

## 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.



**With the addition of a 42 ft diameter Grow Dome in 2024, SOIL will be introducing:**

- Year-round field trips, community events, workshops and volunteer opportunities
- 1400 square feet of additional growing space
- Public demonstration of climate-controlled growing techniques
- New opportunities for innovative, hands-on STEM learning experiences for students across Southwest Colorado
- Plants that are normally unable to thrive in our local growing season
- Aquaponic system to cycle nutrients between fish and plants

This exciting new phase of SOIL would not have been possible without the following valued partners,



and these generous donors:

Seth & Jodi  
Furtney

Darcy Hitchcock &  
Dale Graham

Chelsea & Garrit  
Murphree

## Local Collaborator Spotlight: Good Food Collective



Reduce waste, protect bears, feed community...

The Good Food Collective's Community Harvest Program coordinates opportunities for community members to harvest unwanted fruit from fruit trees throughout La Plata County each fall. The organization then distributes the rescued fruit throughout our community through food assistance sites, local events, organizations and businesses. This fall, SOIL received hundreds of pounds of apples from the Community Harvest Program to incorporate into lessons on field trips.

We are proud to partner with Good Food Collective. To learn more about their Community Harvest Program, go to <https://www.goodfoodcollective.org/fruit-gleaning>, subscribe to their newsletter, or keep an eye out for them on [Instagram](#).

[Check out students enjoying fresh pressed apple cider and dutch oven apple crisp from rescued apples...YUM!](#)

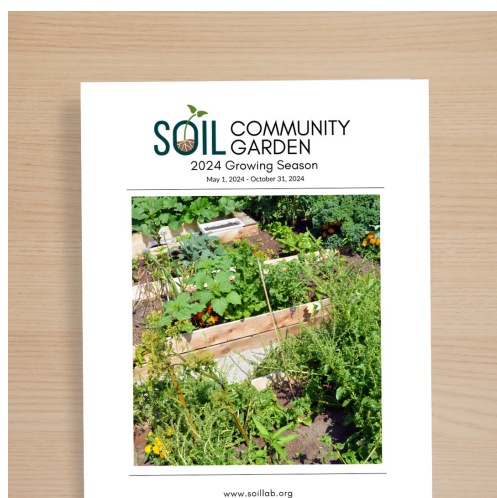
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### Where does the food go?

A major bonus of teaching kids and gathering community in such a big, beautiful garden is abundant food production. In 2023, approximately 2720 pounds of produce was harvested from over 90 garden beds!



## 2024 Garden Bed Rentals Available Feb. 28th



2024 Garden bed rental will be active on Wednesday, February 28th through Durango Parks and Recreation's Spring/Summer Activity Registration System

Registration fee is \$60, and provides members with a 12'x4' garden bed, premium soil, protective fencing, and access during daytime hours.

The 2024 garden season will be from May 1, 2024 through October 31st, 2024.

You can find detailed registration information in the City of Durango Parks & Recreation Spring/Summer Activity guide or by searching the registration website for the following activity code: 226010-40.

For more information email the Garden Manager, Allison Riederer, at [ariederer@durangoschools.org](mailto:ariederer@durangoschools.org) or visit [SoilLab.org](http://SoilLab.org).



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

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