
A flourishing garden welcomes students back from summer break!

This week we officially launched our 2024-2025 field trip programming at the garden by hosting 54 eager 5th grade students from Needham Elementary School.

This year, all Durango 9R teachers are invited to schedule a field trip to the SOIL Community Garden. Last school year SOIL staff hosted field trips for over 1,800 9R students with plans to serve even more this year!



Kindergarteners learning what is inside the "secret world of soil"



We are grateful to have benefited from over 1,000 collective volunteer hours this past year. SOIL volunteers have helped with everything from building and installing garden beds to leading activity stations on field trips, and plenty of things in between!

We are currently recruiting volunteers for the following two BIG efforts at the SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab in the next month.

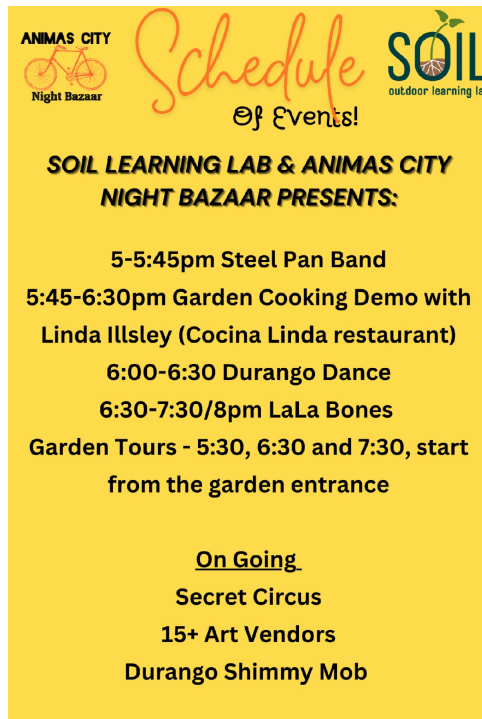
Animas City Night Bazaar @ SOIL 9/25 5pm-8pm. Volunteers at the Night Bazaar will

help the SOIL staff execute the event. Volunteer tasks for this event will include parking direction, helping with an apple pressing activity, selling burritos and ice cream at a SOIL fundraising booth, and serving as friendly garden and grow dome ambassadors for all of the event attendees who are new to the SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab. [Register to volunteer at the Animas City Night Bazaar @ SOIL here!](#)

The Grow Dome Soil Schlep 10/19, 9am-12pm and/or 12:30pm-3:30pm. The Grow Dome frame is built. Garden beds and irrigation lines have been installed. We are ready to fill those beds with soil! On Saturday, October 19th, we will be hosting a big volunteer party to "schlep" all of the soil into the garden beds before closing in the dome. Volunteers at this event should be prepared to move soil components into the Grow Dome using wheelbarrows and 5 gallon buckets. You'll also learn about techniques and ingredients for making a nutrient rich, living garden soil. [Register to volunteer on 10/19 here!](#)

To stay informed on future opportunities, [sign up for our Volunteer Crew here!](#)

Upcoming FREE Community Events at SOIL!



ANIMAS CITY Night Bazaar **Schedule of Events!** SOIL outdoor learning lab

SOIL LEARNING LAB & ANIMAS CITY NIGHT BAZAAR PRESENTS:

- 5-5:45pm Steel Pan Band
- 5:45-6:30pm Garden Cooking Demo with Linda Illsley (Cocina Linda restaurant)
- 6:00-6:30 Durango Dance
- 6:30-7:30/8pm LaLa Bones
- Garden Tours - 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30, start from the garden entrance

On Going
Secret Circus
15+ Art Vendors
Durango Shimmy Mob

We are excited to share that we are hosting the final [Animas City Night Bazaar](#) of the 2024 season **at the SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab from 5-8pm on Wednesday, September 25th!**

The theme for this event is **Cultivating Community** so grab a blanket and **join us for a community picnic with fun activities, live performances from La La Bones and Steel Pan Band, a garden cooking demo, garden tours, food trucks and creative vendors.**

Please note that alcohol, smoking, and dogs are not allowed on school district property and can not be included in the event.



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!

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

Our **Free Drop-in Garden Workshop** series is continuing for another 2 months! Our next

workshop will be October 2nd from 6-7pm. At this event we will be discussing techniques for putting your garden "to bed" for the winter so that it's ready for spring planting.

Our final workshop of the season is scheduled for November 6th from 6-7pm. At this workshop we will be discussing how to reflect on and learn from your growing season, regardless of how successful it was, and get a head start on next season's efforts!

SOIL is proud to be offering these 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** until October 31st.

How are the Phases of the SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab Funded?



The SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab relies on the generosity of individuals, businesses, and grant-makers from across the country for our capital funds (the money we use to build each phase!).

Over the past 3 months SOIL has raised over \$52,000 to kick off fundraising for our next phase, The SOIL Hub. We are grateful to several generous individuals and the following organizations for their contributions toward our goals: Moniker Family Foundation, Kiwanis Club, High Noon Rotary Club, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durango, and The Michael and Elaine Moravan Foundation.

Check out our plans for The Hub at SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab [HERE!](#)

Key features planned for our next exciting phase, The Hub, are:

- An education pavilion with public gathering space
- Abundant gardens available to anyone for harvesting
- Cultural and medicinal demonstration gardens
- A micro-grid solar array with hands-on education stations

Become a sponsor for The Hub

Local Collaborator Spotlight: Animas City Night Bazaar

Animas City Night Bazaar (ACNB), is an



independent non-profit that hosts free community events aiming to activate underutilized spaces, support the local artisan economy, and build community around the North Main District of Durango, historically referred to as Animas City.

Animas City Night Bazaar events happen on the last Wednesday of each month June through September from 5-8pm. These evening outdoor gatherings feature art, community (that's YOU!), performances, live music, games, contests, and fun for all ages!

Don't forget to add the final Animas City Night Bazaar event to your calendar:
[Wednesday, September 25th 5-8pm at SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab!](#)

A Big Shoutout to Builders FirstSource!



In this quarter's Sponsor Shoutout is [Builders FirstSource](#)! Rich and his team are enthusiastic supporters of the SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab and other wonderful community projects throughout the region.

“Builders FirstSource is a company that values involvement in the local community. Programs such as The SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab and 4-H help our local communities and Builders FirstSource is honored to be a part of these projects.” ~Rich Barker, General Manager

We have been grateful for Rich and his team's support and expertise throughout the process of constructing not only our brand new 42ft diameter grow dome, but also all of the custom garden beds inside. Thank you Builders FirstSource!

Smile while you scroll

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The SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab has both [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts. Follow us to stay informed on what's happening in the garden each week!



SoilLab.org



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