

## Development of the Garden City Lands Farm Management Plan

### What is a whole farm management plan?

A whole farm management plan provides the framework of objectives and guidelines for the development and management of an ecologically and economically sustainable farm. The plan takes into account the social, ecological and economic context in which the farm exists, describes the characteristics and potential capacity of the farm and facilitates collaborative, productive agreements between the people and communities that interface with the farm. A well developed farm management plan will facilitate the development of land use and tenure agreements and business plans.

### Process of developing a Whole Farm Management Plan

When all preliminary information has been gathered for the farm (sections 1-4 below) an advisory group will be assembled to contribute to the remainder of the process. This advisory group will be composed of key partners and stakeholders, scientific experts and community members. This approach to developing a farm management plan will result in a more comprehensive and useful plan that will have support of those involved. This is particularly important for the Garden City Lands as this parcel of farmland is owned by the community and KPU is a public institution with a mandate to serve the regional community. It is also important to ensure that partners and community members have a sense of engagement with the land and its use at all stages of development.

### Elements of a Whole Farm Management Plan:

#### 1. Development of Goals and Mission Statement

- a. Historical assessment of the site
- b. Activities required to achieve goals
- c. Identification of potential risks/barriers to the project

#### 2. Resource Assessment and Existing Conditions

- a. Site maps (political and physical)
- b. Topography
- c. Hydrology
- d. Vegetation and biodiversity
- e. Soil types and conditions
  - Physical characteristics – soil profiles/cores
  - Chemical characteristics – pH, buffering capacity, nutrients, contaminants
- f. Boundary assessment (use of adjacent lands)
- g. Climate data

### **3. Legal information and documentation**

- a. Parcel information – ownership, parcel #, area, encumbrances
- b. Zoning and location – ALR regulations, building/infrastructure
- c. Land use/tenure contracts

### **4. Future Conditions and Infrastructure plans**

- a. Description of future use and development of adjacent lands
- b. Location of infrastructure
  - Water management (dykes, ditches, drainage)
  - Irrigation systems (inlet, pump stations, header pipes)
  - Buildings (shed, processing station, hightunnel)
- c. Potential areas for cultivation, community garden, other uses
  - Based on site assessment

### **5. Activities**

- a. Food production
- b. Agricultural research and education
- c. Public access and education
- d. Conservation

### **6. Food Production**

- a. Description of production systems to be used
  - Certified organic production system
    - Description of certification process and requirements
    - Identification of partners required to participate in certification process
- b. Identification of production areas
  - Perennial and annual production areas
  - Specific crops, rotation strategies
- c. Farming practices
  - Equipment
  - Water conservation and management

### **7. Land user guidelines**

- a. Standards, protocols and guidelines for users

### **8. Business Plan (only for KPU)**

- a. Management structure
- b. Human Resources
- c. Marketing, promotion and distribution plan

### **9. Education and Research (only for KPU)**

- a. Description of educational program based at the farm
  - Formal KPU programs
  - Education program open to public
- b. Description of research programs to be carried out at the farm