

The UBC Planning Process

The Vancouver Campus Plan (VCP) is currently undergoing a review process. Campus plans have designated the Farm as 'future housing reserve' and downplay the value of the farm by basing their understanding of South Campus on data that predates current Farm operations.

◇ Phase 1-3 of the planning process did not explicitly mention the UBC Farm. Students, staff, faculty, and community wrote letters and sent feedback highlighting the importance of the Farm.

◇ Phase 4, the current stage of the planning process (April 2008), involves invitational design workshops. Design limitations were imposed on workshop participants that required them to significantly cut and/or move the farm's land base.

◇ The UBC Farm is a unique institution necessitating a consultation process that explicitly addresses its potential contributions to regional sustainability and campus life in the future. This has not been possible within consultations designed to plan the entire campus.

◇ Physical layout options for South Campus will be presented in fall 2008. A final decision will be made by the UBC Board of Governors and then approved by the Metro Vancouver Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Get Informed

Trek 2010: www.trek2000.ubc.ca

Campus Plan: www.campusplan.ubc.ca

Voice Your Concerns

Possible requests to the university include:

- Retaining UBC Farm in the current location in South Campus where soils have been improved for 40 years
- Protecting UBC Farm's current land base (24 hectares), allowing it to retain a relevant scale for sustainable production agriculture
- Preservation of the significant wildlife corridors on all sides of the Farm, serving as integral habitat and a part of the larger agro-ecosystem
- That UBC commit to a transparent planning process involving community stakeholders who use the space.
- That if any portion of the current 24 hectares is developed, a portion of the endowment funds go to support the future programming at the Farm

Send a letter to: (Mailed letters have greater impact)



Stephen Toope, President of UBC
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Make sure to CC:

The UBC Board of Governors
c/o Reny Kahlon, Acting Secretary
6328 Memorial Road, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2
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UBC/GVRD Joint Committee
c/o Paulette Vetleson, Corporate Secretary
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Nancy Knight, AVP Campus & Community Planning
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Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier
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UBC Farm
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Campus and Community Planning (CCP) at UBC is currently reviewing options for the future of UBC Farm land. Market housing is viewed as a strong possibility for future development of this unique space.

This brochure outlines the value of the UBC Farm in the areas of

- *Ecosystems and Food Security*
- *Sustainability Education*
- *Innovative Research*
- *Community Engagement*

You can also find information on how to voice your opinion.

Get Informed - Get Involved



UBC Farm website
www.landfood.ubc.ca/ubcfarm.htm

Friends of the UBC Farm
www.ams.ubc.ca/clubs/friendsubcfarm

UBC Farm

An Irreplaceable Resource for Our Future

Ecosystems & Biodiversity

- ◇ As stated in UBC's Trek 2010 Vision Document, we must "model UBC as a responsible, engaged, and sustainable community."
- ◇ The UBC Farm is the last working farmland in the City of Vancouver.
- ◇ Farm soils have been cared for and improved for over 40 years.
- ◇ UBC Farm includes forest ecosystem (~80 years old) that serves as a valuable buffer zone for the agricultural ecosystem.
- ◇ Forest lands connect Pacific Spirit Park to the lower Fraser salt-marsh, providing habitat to frogs, snakes, coyotes, eagles, hawks, owls, and at least 60 other species of birds, as well as the native herbaceous plants and trees, insects, and fungi that feed these larger animals.
- ◇ The pastoral, agrarian setting of the Farm provides respite and recreation for urban dwellers.

Food Security

- ◇ UBC Farm is an important part of the local community food system, providing fresh, organic produce through Saturday Farmers Markets, a CSA Box Program, as well as restaurants off campus.
- ◇ The UBC Farm supplies food for the UBC Campus through the Alma Mater Society, Sprouts, Agora, UBC Food Services and several colleges on campus.

Innovative Research

- ◇ The UBC Farm was the site of 35 active research projects in 2007, involving over 100 faculty, students, and staff
- ◇ In addition to hosting studies in pest management, free-range poultry, and medicinal plants, the farm has involved students, professors, and community members in researching economics, Aboriginal health and nutrition, alternative energy, children's environmental engagement, and intergenerational learning.
- ◇ The Third Annual Research Symposium at the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at the UBC Farm attracted over 100 attendees in 2007.
- ◇ The Farm has rich research potential for exploring the social, environmental, and economic needs of our changing world. Some areas for future research include climate change, urban food systems and human migration, sustainable farm management, and community health.

Sustainability Education

- ◇ The UBC Farm is an innovative resource for the only Agroecology degree program in Canada.
- ◇ The Farm provides the sole opportunity in Canada for urban university students to gain practical experience within an on-campus production-scale organic farm.
- ◇ The Farm attracts students from all over the world, in a variety of disciplines, and is a unique local facility for undergraduate research and experiential learning.
- ◇ Over 2,000 students from 41 UBC credit courses utilized the Farm for course content in 2007

- ◇ Students and Faculty from 14 out of 26 UBC Faculties and Schools participate in academic activities at the Farm.
- ◇ Youth education at the Farm (the Intergenerational Landed Learning Project, Farm Discovery Tours, and Farm Wonders Day Camp) provides hands-on experiences for hundreds of urban children a year to connect with the source of food.

Community

- ◇ The Farm serves as an educational resource for members of both the academic and non-academic community.
- ◇ The UBC Farm is a site of community health initiatives and land-based rituals for local First Nations and Indigenous Central Americans through the academically linked Urban Aboriginal Community Kitchen Garden Project and the Mayan Garden.
- ◇ Approximately 750 students and community members provided over 4,800 hours of volunteer service in 2006.
- ◇ The farm had over 20,000 visitors in 2007 that came to learn, research, volunteer, purchase produce, and enjoy the beauty of one of Vancouver's natural gems.



Local community members and the Friends of the Farm, a constituted club of UBC's Alma Mater Society, produced this brochure. This is not intended to represent the views of the UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems.