



WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENERS IN  
**WOOD COUNTY**



*In 2018, Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers reported 8,588 hours of community service, worth a value of over \$206,100.\**

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

**FEATURED PROJECTS**

**Renovate senior center garden**

Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers led the renovation efforts for the garden at the Lowell Senior Center in Wisconsin Rapids. This ongoing project included fundraising to refurbish and add walkways to the garden beds, remove grass and stones, and build new raised garden beds. The goal of this project was to allow better accessibility for seniors to access the garden for recreational activities. Also, over 325 pounds of fresh veggies were grown and used at the senior center lunch site.



**Educate community through library program**

MGVs hosted community garden talks each month, rotating among different county library. These events focused on the different aspects of gardening throughout the growing season from seed starting to putting the garden to bed. They were a casual open group discussion in a round table setting where guests could actively participate in the group and take part in the sharing of knowledge. Approximately 147 people participated, including members of the local Hmong and Amish communities.

**Answer gardening questions at farmers' markets**

MGVs provided gardening information at various venues in Wood County. Locations included farmers' markets in north Wood County and south Wood County, at both plant sales, the garden walk, Central Wisconsin State Fair and Farm Technology Days. One participant was "thankful there was more interaction than passive passing of information."

**Educate Farm Technology Days visitors**

MGVs showcased a variety of gardening information to the 10,000+ visitors of Wisconsin Farm Technology Days. MGVs hosted an "Ask a Master Gardener" tent, which demonstrated various gardening methods and styles. There were also displays on invasive aquatic species, composting, native versus non-native plants, roses, and mason bees.



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

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The Master Gardener Program in Wood County started in 1997. Over 431 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 75 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2019.

**Where you can find activities by MGVs in Wood County**

- WCMGV monthly educational programs
- Farmers' Markets
- Wood County Libraries
- Central Wisconsin State Fair
- Q&A at Extension office
- Community gardens (two sites)
- Mead Wildlife Center
- Facebook/online Q&A

