



WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENERS IN SAWYER COUNTY



*In 2018, Sawyer County Master Gardener Volunteers reported 422 hours of community service, worth a value of over \$10,116.**

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

FEATURED PROJECTS

Teach kids to grow vegetables

Sawyer County Master Gardener Volunteers taught about 120 children at the Hayward Primary School how to plan, plant, and maintain vegetables. Program participants began in the spring as second graders, some participated in a week-long summer program, and finished the garden in the fall as third graders. The children applied their learning to the garden and the school cooks served up veggies for lunch. The produce also went home with families or to the food shelf.



care for six new raised bed gardens at the LCO Ojibwe Elders Center. This project provided an educational opportunity for both the elders and the children. The food was used in meals at the Elder Center.

Educate the community about gardening

MGVs provided garden education programming at the local libraries, schools, garden clubs, senior centers, and the Spooner Ag Research Station. Subjects this year included herbs, pollinators, seed starting, native plants, woodland gardens, and low-maintenance gardening. These programs were well attended and allowed for sharing expertise and experiences for both the presenters and participants.

Share gardening information through social media

MGVs maintained a blog site and shared information via social media. They reached on average 200–400 visitors per week using Facebook to promote gardening information. The most-viewed post had 768 unique visitors and announced a new summer children's program at the Spooner Ag Research Station. Using social media has increased Sawyer County MGV outreach to communities. It is another venue beyond the physical reach of MGVs providing timely horticultural information in a three-county area (Sawyer, Washburn, and Burnett).

Teach kids to grow vegetables at tribal center

MGVs cooperatively worked with Extension FoodWise nutrition educators to teach children in a summer Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Boys and Girls Club program how to



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

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The Master Gardener Program in Sawyer County started in 1999. Over 80 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 5 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2019.

Where you can find activities by MGVs in Sawyer County

- Hayward Primary School Garden
- Sawyer County Fair
- Hayward Library Natural Area
- Hayward Library Enrichment Programs
- American Birkebeiner Crossroads Sign
- Hayward Food Shelf
- Public lands of Chippewa Flowage
- Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College

