



A Growing Experience
Connecting People, Food & Nature

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ARBOR DAY DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR KATHY BROWN AT THE EDIBLE FOREST 6th WARD GARDEN PARK

The Helena Garden Club will hold an Arbor Day Tree Dedication at 12:00 pm on Friday, April 29th. This tree will be dedicated to Kathy Brown who died as she lived, thinking of others. For details of her life visit <http://helenafuneralhome.com/obituaries/katherine-elizabeth-brown>. She was loved by all with her warm smile and generous heart. Kathy was a wonderful chef serving the local community through her catering and cafeteria business as well as giving of her personal time to make meals for her church, St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral, and other non-profits such as the Helena Garden Club. In 2012 when she passed away, the Helena Garden Club heard about a park project happening in the heart of town known as the 6th Ward Park Edible Forest (<http://6thwardgardenpark.com>), an urban forest ecosystem.

The original park has been in existence since 1915 and was in desperate need of renovation. Once construction is complete, this visionary park will provide an edible food forest, community garden and complementary amenities for its visitors. City Park and Recreation Director, Amy Teegarden, chairs the 6th Ward Garden Park Advisory Council created to manage the park by a coalition of City Parks, Helena Food Share, Helena Community Gardens, Inside Edge Design, and local residents. Earlier this month, 85 volunteers participated in the first planting of 150 new trees and shrubs. The Helena Garden Club received permission to plant and dedicate a tree in the park for Arbor Day in honor of Kathy. The 6th Ward Garden Park greatly appreciates this opportunity to recognize Kathy as a person whose life connected people, food, and nature. What better way to honor a chef extraordinaire than to plant a tree that will continue to feed the local community for years to come.

The tree selected for this dedication ceremony is a Good Mac apple tree (*Malus* sp. 'Good Mac'). The Good Mac is a cross between one of America's most popular apples, the McIntosh, and the hardy Goodland apple developed by the Morden Research Station in Manitoba, Canada. This variety was propagated in the 1980's by one of Helena's old time growers, Clayton Berg, who has also passed on. Clayton owned Valley Nursery where he housed the largest collection of cold hardy plants in the Northern United States. The Good Mac is bred for our unpredictable Montana climate and has been planted in some of the new Montana State University Extension test orchards across the state to test its viability for the commercial market.

Last June, the Helena Garden Club received a grant worth \$350 in the form of much needed tools for the 6th Ward Park Edible Forest Garden from the AMES Companies (AMES) which has been making high quality tools since 1774. These tools will be used in the dedication ceremony and to maintain the park for years to come. We are proud to be a small part of this project. We hope you can join us to honor our fellow garden club member on this upcoming Arbor Day. We will remember the life of Kathy Brown and dedicate this newly planted tree between the culinary patch and the edible and medicinal patch in the 6th Ward Garden Park, 1235 Bozeman Ave (just east of the Helena Area Transit Service terminal) in Helena, Montana. Enter through the southwest corner entrance to the park.