



Tree City of the Year Award



Tree City of the Year 2015 was awarded to Butte-Silver Bow (BSB). Top right photo, from left to right: Friends of Urban Forestry Board Member Janel Madraza, BSB Community Development Director Karen Byrnes and MSU Extension Agent Kellee Anderson (who wrote the grant proposal and designed Copper Mountain planting) receive an award on Arbor Day. Bottom right photo: the Copper Mountain project was installed in mid-October.

In 2015, Butte-Silver Bow's Friends of the Urban Forest Board was one of two communities granted \$5,000 through the Tree City of the Year award. The board had submitted a proposal to establish a wind break at a local park. Copper Mountain is a sports complex. On site there are three baseball fields, two little guy football fields, a disk golf course and a driving range. Due to its geographic location, this site was identified as needing wind relief.

As the board's project was shaping up, Legion Baseball released news of their intent to renovate Miner's Field. This presented a great opportunity for Friends of the Urban Forest Board and MSU Extension Butte-Silver Bow to contribute in a larger capacity. Instead of installing one wind break with the \$5,000 grant, two more substantial berms and windbreaks were made at the approximate cost of \$16,000. If this project was designed and installed by a private company the cost of the project could be upwards of \$50,000.

In other news, many trees were planted in 2015. To be exact, 476 trees were planted in Silver Bow County. This April, the Friends of the Urban Forest Board offered a coloring contest to elementary students in celebration of Arbor Day. The winner was a Kennedy Elementary student. Three trees were planted at the school in her honor. In June, a countywide tree-bate was released. Community members received a \$50 rebate for the purchase of a tree. This was funded by the economic mil levy. 150 tree-bates were redeemed. A student at West Elementary won Northwestern Energy's coloring contest. MSU Extension Butte-Silver Bow was asked to coordinate the planting of 20 trees at West Elementary. At Walkerville Ballfield 50 trees were planted. Along the streets of Butte-Silver Bow 30 new trees were planted. Twenty-eight trees were added to the central boulevard of Elizabeth Warren and there are more to come in this location for 2016. 96 trees were planted at Miner's Field as Butte's Tree City project and 100 more by 4-H at Stodden Park.



Tree Plantings



Working jointly with the Friends of the Urban Forestry Board, Butte-Silver Bow Government, 4-H and others we have planted 326 public trees with the help of over 115 volunteers.

In addition, 150 private landowners have taken advantage of an instant treebate which accounts for another 150 trees planted in Butte-Silver Bow. The Instant treebate not only made our city greener, it also contributed to economic development.



Terrific Tree Trimming

Extension agent Kellee Anderson implemented Terrific Tree Trimming Tuesdays in the spring and Terrific Tree Trimming Thursdays in the autumn. This much needed program is giving our city trees some shapely curb appeal. On a practical note, trimming the trees increases their ability to thrive and decreases the possibility of someone getting hurt (due to dying or low hanging branches).

Volunteers are recruited to meet each week at Emma Park, in the spring and fall. A quick tree trimming lesson is given and the group then heads out to tackle a new stretch of boulevard. Volunteers, in turn, are taught how to take care of their own trees. It is a free crash course in tree trimming that is beneficial to the city and to volunteers.

In 2015, about 240 trees were trimmed with the help of 92 volunteers. Through in-kind labor and what the average citizen might spend on pruning these trees in front of their homes and businesses (about \$100 per tree), it is estimated that this service, provided by MSU Extension Butte-Silver Bow, adds roughly \$27,500 of economic value to our city.

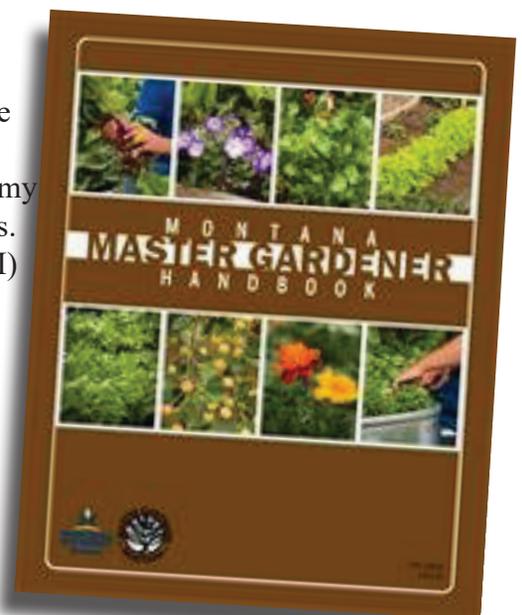
Left to right, administrative assistant Jenny Hershberger and MSU Extension agent Kellee Anderson trimming trees on the streets of Butte in Silver Bow County.



Master Gardener

Master Gardener is, by far, one of the most sought after courses conducted by MSU Extension Butte-Silver Bow. In 2015, MSU Extension agent Kellee Anderson expanded the program to include Master Gardener II. Twelve Master Gardener II students will be graduating to add to the local-garden army of 64 participants over the last two years. Year-to-year the waiting list grows. In 2016, the office plans to expand the introduction class (Master Gardener I) to be able to accommodate more participants.

Master Gardeners are required to volunteer for 30 hours before moving on to the second level course. Serving the community in a number of ways, they help at the Evening Farmers' Market by handing out information to the community on a variety of horticultural topics. Through Farm to School, they assist the MSU Extension agent in outreach and labor at planting events in school gardens. They also volunteer in the Park Street Community Garden, at Terrific Tree Trimming, in urban forest projects, or by independent projects developed by the participant. Master Gardeners offer a great resource to the MSU Extension office and the community in education and participation.



Park Street Community Garden

The Park Street Community Garden began taking shape in 2009. Initiators of this community garden envisioned putting vacant lots to good use by converting them to functional and beneficial public green space. A plan was designed and a proposal brought forward to the public for installing raised garden plots, with clean and nutritious soil, to allow community members to grow vegetables for their households. With joint effort and many meetings, work parties, fundraisers etc. the Park Street Community Garden took root and was established in 2010.

In 2014, this important project transferred from the foundational hardworking Butte hands to the public servitude of Montana State University (MSU) Extension. It was important to the founders, as well as MSU Extension, to acquire administrative sustainability for this noteworthy cause. With the passing of the baton, we are keeping our neighbors gardening in the Park Street Community Garden.



The Park Street Community Garden contains 21 raised garden beds with clean, nutritious soil. Families and organizations are able to grow their own produce and provide a hands-on experience.

Nineteen garden plots are rented each season. Two additional plots are harvested by volunteers for the Food Bank. Members of the garden are responsible for preparing, planting, maintaining and cleaning their plots. Anyone is welcome to join for the purpose of growing their household's produce. Each garden member is also responsible for contributing at least five hours of their time to general property maintenance.

Community garden experience is very rewarding. It is an opportunity to play in the earth and cultivate vegetables and/or flowers for personal use. In addition, there is opportunity to work alongside your neighbors and get to know them better.

The garden plots are in high demand (no plot has ever been fallow for a season) and available on a first come, first serve basis.



Evening Farmers Market

One Success Leads to Another

The Evening Farmers' Market was born of the idea that the Silver Bow County Fair might afford to offer free admission. The summer of 2014 was the Evening Farmers' Market's first year. Vendors were invited to set up their booths for free. This was done with the intent to encourage cottage industries to participate, drum up some clientele and enable vendors to justify paying for their booths in the summer of 2015.

For the summer of 2015, the Evening Farmers' Market was moved to Stodden Park, which is in the midst of activity. It is surrounded by a golf course, baseball diamonds and playground equipment. The location is beautiful, clean, and family-friendly. A stage, in the immediate vicinity of the vendors, hosted live entertainment during every market.

MSU Extension Butte-Silver Bow worked in conjunction with Butte-Silver Bow Parks and Recreation to host a variety of entertainers through

the 2015 season. Customers brought blankets and lawn chairs to listen to music and took the time to peruse the wares of our local vendors.

Many vendors returned from last year and many new vendors were welcomed. The booth fees from 56 different vendors allowed MSU Extension Butte-Silver Bow to write a check to the Silver Bow County Fair Board for \$2,430.

This donation went toward the cost of putting together the county fair. For the first time, Silver Bow County Fair was open to the public with no admission fee. Attendance at the county fair was high and we continue to hear praises from the public.

The vision for and success of the Evening Farmers' Market certainly led to another success through the production of the county fair.



Nutrition Education through SNAP-Ed



SNAP-Ed offers nutrition education to SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – formerly known as Food Stamps) participants and persons eligible to receive benefits in Silver Bow and Deer Lodge counties. SNAP-Ed provides resources and classes for both adults and youth. SNAP-Ed participants are families with children, youth, seniors, singles, and individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the state. Series lessons or single demonstrations are presented with practical information and skill-building tips for choosing healthier foods, preparing meals, learning appropriate food safety practices, modeling good food choices for family members, and incorporating ways to be more physically active. The goal is to provide people with the opportunity to acquire skills that assist in choosing healthy lifestyles.

as SNAP-Ed in Silver Bow is a wise venture into the future well-being of our community. SNAP-Ed has had a very busy year. Adult nutrition education classes, called Eating Smart, Being Active, have been held every two months in various local organizations, such as Head Start, Career Futures, Butte Emergency Food Bank, Legion Oasis, Boys and Girls Club, and Silver Bow Developmental Disabilities Council. This past year SNAP-Ed has also coordinated with Farm to School programming, initiated school Wellness Committees, supported Walking to Wellness day, piloted the Great Garden Detective youth nutrition series, collaborated with Food Corps and Team Nutrition, led Grocery Store Tours, held a savings and couponing event, supported parenting classes, and developed several other local wellness initiatives.

Investing in positive nutrition education programs such



Legion Oasis class graduates from March 2015 "Eating Smart, Being Active" class.

In the coming year, SNAP-Ed would like to focus on nutrition education in the local Title One schools. One of the initiatives that will continue to be pursued is working with NCAT (National Center for Appropriate Technology) to secure funding so that our local farmers' markets may accept EBT cards and benefits. According to the USDA, SNAP redemptions at farm stands, farmers' markets, and local farms in 2014 totaled \$18.8 million, a nearly six-fold increase since 2008. Helping with this change in Silver Bow would benefit our community members.



SNAP-Ed By The Numbers

Eight week adult nutrition class series	7
Six week youth summer class series	1
Adult class participants	52
Youth class participants	8
Participating community organizations	34
Community members who have had access to SNAP-Ed information	1,275
Grocery store tours	5
Community development projects started	17

Silver Bow County 4-H

The mission of 4-H is to empower youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

Montana 4-H is the youth development program of Montana State University Extension and is the largest, out-of-school youth development program in the state, reaching about 20,000 youth in all counties each year. In 4-H, if you can dream it, you can do it! 4-H offers more than 100 different projects and learning experiences that actively engage youth. 4-H projects rely on trained adult volunteers who work with youth as a partner and resource for learning. There are opportunities from learning how to sew, to raising an animal and everything in between. 4-H offers youth a wide range of choices and opportunities.

In Silver Bow County, 99 youth were enrolled in 4-H with the help of 45 adult volunteers. There were 38 different projects going on, ranging from shooting sports, to livestock, to food and nutrition. In addition, throughout the year, the membership meets for fun activities such as swimming, community service such as therapeutic horseback riding, and educational competitions such as presenting demonstrations on

various subjects.

Youth, with the guidance of adults, work year round toward achieving their personal goals. The culmination of their work is highlighted at the Silver Bow County Fair. Non-animal projects are displayed through posters and finished projects. Animals are shown and sold at auction. Judges award ribbons for each entry.

A new 4-H year begins shortly after the fair. Another year of summer camp fun, fundraising, raising sheep, pigs, cows, chickens, learning how to fly fish, cook, bake, sew, hone archery skills, go camping and so, so much more is on its way.

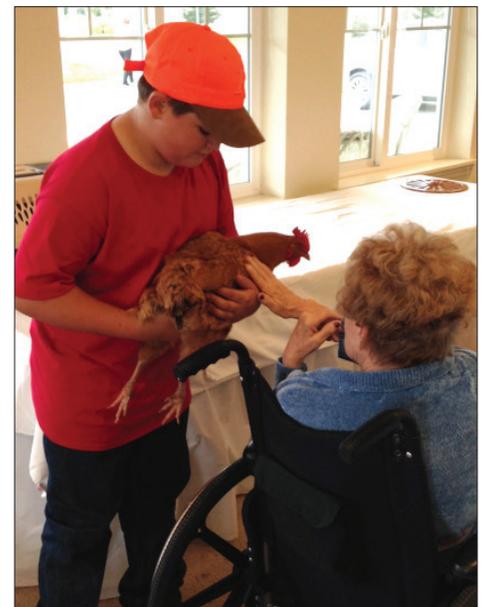
4-H strives “to make the best better.” These exceptional kids are encouraged to be self-starters. Statistically 4-H members are more likely to graduate from high school and are more likely to go on to higher education. In many ways, this program gives youth a jump start into adulthood, but maintains the element of youthful fun.



Youth and caring adults work together to meet personal goals. Project leader Angie Ferry helped kids meet their cooking goals.



4-H Youth practice public speaking by giving presentations during the annual Demonstration Days.



Silver Bow County 4-H was invited to host a petting zoo at a local assisted living home. Residents and youth enjoyed the interaction.

Estimated County Economic Gain through Programs and Services of MSU Extension

Economic Value

Urban Forestry Board. 6 events with 264 volunteers, 476 trees planted. Over 10 years property values will raise at \$12 per year of added value, plus in-kind labor	\$69,143
Terrific Tree Trimming. 12 weeks with 92 volunteers, over 240 trees trimmed at \$100 per tree for service and \$19/hour of in-kind labor	\$27,500
Client House Calls. Served 77 homeowners, typical service call averages \$100	\$7,700
if action was taken service could range to \$200+	\$15,400
Soil Test. Served 16 clients. This test could cost \$150. By using the MSU Extension office clients saved \$116 each	\$1,856
Schutter Lab Sample. Served 91 clients, this service may cost a homeowner \$100 for identification and recommendations in industry lab	\$9,100
Evening Market. 15 instances giving 194 sales opportunities to vendors attending. If each vendor made \$75 per market	\$1,125
Master Gardener. 29 master gardeners were trained, they completed 220 hours of volunteer service to our community at approximately \$19 per hour	\$4,190
Park Street Community Garden. 21 plots for rent annually, estimated offset of grocery bill per participating household \$475	\$9,975
Approximate economic value through programs and services provided by MSU Extension Butte-Silver Bow	Total Economic Value \$145,989

Contact Us



EXTENSION

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