



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** February 12, 2018

SUBJECT: Presentation of Supreme Service Award for Dianne Spradling

PRESENTER: Vickie Loftice, Managing Director of Community Services

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Dianne Spradling, Common Ground Community Garden Volunteer Coordinator and Park and Recreation Board Member, was awarded the "Supreme Service" award through the DFW Parks and Recreation Directors Association in January.

Common Ground opened in 2011 as a partnership between the Parks and Recreation Department, Davis Memorial United Methodist Church and a very enthusiastic group of community volunteers, which Dianne manages and inspires.

As a tireless volunteer, Dianne has logged more than 8,400 hours at the garden. Here are just a few of her accomplishments and awards:

- Volunteers an average of 20 hours each week at the garden
- Secured \$10,000 in sponsorship from Home Depot to help build the garden plots
- Manages the volunteer garden committee
- Plans and implements monthly clean up days at the garden as well as two appreciation cook-outs each year
- Created a hands on learning lab for Birdville Independent School District elementary school students
- Worked with University of Texas at Austin Integrative Biology Section for a study on native bee population for Pollinator Conservation Study
- Has mentored approximately 220 students in Junior Master Gardener classes she created
- Works with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America in providing educational opportunities and projects for the scouts
- Coordinates with the following universities and schools in providing educational opportunities at Common Ground: Texas Christian University, Tarrant County



College, West Lake Academy, Fort Worth Christian School, Fusion School in Southlake, Birdville Independent School District

- Plans and schedules speakers and topics for Fall and Spring Gardening Seminars each year
- Awarded Texas Master Gardener 2nd Place for Exemplary Achievement, 2011, 2013
- Awarded Texas Master Gardener Association Search for Excellence Award, 2014
- Awarded Junior Master Gardener Leader Award, 2014
- Created the booklet "A Guide to Starting a Community Garden"
- Installed a certified Monarch Way Station by Master Gardener interns, 2017
- Maintains the garden website and the garden email accounts

With Dianne's management and oversight, the garden is recognized as a model community garden across the country. Several cities across Texas and other states have visited the garden in an effort to duplicate our success.

Dianne's leadership skills, positive attitude and gardening expertise are invaluable to the success of the garden. Her volunteer work defines what it is to work "in the service of others".