



Local town plans to build community garden

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By Kristen Conner - [email](#)

RONCEVERTE, W. Va (WVVA)-- People in Ronceverte are gearing up to create a community garden in Island Park.

It will be constructed at the old swimming pool within the park. Ronceverte Mainstreet Committee members said it would be ideal because the fence surrounding the area could protect the garden from deer and other wildlife, as well as keep it safe for students and community members.

The committee plans to fill in the pool and build raised beds for more growing space.

They said they have grants from local organizations to cover the cost of the project.

The Ronceverte Development Corporation is seeking community members who would like to help and get involved. If you are interested, call 304-647-3140.

The following is a press release from the RDC:

PRESS RELEASE:

Main Street Ronceverte (RDC) is excited to collaborate with Downstream Strategies to design and build the Ronceverte Community Garden.

The garden will be located within the 22 acre Island Park in Ronceverte, at the site of the former swimming pool. The property will provide at least one-third acre of fenced planting area for the production fruits, vegetables and specialty crops.

This site will also provide opportunities for community programming such as school tours, sustainable agriculture workshops, and community events celebrating seasonal fruits and vegetables grown in the garden.

The purpose of the project is to provide the residents of Ronceverte, who may live on hilly terrain or in a walkup apartment with access to land that is suitable for growing food. Establishing a community garden in Ronceverte will provide residents with access to land and result in the increased production of specialty and healthy crops, such as fruits and vegetables.

This community garden will also provide Ronceverte youth an opportunity to participate in the garden where they will acquire agricultural skill and sample fresh locally-grown produce. It is widely accepted that these

experiences help develop healthy eating habits and increase the demand for fruits and vegetables.

Main Street Ronceverte (RDC) will establish a Ronceverte Community Garden Association and this group will be responsible for managing the garden and involving the community in its development. The project team envisions that the site will contain a combination of leased family and individual plots, a community-grown plot, a children's garden, raised gardens and a series of "plant-a-row" plots, which will be used to grow food for donation to the community food bank.

This community garden project is a timely addition to an ongoing Eco Community planning process currently taking place in Ronceverte. The garden will benefit from being part of a formalized city-wide plan that includes developing local food opportunities and community agricultural projects. It will also serve as a model for community based agriculture for other small towns throughout West Virginia.

This project is funded through the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, the USDA's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, and funding from the West Virginia Development Office' Growing Healthy Communities grant.

If you are interested in being involved in this project please contact:

Lisa Circle

Main Street Ronceverte (Ronceverte Development Corporation)

304-647-3140 or mainstreetronceverte@gmail.com