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MEDIA RELEASE

Subject: Rural City of Murray Bridge Spring Garden Competition

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GREEN thumbs with a passion for gardening are encouraged to enter the annual Rural City of Murray Bridge Spring Garden Competition.

Entries are invited for a variety of landscapes including sustainable gardens, modern gardens, corporate green-spaces, senior's gardens, community gardens and schools.

Mayor Brenton Lewis said gardening was a great way for people to be active outdoors, connect with nature, improve their mental health and be creative.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has given many people the opportunity to spend more time at home to reconnect with nature in their gardens, it will be interesting to see what their hard work has created," he said.

"Murray Bridge is celebrating the gardens and gardeners that help contribute to the region's unique environment with their creativity, innovation and passion.

"This competition highlights the importance of gardens as a source of wellbeing and community pride, and I encourage everyone who has created a little world they're proud of to come forward and share it with the community."

Judging criteria will include design and layout, plant selection, creativity and environmentally friendly measures used in the garden.

Nominations close Thursday 30 September and judging will take place from early October.

Winners in each competition category will be awarded a prize at an awards ceremony to be held on Thursday 28 October.

Entry forms are available online at <u>murraybridge.sa.gov.au/springgarden</u> For more information on how to enter the competition phone 8539 1100.