



# *The Gardens at Crail Ranch*

*A Native Demonstration Garden  
in Big Sky*

Fall 2019 Report



The Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance teamed up with other local organizations to build a demonstration garden at Crail Ranch using native plants that are wildlife friendly, water wise, and preserving of the historic landscape.

*project  
partners*

Big Sky Community Organization  
Big Sky Water & Sewer  
Gallatin River Task Force  
Historic Crail Ranch

Once established, native plants are easy to maintain because they are adapted to Montana's temperatures, rainfall patterns, and soil conditions.

*inspire  
educate  
motivate*

The demonstration garden will educate residents, students, and visitors about sustainable gardening, showcase water savings over time, and enhance the Ranch's natural heritage.



# Building the Gardens

*fall 2018*

Donated topsoil from an adjacent construction project was moved and stored onsite, and garden #1 was built.



*spring  
2018*

A cool, wet spring delayed the start of construction. Site excavation, garden beds and gravel paths were completed on July 9.



# Planting and Irrigation

## *planting*

On July 9 & 11, 20 volunteers planted 692 native plants (25 different species) putting in a combined 149 hours!



## *irrigation*

Perimeter rocks were placed around each garden, and irrigation was installed to achieve water conservation goals.



# Mulching & Weeding

## *mulching*

13 volunteers applied shredded cedar mulch over 2 days to conserve water & protect plants, putting in 59 hours!



## *weeding*

Gardens were routinely inspected for weeds during the build, often receiving help from trusted companions.



# Project Costs to Date

## FUNDERS & DONORS

Grants	\$13,000
Bench Sponsors	\$10,000
Garden Sponsors	\$7,500
Direct Partner Support	\$5,000
Donations	\$614

**Total Raised \$36,114**

## EXPENSES TO DATE

Garden & path construction	\$18,695
Plant materials & mulch	\$3,985
Irrigation	\$4,680
Misc supplies & materials	\$1,269

**Total Expenses \$28,629**

## IN-KIND & MATCHING FUNDS

From donated & discounted services, to in-kind support, many individuals, organizations and businesses contributed to make this project a success.

**Total \$19,513**

## VOLUNTEER HOURS

From planting and mulching, to weeding and watering, volunteers were critical to the success of the gardens.

**Total Hours 223**

*project  
partners  
& donors*

Beth MacFawn Landscape Design  
Big Sky Community Organization  
Big Sky Landscaping  
Big Sky Owners Association  
Big Sky Resort Tax  
Big Sky Water & Sewer  
Cashman Nursery  
Gallatin Conservation District  
Gallatin River Task Force  
Gallatin Waterworks  
Meadowview II LLC  
Moonlight Community Foundation  
Rotary Club of Big Sky  
Spanish Peaks Community Foundation  
Westscape Nursery  
Yellowstone Club Community Foundation

# Completion of Phase 1 & What's to Come

## *phase 1*

All walking paths and 4 gardens were built, planted, mulched, and irrigation was installed.



## *still to come*

- building 2 benches out of invasive russian olive wood
- creating and installing garden sponsor signs
- installing an interpretive sign
- developing educational materials & programming



# The Gardens at Crail Ranch

*thank you*

Thank you to our partners, funders, donors, and volunteers for helping make this happen! We can't wait to see the gardens bloom in the following years and become a cornerstone of community conservation.

*#GrowWild*

