

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION
BALTIMORE CITY



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

MASTER
GARDENER 

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NO

ABOUT

Master Gardener program trains volunteers in the science and the art of gardening. It provides intensive horticultural training to individuals who then volunteer as Master Gardeners in their communities by giving lectures, creating gardens, and conducting research. The program supports the outreach mission of the University of Maryland Extension by utilizing unbiased research-based information to educate our communities on best practices in sustainable horticulture and environmental stewardship. Master gardeners enrich the lives of Baltimoreans in various horticultural areas year-round in agricultural literacy, gardening, integrated pest management, and pollinators.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Bay-Wise

Bay-Wise is a UME State-level program focused on teaching the most sustainable gardening and landscaping practices to keep our waterways safe and healthy, including the Chesapeake Bay. We were able to certify 15 houses bay-wise safe and sustainable this year.

Ask a Master Gardener/ Plant Clinic

UME Baltimore City Master Gardeners all over the city at our Ask a Master Gardener tables. They provide information and answer horticulture-related questions to the general public, servicing over 147 people virtually and in person through this program.

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Pollinators

Through interactive talks and workshops about pollinators providing technical advice to those interested in starting a pollinator garden, the master gardeners managed pollinator gardens at various sites around the city.

Grow It Eat It

This statewide UME program focusing on in-person talks and hands-on learning about the best vegetable growing methods in Baltimore City, met both virtually and in person, reaching 302 Baltimore City community members.

2021 MASTER GARDENER INTERN CLASS

A 21-week training in locally relevant, research-based gardening techniques facilitated by UMD educators and local experts. The curriculum, based on sustainable gardening practices, covers topics ranging from Basic Botany and Plant ID, Soil and Soil Biology, Water and Water Harvesting, Weed ID and Management, Integrated Pest Management and Pollinators, Vegetable Production, Fruits, Roses, Trees and Shrubs, Wildlife Management, Xeriscaping and Perennials, Plant Pathology and Diagnosis, Seed Saving, Composting, and Native Plants. Additional training will focus on handling public gardening inquiries.

This year, we had a class of 35 interns from a diverse population from various parts of the city whom each donated 40 hours of volunteering around the city, which amounts to 1,440 hours in agricultural service to Baltimoreans.

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Our Master Gardeners are essential to our program's success. The Baltimore City master gardeners volunteered 4,192 hours, logging 860 hours of continuing education to further their agricultural knowledge. The estimated cost of volunteer hours for 2021 at \$28.54 per hour estimates our volunteer work to be worth \$119,648.20 for the city of Baltimore.

DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER



UME BC Master Gardener volunteers landscaping Billie Holiday Statue



Master Gardener Coordinator, Marcus Williams, teaching food safety at
Plantation Heights Farm