



78th Street Heritage Farm Advisory Team Meeting Minutes



Thursday, March 21, 2024, 4:00pm to 5:00PM
Luke Jensen Sports Park in the LJSP Bud Van Cleve Community Meeting Room
4000 NE 78th Street, Vancouver, WA. 98665, and
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Advisory Team: Sandra Brown, Bill Fickett, Lisa Bayautet, Carol Levanen, Rachel Feston

Clark County: Matthew Baum, Rocky Houston, Amy Arnold, Lynde Wallick, Bart Catching

Farm Programs, Neighbors, Public Members: Heather Tischbein, Chloe Austin, Judie Stanton, Alex Svistunov, Kristine Perry, Matthew Cornwell, Kyle Roslund

* Not Present

4:00 PM Called to Order
Matthew called the meeting to order.

4:00 PM Introductions – Farm Advisory Team
County staff and members of the Advisory Team introduced themselves.

4:05 PM Approval of Meeting Minutes
Rocky explained why the previous meeting minutes were not approved.

Minutes Adoption:

Time	Action Item
4:06 PM	MOTION BY: Sandra Brown SECOND BY: Bill Fickett
	MOTION: Motion to adopt these Minutes, as submitted: March 16, 2023 Minutes May 18, 2023 Minutes July 20, 2023 Minutes September 21, 2023 Minutes
	DISCUSSION: Lisa said because she was not present for the meetings, she will abstain from voting.
	IN FAVOR: Four people OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: Lisa Bayautet

4:07 PM Farm Operations Report – Matthew Baum
Matthew discussed that Zane Karver, the Farm’s Operation Specialist, is out of office on medical leave and instructed folks who to contact in the interim. Sandra, Matthew, Kristine, Rocky, and Carol discussed how to process maintenance requests at the farm.

Rocky discussed that the farm operations report will review topics such as farm operations, roles and responsibilities, reviewing leases, reviewing each partner’s contributions, and any updates regarding the farm.

4:18 PM Sustainability Plan Update – Lynde Wallick

Carol and Lynde discussed what “sustainability” means. Lynde discussed the Sustainability Plan’s progress timeline, the public engagement process, and the plan’s overview including cultural and historical resources, the farm’s current uses, and past planning and studies that have occurred. Lynde, Rocky, Matthew, and the Advisory Team discussed the financial analysis and site analysis that were performed at the farm. Carol, Rocky, Lisa, and Matthew discussed the three alternatives, and Lynde and Rocky discussed preferred Alternative 3.

Rocky requested a motion of continuance since we are nearing the end of the allotted time for the meeting.

Time	Action Item
4:55 PM	MOTION BY: Lisa Bayutet SECOND BY: Carol Levanen
	MOTION: Motion for continuance to continue with the advisory team meeting.
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: All OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: None

Lynde and Rocky discussed with the Advisory Team members other options for cost recovery elements in Alternative 3. Lynde also discussed the Sustainability Plan’s next steps and timeline indicating a work session with County Council has been scheduled on April 3, 2024.

Lynde discussed the Hazel Dell Park Open House that’s on March 27, 2024 indicating it will be held at Minnehaha Elementary School at 6:00 PM and online via Webex.

5:13 PM Farm Advisory Committee Report – Sandra Brown

Sandra discussed the 2023 Heritage Farm Impact Summary and valuation spreadsheets she handed out indicating she reviewed this information with the previous Advisory Team members. She discussed the number of volunteers that contributed at the farm, the amount of produce that was distributed, the types of research that occur there, the types of activities the master Composters Recyclers partners do, and the plant sale that’s hosted by the Master Gardener Foundation.

Rocky, Sandra, Lisa, and Matthew discussed that the information Sandra produces will be incorporated into the farm partner’s leases. Lisa and Rocky also discussed the marketing availability for the farm.

5:26 PM Friends of the Farm Foundation Report – Sandra Brown

Blair Wolfley is not present, so Sandra Brown shared this information. Sandra discussed that the Foundation is increasing its membership drive and starting a newsletter, that they will be at the Home and Garden Show, that they have started looking into various fundraising projects, and that they have been considering hosting events in the future. The Friends of the Farm website can be found here: <https://friendsofheritagefarm.org/>.

Lisa and Rocky discussed signage for Heritage Farm, and Carol, Rocky, and Matthew discussed promotional ideas to increase its public access.

5:33 PM Public Comments – Matthew Baum and Rocky Houston

Rocky discussed the email that was received from Mark Leed indicating that he preferred Alternative 1 in the Sustainability Plan.

The people in the room introduced themselves. They were Matthew Cornwell with the Clark County Food Bank, Kyle Roslund with the Vancouver Bee Project, and Kristine Perry with Washington State University’s Extension Services.

5:35 PM Open Forum – Questions and Answers

Bill asked where greenhouse 7 is located and Rocky and Matthew answered.

Alex Svistunov asked what the farm can offer to him and his family, as in, what can they learn? Rocky, Kristine, Matthew, Lynde, and Carol discussed the different types of programs, classes, or training that occur at the farm, as well as tours, the community garden plots, and volunteer opportunities. Alex and Matthew discussed the calendar on the website and the request process for this. Carol and Rocky also discussed the Farm’s hours, signage, and public access.

Carol, Lisa, Rocky, and Matthew discussed the farm’s acreage, the type of asset it classifies as, funding options for the farm, and a potential conservation easement for the site.

5:52 PM Close Out Remarks – Matthew Baum and Rocky Houston

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 16 2024 at 4:00 PM. Rocky discussed the topics for the next meeting which include working on lease proposals and reviewing the Bylaws.

Carol and Rocky discussed whether there are prune trees in the orchard at Hertiage Farm, and Carol and Sandra discussed offering pruning classes at the farm.

5:57 PM Meeting Adjourned

Time	Action Item
5:57 PM	MOTION BY: Sandra Brown SECOND BY: Carol Levanen
	MOTION: Motion to adjourn the meeting
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: All OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: None

Submitted by Amy Arnold, Secretary

All meetings are scheduled from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Heritage Farm Sustainability Plan

Heritage Farm Advisory Team
Lynde Wallick, Park and Trails Planner
March 21, 2024



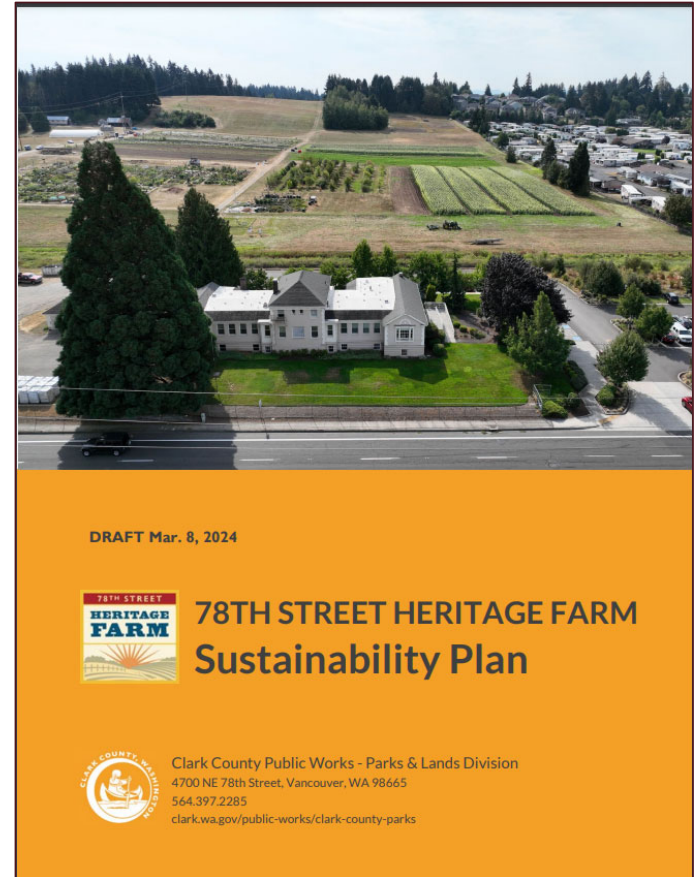
Agenda

Progress to date

Public engagement

Plan overview

Next steps



Progress to date



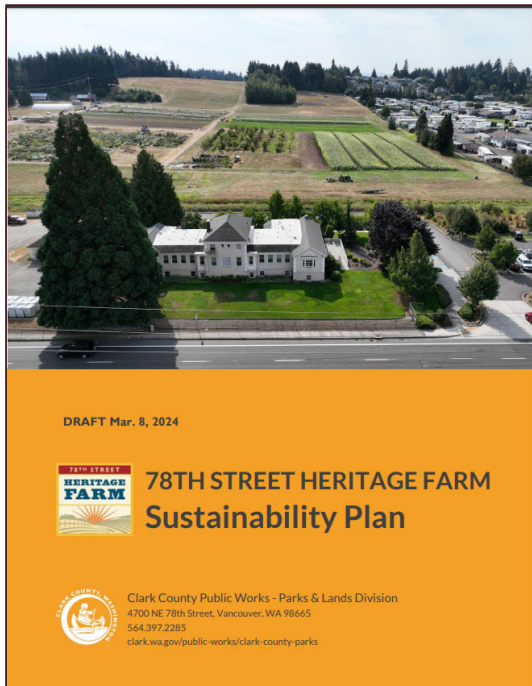
Public engagement process

Public engagement process included:

- Stakeholder engagement and communication
- Steering Committee (6 meetings/workshop)
- Two open houses
- Community survey
- Community leader interviews
- Continuous public comment period



Plan overview



The plan details:

- **Public process** (discussed earlier)
- **Context surrounding Heritage Farm including:**
 - Cultural and historical resources and current uses.
 - Past planning and studies
- **Financial analysis** including County expenditures and volunteer contributions.
 - Parks and Lands averages \$170,000/year in expenses to operate Heritage Farm.
 - **Volunteer contributions (2023)**
 - 14,477 volunteer hours valued at \$450,829
 - 130,150 lbs of produce valued at \$292,391 supporting ~200K Clark County residents
 - \$303,866 in private contributions to support farm programs



Plan overview

Site analysis

- **Three distinct environmental and use zones exist:**
 - Zone 1 – Agricultural operations and support
 - Zone 2 – Fallow land slopes less than 15
 - Zone 3 – Encumbered land
- **Topographic constraints**
- **Fallow land**
- **Surrounding land use**
- **Agriculture production feasibility**



Plan overview - alternatives

The plan details (continued):

- Operational alternatives presented:
- **Alternative 1**
 - Continuing to operate the farm in the current manner with some modifications of the revenue generation options identified by the planning staff and steering committee.
- **Alternative 2**
 - This plan would require an RFP to seek selection of a third party (non-governmental organization) to operate the farm.
- **Alternative 3 – PREFERRED**
 - An amalgamation of the six alternatives that selected similar programmatic and revenue generation options developed by the steering committee in the Spring 2023 workshops.



Plan overview – Alternative 3 (PREFERRED)

Agricultural programmatic elements	
WSU Extension Services	Multi-use building for private and public events
Incubator farming program	Farm events programming
Community gardens	Farm-park amenities
Agricultural leased space	Farm historic tours
Agricultural research leased space	Composting education
Food production for underserved communities	Continuing agricultural education for adults
Farm stand / vendor leased space	Farm to table programming
Horticulture education programming	

Educational programmatic elements	
Community outdoor classroom	School district programming

Recreational programmatic elements	
Community trails – open to the public.	Children’s play area

Cost recovery elements	
General Fund	Metropolitan Park District Fund
Lease adjustments	Fee for farm services
Friends of the Farm fundraising	Educational institute partnership
Grants	Donations
Revenue percentage from sold items	Vancouver/Clark County leaf litter composting and sale program



Plan overview – Next steps

1. Improve relationships with existing farm partners.
2. Improve inclusion and equity in farm access to historically underrepresented groups in the community.
3. Build on the trust developed during the development of this plan.
4. Explore additional farm partner relationships
5. Finalize the land lease program to recoup the county's costs.
6. Develop a fee for service program.
7. Analyze current cost sharing and operations relationships.
8. Develop a first phase of public access improvements.
9. Develop a safety and security plan associated with public access.
10. Explore additional revenue options.



Next steps



Thank you!



2023 Heritage Farm Impact Summary

The Heritage Farm has 14 projects that grow produce to feed Clark County Families, demonstrating various gardening and growing methods to assist local gardeners and farmers, provide ongoing research for local farmers on increasing production, and introducing new crops.

Below are specific impacts and outcomes that these projects have had on the Clark County Community.

Over the past 5 years:

- **\$1,417,592** of funding (outside county funding) helped operate projects at the Heritage Farm.
- The Value of produce grown at Heritage Farm **\$984,698.**
- The Value of the volunteer labor to produce food for residents in Clark County is **\$2,065,435.**
- **Total value of \$4,467,728**

In 2023:

- 1178 volunteers worked 14,177 hours at a value of **\$450,829.**
- Outside funding for Heritage Farm Projects was **\$303,866.** (cash, grants, salaries)
- 130,150 pounds of produce was grown at Heritage Farm at a value of **\$292,838** (\$2.25/lb)
- A value of **\$1,045,533** supported the programs at Heritage farm that impacted the community.
- **130,150+ pounds of local food fed** over 200,000 food insecure families in Clark County resulting in a healthier Clark County overall.
- Hunger was alleviated through produce grown at Heritage Farm distributed to limited resource families.
- Families were able to have healthy locally grown produce that helps people to be healthier through the local foods and less reliance on the health system.
- 115,000 pounds of produce grown at HF was distributed to 40+ food distribution sites in Clark County.
- 3 composting sites serve as a community hub to teach composting which lead to over 7,000 pounds of food waste being diverted from the landfill and enhances the soil in our community.
- Bees on the farm are local pollinators on the HF. Beekeepers at the farm are also creating local genetic queens.
- Fruit growers in Clark County come to Heritage Farm to understand proper installation and maintenance techniques of growing fruit and minimize pests and disease which lead to financial costs related to loss of crops.
- Youth from the Juvenile Court Restorative Community Service Program (RCS) provided opportunities for youth to learn about food production as well as a sense of accomplishment and connection with positive connections with others and the environment. This project is a top choice of youth in the RCS program.
- 84 community garden plots produced over 6,000 pounds of produce for their families.
- Community gardeners donated enough produce for 3,500 meals in food insecure families.
- Partners in Careers youth & adult clients developed skills in growing produce and delivered vegetables weekly for residents in the Fruit Valley area.
- Master Gardener Foundation funded 12 organizations to support horticulture education.
- Produce growing program on the Farm were heavily supported by the Master Gardener Foundation through vegetable starts, gardening advice and volunteer time spent planting, weeding, and harvesting when needed.
- 1500+ school youth visited the Farm to learn about how their food grows and experience harvesting and tasting.
- 15 WSU medical students participated in farm activities and learned how locally grown food adds to the positive health outcomes for communities that experience health disparities.
- Teens visited the farm to learn about where their food comes from and how it grows. Most of them had only consumed processed foods and were surprised how tasty fresh produce was.
- High school students participated in queen bee genetic and animal husbandry projects.
- LULAC began working some plots and began connecting families to the land and growing cultural foods.
- 5 volunteers from the Heritage Farm Advisory Committee volunteered 400+ hours to coordinate and track programs, events and needs of HF projects.

Data was summarized by Heritage Farm Advisory Committee (sub-committee of the Heritage Farm Technical Advisory Committee) through annual reports provided by each project work at Heritage Farm. Summarized by Sandy Brown, Heritage Farm Advisory Committee 2023

Organization	2023 Value of Volunteer hours \$31.80	2023 Value of Produce @\$2.25/lb	2023 outside funding	Total
Master Composter Recyclers	\$8,109.00	\$1,125.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$11,734.00
Bee Club	\$7,314.00	\$0.00	\$ 275.00	\$7,589.00
MG Small fruit demo sites (blueberries, grapes, kiwi, strawberry)	25,440.00	\$68.00	\$ 1,545.00	27,053.00
4-H Restorative Community Service Garden	\$1,272.00	\$675.00	\$ 10,100.00	\$12,047.00
Community Gardens	\$700.00	\$12,870.00	\$ 17,975.00	\$31,545.00
PIC Roots to Road	\$7,950.00	\$3,600.00	\$ 18,600.00	\$30,150.00
MG Foundation	\$149,460	\$15,750.00	\$ 49,000.00	\$214,210
CC Food Bank	\$214,173	\$258,750.00	\$ 124,721.00	\$597,644
WSU Farm to Fork	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 29,000.00	\$29,000.00
WSU AG Research	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$0.00
MUM club	\$18,921.00	\$0.00	\$ 150.00	\$19,071.00
LULAC Grows	\$4,770	\$0.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$54,770
HF Advisory	12,720	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ 12,720.00
Value of funding outside County funding to operate porject at Hetitage Farm TOTALS	\$450,829.00	\$292,838	\$303,866	\$1,047,533

From: [Mark Leed](#)
To: [Cnty PW Heritage Farm](#)
Subject: Heritage Farm Sustainability Plan
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:53:30 AM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of Clark County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I support Alternative 1 (Enhanced Farm) rather than Alternative 3 (Agri-Park) as the preferred option for the sustainability plan. Climate resiliency - in particular, the localization and expansion of our emergency food supply to prepare for severe climate events - should be a higher priority than financial sustainability in the development of your plan. County expenses to operate Heritage Farm, currently around \$170,000 per year, are minimal compared to the benefits the farm provides to the community.

Alternative 3 also presents security risks by designating Heritage Farm to serve a dual purpose as a farm and a public park. There is already ample opportunity for the public to participate in the farm's gardening, farming and educational programs.

The County should redirect the plan toward Alternative 1, and place a conservation easement on the property. This would be the best way to support the vision of your 2020 Master Plan.

Respectfully,

Mark Leed
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Vancouver, WA 98661
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