



RILEY PARK
COMMUNITY GARDEN
A food security project of Little Mountain Neighbourhood House

Riley Park Community Garden

2025 IMPACT REPORT





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The Little Mountain Neighbourhood House Food Hub acknowledges that we live, work, and play on unceded Indigenous land cared for since time immemorial by the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the **xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam)**, **Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish)**, and **Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations**. We thank them for their teachings and land stewardship as we work to decolonize our local food systems together.

The garden is an inclusive gathering point reflecting our core visions to improve food security, ecological sustainability and community development. We promote food security by supporting those in our community who need extra food support. The garden is a collective public space where people can engage in co-creation, feel a sense of belonging and ownership, and increase networks.

Our partners



LITTLE MOUNTAIN NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE
NEIGHBOUR HELPING NEIGHBOUR



CHOICES MARKET



United Way
British Columbia

Working with communities in BC's North, Interior, Lower Mainland, Central & Northern Vancouver Island



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Values & mission

Our garden reflects the eight design principles for sustainable management of Common Pool Resources developed by Nobel laureate Elinor Ostrom.

We also inform how we can all reduce our impact on the environment. Our sustainable infrastructure like our shed demonstrates Greenest City renewable energy principles.

Our garden is designed with accessible beds and walkways so that everyone can participate. We welcome people of all genders, races, sexual orientations, and abilities.

Volunteers can sign up for guided work parties with no waitlist or experience required.



Garden activities



141 unique participants



155 unique events and activities



1,500 volunteer hours



Harvest data



Our annual harvest total was **664 kg**.



We grew **272 varieties** of crops.



Leafy greens and **root vegetables** were our highest-producing categories.



August was the most productive month, followed closely by **September**.



Our impact



The produce we harvested is equivalent to **1220 meals**.



The dollar value of the produce we grew is approximately **\$5,148**.

*Equivalent Meals Provided = Data from Food Stash, 1.2lb of food = 1 meal

**Dollar Value = Data From Food Bank, 2023 Data is \$3.52/lb or \$7.76/kg



Decolonizing our food system

In the space we call Riley Park, we are working with Sniw̓ Indigenous Consultants and the Musqueam Nation to inform how the land evolves.

Decolonizing food systems goes beyond what you can see from the ground up. It is more than the colourful show above that makes a journey toward decolonization possible; it's the deep-rooted intentionality in weaving truths with change. Take a journey with us as we work alongside Musqueam Elders and Knowledge Keepers.



Learning garden

Located in Riley Park to the north of the Field House, there is a space we call "Ed's Garden". It is named after Ed Shum, a long-time resident who led the stewardship of the space for over 40 years. After Ed retired from the garden and with the aid of funding from the City of Vancouver, LMNHS stepped in to redevelop the space to be more accessible and inclusive. The focus of its new design is learning for all ages through an Indigenous lens.



Sustainability

Our commitment to sustainability and climate adaptation is reflected in our planting of seasonal crops, extended growing season, compost methods, water conservation, and providing a shady space for people to escape the heat and rehydrate.

Our work reflects the principles embodied in the City of Vancouver's Greenest City Action Plan, Climate Emergency Action Plan, Zero Waste 2040, and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

We aim to redesign the Learning Garden to return culturally and ecologically important plant species to the area and continue our work in the community garden to reflect Indigenous land practices.

We also aim to increase our individual and collective capacity to create a healthy and resilient community. As we continue building our partnerships and collaborations with local community members and organizations, we invite people who would like to host events that reflect our garden's values to contact us!



Volunteer voices

“When I was volunteering for a previous garden, I was enduring a damaging environment of racism, homophobia, as well as the steward and other volunteers viewing the land through a toxic colonial lens. I knew I had to leave and such experiences left me bitter! However, the Learning Garden and Riley Park Community Garden have helped to heal my hope for building a community out of respect for one another, the land, and Indigenous land knowledge. The volunteers here have greatly guided a crucial reminder that healthy community work is possible and absolutely worth it. I loved getting to meet like-minded folks who cared about helping their community and not only within Riley Park, but the collaboration with the Indigenous Garden at UBC is a warm memory I will happily carry with me for the rest of my life.”

— Volunteer at Riley Park Community Garden

