



SOIL

outdoor learning lab

Growing an Inspired Community

The Lab Report

Winter 2023



Now Hiring



Grow your career with us!

Now Hiring for
GARDEN MANAGER POSITION

The Garden Manager will create a solid foundation from which to nurture the SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab community garden program. **The ideal candidate for this position will be versed in systems creation, organization and management, and will believe in and be excited to promote the mission and potential of the [SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab](#):** to grow a garden-based program that is rooted in community engagement, educational and economic opportunity, multigenerational collaboration, cultural and ecological stewardship, and healthy living practices.

This position is eligible for the [9R hiring bonus](#) and is scheduled to begin by March 1, so apply today!

[Riverview Community Garden Manager Job Listing](#)

Learn More & Apply
Here

Seasonal Bed Rentals Coming

SOIL Community Garden bed rentals will be available through Durango Parks & Recreation later this month. Watch your email for the link once it goes live.



Join the new SOIL Community!



contact@SoilLab.org

SoilLab.org



Visit our website
to sign up for SOIL news.

Rent an individual garden bed for our
inaugural growing season, June–October, 2023

NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

REGISTER THROUGH PARKS AND REC WITH REGISTRATION #126010-40.

\$60/garden bed for the season includes:

- 4' x 12' bed, ready to plant, with automated irrigation
- Access 7 days/week during daylight hours
- Parking nearby
- Secure, with deer-proof fencing
- Access to harvest from cooperative garden areas

Join us for public workshops starting in May!

Current and upcoming phases of the SOIL project



PHASE 1
Community and School Garden



PHASE 2
Demonstration Gardens
and Event Space



PHASE 3
Growing Dome



PHASE 4
Food Forest and Farm Lab

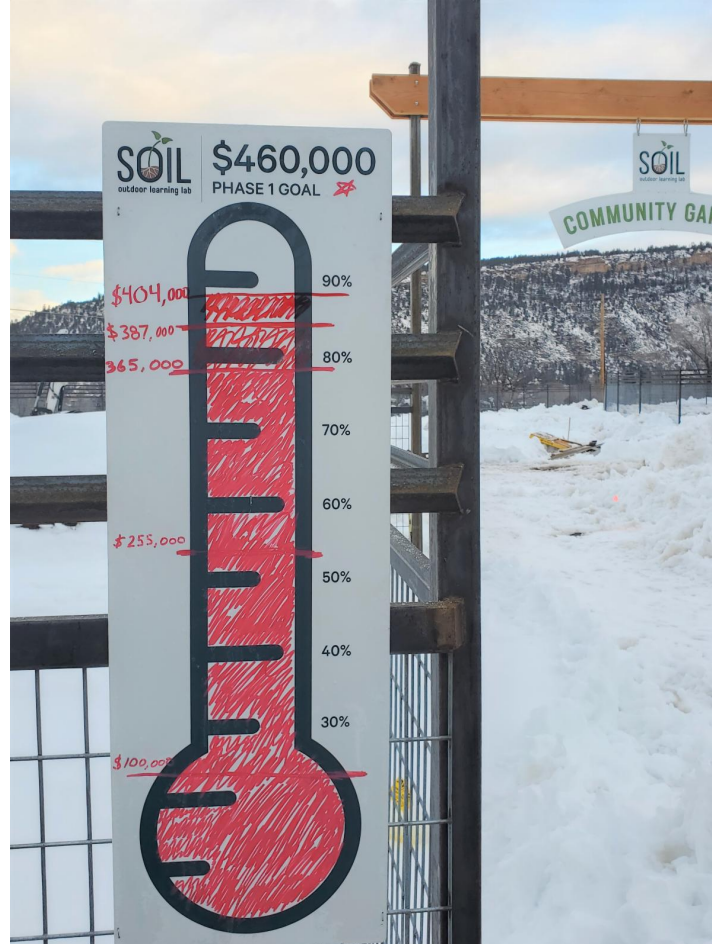


PHASE 5
SOIL
Learning Center



Sparks flying on January 24...the fence is almost completed!

The SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab recently surpassed the \$400,000 mark in the drive to our total budget goal of \$460,000 for the Phase 1 Community Garden! Thank you to all our donors and supporters!



The funds raised so far have (or will) fund: 800 feet of custom steel fencing and gates, site grading and preparation, 150 feet of horizontal directional drilling under Mesa Avenue for a new water line and meter to the site, almost 70 raised garden beds with automated water-conserving drip irrigation and premium soil, a new electrical service, rough installation of utilities to service future project phases, a tool shed, a 12'x20' high tunnel greenhouse, ADA accessible pathways throughout, wheelchair accessible garden beds, interactive art exhibits, and a portable bathroom.

We're so Close! Help Us Reach Our Phase I Fundraising Goal

Achieving our fundraising goal will require another \$56,000 which will be used to build a 400 sq. ft. shade pavilion/gathering space/outdoor classroom (\$35,000) and outdoor cooking area (\$21,000).

The shade pavilion will be a place for anyone to take a break from working in the hot sun or to seek shelter from a storm, a place for experts in various fields to provide lectures and workshops, a place for students to sit comfortably and work on a project or activity, or for an entire class to work through an investigation together.

The outdoor cooking area will enable us to not only teach how to grow food and care for our land, but also how to prepare healthy meals from your own harvest. And, nothing brings people together like food!



Phase I summer 2023 rendering

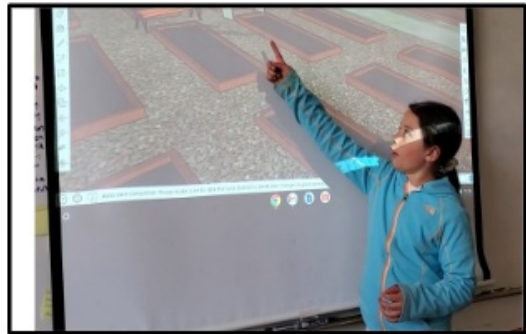
[Donate Today](#)

We are so excited to see how your input and support have already grown SOIL beyond our initial imaginings, and can't wait to see how we **grow an inspired community together!**

Shout Outs

There are so many people to thank for the incredible design and fast progress toward funding and building the SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab! First, there are the **students, families, and community members who made the Ohana Kuleana Community Garden such a success over the past 10 years** and, with its closing, inspired the SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab project. Kudos to **Rod Barker** who saw the potential for an innovative, world-class garden-centered facility at Riverview Elementary (his alma mater) and provided the seed money to get it started. **Our**

Superintendent, Dr. Karen Cheser, quickly joined and expanded on the vision, with a desire to create a place of impactful learning for all 9R students and the entire regional education community. **Lauren Thompson**, having seen her own children benefit from Riverview's garden program and the role that OKCG served for the community, created a fund for matching donations (still available) to encourage folks to jump on board and donate. All of this set the stage for the amazing progress that has occurred over the past 16 months as countless **community** members, organizations, businesses, **9R personnel**, the **City of Durango**, and **students** have contributed creative design ideas, volunteered time, made donations and sponsorships, and created a path forward in building what promises to be a shining jewel, or should we say fertile ground, for inspiration in our community. Thanks to all who have pitched in!!!



Student design teams in action!



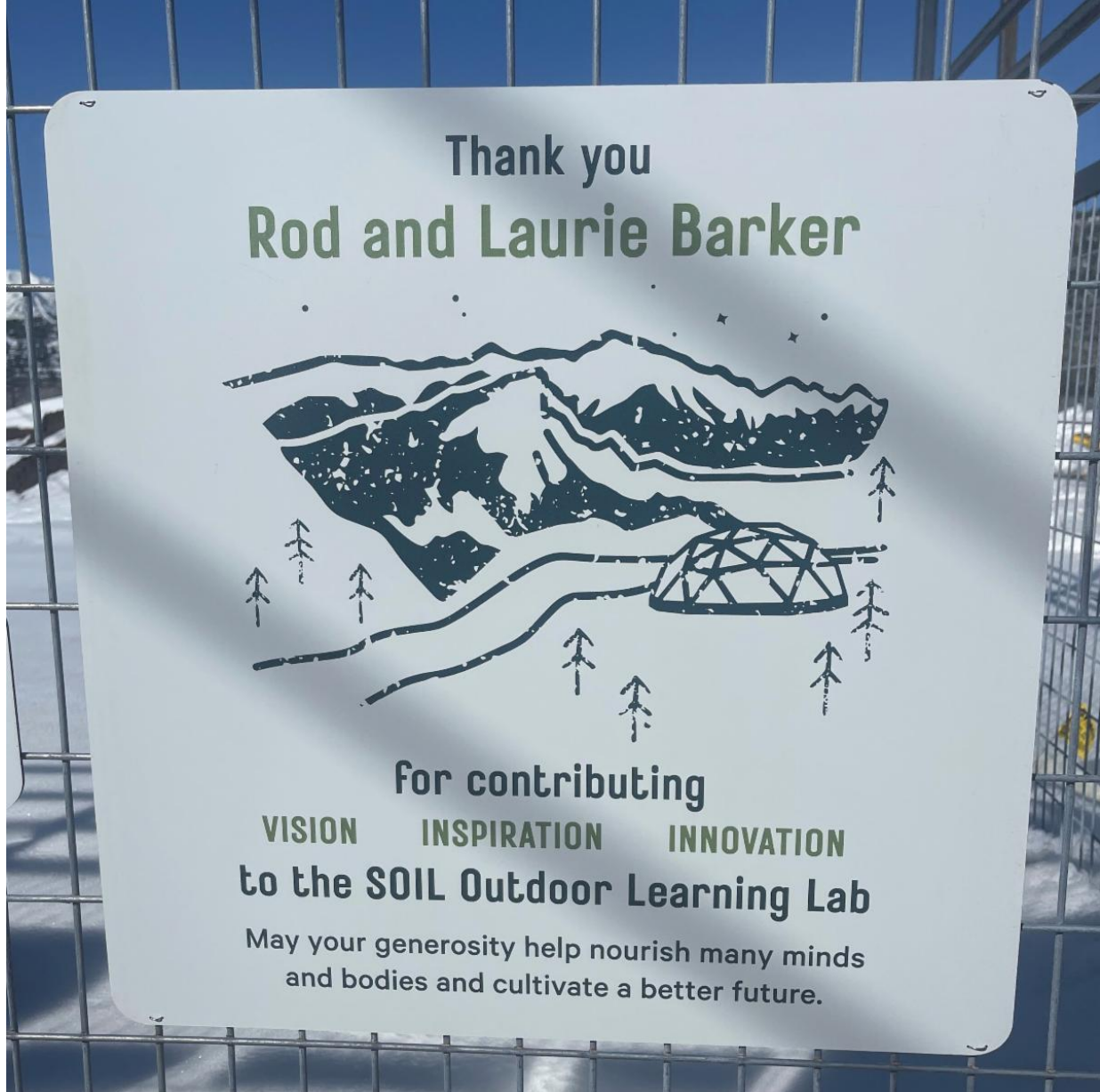
SOIL Sponsors

Join the Club!



As we approach full funding for Phase 1 of SOIL, we look forward to hopefully breaking ground on Phase 2 later this year. With the Cultivation Club, each donation of \$1,000 will be matched to double your impact as we aim to garner 100 donations of \$1,000! A huge thank you to donor Lauren Thompson for her generosity, and to those that have already joined the Club.

[Join the Cultivation Club](#)



Thank you to Rod and Laurie Barker for laying the foundation for SOIL and helping us cultivate a better future for all.

Year-Round Garden Inspo for Good

Forging Time is making it easy to remember when to start your seedlings and plant those bulbs! This cool garden planning calendar specifically for growing zones 5 and 6 includes vibrant photos and all the reminders you need for year-round home-grown bounty. The project originator is a Riverview family, and have **committed to donating 10% of their profits to SOIL!** It's the perfect time of year to secure your growing calendar and to consider gifting some to others...shipping is free!

[Forging Time Year-Round Gardening Calendar](#)



Help Us
Grow

SOILLab.org



This newsletter was lovingly designed and assembled by [Biscuit Creative](#)

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