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## 2017 Safety Award

Denver Golf Maintenance at Willis Case, Harvard and Wellshire Golf  
Jesse Moisson, Rob Ross, Dave Schuyler, and John Swain  
Parks & Recreation

Nomination submitted by Pam Smith

I would like to recognize our Horticulturist, John Swain, and the team that supported his sustainability efforts in 2016. John led us through several sustainable initiatives last season. This began with a beekeeping project where he conducted all the research, met with vendors, and began a three hive honey bee colony at Willis Case Golf Course. We began this project to show that golf courses can serve as habitat and have a positive influence on honey bees. John will continue to develop this program in 2017. We anticipate any proceeds from honey sales will go towards more sustainable projects like these so that we do not impact operational budgets.

Secondly, John worked with staff at Harvard to plant a vegetable garden instead of flowers. He worked with staff to develop this garden which was not only aesthetically pleasing, staff was able to harvest and donate the food grown to a non-profit who provide low-cost and free meals to the public.

Third, John led the staff at Wellshire to grow a pumpkin patch on an out of the way of play area. The pumpkins were grown and harvested and sold at the Wellshire Golf shop in the fall of 2016. Proceeds were donated to the First Tee of Denver Junior golf program.

We expect to expand these projects and continue to return proceeds to these sustainable initiatives along with providing educational and outreach projects to involve the community on how golf courses are much more than recreational areas.

I believe John and his team should win a 5281 Award to recognize their efforts and show our community that Denver Golf is so much more than land used for recreation. We can utilize non-turf areas for alternate uses that ultimately serve our community through these innovative and sustainable projects. Projects like these hit the triple bottom line where we have provided value for environmental/ecological, social, and financial objectives. John has accomplished all of these projects in addition to his main duties as a horticulturist.