

Wayne County

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

In 2015, Michigan State University Extension has continued its tradition of delivering quality educational programs and services to Wayne county residents. Our continued presence in Wayne County means that this year, over 21,000 youth from Wayne County had the opportunity to participate in 4-H and other youth development programs. Through our Master Gardener/ Consumer Horticulture Programs, almost 5,000 Wayne County residents had the opportunity to learn new gardening techniques and best practices. By providing these programs as well as a whole host of extremely impactful resources and initiatives, MSU Extension has solidified its place as a vital part of this extraordinary community. Having recently completed a series of focus groups through our issues Identification process, we look forward to further focusing our mission and program plans to be able to provide all of the very best services we have to offer in order to meet the needs of Wayne County Residents.



Sincerely,

Richard Wooten
District Coordinator, District II

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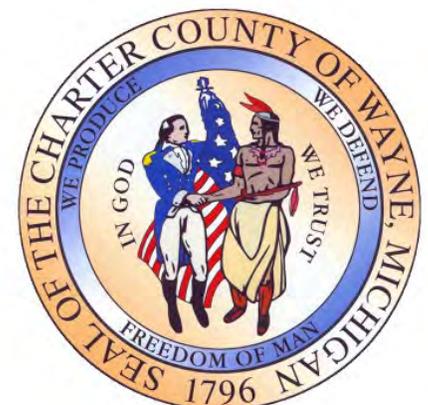
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MEASURING IMPACT	
4-H Youth Development.....	21,164
Volunteers.....	1,059
Health, Nutrition & Wellness	20,803
Community Food Systems & Food Safety.....	6,551
Financial Literacy and Homeownership	389
Natural Resources	3,662
Agribusiness & Horticulture.....	4,837
Volunteers.....	286
TOTAL IMPACT.....	58,751

DEVELOPING YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES

Michigan State University Extension's staff and volunteers worked with 21,164 Wayne County youth during 2015 with specialized programs in 4-H Youth Development, mentoring, natural resource education and nutrition education.

MSU Extension's 4-H Youth Development Program is designed to uniquely prepare Wayne County's youth to meet today's challenges and prepare for tomorrow. It provides developmentally appropriate opportunities for participants aged 5-19 to experience life skills, practice them until well learned and to apply them when necessary throughout their lives. Programs provide hands-on learning opportunities across the county through 4-H clubs, after-school programs, school enrichment programs, mentoring programs and local, state and national events.

During 2015, MSU Extension staff recruited, trained and provided oversight to 1,059 volunteers with 47 as on-going, certified volunteers and 43 representing teen leaders. These volunteers, serving an average of 5 hours per week, delivered 4-H educational programs focused on life skills, animal science, science literacy, leadership and civic engagement, entrepreneurship, and workforce preparation throughout Wayne County.

4-H Clubs

The club model of program delivery is essential to 4-H. It is the original and oldest method of developing youth into productive adults. Club leaders and other volunteers work with groups of youth throughout the year, focusing on various projects and educational goals. The concentrated interaction plus fun, but competitive atmosphere encourages growth and pushes youth to achieve success that they never thought possible. There are currently many active clubs operating in Wayne County. As the needs and interests of youth have changed throughout the years, so too have the various project areas that 4-H youth are able to participate in. MSU Extension staff support project areas and ideas that develop youth's financial literacy, science literacy, entrepreneurship, leadership and civic engagement as well as life skills. These skills assist them to identify career choices and successfully enter the workforce.

An interesting variety of project areas are available to challenge Wayne youth. Currently, there are 306 4-H members participating in 31 chartered clubs in Wayne

When you support MSU Extension 4-H programs, youth participants learn life skills that prepare them for the workforce – especially for highly sought after jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).



From once-a-month family workshops and in-school science lessons to after-school technology training and classroom gardening, MSU Extension supplies Michigan schools and the families they serve with the support they need to be successful.

Developing Youth and Communities, continued

County and working on project areas such as animals, outdoor education and recreation, science and technology, horticulture and gardening, community service and volunteerism and creative endeavors. This was a growth of 50% in members enrolled in 4-H clubs compared to 2014. Wayne County 4-H clubs are located across the county- from Detroit to Belleville and in-between!

Supporting STEM careers through youth programming

According to the 2014-15 M-STEP results, produced by the Michigan Department of Education, the average percentage of non-proficient youth in the field of science is 51.4% and the average number of youth that are partially proficient is 21.2%. When compared to the RESA (Regional Educational Service Agency) test results of Wayne County's youth, the average for non-proficient youth is 63.5% and partially proficient is 27.2%. The youth of Wayne County need STEM programming outside of the classroom setting. 4-H programming has provided a hands – on approach to STEM topics as well as a more in-depth understanding of these topics.

Wayne County staff and volunteers offered numerous STEM related activities during the past year. STEM topics such as bionic arms and engineering cars were facilitated in after school programming. More than 750 youth attendees to Detroit Metro Youth Day participated in experiments that compared household items and identified them as acidic or basic. This same experiment was utilized at Family Fun Day, an event presented by the Alkebu-Lan Center. Youth also participated in an activity intended to challenge their design skills and creativity by creating a device that could shoot marshmallows. Youth then had the opportunity to change their designs to make them more accurate and efficient.

STEM, Entrepreneurship, and Career Camp engaged upper elementary and middle school youth for one week (56 hours total) in hands on STEM projects as well as career awareness and entrepreneurial skill development. This camp occurred at the MSU Detroit Center in the month of August.

4-H youth are engaged in life sciences through their livestock, crops and gardening projects. Youth in these long term programs utilize scientific knowledge as they raise their animals and plants. Trained volunteers teach youth applied sciences as well as life skills.

In the U.S. today, many job openings for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) -related positions go unfilled due to a lack of qualified applicants.

MSU Extension provides resources aligned with Michigan science education standards to teach confidence, leadership and responsibility related to STEM.



Developing Youth and Communities, continued

4-H Tech Wizards Mentoring Program

With a growing number of jobs in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM), it is increasingly important to prepare Michigan's youth for careers in these promising fields. Equally as important is the need to cultivate youth with the creative prowess and critical thinking skills that will help them to address future issues with ingenuity and determination.

In 2015, the Wayne County 4-H Tech Wizards program, part of the Michigan 4-H Tech Wizards initiative, established and grew STEAM mentoring programs in Detroit and Dearborn Heights. 4-H Tech Wizards is a mentoring program that uses STEAM activities as a catalyst for developing relationships between caring adults and the youth they mentor. Through this program, 64 youth mentees in Wayne County were matched with 18 caring adult role models who explored the exciting world of STEAM alongside them. During meetings, mentors and mentees have had the opportunity to work on experiential, project based STEAM activities including water robotics, slime making, egg drop contests and obstacle course race creation. The participating mentors in the program take the lead on the projects by motivating and assisting the youth throughout each project area. Through these projects, youth developed important life skills and an interest in STEAM, all while experiencing the positive developmental outcomes of mentoring. One of the youth program participants was nominated for the National Association of Future Scientist and Technologist's Award of Excellence.

Across the state, Michigan 4-H Tech Wizards was active in 10 different counties, serving 430 youth and engaging 120 adult mentors in 23 communities. When surveyed, youth mentees reported important outcomes from participating in the program including planning to go to college and a more positive life outlook. Michigan 4-H received the funds to support the initial cost of establishing this program as part of a 4-H National Mentoring Program grant that was funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. In order to continue and expand this beneficial program in the face of limited grant dollars, local support will become critical to ensuring great STEAM experiences and caring adult mentors remain available to youth in Wayne County.

MSU Extension programs such as the Michigan 4-H Youth Conservation Council (M4-HYCC) allow Michigan's youth to get involved and become community leaders, but also show them how to be engaged in the legislative process.



To date, 250,000 books have been distributed to more than 2,500 children through programs sponsored by MSU Extension and its partnership with the Molina Foundation.

Developing Youth and Communities, continued

Exploration Days

4-H Exploration Days is one of six pre-college programs offered by MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development. MSU pre-college programs are great for helping youth explore possible career interests. The programs are fun, engaging, educational, and help connect young people with university faculty and other resources. MSU pre-college programs also help youth envision their future so they can wisely choose their high school classes and prepare for college. During Exploration Days youth have the opportunity to choose from over 200 sessions to attend and experience what it is like to stay in a college dorm and “explore” MSU’s campus. The 2015 Wayne County Exploration Days delegation had 64 youth participants, which was an increase from 2014.

4-H Junior Master Gardener Programs

The 4-H Junior Master Gardener program allows youth to become Certified Junior Master Gardeners as they participate in hands-on projects and activities. Youth in the program learn the basics of garden science, food preparation, nutrition and physical fitness. Through the program youth connect with peers, adult volunteers and community partners, to create and maintain school or community gardens. Junior Master Gardener youth also take lead in organizing service projects to help their local community. This year Wayne County 4-H engaged over 200 youth in 4-H Junior Master Gardener projects in Inkster, Dearborn Heights and Detroit.

Career Education and Workforce Preparation

In 2015, more than 75 youth participated in in-depth career education and workforce preparation skill building generally in the form of series or on-going workshops over the summer. Programming took place at summer programs in Detroit (with Don Bosco Hall), 4-H STEM and Career Camp, and at Vista Maria during their Summer Employment series.

Youth practiced their interview skills, created resumes, and discussed professionalism in the workplace. In addition, funding post-secondary education, looking at career interests, and writing thank-you notes were other topics that were explored.

Youth are gaining life skills such as leadership, planning and teamwork, while adults are learning about the information about the needs, concerns and issues that pertain to youth.

MSU Extension offers social, recreational and educational opportunities to connect military families with local resources and support, as well as predictable, safe and nurturing environments for military youth to unite with others facing the same challenges.



ENSURING SAFE AND SECURE FOOD

Michigan State University Extension's Michigan Fresh campaign helps people explore the state's bounty of fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables, meats and more. With Michigan Fresh, people learn how to grow, store, preserve Michigan-grown foods as well as healthful recipes to turn your farmers' market haul into a delicious meal. You can find Michigan Fresh materials at farmers markets in Michigan, including Grand Rapids Downtown Market and Eastern Market in Detroit

MSU Extension staff at farmers market provides cooking demos of healthful Michigan-grown meals and can answer questions for those buying or growing their own fresh fruits and

In 2015, the total number of participants reached is approximately 4,576 and approximately 880 staff hours. Presentations this year included: Canning Hot water bath demonstration (2), Healthy Fats (3), and Alternatives to sugar (1).

Teaching residents about food safety

MSU Extension food safety education programs train participants to prevent incidences of foodborne illness associated with unsafe food handling practices, which results in fewer medical expenses and less temporary or permanent closures of food businesses by local health departments. Costs of illness and food business closures are more expensive from a public health perspective than taking educational classes to learn how to handle food correctly. Those attending a non-profit event where a meal is prepared can feel confident that the food they will be eating was prepared and handled safely when the staff preparing the meal has been trained in serving safe food to large crowds.

Managers of food establishments are required to be certified in food safety practices. In 2015, twenty managers in Wayne County attended ServSafe certification classes with MSU Extension.

In Wayne County, 149 consumers attended food safety education classes. Pertinent topics related to hand washing, time and temperature control of foods and the four cornerstones of food safety, Clean, Separate, Cook and Chill were covered.



MSU Extension efforts in ensuring safe and secure food lead to a healthy population, which in turn helps keep health care costs in check and our communities viable.



In 2013, nearly 4,000 Michigan residents learned about preserving food and preparing safe food for public consumption.



As a result of MSU Extension food safety programs, individuals now use safer food handling, preparation, storage and preservation techniques.

Ensuring Safe and Secure Food, continued

Cottage Food Law- Michigan State University Extension offers a two hour workshop on Michigan's Cottage Food Law. This law allows residents to prepare and store certain foods in a home kitchen. The two hour workshop combines the business and food safety aspects of preparing and selling cottage foods safely and successfully. The two hour workshops are taught by MSU Extension food safety and MSU Product Center educators. In Wayne County 65 consumers attended this course and received a certificate, which can be used at farmers markets when selling their product.

Reducing foodborne illnesses

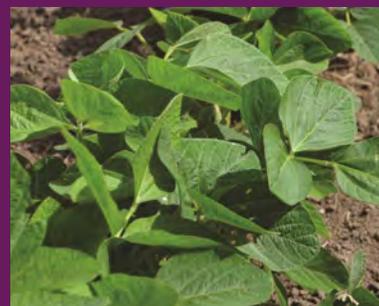
Foodborne illness is a risk for consumption of home canned foods that are not following science-based food preservation processes. A survey conducted by the National Home Food Preservation Center in 2005 found that many food preservers are still following the practice of open kettle canning (for fruits, 44%; vegetables 35% and meats or seafood 20%). In Wayne County 50 consumers attended classes to learn about food preservation, canning, freezing and dehydrating foods. 102 Youth attended the youth food preservation classes. Due to the risk of foodborne illness, including botulism from failure to use safe home canning techniques, it is very important to continue to provide guidelines for safe home food preservation to consumers by MSU Extension food safety educators.

School and Community Gardens

Michigan State University Extension recognizes that Michigan school nutrition programs are a significant sector of the Michigan food system serving 1,561,490 children and youth in public and private schools throughout the state. MSUE Community Food Systems offers professional development training and technical assistance to schools throughout the state to facilitate the use of school gardens for hands-on learning and improvement of students' food choices. We offer similar services to organizations requesting assistance with community gardens to increase food access, connection to the food system and community development.

Community Food Systems programming reached a total of 1,572 participants in 2015.

School gardens lower food costs for school and also encourage healthier eating habits, leading to healthier kids.

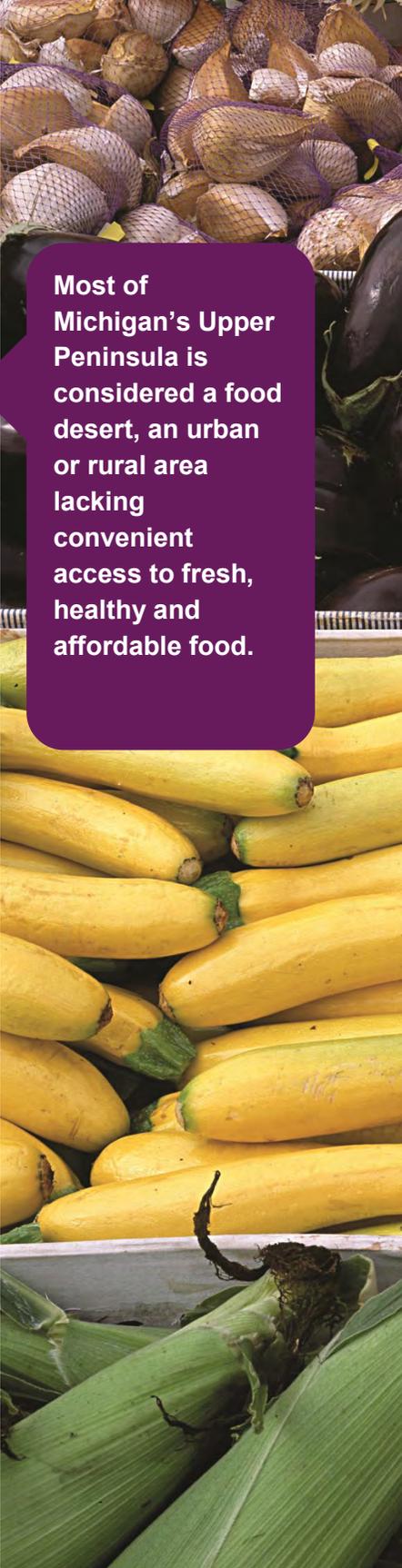


Ensuring Safe and Secure Food, continued

The majority of the programming centered on professional development and training to establish and maintain successful school gardens, through teacher professional development programs, workshops and a newsletter. There were two Starting and Sustaining a School Garden workshops in 2015; one at the Career Technical Center in Traverse City on February 26, 2015 with 28 participants and one at the MSU Tollgate Education Center and Farm in Novi on March 5, 2015 with 29 participants. Pre- and post-workshop evaluations demonstrated high workshop satisfaction along with significant increases in knowledge of and confidence in starting, implementing and sustaining school gardens. The largest impacts were a 40% increase in knowledge of how to develop a school garden team and a 30% increase in confidence levels in linking garden activities to curriculum subjects.

The Office of School Nutrition at Detroit Public Schools requested that Kristine Hahn of Community Food Systems create and deliver monthly professional development sessions on their garden/nutrition education curriculum for the teachers that work with the school gardens in the Farm & Garden program. These professional development sessions consist primarily of basic instruction on the content of the curriculum, and to demonstrate hands-on activities that would supplement the curriculum. We reached a total of 132 Detroit Public School teachers and staff through the monthly professional development series.

Kristine Hahn and colleague Kaitlin Wojciak began creating and distributing a monthly Michigan School Garden newsletter via an email list serve in May 2015. School gardening articles along with school garden grant and educational opportunities were shared with people working in school gardens in Michigan. As of December 2015, the newsletter had 1,101 recipients throughout the state.



Most of Michigan's Upper Peninsula is considered a food desert, an urban or rural area lacking convenient access to fresh, healthy and affordable food.



For several years, MSU Extension has worked to get healthful, Michigan-grown vegetables into more school lunches.

HOME OWNERSHIP, FINANCIAL LITERACY & PRODUCT CENTER

When you support MSU Extension, participants learn how to implement best practices in good governance that keeps communities solvent, productive and engaged; learn effective conflict management skills that help leaders and residents work collaboratively on complex issues; and engage youth leaders in decision-making. In the personal finance area, MSU Extension helps youth and adults alike learn the skills they need to increase their savings, manage their spending, avoid predatory lending and reduce mortgage defaults. All of these outcomes help lower the cost of governmental services and lead to personal and community stability, strong neighborhoods and safe communities.

Home Preservation and Foreclosure Prevention

Foreclosure Prevention Counseling was provided by MSU Extension staff for 75 Wayne County residents during 2015. Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) certified educators and counselors assisted clients in resolving mortgage and tax delinquencies through HUD approved sessions. On a statewide basis, 78% of Michigan residents were able to keep their current home and 3% were able to sell their home to avoid foreclosure.

Pre-Purchase Home Buyer Education

MSU Extension's Pre-Purchase Homebuyer Program helped Wayne County homebuyers make affordable and informed choices prior to the purchase of a new home. The six hour class assisted 171 prospective homebuyers during 2015 with guidance to save money for a down payment and to learn of mortgage products that offer down payment assistance. As a result of this program, 92% of the homebuyers understand predatory lending practices and 90% will get their home inspected by a reputable firm.

The homebuyer education program also provided certificates of completion for residents seeking MSHDA down payment assistance. The program helped participants improve credit scores and financial standing which enhanced the likelihood of eligibility

MSU Extension conducted targeted outreach to residents, small businesses and farm owners to increase knowledge, understanding and confidence in the ability to purchase health insurance.

MSU Extension helps youth and adults alike learn the skills they need to increase their savings, manage their spending avoid predatory lending and reduce mortgage defaults.



Home Ownership & Financial Literacy, continued

for lower cost mortgages and decreased the chances that troubled borrowers would have to seek foreclosure assistance.

Residents also had the option of completing an online homebuyer course entitled eHome America (www.ehomeamerica.org/msue).

Personal Finance

Personal finance education programs were presented by MSU Extension staff to 143 Wayne County residents during 2015. After this program, 86% of these participants were able to write out a spending plan and 86% were able to pay their bills on time.

These sessions were made possible by continuing partnerships with local schools, churches, and community and government organizations. Residents attend these classes to improve their money management skills, prepare for homeownership, or to prevent or recover from financial crises including foreclosure.

MSU Extension utilizes two evidence based curriculums, DollarWorks 2 from the University of Minnesota Extension and Money Smart from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Program delivery ranged from 1 to 6 hours.

In addition, residents have access to an online money management program called EHome Money (www.ehomemoney.org/msue). This low cost online course helps people understand credit, manage their personal finances, and prepare for purchasing a home at their own pace.

Another resource available to Wayne County residents is eXtension and its “Ask the Expert” feature. These national resources assist consumers in getting expert answers and help from Cooperative Extension staff, university faculty, and volunteers from across the United States.

As Michigan looks to rebound from recent fiscal difficulties and become stronger and more fiscally sound in the future, MSU Extension has been a valuable partner in educating the public as well as legislators.



MSU Extension’s financial literacy and housing education programs help families and individuals at any stage of their lives make smart money decisions and work through the homeownership process.



As the state moves to be more competitive in the New Economy, it focuses on attracting and retaining educated people by making communities rich in physical and cultural amenities.

Home Ownership & Financial Literacy, continued

Money Smart Week Outreach Efforts

MSU Extension staff participated in Money Smart Week (MSW) in 2015. Money Smart Week is an annual public awareness campaign created by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances.

Events that occurred during Money Smart Week in Wayne County:

- To Your Credit Workshop – Taylor
- Budget Simulation with Munger Middle School – Detroit
- Consumer Protection and Identity Theft - Detroit
- Women’s Financial Summit - Detroit
- (2) Detroit Parent Network Money Management Classes – Detroit
- Consulate of Mexico of Detroit Resource Fair – Detroit
- Plan Your Spending, Plan Your Future – Highland Park

Securing Mi Financial Future Outreach Efforts

MSU Extension staff participated in a statewide collaboration with the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) in 2015. The ‘Securing Mi Financial Future’ event was established to provide an assortment of accessible personal finance resources and information to Michigan residents. This free event was held at the Detroit Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

Michigan State University Product Center

MSU Extension and the MSU Product Center help Michigan entrepreneurs develop and commercialize high-value, consumer-responsive products and businesses in the food, agriculture, natural resources and bio economy sectors. When you support MSU Extension, you help participants understand the economic, environmental and social benefits of purchasing local and regional foods. You also help young people develop business skills that will help them succeed as adults and help communities capitalize on their ecological, social and cultural assets. This fuels the economy by creating and retaining jobs, and helps ensure a healthy tax base. In 2015, over 250 Wayne County residents received services from the MSU Product Center.

Placemaking, a strategy led by local governments and planning commissions, is cornerstone of Michigan’s economic recovery.



KEEPING PEOPLE HEALTHY

When you support MSU Extension, you help participants learn safe food handling practices, increase their physical activity and improve the quality of their diets. Extension programming also helps decrease incidents of violence and bullying. Encouraging these healthy behaviors helps reduce food and health care costs by helping prevent chronic health conditions and providing safe environments throughout a person's life span.

Working to improve social and emotional health

Many negative factors affect social and emotional health, including ongoing and toxic stress that may result from situations including abusive relationships, bias, damaging coping behaviors and relationship violence. Across the lifespan, people faced with these situations and settings are at risk for a wide range of physical, psychological, social, emotional, cognitive, financial and spiritual health challenges. The United States spends an estimated \$425 billion in direct and indirect costs of violence each year.

RELAX: Alternatives to Anger is designed to help adults, parents, teens and caregivers increase their knowledge about stress and anger issues and put healthy relationship skills into practice by better managing emotions. . Aspects of promoting social emotional health are woven throughout the training and include expressing emotions, navigating stress, resolving interpersonal conflict, taking another's perspective, feeling capable and whole and building skills for forming and maintaining satisfying, healthy and supportive relationships.

The program is widely recognized throughout Wayne County by judges, referees, attorneys and law enforcement programs as a trusted resource for the individuals, parents and adolescents they refer to the program. Through one-time conference presentations and series offered throughout the county, 397 residents completed the program this year.

The practice of mindfulness has entered the American mainstream in recent years and MSU Extension has been key in elevating it in Wayne County and throughout the state. For the past four decades, thousands of studies have documented the physical and mental health benefits of mindfulness, inspiring countless programs to adapt the Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction model for schools, prisons, hospitals, veteran's centers, and beyond.

Encouraging healthy behaviors helps reduce food and health care costs by helping prevent chronic health conditions and providing safe environments throughout a person's life span.



MSU Extension reached more than 87,000 adults and young people across the state through programming. Nearly one-third of youth increased their level of physical activity and more than two-thirds of adults increased time spent being physically active, including three-quarters of older adults.

Keeping People Healthy, continued

Programs focus on helping participants gain the skills needed to buy and prepare nutritious, budget-friendly foods; increase their physical activity; breastfeed their babies and stretch their food dollars.

Stress Less with Mindfulness is a skills-based curriculum taught by trained, masters prepared educators in Wayne County and in 2015, 175 residents came through the program – many of them teachers and parents. Our Stress Less sessions include the following components and can be offered as a series or as a one-time presentation:

Begin with breath: Participants will learn about the benefits of mindfulness, pinpoint behaviors which can make you vulnerable or resilient to stress, learn how the brain can reduce or increase stress and experience mindful movements.

Mindful eating: Participants will learn benefits of eating with mindful awareness, create a personal hunger/fullness scale as a guide for sensing when and how much we actually need to eat and experience paying mindful attention to eating.

Mindful walking/thought surfing: Participants will practice mindful walking, identify how letting go of control can improve mental physical happiness and learn thought-surfing to gain perspective on negative thoughts, sensations, worries and urges.

Be kind to your mind: Participants will learn the importance of self-compassion for your thinking, learn how to de-fuse harsh thinking, practice mindful attention to your thoughts and learn the power of acceptance and gratitude to relieve stress.

Laughter is good medicine: Participants will learn, mental and social benefits of laughter, experience laughing for the health of it, learn ways to include laughter in life, review mindfulness skills and create a plan for continuing mindful practices.

Fighting obesity through education

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports (2015) that more than 30% of adults in Michigan are obese, which adds burden to the economy and is a health risk for various chronic diseases such as diabetes and some cardiovascular diseases. Evidence shows that effective nutrition and physical activity education can help participants improve the quality of their diet and become more active. Such education will allow participants to establish healthier lifestyle practices, which can help decrease the risk for some chronic diseases and the healthcare costs associated with obesity.

Through the National Diabetes Prevention Program, MSU Extension helps participants to learn ways to change their lifestyles and improve their health.



Keeping People Healthy, continued

To help Wayne County residents stay healthy at every stage of their life, Michigan State University Extension (Wayne County) Nutrition and Physical Activity Work Team delivers affordable, relevant, evidence-based education to meet the needs of adults, youth and families in the county. All nutrition and physical activity education programs in Wayne County aim at assisting local residents gain skills and knowledge to make healthy choices within a limited budget and choose active lifestyles consistent with current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and MyPlate. Topic areas of such education include increasing physical activity, healthy meals preparation on a budget, food safety, and increasing consumption of fruits and vegetables.

During 2015, Nutrition and Physical Activity work team staff in Wayne County delivered programs mainly to SNAP-Ed (Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program—Education, formerly known as food stamp) and EFNEP (Expand Food and Nutrition Education Program) eligible adult and youth residents.

Program Numbers

In 2015, the MSUE Nutrition and Physical Activity work team (Wayne County) has reached the following numbers of SNAP-Ed and EFNEP participants throughout Wayne County:

- 1,561 SNAP-Ed and EFNEP adult series participants
- 7,083 SNAP-Ed adult presentation participants
- 7,509 SNAP-Ed and EFNEP youth series participants
- 4,650 SNAP-Ed youth presentation participants

MSU Extension's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) programs teach adults how to make the most of their food dollars, by developing skills such as menu planning, understanding recipes and keeping food safe.



Participants learned about the nutrition and health benefits of foods to feed their families in healthy ways.

MAKING THE MOST OF OUR NATURAL ASSETS

Better land stewardship benefits communities by protecting and enhancing Michigan's natural resource assets.

MSU Extension has a mission to raise awareness and increase the understanding of our natural resources. Serving a total of 3,103 Wayne residents this year, Sea Grant Extension provided a number of programs, throughout southeastern Michigan, to encourage good stewardship of our valuable natural resources among youth and adults.

Great Lakes Education Program

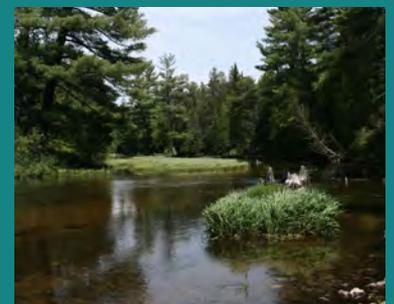
Natural resources staff Steve Stewart and Gary Williams implemented the 2015 seas of GLEP education on the Detroit River. This year, classroom and vessel-based field experiences introduced 1,920 students from Wayne County, as well as 329 adults, in learning about the Detroit River and Lake Erie. A total of 260 hours of instruction were provided to the participating students and adults (4 hours/person), equaling 8,624 educational contact hours. Schools from ten (10) public school districts participated, with additional classes from private/charter schools.

The Great Lakes Education Program includes history, geography, physical and biological sciences, math, literature and the arts to increase student interest in natural resources and encourage understanding of their role as environmental stewards. The first part of the three-phase program began in the classroom with teachers utilizing the GLEP curriculum. The curriculum focuses on water, land, people and life, to familiarize students with the lakes and their ecosystems.

Summer Discovery Cruises

For the 2015 program year, informal learners were, once again, able to learn about the Great Lakes by participating in the Summer Discovery Cruise series, a unique opportunity to advance Coastal Urban Ecotourism throughout Southeast Michigan. The 2015 season was the 13th in partnership with the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA). Cruises were conducted out of Lake Erie Metropark June 13, and July 29 – August 17. During the summer, 69 cruises involved 1,358 learners from multiple Michigan counties, including 712 participants in Wayne.

To marshal all of the passion and energy so many people and organizations have regarding Michigan's lakes, MSU Extension helped organize the first Michigan Inland Lakes Convention.



Making the Most of Our Natural Assets, continued

Sea Grant educators, partnering with Lake Erie Metropark staff, conducted educational cruises that provided physical and informational access to Lake Erie and the Detroit River. Sixteen types of cruises were offered this summer, including Eagle's Eye Nature; River of Time; ROV Adventures (with DTE Energy partners); Great Lakes Science for Teachers; Fish Tales; Bob-Lo Island History; Big River Meander; Wind, Waves & Weather (with National Weather Service partners); Handy Billy; Detroit River Revival (with US Fish & Wildlife Service partners); Shipping Out; Night Watch; Shipwreck at Sugar; Warfare on the Waterfront; Whiskey River; and Journey Through the Straits (a transit of the Detroit River from Lake Erie to Lake St. Clair).

Partnering with other environmentally concerned groups provided Sea Grant educators the opportunity to offer Wetlands & Wildlife, with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR); Fisheries, with MDNR; Shipwrecks! With DTE energy; ROV Adventures with DTW Energy partners; Detroit River Revival with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service partners and, Wind, Waves & Weather with the National Weather Service.

Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative

During the summer of 2015, MSU Extension, Michigan Sea Grant, the Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition and the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative offered the second of three annual professional development opportunities for educators from southeast and northeast Michigan. During the four-day workshop, 55 educators began their journey learning about the Great Lakes resources through place-based education and stewardship, developing inter-regional relationships in the context of Great Lakes literacy and implementing their knowledge and skills in their home school district. The Summer Teacher Institute, was hosted by Eastern Michigan University, which coordinates the Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition (SEMIS). These educators participated in the June 22 kickoff day coordinated by Michigan Sea Grant Extension, which began at Lake St. Clair Metropark, traveled by bus to a St. Clair Shores marina, and from there took place on board a boat which carried the group, including resource presenters from Detroit Public Schools and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, from Lake St. Clair down the length of the Detroit River to Gibraltar. To date, several educational activities have taken place to enrich the lives

Water trails supply residents and visitors adventures along urban waterfronts or remote Great Lakes coastline as well as provide communities with economic development opportunities.



Michigan Sea Grant Extension offers expertise to coastal communities and partners interested in developing and enhancing water trails.



Making the Most of Our Natural Assets, continued

and teaching resources of the educators involved. Alongside Great Lakes scientists, enthusiastic teachers have hiked schoolyard wetland habitats, investigated invasive species, explored water quality in the Thunder Bay River watershed, sampled aquatic food webs from invertebrates in the river to Lake Huron fish populations, and explored marine archeology and maritime history. The Lake Huron Place-Based Education Summer Teacher Institute offered a chance for educators to get their feet wet with Great Lakes science experiences while learning about place-based education (PBE) strategies and best practices. One goal of this experience was to advance Great Lakes literacy or a better understanding the Great Lakes and our interconnections with these water resources. Another goal was to help enhance student learning and involvement in Great Lakes stewardship.

Center for Great Lakes Literacy

Working in conjunction with the support of an EPA-funded grant of \$100,000, Extension professionals worked to create the Center for Great Lakes Literacy (CGLL). The project provides a focus on land-based, hands-on learning experiences for teachers, informal educators, and other adult learners engaged in environmental stewardship. In 2015 CGLL received a five year grant from the United States Geological Survey/Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding (Michigan Sea Grant receives sub-award of \$233,500): Steve Stewart collaborating with Brandon Schroeder and Justin Selden, secured funding to support project: Center for Great Lakes Literacy – Strengthening the Educator/Scientist Community of Practice Through Dynamic Shipboard and Shoreline Professional Development and Stewardship: An Initiative of Environmental Protection Agency’s Great Lakes National Programs Office and the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network programming in Michigan for next five years, including Shipboard and shoreline science workshops for educators. Total project award to Univ. Illinois Urbana-Champaign; with sub-award managed by Michigan Sea Grant to support Great Lakes Literacy education activities in Michigan during project period 10/1/2015-9/30/2020.

The Michigan 4-H Youth Conservation Council taps into the desire of Michigan’s youth to get involved and become a community leader on subjects they are passionate about.



SUPPORTING CONSUMER HORTICULTURE

Consumer Horticulture (CH) involves educating citizens in gardening and garden-related issues. With trends moving toward community gardens and backyard gardening, there is a growing need for educational assistance in these areas. CH Programming is helping residents make environmentally-friendly choices to reduce pesticide use and to make nutrient appropriate choices for fertilizer to protect water quality. CH promotes gardening as a means of living a healthier lifestyle in terms of exercise and diet. For residents with limited space, CH educates on alternatives to traditional gardening such as container gardens and intensive gardening in small spaces. CH provides education and information on invasive plants and pests and how to control them. As churches and communities develop community gardens, CH provides educational training and information on the establishment and maintenance of community gardens.

Extension Master Gardener Hotline & Diagnostic Services

Diagnostic services assist in identifying insects and plant problems for homeowners. In 2015, 187 diagnostics were performed. The Gardening Hotline answers a variety of garden-related questions for residents. In 2015, over 400 Wayne County Residents utilized the hotline for various inquiries.

Master Gardeners

In 2015, there were 70 participants in the Wayne County classes bringing the Wayne County roster to over 286 active Master Gardener Volunteers and Trainees. MSU Extension trains each of these volunteers. Thus, the information they received and the recommendations they will make are research or evidence based. In the past decade, Master Gardeners have been leaders in their communities in teaching environmental practices such as composting, yard waste recycling, water management and low impact gardening. MGs work on many different community projects; most educational events focus on growing plants, protecting water quality through proper use of fertilizers and pesticides in the home garden, and local community needs. The original volunteer work was answering phone calls and hotline responses. The Master Gardener's role has expanded to proactive and community-based projects such as setting up exhibits,

When you support MSU Extension, you help participants learn profitable and efficient business and production practices.



Master Gardeners have assisted thousands of Wayne County residents in learning how to grow their own fresh produce, leading to healthier eating habits.

Supporting Consumer Horticulture, continued

writing news articles, participating in community gardens, yards and neighborhood environmental programs, public demonstration gardens, community plantings and control of invasive plants. In 2015, 4,837 people were reached through Master Gardener related programs and initiatives.

Working together to eliminate these invasive species will be essential to lessen the loss of the Michigan tree fruit crops in the future.

Fighting back against emerging pests

The spotted wing drosophila and the brown marmorated stink bug are two invasive pests that pose the biggest threats to Michigan's fruit production. Michigan growers will likely have to implement new management programs to control these pests from harming their fruit crop.

The spotted wing drosophila has an optimal developing temperature of 65 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit, normal conditions during a Michigan growing season. This makes early detection information vital to activate pest management programs that prevent rapid population increases and potential infestations.

MSU Extension partners with farmers and statewide agencies to monitor these pests. Working together to eliminate these invasive species will be essential to lessen the loss of the Michigan tree fruit crops in the future.

The brown marmorated stink bug has a host range of more than 300 known plants, including fruits grown in Michigan.



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