

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Master Gardener Volunteer Network

Our Mission

We prepare volunteers to be peer educators who build relationships with community audiences to integrate local experience and research-based knowledge in planning for and initiating steps to manage gardens, lawns, and landscapes with an emphasis on food security and environmental stewardship.

Our Vision

Adults, youth, and families who engage in our garden-based educational programs expand their learning networks and ecological gardening skills towards greater resilience and connections. As a result, they experience enhanced health and wellness, food security, ecological literacy, environmental stewardship, and they embrace sustainable community practices.

Our Values

- We uphold the nation's Land-Grant University System mission, as well as the mission, vision and values of Cornell Cooperative Extension.
- We support people as they initiate and grow successful gardens, connect in community, and live with meaning and purpose.
- We may be involved in creating and maintaining gardens to support learning. However, we do not provide labor for garden projects, nor do we support gardens that are outside the scope of our mission.
- We offer inclusive educational programming that reflects and respects the diversity of New York State communities and the local needs of those communities.
- We foster diversity by preparing educators and volunteers to build relationships beyond familiar networks.
- We provide garden-based education that incorporates principles of experiential learning, peer learning networks, reflection, and systems thinking.
- We embrace positive adult, youth and community development through sustainable gardening practices.
- We believe in the power of reflection to help us 'do less, better.' In an era of 'too busy-ness,'
- We strive to pause and consider wise action in all our program efforts.
- We promote trust and safe spaces as we engage in learning and collaboration with our network of educators and volunteer, community partners, and program participants.

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.

