

UNM Flagship Farm: Call for Designs 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The UNM [Sustainability Studies Program](#) announces a competition to design the UNM Flagship Farm.

To access GIS site data and to ask questions about submission requirements please notify us of your intent to submit a design by email to bmilne@sevilleta.unm.edu (Bruce Milne, Dir., Sustainability Studies Program).

Entry deadline: February 27, 2015

Prizes: First prize \$500 and commemorative plaque on farm. Honorable mention(s) as appropriate.

Submit design document as: pdf

Submit electronically to: sust@unm.edu by 5:00 p.m. February 27, 2015.

Page limit: 15 pages or less with single-spaced narrative and budget for items in Section 2 (below) with brief budgetary justification of “major” items of \$2000 or more. Any ancillary diagrams, figures, tables, and literature cited will not count toward the 15 page limit.

Budget limits of designs: Tractable designs will include build-outs in one to three phases.

Realistically fundable designs for Phase One should be in the range of \$5,000 to \$50,000 with additional budgets for later phases.

Evaluation process:

- a) The selection committee consists of director of the Sustainability Studies Program, an expert in horticulture, a local food systems specialist, an experienced landscape architect, UNM Manager of Grounds and Landscaping, and two students.
- b) The selection committee will respond to each submission with a brief written critique. Up to three finalists will be invited to present to the selection committee for in-person critique, possible modification based on committee recommendations, and final selection.
- c) With written approval of the submitters, designs will become property of the Sustainability Studies Program from which it may draw solutions piecemeal for eventual implementation at the Flagship Farm. Creators of the winning submission are expected to provide the Sustainability Studies Program with a digital CAD file of the site plan, amenable to modification.

Final selection date and announcement of winner: March, 2015

Aftermath: Author(s) of the winning submission will be invited to communicate the design to partners of the MOU for approval and ultimate adoption as an addendum to the MOU.

1. Background

The Sustainability Studies Program has a history of teaching and community engagement focused on local food systems. In 2011 and 2012 the Program conducted a multidisciplinary *Foodshed Collaborative Project*, funded by the USDA, to host summer field schools and visit 63 food production and distribution venues throughout New Mexico to learn where food comes from: farms, ranches, dairies, community food projects, and others. Resulting student consensus was to create a campus farm. In fall 2012 a seminar class produced the [Flagship Farm Feasibility Study](#) which covers precedents on other campuses, defines abiding principles, scopes the operations, etc. The plan provides valuable guidance for designers. Among these were abiding principles for the Flagship Farm: (1) Be connected to campus and

community; (2) Be sustainable (good for people, planet, economics); (3) Be productive (“big enough to feed the Lobos football team”); (4) Practice transparent governance; and (5) Be a venue for multi-disciplinary education (art, humanities, science, engineering). Curricula connected to the farm would: (1) Implement sustainable local food systems in partnership with community, business and government agencies; (2) Honor cultural, biophysical, and academic diversity of the state; (3) Include a set of thematically diverse Freshman Learning Communities and upper level interdisciplinary opportunities that engage scholars from across the campus; (4) Transform the way students, faculty, and the community think about the origin of food and its impacts on culture and the environment; and (5) Showcase a sustainable student-run entity.

The design will be pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (see attachment) co-signed by David Harris, EVP for Administration, COO & CFO and Professor Bruce Milne, Director, Sustainability Studies Program, effective May 18, 2014.

Salient conditions of the MOU: (1) The Property is two acres of land referred to as the Barren Fairways; (2) We will cooperate on the planning, use, and management of the Property for purposes of land-based training programs in the areas of sustainability, nutrition planning, earth and planetary science and various other training programs that serve the UNM community; (3) The [activities will be] compatible and conterminous with the adjacent area covered by the License Agreement between UNM and the County of Bernalillo for preservation of the University of New Mexico North Golf Course as open space for a period of 15 years, with (4) Near-term use for open space preservation, as a shared educational resource for wildlife purposes, recreation, and academic study. *[Note added for Design Competition: Ongoing discussions with Willie West indicate that site access and parking will likely involve the currently bare lot at the north terminus of Yale Boulevard with a trail leading to the property. A perimeter fence may be required to reduce theft and trespass. Ideally the fence would serve multiple functions such as trellis, shade, wind barrier, art display, communication, PV support, and water harvesting.]*

Salient elements of the agreement: (1) Activities will commence within three years or the agreement will terminate automatically; (2) Sustainability Studies will coordinate planning for creation of green space, provide educational opportunities, offer public access to recreation and encourage sustainable ways of living, **manage the impact of proposed academic use with all stakeholders including, but not limited to, UNM, the County of Bernalillo, UNMH/HSC, Casa Esperanza, Ronald McDonald House, UNM Golf Courses and the North Golf Course area neighborhood associations;**

(3) Prior to commencing any activity on the Property that would ... [alter]... the existing natural environment [the Sustainability Studies Program will submit to parties of this MOU]

[a supplementary operational agreement to] “address drainage, utilities, management and maintenance responsibilities, health, and safety.”

(4) Maintain the Property clear of debris and hazards, maintain good neighbor practices, promote native as well as agricultural vegetation, and otherwise encourage methods to promote a sustainable environment. The MOU is not legally binding nor does it authorize spending or transfer of “anything of value.”

Exhibit A of the MOU indicates a rhomboidal area 2.0 acres with dimensions of approximately 210 x 400 feet. The design will be cognizant of the peripheral land surrounding the 2 acre Property especially regarding run-on/off of water and the prospect for managing farmscape to support pollinators, wildlife,

and recreation. UNM Real Estate anticipates an east-west walking trail south of the Property that will connect to a trail running somewhere along the western edge of the Property.

2. Submission Requirements

The selection committee will entertain original designs that include a narrative, budget, and map(s) that addresses: (1) items listed in the MOU, namely *drainage, utilities, management and maintenance responsibilities, health, and safety*; and (2) pragmatic infrastructure and site layout for operating a 1-2 acre sustainable organic farm capable of producing tree (i.e., stone fruits, pomes) and row fruits (e.g., strawberries, raspberries), flowers (10-20% of production area; [Falk et al. 2010](#)), and extended season vegetable row crops with attendant apiary. Orchard area may occupy up to 40% of the Property intact and/or be interwoven with terraced row crops that make up the balance of at least 40% of the Property. Specific crop selection will be made by operators of the farm. The farm will be open for operation from 8:00 a.m. to dark. The Property has markedly undulating terrain that should be largely preserved in the design to afford opportunities for water harvesting, terracing, and diversification of micro-environments that afford opportunities to conduct selection experiments for crops suited to warmer climates. However, preserving the terrain may conflict with the goal of ensuring comfort and efficiency of field workers, as they would have to walk uphill more than they would on flat terrain. This presents a central design challenge.

The Flagship Farm will be a resource to support education and research activities conducted by units across the entire university. Essentially all colleges and schools within UNM will be welcome to consider the site as a “land library.” A governing body will entertain proposals and grant temporary access for purposes such as biological investigation, geographical surveys, art installations, etc. Upon completion, the “borrowed” land will return to the land library.

Please include a statement granting (or optionally denying) “unconditional permission to the Sustainability Studies Program to keep the design in part or whole (i.e., details, diagrams, and images) for use in building the UNM Flagship Farm, as may be communicated in instructional materials, grant proposals, and for dissemination in print and electronic media.”

A winning design will address:

- a) Site hydrology for runoff management and on-site water capture and storage to enhance production and reduce irrigation requirements,
- b) Routing of nearest UNM water line to support up to 1.8 acres of production with 4-8 irrigation zones (automated) and “well house” to accommodate irrigation equipment used for nutrient additions and regulation of water pH,
- c) Raised bed system with automated irrigation controls for row crops
- d) Automated irrigation for orchard and/or vineyard
- e) Nutrient (compost) management system to handle upwards of 300-500 cubic yards,
- f) Pollinator support (native and honey bee apiary; general farmscaping to support bees),
- g) Lightning-safe sun shelter for laborers with integrated hygiene stations for hand washing, produce washing (three basin system), and (composting) toilet,
- h) Outdoor classroom to accommodate 30 students in K-12, college, or community workshops in hot weather (may combine with item g),
- i) Access for bicycles, pedestrians (ADA compliant), and farm utility vehicles,
- j) Secure storage for tools and farm machinery such as a walk-behind tractor (item g),

- k) Agricultural waste management and recycling system for use by employees and visitors,
- l) Perimeter fence, possibly in phases.

Designs are encouraged that accommodate a 3-4 year build-out in 1-3 phases. Designs should anticipate and facilitate effective partnership with a future neighborhood community garden on the acre surrounding the existing pavilion immediately north of the Flagship Farm property.

3. Resources for Designers

- a) Attachment: MOU with aerial image of the Property.
- b) Suggested reference with ample data to inform many specifics of the design:
Falk, Constance L., Pauline Pao, Christopher S. Cramer, and Erin Silva.
[OASIS: A Campus-Based, Organic, Community Supported Agriculture Farm.](#)
Rep. N.p.: n.p., n.d. Research Report 760. Mar. 2010. Web. 13 Sept. 2012.
- c) Not available at this time: Results of a survey we will conduct to capture input from stakeholders listed in the MOU.

Memorandum of Understanding

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is made between the Board of Regents of the University New Mexico (UNM) and the UNM Sustainability Studies Program, a unit under the division of the Office of Provost for Academic Affairs (Department), regarding the management, use, and development of approximately two acres of undeveloped land located on the western edge of the UNM North Golf Course in an area commonly referred to as the Barren Fairways.

WHEREAS, UNM owns the North Golf Course and adjacent Barren Fairways. The land is one of the largest areas of open space in urban Bernalillo County. The land area of approximately two acres covered by this MOU is located north of the UNMH Children's Psychiatric Center, west of Casa Esperanza and Ronald McDonald House, east of the AMAFCA right-of-way, and south of a proposed community garden that is being considered under a proposed License Agreement extension between UNM and Bernalillo County (Property). The Property is depicted on Exhibit A attached to this MOU.

WHEREAS, UNM and the UNM Sustainability Studies Program desire to cooperate on the planning, use, and management of the Property; and

WHEREAS, both parties desire that the Property be used and developed for the purpose of land-based training programs, in the areas of sustainability, nutrition planning, earth and planetary science and various other training programs that will serve the UNM community; and

WHEREAS, the Property provides a cohesive open space connection, and is compatible with the adjacent area covered by the License Agreement between UNM and the County of Bernalillo for preservation of the University of New Mexico North Golf as open space for a period of 15 years; and

WHEREAS, both parties agree that the appropriate near-term use for the Property is as open space preservation, as a shared educational resource, for wildlife purposes, recreation, and academic study; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED BY THE PARTIES TO:

1. UNM and the Department will work together to conserve the Property as open space for a term that is co-terminus with the open space license agreement between UNM and the County of Bernalillo. If the Department does not utilize the property for the intended academic use within three years of date of this MOU, the MOU will automatically terminate.
2. The Department will be responsible for coordination of planning for the creation of green space, provide educational opportunities, offer public access to recreation and encourage sustainable ways of living. The Department will cooperate and be responsible for managing the impact of the proposed academic use with all stakeholders including, but not limited to, UNM, the County of Bernalillo, UNMH/HSC, Casa Esperanza, Ronald

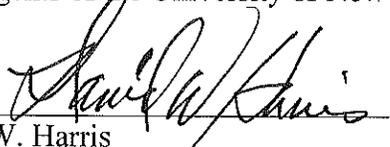
McDonald House, UNM Golf Courses and the North Golf Course area neighborhood associations.

3. Prior to commencing any activity on the Property that would result in any alteration to the existing natural environment, the Department shall enter into an operational agreement that will be appended to this MOU that will address drainage, utilities, management and maintenance responsibilities, health and safety. The operational agreement must be signed by the parties to the MOU before any physical alteration of the site occurs.
4. The Department shall have the responsibility to maintain the Property clear of debris and hazards, maintain good neighbor practices, promote native as well as agricultural vegetation, and otherwise encourage methods to promote a sustainable environment.
5. UNM shall have the right to terminate this MOU in the event that the Property is needed to fulfill an institutional initiative approved by the UNM Administration or the Board of Regents. UNM shall work in good faith with the Department to provide alternative locations to fulfill the mission of the Sustainability Studies Office and provide sufficient notice that will not disrupt ongoing academic activity.

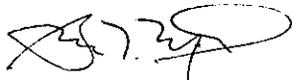
This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Nothing herein authorizes or is intended to obligate the parties to expend, exchange, or reimburse funds, services, or supplies, or transfer or receive anything of value. The Department shall be responsible for all costs associated with implementing the objectives and goals in accordance with this MOU.

This MOU is not legally enforceable and shall not be construed to create any legal obligation on the part of any party. The MOU shall be carried out in compliance with all applicable laws, regulation, and other legal requirements.

The Regents of the University of New Mexico

By 
David W. Harris
EVP for Administration, COO & CFO

Date: 5/18/14



Bruce T. Milne
Director: Sustainability Studies Program

Date: May 18, 2014

Exhibit A

