



City of Vancouver *Planning - By-law Administration Bulletins*

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ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNITY FOOD MARKETS

Authority – Managing Director of Social Policy and Director of Planning
Effective September 2014

1 Background

This bulletin provides clarification on the administration of community food markets. The Director of Planning and Director of Social Policy will consider community food markets as being typically ancillary to, and forming a part of, “Social Service Centres,” “Churches,” “Neighbourhood Houses,” BC Housing sites, and other uses (where appropriate) that meet the intent of this bulletin. Community food markets that operate in conjunction with an existing approved use listed below will be evaluated by staff, and if they meet the criteria of this bulletin, will not require additional land use approvals to carry out community food markets.

2 Issue

Community food markets, previously known as “pocket markets,” provide fresh or locally-prepared fruits and vegetables (e.g., jams, jellies) intended to address affordability and food retail gaps in underserved neighbourhoods.

It is common for social services centres, churches, neighbourhood houses, community centres, and BC Housing sites to provide a range of food programs including community kitchens, bulk buying clubs, and food craft fairs.

To become a global leader in urban food systems, the *Greenest City 2020 Action Plan* (2011) and the *Vancouver Food Strategy* (2013) directs staff to support 15 community food markets by 2020. Community food markets currently operate in neighbourhood houses, social housing sites, and other non-profit organizations in underserved neighbourhoods.

The Managing Director of Social Policy and Director of Planning will allow community food markets to continue their programs (or implement new ones) in conjunction with the approved uses without the need for additional land-use permits approvals (although building permits may still be applicable), subject to the conditions of this bulletin.

3 Conditions and Administration of Community Food Markets

3.1 Definition

Community food markets are defined as an open air or fully or partly covered market for the sale of fresh and/or locally-prepared fruits and vegetables.

Community food markets are allowed as a non-profit program and/or activity operating in conjunction with the following approved uses:

- (i) *Institutional Uses*: Social Service Centres, Churches;
- (ii) *Service Uses*: Neighbourhood Houses;
- (iii) *BC Housing Sites*: listed at: http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Subsidized_Housing/Listings;
- (iv) *Culture and Recreation*: For Community Centres, please contact the Recreation Supervisor of the community centre where the community food market is proposed or call 311 for more information;
- (v) *Other Uses*: other sites which meet the intent of this bulletin may be approved on a case-by-case basis to be determined by staff review.

3.2 Impacts

When making land use decisions, the Managing Director of Social Policy and Director of Planning and must take into account potential impacts on surrounding areas, such as noise, parking, traffic, pedestrian interface, privacy, and visual impacts. Proposed locations should ensure compatibility with nearby uses and mitigation of impacts.

3.3 Type and Number of Vendors

Community food markets have ten (10) or less stalls or booths. This size limitation will minimize neighbourhood impacts.

Third party re-sale is permitted where small-scale local food vendors are prioritized. This provides an opportunity for small local food businesses to vend at a neighbourhood market. For example, backyard growers can vend fresh, whole fruits and vegetables, or small food processors can vend homemade jams and jellies. Foods do not necessarily have to be local; rather, the aim is to improve access to fresh and locally-prepared fruits and vegetables. Vendors must meet the criteria of Vancouver Coastal Health “Temporary Food Market” guidelines (http://www.vch.ca/your_environment/food_safety/permits/)

3.4 Hours of Operation

Hours of operation are from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm from Monday through Sunday.

3.5 Operational Plan and Business License

Applicants must submit an operational plan and a site plan to Social Policy at communityfoodmarkets@vancouver.ca for review. Upon approval, applicants can proceed to apply for a yearly \$10 farmers’ market business license.