Comprehensive list of Rules and Regulations for Garden and Estate

ACRONYMS:

SANBI: South African National Biodiversity Institute
WSNBG: Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden

Background information:

The WSNBG and nature reserve is effectively an island of pristine grassland, ridge and forest habitats surrounded by suburban gardens. It is a listed Protected Area under the Protected Areas Act and is home to several Red Data Listed species. The close proximity of human influence has put this reserve under severe pressure. The WSNBG is constantly managing issues which cause its degradation. These problems include invasive species; disturbance to veld caused by building on boundaries, dumping, illegal pathways and trampling by trespassers and off-road vehicles; poaching of animals, plants and trees; theft of fencing.

The cultivated garden serves as a repository for indigenous plant species and these collections are vital to taxonomic and conservation research.

The rules and regulations have been drafted to ensure that we fulfil our responsibility to all the biodiversity under our care. Our responsibilities also include the safety of visitors and staff and the cost-effective running of our operations.

Our rules and regulations are enforced by our security staff; to ensure that you and your family enjoy your visit please plan ahead and take note of this information

1. Important information:

- The WSNBG Reserves the Right of Admission to its premises
- Please note that the irrigation water is not safe to drink, make use of the drinking fountains or water from the restrooms
- This garden is a ‘bin-free’ zone, please take your refuse home and recycle it.
- If you are planning to walk the trails, walk in a group, wear the correct footwear, a hat and take water to drink.
- All children under 12 years of age are to be accompanied by an adult at all times.
• **Special note to photographers and birders:** We so appreciate the superb images and wonderful observations of our biodiversity. However, please do remember that this area is heavily ‘birded’ and photographed. **We do not permit call playback, flushing, chasing, and encroachment on nesting areas to obtain a sighting or shot.** Birdlife South Africa’s Birder’s Code of Ethics is available at: https://www.birdlife.org.za/media-and-resources/position-statements

2. **WSNBG Rules and Regulations:**

   **We do not allow the following:**

   Dogs and other pets, excepting registered disability assistance dogs

   Party balloons of any type

   Firearms or catapults

   Balls, bats, frisbees or any kicking/throwing games

   Cars, bicycles, scooters, motorbikes, quad bikes, horses

   Drones or kites

   Music players of any kind, including car sound systems in parking area

   Hooting in the car park, on Malcolm, Beacon or Phillip roads

   Singing

   Fires, gas braais

   **Pallets** or any raw wood and raw wood products, including but not limited to firewood.

   Hubble-bubblies/hookah pipes

   Rollerblades, roller skates, skateboards

   **Alcohol** - it is illegal to consume alcohol in a public place or to be under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol. It constitutes a hazard for the person concerned as well as other visitors and our staff.

Please note:

* the restaurant is licensed, any alcohol served there is to be consumed on its premises only
WSNBG – Rules and Regulations, comprehensive list

November, 2020

- certain concerts and events which are in possession of a temporary liquor licence may serve alcohol – this must be consumed within the designated event area only
- hired venues – guests may consume alcohol within the venue and its enclosed space only.

Swimming or paddling in the river or ponds

Camping or staying overnight

Jumping castles

Littering (including cigarette ends) The WSNBG is a ‘bin-free’ zone, please take your refuse home and recycle it. Use a personal or pocket ashtray for your cigarette butts

Walking through or sitting in flower beds

Climbing trees, cliffs, rock formations or sculptures

Climbing over fences

Defacement (eg. graffiti, carving, scratching or damaging) of buildings, trees, benches, signage or rocks

Feeding, catching or harming animals

Fishing

Picking of flowers, leaves, fruit or seeds

Removal of any biological, geological, archaeological material or artefacts

Cutting or removing of wood or bark

Unauthorised release of live animals, whether exotic or indigenous, into WSNBG

Unauthorised bringing-in of natural materials that may contain biological matter (plant, animal, fungal, viral or bacterial) on to the premises.

Unauthorised selling of goods or collection of funds

**Rowdy, noisy, unruly, inappropriate, lewd or indecent behaviour, causing a disturbance of any kind**

Nudity, partial nudity, improper (inadequate) or inappropriate clothing, bathing costumes or appearing in underwear

Public urination or defecation
Photographing or videoing people without their consent

Confetti (including rice)

Unauthorised putting up of marquees

Unauthorised commercial film/ photo shoots

Attaching of décor items to trees, plants, garden signage or sculptures

Any devices which release or produce smoke, fireworks, glitter, powder or any other substance. This is particularly related to the current trend in gender-reveal baby shower parties.

Picnicking at waterfall and gym garden

Unauthorised putting up of notices, signs or posters

Scattering of ashes, balloon releases or memorial dove releases

If unsure about any of the above, please contact the office to clarify sisulgarden@sanbi.org.za

The WSNBG is used at own risk and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) will not be responsible for any claims of any nature whatsoever for loss, damage or injury sustained on its premises by any persons or damage to or loss of property from any cause whatsoever.