



Press Release: for Immediate Issue

City of Rapid City Sustainability Committee recognizes the **General Beadle Elementary School Community Gardens**

AWARD TO BE PRESENTED AT RAPID CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014; 6:30-7:00 pm  
C/SAC, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**Pizza garden stirs up interest at General Beadle School**

*Community Gardens earn Sustainability Award*

For the third year in a row a group of 45 General Beadle School students and parents have grown approximately 300 pounds of fresh produce for families in the neighborhood.

For their efforts, the Rapid City Sustainability Committee will present a Sustainability Award to the General Beadle Elementary School Community Gardens at the City Council Meeting on September 15. The award will be presented to General Beadle Elementary staff members and students involved with the development and continued care of the gardens.

This year is the garden's third growing season and was planted by last year's fifth grade class. Morgan Von Haden serves as the coordinator for the General Beadle Community Garden. Approximately 60 to 80 kids have participated in preparation, planting, caring for and harvesting the garden. A core group of 40 to 50 students and parents have been involved in the gardens day to day activities.

One of the students' favorite areas is the pizza garden which is planted with many of the items needed to create pizza such as tomatoes, peppers, onions, basil, oregano and other herbs.

The gardens provide affordable, fresh produce throughout the year. The fresh produce provides access to a locally grown food source for approximately 45 families and over 200 Rapid City residents. Families or individuals can come and pick produce as needed but in turn for the produce, they are encouraged to help in the garden by picking weeds and cleaning up in the garden. Weeds and other compostable materials are placed in compost bin to create soil amendments to be reused for the garden.

The General Beadle Community Gardens align with the Rapid City Sustainability Award by providing community involvement, environmental education, gardening skills, plant stewardship, community identity, and civic engagement. The gardens also use existing land in a new way, utilize land efficiently and encourage interaction across multiple generations.

The City of Rapid City Standing Committee on Sustainability is proud to award a 2014 Sustainability Award to the General Beadle Community Gardens project. This project is a valuable resource to the





General Beadle Elementary neighborhood and we are thrilled to be able to recognize all involved for their accomplishments and their work in helping to make Rapid City more sustainable and improve the quality of life of its residents.

The purpose of the City of Rapid City Sustainability Committee is to encourage education, stewardship and policy leadership that will make our community a leader in economic, social and environmental sustainability.

To that end the committee has established an awards program designed to recognize the outstanding efforts of individuals, organizations and businesses in Rapid City that are helping to make our community a more sustainable place to live.

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For more information:

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