

The UniverCity Story



In 1996, SFU set three goals for its endowment lands:

1. To develop a complete community that fulfills the immediate needs of residents and complements the function and academic mission of SFU;
2. To have the smallest possible environmental footprint; to be sustainable environmentally, financially and socially;
3. To fulfill the promise of an “endowment” – generating income that will create a lasting legacy in support of SFU’s teaching and research mission.

SFU began by donating most of its property – 320 hectares – to the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. In return, the City of Burnaby approved development on the remaining 65 hectares, setting an ultimate target of 4,500 homes, the same number that might have been allowed in a suburban style neighbourhood covering the entire original property.

The SFU Community Trust, created to oversee the development, consulted with SFU students, staff, faculty, neighbouring and prospective residents to create a Vision Statement and Community Plan that defined UniverCity as it exists today.

