

2024 Impact Summary

WSU Master Gardener Program & Master Recycler Composter Program of Thurston County

Program Manager: Cori Carlton Program Assistant: Jenni Post



Volunteers are trained and certified as community educators to provide, professional, unbiased, research-based home gardening, composting, recycling and waste reduction information to the residents of Thurston County.

2024 In Numbers:

- ❖ **22** WSU Master Gardener trainees completed new volunteer training. Trainees participated in weekly classes and completed homework from January — June.
- ❖ **8** Master Recycler Composter trainees completed new volunteer training. Trainees participated in weekly classes and completed homework from September — November.
- ❖ **224** WSU Master Gardener and Thurston County Master Recycler Composter volunteers gave over **15,936** hours of service in 2024.
- ❖ **322** in-person and online question/answer clinics were held. From these clinics over **21,718** public inquiries for gardening, recycling, composting, and waste reduction information was recorded.
- ❖ **339** service parties were held to maintain demo garden, plant nursery and food bank garden operations.
- ❖ **42** virtual and in-person workshops were held. **1,453** people attended these trainings.
- ❖ A very dedicated group of volunteers grew over **2,000** pounds of food at our Dirt Works Demonstration Garden. All food was donated to the Thurston Co. Food Bank. Six new raised beds were also built this year.
- ❖ In addition to providing funding for two staff positions (1 FTE Program Manager, .5 FTE Program Assistant) Thurston County Solid Waste Department provided **\$7,152.53** worth of Master Recycler Composter program operating expenses.
- ❖ The Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County (MGFTC) raised **\$77,042** through multiple fundraisers to help cover program outreach, operational and garden expenses. In addition, the Foundation received **\$3,500** in new grants, **\$4,840** in sponsorships, and **\$9,265** donations in 2024. They also funded a **\$24,255** irrigation system upgrade at our Dirt Works Demonstration Garden and Plant Sale Nursery.

