

## **7 Guiding Principles**

### **ACT WITH URGENCY**

In response to the climate crises and the existential threat we face, it is our moral responsibility to strive to achieve the highest standards of environmental sustainability for the campus and increase our adaptive capacity. By establishing integrated and regenerative food systems, we will address food insecurity through climate-smart adaptation, carbon removal and sequestration, and cultivation for optimal yields.

### **BE RESPECTFUL**

We respect and are guided by Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers and incorporate Indigenous plantings and practises. Food production reflects the diversity of the global RRU community in what we grow and practises followed. In our commitment to reconciliation and in the spirit of decolonizing, we honourably harvest in a way that minimizes harm. We never take more than we need or waste food, we celebrate and give thanks for what has been given, and we always share.

### **THINK LIKE A SYSTEM**

We recognize that food systems are complex, interconnecting with other systems of water, soil, climate, biodiversity, health, economics, and such require a deeply relational approach. The natural beauty of forests and fields, streams and ocean, orchards and gardens at RRU inspires an integrated and systemic design aligned with natural processes and the seasonality of nature that both innovates from and appreciates work already done including the history of food production at RRU.

### **NOTHING DOES ONE THING**

Often described as multifunctionality, the implementation of this important ecological principle in all of our planning and design, helps increase the resiliency of a system by providing supportive connections and elements, healthy redundancies and backups. Given the costs and risks associated with establishing a local food initiative, all activities and projects connect, strengthen, and support each other in reciprocity.

### **BE SUSTAINABLE**

We govern using a sustainable, democratic, just, inclusive and values-based management model for decision-making and accountability. We strive for financial sustainability by relying on a mix of paid and volunteer labour and by seeking ongoing funding from external partners who share our vision.

### **INVITE IN, VENTURE OUT**

In order for everyone to flourish, we are diverse and inclusive. We encourage involvement by all members across the university. We welcome and actively engage our neighbours and members of the broader community including other educators, organizations and individuals. We seek expertise and help from professionals and in reciprocity participate in and contribute to regenerative food networks.

### **LIVE OUR LEARNING**

An edible landscape is a demonstration site that connects the land and food systems to the Royal Road University's Learning, Teaching and Research Model (LTRM) and the university mission. The transformative nature of an education that understands the whole earth system as intelligent and alive, and knowledge as a living thing, can be life-changing and planet-shaping. Regenerative food production that governs and honours the exchange of life for life, celebrates not only the transformational nourishment of terroir in providing an academic life that is abundant by its very nature, but is conciliatory through its actions.