



PROJECT NUMBER: # 18-114PLN ISSUE DATE: February 6, 2019
PROJECT NAME: Heritage Farm Master Plan Update

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh
TO: FILE
PRESENT: Members of the public
 Members of the Farm Advisory Team
 County Staff
 Project team members from Conservation Technix

SUBJECT: Heritage Farm Master Plan Update: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (January 31st)

Community members were invited to the first open house for the Heritage Farm Master Plan Update on Wednesday, January 31st at the Public Service Center at 1300 Franklin St. in Vancouver. The project team prepared informational displays covering the major themes for farm uses and operations. These displays included Project Overview, Guiding Principles, Current Site Uses, and exercises to prioritize site uses.

Attendees were encouraged to talk to project team members, record their comments and complete a written comment card. County staff and project team staff engaged with participants to identify general needs and interests for farm and community uses at Heritage Farm. Approximately 65 people attended the meeting to review materials and provide comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following represents a summary of the comments received during the evening meeting.

EXPANDED AGRICULTURAL USES

Plant Fiber Crops (i.e., flax, hemp & bamboo)

- I like the emphasis placed on fiber crops; great idea.
- Will hemp grown on Heritage Farm affect cannabis grown nearby? Cross pollination?

Animal Fibers (i.e., sheep, alpaca, llama)

- Explore crop/livestock sustainable rotations (ex. Polyface farming) (2 dots)
- 1 dot in favor

Dye Plants (i.e., indigo)

- I like bringing in non-edible useful and culturally relevant plants

Expanded Berry Crops (i.e., blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, etc.)

- 1 dot in favor

Expanded Tree Fruits (i.e., plums, pears, apples, etc.)

- 2 dots in favor
- Permaculture food forest; Example site for “human scale” gardening (1 dot)

Other comment

- Agree with carbon sequestration function and education

Heritage Farm Master Plan Update: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (January 31st)

Heritage Farm Master Plan Update

Project Number # 18-114PLN

Page 2

FARM & GARDEN USES (order of priority dot exercise)

Green Dots (high priority)	Red Dots (low priority)	Topic
20	0	Create hillside plantings - berries, grapes, tree fruits and/or other terraced farming.
15	0	Expand greenhouses on the farm.
12	3	Expand community garden plots and shift to Hazel Dell Park along 68th Street
9	9	Identify appropriate animal / livestock uses and incorporate on the farm.
7	7	Experiment with and promote cultivation of crops beyond food uses, such as fiber and dyes.

REVENUE FOR OPERATIONS (order of priority dot exercise)

Green Dots (high priority)	Red Dots (low priority)	Topic
21	1	Accommodate seasonal or specialty events: food fairs, festivals, celebrations, etc.
21	1	Establish a signature or specialized crop for commercial sales.
19	1	Establish an on-site farmers market, including produce from Farm.
14	0	Establish a food hub where local farmers could clean, process, store and sell local produce and agricultural products.
0	19	Lease some land for commercial crop production.

EDUCATIONAL USES (order of priority dot exercise)

Green Dots (high priority)	Red Dots (low priority)	Topic
19	0	Promote local agricultural youth programs, such as 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers of America, etc.
17	2	Create amenities that invite public visitation and engagement in Farm activities, such as interpretive trail, viewpoint, etc.
16	2	Expand agricultural research at the farm to support the local farm economy.
11	2	Teach arts, crafts & processing of agricultural products, such as food, dyes & fibers.
9	2	Accommodate outdoor events to promote exposure to the heritage farm and its programs.

Heritage Farm Master Plan Update: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (January 31st)

Heritage Farm Master Plan Update

Project Number # 18-114PLN

Page 3

Individual Comments (collected from flip chart pads and comment cards)

- Recycling outfits or an MCR project (ongoing) to collect used oils to produce biodiesel fuel.
- Catholic Community Services (CCS) provides services for at risk youth in our region. Many of the families are food insecure. Fresh food insecurity can contribute to mental health. Partnering with Catholic Charities can help minimize wholesale food insecurities. Grant options are available for this type of program. (Dora Hernandez; 360-910-2030)
- Kaiser/Molina Health Care/ SeaMar. There are programs on the east coast that prescribe fresh food to obese youth. If the county partnered with local clinics, we may implement a program locally. We may be able to use a similar model and receive funding from partners. (Dora Hernandez; 360-910-2030)
- A secure fence would need to be on the east side to keep homeless out of the woods section.
- How can you do plant research when public has access to whole area?
- Agree with community center to be on 78th St side
- This is publicly owned land, public access needs to be considered.
- Will aesthetics/historic value be considered?
- Who's planning/programming the south parking area by Hazel Dell Park?
- Any usefulness in reviving the old cherry orchard? Trees are there already + hazelnuts! Yes!
- Process school waste in anaerobic digester. 1,000 tons/ \$50,000 revenue from schools
- Consider salmon-safe certification at least start with their assessment process.
- Has the 68th ST sidewalk project been considered?
- Way too much land is sitting in grass. Plant much more. Trails for the public are not best use of this land. Plant more!
- Discontinue using Round-up and related products! Organic produces health! Amend the soil so it is balanced – extensive soil tests.
- The farm is a farm not a park. I love parks but let's remember the history of this land and honor it. No trails in a farm. Plants tractors, community partners, education + research.
- More parking!
- Access from the south side would be greatly appreciated

Heritage Farm Master Plan Update: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (January 31st)

Heritage Farm Master Plan Update

Project Number # 18-114PLN

Page 4

- Agree with larger loop trails to activity and connection to the land and its use; agree with community garden expansion by community park and farmers market.
- Have educational signs along routes for history and current use of land.
- May need seating for people to rest
- Have a leaf coupon program at farm. Cost avoidance approx. \$160,000/yr. savings to county/city public works.
- A hillside amphitheater that can accommodate up to 500 people, i.e. summer concerts
- How is security going to be managed overall?
- Benches for trails
- The master composter recycler is interested in our compost demo site not moving and also keeping the sustainability purpose. If a trail system is made, parking near the admin should not be an issue.
- Who has researched all of the volunteers/hours & income of the farm (from all aspects)?
- Access to the farm/trail from Hazel Dell Park. Perhaps locked from dawn to dusk in addition to the park gate locking.
- How will we make money to support the farm? Farming won't do it. Doesn't need to be self-funded. It's preserving history and acting as a unique community resource. The public benefit from the investment they make.
- Incubator farms
- More trees
- Please consider community center in original location
- If you move the community gardens, how will you manage security?
- If this becomes more available to the public and parking space becomes limited, public transport may be a good resource for visitors.
- This property is woefully underused. Let's make it more of a role model for maximizing space, farming sustainability, providing employment, teaching greater self-sufficiency, recovering valuable materials, reducing waste and partnering across organizations.
- Manage livestock such as llamas, fowl, goats and sheep, including producing meat and by products – on site.

Heritage Farm Master Plan Update: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (January 31st)

Heritage Farm Master Plan Update

Project Number # 18-114PLN

Page 5

- Serve as a collection site for vegetable oil & GTW (grease trap waste) converting them to biofuel for the WSU and county fleets.
- Scale up the composting operations, including thermophilic composting and vermicomposting.
- Scale up the crop inventory, including diversifying the fruits & vegetables grown on site and adding wood raised beds
- Compost all animal and yard waste on site
- Set up rain water collection systems – large scale
- Partners with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs and other case-managing agencies & organizations to employ & apprentice veterans and underserved youth who would live on the land, work and learn the farming operations, support the program goals, gain or expand valuable skills and earn an income.
- Scale up collection of wood chips – serve as a drop-off site – from local arborists, using the materials for composting and mulching.
- It's (interpretive trail) the easiest way to promote the Farm

Ranking Comment Card Results

Only five (5) individual ranking cards for “Master Plan – Future Priorities” were collected. The results were highly variable without revealing consistent top priorities.

Heritage Farm Master Plan Update: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (January 31st)

Heritage Farm Master Plan Update

Project Number # 18-114PLN

Page 6

 Master Plan - Future Priorities		Rank in Value (Using 1-6) #1 = highest priority							
		Individual Responses					Average	Weighted Average	Ranking
Visitor Amenities									
Interpretive trail, perimeter path, public access, boardwalk & entry pavillion		1	6	6	1	5	3.80	2.27	1
Site Infrastructure									
Multi-use building, outdoor classroom, viewpoint		6	2	4	5	3	4.00	3.33	3
Community Learning Center / Children's Garden		5	3	5	3	3	3.80	3.73	5
Agriculture-related Programming									
Demonstration, diverse methodology, research, for-profit, Farmer's Market, Farm Co-op		4	1	1	4	4	2.80	3.20	2
Education Partners/Programming									
Extension classes, Continuing education, nature/garden programs, art & craft classes		3	4	2	6	2	3.40	3.33	3
Public Benefit Activities/Events									
Plant sale, festivals, demonstrations, outdoor recreation		2	5	3	2	3	3.00	3.60	4
Thursday, January 31, 2019									

Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

-- End of Notes --

cc: Patrick Lee
File