



Friends of the Heritage Farm Foundation

Year in Review 2023

WHO WE SUPPORT

Heritage Farm is a 79-acre living laboratory and classroom for the development and application of food production. It is a place where our citizens come together to build social networks around food production, volunteerism, and giving back to the community. Become a supporter of the Friends of Heritage Farm Foundation and be a part of this enduring asset and historical landmark.



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PAST QUARTER

Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County Plant Sale

Thanks to our volunteers and shoppers, we sold more than \$61,000 in plants, soil, vintage tools, and books.

This plant sale is our once-a-year, biggest fundraiser. The net proceeds go to pay about 1/3 of the Master Gardener Program Coordinator's salary while the rest supports grants to educational horticultural programs in Clark County. A small amount goes toward operational costs (website, office supplies, insurance)

The foundation leases the greenhouses at 78th Street Heritage Farm to grow the plants for our fundraising efforts. We also grow and support plants directly to some of the organizations we provide grants to, which includes some other activities at Heritage farm such as the organic demonstration field, restorative justice garden, etc.

At a glance in 2023:

- 112 volunteers worked to grow the plants we sold
- 142 volunteers helped during the sale weekend
- Master Gardener volunteers recorded more than 2500 hours of service this year in support of the foundation's work, most of which is focused on our plant sale.
- Eight teams grew more than 23,000 plants of 575 varieties for this year's sale.

Heritage Farm Afghan Women's and their families Farm Tour



In May, the Clark County SNAP-Ed program and local community partners hosted an Afghan Women's gathering at the Heritage Farm.

This event focused primarily on educating the Afghan Women's group on how to shop at the Farmers Market and use Market Match. SNAP-Ed had an interpreter who spoke Dari and a slide presentation was given along with resource material.

More than 50 visitors were led on a Farm to Community Heritage Farm tour that highlighted the Community Gardens and discussed sponsoring a plot in the 2024 season for the Afghan women's group. Some husbands also attended and worked with the Food Bank on some planting in our fields. Children had the opportunity to work with 4-H staff on a planting packet activity and at the end of the event everyone came together for an authentic Afghan meal prepared by the participants.

Evergreen Public Schools Nutrition Services visits Heritage Farm

In June, Clark WSU Extension SNAP-Ed program hosted Evergreen Public Schools Nutrition Services staff retreat. The intent was to start a conversation around Farm to School work and explore what that might look like for the Evergreen District. SNAP-Ed partnered with Farm to School Lead from the Washington State Department of Agriculture to talk with Evergreen staff on what it takes to get local foods into school meals.



This was an introduction for the staff with the hopes that this could turn into a priority project for Evergreen Nutrition services in 2024/25. After the presentation, the group went on a Heritage Farm Tour. While lunch was served, SNAP-Ed did a food demo on how to reduce food waste in the kitchen.

Farm to Community Youth and family tour

In June, the Clark WSU Extension SNAP-Ed program partnered with Partners in Careers to host a Heritage Farm tour to Fruit Valley neighborhood families. About 50 participants toured the farm and enjoyed a scavenger hunt while sampling some local foods.

PROGRAMS

There are 11 active programs working at Heritage Farm that either grow produce or support the environment. Much of the produce is grown for distribution to limited resource families. In addition, 80 community gardeners grow produce for their own use. There is also research programs that help local farmers enhance their local growing practices.



In addition to supporting local food access programs at HF teach general leadership, responsibility and job skills. Participants in programs include Latino, Native American, Veterans, and youth. Youth are involved through school visitations, and youth gardening programs. Through the agriculture and gardening programs participants learn skills they can use at home, but also job skills that can help them find jobs.

We look forward to learning about the impact of these programs had in 2023 and how we as a community can continue to support the work being done at Heritage Farm.

4-H Restorative Community Service Garden



The 4-H youth development program and Clark County Juvenile Court's 4-H Restorative Community Service (4-H RCS) Garden Program at the Heritage Farm offers an opportunity for youth involved in the juvenile justice system to complete their court mandated community service hours with 4-H while engaging in experiential learning.

This Spring youth in the program enjoyed harvesting spring plantings such as strawberries, herbs, tomatoes, greens, and carrots. They also enjoyed barbecuing burgers and squash after a day of garden maintenance. Produce harvested in the summer months will be donated to families that are involved with Juvenile Court.

Food Bank

With the help of hundreds of volunteers every season, Clark County Food Bank has been growing food at the historic Heritage Farm Property on 78th Street for almost 15 years. The food that is harvested on their 10 acres goes directly to the food bank and out to the community, distributed to 40+ partner agencies at 130+ sites around the county. They grow a variety of delicious produce including corn, carrots, hot and sweet peppers, and summer and winter squash. Through the farm season, volunteer work parties are hosted every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 9am-noon during the months of May to October and folks any age, with any skillset are welcome to join! Individuals can walk-on to help as well as larger volunteer groups like those from local schools, workplaces, religious organizations, and more. If a larger group of more than five people is interested in booking a day at the farm next season, contact the Food Bank at farm@clarkcountyfoodbank.org.

The 2023 Clark County Food Bank Garden at Heritage Farm continues to be a huge success. This year, harvest went a little longer than expected due to intermittent rains with over 115,000 pounds harvested by volunteers across 6,735 volunteer hours. The 10-acre garden (finishing its 14th year!) is supported by Churches in Partnership while all produce is delivered free of charge to the Clark County Food Bank.

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

A Broken Tractor

There is nothing like having your last fully operational tractor break down to refresh in your mind how important it is to have a repair and replacement budget for farm machinery.

The line of field operations machinery at Heritage Farm is primarily the old machinery that was left to the local WSU Extension program when the operations of the WSU Research Unit were moved to Mount Vernon WSU Research Center. Left behind were a few old tractors and some odds and ends of old field implements (plow, disc, harrow, grain drill, rototiller). All these tractors and items of equipment were determined to not be worth moving when the researchers and programs were moved.

We have been working with this old equipment since 2009 and have been repairing minor breakdowns as we went along. This summer we have lost the use of all but one of the tractors (issues beyond our budget and ability to repair) and the remaining tractor has just had its PTO system fail. We do have access to one County-owned tractor which can be used for limited activities, but which cannot be relied on for all our field work.



So, what does this mean? We need a tractor!

Whereas it is one of the Friends of Heritage Farm Foundation goals to develop funding to assist with Farm operations, getting dollars for a replacement tractor and other equipment will be a major goal of our fund development activities for at least the near future. It will be our long-term intent to develop a machinery repair and replacement budget for the farm.

If you know of funding partners or even potential tractor donors, we'd love to hear from you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Clark County Parks – Sustainability Plan

Clark County Parks has been working with a group at WSU to build a sustainability plan for Heritage Farm. The final plan is being reviewed by the committee for final edits and will be

presented for public comment at a public hearing scheduled for January 24, 2024. Location and time are yet to be determined.

78th Street Heritage Farm Tours – Coming Again Next Summer!

Join the WSU Extension Clark County Master Gardener Program for a guided tour of the 79-acre 78th Street Heritage Farm in Vancouver, Washington.

Stroll the property with a knowledgeable docent and learn about the property's storied history and its current role in horticulture education, agricultural research, food security and community enrichment.

Placed on the Washington Historic Register in 2012, the 78th Street Farm has a unique and compelling story for people of all ages.

Tours involve prolonged standing and walking on uneven ground with some elevation change. Bring water and dress for the weather.

Advance registration is required, tour sizes are limited, and the cost is free!

Contact: erika.d.johnson@wsu.edu, 564-397-5738.



<https://extension.wsu.edu/clark/2023/06/78th-street-heritage-farm-walking-tours/>

Read the WSU Extension Summer Quarterly report [here](#).

BECOME A SUPPORTER

We welcome community support to ensure Heritage Farm can continue to provide a healthy, sustainable agricultural and historical presence in Clark County, WA, for generations to come.

Make a gift or learn more about ways to support Heritage Farm through the Friends of Heritage Farm Foundation: www.friendsofheritagefarm.org/donate.

CONTACT US

- Friends of Heritage Farm Foundation: www.friendsofheritagefarm.org
- Clark County Parks: www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/78th-street-heritage-farm

