



Community Stewardship

Guidelines for the Institute for Sustainable Horticulture (ISH)
in support of Kwantlen Polytechnic University's
Community Mandate

The **Institute for Sustainable Horticulture** is actively developing partnerships with community and industry groups on a broad range of activities and projects related to the theoretical and practical application of its mandate. One of these areas is urban / peri-urban agriculture, physically where food production meets the landscape. This interest is driven by a concern for future food security and sustainable food production for our region. There is intense interest from potential partners in this interface of agriculture and the urban environment. When the interest broadens into social aspects of community development and planning for an agriculture-focused community, we have adopted the term 'Municipal Enabled Agriculture'.

This document outlines a principled position and framework within which **ISH** can judge the potential benefit to Kwantlen of partnerships that come to us in the area of urban agriculture and their fit with the Institute's research and stewardship interests.

The economic and social value of a post secondary partner to community and industry groups can be high, but there must be a concomitant scholarly value to Kwantlen and **ISH**, preferably based upon clearly defined expectations and roles that fulfill our model of Community Stewardship Activities.

In order to support community and industry initiatives in urban agriculture, ISH must ensure it has appropriate expertise available. This will be achieved through an endowed Chair in Urban Agriculture, funded by contributions from partners and organizations with interest and need in this area, and by the participation of knowledgeable faculty, staff, external public and private sector collaborators and (where appropriate) students.

The overarching goal for projects involving urban agriculture and agricultural urbanism is:

- To achieve food security for our region, as an element of sustainable society, through activities that promote and support a sustainable bio-regional agri-food system

Categories of partners include:

1. Non-profit societies
2. Municipalities and other levels of government
3. Industry
 - Development companies
 - Agriculture industries
 - Agriculture support industries

The operational goals for each category will differ to some degree, but some or all of the following will apply:

- Assuring that our goals are complementary, that all partners have a philosophical and/or demonstrated commitment to urban agriculture
- Providing expertise, assistance and support in development and funding of projects
- Developing or participating in extension activities (i.e. workshops, non-credit courses, continuing and professional education courses)
- Bringing partners together to accomplish food security goals
- Participating in collaborative food sustainability project activities for remuneration, in-kind contributions, or other types of support to build Institute endowments that will ensure the operational viability of ISH
- Representing the Institute and Kwantlen on Boards or other groups to provide expertise in the area of urban agriculture / agricultural urbanism
- Raising significant contributions to the endowment for sustaining a Chair in Urban Agriculture at the Institute
- Adhering to the principle that a commitment to dedicating land to food production should be part of any partnership agreement

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A framework to judge the fit and potential benefit to Kwantlen Polytechnic University of partnerships in the area of urban agriculture

Benefits to Kwantlen

- Stewardship in a strategically significant piece of the community fabric
- Opportunities for educators to learn sustainable horticulture, gain research experience in urban-agriculture that can be applied to teaching, and develop new ways to integrate theoretical and practical knowledge into the curriculum.
- Position Kwantlen as a leading academic entity in the emerging realm of urban/ peri-urban agriculture and regional food security

Benefits to students and faculty

- Enhancing the teaching and learning mandate of Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Practical exploration of the principles and application of urban ecology, sustainable community development, urban-agriculture and food security
- Opportunity for ISH/Kwantlen students and staff to engage in scholarly work to advance knowledge about urban/peri-urban agriculture and regional food security challenges and solutions.

Benefits to ISH

- Significant application of the Institute's research mandate and opportunity to contribute to academic knowledge through research, knowledge transfer and publication
- Significant opportunity to garner extramural funds for ISH to pursue applied research
- Cornerstone of province-wide initiative to increase the profile and practice of urban-agriculture, promote Municipal Enabled Agriculture and contribute to food security
- Securing a research Chair in Urban-Agriculture and the pursuit of research funds to support the education and research initiatives
- Consulting fees and work experience with some of British Columbia's leading sustainability proponents
- Contributions to Kwantlen's emerging research and pedagogical focus as a polytechnic university
- Substantive base for contributing to ecological literacy in British Columbia through demonstration projects, publications and community forum

