



**FRIENDS OF THE FARMS
2016 Annual Report**

**City of Bainbridge Island and Friends of the Farms Master Lease and Management Agreement
Lease Duration 2012-2042**

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1. Friends of the Farms

Friends of the Farms is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation in Bainbridge Island, Washington founded in 2001 with the mission to preserve and enhance local agriculture, increase farmland, and support the farming community.

We create an environment on Bainbridge Island where local agriculture can flourish by managing approximately 60 acres of publicly owned farmland, providing affordable housing for farm interns, connecting farmers with landowners for affordable farmland, and advocating the communitywide social and economic value of local farms and food.

Friends of the Farms envisions a robust agricultural scene, with a minimum of 180 acres on Bainbridge Island permanently protected for agriculture, an ever-increasing customer base for locally grown food, and opportunities that attract and retain future generations of farmers.

Friends of the Farms is committed to improving the overall environmental, social, and economic health of Bainbridge Island by:



- Creating the desirable visual presence of a rural community
- Providing cultural and economic diversity
- Preserving our island's agricultural and ethnic heritage
- Ensuring food security
- Protecting our environment

2. Background and History

On December 9, 2011, Friends of the Farms (FotF) and the City of Bainbridge Island (City) signed the "City of Bainbridge Island and Friends of the Farms Master Lease and Management Agreement" (Master Lease). The duration of the Master Lease is 30 years, commencing on the first day of January 2012, and terminating on the first day of January 2042. The properties described in the Master Lease include 60.83 acres of City-owned agricultural land.

Summary of City-owned Agricultural Land Leased by Friends of the Farms

Agricultural Property Name	Location	Size (acres)
Suyematsu and Bentryn Family Farms	9229 NE Day Road- Northeast Section	14.76
Suyematsu and Bentryn Family Farms	9229 NE Day Road- Northwest Section	11.21
Morales Farm	8862 NE Lovgreen Road- Northeast corner of Highway 305 and Lovgreen	4.74
Crawford Property	Accessed either from Suyematsu and Bentryn Family Farms or Lovgreen Road, between Bentryn property (private) to the north and Lempriere property (private) to the south	2.3
M&E Farm	Accessed from Charles Road; between Crawford to the west and Bentryn property (private) to the north	13.34
Johnson Farm	Johnsonville Lane off of Fletcher Bay Road, approximately ½ mile south of High School Road	14.51
TOTAL ACREAGE		60.83

3. Required Annual Reporting

Pursuant to Section 3.11 of the Master Lease, Friends of the Farms is required to provide the City with an annual written report. The report is to include at least the following information:

A. Quantification of produce and products from designated leased properties

We believe that local agriculture contributes to the overall health of our island by addressing challenges faced by many small communities: commercial sprawl, a lack of locally produced food, and an erosion of shared history.

Additionally, there is economic benefit to local agriculture. Butler Green, Hey Day, Laughing Crow, Bainbridge Vineyards, and Bainbridge Island Farms sell produce grown on public farmland at the Bainbridge Island Farmer's Market. Revenue from Bainbridge Island Farmers Market was \$541,961 in 2016, up approximately \$30,000 from 2015. The Market averaged 35 vendors per week, up 1-2 vendors per week from 2015. Customers increased approximately 7 percent over 2015.



Local businesses such as Bay Hay & Feed, Heyday Farm Store, Pane D'amore, and Town & Country Market sell products from farmers on public farmland. Restaurants such as Bainbridge Island Museum of Art Café, Bene Pizza, Blackbird Bakery, Bruciato, Café Nola, Fork and Spoon, Harbor Pub, Hitchcock, Jake's Pickup, Pegasus, Marché, Mossback, Psychedelli, and Via Rosa, source ingredients from local farms on public land.

Quantification of Produce and Products- 2016

Name	Location	Produce	Quantity
Laughing Crow Farm Betsey Wittick	Suyematsu– Bentyrn	Kale	400
		Onions	2,200
		Shallots	200
		Sweet Potatoes	700
		Cabbage	600
		Total quantity	4,100 lbs
Bainbridge Island Vineyards Betsey Wittick	Suyematsu– Bentyrn	Grapes	22,400
		Total quantity	22,400 lbs
Bainbridge Island Farms Karen Selvar	Suyematsu– Bentyrn	Sweet Corn	7,150
		Raspberries	4,840
		Pumpkins	55,000
		Winter squash	2,090
		Total quantity	69,080 lbs
Butler Green Farms Brian MacWhorter	Suyematsu– Bentyrn	Sweet Corn	3,960
		Squash	1,430
		Beans	1,000
		Peas	540
		Greens	880
		Broccoli	410
		Beets	715

		Carrots	560
		Garlic	93
		Total quantity	9,588 lbs
Butler Green Farms Brian MacWhorter	Morales Farm	Tomatoes	2,662
		Strawberries	478
		Carrots	275
		Greens	495
		Total quantity	3,163 lbs
Perennial Vintners Mike Lempriere	Morales Farm	Melon de Bourgogne	882
		Total quantity	882 lbs
Perennial Vintners Mike Lempriere	Suyematsu– Bentyrn	Mueller Thurgau	1,439
		Madeleine Angevine	982
		Total quantity	2,421 lbs
John Chang’s Garden John Chang	Morales Farm	Corn	285
		Kale	1,150
		Winter Squash	550
		Brussels Sprouts	30
		Broccoli	100
		Lettuce	38
		Mizuna	65
		Arugula	125
		Endive	10
		Total quantity	2,353 lbs
Heyday Farm	Johnson Farm	Sweet Corn	1,084
		Potatoes	220
		Onions	138
		Squash, Winter	133
		Total quantity	1,575 lbs
Paulson Farm Mike Paulson	Suyematsu– Bentyrn	Nursery Trees	N/A

B. Identification of farmer subleases by parcel, acreage, and lease rates



While public holding of agricultural land is a valuable community asset, it was recognized shortly after its acquisition that farmers cannot invest in their operations without the guarantee of long-term access to the land they are cultivating. To this end, the general Master Lease responsibility of Friends of the Farms is to negotiate and manage sublease agreements with farmers and provide various management services for the leased public farmland and structures.

In 2013, Friends of the Farms executed eight subleases on Suyematsu and Bentryn Family Farms, Johnson Farm, and Morales Farm (Only public farmland that was conducive for farming with minimum enhancements was considered).

Sublease terms range from 5-25 years. Annual sublease rates (based on USDA lease rate formulas) range from \$170 per acre to \$334 per acre, plus utilities.

Summary of Farmer Sub-Leases - 2016

Name	Location Parcel Number	Acreage	Lease Rate (acre/year)	Duration (years)
Laughing Crow Farm Betsey Wittick	Suyematsu– Bentryn 102502-1-063-2005	1.19	\$334	25
Bainbridge Island Vineyard Betsey Wittick	Suyematsu– Bentryn 102502-1-063-2005	3.34	\$334	25
Bainbridge Island Farms Karen Selvar	Suyematsu– Bentryn 102502-1-063-2005	6.82	\$334	25
Butler Green Farms Brian MacWhorter	Suyematsu– Bentryn 102502-1-063-2005	2.54	\$334	25
Butler Green Farms Brian MacWhorter	Morales Farm 102502-1-062-2006	1.7	\$290	25
Perennial Vintners Mike Lempriere	Morales Farm 102502-1-062-2006	.4	\$290	25
Perennial Vintners Mike Lempriere	Suyematsu– Bentryn 102502-1-063-2005	.59	\$290	25
John Chang’s Garden John Chang	Morales Farm 102502-1-062-2006	.67	\$290	12
Heyday Farm	Johnson Farm 282502-2-064-2002	1.6	\$170	12
Paulson Farm Mike Paulson	Suyematsu– Bentryn 102502-1-063-2005	1.44	\$334	24
Total Acreage		20.29		

C. Summary of financial management (calendar year basis) including but not limited to: expense by parcel and payee; income by parcel; operating revenues and expenses of the management organization; grants sought/awarded, etc.

Per the Master Lease agreement, Friends of the Farms acts as the fiscal agent for all earned revenue from public farmland use. In 2016, earned income from farmland leases and farmhouse tenant rent totaled \$14,547.

Additionally, two grants were received from the Kitsap Community Foundation and Bainbridge Island Rotary Club totaling \$8,500, for infrastructure improvements to Johnson Farm in advance of Harvest Fair. A balance of \$278.92 was carried over from a 2015 grant from the Bainbridge Parks Foundation and those funds were spent and as called for on Crawford trail work and the grant closed in 2016.

Expenses totaled \$27,968 and included utilities, equipment rental, supplies, food and beverages for volunteers, maintenance and repairs, and staff salary directly related to public farmland management.

Details of income and expenses are attached at the end of this this report.

There were numerous community donations of materials for use on the public farmland, including an oven, washer and dryer, and a bed for intern housing, and a mower and chipper to facilitate landscape maintenance around structures.

Needless to say, a small nonprofit organization such as Friends of the Farms cannot operate without the hard work of dedicated volunteers to reduce expenses. Over two-thousand hours were logged on public farmland at work parties and at events, such as Harvest Fair. To further increase our capacity, Friends of the Farms is in the process of creating a robust volunteer program, spearheaded by Bob Ross, who will assume the role of interim volunteer coordinator.

D. Schedule and status for farm-related capital improvements, if any

Friends of the Farms monitors the farmer subleases and oversees farm-related capital improvements on all five public farmland properties. The Projects committee gathers input from leasehold farmers through the Site Committee Process, Kitsap Conservation District, Friends of the Farms' Board members and staff, and community members. Together, a list of priority capital improvement and maintenance projects is developed. The list is updated annually by the Projects Committee and approved by the Friends of the Farms' Board of Directors.

Maintenance projects are completed by contracted professionals and volunteers at monthly Saturday stewardship events. Participation in work parties ranges from 10 to 20 volunteers per event. In appreciation of our volunteers, Friends of the Farms provides lunch prepared from locally sourced food. Approximately 2,500 person hours were provided by over 200 volunteers on public farmland in 2016. For a second year, Friends of the Farms coordinated with Sustainable Bainbridge's *Let's Pull Together* Initiative to remove invasive plants at M&E Farm.

Details of maintenance projects completed in 2016 are included in Section 4 below for each individual farm property.

Looking forward, FOF worked with the City to organize longer term plans for the City properties in two important ways. First, Friends of the Farms worked with COBI staff to develop criteria to use to identify which potential projects (capital or major maintenance) should be the responsibility of FOF and which should be the responsibility of the City. This resulted in a list of projects that were proposed to the City during the 2017/2018 COBI budget process.

The identified projects for 2017-18 are:

Underground fuel tank removal and soil remediation at Day Road Farmland	\$60,000	2017
Public farmland irrigation systems, legal support, and farmhouse stabilization	\$30,000	2017
Additional repairs to Public farmland infrastructure	\$40,000	2018

In addition, the City Council in 2016 accepted the recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission to designate the Suyematsu Farmstead at Day Road as a Historic Area. As a result, capital improvements other than those relating to life safety and structural stability have been on hold pending the outcome of the Preservation Study underway at this time. These structures include Suyematsu House, the historic barn, picker cabins, sheds, and storage buildings. In 2017, the City has provided funding for a comprehensive study to continue planning for potential preservation projects at Suyematsu Farmstead. FOF is managing that project, and is coordinating the participation of the Bainbridge Island History Museum and a consulting team with extensive experience in planning and implementing similar projects.

E. Description of use and activities, including but not limited to: farm-related activities, educational programs, community outreach, farm stewardship volunteer work parties, and public events

In addition to agricultural activities by farmers with subleases, public farmland is used extensively throughout the year by the broader community.



Pea Patch Plots. The Friends of the Farms Pea Patch Gardener Program benefits the community by providing 14 plots at Johnson Farm for families to grow their own food. Johnson Farm gardener Cynthia Shick loves working in her pea patch because it brings balance to life and helps her thrive. Cynthia shared that “Being near the earth reminds me to slow down. When you grow your food, life has the right pace.” Cynthia and her husband grow a lot of produce on the plot, including raspberries, rhubarb, tomatoes, carrots, tomatillos, beans, peas, garlic, kale, and beets. The couple likes the communal aspect of the pea patch and are always willing to help others learn how to be better gardeners. Cynthia admits “Growing food takes some work, but the reward is great: food that has traveled from the ground to your table.” Friends of the Farms plans to expand our pea patch program for more families in 2018, as there is a waiting list for plots.

Bainbridge Island Fruit Club Orchard Maintenance. Through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2016, Friends of the Farms has created a multi-year partnership with the Bainbridge Island Fruit Club to improve and maintain the historic orchard at Johnson Farm.

The goal over the first 3 years is to improve apple tree productivity and to start adding apple varieties that will be more appropriate for the orchard’s microclimate and for cider production, and to provide workshops to the public on grafting, cultivation, and pruning. Activities in 2016 included:

- Intensive pruning and beginnings of restoration
- Inventory and label trees and select candidate trees for pruning, removal and/or renovation
- Perform summer pruning and remove tent caterpillar nests
- Establish a plan for replacement of trees
- Measure changes in productivity
- Participate in educational activities about the orchard at Friends of the Farms Harvest Fair
- Create map identifying approximately 80% of tree varieties

Farm Walks. Last year Friends of the Farms began revitalizing our Farm Walk Program. Former Program Manager Dina Madsen hosted 22 visitors from the group *Meet and Greet*, which organizes events for 55+ individuals who want to socialize and have an opportunity to meet others. The pilot tour lasted approximately 90 minutes, and generated a lot interested questions. One *Meet and Greet* member found a family connection as relatives used to pick strawberries for Akio many years ago. She also was a good forager, and taught everyone to find and strip down salmonberry shoots for eating.



Youth Educational Opportunities. The Peacock Family Services Nature Nuts program sponsored a camp in April on Johnson Farm. Participants are encouraged to experience adventurous play, free exploration, and guided field investigations that engage youth in meaningful interactions with nature, support whole child development, and foster a connection to our community.

Additionally, the Boys and Girls Club hosted a planting event at Johnson Farm where Friends of the Farms staff worked with young students to plant peas, tomatoes, lettuce, nasturtiums, and radishes, providing hand-on involvement with how food grows and tastes right out of ground.

F. Description of farm and farm-related activities demonstrating compliance with the Goals, Policies and Practices and other requirements of the Master Lease. Where appropriate, reporting and an explanation of instances where the Goals, Policies and Practices and other requirements of the Master Lease may not have been met

Friends of the Farms manages public farmlands consistent with Goals, Policies and Practices set forth in Section 3.9 of the Master Lease.

Activities on Public Farmland include:

Farmland Stewardship. There are volunteer opportunities for all ages throughout the year.

These volunteer events are held on the second Saturday of each month at various public farmlands. Together, volunteers work to maintain and enhance each property. Participants are treated to a locally sourced meal as our way to give thanks. The community reaps the benefits through this work of invasive species removal, trail construction, general maintenance, and completion of capital projects.



Recreation. An extensive trail network throughout all five public farm properties allows the public to access our farmland for year-round passive recreation. Birders are able to use Johnson Farm, M & E, Crawford, and portions of Suyematsu and Bentryn Family Farm to enjoy and observe over 55 bird species. Johnson Farm's community orchard presents a perfect place to forage for food and enjoy picnics. Pea patches at Johnson Farm allow community members to work gardens year round to grow their own food.

Partner Organizations. A Memorandum of Understanding has recently been signed between Friends of the Farms and the Bainbridge Island Land Trust that will ensure the two organizations work together efficiently and effectively to protect our open spaces. This year BILT will be using Johnson Farm parking and public trails for 300+ guests attending their summer fundraiser on an adjacent private property. FotF also partners with the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District, Historic Preservation Commission, Bainbridge Island Historical Museum, EduCulture, the Grange, Kitsap Conservation District (KCD), WSU Extension, BARN, the Bainbridge Island Fruit Club, Sustainable Bainbridge, the Trust for Public Land, and the Chamber of Commerce. It is through collaboration and partnerships that Friends of the Farms is able to create public farmland experiences that benefit the whole community.

Commercial Farmers. Commercial farmers use public land for the business of growing local food. Additionally, they offer seasonal events for the public like farm stand sales, raspberry u-pick, and pumpkin patch festivities. Together, farmers value and embrace agricultural education. Three sub-leaseholder farmers recruit and mentor farm interns every year.

Education. Suyematsu and Bentryn Family Farms, Morales Farm, and Johnson Farm are used extensively for educational purposes. The EduCulture Project, a program of Global Source Education, provides Island students with on-the-ground-experiences on local farms that cultivate stewardship, citizenship, sustainability, and an understanding of food systems. Through a collaboration involving farms, schools, and the community, this initiative has been enhancing classroom curricula, nurturing school gardens, and enriching school lunches, while preserving local sustainable agriculture, and growing future generations of Bainbridge farmers. 2016 was the 11th year of the EduCulture Project, with dedicated farm-to-school partnerships with Wilkes Elementary, Ordway Elementary, and Island Co-op Preschool. At Johnson Farm, local groups such as Peacock Family Services and the Girl Scouts of America hold summer camps.

Community Events. September 24, is Friends of the Farms 16th Annual Harvest Fair at Johnson Farm. Harvest Fair is a celebration of local food and community that is attended by several thousand community members. Harvest Fair is a festive day that includes sheep shearing, apple cider pressing, a pie contest, live music, local food, nonprofit organization vendor exhibits, and business vendors who provide locally sourced items. Rides include the beloved Landslide, pony rides, tractor and carriage rides, and farm demonstrations. Harvest Fair continues to attract people from Seattle and greater Kitsap County who overnight, explore our public farmland, support our local businesses, and enjoy our city.



Annual Meeting. At the beginning of summer, the public is invited to Friends of the Farms' annual meeting at the Day Road public farmland. At the event, new FotF Board members and officers are announced, and there are opportunities to learn about the organization, to participate in a grape cane bonfire, a maypole, and share a pot luck dinner. This is a wonderful opportunity for the public to spend time on our beautiful working farmland.

Farm housing. Currently, seven individuals annually receive Friends of the Farms support to live in Morales or Suyematsu farmhouses, while studying with a master commercial farmer. All applicants qualify by assisting a commercial farmer as an intern, apprentice, or by running a new farm business. They are responsible for working at least 30 hours per week on a farm and volunteer with Friends of the Farms.

When asked “What barriers prevent attracting and retaining the next generation of farmers?” existing farmers universally reply “housing and land.” Farmers have identified a need for 16 – 20 spaces for annual farm intern housing. To address the shortage of housing, Friends of the Farms has convened a housing task force to explore short- and long-term solutions. Adding to the challenge is the realization that while Friends of the Farms does extensive ongoing maintenance, structural deficiencies with Suyematsu House and/or the outcome of the Suyematsu Preservation Study may prevent housing interns from using that site beginning in 2018.

4. Site Committee Reports



As required in Article 3.10 of the Master Lease, Friends of the Farms has a Site Committee process that involves multiple meetings of key stakeholder (farmers, Friends of the Farms’ representatives, and neighborhood stewards) per year to monitor each property. The site committees follow policy and processes developed to appropriately manage each farmland and identify issues that need to be addressed to improve the land. This process includes the following:

- Monitor Goals, Policies and Practices from Lease Exhibit B
- Identify and document issues of concern with recommended resolutions
- Identify and document capital improvements/maintenance measures to be addressed; participate in developing a Capital Improvement Plan

Farm-related capital improvements and maintenance completed in 2016 are detailed below. Day Road farm properties, Johnson Farm, and Morales are more developed than Crawford or M&E and so generally require more time and expense, although ongoing maintenance and improvements occurs on all properties.

Suyematsu East and Bentryn West

Agricultural Land Maintenance

- Extensive cleanup around greenhouse relocated to Morales Farm.
- Removed concrete, abandoned irrigation materials, and cleaned areas adjacent roadways to improve presentation of public farmland
- Ongoing meetings with FotF Program Manager and farmers to craft collaborative solutions to ongoing concerns with water supply and quality
- Began monthly water metering
- Ongoing vegetation management mowing of each side of the fence to ease future maintenance, and remove invasive blackberry, pulling roots to ground

- With assistance from farmer Mike Paulson, the Guild backhoe was utilized to remove large piles of holly and scotch broom
- Intensive cleanup of yard and house by FotF staff, farmers, and volunteers
- Remove derelict appliances in yard at Suyematsu House

Structural Maintenance

- Replaced failed plumbing and rebuilt shower at the only bathroom in Suyematsu house
- Replaced failing gutter on west wall over living room addition to prevent further structural damage due to splash
- Replaced downspout on south wall gutter over the living room
- Repair a wall in a Suyematsu house bedroom damaged by bathroom plumbing failure
- Repaired break in irrigation system
- Working with COBI staff on improvements to pond pumps and filters
- Four work parties to repair the western fence at Day Road
- Installed oven donated by member of FotF staff to replace existing failed oven
- Replaced failed washer and dryer in Suyematsu House

Johnson Farm

Agricultural Land Maintenance

- Ongoing maintenance to the historic orchard on Johnson farm through a partnership with the Bainbridge Island Fruit Club (details in Section 3. E. above)
- Plot leased by Heyday is now in farm production with Brassica harvested in 2016, including broccoli and Brussels sprouts, rotating with strawberries in 2017
- Friends of the Farms worked in partnership with *Let's Pull Together* for two Scotch broom removal parties
- Volunteers mowed open space 5 times and removed Himalayan blackberries and gorse
- Johnson Farm neighbor, Rob Ferguson, provided 120+ volunteer hours and provided equipment to maintain grade and add new chips to the multi-use trail system. Rob and his wife Kia take pride in living adjacent Johnson Farm. Rob recently purchased a tractor to facilitate his volunteer work on the public land. This year he also used the tractor to grade gravel delivered to improve the lower parking lot at Johnson Farm
- Provided plots to 14 P-Patch members who grow a diverse range of crops. Pea-patches are managed by volunteers Cynthia Schick and Lori Gibson who along with nearby neighborhood stewards provide hundreds of hours of ongoing security and maintenance, including trimming, and additional access road and trail repair
- Pea patcher Dennis Miller volunteers his time to winterize the pump house and irrigation system at Johnson Farm
- Johnson Farm continues to serve as a pickup site for Persephone Farms annual CSA members

Structural Maintenance

- With financial assistance from grants by the Bainbridge Island Rotary Club and Kitsap Community Foundation and in collaboration with BARN, infrastructure repairs and improvements were made at Johnson Farm to reconstruct and redesign iconic Harvest Fair rides to ensure public safety, build fencing and gates at the lower parking area to prevent damage to public farmland, install stable steps and handrails for sheds, and rebuild a sturdy fenced area for interactive farm animal demonstrations
- Addressed water runoff issues, building a new water catchment system at the entrance to runoff pipes
- Improvements were made to the smaller shed at Johnson Farm. This work included the installation of shelves and reconstruction of steps
- Placed a Sani-can onsite to provide a restroom for farmers with Heyday and pea patchers through the end of September
- Relocated fence posts to allow the tractor-drawn Harvest Fair wagon ride access to loop through working farmland. Brian McWhorter, a veteran of farming on publicly owned land, hosts the ride, providing guests with a visual and oral history the land
- Work parties for road repair and graveling, fence repair, and intensive land preparation for Harvest Fair



Morales Farm

Agricultural Land Maintenance

- Provided ditch management along Lovgreen Road
- Volunteer work parties to mow grassy areas, maintain the Kitsap Conservation District rain garden, and remove invasive species of Himalayan blackberry and Scotch Broom in the riparian zone, grapes, and row crops
- Procured donation of new mower to provide house tenants with the ability to handle mowing and maintenance around structures
- Ongoing maintenance and cleaning at Morales Intern house through work parties and by FotF staff
- Procured donation of double bed and mower at farm intern housing

Structural Maintenance

- Expansion of Friends of the Farms pea patch program is underway to utilize existing infrastructure at Morales to address a growing wait list for plots
- Butler Green Farms provided infrastructure for their new CSA pickup site at Morales
- Replaced failed washer and dryer
- Ongoing maintenance and repairs to address issues resulting from old and corroded drain pipes

M&E Farm

Agricultural Land Maintenance

- The property continues to be cleared of invasive species and old and overgrown trees in preparation of future agricultural use
- Friends of the Farms partnered with *Let's Pull Together* to host regular invasive species work parties to remove Scotch broom throughout the whole property

Structural Maintenance

- In 2016 Friends of the Farms issued an RFP for the M&E Farm property. A proposal was submitted that seeks to design and institute a comprehensive conservation, vegetative and public use management plan to ensure the stability of and enhance the ecological systems of this extraordinary property. The plan will encourage public access and support educational, artistic and interpretive opportunities with improved trails, gardens, creative work areas and open spaces, all within the restrictions set forth in the Quit Claim Deed. Friends of the Farms will be working with the applicant on a Scope of Work to present to COBI for approval for a sublease
- Volunteer Stewardship events were held to improve and maintain the existing trail network throughout M&E, which is open for public use and used by Wilkes Elementary School students

Crawford Property

Agricultural Land Maintenance

- Identified six Alder trees along fence line and marked for dropping to facilitate farm operations
- Ongoing meetings regarding easement and access for walking trails
- Ongoing study into best use of property

Structural Maintenance

- Separated fence posts to create a walking path, while maintaining deer fencing

5. Suyematsu Historic Farmstead (Established in 2016)

Friends of the Farms is honored to have been selected in late 2016 to create an Implementation Plan for capital improvements at the Historic Suyematsu Farmstead, a 5-acre portion of the City-owned Suyematsu-Bentryn Family Farms property at Day Road.

Objectives include:

- Preservation and interpretation of historic farm structures, landscapes, and histories
- Repair and improvement of the properties to accommodate preservation, interpretation, and agricultural use, as well as needed support functions
- Securing significant artifacts from the site and cataloguing them for future analysis, interpretation, or display
- Possibility of on-site housing for farm workers or interns
- Sustaining public value, vibrant activity, historic interpretation, and agricultural output at the farm for decades to come



Friends of the Farms and the leadership team will conduct individual or small-group stakeholder interviews to solicit input, identify use opportunities and related facility needs, and understand community sentiment about the farm and proposed improvements. Subjects for up to 20 interviews include:

- Farmers, including but not limited to those that presently use the site
- Site neighbors and potential users
- Selected community leaders including philanthropists, policymakers, and business leaders
- Representatives of potential partner organizations including the Historic Preservation Commission, Friends of the Farms, Bainbridge Island Historical Society, EduCulture, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, Bainbridge Island School District, Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District, etc.

Additionally, Friends of the Farms will contract with the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum to work concurrently to:

- Organize and inventory contents of Workshop, Office, and Picker Sheds
- Recommend steps needed to secure contents in the short term
- Deliver written recommendation for long-term disposition of contents of Workshop, Office, and Picker Sheds

Conclusion

Farmers on publicly owned land both enhance and extract the value and beauty of our island, provide regenerative ways to use our natural resources, and live a tradition that has both built this island and is a key part of its future. Through publicly owned farmland, Islanders are connected to the place we call home, to its people, the land, and the water.

As one example of the value of these connections, the contributions of farmer Betsey Wittick, of Laughing Crow Farm and Bainbridge Vineyards, embodies how farmers on publicly owned land not only enhance our quality of life, but also ensure that Bainbridge Island will remain a desirable place to live and work for future generations.



Since 2005 Betsey has hosted 36 farm interns and 8 employees on what is now public farmland. Of that group of young people, 15 now are running their own farms, one is managing the Port Townsend Co-op produce department and one is apprenticing as a butcher in California (and we hope to bring her back to Bainbridge). Being able to lease public farmland and using the housing available on public farmland has been important in being able to achieve this.

Often partnering with Educulture, Betsey has been sponsoring tours and classes for grammar and high school students to teach them about sustainable agricultural practices. Bainbridge Vineyards also hosts the Educulture office space at our winery facility (on private land) and allows them to use this space for fundraiser and classes given to educational professionals. During these continued educational classes, many teachers visit the leased publicly owned farmland. Educulture has been a great partner with the farmers on the publicly owned land at Day Road.

Betsey brings community exposure to publicly owned farmland through guided tours of Bainbridge Vineyards, which includes some grapes grown on publicly owned property. She explains the role that the community plays in voting to protect farmland as a way to ensure that this land will remain in farming, and how the diversity of farmers and crops helps to reduce pest problems. Friends of the Farms will be working this year with Betsey on additional signage to explain how all the farmers work for the community to steward the land.

This year Laughing Crow Farm is partnering with two young farmers who are just getting started. Under Betsey's lease they will have access to land to grow their crops, be provided with tractor and horse support for cultivation, and receive assistance in selling their products both at the Farmers Market on Bainbridge, the farm stand on Day Road, and in the Bainbridge Vineyards tasting room.

And finally, there are annual community events that welcome community members to the land to experience farm rituals such as the garlic harvest and potato digging. People learn a lot about what it takes to grow these crops while enjoying time on the farm.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this report and for the ongoing support of local agriculture by the City of Bainbridge Island.

Submitted by,

Heather Burger
Executive Director
March 1, 2017

***Photography by**
Joel Sackett, Pete Saloutos, and Rick Gordon



Friends of the Farms **INCOME EXPENSE PUBLIC FARMLAND MANAGEMENT**

January through December 2016

	Day Rd	Morales	Crawford	Johnson	M&E	Total Public Farmland Management
Income						
CONTRIBUTED INCOME						
Foundations	0.00	0.00	278.92	8,500.00	0.00	8,778.92
Gross Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total CONTRIBUTED INCOME	0.00	0.00	278.92	8,500.00	0.00	8,778.92
EARNED INCOME						
Lease / Rents						
Lease	5,120.22	687.30	0.00	400.00	0.00	6,207.52
Rent	4,464.50	3,875.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,339.50
Total Lease / Rents	9,584.72	4,562.30	0.00	400.00	0.00	14,547.02
Total EARNED INCOME	9,584.72	4,562.30	0.00	400.00	0.00	14,547.02
Total Income	9,584.72	4,562.30	278.92	8,900.00	0.00	23,325.94
Gross Profit	9,584.72	4,562.30	278.92	8,900.00	0.00	23,325.94
Expense						
Bank Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Food & Beverage	130.35	18.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	149.20
Payroll	4,585.53	683.81	0.00	496.88	115.23	5,881.45
Permits & Fees	90.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.75
Printing	1.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.54
Professional Services						
Contract Services	264.14	0.00	0.00	8,500.00	0.00	8,764.14
Equipment Rental	0.00	0.00	0.00	315.00	0.00	315.00
Repairs & Maintenance	446.30	1,639.96	1,521.08	0.00	0.00	3,607.34
Total Professional Services	710.44	1,639.96	1,521.08	8,815.00	0.00	12,686.48
Supplies	662.40	43.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	705.84
Utilities						
Cable	486.33	641.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,128.12
Electricity	3,043.78	2,202.29	0.00	308.18	0.00	5,554.25
Water	1,426.38	343.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,770.14
Total Utilities	4,956.49	3,187.84	0.00	308.18	0.00	8,452.51
Total Expense	11,137.50	5,573.90	1,521.08	9,620.06	115.23	27,967.77
Net Income	-1,552.78	-1,011.60	-1,242.16	-720.06	-115.23	-4,641.83

Friends of the Farms
GRANT INCOME EXPENSE PUBLIC FARMLAND MANAGEMENT
January through December 2016

Name		Memo	Amount
Foundation Income 2016			
Kitsap Community Foundation		2016 Johnson / Harvest Fair	\$5,000.00
Bainbridge Island Rotary		2016 Johnson / Harvest Fair	\$3,500.00
Total Foundation Income 2016			\$8,500.00
Project Expenses			
Heritage Landscaping		Gravel & Supplies for repairs and upgrades to public parking areas and to construct fencing and a gate along public access to Johnson Farm	\$5,790.00
BARN		Materials to rebuild and enhance the Landslide ride	\$893.00
General Contractor		Equipment rental landscape materials and supplies to clear, level and establish designated pedestrian pathways	\$375.00
Bay Hay & Feed		Materials to upgrade and improve the safety and sustainability of the Straw Jump ride	\$268.00
Amazon Vendors		Materials to upgrade and improve the safety and sustainability of the Straw Jump ride	\$924.00
Friends of the Farms Admin Fee			\$250.00
TOTAL Project Expenses			\$8,500.00
2016 JOHNSON FARM IMPROVEMENTS GRANT BALANCE AS OF 12/31/2016			
			\$0.00
RESTRICTED FUNDS:			
2015 BARN RESTORATION GRANT (NO 2016 EXPENDITURES) BALANCE AS OF 12/31/2016			
			\$13,202.86