

Summit Garden Club Awarded Tools for Community Projects

A partnership of the National Garden Clubs with the AMES Companies, Inc. to provide garden tools to local garden club, The Summit Garden Club of Los Alamos County, New Mexico, is pleased to announce that the club has been awarded tools to assist the members with two of their community projects. These are gardens for public enjoyment and education in White Rock and the Bandelier National Monument. The White Rock Garden located across from the Visitor's Center, is a place where members of the community can go to garden, visit, relax, learn, and enjoy nature. The objective is to provide a garden with multiple planting areas demonstrating a variety of habitats and uses: native and xeric plants, cacti, perennials, a rock garden, edibles, shade, grasses, and annuals. In 2013, Summit Garden Club was asked by the Superintendent of Bandelier National Monument if the club was interested in planting and maintaining several garden areas near the Visitor's Center of the park. The objective is to provide gardening support and expertise such that the area surrounding the Visitor's Center is attractive and welcoming to all visitors to the park.



Planting at Bandelier National Monument

For the Bandelier Project the Bandelier National Monument is providing funding for the plants. After a clean-up, the initial planting took place in Fall 2014 with 24 plants. During the 2015 spring and summer more planting will take place. During the growing season (May through October in northern New Mexico), Summit provides volunteers once a week to clean up, water, and maintain the planting areas. Because there is no automated watering system, when new plants are set, volunteers go twice a week to water the plants. The White Rock Community Garden Project was spearheaded by one of the Summit garden club members and a County landscape designer. This is essentially a zero budget endeavor--funding, labor and plants are provided by community members, donations, and grants where possible. Los Alamos County provided the property, initial site preparation and the backbone of the irrigation system (arterial lines and solar timer). The County also provided some starter plants in the grass and the shrub areas of the garden. The compost and mulch are obtained from the County recycling facility at no charge. In 2013 and 2014, donations from club and community members totaled \$200 in cash and over 100 plants.



More planting at White Rock Community Garden

The tools awarded by Ames Companies, Inc and the National Garden Clubs will be used by volunteers in the gardens.

See next page for additional photos...



Working hard with AMES tools at the White Rock Community Garden and Bandelier National Monument

