

HAB Community Gardens Project News

Spring-Cleaning Issue
April 2015

Housing Authority
of Billings
Community Gardens



Spring Is Here!

The weather is warm, the sun is shining, and the grass is greening. We've been cooped up against the cold for so long that our instinct tells us to get outside and start planting! But wait, let's not put all our eggs in one basket. The average date of the last frost of the year is May 15th, and remember the hail storms in June last year? Sure, it looks like it's going to be a dry summer, but we still might get another frost in before that.

So, be careful. If we do get another frost, it likely won't freeze the soil. Getting things like potatoes in the ground now is a good idea, since they'll be protected. Cold-weather plants like spinach and carrots can also be planted. If you want to plant other things, consider building a hoop house or cold frame over seeds that you plant, so that you can insulate the seedlings from a sudden cold snap. HAB can show you how to build these.

There are plenty of good, wholesome garden tasks to attend to in April besides planting. While the weather is warming up, it's a great time to do some Spring Cleaning. The HAB gardens team



is doing just that. This month we will be getting our Whitetail Run garden in the Heights ready for Spring by cleaning out the compost bins and shoring up the sides of the raised beds, as well as lots and lots of weeding. We'll also be constructing two new beds at our Pleasantview garden, as well as adding soil to the other beds and re-mulching the pathways. We are even building some new gardens in the South Side! It's going to be a busy month.

Let's get **GROWING!**

We are accepting **TOOL DONATIONS**

for the success of our gardens. If you are interested in donating any used or new gardening tools, please get in touch with us.

And a
**B I G
THANK
YOU** in
advance!



Please feel free to contact your Garden VISTAs, Jordan and Walter, with any questions, concerns, or ideas.

VISTA Phone: (406)
850-3129
VISTA Email:
gardens@billingsha.org

See Page 2 for more information on South Side's new gardens!

A Big Thank-You to the Billings Association of Realtors!



On March 18th, the HAB Community Gardens Project accepted a donation of \$750 from the Quality of Life Community Involvement Program! The Quality of Life Program was created in 2004 by the Billings Association of Realtors, with the goal of raising awareness and money for local non-profits that work to improve the lives of Billings residents. Since 2004, Quality of Life has been a tremendous asset to the community, raising \$371,000 for eligible non-profits. HAB is privileged to be a recipient of their \$750 donation, and plans to use the funds to expand its garden program to the South Side. The donation will cover the costs of the lumber, brackets, nails, and soil needed to construct raised garden beds, which will provide a means by which HAB clients living in the South Side can grow their own healthy, nutritious food.

Thank You Stockman Bank For Your Sponsorship!



Stockman Bank recently granted the sum of \$85 to the HAB Community Gardens Project. Walter Brueckner (left), one of two Americorps VISTA members heading HAB's Gardens Project for 2015, proudly displays the check. The money will be used to cover the costs of HAB tabling at the Strawberry Festival in June. Stockman Bank responded swiftly and graciously to our donation request, and without them you wouldn't be seeing us at the Strawberry Festival this year!

Upcoming Events

April 8th

Pleasantview Garden Expansion

April 11th

Rocky Mountain College Day of Champions

April 18th

Whitetail Run Garden Opening Day

April 22nd

Earth Day!

April 25th

Construction of South Side Gardens

Volunteer Opportunities!

HAB Community Gardens is always in need of help from our Billings community, from basic garden care to teaching classes about gardening, nutrition, and cooking. If you or someone you know has the skills, knowledge and time to share, come join us to **help grow gardeners!**

