



Valley of the Flowers Project's Proposal for a Valley of the Flowers Center and Valley's Own Program for healthy communities

In a time of unprecedented growth in our community, with growing numbers of people lacking in resources, programs that create access to healthy foods, and recreation, as well as promoting giving back to the community through volunteer service and intergenerational mentoring, are critical for creating mental, physical, and spiritual well being, and help lead to healthier, happier citizens and and more sustainable communities. The evidence is clear that outdoor experiences and healthy, locally produced foods create many positive benefits to both children and adults.

The Valley of the Flowers Project's name reflects the great respect of this work for the original inhabitants of this land. The native tribes who resided here for thousands of years have a 'rich custom, lore and value system based on the sustainability of their spiritual connection, belonging, obligation and responsibility to care for the land, the people, and the environment. Valley of the Flowers Project has deep respect for and honors the Native peoples, and works to support their core values to protect the land and provide a healthy future for all living creatures.'

Recreational and Intergenerational mentoring

A key value of the Valley of the Flowers Project is to encourage giving back to the community and providing recreational and intergenerational mentoring opportunities. Valley Own Awards for Volunteer Service (VOAVS), through partnerships with local businesses and donations, provides an opportunity for youth and adult volunteers to earn recreation awards such as ski passes, golf or tennis lessons, art classes, etc., in exchange for hours spent volunteering in the community.

Valley's Own Volunteer Opportunities

Rec Pals/Community Recreation Clinics- teens proficient at a sport/skill are paid staff at clinics for youths who have access to free clinics through volunteer service hours (eg. 5 hours volunteer service= 1 free gymnastics clinic.) Partner with Bozeman Rec Dept for access to their programs , and non-duplication.

TutorPals

7th-12th grade plus college students tutor younger students to earn volunteer service hours (eg. 5 hrs.= ski pass, 30 hours= overnight camp/raft trip, 75 hrs= skis/backpack/fishing rod/racket, etc., 100 hours= refurbished or new computer. Students sign up to be tutors/tutees in Aug. and are matched for the school year, with 1 or 2 group events for participants.

Job Shadowing

Vocational mentoring

Students in 6th grade through high school have the opportunity to do field trips to local businesses/colleges for experiential educational opportunities. Volunteers/paid staff organize/facilitate/chaperone. For 6th grade - 1 field trip per semester, with incremental increases in frequency for each higher grade level.

Elderpals

3rd grade through high school/college/adult - Students and chaperones make weekly/monthly visits to senior care facilities to read, do activities, and interact with seniors and earn volunteer service hours. Program was incorporated in 1998-2001 at Irving Elementary School as an after school activity by Wren.

Helper and Harvest pals/ (partner with Community Harvest)

4th grade-all ages earn volunteer service hours by volunteering to help with garden maintenance in city parks, school and community gardens, and at residences for folks in need, also urban food forest fruit harvesting and processing. Paid staff facilitates. Partner with City "Snow Angels" program for winter months.

Locally harvested foods from area homeowner's land and public spaces/community/school gardens are processed by volunteers/paid staff and made into saleable items. School students can sell items they produce, at their school events to raise funds for school programs.

Tool and Recreational Equipment Library

Any participant in volunteer service programs can borrow equipment for as long as needed (unless there is a waiting list.) Paid staff/volunteers (earning volunteer service hours) manage the library.

The creation of Bozeman Urban Demonstration (BUD) will follow the footprints of the already established Missoula Urban Demonstration (MUD). This program houses over 2,700 tools for annual MUD members to utilize as frequently and for as long of a duration as they need, supporting creativity and collaboration.

Bozeman Urban Demonstration will host workshops on permaculture and regenerative growing practices, container gardening, composting, grey water recycling, solar hot water, home insulation, and other issues related to creating a sustainable home and community.

Rentals will also include recreational equipment similar to MSU's SOB Barn, for families/individuals in the volunteer service programs to borrow for their own use and to participate in recreational clinics.

BUD will also promote Bozeman Urban Food Forest (BUFF) and partner with Community Harvest, the City, HRDC, Gallatin Valley Farm to School, Open & Local, The Food Lens, Sage Gardeners, landscaping companies and local farm benefactors, and other interested groups to manage, harvest, process, and protect the fruits of plants, trees and shrubs throughout the community while also utilizing garden surplus. Products such as dried fruits, fruit-roll up leathers, jams, jellies, sauces, syrups, and beverages will be produced and sold (and distributed to food banks) at our zero waste market, Unpackaged Goods, and throughout the area. -An annual apple harvest event will bring the community together to make apple sauce, pies, apple butter, baked apples, with games and music, and education.

The tool and rec library will ideally and ultimately be housed in the same space as the Unpackaged Goods store, which will provide bulk food items, local arts, crafts, local bakery and food products, local farmer's produce, a zero-waste café, and access to a community garden with hydroponic gardens and an earth sheltered year round greenhouse.

Local non-profit participation

Local non-profits will be invited to participate in offering Volunteer service hours to volunteers which participants can apply to the Valley's Own program.

Partnership with native American Leadership

Gallatin Valley, or the Valley of the Flowers, has been known and appreciated for its nutrients, water, and breathtaking beauty for thousands of years. While never being home to a specific tribe, the Valley of the Flowers has been regarded as a special place on Earth by many Native Americans, becoming 'neutral ground' between differing communities. The story goes that during a battle of the Nez Perce and Sioux tribes, a spirit maiden came down from the sky, declaring peace and rest upon the Valley of the Flowers below. Ever since, this special and sacred valley has been shared amongst its ancestors.

Our connection to place, of remembering and appreciating the history of this land, is of great significance in how we develop respect and conservation ethics for where we live. Recognizing the Native tribes that once claimed, cared for, and protected this land is crucial in cultivating respect and collaboration with local tribes, and a deeper connection to the land which nourishes our body and spirit.

Named after this beautiful story of unity, the Valley of the Flowers Project wants to continue the legacy of the Native ways of life. With seven tribal nations within the state of Montana, it is important to include the voices of these tribe members moving forward with our sustainable efforts to ensure climate justice is included in future endeavors.

Encouraging communication and discussion between all of our community members, the Valley of the Flowers Project will provide opportunity for local tribes to educate about their culture and history, preserving and strengthening collaboration with the Native community of Montana, so together we can be the best possible stewards of our community and the land on which it stands.

Funding Sources

Grants, donations

Valley's Own Giving Back Program

Partner with local businesses to create a Valley's Own Giving Back program, an innovative local fundraising tool modeled after Paul Newman's, Newman's Own brand, with charitable fundraising through donated proceeds from product sales. Participating businesses can choose 1 product and donate a portion or all proceeds from its sale to the Valley's Own fund. (Eg. West Paw, Mystery Ranch, Oboz, Simms, Kennetrek, Wild Joe's, Blackbird, Tarantinos (eg. \$1 donated from each Valley's Own slice sold).

Memberships- \$20 for individual lifetime, \$50 family lifetime

Locally produced products from community harvest and profits from B corporation Unpackaged Goods Store

- Sales at Unpackaged Goods store
- Partner with Lockhorn Cider and others

Valley Hemp

Follow wheat farmer Bob Quinn's business model with Khorasan wheat, with a farm to factory to store Montana based business, but with organic hemp and as a B Corporation.

Boost the local economy with jobs by creating a fabric mill to produce hemp fabric which local producers can then use to make clothing, bags, tarps, etc., with innovative bees wax treated fabrics to be used for reusable lawn clean up bags and waterproof tarps, as an alternative to plastics.

Valley Glass Works and Reusies

- Create local bottle washing and refillery for water bottles. Then, pop and beer.
- Create local reusable to-go ware service for local restaurants.
- Supply restaurants with clean, reusable, to go ware for take out customers.
- Deposit on to-go ware is credited to customer when it's returned.

Valley's Own Artist Cooperative

A year round silent auction for local artist//artisans.

Artists can donate from %5 to %100 of proceeds from art sales through our artists co-op website.

We will create an annual CD with music about nature by local artists.

Valley's Own Fun Run and Annual Harvest Event

Partner with Farmer's Market to create a "Run to the Market" and music and food festival

A Valleys Own program has the potential to transform our community. We can build a better, more sustainable, and healthier future together.

For more information please contact: Wren Kilian at valleyoftheflowersproject.com or by phone at 406-577-6320

Visit the website at www.valleyoftheflowersproject.org or find us on Facebook and Instagram.

Thank you for giving your consideration to this vision for helping to create a better future for people and the planet.