



The Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program provides a learning framework for participants to increase their horticultural knowledge on a wide variety of subjects. In turn, participants share knowledge and provide leadership in educational gardening activities within their communities.

This is a snapshot of the impact the Purdue Extension Master Gardener program had in 2022.



2022 BY THE NUMBERS

In 2022, the 2,724 active Purdue Extension Master Gardener volunteers reported:

38,476

education
hours

157,633

volunteer hours
valued at

\$4.0 million

356,214

educational
contacts

Improving
Communities

Expanding
Opportunities

Fostering
Sustainability

Here are some of the ways the Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program impacts Indiana communities.

- Purdue Extension Master Gardeners throughout Indiana donated 49,805 pounds of produce from approximately 47 educational demonstration gardens to local food banks to help fight food insecurity. Over 293 Purdue EMG volunteers reported more than 3,800 volunteer hours working in gardens that donated produce to food-insecure areas.
- The Community Garden in Elkhart started in 2001. A speaker from EnviroCorps discussed Plant A Row (PAR) for the Hungry. Many Michiana Master Gardeners committed to contributing to PAR and chose a site that EnviroCorps had developed at the Elkhart airport. More than two decades later the Community Garden is going strong.

In 2022 the gardens generated about 1,100 pounds of food that was donated to Church Community Services, a local food pantry. Extension Master Gardeners started keeping records in 2004; the donation total now exceeds 17,000 pounds. The garden is on city property, specifically Elkhart Municipal Airport. The city and airport staff are fully supportive partners and provide tilling, wood chips, etc. In 2021, the garden was the target of theft, and crops were destroyed. A fence was erected, completely at city expense, in spring 2022. The airport authority even threw a dedication party. Good things happen when people try to help each other.

In addition, Extension Master Gardeners have been part of organizing visits with other community gardens within the Seed to Feed Program at Church Community Services. These visits provide sharing of information, education and meeting together for a common purpose.

www.wndu.com/2022/08/30/elkhart-community-gardens-holds-ribbon-cutting-new-renovations/

Learn more about Michiana Master Gardener projects here: www.michianamastergardeners.com/

- Purdue Extension Master Gardener associations awarded \$31,500 in college scholarships to students studying horticulture, agriculture, and related majors.
- Purdue Extension Master Gardeners reported several changes in gardening practices, including:
 - Using more pollinator plants and practices to protect pollinators
 - Choosing the right plant species for the right locations in their gardens and landscapes.
 - Removed or replaced invasive species from their landscapes and gardens

Find Out More

To learn more about the Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program's impact, please contact the state coordinator or visit us online.

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