

# Dolores Community Heritage Orchard

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## Site Plan

- Re: The Town of Dolores' agreement to provide long term use of approximately one acre of park ground, located off of 2nd Street; east of the playground; and north of the river trail; to Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project (MORP) to be managed by MORP as a heritage community orchard. MORP is incorporated with the State of Colorado and operates under a 501 c fiscal sponsor giving it the ability to enter into MOU or lease agreements for purpose of its mission.
- MORP agrees to manage all aspects of the orchard trees including grafting, planting, pruning, harvesting, ground and tree maintenance, drip system install and maintenance, and interacting with the public via workshops and scheduled events. MORP will initiate and coordinate a community engagement plan to connect local residents, students, businesses, and volunteers to the orchard.
- MORP has secured grant funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to help with MORP's costs to provide ground preparation, perimeter deer fencing, and drip system for trees, associated labor, supplies, and equipment costs. Addition of tree and interpretive signage are in MORP fundraising plans after the orchard is established. MORP will donate all trees to the orchard valuing about \$5,000 made possible by a USDA Specialty Crop Grant.
- MORP paid The Town of Dolores \$4,000 to install a water tap. Park staff agreed that they will mow the orchard ground twice a year as part of their regular activities.
- A highly visible community heritage orchard within the Town of Dolores, located near parks, businesses, residences, schools, and the river trail and tied to the historic orchards within the county, will provide numerous opportunities for a diversity of interested parties to engage with the public, businesses, and community organizations to enhance the overall experience of visiting and living in Dolores and Montezuma County.
- The site has room for about 100 fruit trees on approximately one acre of land. The dirt road used by the town to remove grass from the park will be left outside of the orchard fencing. MORP staff and Randy McGuire, Dolores Maintenance Supervisor, walked the property and established perimeter boundaries in May 2017. Turn over of Dolores Town Managers has delayed this project, however, an MOU between MORP and the town has been secured. The orchard is expected to be established in October of 2019.

