



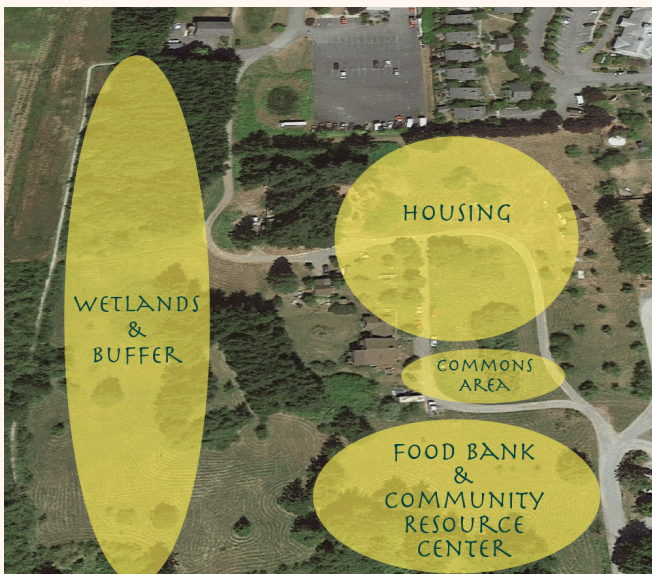
We're growing to meet the needs — current and future.

Pre-COVID, we were planning to expand the Food Bank's facility to better serve our customers. Early in 2020 the pandemic-related surge in demand made expansion urgent. Fortunately, grant funding and community support enabled us to quickly increase our staffing, hours of food distribution, and temporary storage areas for food (dry, cold, and frozen) and equipment.



Inside our grocery model. Much of this produce is locally grown.


We have been seeking a better and more permanent solution ever since. We envisioned benefitting our customers by partnering with the Orcas Community Resource Center and with the OPAL Community Land Trust. We are pleased to announce that an 11-acre parcel in Eastsound, fondly known as the "Pea Patch," will be purchased pending completion of minor work needed to ready the property for its new role. The campus will be home to the Food Bank and the Resource Center and a location for OPAL to build permanently affordable housing. OPAL has agreed to be the landowner and manager; the Food Bank and Resource Center will hold long-term leases, ensuring stability for generations to come.



A draft layout for the Pea Patch Co-Campus.
Not a final version.

Our new Food Bank facility is currently in the design stage. Once built, it will open additional opportunities, such as:

- A commercial kitchen where we can produce meals, teach cooking and food preservation, and act as an incubator space for value-added food producers.
- An edible native plant teaching garden.
- An outdoor gathering space.
- Grocery warehouse and cold and frozen food capacity that will meet the needs of the Food Bank, help provide emergency-response food supplies for the entire island, and aid collaboration with other San Juan County food system members.



"I think it's cool that you guys ask us what we want here. That's really nice of you."

—Teen at the Teen Tent

We're still working hard and innovating at our current location.

Customer numbers continue to rise as the cost-of-living increases and food bank familiarity among those who need support strengthens. Thanks to grant funding, we have converted to a full grocery store self-select model and increased customer access to fresh produce, often locally or regionally grown. We continue to expand our selections, including cultural, dietary, and situational considerations such as housing challenges and age-appropriate offerings. We still offer home delivery to seniors and working parents, two full days of in-person shopping, a teen tent for hungry high schoolers (including accessible snacks in school offices), and weekend food bags for students.



Megan Minkler, property manager for Family Tides Farm. Family Tides Farm grows and donates food for the Food Bank.

“I feel so welcomed here.”



Hailey Avena and family, co-owner of West Beach Farm.

We also host two AmeriCorps service members for 10.5 months out of the year and center volunteering as a core program for those who seek purpose and community connection.



Mads Hall and Aurora Fackler-Adams
2023-24
AmeriCorps
Service Members

To mitigate food waste and increase food access, we have a robust grocery rescue program as well as gleaning, grow-a-row, and daily farm-back-buckets for compost and animal feed. We have created a bustling community hub filled with joy and centered around fresh healthy whole foods. We'd love to give you a tour.

Our recently adopted vision statement is that “All Islanders see food access as essential to the wellbeing of our community.” Our upcoming new facility and our devotion to our new way of serving the community will help make that vision a reality. We are grateful for your support and invite you to join us at the table through the next phases of this exciting project. Thank you!

Eat Healthy and Thrive.

Executive Director Amanda Sparks, Board President Bob Morris, Customers, Staff, and Board.
The Orcas Island Food Bank is an equal opportunity employer and provider.