



The Master Gardener Program in Milwaukee County started in 1982. Over 1,025 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 239 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2016. UWEX Consumer Horticulture Agent Sharon Morrisey facilitates the Program.

**Garden Supports Families**

The *Secret Garden* at Milwaukee’s Ronald McDonald House, supported by MGVs, provides a peaceful green space full of trees, shrubs, flowers, native Wisconsin plants, and an organic vegetable garden. Families are encouraged to pick the fresh vegetables for use in their cooking. Plants are labeled for identification. Updated sprinkler and lighting systems enable reliable crop production in raised beds. Gardening education programs provide interaction with visiting families.

**Helping People Garden Throughout Their Lives**

Although the Southeast Wisconsin MG Lifelong Gardening Committee doesn’t plant and harvest fresh produce, their work enables produce production across Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties and beyond. About 20 MGVs deliver 10-12 demonstrations/programs annually using their extensive inventory of tools that help gardeners protect their joints, with a goal of helping people garden throughout their lives. Many tools are lightweight, telescoping tools that eliminate the need for bending and stooping.

**Over 3550 Pounds of Fresh Produce Donated**

The purpose of the Harvest for the Hungry Garden is to plant, raise, harvest, clean and deliver fresh produce to either the Wauwatosa Food Pantry or Hunger Task Force. This year MGVs donated 1,287 pounds of 14 different types of vegetables. During the 18 years this garden has been in existence it has donated more than 12,785 pounds (6 tons) of fresh vegetables. Between this garden and several others, over 3550 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetable were donated to area food pantries in 2015.

University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming including Title IX and ADA.

**The Master Gardener Program in Milwaukee County**

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 Wauwatosa, WI 53226  
 milwaukee.uwex.edu

**Volunteer Service in 2015**

Youth Ed	2,175	hours
Adult Ed	7,704	hours
Support	4,507	hours
Total	14,398	hours
Value*	\$320,217	

Since 2000: 167,950 hours at a value of over \$3,043,155

\* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of \$22.24 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.



**Where you can find activities by MGVs in Milwaukee Co.**

- Model Backyard at WI State Fair park
- Booth at Realtors Home & Garden Show
- 10 youth garden sites
- UWEX Hort Center, Hort Assistants, and Bloom Team, Boerner Botanical Gardens
- A speakers bureau of 20 MGVs
- Milwaukee Co. Zoo’s Heritage and Butterfly Habitat Garden

