

Local Girl Scout Plants Gold Award Edible Garden on Drayton Trail Extension

By Camille Cleland

A walk along the Drayton Trail Extension just got a lot greener and tastier thanks to a new community garden project planted by pursuing my prestigious Gold Award. The garden, which features a variety of edible plants such as pear trees, plum trees, grape vines, and blackberry bushes was designed, planned, and built as part of a Gold Award project-Girl Scouts' highest honor awarded to those who demonstrate leadership and sustainable impact through community action.

Planted along a sunny stretch of the Drayton Trail Extension, the garden is more than just a beautiful green space. It's also an invitation to the community to learn about edible gardening, sustainability, and healthy living. By planting an edible garden, I hope to promote food accessibility, environmental awareness, and a connection to nature for everyone who visits the trail. The garden includes labeled plots of seasonal fruits and the signage gives examples of times you can incorporate the said food into your everyday diet! Visitors are encouraged to explore the garden, learn from the educational signage, and—when available—harvest responsibly.

This project is not just about food; it's about sustainability and long-term impact. Native plants and eco-friendly gardening techniques were used to ensure that the garden thrives with minimal maintenance and supports local pollinators. The installation also includes composting and rainwater collection components to reduce environmental impact. The Drayton Trail Extension, was the ideal location for this project. With regular foot traffic from families, runners, and cyclists, the garden will see plenty of visitors—and hopefully inspire others to plant gardens of their own.

The garden was made possible with help from local volunteers, donations from area nurseries, and guidance from gardening and farming experts in the region. With this project, I not only earned my Gold Award—I also left a meaningful space that the community can enjoy and watch grow for years to come.