounts of food waste.

NON-MAPPED FOOD SYSTEM ASSETS

Emergency Food Response Sites	LFSAP(VPB): Starting in 2020 and continuing currently, several Park Board sites have been repurposed and dedicated, in part, to Vancouver's COVID-19 emergency food response (refer to page 46 for more info). Sunset Nursery, VanDusen Gardens, and garden beds at each golf course were dedicated to growing food for use in meal hampers and prepared meals. The Langara clubhouse kitchen was dedicated to preparing food hampers and prepared meals for delivery across the city.
Naturally Managed Food Landscapes	LFSAP(VPB): There are a variety of Indigenous foods and medicines growing in naturally managed areas on Park Board land. Naturally managed areas are mapped in the Biodiversity Strategy and supported by the Rewilding Vancouver: An Environmental Education & Stewardship Action Plan. The public involved in the stewardship of these areas are supported through the Park Partner and Park Stewardship programs, which is a different process than for food and culture gardens.
Horticulture Gardens	LFSAP(VPB): Flower beds, ornamental gardens, or landscaped areas stewarded by Park Board operation staff. These areas have the potential to accommodate edible plants and plants that provide food for pollinators that support the production of food.

Composting	LFSAP(VPB): There is on-site composting for leaves at the Park Board works yards and at some community gardens. There are no neighbourhood composting sites on Park Board land. Organics from food operations go to centralized composting.
Urban Farm	VFS (CoV): In Vancouver, "urban farm" refers to a site where fresh food is grown primarily for sale, or where the food is primarily consumed by someone other than the grower(s). The raising of livestock for sale is not included. Urban farming provides many of the same benefits as community gardens: urban farms green the city, improve biodiversity, make use of under-utilized spaces and produce food closer to home. In addition, urban farming enhances the local food economy by creating jobs, building skills, shortening food supply chains, increasing economic prosperity and developing new local green sectors of the economy.
	LFSAP(VPB): There are currently no urban farms on Park Board land; however, the first urban farm in park land is currently being discussed.
Other Food Growing Assets	LFSAP(VPB): There are a variety of pollinator gardens, bug gardens, mason bee lodges and apiaries. These types of food growing assets are not actively tracked or mapped.
Edible Landscaping	VFS (CoV): The City of Vancouver understands edible landscaping as the practice of using food-bearing plants for landscaping purposes in place of more commonly used ornamental plants. Edible landscaping can offer a complement to related urban agriculture and food system goals. The City of Vancouver currently uses the Urban Agriculture Design Guidelines for the Private Realm as a tool to promote edible landscaping in new developments. In 2012, the Blooming Boulevard Guidelines expanded to included edible plants along boulevards and traffic circle plantings. Edible landscaping greens urban spaces, increases biodiversity and provides opportunities for communities to learn about native food-bearing plants in their neighbourhoods. Edible landscapes can be stewarded in the same way as community gardens — as sites where groups of community members are empowered to plant, tend and harvest Similar to community gardens, this community-driven model can promote social inclusion and community capacity-building.
Neighbourhood Food Networks (NFNs)	VFS (CoV): Neighbourhood food networks (NFNs) are coalitions of citizens, organizations and agencies that work collaboratively in and across Vancouver neighbourhoods to address food system issues with the goal of improving access to healthy, affordable and nutritious food for all. NFNs are powerful community-based engines that catalyse action, knowledge and skill-building on a range of food system issues. NFNs facilitate community connectedness through food-based programs including community gardening, healthy eating, multicultural cooking clubs, seniors cooking classes, and reading nutritional labels.

*Existing Survey Item

Appendix C: Food Growing Asset Evaluation Form – 2024

This evaluation form only applies to community gardens on park or city-managed land that have a licence agreement to grow plants for community use.

Garden Name:

Garden Type:

- ☐ Community Garden (Less than 50% collective growing area)
- ☐ Cultural Learning Garden
- ☐ Orchard and Food Landscape
- ☐ Collective Community Garden (50%+ collective growing area)
- ☐ Indigenous-led Garden

Part A. To Create an Equitable, Welcoming and Inclusive Space

Subtopic	Indicator	+ 0	+ 0.5	+1
Welcoming Space	1. Visible and apparent entrance and/or welcome sign			
	2. Comfort – Seating*			
	Comfort – Tables*			
	3. Garden space is visible from the outside and has a clear boundary			
	4. Elements of Public Art			
	5. Communal gardening plots* Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)			
Ease of Gardening	6. A Clear Circulation Path Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)			
	7. Toolshed/ Storage Unit*			
	8. % of Total Accessible Plots for Mobility Aids* Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)			
Communica-tion and Community Engagement	9. Contact Info on site (email/ phone number/ website/ social media)			
	10. Publicly available site plan/ Map (on-site/ online)			
	11. An Actively Updated Community Noticeboard			
	12. Land Acknowledgement*			
	13. Strategies to promote programs to non-garden holders* Point Scale: +0 (not specified), +1 (on-site / community network), + 1.5 (Both)			
Cultural Features	14. Ceremonial Space*			
	15. Fiber/ Dye/ Art Planting*			
	16. Medicinal Planting*			
	17. Indigenous Cultural Planting*			
	# of checks	XX	XX	XX
	Multiply by	0	0.5	1
	PART A Subtotal (max. 19)			XX

*Existing Survey Item

Part B. To Support Climate Action and Biodiversity

Subtopic	Indicator	+ 0	+ 0.5	+1
Stewardship	18. Compost facilities*			
Educational Wildlife Features	19. Apiary*			
	20. Mason Bee House*			
	21. Interpretive Signage*			
	22. Seed Library*			
	23. Others (0.5 each, max.1) *			
Planting Type	24. Pollinator Habitat*			
	25. Food Producing Perennials*			
	26. Fruit Tree Orchard*			
	27. Native Species*			
	# of checks	XX	XX	XX
	Multiply by	0	0.5	1
	PART B Subtotal (max. 6)			XX
	TOTAL SUM (max. 21)			XX
	Relative Score to 100% = (Part A/19) *0.5 + (Part B/21) *0.5			XX%

Part C. Context Analysis

Subtopic	Indicator	+0	+0.5	+1
Transportation	28. Transit (Skytrain Stations, Bus Stops) Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			
	29. Active Transportation (Bike Lanes) Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			
Access to Water-related Infrastructure	30. Access to Water for Irrigation Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			
	31. Drinking Fountain Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			
	32. Access to Washroom Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			
Program Activation	33. Access to a Fieldhouse*/ Programming Space			
	# of checks	XX	XX	XX
	Multiply by	0	0.5	1
	PART C TOTAL (max.6)			XX
	Relative Score to 100% = Part C/6			XX%

*Existing Survey Item

Food Growing Asset Evaluation Form – 2024

This evaluation form only applies to community gardens on park or city-managed land that have a licence agreement to grow plants for community use.

Garden Name: Riley Park Community Garden

Garden Type:

- ☐ Community Garden (Less than 50% collective growing area)
- ☐ Cultural Learning Garden
- ☐ Orchard and Food Landscape
- ☒ Collective Community Garden (50%+ collective growing area)
- ☐ Indigenous-led Garden

Part A. To Create an Equitable, Welcoming and Inclusive Space

Subtopic	Indicator	+ 0	+ 0.5	+1
Welcoming Space	1. Visible and apparent entrance and/or welcome sign			✓
	2. Comfort – Seating*		✓	
	Comfort – Tables*		✓	
	3. Garden space is visible from the outside and has a clear boundary			✓
	4. Elements of Public Art		✓	✓
	5. Communal gardening plots* Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)			✓
Ease of Gardening	6. A Clear Circulation Path Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)			✓
	7. Toolshed/ Storage Unit*			✓
	8. % of Total Accessible Plots for Mobility Aids* Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)			✓
Communica-tion and Community Engagement	9. Contact Info on site (email/ phone number/ website/ social media)			✓
	10. Publicly available site plan/ Map (on-site/ online)			✓
	11. An Actively Updated Community Noticeboard			✓
	12. Land Acknowledgement*			✓
	13. Strategies to promote programs to non-garden holders* Point Scale: +0 (not specified), +1 (on-site / community network), + 1.5 (Both)		✓	✓
Cultural Features	14. Ceremonial Space*			✓
	15. Fiber/ Dye/ Art Planting*	✓		
	16. Medicinal Planting*			✓
	17. Indigenous Cultural Planting*			✓
	# of checks	1	4	15
	Multiply by	0	0.5	1
	PART A Subtotal (max. 19)			17

*Existing Survey Item

Part B. To Support Climate Action and Biodiversity

Subtopic	Indicator	+ 0	+ 0.5	+1
Stewardship	18. Compost facilities*			✓
Educational Wildlife Features	19. Apiary*	✓		
	20. Mason Bee House*		✓	
	21. Interpretive Signage*		✓	
	22. Seed Library*		✓	
	23. Others (0.5 each, max.1) *	✓		
Planting Type	24. Pollinator Habitat*		✓	
	25. Food Producing Perennials*		✓	
	26. Fruit Tree Orchard*		✓	
	27. Native Species*		✓	
	# of checks	2	7	1
	Multiply by	0	0.5	1
	PART B Subtotal (max. 6)			4.5
	TOTAL SUM (max. 21)			21.5
	Relative Score to 100% = (Part A/19) *0.5 + (Part B/21) *0.5			82%

Part C. Context Analysis

Subtopic	Indicator	+0	+0.5	+1
Transportation	28. Transit (Skytrain Stations, Bus Stops) Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)		✓	
	29. Active Transportation (Bike Lanes) Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			✓
Access to Water-related Infrastructure	30. Access to Water for Irrigation Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			✓
	31. Drinking Fountain Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			✓
	32. Access to Washroom Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			✓
Program Activation	33. Access to a Fieldhouse*/ Programming Space			✓
	# of checks		1	5
	Multiply by	0	0.5	1
	PART C TOTAL (max.6)			5.5
	Relative Score to 100% = Part C/6			92%

*Existing Survey Item

Food Growing Asset Evaluation Form – 2024

This evaluation form only applies to community gardens on park or city-managed land that have a licence agreement to grow plants for community use.

Garden Name: Still Creek Community Garden

Garden Type:

☒ Community Garden (Less than 50% collective growing area)

☐ Collective Community Garden (50%+ collective growing area)

☐ Cultural Learning Garden

☐ Indigenous-led Garden

☐ Orchard and Food Landscape

Part A. To Create an Equitable, Welcoming and Inclusive Space

Subtopic	Indicator	+ 0	+ 0.5	+1
Welcoming Space	1. Visible and apparent entrance and/or welcome sign			✓
	2. Comfort – Seating*		✓	
	Comfort – Tables*		✓	
	3. Garden space is visible from the outside and has a clear boundary			✓
	4. Elements of Public Art		✓	✓
	5. Communal gardening plots* Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)		✓	
Ease of Gardening	6. A Clear Circulation Path Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)			✓
	7. Toolshed/ Storage Unit*			✓
	8. % of Total Accessible Plots for Mobility Aids* Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)		✓	
Communica-tion and Community Engagement	9. Contact Info on site (email/ phone number/ website/ social media)			✓
	10. Publicly available site plan/ Map (on-site/ online)	✓		
	11. An Actively Updated Community Noticeboard	✓		
	12. Land Acknowledgement*			✓
	13. Strategies to promote programs to non-garden holders* Point Scale: +0 (Not specified), +1 (On-site/ Community Network), + 1.5 (Both)			✓
Cultural Features	14. Ceremonial Space*	✓		
	15. Fiber/ Dye/ Art Planting*	✓		
	16. Medicinal Planting*			✓
	17. Indigenous Cultural Planting*			✓
	# of checks	4	5	10
	Multiply by	0	0.5	1
	PART A Subtotal (max. 19)			12.5

*Existing Survey Item

Part B. To Support Climate Action and Biodiversity

Subtopic	Indicator	+ 0	+ 0.5	+1
Stewardship	18. Compost facilities*			✓
Educational Wildlife Features	19. Apiary*	✓		
	20. Mason Bee House*	✓		
	21. Interpretive Signage*	✓		
	22. Seed Library*	✓		
	23. Others (0.5 each, max.1) *		✓	
Planting Type	24. Pollinator Habitat*		✓	
	25. Food Producing Perennials*		✓	
	26. Fruit Tree Orchard*		✓	
	27. Native Species*		✓	
	# of checks	4	5	1
	Multiply by	0	0.5	1
	PART B Subtotal (max. 6)			3.5
	TOTAL SUM (max. 21)			15.5
	Relative Score to 100% = (Part A/19) *0.5 + (Part B/21) *0.5			62%

Part C. Context Analysis

Subtopic	Indicator	+0	+0.5	+1
Transportation	28. Transit (Skytrain Stations, Bus Stops) Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			✓
	29. Active Transportation (Bike Lanes) Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			✓
Access to Water-related Infrastructure	30. Access to Water for Irrigation Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			✓
	31. Drinking Fountain Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)		✓	
	32. Access to Washroom Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)		✓	
Program Activation	33. Access to a Fieldhouse*/ Programming Space	✓		
	# of checks		2	3
	Multiply by	0	0.5	1
	PART C TOTAL (max.6)			4
	Relative Score to 100% = Part C/6			67%

*Existing Survey Item

Food Growing Asset Evaluation Form – 2024

This evaluation form only applies to community gardens on park or city-managed land that have a licence agreement to grow plants for community use.

Garden Name: Means of Production Garden

Garden Type:

- ☐ Community Garden (Less than 50% collective growing area)
- ☒ Cultural Learning Garden
- ☐ Orchard and Food Landscape
- ☐ Collective Community Garden (50%+ collective growing area)
- ☐ Indigenous-led Garden

Part A. To Create an Equitable, Welcoming and Inclusive Space

Subtopic	Indicator	+ 0	+ 0.5	+1
Welcoming Space	1. Visible and apparent entrance and/or welcome sign	✓		
	2. Comfort – Seating*		✓	
	Comfort – Tables*	✓		
	3. Garden space is visible from the outside and has a clear boundary	✓		
	4. Elements of Public Art		✓	✓
	5. Communal gardening plots* Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)			✓
Ease of Gardening	6. A Clear Circulation Path Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)		✓	
	7. Toolshed/ Storage Unit*			✓
	8. % of Total Accessible Plots for Mobility Aids* Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)	✓		
Communica-tion and Community Engagement	9. Contact Info on site (email/ phone number/ website/ social media)			✓
	10. Publicly available site plan/ Map (on-site/ online)	✓		
	11. An Actively Updated Community Noticeboard	✓		
	12. Land Acknowledgement*			✓
	13. Strategies to promote programs to non-garden holders* Point Scale: +0 (not specified), +1 (on-site / community network), + 1.5 (Both)			✓
Cultural Features	14. Ceremonial Space*	✓		
	15. Fiber/ Dye/ Art Planting*			✓
	16. Medicinal Planting*			✓
	17. Indigenous Cultural Planting*			✓
	# of checks	7	3	9
	Multiply by	0	0.5	1
	PART A Subtotal (max. 19)			10.5

*Existing Survey Item

Part B. To Support Climate Action and Biodiversity

Subtopic	Indicator	+ 0	+ 0.5	+1
Stewardship	18. Compost facilities*			✓
Educational Wildlife Features	19. Apiary*	✓		
	20. Mason Bee House*	✓		
	21. Interpretive Signage*	✓		
	22. Seed Library*	✓		
	23. Others (0.5 each, max.1) *	✓		
Planting Type	24. Pollinator Habitat*		✓	
	25. Food Producing Perennials*		✓	
	26. Fruit Tree Orchard*		✓	
	27. Native Species*		✓	
	# of checks	5	4	1
	Multiply by	0	0.5	1
	PART B Subtotal (max. 6)			3
	TOTAL SUM (max. 21)			13.5
	Relative Score to 100% = (Part A/19) *0.5 + (Part B/21) *0.5			53%

Part C. Context Analysis

Subtopic	Indicator	+0	+0.5	+1
Transportation	28. Transit (Skytrain Stations, Bus Stops) Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			✓
	29. Active Transportation (Bike Lanes) Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			✓
Access to Water-related Infrastructure	30. Access to Water for Irrigation Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			✓
	31. Drinking Fountain Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)		✓	
	32. Access to Washroom Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)		✓	
Program Activation	33. Access to a Fieldhouse*/ Programming Space	✓		
	# of checks		2	3
	Multiply by	0	0.5	1
	PART C TOTAL (max.6)			4
	Relative Score to 100% = Part C/6			67%

*Existing Survey Item

Food Growing Asset Evaluation Form – 2024

This evaluation form only applies to community gardens on park or city-managed land that have a licence agreement to grow plants for community use.

Garden Name: Copley Community Orchard

Garden Type:

☐ Community Garden (Less than 50% collective growing area)

☐ Collective Community Garden (50%+ collective growing area)

☐ Cultural Learning Garden

☐ Indigenous-led Garden

☒ Orchard and Food Landscape

Part A. To Create an Equitable, Welcoming and Inclusive Space

Subtopic	Indicator	+ 0	+ 0.5	+1
Welcoming Space	1. Visible and apparent entrance and/or welcome sign			✓
	2. Comfort – Seating*		✓	
	Comfort – Tables*		✓	
	3. Garden space is visible from the outside and has a clear boundary			✓
	4. Elements of Public Art		✓	✓
	5. Communal gardening plots* Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)			✓
Ease of Gardening	6. A Clear Circulation Path Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)			✓
	7. Toolshed/ Storage Unit*			✓
	8. % of Total Accessible Plots for Mobility Aids* Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)	✓		
Communica-tion and Community Engagement	9. Contact Info on site (email/ phone number/ website/ social media)			✓
	10. Publicly available site plan/ Map (on-site/ online)			✓
	11. An Actively Updated Community Noticeboard			✓
	12. Land Acknowledgement*			✓
	13. Strategies to promote programs to non-garden holders* Point Scale: +0 (not specified), +1 (on-site / community network), + 1.5 (Both)		✓	✓
Cultural Features	14. Ceremonial Space*	✓		
	15. Fiber/ Dye/ Art Planting*			✓
	16. Medicinal Planting*			✓
	17. Indigenous Cultural Planting*			✓
	# of checks	2	4	14
	Multiply by	0	0.5	1
	PART A Subtotal (max. 19)			16

*Existing Survey Item

Part B. To Support Climate Action and Biodiversity

Subtopic	Indicator	+ 0	+ 0.5	+1
Stewardship	18. Compost facilities*			✓
Educational Wildlife Features	19. Apiary*	✓		
	20. Mason Bee House*		✓	
	21. Interpretive Signage*		✓	
	22. Seed Library*		✓	
	23. Others (0.5 each, max.1) *		✓	
Planting Type	24. Pollinator Habitat*		✓	
	25. Food Producing Perennials*		✓	
	26. Fruit Tree Orchard*		✓	
	27. Native Species*		✓	
	# of checks	1	8	1
	Multiply by	0	0.5	1
	PART B Subtotal (max. 6)			5
	TOTAL SUM (max. 21)			21
	Relative Score to 100% = (Part A/19) *0.5 + (Part B/21) *0.5			84%

Part C. Context Analysis

Subtopic	Indicator	+0	+0.5	+1
Transportation	28. Transit (Skytrain Stations, Bus Stops) Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			✓
	29. Active Transportation (Bike Lanes) Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			✓
Access to Water-related Infrastructure	30. Access to Water for Irrigation Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			✓
	31. Drinking Fountain Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)	✓		
	32. Access to Washroom Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)	✓		
Program Activation	33. Access to a Fieldhouse*/ Programming Space	✓		
	# of checks	3	0	3
	Multiply by	0	0.5	1
	PART C TOTAL (max.6)			3
	Relative Score to 100% = Part C/6			50%

Appendix D: Future Survey Items and Indicators

Based on the research and staff feedback, this report suggests several items to add to future surveys to improve data collection and the evaluation framework. While some of these items have already been incorporated into the framework through site visit data, they can be systematically collected through the annual garden survey and incorporated into future evaluations.

Future Survey Items: Included in the evaluation, **yet to be not included**

* Existing Survey Item

Part A. To Create an Equitable, Welcoming and Inclusive Space

Subtopic	Relevance	Indicator	+ 0	+ 0.5	+1
Welcoming Space	Indicates the garden is open to the public. Ensures that the garden is inviting to all members of the community.	1. Visible and apparent entrance and/or welcome sign			
	Provides a comfortable and welcoming environment, encouraging prolonged visits and social interactions, which are essential for creating a sense of community. **Seating with a canopy allows visitors and gardeners to visit the garden in different weather conditions**	2. Comfort – Seating* Point Scale: +0.5 if available, +1 (**if shaded/ with canopy**)			
		Comfort – Tables* Point Scale: +0.5 if available, +1 (**if shaded/ with canopy**)			
	Ensures transparency and accessibility by creating a delineated garden space	3. Garden space is visible from the outside and has a clear boundary			
	Enhances the cultural and aesthetic appeal of the garden. Reflects community involvement in the space	4. Elements of Public Art Point Scale: +0, +1.5			
	Encourages collaboration and shared ownership among garden	5. Communal gardening plots* Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)			

	members, making gardening accessible to those who may not have their own plots and fostering a sense of community.				
Ease of Gardening	Improves accessibility for all, including individuals with mobility challenges	6. A Clear Circulation Path Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)			
	Provides essential shared resources and storage for all gardeners, particularly for those who may not have the means to bring their own tools.	7. Toolshed/ Storage Unit*			
	Ensures that the garden is inclusive of people with different mobility needs, allowing them to participate fully in gardening activities,	8. % of Total Accessible Plots for Mobility Aids* Point Scale: +0 (1-4%), +0.5 (5-49%), +1 (+50%)			
Communica-tion and Community Engagement	Facilitates communication and engagement with the community	9. Contact Info on site (email/ phone number/ website/ social media)			
	Helps visitors to navigate the garden	10. Publicly available site plan/ Map (on-site/ online)			
	Keeps the community informed and engaged with ongoing activities and opportunities	11. An Actively Updated Community Noticeboard			
	Recognizes the traditional land and its cultural significance, promoting inclusivity and respect for Indigenous communities	12. Land Acknowledgement*			
	Ensures that the garden is accessible and beneficial to the gardeners and the broader community	13. Strategies to promote programs* Point Scale: +0 (not specified), +1 (on-site / community network), + 1.5 (Both)			
	Promotes inclusivity by making sure that the garden is accessible to non-English speakers. Reflects the cultural diversity of the community	**14. Signages have >1 language**			

	Promotes equity and representation by ensuring that garden leadership reflects the diverse demographics of the community	15. Demographics of Garden Leaders			
Cultural Features	Provides an area for cultural and ceremonial activities	16. Ceremonial Space*			
	Encourages the incorporation of culturally significant plants, fostering a deeper connection to cultural heritage	17. Fiber/ Dye/ Art Planting*			
	Supports traditional practices by acknowledging and valuing different cultural approaches to health.	18. Medicinal Planting*			
	Highlights and preserves Indigenous knowledge and traditions	19. Indigenous Cultural Planting*			
	Supports and promotes inclusiveness by growing non-Western food crops that are connected to diverse cultural heritage	20. Ethnic Food Planting			
		# of checks	XX	XX	XX
		Multiply by	0	0.5	1
		PART A Subtotal (max. XX)			XX

Part B. To Support Climate Action and Biodiversity

Subtopic	Relevance	Indicator	+ 0	+0.5	+1
Stewardship	Reduces the garden's carbon footprint by composting garden debris on-site	1. Compost facilities*			
	Reduces water use and promotes sustainability practices in the garden	2. Water Conservation Strategies (Rainwater capture system, Irrigation guidelines etc.)			

	Protects biodiversity and garden infrastructure by identifying and managing invasive species that could harm native plants or damage the garden	**3. Observation of invasive species that are toxic and disruptive to infrastructure** (Fire ants/ Japanese knotweed/ spurge laurel/ giant hogweed/ write-in)			
Educational Wildlife Features	Encourages the presence of pollinators	4. Apiary*			
	Encourages the presence of pollinators	5. Mason Bee House*			
	Increases public awareness and education regarding environmental and ecological practices within the garden	6. Interpretive Signage*			
	Facilitates seed exchange among community members and community learning	7. Seed Library*			
		8. Others (0.5 each, max.1) *			
Planting Type	Promotes local biodiversity by incorporating diverse planting types	9. Pollinator Habitat*			
		10. Food Producing Perennials*			
		11. Fruit Tree Orchard*			
		12. Native Species*			
		13. Food plants e.g. vegetables			
		# of checks	XX	XX	XX
		Multiply by	0	0.5	1
		PART B Subtotal (max. XX)			XX
		TOTAL SUM (max. XX)			XX
		Relative Score to 100% = (Part A/max) *0.5 + (Part B/max) *0.5			XX%

Part C. Context Analysis

Subtopic	Relevance	Indicator	+0	+0.5	+1
Transportation	Facilitates community access to the garden, encouraging involvement	1. Transit (Skytrain Stations, Bus Stops) Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			
		2. Active Transportation (Bike Lanes) Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			
Access to Water-related Infrastructure	Essential for making the garden accessible and comfortable, encouraging longer stays and greater community engagement	3. Access to Water for Irrigation Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			
		4. Drinking Fountain Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			
		5. Access to Washroom Point Scale: +0 (>400m), +0.5 (100-400m), +1 (>400m)			
Program Activation	Access to a fieldhouse or other indoor programming space provides a venue for community events and educational programs. Indoor Programming Space is defined as an indoor space in a building/ structure that is larger than 10x10 and meets the building code.	6. Access to a Fieldhouse*/ Indoor Programming Space			
		# of checks	XX	XX	XX
		Multiply by	0	0.5	1
		PART C TOTAL (max. XX)			XX
		Relative Score to 100% = Part C/XX			XX%

Objective	Topic	Scope	Indicators	Relevance	Tangible/ Intangible	Data Availablity	Possible Data Source
1. To create an inclusive and welcoming space							
1	**Physical Accessibility**	Physical	Design of Main Circulation Path (width, ground material)	Accomodation for differnent mobility needs	Tangible	No	n/a
1		Physical	**# of Raised Garden beds/ accessible plots***	Accomodation for differnent mobility needs	Tangible	Yes	Survey
1		Physical	Accessible Parking	Accomodation for differnent mobility needs	Tangible	No	n/a
1		Physical	Clear signage for accessible features	Accomodation for differnent mobility needs	Tangible	No	n/a
1		Physical	**Proximity to transit**	Accesibility of garden	Intangible	No	Open Data
1		Physical	In equity-initiative zones	Need for more garden space	Intangible	Yes	Open Data
1		Physical	Bike parking	Accesibility of garden	Tangible	No	Survey - write in
1	**Communication Strategy**	Physical	**Publicly available contact info/ website/ social media**	Welcoming, community engagement	Tangible/ Intangible	Yes	Internet
1		Physical	**Land Acknowledgement***	equity, inclusivity	Tangible/ Intangible	Yes	Survey and Site Visit
1		Physical	Program Schduele	community engagement	Tangible/ Intangible	No	Survey and Internet
1		Physical	**Site Plan/ Map***	Welcoming space	Tangible/ Intangible	No	Site Visit and Internet
1		Physical, Programming	**Promotion of garden info/ programs**	community engagement	Tangible/ Intangible	Yes	Site Visit
1		Physical	**Actively updated community board/ Noticeboard**	Welcoming space, community engagement	Tangible	No	Site Visit
1		Programming	Opportunities for community garden engagement beyond garden holders	community engagement	Tangible/ Intangible	Yes	Survey
1		Physical	**Visible, apparent welcoming signage/ entrance**	Welcoming space	Intangible	No	Site Visit
1	**Supporting Infrastructure**	Physical	**Seating***	comfort, gathering space	Tangible	Yes	Survey
1		Physical	**Water and Irrigation System***	ease to garden	Tangible	Yes	Survey
1		Physical	**Drinking fountain**	comfort	Tangible	Yes	Open Data
1		Physical	**Tool Shed***	programming opportunities	Tangible	Yes	Survey
1		Physical	**Presence of Public Art**	Reflection of community engagement and involvement in the garden design	Tangible	No	Survey and Site Visit
1		Physical	**Washroom (within a certain distance e.g. 100m)**	comfort, inclusivity	Tangible	Yes	Open Data
1	**Educational Engagement Spaces**	Physical	**% of communal plot***	community engagement	Tangible	Yes	Survey
1		Programming, Physical	Opportunities to share harvest with community (seasonal)	engagement with the broader public, inclusivity	Tangible/ Intangible	No	Survey and Site Visit
1		Physical	**Interpretative, educational signage for garden features***	community learning	Tangible	No	Survey and Site Visit
1		Physical	Plant species label (for communal plots)	community learning	Tangible	No	
2. To support climate action and biodiversity							
2	**Diverse Planting Type**		**Native Plants***		Tangible	Yes	Survey
			Pollinator Habitat*		Tangible	Yes	Survey
			Fruit Tree Orchard*		Tangible	Yes	Survey
			Food Producing Perennials*		Tangible	Yes	Survey
			Drought Tolerant Plants		Tangible	No	Survey
2	**Vertical Structure Complexity**		Vertical Startification of Canopy		Tangible	No	Unsure
2	**% of Canopy Coverage**		n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a
2	**Reusing Resources**		**Compost Facilities***		Tangible	Yes	Survey
			Rainwater Retention/ Capture System		Tangible	No	Survey

LEGEND	Cell with border	Staff Recommendation
	XXX*	Exisitng Survey Item
	XXX	Will include in Evaluation

POTENTIAL INDICATORS THAT LACK DATA							
1	Physical Accessibility	Physical	Water Access (height of hose bib, proximity to garden beds)	accessibility	Tangible	No	n/a
1	Communication Strategy	Physical	Density of community - supply (number of plots) to demand (population density)	inclusivity	Intangible	No	Survey and Vapmap
1	Educational Engagement Spaces	Physical	Cultural diversity of food grown (foods grown are recognizable by local demographics)	cultural diversity of garden users	Intangible	No	n/a
1	Educational Engagement Spaces	Physical	Native plant names	community learning	Tangible	No	n/a
1	Educational Engagement Spaces	Physical, Programming	Produce fridge for give giveaway	covered under opportunites to share harvest	Tangible	No	Survey
1	Supporting Infrastructure	Physical	Workbench	ease to garden	Tangible	No	Survey
1	Supporting Infrastructure	Physical	Safety Measures (lighting, emergency phone)	welcoming, safety	Tangible	No	Survey

OUT OF SCOPE FOR THIS PROJECT							
n/a	n/a	Governance	Demographic of garden leaders	diversity of gardeners	Intangible	No	n/a
n/a	n/a	Programming	Opportunities for community garden engagement beyond garden holders	community engagement	Tangible/ Intangible	Yes	Survey
n/a	n/a	Governance	Demographics of gardeners	diversity of gardeners	Intangible	No	n/a
n/a	n/a	Programming	Demographics of program participants	diversity of program participants	Intangible	No	n/a

RECOMMENDATIONS ON FUTURE SURVEY ITEM							
1	Communication Strategy	Physical	Noticeboard	community engagement	Tangible	No	Survey
1	Supporting Infrastructure	Physical	Presence of Public Art	e.g. Mural, Decorative Tiles/ Step stones	Tangible	No	Survey
1	Supporting Infrastructure	Physical	Shade structure/ canopy	comfort	Tangible	No	Survey
1	Educational Engagement Spaces	Physical	Cultural diversity of food grown (foods grown are recognizable by local demographics)	cultural diversity of garden users	Intangible	No	n/a
n/a	n/a	Governance	Demographic of garden leaders	diversity of gardeners	Intangible	No	Survey
2	Reusing Resources	Physical	Rainwater Rentention/ Capture System		Tangible	No	Survey

Appendix E: Garden Distance to Amenities

This geospatial analysis uses coding to analyze five datasets from the City of Vancouver Open Data Portal: local area boundaries, community gardens (city-managed, park-managed and co-managed), public washrooms, drinking fountains and community centres. The primary objective of this study is to determine which neighbourhood in the city has community gardens with the best access to water-related amenities. In the context of this report, the analysis reveals gardens have **limited access to city amenities** and highlights the **need for strategic placement of new gardens where infrastructure is already established**. This insight supports the broader discussion in the report about enhancing support for community gardens.

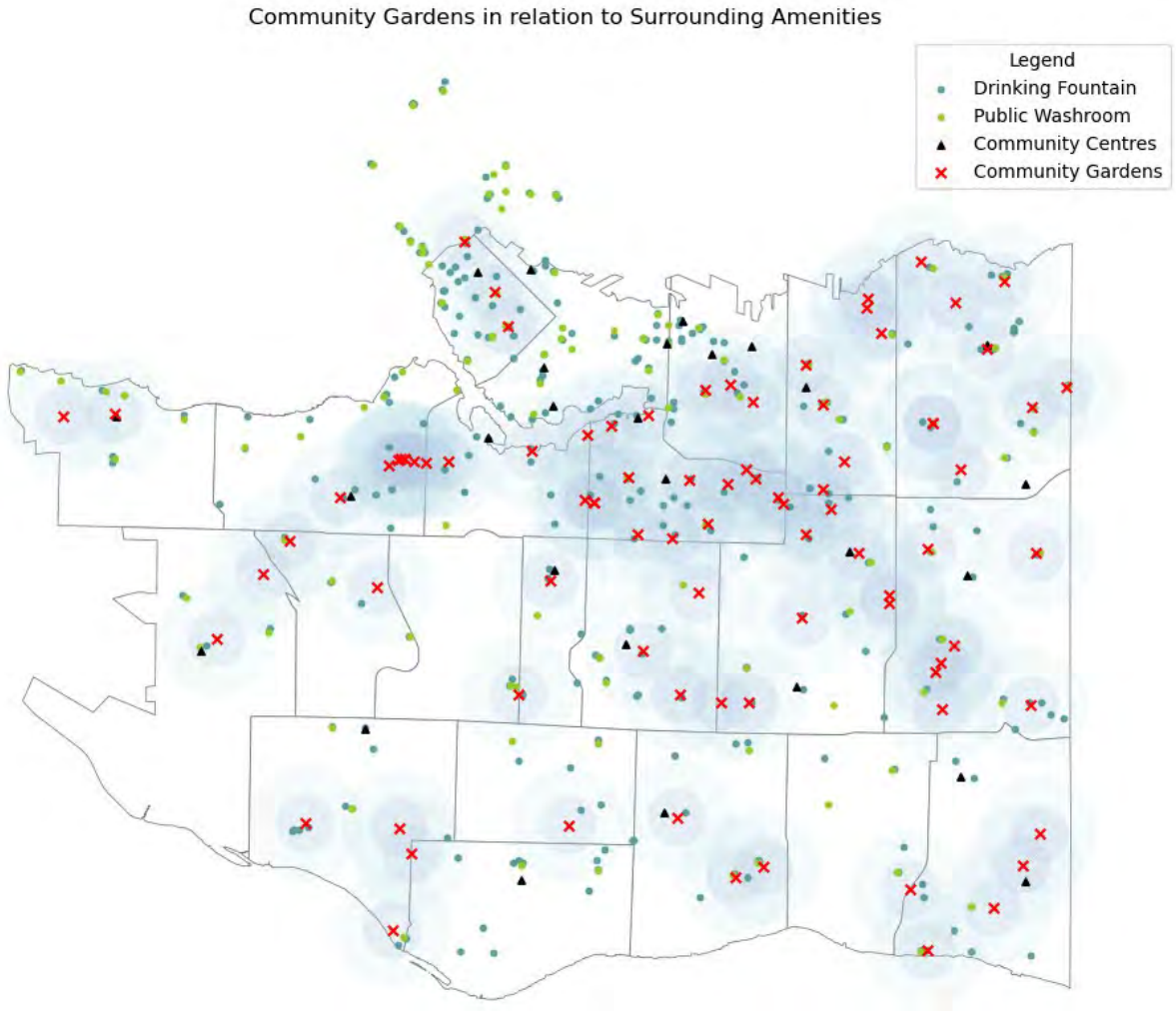


Figure 1: Public Community Gardens and their surrounding amenities

The blue circles on the map represent the 5-minute (400m) and 10-minute (800m) walking radii. They are used to assess how easily gardeners/ garden visitors can reach amenities on foot.

Methodology

1) Calculate the average distance between community garden and each public washroom and drinking fountain within an 800m radius (10min walk)
2) Calculate the overall average distance to amenities (washroom + drinking fountains) for each garden
3) Aggregate the average distance to amenities by neighbourhood

Findings, Analysis and Discussion

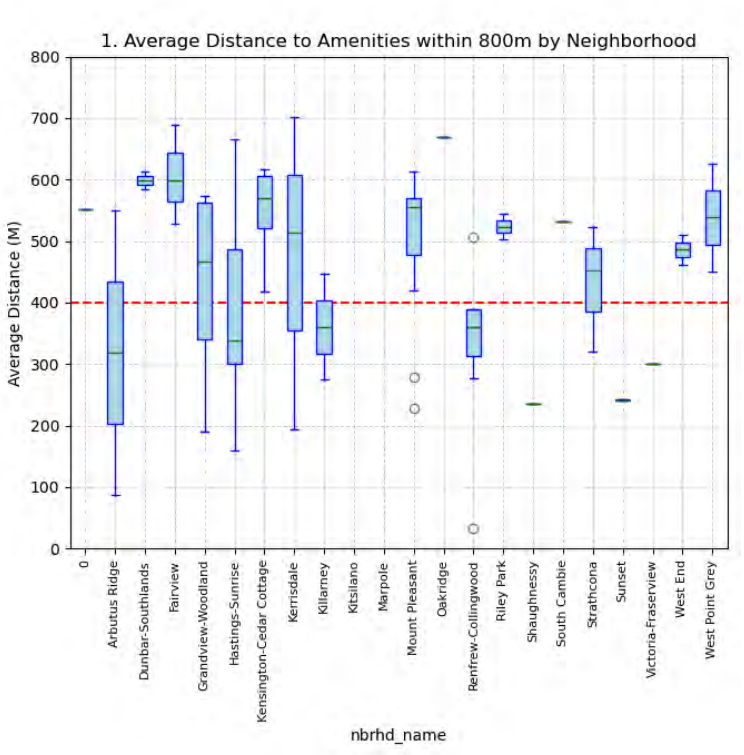


Figure 2: Average garden distance to amenities by neighbourhood

According to the median values in Figure 2, gardens in Shaughnessy have the best access to amenities among all neighbourhoods, with the shortest median distance to amenities. Sunset, with three community gardens, ranks second for the shortest median distance, followed by Victoria-Fraserview and Arbutus Ridge. However, it is important to note that there is only one community garden each in Shaughnessy and Victoria-Fraserview, which may not fully represent the availability of amenities in these neighbourhoods. On average, **gardens in over half of the neighbourhoods lack access to a drinking fountain or public washroom within a 5-minute walking distance** (as indicated by the red dashed line).

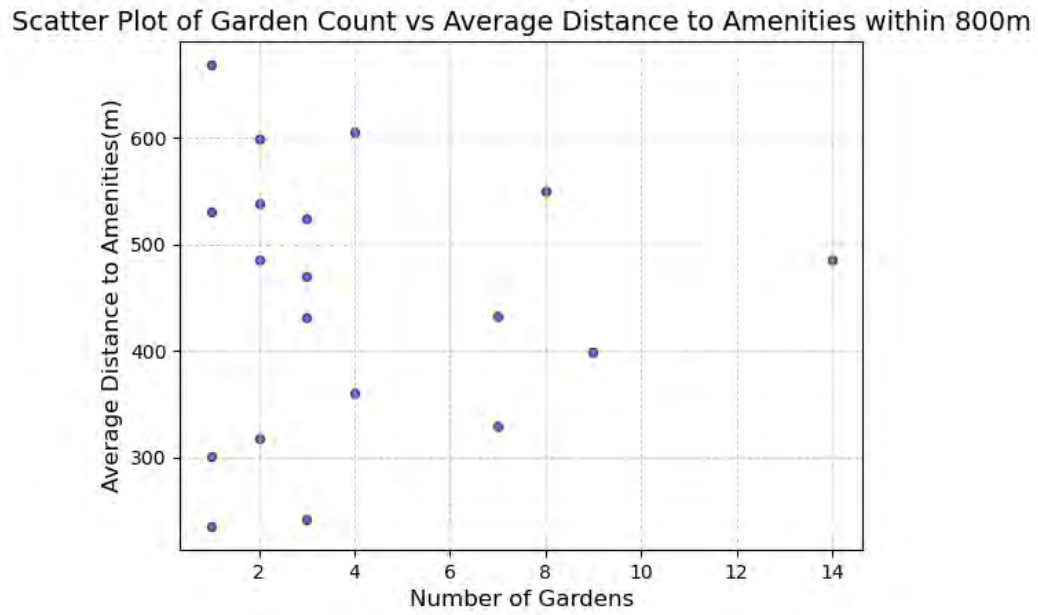


Figure 3: Correlation between the number of gardens and distance to amenities by neighbourhood

Figure 3 displays a scatterplot showing the average distance to amenities by neighbourhood and the respective number of gardens. A Pearson correlation test was conducted to further explore the relationship between amenities and garden placement. The correlation coefficient of 0.0168 indicates that there is no significant correlation between a garden's average distance to amenities and the distribution of gardens across the city's neighbourhoods. In other words, having more gardens in a neighbourhood does not necessarily imply better access to amenities for these gardens.

The lack of correlation shows that the availability of amenities does not significantly influence garden placement. It also suggests that **city amenities are rarely added to neighbourhoods after gardens are established**. This highlights a potential **policy gap in long-term food assets planning**, as these gardens may not be adequately supported by city infrastructure.