



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee
From: Todd Gross
 Director, Parks Services

Date: November 9, 2018
File: 11-7200-01/2018-Vol
 01

Re: Richmond Food System Action Team

Staff Recommendation

That the terms of reference for the Richmond Food System Action Team, as outlined in the staff report titled "Richmond Food System Action Team," dated November 9, 2018, from the Director, Parks Services, be approved.

Todd Gross
 Director, Parks Services
 (604-247-4942)

Att. 6

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Social Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Economic Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Policy Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

At the May 16, 2017, Planning Committee meeting, representatives from the Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (RCSAC) presented a Communication Tool requesting that the City create a Richmond Food Systems Advisory Committee (Attachment 1). Following this presentation, staff received the following referral:

That staff examine the propriety of forming a Richmond Food Systems Advisory Committee and report back.

The purpose of this report is to respond to the above referral.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #4: Leadership in Sustainability:

Continue advancement of the City's sustainability framework and initiatives to improve the short and long term livability of our City, and that maintain Richmond's position as a leader in sustainable programs, practices and innovations.

4.2. Innovative projects and initiatives to advance sustainability.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #5: Partnerships and Collaboration:

Continue development and utilization of collaborative approaches and partnerships with intergovernmental and other agencies to help meet the needs of the Richmond community.

5.2. Strengthened strategic partnerships that help advance City priorities.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #8: Supportive Economic Development Environment:

8.3. The City's agricultural and fisheries sectors are supported, remain viable and continue to be an important part of the City's character, livability, and economic development vision.

Analysis

Sustainable Food Systems and the Role of Local Government

“Food systems” refers to the activities of commercial and non-commercial organizations that grow, process, distribute, acquire, and dispose of food. “Food systems thinking” reflects an awareness of how actions by one group in the system affect other groups, as well as affecting the environment, economy, societal fabric, and health of the population. “Food policy,” on the other hand, is any decision made by a government agency, business, or organization which affects how food is produced, processed, distributed, purchased, and protected.

A sustainable food system is one that protects and conserves a region’s ecology, is economically sustainable, is resilient to set-backs and short-term crisis, and improves the health and well-being of individuals.

Most food system issues are often considered provincial and federal matters. Yet, an increasing number of Canadian municipalities have taken on the challenge of improving food equity and the health of its citizens. With a focus on food access, environmental sustainability, and local economic development, municipalities are increasingly using food system approaches to drive positive change locally and regionally.

The municipal role in the food system is related to jurisdictional responsibilities and includes:

- Governing land use through the Official Community Plan and zoning bylaws;
- Determining how municipally owned lands are used;
- Developing plans for municipal infrastructure that supports community food security;
- Supplying water, solid waste collection, storm water management, drainage and diking systems for farmland;
- Supporting economic development activities to increase agricultural and food sector business viability;
- Using the built environment to support health and wellness by creating community gardens and enhancing walkability and proximity to healthy food sources within neighbourhoods;
- Using public education as a means of addressing a range of health and social issues; and
- Promoting community opportunities to involve citizens in developing food policies and initiatives.

Attachment 2 illustrates the interconnected links between core municipal activities, food system actions, and people.

Richmond Food System Initiatives

Richmond has historically been, and continues to be, a regional leader in food system initiatives, which can be largely attributed to:

- Its prominent agricultural and maritime heritage;
- The significant amount of City owned agricultural land, most of which is located in the Agricultural Land Reserve;
- The presence of strong, local community groups with an interest in promoting agriculture, food security, and wellness; and
- Council's ongoing commitment to agricultural and fishery sector viability, as demonstrated in the 2014-2018 Term Goals and Section 7 of the Official Community Plan (Agriculture and Food).

The City actively supports Richmond's food system through a number of Council-endorsed strategies and initiatives, including:

- Agricultural Viability Strategy (2003);
- Pesticide Use Control Bylaw No. 8514 (2009);
- Sustainability Framework (2010);
- Council resolution opposing genetically engineered plants and trees (2012);
- Social Development Strategy 2013-2022 (2013);
- Garden City Lands Legacy Landscape Plan (2014);
- Parks and Open Space Strategy (2014);
- Richmond Resilient Economy Strategy (2014);
- Richmond Food Charter (2016);
- Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Action Plan (2016); and
- Richmond Community Wellness Strategy (2018).

In addition to City strategies and initiatives, many local organizations play an active role in supporting Richmond's food system, including:

- Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), which collects population health data using the My Health My Community survey, and uses this data to implement programs in support of neighbourhood food environments. VCH is developing a Richmond Food Asset Map to allow community members and service providers to easily locate community food assets in Richmond and to shed light on the needs of underserved areas;
- The Richmond Food Security Society (RFSS), which manages the City's 340 community garden plots, provides education for children and youth through the Kids in the Garden and Get Rooted programs, offers a seed library and food skills training programs, and recovers unused fruit from residential fruit trees and bushes for donation to the Food Bank and other community partners;
- Richmond School District, which partners with RFSS and VCH on promoting student food literacy and outdoor garden learning through the Farm to School Partnership;
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University's (KPU) Department of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems, which offers degree and non-degree programs related to small scale, sustainable agriculture. The City leases land at the South Dyke Agricultural Park to support KPU's incubator farming program and demonstration orchard, and is providing KPU with space for a research and education farm on the Garden City Lands.

- The Richmond Food Bank, which strives to provide healthy and nutritionally balanced food to more than 2,200 people in a typical week;
- The Sharing Farm, which produces fruits and vegetables on City-owned land for distribution through the Food Bank and other service providers, and promotes sustainable food practices through public education;
- Steveston Artisan and Farmers Market, Gulf of Georgia Cannery Farmers Market, and Kwantlen St. Farmers Market, where residents can access locally baked, grown, and caught products;
- Steveston Harbour Authority, which supports fishers selling direct to consumers off the floats in Steveston; and
- 49 Richmond farmers with Roadside Stand Business Licences selling direct to consumers from their farms.

Existing Advisory Bodies

The City currently has three advisory committees that, among other areas, provide input to Council as required on topics related to food systems and food policy. These committees are:

- The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC), which advises on agriculture and food production;
- The Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (RCSAC), which advises on food access and food security; and
- The Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE), which advises on the impacts of climate change to food systems.

Municipal Approaches to Food Policy

Several meetings have been held with food system stakeholders to discuss challenges, opportunities, best practices, and opportunities for collaboration. This group included representatives from the City, RFSS, and VCH.

This group examined different interagency approaches implemented by municipalities from across Canada to address food system challenges. There does not seem to be a single common model as municipalities have individually developed frameworks that best suit their particular context and needs. These approaches include policy councils, community group coalitions, round tables, advisory committees, task forces, and working groups.

Given the City's existing advisory committees and working relationships with food system agencies, the stakeholder group identified that an effective approach would be to bring together stakeholders from across the food system as part of an action-oriented working group. This working group would meet regularly to share information, examine food related issues, identify opportunities for collaboration, and advise the City on food related matters.

Richmond Food System Action Team (RFSAT)

The terms of reference for the proposed interagency working group, titled the Richmond Food System Action Team (RFSAT), can be found in Attachment 3. The goal of the RFSAT would be to improve the strength and resiliency of the food system in Richmond, where food is:

- Safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate;
- Affordable, available, and accessible to all; and
- Produced, processed, marketed, consumed, and waste managed in a manner that is:
 - financially viable;
 - protects the health and dignity of people; and
 - minimally impacts the environment.

Membership of the RFSAT would include representatives from the City of Richmond, RFSS, The Sharing Farm Society, Richmond School District No. 38, KPU, VCH, and the Richmond Food Bank. City representatives would include staff from Parks Programs and Community Social Development, with staff from Policy Planning, Sustainability, Recreation Services, and Economic Development providing expertise and attending meetings as required.

Key priorities for the RFSAT would be to support food-related objectives identified in Council endorsed strategies and initiatives, including the Richmond Food Charter (Attachment 4), the Metro Vancouver Regional Food Systems Action Plan (Attachment 5), and the Richmond Community Wellness Strategy (Attachment 6).

Next Steps

Should the terms of reference be approved, the RFSAT would begin meeting in early 2019 to share information, identify priorities, and collaborate on food system related issues.

Financial Impact

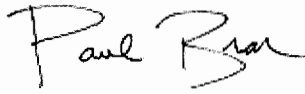
Costs associated with meetings (e.g., minute-taking and photocopying) will be funded through existing City budgets. Projects requiring City funding will be brought forward for Council's consideration as priority initiatives are identified.

Conclusion

Richmond's food system is closely intertwined with the city's economy, land use, and environment, and has a significant impact on the sense of physical, social, and cultural wellness felt by residents. Although the City has limited jurisdictional authority over the food system, it can continue to be a progressive leader by bringing together key organizations and stakeholders. As an interagency working group, the RFSAT will offer a collaborative space to network, share information, and implement solutions to foster a healthy and sustainable food system.

November 9, 2018

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Brar". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Paul Brar
Manager, Parks Programs
(604-244-1275)

- Att. 1: RCSAC Communication Tool – Richmond Food Systems Advisory Committee
- 2: Municipal Actions and the Food System
- 3: Richmond Food System Action Team (RFSAT) Terms of Reference
- 4: Richmond Food Charter
- 5: Richmond's Actions in the Metro Vancouver Regional Food Systems Action Plan
- 6: Food Actions in the City of Richmond Community Wellness Strategy 2018-2023



RCSAC | Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee

To: Mayor Brodie and Councillors
 From: Kathie Chiu & Alex Nixon, RCSAC Co-Chairs
 CC: Cathy Carlile, Lesley Sherlock & Kim Somerville
 Date: May 2017
 Re: **Richmond Food Systems Advisory Committee**

Purpose

The purpose of this Communication Tool is to request that Richmond City Council creates a Richmond Food Systems Advisory Committee.

This Communication Tool reflects:

- 2012-2041 Official Community Plan, Section 7: Agriculture and Food
- 2014-2018 Council Term Goals, particularly goal 5: Partnerships and Collaborations
- Social Development Strategy, Action 46: Facilitate food security for Richmond residents
- Richmond Wellness Strategy
- Richmond Food Charter
- Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Action Plan

Issue	Potential impact	Agency or individuals affected	Advice
<p>With the Richmond Food Charter and Metro Vancouver Regional Food Systems Action Plan endorsed in 2016, there is a need and opportunity to convene a group to address Richmond's food security holistically. We currently have the Agricultural, Community Services, and Environment advisory committees, as well as community groups addressing portions of the food system, but no advisory group dedicated to working on issues concerning the entire food system and focused on developing holistic solutions.</p>	<p>There are significant positive impacts for Richmond residents, such as reduced poverty, greater health, reduced food waste, greater protection of farmland, and a more sustainable city.</p>	<p>Numerous community groups will be invited to participate, including Richmond Food Security Society, Richmond Food Bank, community meal providers, and Poverty Response Committee. Citizen appointees may include farmers and business owners as well as the Richmond School District and Kwantlen Polytechnic University.</p>	<p>Form a Richmond Food Systems Advisory Committee that includes representatives of the whole food system, as well as community organizations, the health authority, and educational institutes to work with City staff and a Council liaison.</p> <p>We suggest funding similar to other Advisory Committees.</p> <p>We suggest allocating staff resources from Parks, Planning, Social Planning, Sustainability, and/ or other relevant departments.</p>

RCSAC Communication Tool Backgrounder: Food Systems Advisory Committee

1. The Issue

The City has three Council advisory committees that provide input to Mayor and Councillors on topics related to food systems; Community Services (food access and affordability), Agricultural (food production) and Environmental (climate change impacts).

However, currently none of the existing committees provide advice on the food system as a whole. The current committees, while focused on their own areas of expertise, do not have the scope to encompass and consider the broader food system in an integrated approach.

A Food Systems Advisory Committee would assist the City of Richmond to advance the following items: 2012-2041 Official Community Plan, Section 7: Agriculture and Food; 2014-2018 Council Term Goal 5: Partnerships and Collaborations; Social Development Strategy, Action 46: Facilitate food security for Richmond residents; the Community Wellness Strategy; and the Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Action Plan.

This action would support the RCSAC 2017 Work Plan objective of “supporting the development of a food security action plan for the City of Richmond”.

2. RCSAC Process

The RCSAC Food Systems Task Force was formed in December 2016 following Council endorsement of the Richmond Food Charter and the Metro Vancouver Regional Food Systems Action Plan to research and consider the benefit and value for the community of a Food Systems Advisory Committee.

Task Force membership includes Anita Georgy (Richmond Food Security Society), Alex Nixon (Richmond Food Bank), De Whalen (Poverty Response Committee), and Belinda Boyd (Vancouver Coastal Health). Brent Mansfield, director of the BC Food Systems Action Network was consulted to understand the Richmond food system in relation to the provincial system.

3. Background

A Richmond Food Charter Working Group was established in 2013 to guide work on the Richmond Food Charter and was led by a partnership between the Richmond Food Security Society and Vancouver Coastal Health. This community-based table includes representatives of the Richmond Food Security Society, the Richmond Poverty Response Committee, Vancouver Coastal Health and the Canadian Federation of University Women. This Working Group presented the Richmond Food Charter to Council and received Council endorsement in July, 2016. In December, 2016, Council also endorsed the 2016 Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Action Plan.

Many cities across North America are forming Food Policy Councils to look holistically at food system policies. The proposed Richmond Food Systems Advisory Committee is a made-in-Richmond way for us to join leaders in this important movement. The need for a Food Systems Advisory Committee is recognized when considering the range of related issues coming forward to Council, including loss of farmland due to the proposed Massey Bridge, ALR home size guidelines, and Harvest Power

operations. The Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Action Plan includes a wide range of additional multi-disciplinary food systems actions for Richmond to take, including everything from supporting local food production and processing, to supporting fish habitat, to mobile markets and street vending opportunities, to educating budding urban farmers, to ensuring drainage is sufficient to address sea level rise.

Proposed stakeholders include businesses (particularly food retailers), School District and Kwantlen Polytechnic University representatives, farmers, health representatives and community services.

Food security for individuals is an increasing challenge that clients of most RCSAC member agencies struggle with. While a large part of that is due to poverty, food access and affordability at a community level are strongly impacted by zoning, local food production, and larger environmental trends.

4. Options

Currently no other committee has the mandate to advise Council on this area.

While alternative options could exist, they would be imperfect. Forming a subcommittee of another advisory committee would ensure that its focus wasn't holistic, and making it a non-City entity would mean that it wouldn't directly advise Council on these issues.

5. Proposed Action

The RCSAC proposes that Council endorse the formation of a Richmond Food Systems Advisory Committee that includes representatives of the whole food system, as well as community organizations, the health authority and educational institutes to work with Staff and a Council Liaison.

Preliminary steps would include forming a working group to draft terms of reference and procedures, and learning from successes in other municipalities while creating a unique model to suit our particular needs.

Funding equivalent to other advisory committees as well as a Staff and Council Liaison would be required from the City of Richmond.

THE CITY/REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM

The city/regional food system is embedded within the wider municipal, provincial and federal policy context. This diagram illustrates the links between core municipal activities and a wide variety of food system actions and people, reflecting how actions by one group in the system affect other groups, as well as affecting the environment, the economy, the fabric of society, the health of the population, and ultimately, consumers.



RICHMOND FOOD SYSTEM ACTION TEAM (RFSAT) TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. PURPOSE

The Richmond Food System Action Team (RFSAT) is an interagency working group that strives to improve the strength and resiliency of the food system in Richmond, where food is:

- Safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate;
- Affordable, available, and accessible to all;
- Produced, processed, marketed, consumed, and waste products reused or managed in a manner that is:
 - Financially viable;
 - Protects the health and dignity of people; and
 - Minimally impacting the environment.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To advise the City on food system-related policies and issues.
- To share knowledge and disseminate information.
- To identify and address emerging food system issues.
- To identify opportunities for collaboration on initiatives to enhance Richmond's food system.
- To advance the City's commitments to improving the food system as identified in the Richmond Food Charter, Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Action Plan, Richmond Community Wellness Strategy, and any emerging food system-related strategies adopted by Council.

3. AREAS OF FOCUS

- Food equity (e.g., access to healthy and culturally appropriate food).
- Food education (e.g., food skills and food literacy, healthy cooking, school gardens).
- Healthy food production (e.g., non-GMO, organic, pesticide free).
- Nutrition and public health (e.g., healthy eating programs, early childhood nutrition).
- Urban agriculture (e.g., community garden programs, greenhouses).
- Recommending areas of advocacy to Council (e.g., provincial and federal food system policy advocacy, promoting the Richmond Food Charter).
- Economic development (e.g., food tourism, food trucks, mobile vending, farmers markets).
- Environmental sustainability (e.g., sustainable food sourcing, environmental footprint, climate change planning).
- Waste management (e.g., food composting programs, curbside food waste collection).

4. COMPOSITION

- Membership will include food system stakeholders, including community organizations, the health authority, educational institutions, the farming community, businesses, and citizens.
- The core group will include representatives from:
 - City of Richmond - Parks Programs and Community Social Development;
 - Vancouver Coastal Health;
 - Richmond School District;
 - Richmond Food Security Society;
 - The Sharing Farm Society;
 - Kwantlen Polytechnic University; and
 - Richmond Food Bank.
- Additional stakeholders that will be consulted and engaged as necessary include representatives from across the food system, including:
 - City of Richmond – Policy Planning, Sustainability, Recreation, Economic Development;
 - Vancouver Coastal Health – Environmental Health
 - Richmond Poverty Response Committee;
 - Tourism Richmond;
 - Ministry of Agriculture;
 - Richmond Chamber of Commerce and local businesses; and
 - Canadian Federation of University Women – Richmond Chapter.

5. MEETINGS

- Meetings will be held as required.
- Copies of the agenda and minutes will be circulated to the RFSAT in advance of the meetings.

6. LIASION WITH PUBLIC BODIES

- The RFSAT will liaise with municipal, regional, provincial and federal government agencies, and other policy-making bodies as appropriate.

7. REPORTING

- The RFSAT will report out to Council as appropriate to share information on interagency accomplishments and identification of priorities.
- Projects or initiatives requiring City funding will be brought forward for Council's consideration as projects and opportunities arise.
- Media requests are to be referred to the City's Corporate Communications and Marketing Department. The Director, Corporate Communications and Marketing will advise who should respond on behalf of the City.

8. TERM

- The initial term of the RFSAT is from 2018 to 2023 with a goal to advance the priorities of the Richmond Food Charter, Metro Vancouver Regional Food Systems Action Plan, and the food system-related objectives of the Richmond Community Wellness Strategy. Following this term, continuation of the RFSAT as a working group will be reviewed and renewed as deemed necessary.

RICHMOND FOOD CHARTER

Food security exists when all members of our community, at all times, have access to nutritious, safe, personally acceptable and culturally appropriate foods, produced in ways that are environmentally sound and socially just.

Community Values

Community Commitment

Food is a basic human need and right	Social Justice	Work continually to improve access to food for all
Safe and nutritious foods are essential for good health	Health & Wellbeing	Ensure our food supply is safe and healthy
Farming and food are important parts of Richmond's culture	Culture	Celebrate our diversity by supporting and sharing food traditions
Food-related education contributes to community wellbeing	Education	Provide education and support for food skills training, including gardening, healthy cooking, and safe food handling
Ecologically sound practices are the basis of a sustainable food system	Healthy Environment	Preserve and strengthen land and water resources that support food production. Promote food industry practices that reduce environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions
Local farms and food processors strengthen Richmond's economy	Economic Development	Foster a culture that values and supports farmers and farm workers
Policies and regulations strengthen community food security	Responsible Government	Collaborate with community groups, businesses, & all levels of governments to ensure a food secure future



Richmond Actions in Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Action Plan				
Goal 1 - Increase Capacity to Produce Food Close to Home	Municipality	Ongoing	1-3 years	3-5 years
Strategy 1.1 Protect agricultural land for food production				
Respond to proposed new transportation and other infrastructure to minimize or mitigate the loss of ALR land or capacity	Richmond	X		
Ensure zoning and farm by-laws are consistent with the provincial "Guide for Bylaw development in Farming Areas"	Richmond	X		
Reduce and prevent damage or erosion of the ALR by non-farm uses to support production and economic development in the agricultural sector	Richmond	X		
Strategy 1.2 Restore fish habitat and protect sustainable sources of seafood				
Restore and enhance riparian and fish habitat, including partnering with community organizations	All local governments	X		
Host, fund and in-kind support for celebratory and educational public events drawing attention to the importance of fish habitat	All local governments	X		
Strategy 1.3 Enable expansion of agricultural production				
Support Kwantlen's Bio-regional food system design project	Richmond	X		
Continue to improve water infrastructure/ drainage upgrades including activities such as dyke and pump upgrades and maintaining ditch conveyance	Richmond	X		
Advance the Garden City Lands Legacy landscape Plan that focuses on detailed design and on-site water management to enable farming activity	Richmond			X
Strategy 1.4 Invest in a new generation of food producers				
Advance The Gardens Agricultural Park Plan for incubator farms and community gardens	Richmond			X
Advance the Garden City Lands Legacy Landscape Plan through the development of the Agricultural Management Strategy using a "one farm, many farmers" approach	Richmond			X
Collaborative Actions				
Collectively advocate to senior governments for funding programs to expand investments in irrigation and drainage infrastructure necessary to adapt to climate change	Metro Vancouver and Agricultural Municipalities		X	
Investigate the feasibility and desirability of a regional land trust to increase access to agricultural land	Metro Vancouver and Agricultural Municipalities		X	
Expand municipal involvement in programs that enable new farmers to start a business, such as Surrey's Virtual Incubator Farm Project Online System	All local governments		X	
Goal 2 - Improve the Financial Viability of the Food Sector	Municipality	Ongoing	1-3 years	3-5 years
Strategy 2.1 Increase capacity to process, warehouse, and distribute local foods				
Conduct or fund a food hub feasibility study	Richmond			X
Strategy 2.3 Increase direct marketing opportunities for local food				
Provide in-kind support or direct incentives for farmers markets (e.g., space, infrastructure, advertising, discounted leases)				
Develop and promote local farm tours and agri-tourism opportunities	Richmond	X		
Explore local street vending opportunities through an existing pilot program or by adopting pilot program policy	Richmond	X		
Collaborative Actions				
Develop policies to expand processing, storage and distribution of local food (e.g. revitalization tax exemptions)	All local governments		X	
Share information on potential opportunities to increase local food purchasing strategies	All local governments		X	
Profile and incorporate agri-food business ventures into regional and municipal economic development plans	Metro Vancouver and Agricultural Municipalities		X	
Convene bulk food purchaser to explore how to increase local food purchasing	Metro Vancouver to facilitate with all local governments		X	
Goal 3 - People Make Healthy and Sustainable Food Choices	Municipality	Ongoing	1-3 years	3-5 years
Strategy 3.1 Enable residents to make healthy food choices				
Develop partnerships with community groups & health authorities to deliver outreach and workshops on healthy eating and growing food	Richmond	X		
Strategy 3.2 Communicate how food choices support sustainability				
Promote local agriculture on the municipal website with information on local food event and markets	Richmond	X		
Strategy 3.3 Enhance food literacy and skills in schools				
Develop the Green Ambassadors program for high school students to apply what they learn at City events	Richmond	X		

Richmond Actions in Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Action Plan					
Strategy 3.4 Celebrate the taste of local foods and the diversity of cuisines					
Host or partner on food related events and educational activities that celebrates food (i.e., Chefs to Field, Garlic Festival)	Richmond	X			
Collaborative Actions					
Develop a communication strategy with common messaging for local governments to educate residents about the connection between farmland, food security, climate change and sustainability	Metro Vancouver to facilitate with all local governments		X		
Goal 4 - Everyone Has Access to Healthy, Culturally Diverse & Affordable Food					
	Municipality	Ongoing	1-3 years	3-5 years	
Strategy 4.1 Improve access to nutritious food among vulnerable groups					
Support education, skill building and cooking activities for people most vulnerable to food insecurity	Richmond	X			
Offer discounted nutritious meals for seniors, immigrants, or refugee families	Richmond	X			
Provide grants to social service agencies to help increase the nutritional quality of meals served	Richmond	X			
Strategy 4.2 Encourage urban agriculture					
Fund, support, or maintain residents' access to community gardens	All Local Governments	X			
Establish new community gardens, and in some circumstances with an intent to improve physical access (e.g. through universal design)	Richmond		X	X	
Collaborative Actions					
Promote the Food Donation Guidelines (developed by BC Centre for Disease Control and other partners), for instance, to food distribution and food service sectors through municipal and regional business correspondence and events	All local governments		X		
Draw from Surrey's experience to create and share information on culturally relevant local food availability for refugee and new immigrants	All local governments		X		
Draw from Vancouver's study on community kitchens to identify opportunities and challenges for expanding food preparation and processing in under-utilized kitchens	All local governments		X		
5. A Food System Consistent with Ecological Health					
	Municipality	Ongoing	1-3 years	3-5 years	
Strategy 5.1 Protect and enhance ecosystem goods and services					
Create and enhance pollinator habitat through research, new policies and on the ground projects	Richmond			X	
Implement the winter Crop Cover Program as part of the snow geese management program	Richmond			X	
Strategy 5.3 Facilitate adoption of environmentally sustainable practices					
Minimize environmental impacts from pesticides through integrated Pest Management educational programs	Richmond	X			
Provide workshops for residents on natural pest control and composting	Richmond	X			
Promote the council resolution to ban genetically modified crops	Richmond	X			
Strategy 5.4 Prepare for the impacts of climate change					
Plan to accommodate up to 1 metre of sea level rise by 2100	Richmond	X			
Collaborative Actions					
Collaborate with provincial agencies to prepare a regional agriculture climate change adaptation strategy for Metro Vancouver	Metro Vancouver and all Agricultural Municipalities				X
Emerging Issues					
	Municipality	Ongoing	1-3 years	3-5 years	
Issue 1 Food access in emergency planning					
Identify how food security and emergency food issues are being addressed in each local government's emergency management plans and processes	All local governments		X		
Issue 2 Recognizing the linkages among poverty, health and food					
Recommend policies and programs to address health outcomes of poverty and food insecurity to senior governments	All local governments		X		
Issue 3 Food safety and training					
Work with Health Authorities, industry and appropriate agencies to ensure food safety is considered in commercial and community food production	All local governments		X		
Implementation					
	Municipality	Ongoing	1-3 years	3-5 years	
Assign a staff member to advance local government food system issues and to participate in semi-annual working group meetings	All local governments		X		
Strengthen linkages and understanding between local governments and civil society groups in relation to advancing food system issues	All local governments		X		

Food Actions in the City of Richmond Community Wellness Strategy 2018-2023

Focus Area #1: Foster healthy, active and involved lifestyles for all Richmond residents with an emphasis on physical activity, healthy eating and mental wellness.

Objective #2

Increase the number of Richmond residents across all ages making healthy food choices.

Key Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame	Partner Lead
<p>1. Implement a Healthy Eating Strategy that increases access to healthy and safe foods at a neighbourhood level and builds upon and aligns with the Richmond Food Charter and the Regional Food System Action Plan.¹⁴ This includes coordinating and enhancing healthy eating opportunities in schools, public buildings, and where gaps have been identified at a neighbourhood level.</p> <p>Priority Action 1: Include healthy and, where possible, local food at concession stands, in vending machines and cafes in public facilities and schools.¹⁵</p> <p>Priority Action 2: Expand community gardens in neighbourhoods across Richmond, to encourage social interaction, physical activity and access to fresh affordable vegetables and fruits for residents.</p>	<p>Ongoing to 2023</p> <p>2019-2020</p> <p>2018-2020</p>	VCH-Richmond
<p>2. Expand or implement neighbourhood food hubs in underserved areas to address the lack of fresh and local produce and establish a healthier food environment at the neighbourhood level.</p> <p>Priority Action 1: Complete the Richmond Food Asset Map to inform the Neighbourhood Food Hub initiative.</p> <p>Priority Action 2: Conduct school food environment audits within identified neighbourhoods to inform and strengthen the Neighbourhood Food Hub initiative.</p>	<p>Ongoing to 2023</p> <p>2018-2019</p> <p>2018-2020</p>	VCH-Richmond
<p>3. Enable residents of all ages to make healthy food choices through educational opportunities and programs that are culturally relevant.</p> <p>Priority Action 1: Develop effective teaching tools to assist residents to make healthy food choices.</p> <p>Priority Action 2: Develop new or expand current partnerships that provide food skills programs for Richmond residents, e.g., Diabetes Canada 'Food Skills for Families' program; The Sharing Farm cooking and nutrition food skills program; and community centre cooking classes.</p> <p>Priority Action 3: Promote and support the implementation of 'Appetite to Play' in Richmond early childhood programs including daycares, preschools and those provided or funded by the partners.</p> <p>This initiative is focused on training and supporting early years' providers to enhance knowledge, skills and confidence in providing environments for children that incorporate healthy eating and physical activity.</p> <p>Priority Action 4: Focus the annual VCH- Richmond/SD 38 Book Mark contest on healthy food choices in year 1, physical activity in year 2, mental wellness in year 3 and social connectedness in year 4.</p>	<p>Ongoing to 2023</p> <p>2018-2020</p> <p>2019-2021</p> <p>2018-2020</p> <p>2018-2022</p>	<p>VCH-Richmond</p> <p>VCH Richmond / CoR</p> <p>SD38 VCH-Richmond</p>

¹⁴ Links to: Richmond Food Charter: https://www.richmond.ca/_shared/assets/7_RichmondFoodCharter44751.pdf.
metrovancouver Regional Food System Action Plan 2016 <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/agriculture/rfs-strategy/Pages/about-the-strategy.aspx>

¹⁵ <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthy-eating/schools-and-communities>

Focus Area #3: Enhance equitable access to amenities, services and programs within and among neighbourhoods.

Objective #1

Align availability and access of programs and services to meet the needs of Richmond residents by addressing inequities at a neighbourhood level, e.g., geographical, cost of programs and transportation, timing, cultural relevance and language needs or facilitating outreach opportunities.

Key Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame	Partner Lead
1. Adopt an equity lens framework and assess what and where the inequities are at a neighbourhood level.	2018-2020	VCH-Richmond

Focus Area #4: Facilitate supportive, safe and healthy natural and built environments.

Objective #1

Identify and implement healthy natural and built environments to improve the wellness of Richmond residents.

Key Action/Program/Initiative	Time-frame	Partner Lead
3. Enhance walkability/proximity to healthy food sources within neighbourhoods. Consideration can be given to one or more of the following best practice approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating local spaces and incentives for community gardens, food sharing, farmers' markets and food skills programs• Creating mobile options that improve proximity to healthy food sources for areas with limited access (e.g., travelling 'pop up' units that sell fruit and vegetables).	Ongoing to 2023	VCH-Richmond