Fraser Common Farm Cooperative Working Draft ● Creating a Friendly Farm March 2011



Family Friendly Farm

Goals:

- To provide a welcoming, comfortable farm stay for visitors, including families with children
- To do so in a way that respects both residents' and visitors' needs for interaction and privacy.

To improve the accessibility and comfort of our farm for current and future members, it is important to provide some basic "out of pod" facilities that would enable them to stay on the farm and meet their basic needs independently of residents' home spaces. Our intention is to create a sense of welcoming and home without relying on the pods to provide this function.

Basic Facilities Needed

- A comfortable washroom facility and washing station (outhouse-style composting toilet with a simple wash station (sink) attached).
- An extension of this may be a simple outdoor shower facility.
- A covered picnic area that allows for visitors to prepare a meal (camp stove style?) and sit at a table (picnic table style). This will provide shelter from the elements as well as a place for members to gather and share food together in an outdoor camp style setting. This will enable visitors, especially families, to have independence surrounding their meals and help accommodate for different meal times and preferences. Such an area would also provide a quiet space for a family to gather—some down time from visiting with residents in pods.

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• In the future we may want to build a "summer kitchen," where larger numbers can gather for meals and social time.

Signage Needed

We need clear signage to inform visitors about respectful use of space.

- o Cleanup
 - We will let visitors know how to keep the visiting areas clean and well-maintained, and where cleaning supplies are located.
- Safety
 - We will advise parents about how to keep their kids safe around our trampoline and horses
- Ecologically Sensitive Areas
 - We will encourage children and adults to explore all the nooks and crannies of our farm (there is so much beauty to be discovered!), while keeping them informed about sensitive areas like salmon spawning grounds
 - We all know that children and water are a pretty irresistible combination. Signs describing how to play in the streams can both protect the area and educate our visitors.
- Farm Production Areas
 - How many times have I watched people casually stroll through our production beds? Often enough to feel that where and how to walk on the farm needs to be an education piece!
- Farm Food Guidelines
 - One of the most fantastic aspects of our farm is the delicious food that we grow. We want to grow future farmers and foodies alike! We want to let visitors know

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- how to sample in an appropriate way, keeping in mind that we are a functioning commercial farm.
- We need clear signs about appropriate harvesting of food, from simple snacking to full-on berry harvest. This will help keep farm visits a positive experience for all, as well as help parents navigate those boundaries with their children.