

## What a Difference a Year Makes!

If you visited the garden on May 22nd, 2023, you would have seen open irrigation trenches and stacked garden beds waiting to be installed, and felt an abundance of nervous energy with the ongoing question of whether the garden would be ready for opening day, just one week away. Throughout the Spring, over 300 community volunteers worked alongside SOIL staff and contractors with dogged determination and unwavering commitment to create a thriving growing space for everyone across Southwest Colorado... and yes, we made it to opening day!



May 2023



Fast forward to today, one year later, and a visit to the garden features a different type of energy, groups of joy-filled students learning on field trips and community gardeners excitedly tending to their early season crops.

**“I LOVE KALE!” & “I want to do this EVERY DAY!” ~Park Elementary 3rd graders**

**“I learned that there are a lot of invasive plants and that bringing native plants back would be great. I also learned what impact a community garden has on people.” ~Escalante Middle School 7th grader**



**“I’m just so grateful to have this space to get my hands in the dirt, grow food, and connect with my community.” ~Community Gardener**

May 2024

In the past year, SOIL has hosted 44 field trips where over 2,000 students (Pre-K through college) engaged in hands-on activities designed to align with CO state academic standards as well as sustainable agriculture, environmental stewardship practices, principles of community, and Durango 9R Portrait of a Graduate competencies.

With field trips wrapping up this week, the garden will continue to bustle with community members tending their garden plots, free workshops & events (more on this below!) and partner organizations utilizing the space throughout the summer.

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## FREE Family-Friendly Garden Workshop Series!

We are excited to continue growing and enriching our community, which leads to a big announcement... we are hosting our first **Free Community Garden Workshop Series this year!** These garden-themed workshops will occur monthly at the SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab and will feature an interactive workshop along with a fun garden activity for kids.

This new series marks a significant step in expanding our programming beyond school field trips, offering free and engaging opportunities for the entire community to connect and learn here at the garden. In addition to workshops on the dates listed below, **the garden is open to the public every Wednesday from 6:00-7:00pm!**



The graphic features the SOIL logo on the left, which includes a stylized plant growing from a soil mound. To the right of the logo is the title "2024 Garden Workshop Series" in a large, bold, dark teal font. Below the title is a line of text: "These FREE family-friendly community workshops are held from 6:00-7:00pm on the dates listed below at the SOIL Community Garden. Each workshop will also feature an activity for kids!". Below this text are eight rounded rectangular boxes, each containing a date and a workshop title. The dates are: April 17, May 3, June 6, July 10, August 7, September 4, October 2, and November 6. The workshop titles are: "Healthy Soil for a Flourishing Garden", "Land Blessing & Mother Patch", "Water Conservation & Gardening", "Weeds, friend or foe?", "Garden & Gut, Microbiomes Collide", "Preserve Your Harvest", "Prepping Gardens for Winter Rejuvenation", and "Growing Season Reflection". At the bottom of the graphic is a decorative border consisting of several small green plants growing from brown soil mounds.

**SOIL** **2024 Garden Workshop Series**

These FREE family-friendly community workshops are held from 6:00-7:00pm on the dates listed below at the SOIL Community Garden. Each workshop will also feature an activity for kids!

<b>April 17</b> Healthy Soil for a Flourishing Garden	<b>May 3</b> Land Blessing & Mother Patch	<b>June 6</b> Water Conservation & Gardening	<b>July 10</b> Weeds, friend or foe?
<b>August 7</b> Garden & Gut, Microbiomes Collide	<b>September 4</b> Preserve Your Harvest	<b>October 2</b> Prepping Gardens for Winter Rejuvenation	<b>November 6</b> Growing Season Reflection

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**Community Concert to Benefit SOIL on July 3rd!**

# COMMUNITY CONCERTS

@ The Powerhouse

2024

## PEOPLE WE KNOW

Supporting SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab

July 3rd at 5pm

tickets available at [powsci.org](https://powsci.org) + at the door



SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab was recently selected by The Powerhouse as one of 10 community nonprofit organizations to benefit from their 2024 Community Concert Series! Please join us on July 3rd at 5:00pm for a fun evening of music by local band, People We Know.

Tickets are available in advance on [powsci.org](https://powsci.org) or at the door on the day of the concert. Tickets grant access to the concert and to The Powerhouse gallery. Concerts will be held on the riverfront plaza, unless we are forced to proceed inside due to inclement weather.

### Tickets prices\* are listed below:

- Single ticket, in advance: \$12.50
- Single ticket, at door: \$15
- Family ticket (two adults and the children in the household), in advance: \$35
- Family ticket (two adults and the children in the household), at door: \$40

\*50% of ticket proceeds for the concert on July 3rd go directly to SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab

### Seeking Event Sponsors

We are currently recruiting one or more \$500 sponsors for this fun evening of music, friends, and celebrating community!

Sponsors will be recognized in our newsletter, in social media content, as well as on the day of the concert. Sponsors will also receive 4 free tickets to the



concert and an invitation to share more about your business or organization at a table on the plaza during the event, if desired.



Yes, that's raw rhubarb!

[Buy Concert Tickets Here!](#)

## Local Collaborator Spotlight: Mountain Studies Institute



In this quarter's Non-Profit Collaborator Spotlight, we are excited to feature [Mountain Studies Institute](#) (MSI), an independent non-profit mountain research and education center founded in 2002 in Silverton, Colorado.

MSI plays a vital role in addressing environmental issues facing the San Juan Mountains through scientific research, educational opportunities, and environmental monitoring. Their commitment to connecting scientists and stakeholders ensures that their work has a meaningful impact on both our environment and communities.

We are particularly grateful for MSI's support of our SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab field trips, where their staff led activity stations, guiding elementary students in making native seed "cookies" and creating a Rocky Mountain Bee Plant nursery to support native plants in our local environment. This hands-on experience

enriched students' understanding of native ecosystems, thanks to MSI's shared expertise and resources.



Thank you, MSI staff & vistas!

**Currently, MSI is recruiting students in K-12 for the *Rising Rivers Stewards Network!*** Please register at <https://www.mountainstudies.org/risingriverstewards>.

We are proud to partner with Mountain Studies Institute. To get more information about their Mountain Learning programs, go to <https://www.mountainstudies.org>, subscribe to their newsletter, or check them out on [Instagram](#).



Donate toward Future Phases

Volunteer with us!

[SoilLab.org](https://SoilLab.org)

SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab | 2900 Mesa Ave. Riverview Elementary School Campus | Durango, CO 81301 US

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