# **STEWARDSHIP PLAN & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FOR HAYSTACK FARMS**

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## **CONTEXT & PURPOSE**

Since the 1960s, the land currently known as Haystack Farms, was part of Boulder County's Haystack Mountain Golf Course until transferring to private residents in 2021. Historically, the land was home to the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, followed by longstanding agricultural use.

To restore the land and promote regenerative agriculture, the current owners partnered with Mad Agriculture, our MENV capstone team, and invited a local farmer to steward part of the land. Together, we focused on researching and planning for land regeneration and sustainable agriculture education, guided by the question: "What does the land want to be?" Our project centered on delivering a stewardship plan and researching and developing various land use concepts to support the land's ecological recovery.



#### MAP OF HAYSTACK FARMS

Layers Include:

- Zones by Permaculture principles
- InfrastructurePlant
- communities
- Water bodies
- Wind direction
- Current Ag Plots

### **STAKEHOLDERS**



#### **PHASE 1: RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT**

DELIVERABLES	METHODOLOGY
OBSERVATIONS & SITE ASSESSMENT	<ul> <li>Client Interviews</li> <li>Report of Observations &amp; Site Survey Including Plant ID and Soil Samples</li> <li>Base Map of Property with Overlays</li> </ul>
RESEARCH ON LOCAL FARMER PERSPECTIVES	<ul> <li>Local Farmer Interviews</li> <li>Local Farmer Survey</li> <li>Summary of Findings</li> </ul>
RESEARCH ON INCUBATOR MODELS	<ul> <li>Interviews of Incubator Employees</li> <li>Secondary Research of Incubators</li> <li>Summary of Findings</li> </ul>

#### **PHASE 2: PLANNING**

DELIVERABLES	METHODOLOGY
HIGH LEVEL LAND USE & STEWARDSHIP PLAN	<ul> <li>Identified 3 Potential Concepts: Land Regeneration, Incubator Farm, &amp; Agricultural Learning Hub.</li> <li>Slide Deck and Pitch of Each Concept</li> <li>Finalized Concept and Drafted Potential Program Roadmap</li> </ul>
IN DEPTH LAND USE & STEWARDSHIP PLAN	<ul> <li>Identified Short-Term Implementations</li> <li>Slide Deck with Options for Implementations</li> </ul>

#### **PHASE 3: IMPLEMENTATION**

DELIVERABLES	METHODOLOGY
30 HRS OF MANUAL LABOR	<ul> <li>Planted Trees and Shrubs</li> <li>Supported Resident Farmer</li> </ul>
LANGUAGE FOR 2-3 GRANT PROPOSALS	<ul> <li>Catalogued Relevant Grants</li> <li>Foundational Language for Grants</li> <li>Application for a Grant</li> </ul>

### IMPACT

Researched 17 incubator models and interviewed 9

Interviewed 6 local farmers and surveyed the Flatirons Young Farmers Coalition

Conducted soil sampling and plant identification

Planted over 100 trees and shrubs

Provided foundational research for a regenerative agriculture learning space

Identified over 10 grants that are relevant to the project

Tabled at three events to promote our project

Hosted two events on the property; a solstice party & a soil workshop

Pitched 3 distinct program concepts and facilitated discussion with stakeholders to finalize the concept and develop a roadmap

## **KEY FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Combine all three of the program concepts to create a regenerative agriculture learning space where diverse groups—ranging from (but not limited to) Pre-K to graduate students, corporate or financial professionals, and agricultural workers—can engage, learn, and develop a relationship with the land around them and broaden their understanding of regenerative agriculture.
- Focus on land regeneration and livestock integration in the short-term to allow land to restore prior to the next land use phase.
- Complete the other recommended short-term implementations in the next 2-3 years to restore ecological health, including: wind row implementation, orchard and earthworks implementation, pollinator strips, prairie dog control, biomass management, heritage apple rehabilitation, bird habitat implementation, tree planting around the property, and educational property pathway planning.

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