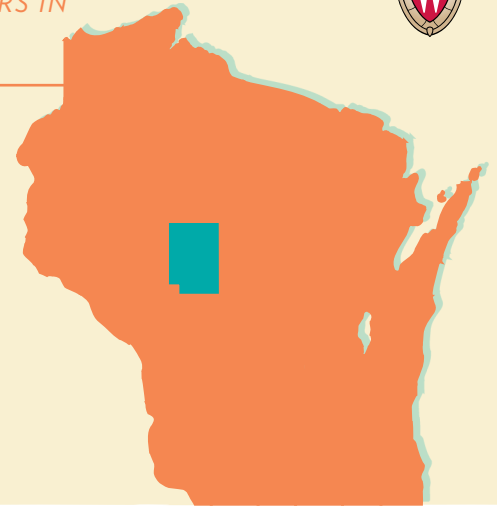




WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENERS IN CLARK COUNTY



*In 2018, Clark County Master Gardener Volunteers reported 425 hours of community service, worth a value of over \$10,188.**

*Using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of \$24.69 per hour from Independent Sector (independentsector.org).

FEATURED PROJECTS

Educate the community about gardening

Clark County Master Gardener Volunteers offered a free garden conference to interact with the community, provide educational opportunities, and to share gardening know-how. Through a variety of speakers, the 2018 conference addressed global warming and the health issues associated with the changes in the environment; growing raspberries in Wisconsin; and experiences with straw bale gardening. The meeting was well attended by members and the community. Throughout the presentations there was good discussion and further explanations on each of the topics. One MGV said, "It is a chance to introduce our group to the public and to encourage further interaction throughout the growing season by contacting the extension office."

Grow public garden for community beautification

Public green space boosts community pride, improves personal well-being, and make spaces more inviting. MGVs planted and maintained gardens at Clark County Courthouse, Clark County Fairgrounds, Clark County Humane Society, and Neillsville Public Library. "Enhancing beauty in our community softens the harshness of concrete buildings and pavement," said one MGV participant.

Educate public with garden bus tour

MGVs sponsored a regional bus tour to provide opportunity for community to gain new perspectives on gardening and build social connections. This year's tour includes Christopher Gardens, a 500-acre farm and botanical garden located along the western shores of Lake Michigan; Bookworm Gardens, a whimsical botanical garden with community events & sections inspired by popular children's books and the Fox Botanical Gardens in Appleton, where garden displays and natural areas combine to showcase the seasonal beauty of plants and gardens in Wisconsin. "It was a day filled with inspiration and beauty," said one participant.

Renovate Senior Center garden

MGVs partnered with Neillsville Senior Center director to renovate an existing flower bed around the facility. Existing perennials were salvaged and weeds were removed. Planters were added to provide color. "Sometimes a project can look overwhelming when you don't know where to begin. It was great to provide a start and give the client the tools they needed to turn a neglected spot into an area of beauty," said MGV.



The Master Gardener Program in Clark County started in 1997. Over 112 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 11 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2019.

Where you can find activities by MGVs in Clark County

- Clark County Courthouse
- Clark County Fairgrounds
- Clark County Humane Society
- Clark County Fair Booth
- Spring Plant Sale
- Neillsville Community Garden
- Neillsville Library Garden
- The High Ground



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Wisconsin counties cooperating.

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