



For Immediate Release
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Sustainability Award to be Presented to the Black Hills Fly Fishers

*At the Rapid City Common Council Meeting
April 15, 2024 | 6:30 PM*

The City of Rapid City's Standing Committee on Sustainability is honored to present the Black Hills Fly Fishers with a Sustainability Award for 2024. This award is presented several times a year by the Sustainability Committee to different businesses, organizations, or individuals that contribute to the community's social, environmental, and economic sustainability.

The Black Hills Fly Fishers (BHFF) originally began in 1981 and today is a 501(c)(3) charitable entity. Besides their annual clean up, some members initiated more frequent cleanups starting in November of 2022 behind Baken Park. Under this campaign, they have collected 350 bags of trash and various large items, including bikes, tires, and shopping carts, through 12 cleanups. A significant milestone was reached on March 8, 2024, with a record turnout and the collection of 1,000 pounds of trash from East North Blvd. to I-190, the first time the total weight of trash collected was measured. Photos of the cleanups can be found on their Instagram account: @blackhillsflyfishers.

The Black Hills Fly Fishers have also forged partnerships with other conservation groups and local political leaders to raise awareness and promote more stewardship of Rapid Creek. The organization's commitment extends beyond cleanup efforts. In 2023, they contributed \$30,000 to a fencing project on Castle Creek below Deerfield Reservoir, collaborating with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, US Forest Service, Wild Turkey Federation, and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Additionally, they donated \$50,000 to the Rapid Creek Phase 1 restoration project below Pactola Reservoir and \$40,000 to help rebuild Grace Coolidge Ponds in Custer State Park.

Accepting the award for The Black Hills Fly Fishers will be Chris Stover, Hans Stephenson, and William (B.Y.) Young with some of the 150 members of BHFF.

About the Rapid City Sustainability Committee

The purpose of the Rapid City Standing Committee on Sustainability is to encourage education, stewardship, and policy leadership that will make our community a leader in economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Meetings are open to the public and are held at 5:30 pm on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month. More information, including a Sustainability Award application form, can be found at: www.rapidcitysustainability.com/awards.