



MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

URBAN GREENS PROGRAM UPDATE

URBAN GREENS

Mission Statement: Growing food, growing community. Together we are working to develop and support urban agriculture projects in Muskingum County.



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2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD), with financial support from our Board of Supervisors and the Muskingum County Farm Bureau Dinner on the Farm event, employed Kristen Baughman as the part-time Urban Agricultural Technician.
- Volunteer Summer Intern Lauren Williams returned to work in Urban Greens and volunteered 196 hours assisting Kristen with the Urban Greens program. In appreciation, the MSWCD Board provided her a \$1000 scholarship to use towards her continued college education.
- Hosted several educational events, including a workshop on the Selection, Care and Use of Hand Tools, a Grocery Store Garden workshop, and a Food Preservation Workshop in July. Urban Greens hosted a Work Day/Community Garden Opening event in April, the Plant and Seed Giveaway in May, and a Harvest Block Party in September.
- Had a raised bed display at the ZMCHD Health Fair. Had displays and activities at each Movie Night in the Park events, held at Restoration Park by the Putnam Business Association.
- Kristen appeared on WHIZ's "Live at Noon" segment several times to promote Urban Greens programming and opportunities. Urban Greens also had an information table weekly at the spring Farmers' Market in Putnam.
- The community garden at Restoration Park was the host site for the 2019 Muskingum County Farm Bureau Dinner on the Farm fundraiser event. Urban Greens will benefit by receiving half of the funds raised that evening.
- Again held the "Kids Dig It" program to provide educational, hands-on lessons in gardening at the Farm to School site. We partnered with Lakyn Craig, OSU SNAP educator, who provided sessions on healthy eating to children enrolled in the Zanesville Civic League and Lifewell Ministries summer programs. Each youth center had approximately 10-20 children participating each week for eight weeks.
- Picked up and distributed compost from Noble Correctional Institute.
- Over 150 families received free garden seed and plants through the Plant and Seed Giveaway in partnership with Brighton Presbyterian Church.
- Assisted Heart of Ohio Girl Scout Council office repair and restore some of their existing raised garden beds for use by the troops and the community.
- Helped The Shelly Company's Wildlife Preserve with establishing several pollinator garden sites. Lauren created an informational display for their permanent sign at the site entrance.
- Took over the management of Brighton Grows Community Garden. A partnership was formed with the Muskingum County Veterans' Clinic and

the entire garden was planted by Urban Greens and several staff and clients of the clinic. The produce harvested from that garden was given away at the clinic to veterans and their families and to the summer lunch program.

- The Farm to School garden at Zanesville Community High School produced 150 pounds of food that was donated to the Zanesville City Schools Summer Lunch Program. It would have been more but the wet spring resulted in the garden going in a little late. There was also a groundhog problem for a while. Additional produce grown after school started was donated to local food pantries.
- The Food Preservation workshop held in July took place at the First United Methodist Church. The focus was on freezing and drying and the hands-on project produced many bags of frozen produce that were given to the church to use for their monthly free meals.

Urban Greens: growing food, growing community.



2020 GOALS

- Continue to support the existing community gardens and provide assistance to any new gardens established in 2020. Assist the Girl Scout Council with getting the rest of their raised beds repaired and restored.
- Establish one completely new community garden within Zanesville City limits, potentially working with the Muskingum County Center for Seniors.
- Possibly establish a garden at Naomi House, a residence recovery house for women with young children.
- Continue to identify and train volunteers to oversee gardens, including a volunteer summer intern to assist Kristen in 2020.
- Continue the Farm to School Project with Zanesville City Schools, including maintaining the garden at the Zanesville Community High School, and offering in-class and outdoor programs centered on urban agriculture and healthy eating.
- Grow another 150+ pounds of produce for the Summer Lunch Program at the Farm to School garden site.
- Continue to work with OSU Extension and Master Gardeners on the “Kids Dig It” programs at the Farm to School garden, engaging youth from Lifewell Ministries and the Zanesville Civic League. Extend the programming to include Bethel Community Center and Eastside Community Ministry.
- Engage at least 150 school-age children in programming in the class room and garden sites (as available).



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