

UBC Farm Visioning Document

Wednesday, April 18, 2001

Much effort has been spent in the development of Farm vision and the corresponding mission, goals and objectives. The development of this document is necessarily an iterative process and consequently what is presented here is very much work in progress. We would welcome and encourage any comments or suggestions that might strengthen or improve it. Please send comments or suggestions via email to ubcfarm@interchange.ubc.ca.

VISION

The UBC South Campus Farm is a student-driven model farm integrating sustainable land management and food production practices with basic and applied research, innovation, education and community outreach.

This on-campus, urban agroecosystem, will explore and reveal the possibility of a better, healthier future for urban communities through its interaction and contribution to the ecological, economic and social health of the surrounding community.

The UBC South Campus Farm will function as a catalyst for change through the investigation and demonstration of alternative methods that improve the ecological, economic and social health of our urban communities. The UBC South Campus Farm will provide educational, research and practical leadership in the area of agro-ecological design and planning in a manner that ultimately benefits present and future community farmers, foresters, planners, designers, developers, managers, leaders and other citizens.

MISSION

To provide academic and practical leadership in the areas of agro-ecological design, community planning and development in a manner that benefits past, present and future community members, be they citizens, planners, designers, developers, managers, leaders, foresters or farmers.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Make It Sustainable

Develop and implement an effective management system that will guide the development of an interdisciplinary, student-driven, community integrated, sustainable farm system.

- Develop and implement an effective management structure.
- Develop a series of principles and policies that guide the development of the Farm.
- Develop and implement a management plan for the Farm.
- Develop and implement Farm programs and projects that embody and support the principles of health and sustainability.
- Establish the UBC South Campus Farm as a viable and supported UBC planning and development initiative.

Make It a Place

Redevelopment and design of the area designated as the UBC South Campus Farm in a manner that establishes it as an important and vital campus facility for UBC and surrounding community.

- Demonstrate respect and attention through the careful management of Farm infrastructure and activities.
- Develop programs, infrastructure, and activities that are place-based and highlight the unique character of the place.
- Foster University and community support for the Farm.
- Open the Farm up to the community through activities and events.

Study It

Develop and integrate appropriate academic activities that compliment and support both the farm system and the mission of the University.

- Imbed the Farm and its associated programs within campus curricula.
- Develop an on-farm, applied agroecological research program.
- Extend research and educational programs beyond the Farm gate.

Demonstrate Integrity Through Practice

Develop and implement programs and activities that demonstrate the University's commitment to sustainability and community health.

- Reveal the benefits of integrating properly managed farms and agroecological systems within communities.
- Demonstrate how the Farm supports the University's Trek 2000 vision.
- Provide a physical example of sustainable practice in action.

Engage Students

Directly engage and involve students through the creation and maintenance of relevant on-farm programs, activities and events that require meaningful student participation and delivery.

- Creatively encourage and support meaningful student participation.
- Embed the Farm within applied learning curricula.
- Develop and offer a wide range of interesting and relevant on-farm programs and activities.
- Expose the Farm to a variety of students.

Connect With and Support Community

Actively promote and support the development of sustainable communities through the establishment of strong connective linkages and the provision of services and at local, regional, national and international levels.

- Connect with the surrounding community through relevant, interesting, and diverse programs and activities.
- Support local community interests and needs.
- Accommodate compatible non-agricultural community functions.
- Establish extensive local, regional, national and international connections with other ecologically orientated institutions and initiatives.