

Community garden takes shape with STARability Foundation assist

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The THRIVE*ability: A Community Garden Project is taking root, and STARability Foundation staff, participants and volunteers showed off the garden's progress during a community event at River Park on Saturday, Jan. 22.

THRIVE*ability is a collaborative, multifaceted project among the City of Naples, the River Park Community Center and STARability that centers on revitalizing River Park's 2,000-square-foot garden.

The garden serves as a vehicle to teach critical life skills to individuals with intellectual and developmental dis-

abilities who are enrolled in STARability's community-based programs. These individuals are working with STARability instructors, volunteers and community partners to revitalize the garden. The garden also offers students enrolled in River Park's programs a place where they can connect to their environment and continue learning.

The project also promotes inclusion and accessibility for neighboring residents and businesses, as well as the wider downtown Naples community, through educational opportunities, events and other activities. The garden is next to River Park Community Center, 301 11th St. N., in the Naples Design District. ■



COURTESY PHOTO
Halley Kretschmer, STARability Foundation's vocational services manager, and STARability participant Matt Martel plant florals in a raised bed.

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