



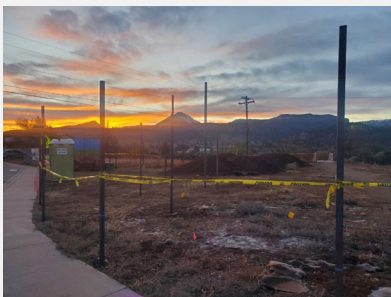
A perfect location for this community resource



"Kids, design your dream garden!"



Scheduled to open for Summer 2023



11/7/23 Site prepared and 80 fence posts set thanks to Riverview Landscaping and Sol-Tek

Phase 1: Building a Community Garden, Shaping the Future

Imagine an outdoor learning lab rooted in community engagement, education and economic opportunity, multigenerational collaboration, cultural and ecological stewardship, and healthy living practices.

In the Fall of 2021 a science teacher, a superintendent, a Parks and Rec director, a few hundred elementary school students, and a handful of community members began dreaming of what has become the Soil Outdoor Learning Lab.

A year later: business sponsors and private donors have stepped up to get the project started, Durango School District 9R has provided the real estate and stands fully behind the project, Durango Parks and Recreation has partnered to realize the community garden aspect of the project, The Hive is poised to "create & pollinate", the student scientists (kinder-college) and gardeners of Durango are getting excited to dig in, construction has begun . . . and now we want you to join us!

Check out the [website](#) to find out what the future of SOIL looks like, how to get involved, and to stay updated.

"We are excited about this opportunity for ALL of our students and ALL community members. SOIL will blend authentic learning and meaningful experience with a focus on sustainability to benefit our community and our world, making an impact for generations to come."

—DR. KAREN CHESER, SUPERINTENDENT,
DURANGO SCHOOL DISTRICT 9-R

Our First Event: SOIL Art Contest

You are invited to a gallery walk, public judging, and award ceremony

Who: K-12 students were invited to enter, finalists have been selected to have their art displayed on weatherproof prints at the garden*

What: Create art to answer "How Can a Garden Help YOU Grow?"

Where: SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab at Riverview Elementary School

When: 3:30-5:00pm on Nov. 15

Why: Community + Art + Vision + Gardens = Health & Happiness

How: Drop in, vote for your favorite art, see the progress on the SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab, and enjoy refreshments provided by Bread!



**Congratulations to the following SOIL Art Contest finalists: Larkyn Sarver (10th grade), Rael Tafoya (kindergarten), Avonlea Albrecht (4th grade), Evan McKeon (6th grade), Rachel Agers (11th grade), Peter Burnett (3rd grade), Samina Weink (8th grade), Bailey Holgate (1st grade), Aspen Winters (3rd grade), Gary Provencher (2nd grade), Kinzley Taylor (kindergarten), Rye Standifer (9th grade), Sydney Vasser (10th grade), Alice Strich (1st grade), Lily Owen (6th grade) Rylan Lile (4th grade), Camille Tobin (3rd grade), Alyssa Hugentobler (5th grade), Cooper Kling (3rd grade), Hailey Woodward (10th grade), Sasha Zaykovska (3rd grade), Jaya Holland (4th grade), Emmie Wyatt (5th grade), Hope Stalnaker (1st grade), Tessa Brull (2nd grade), and Hannah Kimple (10th grade).*

25 Incredible Benefits of Gardening, from HappyDIYHome, March 27, 2022

Gardening is much more than a hobby or fun pastime. In fact, there are many proven benefits of gardening that people enjoy. No matter if you're a hobby gardener or a professional-level horticulturist, spending time out digging in the dirt and caring for your plants, you too can enjoy these various benefits of gardening . . . [Full article](#)

Thanks to the following SOIL sponsors and donors for helping to make the SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab possible:
Rod and Laurie Barker, Lauren Thompson, Riverview Landscaping, City of Durango, DHM Desing, Interface Architecture, Sol-Tek, Gaia Creative, Woodchuck Tree Service, Zia Taqueria, Sage Fresh Eats, Cream Bean Berry

Project partners: Durango School District 9R, Durango Education Foundation, Durango Parks and Recreation, The Hive

Receive SOIL news, updates, and opportunities (click here)

Visit our website- SoilLab.org (click here)

SOIL Outdoor Learning Lab | Riverview Elementary School Campus
2900 Mesa Avenue, Durango CO 81301 | contact@SoilLab.org

SoilLab.org