



SOIL

outdoor learning lab

Growing an inspired community.

A project of



Mission & Vision

The SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab is on a mission to cultivate a public outdoor growing facility rooted in:

- community engagement
- educational and economic opportunity
- multigenerational collaboration
- cultural and ecological stewardship
- healthy living practices.

SOIL aspires to realize this mission by designing and developing an innovative horticulture and education facility to benefit the entire community of Southwest Colorado.



Project Background- Ohana Kuleana Community Garden

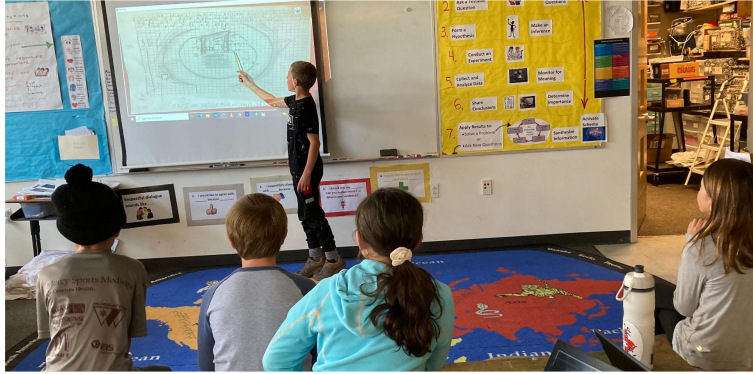
- Established by The Garden Project of SW Colorado in 2012.
- Provided a space for community members to grow food, congregate, collaborate, and learn from each other and experts from the community.
- Property placed on the real estate market and the Ohana Kuleana Community Garden was closed in 2022.



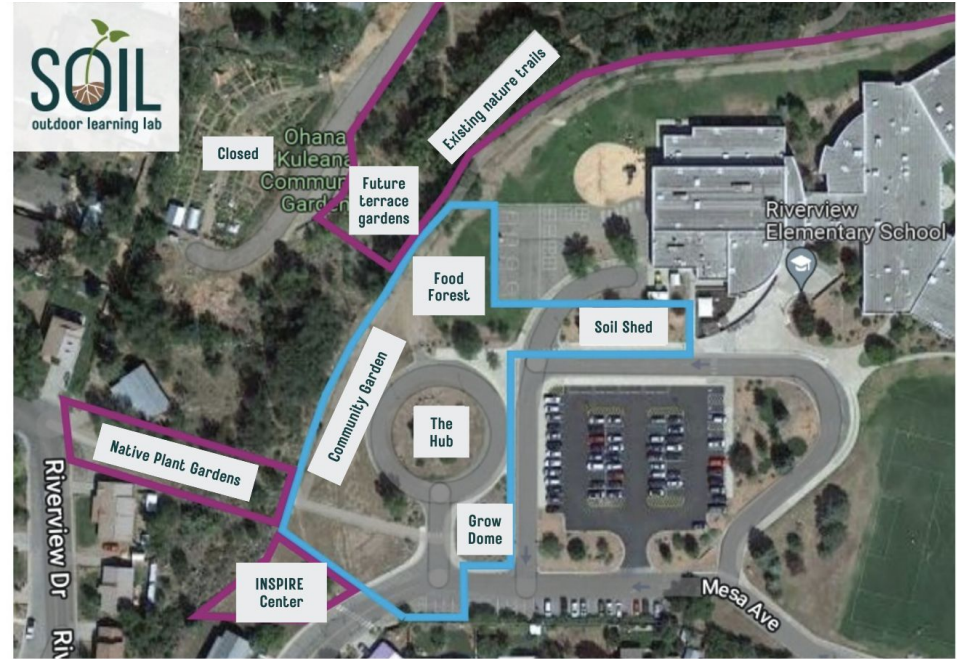
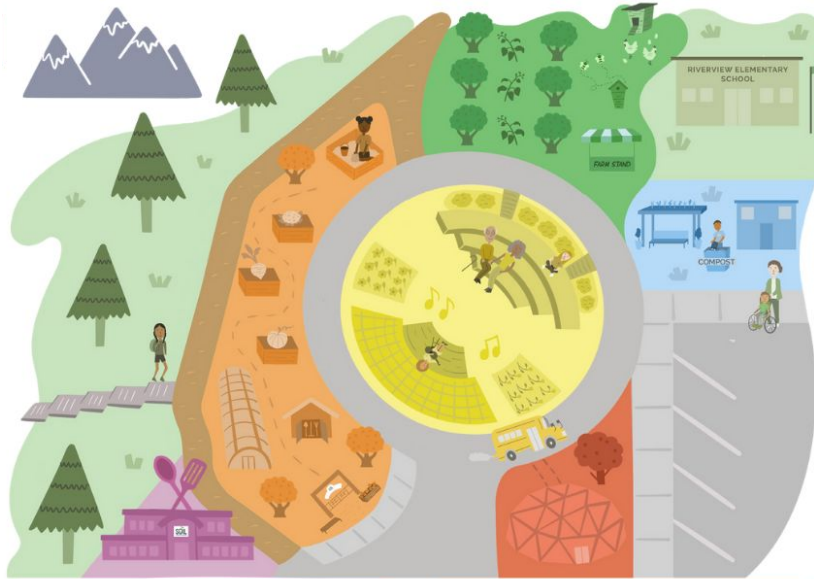
GARDEN SITE



Students Planning



Site Plan, Aerial Photo



— Current SOIL boundaries

— Future SOIL expansion

Funding Mechanisms

Capital expense funding sources:

Individual donors- \$392,000

Business sponsorships (cash and in kind)- \$68,000

Grants-

\$20,000 (EATFAIR La Plata)

\$72,000 (CO Garden Foundation)

City of Durango- \$25,000

CSU Extension/La Plata County 4-H- \$50,000

Moniker Foundation - \$20,000

Operational expenses:

Project Director- position funded by Durango School District 9R

Garden Manager- position funded by City of Durango

Facility maintenance- funded by Durango School District 9R and garden bed rental fees

Portable restroom facility- provided by City of Durango

Utility bills- paid by Durango School District 9R



Community Garden Construction

**SEPT -OCT
2022**



Site preparation

**NOV-FEB
2022**



Fence construction

**MARCH
2023**



Water & electric
lines installed

**APRIL
2022**



Volunteers built
87 garden beds

**MAY
2023**



Irrigation installed and
beds prepared

**JUNE
2023**



Garden opened
with ribbon cutting

**JULY-AUGUST
2023**



Shade pavilion and
rainwater garden built

**SEPTEMBER
2023**



Time to harvest!

Community Garden Programming





\$175,000

Funded!

Grow Dome

- Year-round growing
- Innovative horticulture methods & research
- STEM lessons and growing demonstrations for the public



SOIL Grow Dome

- Utilizes local, low-carbon-footprint growing space
- Maximizes water use efficiency & resources
- Uses abundant CO₂ from nearby & growing operations

Construction date: Spring 2015 Construction cost: \$150,000

Site: 10000th Avenue, Durango, CO



Made possible in partnership with

COLORADO GARDEN FOUNDATION

SouthWest Colorado Educational Collaborative

LA PLATA COUNTY
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

\$350,000



The Hub

- Education pavilion and public gathering space
- Gardens available for public harvesting
- Sustainability demonstration gardens
- Solar array, EV charging, sustainable energy education

The Hub



The Hub





\$150,000

Food Forest & Agriculture Lab

- Permaculture/regenerative agriculture practices Edible plants and fruit trees
- Animal husbandry
- Farm market stand



Soil Shed

- Interpretive signs revealing the secret world of soil
- Advanced composting system and soil analysis lab
- Sustainable construction techniques utilizing earthen materials



INSPIRE Center

- Commercial/demonstration kitchen
- Indoor growing area
- Classroom/workshop space
- School and community programs/events

Want to get involved?

- Come for a visit or a tour during open garden hours, Wednesdays 6-7pm
- Join our volunteer list to help with programs and upcoming projects
- Attend our monthly public workshops and other community events!

Follow us on social media!

Instagram



Facebook



Sign up for The Lab Report, our quarterly newsletter!



The Lab Report

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Grow Dome Coming in 2024!

We have officially reached our fundraising goal of \$175,000 for construction of a 42' Growing Spaces Grow Dome. We are thrilled to announce that we will be building a Grow Dome at the SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab in 2024!



Grow Domes are geodesic dome greenhouses designed for sustainable, year-round gardening. After reaching our fundraising goal, we expect to begin site preparation and construction before the school year ends.



Making the Portrait of a Graduate Come Alive:

Exploring Sustainability in an Innovative Growing Space

“We’re going to have a model, where you guys are going to be the plants. We’re going to imagine ...”

