

2022 Impact Report

WSU Master Gardener & Master Recycler Composter Programs

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WSU Master Gardener Program & Master Recycler Composter Volunteer Programs of Thurston County.

Volunteers are trained and certified as community educators to provide, professional, unbiased, research-based home gardening, composting, recycling and waste reduction information to the residents of Thurston County. COVID-19 safety procedures were still in place for most of 2022 (Jan.-Oct.) which did effect our traditional programming/outreach activities. We continued to adapt and found new ways to serve. The following successes were accomplished through a lot of hard work, problem solving, and Zoom meetings. While challenging at times, the volunteers prevailed and maintained a resilient spirit of service.

2022 Success Highlights-

- ❖ Question/Answer Clinics transitioned to a hybrid format. We returned to some in-person events while continuing to run our virtual clinics. Based on lessons learned from 2021 we are still improving how we use this platform.
- ❖ Our food bank garden thrived, and most of the plant health was maintained at our demonstration gardens despite having minimal volunteer crews.
- ❖ We successfully completed our first hybrid (in-person and virtual) WSU Master Gardener new volunteer training. We completed Master Recycler Composter new volunteer training using an updated hybrid model we introduced in 2021.
- ❖ Created and implemented documents/videos to train volunteers how to use our new CERVIS and Give Pulse volunteer management systems.
- ❖ Volunteers on behalf of the Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County (MGFTC) executed multiple alternative fundraisers to meet our program operating needs.

2022 In Numbers:

- ❖ **29** WSU Master Gardener trainees completed new volunteer training. This was the first new volunteer training course since we had to stop in 2020. Trainees participated in weekly virtual and in-person classes and completed homework from January – June.
- ❖ **29** Master Recycler Composter trainees completed new volunteer training. Trainees participated in weekly virtual and in-person classes and completed homework from September – November.
- ❖ **195** Master Gardener and Master Recycler Composter volunteers gave over **17,899** hours of service in 2022.
- ❖ **169** question/answer clinics were held. From these clinics over **12,593** public inquiries for gardening, recycling, and composting information was recorded.
- ❖ **327** work parties were held to maintain demo garden, plant nursery and food bank garden operations.
- ❖ **78** virtual and in-person trainings were held. **3,241** people attended these trainings.
- ❖ A small group of very dedicated volunteers grew over **2,000** pounds of food at our Dirt Works Demonstration Garden. All food was donated to the Thurston Co. Food Bank.
- ❖ In addition to providing funding for two staff positions (1 FTE Program Manager, .5 FTE Program Assistant) Thurston County Solid Waste Department provided **\$6,346.47** worth of Master Recycler Composter program operating expenses.
- ❖ The Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County (MGFTC) raised **\$63,994.93** through multiple fundraisers to help cover program outreach, operational and garden expenses. The Foundation received **\$1,500** in new grants, **\$4,225** in sponsorships, and **\$7,327** donations in 2022. We also worked on projects related to **\$2,228** worth of 2020 - 2021 grants that were postponed due to the pandemic.

