

Fullerton Arboretum | Frequently Asked Questions

Updated October 2019

Overview & Structure

The Fullerton Arboretum officially opened to the public in 1979 and began in a field of the region's iconic orange groves. The Arboretum is housed at Cal State Fullerton and represents 26 acres of the university's 241 acres. On March 24, 1976, a Joint Exercise Powers Agreement (JPA) was created between the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Fullerton and the Trustees of the California State University creating an agency to be known as the Fullerton Arboretum Authority. Part of the university's contribution to the JPA was to grant the Arboretum Authority use of university owned land for use as an Arboretum. In 1977, the Authority entered into a Site Lease with the University for the use of the University land. From its inception, the JPA is scheduled to terminate in December 2020, with the property returning to the University. The Site Lease also ends in December 2020. The Redevelopment Agency no longer exists and was replaced by the City of Fullerton Successor Agency, whose annual funding contribution for the Arboretum will end when the JPA ends in 2020.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Arboretum included in the Campus Master Plan?

The Campus Master Plan covers the use of all CSUF land, including the Arboretum. The Master Plan is a blueprint for providing a safe, sustainable, welcoming and cohesive learning environment that supports student success into the future. The University has worked with all partners to develop a plan that will not only serve the external community, but also further support the educational needs of the on-campus community.

Does the University plan to eliminate the Arboretum?

No. The University has no plans to eliminate the Arboretum. By working with various stakeholders, a plan is being developed to respond to the loss of funding from the city of Fullerton. The campus views the Arboretum as a living laboratory that can support the education of our students, the research of our faculty, and a bridge to the community.

How does the Campus Master Plan Preferred Option address the Arboretum?

Feedback collected throughout the Campus Master Plan process from faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members, including many Arboretum volunteers, reinforced our campus belief that the Arboretum is a treasured asset that provides much needed green space and serves as a living laboratory for the campus and the community. The Campus Master Plan Preferred Option is aligned with the Arboretum Strategic Plan, developed by the Arboretum Authority, which calls for enhancements, such as a new administrative building, a sustainability center, and research/greenhouse facilities.

When was the JPA established?

The JPA was established March 24, 1976 and has been in effect since then. The JPA expires December 3, 2020.

How is the Arboretum funded?

Through the JPA, the Arboretum is supported by CSUF funds and gifts, and an annual funding allotment from the City of Fullerton. Of the current annual budget of approximately \$1.4 million, CSUF funds about 50 percent, the Arboretum funds about 33 percent, and the City of Fullerton provides about 17 percent. The City's funding will not be renewed after the expiration of the JPA.

Who is responsible for the land on which the Fullerton Arboretum sits?

The land is owned by the CSU and leased to the Fullerton Arboretum Authority for \$0 per year until December 3, 2020. The responsibility for the living collections and the historic collections are under the direction of the Arboretum Authority during the terms of the lease.

What is the university's process for determining the Fullerton Arboretum future?

The land set aside by the CSU Board of Trustees for the arboretum is University land and thus falls under the institution's Campus Master Plan process. Ultimately, it was the Board of Trustees who granted the lease of the land for use as an arboretum, and it is the Board of Trustees who are ultimately charged with deciding the use of the land. The Campus Master Plan draws upon input from students, staff, faculty and community members.

How is the university planning for the future of the Arboretum?

In June 2018, the Arboretum began creating an operations plan to bridge the Arboretum with the CSUF Extension and International Programs (EIP) infrastructure and deepen integration with the campus mission to serve students, faculty, staff, and the larger community. The operation plan considers:

- Continued accreditation of the Arboretum;
- Continued engagement by the Arboretum with faculty, staff and student research and immersive experiences;
- Maintenance of the Arboretum's public accessibility so that it can be enjoyed by many and future generations to come;
- Identification of the role of the Arboretum as integrated with EIP business development, program development and management, budget and personnel operations, program administration and operations, and self-support revenue generation;
- Engagement with organizations, volunteers, and community members that have helped make the Arboretum what it is today;
- Exploration of possible partnerships that will bring about new ideas for innovation, integration, and collaboration.

How can I stay involved in the future of the Arboretum?

The Campus Master Plan Preferred Option will be presented to the CSU Board of Trustees for consideration in spring 2020. Follow progress at masterplan.fullerton.edu/. The Fullerton Arboretum website, fullertonarboretum.org, provides numerous opportunities for supporting the Arboretum as a member, volunteer and patron. We appreciate your role in helping to create a safe, sustainable, welcoming campus that supports student success.