Stanford Hall

Community Supported Agriculture

Working together with local neighborhoods and schools, Stanford Hall is launching a Community Supported Agricultural Scheme.

The scheme will provide healthy, sustainable food while offering educational activities and a vibrant place for the CSA community to gather.

Today we face many challenges in agriculture, which ultimately affect us all. The project will be using many cutting edge solutions such as biodynamics, "no dig" agriculture and permaculture to address these issues.

Biodynamics and the "no dig" method promote abundant soil life and create nutrient dense crops with fantastic flavour. Permaculture offers operational systems that work with natural cycles, leading to maximum output for minimum input. Permaculture is guided by principles of Earth care, people care and fair share.

By using and teaching these systems we aim to reduce the impact of agriculture on the environment, while offering food produced without harmful chemicals, ensuring greater health and food security for all.

We're set to open the farm gates on Saturday 20th of January 2018, when we'll be inviting the community to grow a wide variety of crops with the guidance of a full time grower. The produce will then be made available to community growers, school canteens and local households through a membership system.

Types of Membership

Community Grower/ Coordinator

The Community Grower and Community Coordinator memberships are free of charge but require that the member is actively involved with the CSA to have a share in the produce. You can pledge as much or as little time as you like by prior agreement.

Each member's active hours are logged on a loyalty card, with credits that can be exchanged for produce as it becomes ready for harvest. Activities include caring for the gardens, building and maintenance around the farm, liaising with and distributing produce to the community and helping with administrative tasks.

The CSA will be open to the community on 3 set days per week, with other days set aside for seasonal events, school trips and special projects. This type of membership can suit anyone as there are tasks to suit all abilities and interests.

While we aim to be able to offer membership to everyone we may at times need to use a waiting list while we expand to meet demand.

Domestic Membership

Domestic membership is ideal for those who would like to share in the produce of the CSA but may not have time to commit to the project. A full domestic membership costs £10 per week and entitles the member to 52 weekly veg bags, as well as a say in what is produced by the CSA at monthly meetings. A half domestic membership costs £6 per week and entitles the member to 52 smaller weekly veg bags.

Membership for the season opens on January 1st. For those joining at a later date - the missed payments can be added together for payment upon entering the scheme.

Veg bags will be provided as soon as they are available, and will continue for a full year from that date or until 52 bags have been provided. For those continuing their membership into the next season, we aim to provide vegetables year round without interruption.

The vegetables that are available will vary from season to season, and week-to-week, members will however be offered a contact to talk through their weekly requirements, likes and dislikes. Through community involvement, interaction and learning - we aim to deliver better nutrition, value for money and sustainability to all of our members.

Produce can be collected on set days from the CSA, from a Community Coordinator in your neighbourhood or from a local outlet as agreed. Some Community Coordinators may offer delivery but this is not guaranteed.

To find out more:
visit www.stanfordhallcsa.co.uk or email **hello@stanfordhallcsa.co.uk**

Other Types of Membership

School Membership

Not only will local children have access to delicious, nutrient packed produce at home - we're also producing vegetables with the help of the children, to be used in school canteens. We've already kicked off the groundwork with green manure seed bombing and other fun activities on the farm.

We're starting the project with three local schools in the first season. If you know of another school you'd like to see taking part let us know. We're always happy to consider other schools for membership in future seasons. You can even help to organise school partnerships as part of your community coordinator role.

Commercial Membership

Commercial Membership requires that produce is ordered at the beginning of the growing season to meet the needs of your business throughout the year. Although we always prioritise existing members when distributing produce, seasonal gluts may create availability. Let us know if you'd like availability notifications.

Growers Cooperative

If you're a local grower, farmer or producer - why not join our cooperative? Through sharing tools, knowledge, and trading seasonal gluts we can produce a resilient local food network, bolstering the local economy and creating food security for all.

Other Produce

As well as vegetables the CSA will also produce fruit, eggs, honey, grains, mushrooms, preserves, herbs, spices, cut flowers, charcoal, craft items, Christmas trees for hire, eco Christmas decorations and plants for sale in the nursery. Some of these items may be offered in weekly veg bags, others will be charged for through extended membership or sold separately.

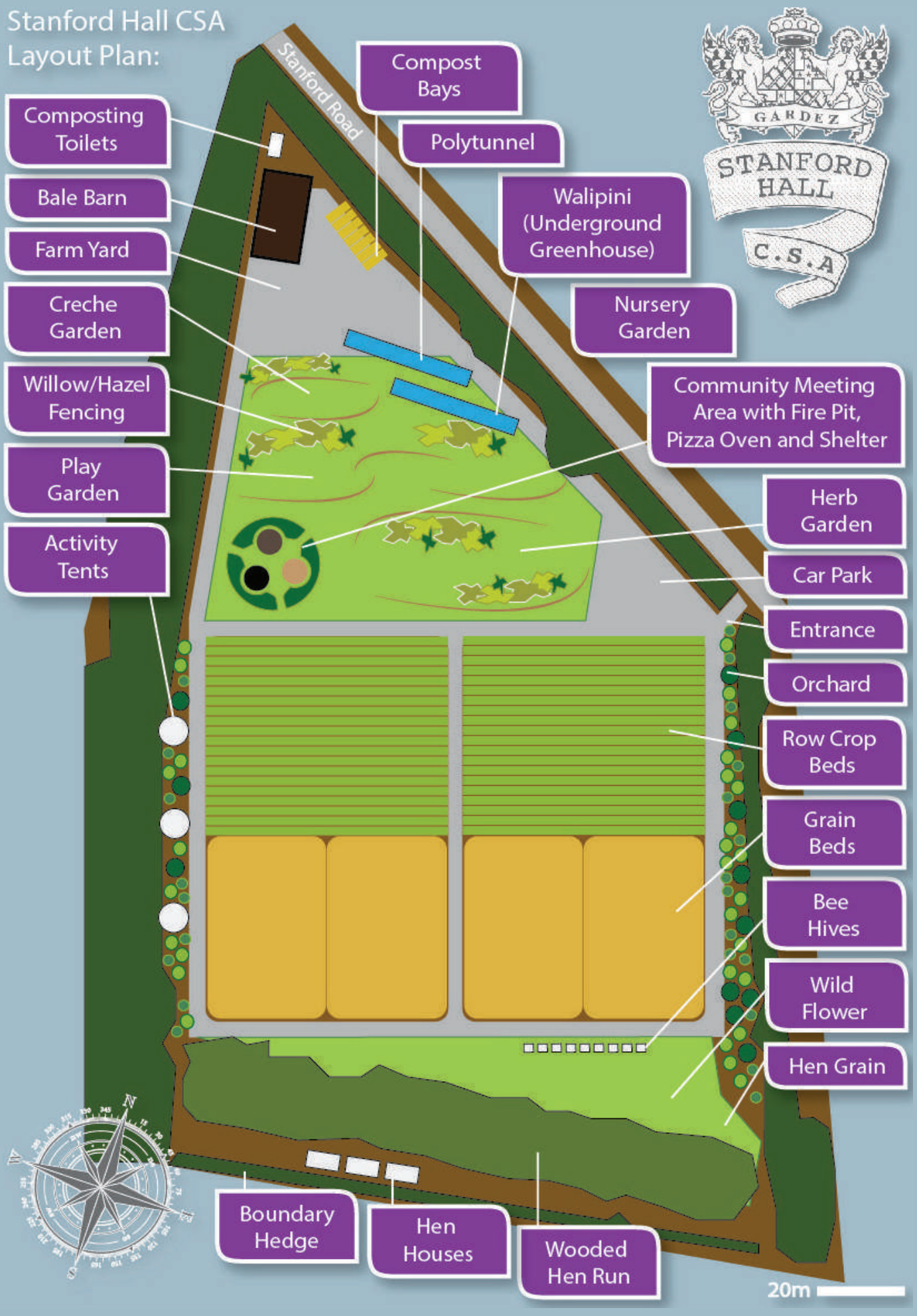
Benefits and Risks

Benefits of Membership:

- Access to local, ethical food, grown using sustainable methods.
- The opportunity to see how your food is produced and its impact upon the environment.
- Introduction to a more diverse diet with recipe cards for new ingredients.
- An invitation to become actively involved with the production of your food and to connect with the land on which it is grown. This particularly benefits those who don't have the land, time or knowledge to produce food at home and offers connections within a welcoming community.
- Access to courses, workshops and information on food growing and sustainable living.
- The price of your produce will not be susceptible to market fluctuations throughout the term of a year's membership. In addition you have the opportunity to become a Community Grower or Coordinating Member at any point, ensuring food security for you and your family regardless of economic situations.
- You will not receive anything from us that cannot be eaten, returned for reuse or composting. This ensures that your contribution to landfill is kept to a minimum.

Risks of Membership:

- The risk of crop failure is shared between members of the CSA. Where crop failure results in a shortage of a particular food all efforts will be made to substitute for other produce, or to source a supply from other local producers through a farmers cooperative.
- Paid membership requires that part of each member's financial contribution be paid before produce is ready for harvest. Similarly, Community Growers may be active in the gardens before produce is available to them. This reflects the natural cycles of growing, enables the employment of a full time grower to oversee production and reduces the waste that often occurs when crops are grown without input from the consumer.



CSA FIELD OPPOSITE CAMPSITE

Stanford Hall CSA, Stanford Road, Lutterworth LE17 6DH