



BELA FARM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens at a Stewardship Day at Bela Farm?

Bela Farm Stewardship Days are a combination of hands-on land tending work, Jewish learning, and spending time together in community. Shoresh's land care projects at Bela Farm include reforestation efforts, building pollinator habitat of native flowers and shrubs, and a modest area of annual garlic planting. Shoresh is also involved in beekeeping at Bela Farm, the work of which is not usually part of Stewardship Days. These projects are not "typical" farm food production or animal care (other than bees!), making Bela Farm a bit different than a typical farm.

A sample schedule for a Stewardship Day is:

- 10am: Opening circle, includes introduction to the land and introducing ourselves to each other
- 10:30am-12pm: Land work, usually involves weeding, mulching, and other tending and maintenance tasks that support the stewardship projects at Bela. Participants are encouraged to work at their own comfortable pace and take breaks whenever needed. There is no expectation of completing a given project during a stewardship day.
- 12pm-1pm: Lunch. Participants bring their own lunches, and we take a break to eat together.
- 1pm-2pm: Another facilitated activity, could include: continuing stewardship work, Jewish learning connected to the land work we are doing or another seasonal/natural theme, mindful walking, noticing birds and plants...
- 2pm: Departure. We usually aim to be leaving by this time to avoid rush hour traffic returning to the city.

* note this schedule is only a sample— as an outdoor program that is based around land care, the schedule needs flexibility to be responsive to the site conditions and needs. This means a program may be adapted on the day of!

Who are Stewardship Days for?

Stewardship Days are a program for adults who want to build relationship with nature and land through a Jewish lens and connect with each other! Activities are tailored for



adults (age 18 and up); however, under-18s are welcome to join so long as they are accompanied by an adult who can support them in the activity. Adults caring for teens or young children are encouraged and welcome to tend to their needs whenever needed, stepping away from programming when necessary. Stewardship Days do not have activities tailored for children, youth, or babies; we encourage you to check out our Family Friendly Days!

What infrastructure or amenities exist at Bela Farm?

Our main home at Bela Farm is Beit Shoresh, a roofed storage garage and gathering space with some chairs and benches inside, that we can use for shade or shelter in inclement weather. Beit Shoresh has an uneven dirt floor that is sometimes dusty. There is also an outhouse with a hand-washing station, a drinking water spigot, and several picnic tables with fixed benches.

As a former dairy farm and pasture lands, Bela Farm is exposed, without a lot of tree cover (though our reforestation efforts are slowly changing that) and can be sunny and windy as a result. Terrain in some areas is steep and uneven, and some activity spaces are on different parts of the land within Bela Farm, spread out from each other requiring a 10-15min walk on a gravel driveway or dirt/grass path. Some areas have tall grass that is mowed semi-regularly during the season.

Can I bring my dog?

The intention of coming to Bela Farm is to participate in the day's program, and dogs are permitted so long as they do not hinder anyone's ability to participate fully. Dogs can come to Bela Farm **only** under the following conditions:

- Dogs must be able to handle groups of people in a relaxed and sociable manner, and must be kept on-leash when requested to do so.
- Dog owners must always check with a Shoresh staff person for a brief conversation before bringing their dog. Failure to do so may result in a requirement for your dog to be leashed throughout their time at Bela Farm.

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

Bela Farm is a working farm, located about 1 hour's drive from Toronto. The ground is hilly and can be quite steep in places. The rest area has picnic tables with fixed



benches, and there are benches and chairs inside Beit Shoresh, our shed and gathering space. There is an outhouse on site with one step up.