Who We Are

The Towne’s Harvest Garden is a project of the MSU Friends of Local Foods Student Organization.

Friends of Local Foods was formed in the fall of 2006 to bring a diverse group of students and faculty together to raise awareness about local foods and encourage sustainable lifestyles on campus and in the community.

2008 will be our second season at Towne’s Harvest. We will again collaborate with the Gallatin Valley Food Bank to operate at a 2-acre diversified vegetable farm that is a source of locally, sustainably, and educationally grown food for the campus and members of the surrounding community. Our vision includes the following:

- That Towne’s Harvest will be a valuable and permanent part of MSU that is enthusiastically supported by the administration.
- That production, distribution and consumption of Towne’s produce is sustainable.
- That Towne’s is integrated into MSU as a classroom, research laboratory, and source of good food for the campus community.
- That Towne’s inspires students from diverse backgrounds to become involved in sustainable food production and consumption.
- That Towne’s strengthens community food security in Bozeman and the surrounding area, increasing access to fresh nutritious produce for all.
- That Friends of Local Foods remains a strong and active supporting student organization.
- That Towne’s is a fiscally self-reliant operation.

Our CSA Program: what it is and how it works...

CSA is an acronym for Community Supported Agriculture. CSA members pay a set price prior to the growing season and, in this way, share in the risk of farming. Members in return receive a share of the garden’s harvest each week. CSAs are a great way build relationships with your produce growers: you know exactly where your food is coming from and can see how it is grown. In this case, your purchase of a share in this CSA will also support student initiative and interest in local and sustainable food.

Towne’s Harvest Garden offers a 14 week CSA program from June 24 to Sept 23 for $425. This share will feed 4 people. There are 55 memberships available to the public and 25 for the Food Bank, for a total of 80 memberships. We will grow numerous types of produce including peppers, potatoes, carrots, cilantro, basil, parsley, onions, tomatoes, green beans, peas, broccoli, salad mix and more!

Towne’s Harvest Garden membership fees will pay the salaries of 4 student interns. In addition to a weekly bag of fresh produce, your CSA membership will include a weekly newsletter with information about the farm, nutrition facts about the vegetables in the share, and recipes. The produce will be available for pick-up at the farm on Tuesdays from 4-6pm.

Members and others in the community are very welcome to visit Towne’s Harvest or come to volunteer events. The events will be announced in the newsletter and on our Website:

www.townesharvest.montana.edu

Duration of CSA Program 2008:

June 24 — September 23

Cost for entire season:

$425

Why Towne’s Harvest?

The name of the garden connects the history of the land to the present. Towne is the surname of one of five farmers who formerly owned land which was eventually deeded to MSU. The land where the Horticulture Farm and the Towne’s Harvest Garden is located has been nicknamed Towne’s farm for several decades.

The piece of land which became the garden actually belonged to E. Broox and the Ella Martin Farm. It was deeded to MSU in 1909.

As a student group and a part of MSU, we will continue to be good stewards of the farm so that future generations of Montanans can grow food on this land!
Where is the Towne’s Harvest Garden?

The Towne’s Harvest Garden is a 2-acre diversified vegetable plot located at the MSU Horticulture Farm. Look for the Montana Agriculture Experiment Station sign on West College Street between the Advanced Technology Park and the Chronicle Building. Turn south on the gravel road, and cross Garfield Street. The garden is on the east side of road.

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MSU Friends of Local Foods 2007-2008 Officers:

President: Kate Malone
Public Relations VP: Matt Larsen
Communications VP: Cristin Forbes
Treasurer: Rachel Leisso
Garden Chairs: Jennifer Stark & Kaly Hess
Local Food Events Chair: Jamie Gray

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