



78th Street Heritage Farm Advisory Team Meeting Minutes



Thursday, May 16, 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, Amber Emery

Farm Programs, Neighbors, Public Members: Kristine Perry, Heather Tischbein, Alex, Omar Patino

* Not Present

4:02 PM Called to Order

Matthew called the meeting to order and County staff and members of the Advisory Team introduced themselves.

4:03 PM Approval of Meeting Minutes

Time	Action Item
4:03 PM	MOTION BY: Sandra Brown SECOND BY: Carol Levanen
	MOTION: Motion to adopt these Minutes, as submitted: March 21, 2024 Minutes
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: All OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: None

4:04 PM Public Comments – Matthew Baum and Rocky Houston

Alex, a guest to the meeting, tried to participate but could not be heard by the Advisory Team in the room. Matthew gave instructions for how to participate.

4:06 PM Farm Operations Report/Plan – Rocky/Matthew

Matthew indicated that Zane Karver is out of office and discussed updates regarding the farm, including the Master Gardeners sale that occurred last weekend was a big success, and that Bill Hodges, the irrigation specialist, is working to replace things as requested.

Lisa and Rocky discussed the treatment of invasive ivy at the farm and Lisa praised the county for responding so quickly to her request.

Rocky discussed the event request forms for the calendar on the Heritage Farm website and Sandy and Rocky discussed the deadline date for the event request forms to ensure activities are being promoted in a timely manner.

Carol and Rocky discussed the administration building at Heritage Farm and its public accessibility. Rocky discussed that the public is allowed in the building, that Clark County leases the building to Washington State University (WSU), and that WSU manages the rentals of the conference rooms. Carol also discussed utilizing the conference rooms to generate revenue for the farm. Lynde, Sandy, Kristine, and Carol discussed historic tours on the farm as well as other events that bring community members to the site. Bill, Matthew, and Rocky discussed the administration building’s accessibility indicating the building does not have elevators or ramps. Rocky suggested having a farm tour for the next advisory team meeting.

4:29 PM Farm Operations Guidelines updates – Rocky Houston

Rocky briefly discussed that the county is getting close to our iteration and anticipates sending an email to the Advisory Team members to review and prepare for the next meeting.

4:29 PM Farm Lease Review – Rocky Houston

Rocky discussed the process for folks that are interested in leasing property at the farm indicating there’s a form to fill out and submit to the county. He said every year in October, the county will seek new programs or new leasing opportunities, review those, and plan to discuss them with the Advisory Team members in January/February for a recommendation. Rocky further discussed that the proposal for the leases would begin on January 1st of the following year. Bill and Rocky discussed the process for having the County Manager and/or County Councilors approve of the proposals, and Rocky discussed creating a plot map for the farm to post to the website so folks can see what will be available.

Rocky discussed a lease request from Victory Gardens wanting a one-acre plot at the farm to grow food or teach people how to grow food, indicating they received a grant from the City of Vancouver to be spent this year. Rocky said this is under review by the county, that he estimates doing a short-term lease for this year to fulfill the terms, and asked the Advisory Team for their recommendation. Omar asked what non-profit this and Matthew answered that it’s the Southwest Washington Victory Food Project. Rocky discussed that the request is consistent with the master plan’s guiding principles. Rocky, Matthew, and Lynde discussed the costs to provide irrigation for the one-acre plot with the Advisory Team as well as the acreage available at the farm and the need for a map to better identify the available plots.

Time	Action Item
4:58 PM	MOTION BY: Carol Levanen SECOND BY: Sandra Brown
	MOTION: Motion to move Victory Garden’s farm lease request forward.
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: All OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: None

Sandy, Rocky, and Matthew discussed the lease proposal’s next steps – that the county will work with the current tenants to find a plot that’s useable for the season or communicate with Victory Garden about other options.

Lisa discussed some ideas for the farm having its own brand to better benefit the community and Matthew and Rocky discussed the need for additional support, like an administrator to coordinate this, as well as use of its full-time employees. Carol and Lisa discussed having volunteers or interns assist as well. Lynde, Lisa, and Rocky also discussed the idea for the composting leaf litter program that Pete DuBois came up with.

Carol discussed the dense trees at Hazel Dell Park and her safety concerns and Lynde indicated the county is working on the master plan as well as accessibility improvements for the site. Matthew and Rocky also discussed that the forester has evaluated the site and trees will be removed in the future as part of the accessibility improvements.

5:00 PM WSU/Clark County – Children’s Garden – Lynde Wallick

Lynde discussed the Council hearing scheduled on June 4, 2024 for adoption of the Heritage Farm Sustainability Plan instructing the Advisory Team members how to participate.

Lynde also discussed a site visit to the farm regarding increasing its public access for Hazel Dell Park. She discussed the 2020 Master Plan trail development and the path for the public access route. Lisa, Lynde, and Rocky discussed the public access route near the cemetery and its boundaries and Lynde indicated that an archeological assessment will be performed prior to any public access improvements. Carol, Lynde, Rocky, and Matthew discussed the white line trail on the 2020 Master Plan and Rocky said this does not represent where the path would go – it was just a concept at the time.

Lisa and Matthew discussed an idea for how to incorporate the cemetery into the farm’s events such as sharing stories with the public or having a Halloween celebration. Lynde also discussed that in Alternative 3 to the Heritage Farm Sustainability Plan, an idea for an outdoor classroom was proposed; that Kristine Perry of WSU was awarded a grant from the PeaceHealth Southwest Washington Medical Center Foundation for this. Lynde also discussed that the county is working on concepts to provide a shelter at the farm as part of its accessibility improvements and discussed possible placements for it. Lisa, Matthew, and Bill discussed utilizing the bunk house on the site, but Rocky and Kristine said it does not meet safety standards.

Sandy and Kristine discussed PBS Engineering doing drawings for the farm and Lynde indicated this work is pro bono and if the project moves forward, a re-allocation of funds will need to be configured. Rocky discussed that this project will be included in the Capital Improvement Plan that is being updated this year. Rocky, Sandy, and Lynde discussed the design palette for the buildings on the farm and Lynde explained the process for hiring consultants for this job.

Carol and Rocky discussed the wetland restoration project, and Lynde shared the project’s PowerPoint presentation from the April 2024 Open House, which can be found here: <https://clark.wa.gov/media/document/171241>. Carol, Rocky, and Matthew also discussed the tree plantings on the farm and their placement and Lynde shared slides 16 and 17 from the PowerPoint presentation regarding the types of trees that will be planted. Kristine indicated that the neighbor who voiced concerns about the trees was addressed at the Heritage Farm Wetland Restoration Open House on April 22, 2024. (A link to that video can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e08pp_JKSGc).

5:42 PM Public Comments – Matthew Baum and Rocky Houston

There are no additional comments.

5:42 PM Open Forum – Questions and Answers

Lisa discussed the pro bono work being done by PBS Engineering and if that involves the trail near the cemetery or the Sustainability Plan. Lynde explained that the trail access is connected to Hazel Dell Park’s accessibility improvements, that the contract with PBS Engineering is with Kristine at WSU for the children’s garden project, and that the Sustainability Plan is to help implement the master plan for the farm.

Alex discussed the conservation covenant in the chat and Rocky explained that Council is reviewing it. Alex also discussed ideas for utilizing the main building at Heritage Farm, such as using it as an educational museum or a site for hosting farming programs for kids. Rocky indicated these are great suggestions, but the county does have a current lease with WSU for the building that is benefiting the public. Alex also discussed extending the parking lot to update visual awareness to the public and Rocky explained that additional parking is proposed as part of the Hazel Dell Master Plan’s updates. Lynde shared the PowerPoint presentation from the Hazel Dell Park’s Open House on March 26, 2024, found here: <https://clark.wa.gov/media/document/168851>.

Rocky and Lynde discussed the Hazel Dell Park’s Master Plan updates as well as the public engagement process. Lisa, Rocky, and Lynde also discussed when the estimated submittal of permitting will occur. Lisa discussed preserving the cemetery on Hertiage Farm again and Rocky ensured her that the county will follow any necessary investigation and permitting requirements to develop that work.

Carol, Rocky, and Bill discussed having Tyler Castle and/or the Clark County Executive Horse Council volunteer their time or do demonstrations at the farm to help generate revenue. Kristine and Carol discussed that WSU Extension’s 4-H program is a big event that occurs at the farm. Carol, Rocky, and Bill also discussed advertising for the farm in the TidBits newspaper that is distributed through the county.

6:14 PM Adjournment

Time	Action Item
6:14 PM	MOTION BY: Sandra Brown SECOND BY: Bill Fickett
	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 6:00 PM

Heritage Farm Project Request for the Southwest Washington Victory Food Project

The Heritage Farm Project and Event Request Form (Rev. 2019) Organizations or individuals who wish to use portions of The Heritage Farm property for an ongoing project or program, hold an event, or series of activities MUST complete this form. Projects and Events will fall into one or more of the categories below: (Events are things such as demonstrations, workshops, tours, celebrations, etc.) Please circle each that applies to your request described.

We choose a) A project that uses a specified amount of land or space at The Heritage Farm for an extended duration of time that uses multiple farm resources such as equipment, irrigation, staff resources, parking, etc.

Heritage Farm Project or Event Request Form Application Date: 2/22/2024

Applicant name: Southwest Washington Victory Food Project

Sponsoring Organization: Southwest Washington Victory Food Project

Is your organization a not for profit program and registered a 501 C? Yes, non-profit, no 501c3 status yet

Mailing address: 7819 NE 136th Ave Vancouver, WA 98682

Email address: karissa.halstrom@hotmail.com

Daytime phone: (360) 910-4347

Applicant signature:

Secretary/Treasurer of Southwest Washington Victory Food Project

Project or Event Name: Southwest Washington Victory Food Project

Length of project or event: 1-year project with option to renew, multiple years. Ongoing agricultural and environmental education program that we hope to be a multi-year project.

Program Description

Mission Statement:

The SWWA Victory Garden Project promotes food independence, climate adaptation, and provides environmental education for the communities of southwest Washington.

Vision Statement:

We envision a sustainable, regenerative food system that provides health and well-being for current and future generations.

We are a new organization that currently works with the residents of the Safe Stay transitional housing program. We have built and now maintain garden beds in collaboration with the residents of the community. We also provide collaborative cooking demonstrations. Our goal with this program is education, therapy, and empowerment through gardening and cooking, teaching essential life skills and promoting a reconnection with our place in nature that will be vital to adapting to the climate emergency. We emphasize resident engagement and collaboration.

Our goal with a Heritage Farm plot would be: 1) to continue teaching about growing food using regenerative principles in a more permanent setting with a stable headquarters in an urban area; 2) to expand our programs to include a youth-focused community volunteer program; 3) to increase local food production which we know is necessary to adapt to and, if done regeneratively, mitigate the climate crisis as our fossil-fueled global industrial food system breaks down; and 4) remove barriers to land access for our low-income BIPOC community members who want to learn and grow food.

We have been approved for a fiscal sponsorship from the Tilth Alliance and are in the finalization process of that arrangement. Our program goals are very similar to Tilth's Urban Farms and Gardens program, but with a special program for those in transitional housing inspired by the Santa Cruz Homeless Garden Project.

Tilth Urban Farms and Gardens: <https://tilthalliance.org/our-work/urban-farms-gardens/>

Santa Cruz Homeless Garden Project: <https://homelessgardenproject.org/>

Describe how your project meets The Heritage Farm guiding principles. Guiding principles and guidelines at end of this request form or located at www.clark.wa.gov/farm/ - under farm history 2010.

Our project supports the Heritage Farm Guiding Principles, as it is primarily an agricultural education project celebrating and advocating for a return to Clark County's agricultural heritage. Additionally, our mission is to showcase and promote sustainable agriculture and building practices, our project's program goals will enhance community wellness and inspire life-long learning, we will promote community volunteerism through our volunteer programs, and our activities will be community accessible.

We will reflect sound fiscal policy in decision-making matters, as many of our board members have years of experience working for non-profits, other fiscal management experience, and we will be fiscally sponsored by a well-established 501c3 organization.

None of the prohibited activities listed in the Heritage Farm Guiding Principles apply to our project. We understand the need to promote our own events and have an experienced social media manager on our team for promotion.

Who will facilitate or manage your project or event? Please describe their qualifications and experience.

Karissa Halstrom:

- Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with Minor in Environmental Science (Cum Laude) from Washington State University
- Community Outreach Coordinator for Friends of Clark County (communications, social media promotion, land use/environmental policy, managing and coordinating the Board and committees to achieve policy goals).
- Founder and co-lead organizer of the Vancouver Free Fridge Project (managing a team of organizers and volunteers to facilitate the safe community sharing of food).
- Over a decade of food service industry experience (management, catering, cash handling, etc.)

Will there be an onsite project or event manager? Please describe their qualifications and experience.

Hector Hinojosa:

- Decades of farming experience (grew up on a tractor, farming since age 11), very familiar with farming implements, tends own garden
- Leader of local LULAC chapter
- Founded local affordable housing non-profit
- Civic engagement (active in local advocating for environmental policy as Board Member of Washington Conservation Action and the Alliance for Community Engagement, food security advocate
- Chair of Slow Foods Southwest WA for 3 years
- Connected with many local organic farmers
- Served as board member of the Vancouver Farmers Market and current member for 18 years.

Please describe the educational component. Include curriculum summary or online reference if available.

The program is still in development. We have experienced educators on our team, such as Edward James Moody, BA, PhD, member of the SWWA Victory Food Project Educational Committee. Edward (Jim) Moody has 35 years teaching experience, both here and abroad. He retired from Clark College after spending his final seven years teaching in Clark Colleges' extension project at Larch Correction Center. He is a Master Gardener and a Gold Medal graduate of the Portland Cordon Bleu Culinary Institute. He will assist in developing two education programs that will be offered as part of the SWW Victory Food Project: (1) basic farm gardening; and (2) Elementary Culinary techniques and practices.

Additionally, we have many partners within the farming and gardening community, and we are acquiring curriculum and educational materials from Tilth Alliance and the Santa Cruz Homeless Garden Project to build upon.

How will you publicize or market the project or event? Is it open to the general public? Who funds the project or event? Please list major funding sources and their level of commitment (approved, in process, grant application submitted, etc.)

This project already has its own social media accounts, and we intend to have a website eventually, which is how we would publicize the project. We have already generated much excitement and enthusiasm around this project. Our work at the Orchards Safe Stay transitional housing community has been covered by the Columbian. We have no funding sources yet (other than personal funds to pay for the cost of the site) and are completing the fiscal sponsorship process with Tilth Alliance. Once this is complete, we will be ready to seek funding sources and hope to collaborate with other groups who have similar interests, such as Partners in Careers and the Clark County Food Bank.

Project, Event needs:

What space and/or location are you requesting? Do you need land? If so, please describe the amount and character of land needed and the proposed use. Feel free to identify your preferred location via a site diagram.

1 acre or less.

Will you need indoor space for any reason? Describe needs:

An indoor meeting space would be nice but not necessary.

Parking needs: How many spaces, buses, etc. do you expect? Parking will be in the west and south parking lots outside the fenced area of the Farm.

We don't expect a significant amount of parking for our project in the near future.

Will you need to park or drive on the farm property? If so, please describe the need, location, and how many vehicles.

Yes.

Will overnight parking inside the secure fenced area be needed? Please describe needs and reasons.

No.

Do you need access to storage on the site? Would this be long term/ongoing need or temporary? Please describe your storage needs.

Preferred for garden equipment.

Do you use farm equipment? If so, please describe the kinds of equipment you will use. Will you be providing this equipment or need Heritage Farm Equipment?

We will need garden tractor, implements, and a rototiller.

Do you need irrigation? Land agreements may provide irrigation to the site. The program users are responsible for providing irrigation within the land used by the program.

Yes.

Will you need Clark County Staff resources (for land preparation, set up of equipment or site preparation, etc). Please describe your needs.

We may need assistance from the farm manager for soil management, tillage, cultivation, weed management, etc.

What items will you be providing for the project or event? i.e. additional portable bathrooms, hand washing stations, awnings, tables, garbage removal, special equipment, security, etc.

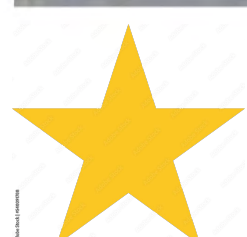
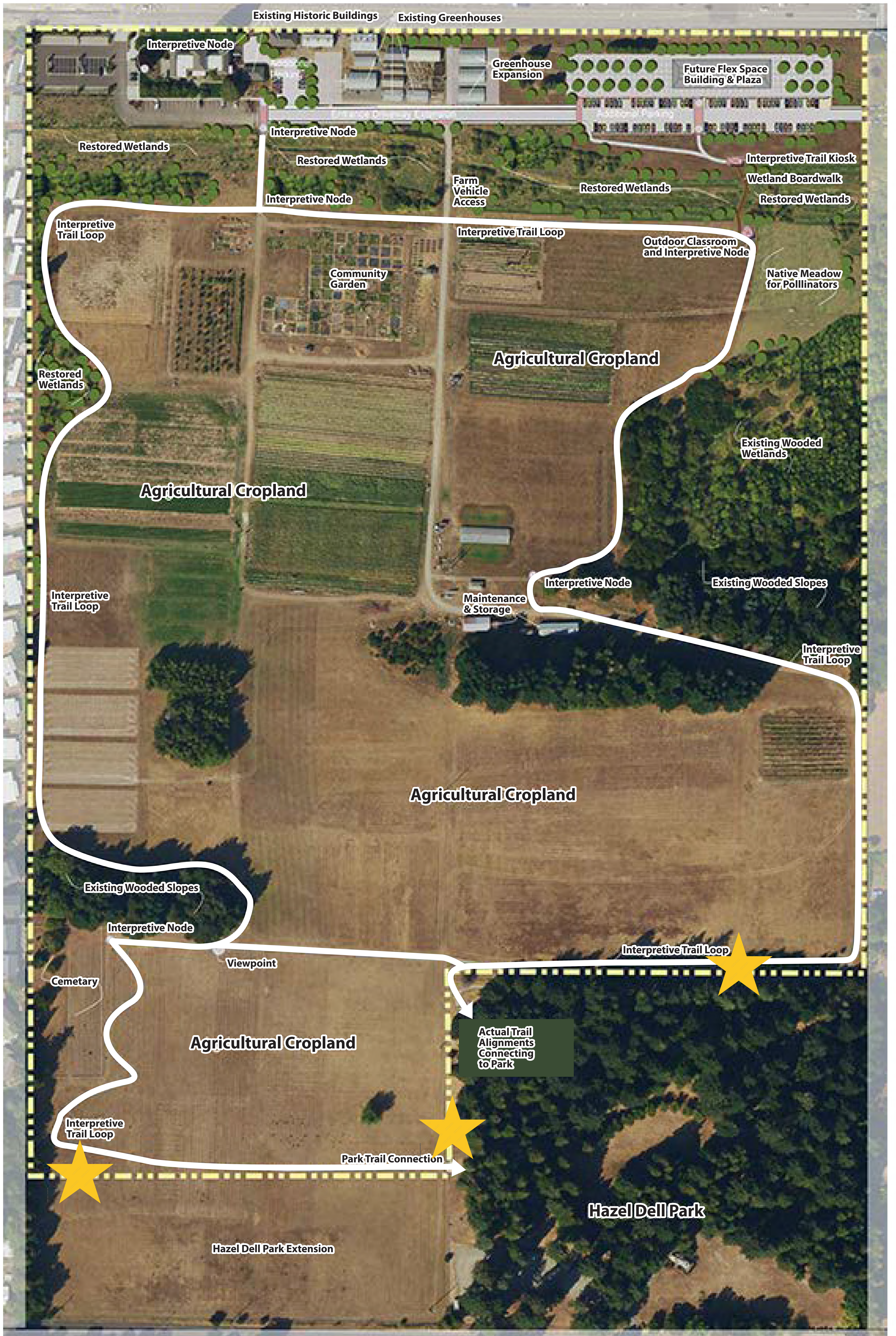
Will you be charging for this event? Yes Fee to be charged \$ NO

N/A

Questions contact: Sandy Brown browns@wsu.edu or Kirk Gresham Illamacollection@msn.com
Submit electronically browns@wsu.edu or drop off at The Heritage Farm.
Heritage Farm Advisory Committee
1919 NE 78th Street
Vancouver, WA 98685



Heritage Farm—2020 Master Plan



Potential Trail Access Point