



DRS EARTHWISE

"Cultivating Sustainable Communities"

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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DRS Earthwise Wins First Place at Cloverdale Garden Competition

The Cloverdale Rodeo has galloped out of town, but it left DRS Earthwise with a shiny blue ribbon to remember it by. People from all over the city and beyond flocked to the fairgrounds to watch bucking broncos as well as enjoy cooking competitions, livestock displays, arts and crafts, parades, live music, and more—including newer events such as the Garden Competition. Garden clubs throughout the lower mainland competed in this third annual challenge, which invited gardeners to put their best spade forward, and DRS Earthwise walked away with first prize.

"We are absolutely delighted with the win," says Horticultural Programs Coordinator Leah Eckford. "This was a great opportunity to show the public that native and chemical-free gardening can be beautiful, too."

The garden incorporated several themes: the waterwise garden, the woodland garden, the habitat garden and the water garden. Using over 40 species of native plants and perennials, employees and volunteers constructed an 8-foot by 16-foot oasis. The display, complete with concrete stepping stones, a handmade twig bench and a twig arbour, also demonstrated creative reuse ideas.

The display was built on site at the Cloverdale Exhibition Park and took two days to create. "It was a team effort, and it couldn't have been done without our dedicated volunteers," says Amanda Gee, outreach coordinator for DRS Earthwise.

Entries were judged on elements such as design, originality, quality of plant material, suitability of plants and garden accessories. DRS took first place and a \$500 prize. The money will go towards DRS Earthwise's various educational programs for adults and children on the environment, gardening and community sustainability.

To view a larger version of this beautiful garden, all are welcome to come and visit the 'real thing' at the McKitrick Earthwise Garden at 80th Ave and 111th Street in North Delta, located directly adjacent to the Sungod Recreation Centre.

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Thank you,
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