

Vancouver Food Asset Map Glossary

Food Asset: a place where people can grow, prepare, share, buy, receive or learn about food. Community organizations and schools are included because they are places where community members can get support with learning and health or connect with others in their community.

Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Networks		
Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Networks	Coalitions of grassroots organizations working together to advance food security at the community level. They support initiatives that engage communities and enrich the local food system.	
Free or Low Cost Grocery Items		
• Free Grocery Items	Free grocery items for individuals and families who may not be able to get enough food, for any reason, e.g., food banks.	
• Low Cost Grocery Items	Grocery items available at a lower cost than retail grocery stores.	
• Low Cost Markets: Mobile/Curb Side/Pop Up	Non-permanent or seasonal markets that sell fruits and vegetables at a lower price than most grocery stores.	
Free or Low Cost Meals		
• Free Meal	Free prepared meals/snacks that are provided by various organizations and groups in the community.	
• Low Cost Meal	Low cost prepared meals/snacks that are provided by various organizations and groups in the community.	
• Low cost/Free Meal	Both low cost and free prepared meals/snacks that are provided by various organizations and groups in the community.	
Retail Food Stores or Markets		
• Grocery Stores or Supermarkets	Stores that are typically chain-owned and offer a wide selection of fresh, dried, frozen and packaged food from all of Canada's Food Guide four main food groups. They usually include non-food household products.	
• Small Grocery Stores	Stores that offer a wide selection of fresh, dried, frozen and packaged food from all of Canada's Food Guide four main food groups. Most are independently owned (3 or less stores). They may specialize in cultural foods from other countries.	
• Specialty Food Stores	Stores that specialize in selling a specific type of food or cultural foods from other countries, e.g., produce, bakery. They may not sell choices from all of Canada's Food Guide four main food groups.	
• Convenience Stores	Stores that offer a limited choice of food items, often including snacks, soft drinks and other mostly processed products. Some stores also sell a limited assortment of canned goods, produce, bread, egg and dairy products. Stores typically focus on selling non-food items and include pharmacies, dollar stores with choices from at least 2 food groups from Canada's Food Guide.	
• Public Markets	Markets that include fresh fruits, vegetables, fish and other food products.	
• Mobile or Seasonal Markets	Non-permanent or seasonal markets that include fresh fruits, vegetables, and other products from farms, e.g., community food market.	

Kitchens or Food Programs		
• Kitchen Access	Kitchens available for use by community members or agencies.	
• Community Kitchen Programs	A group of individuals led by a facilitator, who meet regularly to cook meals and may participate in menu selection, shopping, preparation & cooking. Provides an opportunity for socialization and skill/knowledge-building.	
• Food Skills Workshops	Workshops offered on an ongoing basis and are led by an instructor to help individuals learn food skills, e.g., skills training programs, canning, and cultural cooking.	
Growing Food		
• Community Gardens	A garden area that is often open to the public and often managed by non-profit groups, where people grow food and ornamental plants. In most cases the food is for the members who grow the food.	
• Community Orchards	Five or more fruit or nut trees in a park or a community garden, where the public can access the food produced.	
• Urban Farms	Farms that grow food in an urban area for sale and/or profit.	
• Garden Programs and Education	Provide demonstration gardening and other environmental education programs to encourage the involvement of community members in gardening activities, including schools and youth groups.	
Community Organizations		
• Community Health Centre	Community health centres provide a range of health care services in a single location, including access to public and community health nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians, mental health and addiction counsellors, dental clinics for children, speech therapists, dietitians, youth drop-in health clinics and more.	
• Community Centres	Community Centres focus on recreational, social, and cultural activities for all residents. They offer programs to stay fit, learn new skills, and meet new friends with activities in fitness, arts and crafts, culture, dance, swimming, skating, child care, and more.	
• Family Places	A not-for-profit, charitable organization that offers programs and services to families and caregivers with young children, from birth to age 5 or 6.	
• Religious Organizations	Faith based community groups that may provide free meals, outreach programs or other support.	
• Other	Includes food related organizations in Vancouver, e.g., Fresh Roots.	
Schools		
• Elementary	Vancouver School Board publically funded school for grades K-7	
• Secondary	Vancouver School Board publically funded school for grades 8-12	
• Alternative	Vancouver School Board publically funded school that offers additional support for students to address their academic, social, emotional, behavioural and mental health needs.	
• Independent or Private	Alternative to public school education. May have specific philosophical, religious or educational approach. Most schools charge a fee for students to attend independent or private schools.	