

MEMBER AUTHORIZATION, RULES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The following guidelines outline the management of the "**Shared Soil**" space and its site property. These guidelines have been established by the property owner as a basis for a use agreement between the two parties. We ask that all members share the responsibility of keeping up their "**Shared Soil**" space. Please treat your fellow members as you would like to be treated. There will be other staff members on site from time to time overseeing other farming projects. With your signature below, you acknowledge as a participating member responsibility of the following:

Hours:

- Farm is open six days a week: **March 1 – October 31** from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- East and West gates will close at abruptly at 7 p.m.
- Membership begins **May 16, 2022** (payments to be prorated).

Access:

- Gate will be left open and propped for access (do not meddle with gates).
- Vehicles must stay in parking lot area (driving around farm prohibited for safety reasons).
- Garden tools must be unloaded in the parking area (tools can be dangerous, must be cautious).

Fees:

- Shared soil spaces are **10x20 - \$70 or 10x10 - \$60** each month for seven month period. (pro-rated as needed)
- Seed and organic inputs included in the price.
- All required registration forms must be received before space is assigned and member is allowed to start planting.
- Full payment due upon sign up. Farm will work with members who require payment arrangements.
- No online payments available. Payments to be mailed to designated address in form of check or money order.
- Space available on first come first serve basis.

Soil Prep:

- Members are responsible for their own soil prep once the space has been tilled and ready for planting.
- Extra tilling may be coordinated with the owner for an additional fee.

Seeds:

- Groundswell will provide all seed for planting (only USDA certified organic seed can be used on farm).
- Only staple crops available for seeding i.e. tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, radish, squash, cucumber, kale, arugula, spinach, peas, cabbage, onions, carrots, collards, turnips,

mustards, egg plant (other seed requests may be honored if available).

- Location of seed and other regulations will be posted.
- No member is allowed to sow their own seeds or transplants.
- Plant seedlings will be available for purchase.

Pest and Disease Control:

- Synthetic pesticides, chemicals, etc. are prohibited at Groundswell. Please notify the owner or farm staff of concerns regarding nuisance insects / pests.

Tools:

- Members must provide their own tools for farming. All tools must be **sanitized** prior to use per the farms "organic" standards (Cleaning tub will be provided).
- Farm supplies such as (water containers, hoses, buckets) will be made available. Use of these items must be maintained and kept in good condition. All items must be placed back where found.

Soil Maintenance:

- Shared soil spaces must be kept clear of weeds, debris and trash. It is your responsibility to maintain area and keep clean.
- All trash must be placed in trash receptacle.
- Flamers or torches for weed control are **NOT** permitted at any time.
- Discarded vegetables need to be taken to compost pile.

Trash:

- All trash must be placed in the trash can near the main entrance. Weeds and other compostable materials should be placed in the designated "**Composting**" area. Please do not leave weeds and other debris in paths or areas that may pose a safety hazard.

Harvesting:

- Member sales of vegetables is not permitted per organic certification policies (for member consumption only).
- Crops must be harvested when they are mature. Members may not harvest crops from other spaces. Groundswell reserves the right to harvest unattended crops and spaces.

Conduct and Other Rules:

- Family members are welcome to site. Children must be supervised, not to disturb other members. Members are responsible for any guests and their conduct.
- Dogs are not permitted on the farm. If you have a therapy dog, you must seek approval from the owner.
- Anyone caught stealing or using alcohol or drugs on the farm will be prosecuted and lose all farm privileges.
- Any violation of farm rules, policies, or practices will result in a verbal notification and may result in a loss of farm privileges.
- Smoking of any kind is not allowed anywhere on the farm premises.

- Farm grounds not accessible after hours. **Surveillance in place 24 hours a day.**

Watering:

- Water is available and will be turned on for member use.
- Watering containers will be available and must be put back after each use.
- Water must be securely shut off after each use.
- Do not attach or detach hoses to the water faucets unless instructed.
- Water is a precious commodity and should not be wasted.
- No drinking from the water faucet.

Membership:

- Groundswell Farm reserves the right to decline membership for any reason.

Contacts:

- All communication must be transacted via e-mail or text message
groundswellfarmer@gmail.com or (616) 581-3030.

Please remember that rules are set in place to establish structure. If rules are broken, Groundswell retains the right to cancel any member's agreement at any time.

WAIVER & RELEASE

- I desire to participate voluntarily in the gardening and other activities sponsored and coordinated by Groundswell Community Farm.
- I understand, accept, and assume the risks associated with participation in any and all activities. I also assume the responsibility of conducting myself in a civil manner that is mutually beneficial to all members. Unacceptable conduct includes, but not limited to, vegetable theft, tool theft, profanity and other offensive behavior.
- I assume full responsibility for any injuries which may occur to me, as well as the safety of my family and guests, and do hereby fully and forever discharge and release the Groundswell site landowner and its employees from any claims.
- I acknowledge that myself or anyone attending the farm with me could be captured on camera or video inadvertently unless permission is given.
- No film crew, free lance reporters, photographers or news stations permitted without owners approval and written consent.
- I acknowledge that participation in the farm shared soil program is for my purposes and convenience only and not for the purpose of others, therefore I indemnify and release the farm, farm associates, and farm owner of any and all liability.

Shared Soil Member
Signature

Date