Urban Teaching Farm Project

December 2017

The Urban Teaching Farm (UTF) project is an initiative that proposes to create a full-time 32-week learn-to-farm program in the city of Fredericton. Our farm site is the former Hayes Farm at 577 Hillcrest Drive in Devon.

By fostering new farmers capable of operating their own farms in a profitable, regenerative organic way, and expanding local food markets, farming is kept viable in our region. An urban teaching farm will demonstrate how fresh food, grown locally, can improve food security and make a difference in the health and well-being of our families, our communities, and our local economy.

"Regenerative organic agriculture improves the resources it uses, rather than destroying or depleting them. It is a holistic systems approach to agriculture that encourages continual on-farm innovation for environmental, social, economic, and spiritual well-being." - Rodale Institute

Our Mission

The Hayes Urban Teaching Farm (UTF) project aims to make a positive impact in our community through experiential agricultural training that will contribute to local economic development, rural revitalization, and positive impact on climate change, and food security.

Goals

- Provide a comprehensive training program, land, infrastructure, marketing resources and other supports for new farmers to learn more about their chosen trade and jumpstart their careers
- Create a model of profitable and regenerative agricultural enterprises for new and existing farmers
- Provide an in-depth and well-rounded education to ensure up to 15 graduating agricultural entrepreneurs annually
- Reinvigorate a strong, accessible, and sustainable local food system in our region
- Assist with linking new farmers to available farmland and support programs in our region
- Provide opportunities for residents to learn about local agriculture and small-scale organic food production systems

Points of Interest

- Annual full-time 32-week program running from April November
- Human-scale operations mean no large, noisy, or polluting equipment
- Operations will begin after 8:00 am and end in the late afternoon through the week; weekend activity will be minimal
- Occasional public workshops and tours may be held in the evenings and on weekends
- Vegetable production only, no plans for livestock
- Up to 15 students per year will graduate and be ready to join the agricultural workforce
- Students will run a vegetable stand, selling fresh produce to the public. Additional produce will be sold via Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) subscriptions and wholesale accounts with local restaurants and retailers



Aerial view - 577 Hillcrest Drive



Anticipated land use – Hayes Urban Teaching Farm



Hayes Farm Aspirations

