

## 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; lack of adherence to these or the instructions of the officer on duty in this respect, may result in your removal from the WSNBG. 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.

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- 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-bubbies/hookah pipes

Rollerblades, roller skates, skateboards

Swimming or paddling in the river or ponds

Camping or staying overnight

**\*Consumption of alcohol while walking about at WSNBG. Alcohol may only be consumed where visitors are picnicking, at venues and restaurant.**

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

**Being impaired while under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol.**

***\*Please note that the WSNBG has areas of open water, areas with steep inclines and bridges. WSNBG security personnel (or the SAPS if necessary) will remove patrons who pose a danger to themselves, visitors, staff, premises, property, or wildlife. WSNBG does not take responsibility for persons or property of patrons. Parents/guardians remain responsible for their children at all times.***

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

Deviation from designated trails and pathways. This not only creates hazardous erosion problems but causes habitat destruction and additional stress to wildlife

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. Venue and event décor items are included in this. High risk items include natural branches,

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untreated wood, flower arrangements containing alien invasives (for example pampas grass).

Unauthorised selling of goods or collection of funds

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  
sisulugarden@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.*

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