

Heritage Farm Community Survey

Final Results 1/9/23

Overview

1,126 responses:

- 65%—regular farm visitors
- 35%—seldom or never visit

Highlights

Most frequent activities:

- WSU Extension (58% of respondents)
- Volunteer opportunities (43%)
- Farming/community garden (19%)
- Clubs (13%)
- Other: plant sales, events, employment, Composter/Recycler program

Top priorities for site improvements:

- 64%—outdoor classroom
- 61%—interpretive trails
- 57%—new greenhouses

Other priorities:

- 36%— multi-use building
- 33%—public access/parking
- 32%—trail connection to Hazel Dell Park

Suggestions for new activities/programs:

- 73%—farmers market
- 56%—public events
- 49%—education/job training
- 47%—farm-to-table business

Recurring themes

1. **Heritage Farm must be preserved as a unique asset to honor and celebrate Clark County's agricultural roots.**

It is important to preserve this valuable place to help community members learn how to grow food for themselves and commercially.

Please don't screw it up and develop it beyond anything related to agriculture. We are losing way to much farmland.

It needs to be preserved for the future. People need more connection with our food sources and how to feed themselves with the small amount of land that they might have.

Keep this land for Ag purposes only.

We have very few places in Clark County left that speak to our agrarian roots. It is imperative that Heritage Farm holds this place in the community!

2. Better publicity about Farm activities could increase public use.

This site is for farmers and gardeners. More communications and advertising for this site would be helpful to reach those in the greater community. I only knew about it because I live in Hazel Dell and drive by it.

Community advertising would be great. We live just down the road and had no idea this was even open to the public.

I don't think people are really aware of this site and what it offers. There needs to be more public outreach.

More outreach to local school kids about the history and heritage of farming in the county.

Online information for better outreach to utilize site.

I literally live across the street and have no idea what the farm offers, public or private. Why is it such a well-kept secret?

3. New facilities and activities should be considered for the Heritage Farm site—without displacing the current uses.

I would love to see a year-round farmers market there that supported incubator business on-site and partnered with other farms to preserve farmland in the county

Please make accessible trails

It is worth figuring out a good purpose(s) for the farmland to continue to exist. Don't be afraid to try many different things on a small scale—learn from the ones that fail and grow the ones that succeed.

Farm-to-table dinners, festivals, etc.

More community events please!

An indoor/outdoor classroom would be great for field trips, community events. A farmers market selling produce from the farm would be great.

I think a farm-to-table restaurant or cafe on site would be a boon to business and could provide more training and profit to the farm.

4. New funding sources can be considered to support Heritage Farm—recognizing this is a public space that will always require some public funds.

If it's mixed use, cost coverage should also be mixed—there are plenty of sources and might be nice to look at partners. Grants, there are a lot of grants for food-related topics. I also think a small portion could come from taxpayers, especially if it grows to support education programs. Also consider Clark College or WSU who could do community classes that again could be covered some by schools/funding also class fees, etc.

I think that if you charge farmers market vendors a small fee it would draw a lot of attention and be a centerpiece to the Hazel Dell area.

Do whatever it takes to stay there forever! Thank you for being there for our community. We need our farms.

The Master Gardener Foundation raises tens of thousands for grants to horticultural education through its plant sale.

Be aware of funds that come into specific projects and programs to support their work at the farm and that county is not the only funder of the farm activities. 100% self-supporting is not realistic.

If funding is an issue, the American Farmland Trust can help with finding.

Due to the educational and research type of activities that take place on the grounds, the farm most likely will not be supported dollar-for-dollar by user fees. The Clark County Council and government should operate the property through the general funding/bonding mechanism.

Heritage Farm is a community resource and should be supported by users and tax dollars as it seems to be. We don't ask farms to pay for themselves, what is the deal with thinking this gem should?

Heritage Farm Sustainability Plan

Community Leader Interviews—Highlights (1/24/23)

Overview

Clark County Parks and Lands Division is developing a plan to improve financial sustainability of Heritage Farm operations and increase opportunities for public access.

In 2010, the Clark County Council approved a Master Plan for the Heritage Farm site in Hazel Dell. The plan identifies agricultural use as the primary focus of the site, with spaces for agricultural demonstrations and research, recreation, community events and administrative activities. In 2020, the Council approved an update to the Master Plan. This accounts for changes made since 2010 and includes some additional facilities and programmatic elements. With the update's adoption, the Council directed staff to develop a sustainability plan (or a business plan) to outline how the County will implement the Master Plan while improving financial sustainability and public access.

Community Interviews

To help guide the development and implementation of the sustainability plan, in December 2022-January 2023, a consultant, Consor Strategic Planning and Communications, completed ten community leader interviews with a cross-section of site neighbors, farm users, community partners, and County staff associated with Heritage Farm. The purpose of the interviews was to gather advice and learn community leaders' priorities for the future of Heritage Farm.

This summary represents the advice, feelings, and attitudes of individuals interviewed. It is not intended to provide a statistically valid profile of public opinion as a whole.

The next section provides highlights of the community leaders interviews. A list of participants is attached along with the discussion questions.

Highlights

- 1. The persons interviewed cherish Heritage Farm—but some worry about its future.** The Farm is seen as a unique resource, closely linked to Clark County's agricultural roots and an important island of open space in an urban area. There's some anxiety that plans for the site's future remain unresolved. Community leaders are looking for some commitment from the County that would cement the site's agricultural identity in perpetuity.

"Honor the history of the Poor Farm and the site's agricultural heritage."

"Place the farm in a trust so it can be managed as a farm with educational activities."

"This is an important piece of real estate. Proceed with care and caution to be sure the plan brings value to the community."

- 2. Even those observers who frequent the site aren't familiar with all of the current activities and uses.** Most participants report their focus is on specific programs and portions of the site, they admit they aren't well acquainted with other activities.

"I work with the Snap Ed team and Food Bank but am not familiar with much else."

"It is a large site with some educational and research opportunities."

3. **This group's preferred future for the Heritage Farm is to continue and expand on today's assorted activities.** There's a shared sense that the site is underutilized and can accommodate more without impinging on today's uses.

"I talk less about what it is now and more about what it could be. The farm is an underrealized opportunity."

"I want to use my voice and role to amplify everything LULAC is working on as it directly connects to supporting public health."

"Keep it a farm with opportunities for the community to participate and learn."

4. **Participants generally concur with the County Council's goals for the site (see box).** However, some observers express caution about promoting greater public access if that endangers or displaces the current farm uses.

Council Goals for Heritage Farm

- ✓ Implement the Master Plan
- ✓ Increase public access
- ✓ Improve financial sustainability

"Trails are wonderful but also cause havoc for research areas."

"Public access in a way that people can be guided through the farm with demonstrations of farming concepts, crops, best practices, etc."

"Focus on accessibility- transportation, ADA, financial, language/cultural, etc."

5. **The overarching question raised for Heritage Farm's future—is it a farm or a park?** Most interviewees favor preserving the site's agricultural identity. Any planned uses need to be compatible with farming.

"The County is confused about Heritage Farm's role. Is it a farm or a park?"

"Keep it a farm! It is not a park!"

"Quit thinking of it as a park."

6. **What's missing from Heritage Farm today? Observers say there's a need—and room—for more programs and facilities that serve children and youth.** Educational programs could involve outdoor school, or target school children countywide, or early learning, or at-risk youth.

"A youth center and innovative urban farming learning opportunity."

"We desperately need more preschool opportunities. A farm could be an excellent place for early learning."

"More learning opportunities for students who otherwise wouldn't have access to outdoor learning."

"It would be incredible to partner with something like Head Start to create an early learning center at the farm."

"There are schools lacking in greenhouse and garden space. A partnership with Heritage Farm could help with that."

- 7. New farm and food-related uses also seem like a natural fit.** Ideas include a farming incubator, a commercial kitchen, cooking classes, farm dinners—all of which would require specialized facilities.

"People want to farm but can't afford to buy land in our community. Incubator farms are one way to help."

"We need to expand small scale food production education."

"LULAC could potentially operate most of the farm as an actual working farm so people could see how a real farm works."

"Host events like outdoor movies or dinners."

"Build a commercial kitchen like Zenger Farm."

- 8. To achieve financial sustainability alternative funding sources are thought to be acceptable. Leases, user fees, grants, partnerships and private contributions are all mentioned as potential funding sources.** However, observers also say the farm operations shouldn't be expected to become 100% self-supporting. There is speculation that many of the proposed uses would turn little or no profit (e.g., farmers market). A public investment will also be required.

"Allow the farm to actually start farming and there will be lots of opportunity for cost recovery."

"Find someone to take on a master lease to run the property with the vision developed through this process."

"The Cowlitz Tribe's Gardening Dept. is looking to expand and might be interested in farming portion of the Heritage Farm site."

"The County needs to figure out how to place the farm in some sort of land preservation category so people will stop worrying about the longevity of the farm and be willing to donate or invest in the site."

- 9. The Heritage Farm site is still identified primarily with WSU Extension.** The agency’s 60-year, highly visible presence over the decades make it appear to some observers that WSU is still in charge—despite the County’s resuming control of the site since 2009.

“Get more out of WSU farmland grant.”

“It is my understanding it was the Poor Farm and is now owned by the County. I know that the WSU Extension has operations there as well as the Master Gardeners and there is a community garden and greenhouses.”

“It’s a shared use of the site: WSU Extension and many groups.”

- 10. Heritage Farm may be able to draw from lessons learned at peer facilities.** Observers point to several peer parks in the Pacific Northwest and across the U.S. Examples given include Luscher Farm (Lake Oswego), Zenger Farm (Portland), Kelsey Creek Farm (Bellevue), and WSU Research Farm (Mt. Vernon). Beyond the Northwest, examples cited include Bernalillo County Incubator Farm (Albuquerque), and the Presidio (San Francisco).

Community Leader Participants

Karen Bowerman, Clark County Council
Kimberly Berhow, Evergreen PS CTE Sciences
Jordan Boldt and Stephanie Clark, Farmers Markets
Michael Gaffney, WSU Extension
Rocky Houston, Clark County Parks & Lands Division
Patty Kinwasa-Gaiser, Cowlitz Tribe
Andrea Pruett, Clark County Public Health
Ed Rosales, LULAC Grows
Blair Wolfley, Friends of Heritage Farm
Summer Steenbarger, Clark Cowlitz Farm Bureau

Discussion Questions

Introductions

1. Are you familiar with the Heritage Farm site? (How have you been involved?)
2. How would you describe Heritage Farm to someone who is unfamiliar? Which features stand out?
3. What’s your long-term vision for the Heritage Farm site?

Current & Potential Uses

4. In considering potential new uses for the site, do any come to mind? (Do you have a favorite?) Any possibilities that should be ruled out?

5. There are a variety of uses currently on the Heritage Farm site, including:
 - WSU Extension research and offices
 - Clark County Food Bank
 - Master Gardeners and Master Composters
 - Clark College classes
 - Community garden
 - Leasable farmland
 - Other agriculture-related uses
 - A. Have you been involved with any of the current uses?
 - B. Looking at the potential for expanding current uses at Heritage Farm, do you have any priorities?
6. Are you aware of any resource needs in the community that could be met at the Heritage Farm site?
7. What are the leading benefits of expanding, or adding to the current uses or the Heritage Farm site? Any drawbacks?
8. The County Council's goals for the Sustainability Plan include increasing public access and improving financial sustainability. What suggestions do you have for achieving either goal?
9. Do you know of any other programs or sites that could serve as a model for the Heritage Farm's future?

Community Engagement

10. What organizations or persons should be involved in the Heritage Farm Sustainability Plan? Are there any specific individuals we should ask for advice at this early stage?

Final Advice

11. Do you have a single most important piece of advice to offer for the Heritage Farm Sustainability Plan?
12. Any further comments or suggestions?

Heritage Farm Sustainability Plan

Public Comments Received as of 1/27/2023

1. Thank you for all of the work you “all” do, have done and will do. I appreciate it.
2. Why did no one reach out to the commercial farmers and farm bureau? A number of years ago a plan was proposed to build a true commercial style farmers style market at the heritage farm. Has that idea gone away? Bill Zimmerman
3. We have lived in SW Hazel Dell for more than 50 years. Open land in the area is quickly being filled with "ticky-tacky" houses. We would like to see the Heritage Farm property kept as open land for the use of the community. One part could be a community garden but please keep the rest of the area open as a park for everyone. Thanks, Dan and Kay McMurry
4. It's difficult for people with disabilities to maneuver the farm including and especially for the community gardens. Dana Etengoff
5. The 78th Street Heritage Farm is an important resource for our community. A broad range of our community members are involved and benefiting from Heritage Farm. Currently, the area houses WSU Extension offices and the programs they support on the Farm including Master Gardener educational programs, SNAP Ed Farm to Fork providing youth hands-on education in understanding how our food is grown, and the 4-H Restorative Food Bank Garden which gives at-risk youth meaningful experiences to grow and provide produce to a local food bank. WSU Extension also conducts research that supports local and regional farmers to develop strategies that help farm businesses successfully evolve and adapt.

The Master Gardener program includes the answer clinic that provides gardening assistance, educational programs, and the annual plant sale which funds many community projects such as school and community gardens, the Fort Vancouver Historic Garden, and the Naturescaping wildlife botanic garden.

The Clark County Food Bank harvests thousands of pounds of food for our community's food insecure and 88 families have an opportunity to grow their own food in the community garden plots. There are also many opportunities for the community to volunteer at the Heritage Farm.

Research now shows the positive effects of outdoor nature time. In addition, there is an increased interest in growing one's own produce. Heritage Farm's open space, access to nature, and gardening is a valuable resource that we need to keep. The continuation of these programs gives our community opportunities to learn and work outside; fresh-air, hands-on learning. Heritage Farm provides equitable access to an open-green space, educational opportunities, enrichment plus the

health benefits of access to nature. This is even more important now as our community becomes more populated with people, houses, and cars. Heritage Farm is exceptional use of public space, a unique asset for our citizens; it has been and is a vital part of our community. Please consider, rather than dollars, what these programs bring to and how they enhance our community. Keep this important resource!

I have been a Master Gardener since 2005 and have seen the benefits of this program in our community. I help coordinate the Hazel Dell School and Community Garden and I lead the Master Gardener Garden Discovery Team. We have made presentations at many elementary schools on garden topics including seed growth and development, soil, and pollination. Each summer, WSU Extension Master Gardeners have led a summer garden program for the Boys & Girls Club. We are currently presenting lessons on spiders and seed saving for elementary students. It is wonderful to see children understand that spiders are not to be feared but should be left along so the spiders can do their job of ridding the garden of pests such as aphids and flies. In addition, for the children to realize that the seeds they see in the foods they eat can be viable seeds to grow new plants next season.

It is very rewarding and important to see the children understand that food does just not come from the grocery store but that there is a farmer or grower taking a seed and helping that become the food we eat.

The Master Gardener Foundation provides grant funding for many organizations including school and community gardens and funds the Master Gardener Garden Discovery team's educational programs for school children with proceeds from the annual plant sale. Plants are propagated in the Heritage Farm greenhouses and property, grown and sold at the annual Mother's Day weekend sale. This funding makes possible many necessary gardening supplies to make community gardens successful and allow for the food donations and educational programs including field trips for school children to Heritage Farm. In addition, the Master Gardener Foundation provides start plants and seeds for many community gardens. At Hazel Dell Elementary, the Grow Team, raises food for Share and the food insecure in our community thanks to the seeds and starts plus funding from the Master Gardener Foundation.

We need the many programs that Heritage Farm supports. Providing a public meeting area and walking paths in addition to other improvements that maintain the agricultural nature and open outdoor space, will be a benefit to our community.

Heritage Farm is a community resource that benefits our community in many ways, which is and should continue to be an important resource.

Sincerely,
Barbara Nordstrom

6.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input as an independent member of the Heritage Farm “stakeholder” community. We reviewed the public record, listed below.¹ Collaboration at the Heritage Farm started in 2012 with a meeting of agroecologists from WSUV and Clark College. These comments rely on the finding of extensive research and participation in urban region food systems (Wait, J. 2022, 2021, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2010). Our action-research centers farmers' perspectives, a sector of “stakeholders” who are under-represented in the official conversations, governance, and committees about the Heritage Farm. Farmers deserve more opportunity to help guide the future of the farm. Unfortunately, agriculture is notoriously under-supported in Clark County and the rate of farm loss and farmland conversion is among the highest in the West and the US (see references in Wait, 2021 and/or request more information).

The Heritage Farm is still an important centerpiece of the food system, and is more than just a place to learn about history. The Farm offers solutions for the future. With all due respect to the Council and the Park Planners, we believe that Heritage Farm could be a much better model if the County improved the farming functions as a priority over parklike functions.² What park amenities support agriculture and sustainability (as inclusively defined)?

Sustainability, by definition, includes economic, environmental, and social equity goals. The future plans need to focus more equitably and additionally on social justice and environmental resilience. Depending on how defined, it could be possible to meet goals of “improved financial sustainability and public access,” follow core principles identified in multiple documents, and promote solutions that prioritize the fact that this is a farm on public land, albeit “stolen land” previously stewarded. However, it appears that the definition of sustainability being used by the County is narrowly considering “financial” which is only part of economics. Even “financial sustainability” and “public access” deserve definition, as well as broadening.

Heritage, indeed history, requires looking further back into the past and sustainability means looking into the future to address inequities with solutions. Please also consider power and economic dynamics and social-environmental justice as integral to sustainability.

¹ Review of the public record (clark.wa.gov/public-works/heritage-farm-sustainability-plan).

- 78th Street Heritage Farm Master Plan, March 2020, Clark County Public Works Parks & Lands Division
- 78th Street Heritage Farm Preservation and Maintenance Plan, 2018, for Clark County Community Planning by AECO
- WSU Extension Metro, 2022. Moving Heritage Farm Forward: Strategy and operational recommendations
- WSU Metro, 2021. Heritage Farm Preliminary Findings
- Open House (12/14/2022)
- Heritage Farm Overview, Jan 8, 2020 Work Session slide deck presentation to Clark County Council
- Public testimony on the 2020 Master Plan (J. Wait, 2/11/2020)

² There are many models of agriculture programs on public park land across the US, which are particularly important in metropolitan regions (see also NW Oregon and King Counties).

Colonial Settler History matters. WSU Vancouver acknowledges that the campus is in the homelands of Chinookan and Taidnapam peoples and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. Yet in the Sustainability and other Planning documents, there no history of the land prior to White settlement presented in the Farm Preservation Plan (2018). What is the evidence that there was any Consultation with Indigenous Peoples cited? Perhaps consult also with the Vancouver Fort and the Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge, as these public lands honor the Indigenous heritage. Please additionally invite the Oregon Native American Chamber (ONAC) and the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) to consider representing economic and health equity issues, for examples. The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) is engaged in food access work across the region. There is a NW Tribal Food Sovereignty Coalition.

Legacy matters. The Heritage Farm represents a unique legacy—a remnant of a rapidly diminishing farmland resource, and a long-time hub for the agricultural community that offers food access, education, applied research, and training opportunities.

“Poor Farm” aspects of the Heritage Farm persist, including growing crops to feed people, and the use of volunteer and correctional system inmate labor.

WSU experiment station activities continue, but certainly not up to its potential since the divestment by WSU when Extension transferred key agronomy expertise and capacity to other research farms (Mt. Vernon, for example).

Public access is actually quite significant already. “Public” are included in festivals, farm tours, demonstration garden and field plots, food system forums, research fields, field days, workshops, plant sales, volunteer work parties, community gardens, and annual courses for entrepreneurs and landowners. On working farms, these types of activities can be considered forms of “agritourism.” Has anyone asked farmers or participants about enhancing these fora?

The equitability and reliability of information generated—from “stakeholder” and public engagement, advisory, and planning processes—depend on how the questions are framed and presented. We perceive that the questions themselves have elicited assumptions not necessarily shared. What are the impacts of bias? Unfortunately, it appears that the questioning (the Steering Committee’s visioning form, the Survey, the Metro report, and the Public meeting(s)) have been driven by narrow questions and assumptions, which likely limits creativity and real public discourse.

In the Survey, for example, the choice options only list some of the possibilities for the farm, and few have anything to do with farming, except “new greenhouses.” What are the greenhouses for? Are there other park properties that could house greenhouses, such as paved land? Former nurseries? In the survey, there is no option for farming or agricultural research, nor an option for more community gardens. What was the result of the Steering Committee visioning session on 11/7/2022?

Centering “cost recovery” modeling is a potentially more problematic assumption presented by the Metro Center is the analysis. One overall vision that emerged fortuitously includes “...supporting food and farm businesses...” Obviously, from the recommendations and strategies, there is a LOT of work yet to be done. “Cost recovery” is the least of the problems, but seems to have been equated with “financial sustainability.” Any cost-benefit analysis needs to consider all the pillars of sustainability. Think about health equity outcomes, overcoming social injustice, fostering pathways for youth to engage in agriculture, enhancing water and soil resources, and promoting agroecosystem biodiversity.

Clark County needs a community food system assessment. Clark County also needs an area-wide agricultural plan to meet GMA regulations. Clark County also needs an agricultural advisory council that functions more than just a sign-off for land valuation Auditor schemes.

Beyond sustainability, consider resilience. Given climate chaos, we hope that Clark County officially realizes that agricultural land and infrastructure is getting more and more valuable compared to other land uses, before more conversion further limits our future possibilities. The pandemic has exposed us all to systemic problems with the current food system. Growing food access is paramount. At a minimum, please develop a more inclusive and comprehensive definition of sustainability as having (at least) 3 pillars. Please explain sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems.³ My research and knowledge could help.

EQUITABLE ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

As the primary agencies engaged in supporting the food system here are “under-resourced” (Wait 2021), WSU Extension, and Clark County, should re-invest in numerous programs that support farmers and natural resources—through all-age education, applied research, hands-on training, and watershed stewardship. Clark County could take this opportunity to remedy problems by investing adequately in the agricultural infrastructure in disrepair and under-resourced.

Consider the multi-faceted benefits of farming in an urban setting. Note examples of the Urban Agriculture grants recently awarded by USDA NRCS for Washington State projects.⁴

EQUITABLE SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND JUSTICE:

The future plans, governance, and processes need to encompass Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) principles and approaches.⁵ This goes beyond the inclusion of LULAC and NAACP “representatives from underserved populations of Clark County” and the Cowlitz Tribe as an “adjacent neighbor” (HF Sustainability Plan FAT Update 09202022). This inclusion is a good start. Even the WSU Metro report (2022), while failing to actually engage additional diverse organizations during their multiple year project, at least lists several.

In line with equity of participation or access for programs, please consider that volunteerism is a privilege. People who do not have the available wealth should be compensated and/or supported for their participation (cover farmers’ “opportunity costs”).

Consider more distributive democracy and participatory budgeting. With all due respect to the existing entities outlined in the Master Plan, some of the same people represent multiple entities or agencies, in various roles, for an apparent concentration of power among privileged. Please ensure that nonprofit partner(s) demonstrate public entity-level JEDI, open transparency, and openly demonstrate commitment to the idea that the Farm is a “common” property.

³ For example: [Definitions: Sustainability and Food Systems | USDA](#)

⁴ [Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants | USDA](#)

- **TILTH ALLIANCE:** “Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Community Food Resources. Provide free and discounted food to the local community and promote gardening and urban agriculture throughout the community”
- **SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON LULAC FOUNDATION:** LULAC Grows Urban Farm and Family Garden Incubator Groundwork and Food Sovereignty for Communities of Color” Provide new and aspiring farmers access to farmland, infrastructure, cultivating tools, and growing supplies. We will cultivate a greater abundance of crops desired by our communities, and innovate with a diverse array of culturally specific crops aligning with indigenous cultural heritage.

⁵ See for example—there are too many to list here! Available on request.

Which organizational diagram is most appropriate for Farm governance? Perhaps this is open for discussion given the need for JEDI and multi-faceted sustainability. There are existing diagrams: one is in the Master Plan, and one is in the Metro Report farm operations plan section. In both, the Technical Advisory Team appears to have a great deal of power. In the Master Plan, the "Non-Profit Partner Foundation" does not appear directly linked to the Technical Advisory Team. Do they answer to the County Public Works? Are you referring to Friends of the Heritage Farm? There are other nonprofits, "foundations" and "friends" organizations, some of whom have financial and/or conservation interests. Some of the entities are in the public record, and some fall below the threshold for disclosure. What have been their various financial contributions and what are the public benefits accrued or envisioned?

Consider a coalition of nonprofits collaborating at some level, rather than allocating "support" for any one in particular. Nonprofit organizations variously raise funding to support their programs. What about organizations not previously engaged? Do they already have Farm-related programming or do they need "support" to develop? Please use Equity and JEDI filters.

How would the role of Advisory and public engagement dovetail? What is the long-term role of the Steering Committee, which is much more inclusive and diverse than the Advisory Team? What is the power distribution among and between Farm occupants and programs and stakeholders? How can the various roles of Extension (nutrition, education, agricultural and natural resources practices, crops, workshops, youth programs, ETC) be equitably integrated into the Heritage Farm governance? Is "Advisory" (the County's term) the same as "governance" (I seem to be introducing)?

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Sustainability Framework in the Master Plan is a great start! Add food growing, agriculture, gardening, and farming! Please also add elements of agro-forestry for the woodlands on the Farm. What would restorative forest thinning look like?

Consider that Heritage Farm is a unique island of working land and biodiversity. It is now almost completely surrounded by development. It's a flyway, landing zone, and bird sanctuary of sorts. Pollinator habitat is getting rarer and rarer, and dispersal is challenged. The biodiversity enhances beneficial insect populations to help keep the "pests" in check. Farmers, environmental scientists, and conservationists have lots of research questions and could pose applied research to address challenges facing agricultural resilience. Consider involving community gardeners in "citizen science."

Consider the Farm as a whole as an agroecosystem. The smallest scale within is the crop/field or garden plot or community garden. The broader scale considers the agroecology of the food system level of the city-region. At the farm and field level, agroecosystem resilience depends on numerous practices that foster ecological diversity, including cover crops and Organic methods, etc. (references available on request).

We welcome questions for clarification and further dialogue. We appreciate the extensive contributions to the future of the Heritage Farm by all the involved entities!

Thank you for considering these comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Jude Wait, Ph.D.

Heritage Farm Revenue & Expenses 2016 - 2021

Revenue Summary	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Heritage Farm Comm. Garden Fees	\$ 5,296	\$ 5,621	\$ 4,239	\$ 30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,186
Monthly or Annual Space & Facilities Rents/Leases	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,033	\$ 4,456	\$ 4,549	\$ 16,038
Rents and leases	\$ -	\$ 830	\$ 830	\$ 523	\$ 1,148	\$ 616	\$ 3,947
Grant Project Revenue	\$ 468,619	\$ 1,601	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 470,220
REET 2 Project Revenue			\$ 201,260	\$ 123,740			\$ 325,000
General Fund (Tax Dollars)	\$ 515,647	\$ 600,196	\$ 632,779	\$ 506,734	\$ 626,936	\$ 586,356	\$ 3,468,648
	Total	\$ 989,562	\$ 608,248	\$ 839,108	\$ 638,060	\$ 632,540	\$ 591,521
							\$ 4,299,039

Expenses Summary

Summary of Expenses by Category

The expenses for building maintenance are combined into two funds and not separated between expenses to support WSU Extension Services and County Farm operations costs. The table below separates these expenses based on an occupancy area calculation of the administration building. The County occupies 5% of the building area.

Expense Type	WSU Extension	County Farm Expenses	
IT	\$ 213,587	\$ -	
Materials & Supplies	\$ 104,857	\$ 33,732	
Other	\$ 20,130	\$ 37,874	
Services	\$ 213,877	\$ 26,294	
Staffing	\$ 227,699	\$ 606,199	
Utilities	\$ 161,987	\$ 11,184	
WSU Extension Services Contract	\$ 1,861,632	\$ -	
Capital Investments	\$ 489,987	\$ 290,000	
	\$ 3,293,756	\$ 1,005,283	\$ 4,299,039
Average Expense Per Year	\$ 548,959	\$ 167,547	\$ 716,507

Expenses by Funding Source (2016-2021)

The County's financial system tracks expenses by programs. The first table is a summary of expenses by program with a description of the cost to better explain the use. Use the color coding of the first table to review the remaining tables for a more detailed breakdown of expenses.

* 2022 expenses have not been reconciled as of report.

* Rounding may cause \$1-5 differences in sums.

Program Expenses	Description of Expenses	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Vegetation Management	Parks & Lands expenses for noxious weed control	\$ 1,936	\$ 3,084	\$ 4,008	\$ 3,353	\$ 1,710	\$ 1,935	
Public Health	WSU extension services lease & allocation	\$ 310,272	\$ 354,283	\$ 354,831	\$ 354,987	\$ 371,747	\$ 372,228	
Facilities Maintenance & Operations	County Facilities costs to maintain building	\$ 162,190	\$ 173,091	\$ 121,701	\$ 93,273	\$ 92,053	\$ 79,185	
Capital Investment Projects	Capital project investment	\$ 486,889	\$ 3,098	\$ 201,260	\$ 48,406	\$ 40,339		
Parks & Lands Farm Maintenance & Operations	Parks & Lands costs to maintain farm property	\$ 28,275	\$ 74,692	\$ 157,308	\$ 138,041	\$ 126,691	\$ 138,173	
	Sum	\$ 989,562	\$ 608,248	\$ 839,108	\$ 638,060	\$ 632,540	\$ 591,521	\$ 4,299,039

Vegetation Management / Parks & Lands Expenses								
Materials & Supplies	Costs to support the farm operation	\$ 4,834	\$ 5,680	\$ 4,868	\$ 4,957	\$ 4,924	\$ 2,950	
Other	Costs to support the farm operation		\$ 100	\$ 36,365	\$ 175	\$ 175		
Services	Costs to support the farm operation		\$ 2,158	\$ 1,758	\$ 1,622	\$ 9,500		
Staffing	Costs to support the farm operation	\$ 25,377	\$ 69,526	\$ 117,455	\$ 132,766	\$ 112,742	\$ 136,349	
Utilities	Costs to support the farm operation		\$ 313	\$ 871	\$ 1,874	\$ 1,061	\$ 810	
	Sum	\$ 30,211	\$ 77,777	\$ 161,317	\$ 141,394	\$ 128,402	\$ 140,109	\$ 679,210

Public Health / WSU Extension Services Contract Expenses								
WSU Extension Services Contract	Amount paid to WSU for extension program	\$ 310,272	\$ 310,272	\$ 310,272	\$ 310,272	\$ 310,272	\$ 310,272	
IT	Provide IT services to WSU		\$ 32,007	\$ 32,007	\$ 36,395	\$ 56,100	\$ 57,078	
Utilities	Provide utilities to WSU		\$ 12,004	\$ 12,552	\$ 8,320	\$ 5,375	\$ 4,878	
	Sum	\$ -	\$ 354,283	\$ 354,831	\$ 354,987	\$ 371,747	\$ 372,228	\$ 1,808,076

Facilities Department's Maintenance & Operations Expenses								
Materials & Supplies	Materials used by Facilities staff to maintain building	\$ 15,832	\$ 37,938	\$ 25,527	\$ 20,081	\$ 7,019	\$ 3,979	
Other	Other costs expended by Facilities staff to maintain bldg	\$ 5,095	\$ 5,135	\$ 5,816	\$ 1,735	\$ 1,723	\$ 1,685	
Services	Vendor costs paid by Facilities to maintain building	\$ 50,552	\$ 47,795	\$ 27,046	\$ 23,332	\$ 44,275	\$ 32,133	
Staffing	Facilities staff costs	\$ 70,095	\$ 64,091	\$ 47,112	\$ 24,938	\$ 18,915	\$ 14,532	
Utilities	Utilities paid by Facilities to maintain building	\$ 20,617	\$ 18,133	\$ 16,200	\$ 23,187	\$ 20,121	\$ 26,855	
	Sum	\$ 162,191	\$ 173,091	\$ 121,701	\$ 93,274	\$ 92,053	\$ 79,185	\$ 721,495

Capital Investment Expenses								
West Parking Lot Improvements		\$ 486,888						
Minor Capital Project			\$ 3,098					
Irrigation Upgrade				\$ 201,260				
Minor Capital Project					\$ 48,406			
Minor Capital Project						\$ 40,339		
	Sum	\$ 486,888	\$ 3,098	\$ 201,260	\$ 48,406	\$ 40,339	\$ -	\$ 779,991