

Sawyer County

Name & Title of person facilitating the program locally? Kevin Schoessow, Area Agriculture Development Agent.

When the MG program started in your county? 1999

Address of the UWEX office and county website 10610 Main Street, Suite 194, Hayward, WI 54843
www.Sawyer.uwex.edu

Number of community gardens in the county 2

Amount of produce donated 500

A list of 8 places where you can find activities by MGVs in your county

1. Hayward Public School Gardens
2. Sawyer County Fair
3. Winter Public School Garden
4. Hayward Library Natural Area (maintenance)
5. Hayward Library Enrichment Programs (teaching)
6. Hayward Senior Center (adaptive gardens)
7. Beautification Plantings at Hayward Post Office and City Signage at Crossroads
8. Plantings at Hayward Food Shelf

4 Success Stories (75-85 words)

1. Sawyer County Master Gardener Volunteers contribute significantly to the Spooner Agriculture Research Station Teaching and Display Garden. During the growing season the garden hosts many training events and has visitors from schools, garden clubs, and residents of the area. Featured in the garden this year was organic vegetables, All American Selections annual flowers, and a perennial display. The garden has won national awards from the All American Selections Landscape Garden Design Contest. The vegetables are donated to local food shelves and in turn to the Sawyer County Senior Center.
2. Hayward Senior Center has created a greenspace and patio area. Master Gardener Volunteers donated funds for raised beds and benches and other needed improvements. The space allows visitors an opportunity to help grow vegetables that are used in senior meals. Training at the resource center included "Small Space Gardening" and "Horticulture Therapy" with the assistance of MGVs. The space is a quiet refuge for those who otherwise would be inside on a nice day.
3. Master Gardener Volunteers who are also part of the Hayward Garden Club have made a difference in the community with plantings at the Post Office, at a major crossroads in the center of town, at the Hayward Library, and at the Hayward Food Shelf. Perennials were provided and used by the Hayward Garden Club at the Chamber of Commerce garden bed as well as the annual plant sale. Additionally, some plants were used at the Hayward Food Shelf sign as a stand- alone project.

4. Community education has been a major activity for Sawyer County Master Gardener Volunteers. Presentations throughout the year are provided to area residents as part of ongoing enrichment programs at the local libraries, garden clubs, and senior centers. Subjects this year included: herbs, pollinators, native plants, grasses and ground covers, and low maintenance gardening. These programs are always well attended and allow for sharing expertise and experiences for both the presenters and participants.

A discussion of all recent projects relating to the theme (within the last 3 years)(theme: "The Value of Gardening"

Sawyer County Master Garden Volunteers are involved in a wide variety of activities including education, providing produce and demonstrating techniques to assist local residents in growing their own food and caring for the habitat. This year's focus has been on pollinators with seminars at the local library, garden clubs, and at the Spooner Research Station about the value of native plants and the effects on native bees, butterflies and other pollinators. These seminars delivered to over 125 local gardeners emphasized what we can do in our own gardens to promote a healthy environment.