

Estes Valley Community Garden EVCG 2019 Annual Report

2019 was another excellent growing season, with bountiful veggies, herbs and flowers. Lots of rain made it easy!

- ✓ We welcomed new gardeners for 29 of the 90 plots. There were 10 sponsored plots: 4 individual plots for low-income gardeners, 3 for Crossroads Ministry's Food Bank and 3 for the Elementary School Garden Club.
- ✓ The Garden received an "Estes Bright Spot" Award from Estes in Bloom on August 23.
- ✓ Estes in Bloom's entry in the America in Bloom 2019 video contest included some shots of our gardeners working their plots in July. The video is posted on the Town website, at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/townofestespark/estesparkinbloom>.
- ✓ Five more plots were converted to tall frames (12 total) and 2 plots were converted from wood to concrete block frames to test this more durable material.
- ✓ The drip system is now automated with timers so that the garden can be watered at night with only minimal oversight.
- ✓ We continue trapping rodents that have gotten into the garden, and continue to search for and use more effective means of dealing with this ongoing challenge.
- ✓ The new electric mower helps us better keep up with the weeds in the pathways.
- ✓ Three education programs were held in the spring in partnership with Estes Valley Recreation and Parks District Senior and Adult Activities: "Jump Start Your Garden Season & Learn the Basics of Seed Starting", "How Bio-diversity & Worldwide Food Production are Both Anchored by a Healthy Bee Population", and "How to Care for Plants Organically".
- ✓ The third annual seed & plant exchange was held in collaboration with Estes Valley Library.
- ✓ Despite wind and rain, the annual "garden bounty" potluck in August was a success.
- ✓ Crossroads' harvest included potatoes, green beans, lettuce, zucchini squash and cucumbers, with a team of volunteers tending the 3 plots.



Bright Spot Award, August 23, 2019. Left to right: Abi Huebner, Visit Estes Park; Doyle Baker, EVCG Board; Polly Ingold, former EVCG Board; Floyd Wright, Roger Levy, Shane Bristow, Barbara MacAlpine and Mary Sampson, all EVCG Board; Claire Hanson, former EVCG Board.

The EVCG Board thanks the generous donors, plot sponsors, volunteers, and of course our wonderful gardeners, for this fourth successful year at the Garden.

