



## Campus Biodiversity Initiative: Research and Demonstration (CBIRD)

### Steering Committee

#### Terms of Reference

#### Context

The University of British Columbia (UBC) Vancouver campus is host to a multitude of biodiversity assets and ecosystem services. Our local policies, plans and stewardship practices need to reflect the urgency of the biodiversity and climate crises and efforts today are needed to support adaptive future landscapes. Furthermore, the integration of biodiversity with social, cultural and ecological services is of utmost importance. As a leader in research and sustainability, UBC's engagement in the local and global movement towards biodiversity conservation and enhancement is critical.

The complexity of conserving biodiversity in a changing climate demands new, interdisciplinary, and inclusive approaches to inform policies and initiatives. UBC with its Campus as a Living Laboratory and extensive local and global networks, serves as a testbed where research, learning and engagement create transformative impacts towards advancing socially just and ecologically sustainable urban areas. The [Campus Biodiversity Initiative: Research and Demonstration \(CBIRD\)](#) is UBC's interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder hub for connecting academics, practitioners and the wider community in collaborative applied research and collaborations to advance scalable urban biodiversity ideas, policies and actions on campus. The Steering Committee includes cross-campus representation from 22 faculties and operational departments who together with their extended networks work to advance CBIRD's vision and mission:

**Vision:** We aim to **enhance, conserve, and steward campus urban biodiversity through meaningful engagement and mutual learning**, and advance sustainability education and student-led research. Through applied whole-systems thinking, CBIRD serves as an interdisciplinary partnership platform to enable this vision to unfold for net positive outcomes for human and ecological health.

**Mission:** To **inform policies, plans and practices that enhance campus urban biodiversity through applied research, education, interdisciplinary partnerships, community engagement, and demonstration**. We will further our mission through the objectives described below.

#### Purpose & Objectives

The purpose of the Steering Committee is **to provide direction for the *Campus Biodiversity Initiative: Research & Demonstration (CBIRD)* and offer an interdisciplinary perspective to advance and inform the formulation of urban forest, biodiversity, climate related planning and neighbourhood plans, public realm guidelines, campus plan and design guidelines**. The Committee guides and identifies opportunities for partnership, enhancement, conservation and stewardship of biodiversity through applied research, community engagement, and the growth of a thriving biodiversity network on campus. Specific objectives are to:

- **Inform and advance policies and plans** which address and respond to key urban biodiversity issues
- **Inform practices** for tackling the urban biodiversity crisis through local research projects and partnerships



- Create **applied student research and impactful learning opportunities** and **interdisciplinary partnerships** that utilize the Campus as Living Laboratory
- **Cultivate biodiversity stewards** through increasing public awareness and knowledge, demonstration projects, citizen science and biodiversity celebrations
- **Strengthen UBC's leadership** in urban biodiversity conservation and stewardship considering future climate conditions

## Scope of Work & Responsibilities

The Steering Committee will be responsible for providing advisory guidance to advance CBIRD mission and achieve our vision to **enhance, conserve, and steward campus urban biodiversity at**

**UBC**. Responsibilities include:

- Advance CBIRD mission and priorities to enhance biodiversity on campus through interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Provide interdisciplinary expertise and guidance on the formulation of urban forest and biodiversity policy and planning work.
- Identify gaps and opportunities in the various urban biodiversity projects and research areas, and identify the researchers and collaborations who could fill these gaps.
- Provide feedback on projects and initiatives throughout the year electronically and through quarterly meetings.
- Plan and support implementation of project actions, review success and progress.
- Promote the communication of outcomes from research and other collaborative work undertaken.

## Key Focus Areas & Deliverables

- **Research Collaborations:** Inform student-led research and other collaborations that baseline, monitor and identify key threats to urban biodiversity, and demonstrate the critical value of biodiversity to ecological and human health.
- **Policy and Plans:** Integrate urban biodiversity goals into current and emerging urban forestry, biodiversity, climate related plans, policies and frameworks, and neighbourhood plans and guidelines.
- **Education, Engagement & Demonstration:** Increase community awareness, knowledge and engagement in urban biodiversity to demonstrate UBC's leadership and cultivate biodiversity stewards.

## Meeting Frequency & Procedures

- The Steering Committee will meet quarterly for 60 to 90 minutes. An agenda will be prepared by the Chairs. When a member is unable to attend, we request they send an alternate representative from their unit.
- The Core Team will meet monthly for 1 hour. An agenda will be prepared by the SEEDS representative.



- Action Teams will meet monthly for 1 hour or as needed to support the implementation of CBIRD actions.

## Reporting

Ongoing progress reporting and consultation will be given to relevant committees and project teams, including:

- **Steering Committees:** Public Realm, Climate Crisis in Urban Biodiversity (CCUB), UBC Food Systems Project (UBCFSP)
- **Project Teams:** Campus Vision 2050, Green Building Action Plan, Climate Action Plan 2030, Wellbeing Strategic Support Team

## CBIRD Governance Structure

CBIRD is comprised of a radially organized governance structure, including unique roles and responsibilities:

### INITIATIVE ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Role	Responsibilities	Time Commitment
<b>Steering Committee</b>		
Provides strategic and advisory guidance to advance CBIRD mission and priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interdisciplinary expertise and guidance on formulation of urban biodiversity, forestry and climate related planning and practices</li> <li>• Feedback on strategic priorities, initiative progression, and promoting the communication of outcomes.</li> </ul>	~Quarterly meetings (60-90 mins)
<b>Core Team</b>		
Supports CBIRD related strategic planning, facilitation, implementation, evaluation and focus areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead strategic planning and operationalization of focus areas.</li> <li>• Participate in a variety of committees and working groups.</li> <li>• Inform and engage others about the work of the Committee and link to the community and stakeholders.</li> </ul>	~Monthly meetings (60 mins) ~4 hrs/ mth doc review
<b>Action Teams</b>		
Supports implementation of CBIRD priorities through engaged expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaged experts from the Steering Committee are responsible for the scoping, development of content and research contributions to advance priorities.</li> <li>• New Action Teams will be recommended based on priorities.</li> </ul>	~Monthly meetings (60 mins) ~2 hours/mth for document review
<b>Advisory Members</b>		
Provides supportive role in content and/or context experience to the initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be informed about the committee's mandate and initiatives.</li> <li>• Review communications, documents and provide feedback and recommendations as appropriate.</li> </ul>	~Variable - stakeholder and project specific



## Steering Committee Composition

### Co-Chairs:

- Campus + Community Planning: **John Madden** | Director, Sustainability & Engineering
- Campus + Community Planning: **Liska Richer** | Manager, SEEDS Sustainability Program, Community Development

### Members:

- Botanical Garden & Centre for Plant Research: **Tara Moreau** | Associate Director, Sustainability & Community Programs
- Botanical Garden & Centre for Plant Research: **Douglas Justice** | Associate Director, Horticulture & Collections
- Building Operations: **Jeff Nulty** | Municipal Landscape Architect
- Campus + Community Planning: **Dean Gregory** | Landscape Architect, Planning & Design
- Campus + Community Planning: **Emma Luker** | Planning Analyst, Sustainability and Engineering
- Campus + Community Planning: **Laura Arango** | Applied Research Coordinator, Climate Crisis in Urban Biodiversity (CCUB), SEEDS Sustainability Program, Community Development
- Campus + Community Planning: **Penny Martyn** | Manager, Green Buildings, Sustainability and Engineering
- Campus + Community Planning: **incoming** | Projects Coordinator, SEEDS Sustainability Program, Community Development | Sustainability & Engineering
- Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm: **Hannah Wittman** | Academic Director, & Professor, Faculty of Land and Food Systems (on sabbatical 19/20 year until June 30, 2020)
- Faculty of Applied Science: **Cynthia Girling** | Professor, School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
- Faculty of Arts: **Loch Brown** | Instructor, Department of Geography
- Faculty of Forestry: **Stephen Sheppard** Director, Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning (CALP) | Professor, Urban Forestry
- Faculty of Forestry: **Peter Arcese** | Forest Renewal BC Chair (FRBC) in Conservation Biology | Co-Director of the Centre for Applied Conservation Research in the Faculty of Forestry
- Faculty of Forestry: **Susan Day** | Program Director for Bachelor of Urban Forestry | Professor, Urban Forestry
- Faculty of Forestry: **Tahia Devisscher**, PostDoc in Forest Resources Management | Instructor, Urban Forestry
- Faculty of Forestry: **Cindy Zhaohua Chen**, Urban Forestry Program Coordinator | Research Analyst, Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning | PhD Candidate, Urban Forestry
- Faculty of Science: **Santokh Singh** | Professor of Teaching, Botany
- Faculty of Land and Food Systems: **Matthew Mitchell**, Research Associate, Centre for Sustainable Food Systems
- Student at Large: **Nick Mantegna**, Undergraduate Student, Faculty of Forestry



- University Neighborhood Association: **Emily Lomax** | Sustainability Coordinator
- University Sustainability Initiative: **Linda Nowlan**, Senior Director
- Botanical Garden: **Egan Davis** | Principal Instructor, Horticulture Training Program, UBC Botanical Garden; Treasurer, HortEducationBC

Advisory Members:

- Faculty of Science: **Sally Otto** | Professor, Zoology
- Faculty of Science: **Loren Rieseberg** | Professor, Botany

## Core Team Composition

- Botanical Garden & Centre for Plant Research: **Tara Moreau** | Associate Director, Sustainability & Community Programs
- Campus + Community Planning: **Liska Richer** | Manager, SEEDS Sustainability Program, Community Development
- Campus + Community Planning: **John Madden** | Director, Sustainability & Engineering
- Campus + Community Planning: **Emma Luker** | Planning Analyst
- Campus + Community Planning: **incoming** | Projects Coordinator, SEEDS Sustainability Program, Community Development | Sustainability & Engineering

## Action Teams Composition

### Ecosystem Services Planning and Policy Action Team

Chair:

- Campus + Community Planning: **Emma Luker** | Planning Analyst

Members:

- Botanical Garden & Centre for Plant Research: **Tara Moreau** | Associate Director, Sustainability & Community Programs
- Building Operations: **Jeff Nulty** | Municipal Landscape Architect
- Campus + Community Planning: **Dean Gregory** | Landscape Architect, Planning & Design
- Campus + Community Planning: **Jake Li**, Green Infrastructure Engineer, Sustainability & Engineering
- Campus + Community Planning: **John Madden** | Director, Sustainability & Engineering
- Campus + Community Planning: **Liska Richer** | Manager, SEEDS Sustainability Program, Community Development
- Campus + Community Planning: **incoming** | Projects Coordinator, SEEDS Sustainability Program, Community Development | Sustainability & Engineering
- Faculty of Forestry: **Tahia Devisscher**, PostDoc in Forest Resources Management | Instructor, Urban Forestry