

THE ECO ZONE

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ENVIRONMENT • HEALTH • OUTDOORS • CULINARY

NWL earns beautification award

New West Landscapes designed, solicited donations to, and led construction activities for the new Community Gardens at City Hall. The Gardens earned a Beautification award from the Bozeman Beautification Board for taking a vacant lot and making it a beautiful, productive landscape which brings community members together to grow organic, nutritious food while making friends and teaching one another different approaches to gardening.

The gardens were a response to the demand for community garden plots and a way to help the City reduce its demand for maintenance. What used to be a field of weeds maintained by the City's staff is now a beautiful property that is maintained by gardeners and produces literally thousands of pounds of food for Bozeman residents annually. The project includes a handicap planter as well as a donation plot for the Gallatin Valley Food Bank which all of the garden-

ers are invited to contribute efforts to. Additionally, three plum trees and an apple tree adorn the site and the vision is to make more of an orchard in years to come. The garden has changed Bozeman's Community Garden model to one which is self-sustaining financially and in terms of maintenance by the City. (The other two Community Gardens in town require annual support from the City's Parks Department, including tilling, water allocation, and management of plot rentals and deposit returns). The Community Gardens at City Hall aims to be self-managed by a board of participant gardeners. Beyond the benefits to the garden plot renters, City Hall, and the Parks Department, the site serves



Bozeman Residents with a tool library for the Northeast Neighborhood Conservation Club.

The Community Garden at City Hall has become the epicenter of the 1,000 New Gardens initiative and serves as a meeting place for participants before going out on

their endeavors. The 1,000 New Gardens volunteers utilize the site for storing and staging their supplies and tools and motivating the awesome participants who work with them. The 1,000 New Gardens group has also made the Community Gardens at City Hall

the location of the Coffee to Compost program which collects coffee grounds from local coffee shops and composts them into fertile soil.

New West Landscapes is proud to have spent so much of the summer making this dream a reality through hours of design, donation solicitation, construction tool lending, construction coordination, and many weekends and evenings at the

gardens continuing the cause and bettering the site.

There is still work to be done on the project, so please contact us (595-0123; Errol@NewWestLandscapes.com) if you would like to volunteer and get yer' hands dirty! •