

*Benicia Community Gardens (BCG) is a program of Sustainable Solano. The mission of BCG is to support local food security – by helping local citizens establish and care for gardens throughout the city that provide fresh food, fellowship, and discovery, and also by increasing citizens' access to sustainable, regional sources of wholesome food – thereby strengthening community resilience.*



## Sustainable Solano 2025-26 Benicia Community Gardener's Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_, **AGREE to participate**

**voluntarily as a BCG Gardener at** \_\_\_\_\_, **assigned and tending bed #** \_\_\_\_\_, **AND**  
(name of BCG garden)

**I AGREE to keep the bed assigned to me well cared for and productive in accordance with all current BCG Policies & Regulations.**

**I UNDERSTAND** the privileges and responsibilities of gardeners as described in the **BCG Policies & Regulations**, which guide and govern BCG community gardens, their maintenance and activities, and **I've READ and AGREE** to abide by them;

(please initial) \_\_\_\_\_

**I UNDERSTAND** that this Gardener's Agreement is an annual agreement, which expires each year on March 20th; and, if I want to continue gardening with my assigned bed, I will submit a new Agreement by March 31st ;

**I UNDERSTAND** that an annual Gardener's Fee, determined by the Board, is required of all gardeners to help pay basic costs of maintaining the gardens, including administrative fees, at the projected **2025-26 cost per bed of \$125;**

**I UNDERSTAND** that **the nonrefundable Gardener's Fee for 2025-26 is set at \$125, paid by check made out to "Sustainable Solano" must be submitted with this signed Agreement; OR**

**I UNDERSTAND** that my **nonrefundable Gardener's Fee for 2025-26 is increased to \$145** due to my failure to contribute the required volunteer hours during the previous gardening year;

**I ACKNOWLEDGE** that BCG may maintain a separate donation plot in our gardens for raising crops that are donated to local charities for community members in need. I would like to contribute \$20\_\_\_ or another amount \$\_\_\_ towards the maintenance of these special donation plots. (Please include this amount with your Gardener's Fee);

**I AGREE** that water is expensive, and I will be "water-wise" in its use for my bed, according to BCG Policies & Regulations;

**I AGREE** to immediately notify the Volunteer Garden Coordinator or a Board Member if for whatever reason I cannot regularly maintain my assigned bed;

**I UNDERSTAND** that if I do not intend to use my assigned bed through the fall/winter season (Oct. 15 – March 20), I must plant a cover crop (legumes, grasses, etc.) to replenish soils;

**I AGREE** that community gardening encourages cooperation to accomplish gardening tasks, maintain the garden's appearance and productivity, and contribute to local food security by sharing the bounty of our gardens within the community as part of the responsibility of each participating gardener;

**I AGREE** to give a **minimum of 6 hours** a year to help with general maintenance of the gardens;

**I UNDERSTAND** that I will be part of a volunteer team as part of my agreement to give a **minimum of 6 hours** a year to help with the maintenance of the gardens.

**I AGREE** that if I fail to contribute the required volunteer hours during the gardening year, my annual gardening fees for 2025-26 will **increase by \$20** in addition to the regular gardening fee established for 2025-26.

(please initial) \_\_\_\_\_

**I AGREE** that Sustainable Solano retains authority about the use of my bed and may terminate this Agreement and reassign my bed if I do not remain in contact with Sustainable Solano or BCG garden coordinators, do not tend my assigned bed and/or fail to obey the BCG Policies & Regulations;

**I UNDERSTAND** that there are certain risks that may result from gardening and gardening-related activities, including but not limited to, construction, loading and unloading, dangers caused by terrain, facilities, soil conditions, temperature, physical exertion, insect/rodent exposure, chemical exposure, and actions of other gardeners, and

**I ASSUME THE RISK** of injury or harm to me, my family members, my guests, or my personal property, in participating in the garden-related activities and release Sustainable Solano and its directors, officers, employees, agents, and assigns from all liability for injury, illness, death, or property damage resulting from such activities.

**I AGREE** that I will use garden tools and equipment at my own risk and that Sustainable Solano is not responsible for any of my judgments or actions that may cause me or others harm or injury, and that

**I WILL HOLD HARMLESS Sustainable Solano, Inc. and its directors, officers, employees, agents, and assigns (including the City of Benicia, garden property owners, and Heritage Presbyterian Church) from and against any damages, losses, liabilities, claims, demands, suits, expenses and attorneys' fees including appellate attorney's fees, (together, "Losses"), including, without limitation, Losses arising from any death, property damage, or injury of any nature whatsoever that may be suffered or sustained by me, my family members, my guests, or any other person participating in Sustainable Solano gardening activities or present in the Sustainable Solano gardens, directly or indirectly resulting from, arising out of or in connection with the participation in the Sustainable Solano garden activities or presence in the Sustainable Solano gardens.**

**I AGREE** to allow Sustainable Solano to use any photographs, interviews, videotapes, films, or other visual or auditory recordings or renderings, or any other medium, including the internet, of me, my family, and my guests in connection with my participation in the garden. **I AGREE** that I do not have to inspect or approve the finished project and I am not entitled to any compensation for the finished product.

**I INVITE** the following members of my family or friends to participate in the Benicia Community Gardens Program of Sustainable Solano with me: ***(please list below, the names of family members/friends who will be gardening with you)***

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Date	Name of Participant	Signature
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Date	Name of Participant	Signature
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**I UNDERSTAND** that I am responsible for the participating member's actions. **Children (under 14) brought to the Benicia Community Gardens must be supervised by an adult at all times.**

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Member's name (PLEASE PRINT)	Member's signature	Date
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**Member's home address**

(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ email

**Sustainable Solano Use Only: Gardener's Fee - amount paid** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **SuSol** \_\_\_\_\_