



**Healthy Acres
Healthy Communities
Foundation**

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Dear friends,

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to the first quarterly update of the **Healthy Acres Healthy Communities Foundation**. The foundation is the philanthropic partner of the Missoula County Weed District & Extension. We are dedicated to creating an engaged community that cultivates vibrant, thriving urban and rural lands for future generations by supporting MCWDE programs in the areas of land management, youth development, and family and consumer sciences.

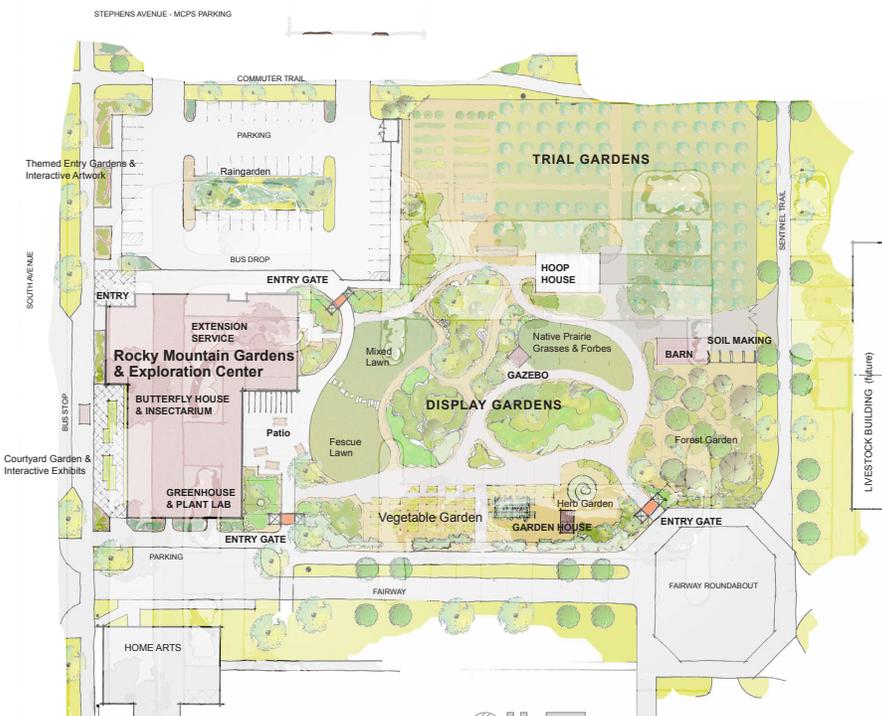
Our future home at the Rocky Mountain Gardens & Exploration Center will be an incredible place to engage our community in the many programs we support. From 4-H and Master Gardeners to exciting new and expanded programs including the Plant Clinic, Junior Gardeners and educational opportunities with our partner, the Missoula Butterfly House & Insectarium, the Exploration Center will be the place we can all go to deepen our connection to our rural roots in the heart of Missoula.

As the foundation is laid for the Exploration Center and plans finalized for the 2.5 acres of education gardens, we are increasing our program support to meet the growing interest in urban farms, plant and pollinator education, local food sources and nutrition, and meal prep and preserving. We invite you to join us in supporting these programs to create a more vibrant and naturally connected Missoula.

Thank you for your support!

Bill Caras Bill Caras
HAHC Foundation Chair, Caras Nursery Owner

Check out our new campus at the Missoula County Fairgrounds!



"In the coming months, we look forward to engaging community gardening groups and other enthusiasts to accomplish the vision for these one-of-kind gardens. They will be the gem of the Garden City," Jerry Marks, MCWDE department head and longtime Missoula County Extension agent.

Learn more about the Rocky Mountain Gardens & Exploration Center at JoinTheBuzzMissoula.org, or by contacting Jean Jenkins at the contact info below.

Pictured above left: The 2021 Youth in Restoration crew work to improve the landscape of Missoula County.

Photo: Alex Kim

Pictured above right: Sandy Perrin, who leads MCWDE's Plant Clinic, scouts for apple skeletonizer damage at a local orchard.

Photo: One Acre Films



Healthy Acres
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Foundation

2825 Santa Fe Ct.
Missoula, MT 59808



The Rocky Mountain Gardens & Exploration Center

future home of

Missoula County
**WEED DISTRICT
& EXTENSION**



Healthy Acres
Healthy Communities
Foundation

and partners

Programs coming to the Exploration Center!

- Weed Prevention & Research
- 4-H
- Youth In Restoration
- Leave No Weeds 5th grade
- Plant Clinic
- Montana Master Gardener Program
- Junior Gardener Program
- Small Farms / Urban Farms Education Program
- Certified Farm Startup Program
- Cooking & Nutrition Classes
- Field Trips & Camps
- Tours & Activities
- Senior Programs
- Lab & Rotating Exhibits
- What's Blooming & Buzzing

“The Rocky Mountain Gardens & Exploration Center is a unique public-private collaboration providing community-centered learning in a way that Montana has not seen before. It will be an economic driver for Missoula and the state. People of all ages and abilities will come to experience the wonder of our natural world.”

— Dr. Shawn F. Clouse,
professor at the University of
Montana College of Business
and co-owner of Pink Grizzly