

ABLE Award
Seth Smith and the
Brookings Parks & Recreation Department
Accessible Community Gardens Project



The Seth Smith as well as the Brookings Park and Recreation Department have been chosen as a recipient of the A.B.L.E. (Ability, Belief, Leadership and Effort to Achieve Access For All) Award for 2016, presented by the Brookings Committee for People who have Disabilities.

The A.B.L.E. Award (Ability, Belief, Leadership and Effort to Achieve Access For All) is presented annually to recognize the outstanding commitment of a business, public entity or individual in fulfilling the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Seth Smith, a local high school student, took initiative and assisted in completing accessible raised garden beds at the Douglas Chittick Community Gardens as his Eagle Scout Project with Troop One.



The Committee specifically appreciates how Seth developed an idea, sought out input and guidance, worked to raise funds and followed through with the project. The raised garden beds will provide people with disabilities an opportunity to participate in gardening.

Another strong community partner and supporter of accessibility is the Brookings Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department. The Department worked with Seth and continues to be an example as they work to see that the ADA is implemented in our community. Over the years, the Department has ensured parks, trails, and other recreational buildings are accessible and provide inclusive programming.

The Committee was very pleased with the efforts the Department made in assisting Seth with the raised community garden beds project. Raised accessible garden beds were an idea for many years. Now, with the help of many, an idea has turned into a valuable community asset that will be used and enjoyed by many for years to come.

It is the Committee's intention to highlight the efforts of an outstanding business or entity, which in turn may motivate others to provide improved accessibility to goods, services and recreational opportunities. Since 1996, there have been 75 nominees for the A.B.L.E. Award.

