

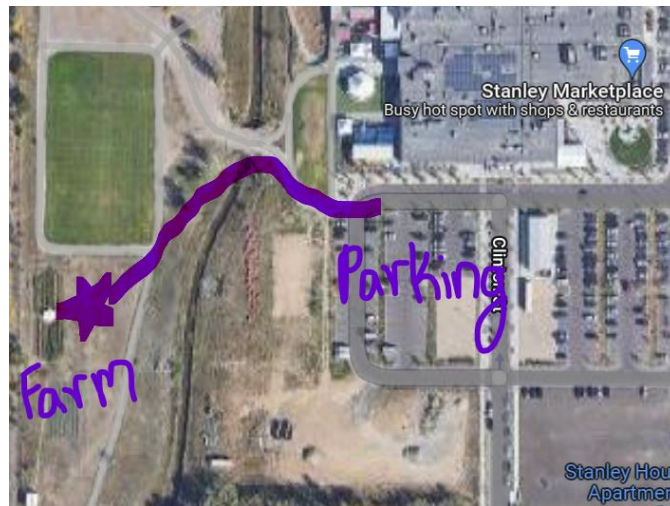
Village Farm Volunteer Program

Village Exchange Center launched Village Farm in 2020, during the peak of the pandemic, to promote economic development and opportunities while tackling food insecurity. Located on a one-acre site, Village Farm is a green jewel in urban Aurora. Situated atop a “brownfield”, a former industrial site, the above-ground gardens beds provide space where Aurora’s immigrant and refugee communities can grow food and community. We work to increase access to fresh and culturally relevant produce while serving as a gathering space for cultural exchange, education, and celebration. The farm transcends socio-economic, geographic, and cultural differences to connect diverse communities to each other and the natural world. None of this would be possible without the support of volunteers!

Volunteer FAQ

Where is the farm located?

Village Farm is located near the Stanley Marketplace at 2501 Dallas Street, Aurora, CO 80010. The best way to access the farm is to park in the south parking lot, near the Stanley Beer Hall. From there walk past the pink Lyft column towards the large playing field on the west side of Stanley. The farm is located just south of the playing field and our main gate is next to our sign at the corner of the farm.





What do I need to bring?

We work in a variety of weather conditions so please check the weather before arriving to the farm. We recommend wearing a hat, comfortable shoes you're ok with getting dirty, and clothing that's weather appropriate. We also recommend bringing a water bottle and snacks. We provide sunscreen, bug spray, water, work gloves, and all tools.

What will I be doing?

What tasks we need help with vary from day to day, but volunteers often help us with weeding, simple construction projects, and on occasion planting and harvesting produce, herbs, and flowers.

What's the itinerary for the day?

We begin every morning with a few rituals to warm up our bodies and minds for a hard day of work. After our morning activities, we will walk you through the tasks that need to be completed that day. We'll then end our time together with a group debrief.

Can I bring my kids or pets to the farm?

We love when folks bring their kids to the farm! **NOTE-DFM can only bring children on the Saturday June 3rd date. And remember to list them in Sign-up Genius.** We just ask that you keep an eye on them for their safety and the safety of our plants. Sadly, as much as we love pets, we ask that they stay at home.

Have additional questions?

Please contact Mikhaela Mullins at mikhaela@villageexchangecenter.org or at 402-613-7042.

Village Farm Group Agreements

Our goal at Village Farm is to be a welcoming and safe space for all. Everyone who comes to the farm is expected to engage with other people, plants, creatures, and the land with respect. We will interrupt oppressive behavior, which we define as any behavior that demeans, marginalizes, rejects, threatens or harms anyone on the basis of their cultural background, ethnicity, immigration status, language, nationality, race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, education, ability, or age.

Presence

Please show up, on time, fully present, and ready to participate in farm activities.

Listening

Actively participate. Actively listen. Silence is okay. Do not assume silence is agreement. Be open and respect different opinions, experiences, and learning styles. Ask questions before assuming. The best way to understand the choices, actions, or intentions of one another is by asking.

Sharing

Share knowledge and skills with our community. No one knows everything. Together we know a lot. Take space, make space for all to participate. Be aware of your prejudices and privileges and allow space for all voices. What's said here stays here, what's learned here leaves here.

Self-Care

Practice self-care. Be patient and gentle with self. If you need to take a break, you can do that. Farming is hard work – both physically and mentally. Take care of yourself.

Non-Violence

There is zero tolerance for violence at Village Farm – including physical and verbal threats, bullying, harassment, assault, relational aggression, and intimidation.

Be aware of both intent and impact. Listen and change your behavior if someone tells you it is causing harm. Call in, not out. When someone behaves in a way that challenges your values, do your best to invite them into awareness rather than dismissing, shaming, or shunning them. Don't be a bystander – support others in upholding our agreements. You don't have to "call in" alone – Village Farm staff can support or do it for you.

Identity

Respect everyone's identity and background, including pronouns and names. Do not assume anyone's gender identity, sexual preference, survivor status, economic status, immigration or documentation status, background, health, etc.

Modified from Soul Fire Farm Agreements