

The UBC Planning Process

The Main Campus Planning “will effectively guide decision-making for the next ten years, but will be complemented by and connected to a longer-term vision.” However the UBC Farm is being lumped under ‘future housing reserve’ and it’s value for the community is being downplayed.

- ◇ UBC has become known for its method of ‘presenting and defending’ its development plans during public consultation.
- ◇ The lands under consideration by the planning process are considered by the planning department to be ‘academic’ lands. However, the Farm is one of UBC’s major institutions for engaging the community.
- ◇ Nowhere in the description of the planning process does it mention that the process includes the land being used by the Farm. The only indication is in the legend on the map that states “The UBC Vancouver Campus plan will address the academic area, and the future housing reserve noted in the map.” However, the map does not locate the UBC Farm as being within that area.
- ◇ In the approved scope for the planning process, the Farm is simply lumped under “institutional components...south of 16th Ave.” with no mention to it individually.
- ◇ The Farm needs to be explicitly included as a unique institution within the current planning process, not just lumped in with playing fields and forest.

Get Informed

Trek 2010: www.trek2000.ubc.ca
Campus plan: www.campusplan.ubc.ca

Voice Your Concerns

The Farm is receiving support from students, but support from the non-academic community still needs to be heard! Possible requests to the university include:

- the planning process explicitly reports which lands are under review and their current use;
- the UBC Farm be treated as a special case in this review, similar to university boulevard;
- the planned “community input on the draft plan” be meaningful and responsive; and,
- the Farm be recognized as a truly unique asset to the university that helps to engage the public and train our future scientists.

The final decision for the Farm will be made by the UBC Board of Governors (likely in 2008) and then approved by the GVRD (Land Use and Transportation Committee, under the GVRD Policy and Planning department).

Send a letter to:

Stephen Toope, President
and Vice-Chancellor of UBC
103 - 6328 Memorial Rd
Vancouver, V6T 1Z2



The UBC Board of Governors
c/o Reny Kahlon, Acting Secretary
6328 Memorial Road Vancouver, V6T 1Z2

Nancy Knight, Associate Vice President Campus
& Community Planning
102 - 2210 West Mall, Vancouver, V6T 1Z4

Metro Vancouver (GVRD):
UBC/GVRD Joint Committee
c/o Paulette Vetleson,
Corporate Secretary
4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, V5H 4G8



UBC is currently planning the future of the UBC Farm land and the UBC Properties Trust has a desire to develop this unique educational centre into market housing.

This brochure outlines four main aspects regarding the value of the Farm and why the non-academic community may wish to preserve it.

- *Food Security*
- *Urban farming*
- *Biodiversity*
- *Education*

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

Food Security

- ◇ Ministry of Agriculture notes (2007) that B.C. can provide a nutritious diet for 34% of the population.
- ◇ In 25 years we will be less than 25% self-reliant in fresh fruit and vegetable production; a cornerstone in reversing the fast rise in diet related diseases.
- ◇ The UBC Farmland is over twice as productive as farmland in Northern B.C.
- ◇ The Ministry of Health recognizes that a sustainable food system goes hand in hand with an increase in local food production.
- ◇ In the TREK 2010 long-term vision statement for UBC, Martha Piper embraced, as the highest goal of the University, its role “to create a positive and healthy relationship between humans (...) and the natural environment upon which we all depend.”
- ◇ Ecological and biodiverse farming practices used at UBC Farm are also relevant in the current situation of climate change as they teach us to hedge against the vagaries of weather and climate by growing a wide range of crops and varieties.

Urban Farming

- ◇ The Farm provides West Side residents with flowers, organic fresh produce and eggs on a Ten Mile Diet.
- ◇ Vancouver’s Olympic garden plot initiative, aimed at developing 2010 new food-producing gardens in Vancouver by 2010, is strongly supported by Vancouver residents, but is being severely constrained by a shortage of available land.
- ◇ UBC Farm is the last working farm in Vancouver.

- ◇ UBC Farm is one of a handful of farms on urban campuses in North America, demonstrating that local agriculture can be successful in urban areas and researching ways to make it work.
- ◇ “UBC recognizes its responsibility towards the citizens of British Columbia (...) through partnerships that bring mutual benefit.” This is to be accomplished by developing “more opportunities for community involvement and collaboration” and encouraging “greater connection between UBC and the external community.” – UBC Trek 2010, Strategic Plan

Nature and the Farm

- ◇ The UBC Farm’s many programs, as well as informal opportunities, enable children and families to observe, learn, and enjoy nature, from planting a seed and watching it grow to gathering eggs and getting to know bumble bees.
- ◇ The Farm exemplifies the need to integrate nature with farming, reclaiming the culture in our *agricultural* system.
- ◇ The Farm is a valuable “edge habitat”, providing rich ecosystems for wildlife diversity, and serving as a buffer zone to preserve forested areas and old growth trees.
- ◇ UBC plans to “develop improved and innovative ways for the external community to gain access to UBC’s many academic, cultural, and recreational offerings.” – UBC Trek 2010 Vision Document

Education and Sustainability Show Case

- ◇ The UBC Farm engenders a rich local foodscape while supporting inter-cultural and inter-generation experience, specifically with the Urban Aboriginal Community Kitchen Garden Project, the Children’s Farm and the Mayan Garden.
- ◇ The Farm provides agricultural education at all levels within the community, both the academic and non-academic.
- ◇ The UBC Farm embodies The Centre for Sustainable Food Systems. This is valuable resource that provides agricultural literacy for the future and is committed to research in sustainability.
- ◇ As stated in the Trek 2010 Vision Document, we must “model UBC as a responsible, engaged, and sustainable community.”
- ◇ 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.



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.