

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
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Join 5B Resilience Gardens in Cultivating Food, Community and Hope

The 5B Resilience Gardens initiative seeks to broaden community access to local gardening resources, enhance visibility of existing and new gardens throughout the community, and cultivate a vibrant gardening community through resource sharing, collaborative events, and education opportunities. The initiative is a collaboration between Hailey Climate Action Coalition, Local Food Alliance, Sawtooth Botanical Garden, University of Idaho Extension & 4-H, Upper Big Wood River Grange, Wood River Community YMCA, Wood River Land Trust, Wood River Seed Library.

“Across the globe, interest in backyard food production is soaring,” says Amy Mattias of Sun Valley Institute. “Google searches for “growing vegetables” are higher than ever before, seed companies are selling out, and consumers are concerned with empty supermarket shelves. As we work to enhance our local food security, gardening plays a key role in personal and community resilience.”

We invite all interested gardeners to join us in one of two info sessions hosted via Zoom. Presenters will discuss resilience gardening’s guiding principles, share visuals of the principles in action, and highlight ways for gardeners to get involved. The first info session will take place on Monday August 10 at 5:30pm, the second on Wednesday August 12 at 10:30am, both via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89461294613>

Join us for our first 5B Resilience Gardens tour at The Hope Garden and the Upper Big Wood River Grange on Thursday August 13 at 1pm. While The Hope Garden has been serving the community for many years, the Grange Garden has just broken ground this past spring. We will tour both, discussing the ways resilience gardening principles are being realized, and how to include additional principles as the gardens continue to grow. Due to COVID concerns, we are limiting the number of participants on this tour. Please register with Amy - amy@sunvalleyinstitute.org to participate. We suggest riding a bicycle, if possible, to reduce our carbon footprint of the tour. Masks are recommended and we will maintain physical distance and be outdoors. We will meet at The Hope Garden, next to the Courthouse on First Avenue, and make our way to the Grange at 609 S. Third Avenue after that, followed by a trip to the Hailey Farmers' Market just across from the Grange at Roberta McKercher Park.

If you would like to be involved in the initiative but are unable to join an info session, please complete a membership survey (<https://forms.gle/Emaj21m2tXhxQt5E6>). Once the survey is completed, a 5B Resilience Gardens representative will provide additional information to each prospective member based upon survey responses.

The 5B Resilience Gardens initiative defines resilience gardening as any level of edible (culinary and medicinal) plant production that is not sold on a commercial scale. This may include potted plants, edible landscape, gardens in yards or larger shared plots. Gardens are unique to each individual and each space. While honoring the diversity and individuality of each garden, it is important to identify guiding principles that all resilience gardens share including food production, pollinator habitat and soil care. To learn more about resilience gardening in Blaine County, please visit our website at: <https://www.localfoodalliance.org/post/5b-resilience-gardens> or email Amy Mattias amy@sunvalleyinstitute.org.

About Sun Valley Institute

5B Resilience Gardens is a project of Local Food Alliance, the Food & Farm Program of Sun Valley Institute. SVI advances resilience by convening the community to identify their greatest risks and opportunities, by developing specific projects to advance together, and by building programs to transform regional food and energy systems, two critical sectors for community resilience. This history of advancing resilience allows SVI to mobilize resources in the face of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Sun Valley Institute is dedicated to supporting our whole community and we are working to connect resources to the people who need them most. Please reach out by email or through our social media with any community needs that you are seeing. For more information, please visit: www.sunvalleyinstitute.org and follow the institute on Twitter @SunValleyInst and Instagram at @SunValleyInstitute and Facebook at facebook.com/sunvalleyinstitute.