



Who

Summit Community Gardens is truly a consortium of community members and organizations who share the vision of fostering opportunities to build community and grow local, sustainable food. The steering committee consists of several alumni members of the 2010 Park City Leadership Class, individuals who have ties to organizations such as Summit County, Park City Municipal, Summit Land Conservancy, Snyderville Basin Recreation, and those who simply have a passion for establishing community gardens and helping them grow. Michele Devaney, who works with the Uinta Headwaters RC&D Council, has become the coordinator of our group. The Uinta Headwaters Council has an interest in the project to fulfill one of their goals, which is to assist communities in building sustainable and local food systems that ensure access to affordable, nutritious food.

What

Summit Community Gardens plans to launch and run a neighborhood community garden that will serve as a model in the Park City/Snyderville Basin area. The vision for the garden is to create a place where individuals and families can rent a small garden plot during the spring, summer and fall seasons to grow vegetables, fruits and even flowers in a community setting. We hope to create an environment that welcomes everyone and allows community members who don't have a plot to still be a part of the programming, events and celebrations involving the garden.

When

We will be "tilling the ground" this spring (2011).

Where

We hope to have a network of community gardens in Summit County in the years to come, but this summer we will be starting the first garden on the Koleman parcel off Hwy 224 just north of Canyons Resort entrance and on the east side of the highway. Uinta Headwaters will lease the land from the county, with the support of the Basin Open Space Advisory Committee and the Summit Land Conservancy, who have recommended that the open space conservation easement be written to allow this specific land use along with supporting agricultural uses.

Why

There is a lot of interest in, need for, and resources available for community gardening in the Park City area. In a recent survey conducted in Summit County, 90% of the participants supported a community garden with 35% stating their desire to rent a plot. In addition, community agriculture reduces the distance from origin to table and therefore saves on resources, the environment and has a positive impact on the local economy. It also has a tremendous and unique impact on the community.

Community gardens are less about gardening than they are about community. They offer non-commercial third places outside of work and home where people can gather, network, and identify together as residents of a neighborhood.
(Grover, 2005)