

West Village

Master Gardeners have a Nature Club with the residents of West Village. Some of the projects have included planting the planters in front of the building and growing tomatoes and peppers in planters in a garden area. The club has also built fairy gardens to put on the patios



Winding Creek Meadows Raised Beds

In 2014, Jesup opened its new Assisted Living Facility, Winding Creek Meadows, and a number of the residents had been avid gardeners. Master Gardeners, Joellen Yeager and Nancy Weber, approached the Board of Directors with a proposal to build raised beds for the residents so they could continue their gardening.

In May of 2014, two 2'x3' raised beds were built and delivered to the facility. Initially, due to the location of the beds, they were planted with shade loving annuals. This year the beds were placed in a sunny location, with easy access for residents; so residents were able to plant and enjoy a variety of vegetables. As the vegetables were harvested residents planted flowers.



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Projects of the Buchanan County Master Gardeners



The Butterfly Garden

Our hope is that in addition to being a haven for butterflies, this garden will provide a learning opportunity for library patrons and the community.

Master gardeners, Denise Hawker and Shelly Shafer, defined the garden space and hauled pick-up loads of composted soil to the area to help condition the soil. The Library decided that a retaining wall be built, which was completed by college student Adam Kurt.



Master Gardener, Jean Gillpatrick, designed the garden and selected plants specific to butterflies and caterpillars. A group of Master Gardeners planted the Butterfly Garden in July of 2015 and a dedication was held at the Library on Sunday, August 23, 2015.

Cedar Rock

The Cedar Rock Garden is a long narrow garden that had been allowed to become overgrown with weeds including poison ivy that kept anyone from weeding it. We hit it with roundup and started from scratch this spring. We are planting it in pollinators and flowers that Mrs. Walters liked. We have received two Wright style planters from Cedar Rock.



Community Gardens

The Hazelton community gardens were tilled and staked out in May 2010. There were five people who planted eight gardens, each gardener had to water by hand and keep their garden weeded. In 2015 the city provided water.

In 2015 a youth group (pictured to right) planted tomatoes, green peppers, watermelons, squash, and pumpkins. The children had smiles on their faces while they ate the tomatoes.



This land was donated by Bob Bennet. This project came from the Horizon Sessions a program of Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach.

The Darrell E. Davis Adult Care Center

The Darrell E. Davis Adult Care Center is an exciting place to hold classes on gardening. Master Gardeners, Anita Miller, Rosalind Gibbs and Jean Gillpatrick, hold

classes once a month.

The residents are very interested in talking about flower, pollinator and vegetable gardens. The residents planted several flower containers to enjoy during the spring, summer and fall.



Faith Discipleship Center Garden

This garden project was started in 2015 by Master Gardener, Terry Bowden. It is a 9 to 12 month Christian based training center for men. We believe that Jesus Christ is the answer to all life's problems. The Bible is taught and how to live according to the instructions in the Bible.

Terry helped with establishing a 30'x60' garden. He has helped with tilling and instructing the men in planning, planting, making cages for tomatoes, and other garden structures; as well as the construction of a 6' high fence around the project.



Flowers on Main Street Hazelton

In 2008 Master Gardeners, Mary Davis and Hazel Kout, along with six volunteers, accepted the duties of buying, planting, and watering 28 original wooden boxes on Main Street.

In 2013 each business agreed to water their flowers. Loyd Froning built a watering tank. The Flowers brighten the town and look very nice.

Hazelton Veterans Park

In 2011, Gerald Harkheimer donated land for the Veterans Park in Hazelton. Bob Bennet, was one of many, who volunteered hours upon hours to fill and level the land.

A lot of planning went into the construction of the semi-circle concrete wall, sidewalks, Veterans Memorial Stone, and parking area.



Carol and Julene De Hart worked hard to lay bricks of Veterans past and present around the inside of the wall. Mary and Harvey Davis, Hazel Kout and volunteers have planted two conifers, two small bushes, two lilac

trees, 50 boxwood, annuals and perennials in the three flower beds. Loyd Froning built two watering tanks. The park is a big addition to Hazelton and was an idea from Horizon Sessions a program of Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach.

Hospice Garden

With the idea to develop the empty lot next to the hospice office and after a year of planning, the work on the Hospice Garden began in 1997.

Master Gardeners, Diane Dave & Gary Whittenbaugh, along with several interested community members worked together in deciding the type of garden.

Since it had to be low maintenance, a conifer garden with shrubs and companion plants was chosen. It was a Master Gardener project from the beginning with the support of Former Extension Director, Mary Ann Nicchel.



Over the years, many Master Gardeners have continued to maintain and update the garden with necessary changes and additions; including a Hosta Garden.

Independence Main Street Planters

The Buchanan County Master Gardeners help to plant the downtown Independence and main street planters in an effort to beautify the city.



This tradition began when the group was asked to give Main Street a uniform look when Independence hosted its first RAGBRAI stop.

Jakway Heirloom Garden

The Jakway Heirloom garden has been a project of Master Gardener, Mary Davis, since 2012. Mary purchases seed from The Seed Saver out of Decorah for planting in the garden.

Since the fall of 2014 Master Gardener Terry Bowden, Ruby Bodeker and her daughter Coralee have assisted with planting, weeding and harvesting the vegetables.



Some of the crop is sold at the local Farmers Market With all proceeds going toward the Jakway/Richardson Foundation.

Jakway holds an old time meal in the fall which provides an opportunity to cook using foods grown in the garden, including fingerling potatoes and garlic.

Kenny Nielsen Park

In the spring of 2014 Master Gardeners, Kenny Harms and JoAnn Crain, presented the Rowley City Council with an idea about a flower garden at the Kenny Nielsen Park in Rowley.



The late Kenny Harms had the design in mind and JoAnn Crain chose the plants for the garden; which was completed in June 2014. Currently the garden is being maintained by Master Gardener, JoAnn Crain.

Lee Mansion

Capt. D.S. Lee was a prominent early settler in Independence. He and Mrs. Lee, moved into their new home, the Lee Mansion, in 1867. The home was turned into the first People's Hospital in 1917 and has seen many decades of service. It is now owned by the Buchanan Co. Historical Society and is in a restoration program to restore it into a period home.

The garden is appreciated by those that walk by. It was designed to complement the area and hosts artifacts from the Buchanan County Historical Society. This is one of the most well-known gardens in the area and is one of the many Master Gardener projects in Buchanan County.



The Master Gardeners have donated countless hours into the project and without them it would be impossible to maintain. The Lee Mansion Gardens began as a Master Gardener project in 1996 as Victorian Gardens to beautify the Lee Mansion grounds. They comprised the Porch Garden, Foundation Garden, House Garden, Arbor/Bench Garden, Tree Garden, Herb Garden and Sundial-Hedge Garden. The late Dr. L. John Flage took on much of the garden renovation and built the arbor and the sundial garden as his Master Gardener volunteerism when he first took the Master Gardenered class.

In 2011, several new master gardeners came onboard and added the Willow Garden, Sand Cherry Garden, Hillside Garden, Perennial Garden and the Lilac Garden to further compliment the area.

In 2015 the garden was certified by the Plant Grow Fly program through the Blank Park Zoo; as a certified pollinator habitat. Most recently the Connie Higgins Memorial Garden has been added. Feel free to visit the Lee Mansion Gardens often as the colors change through-out the seasons.



Planters and Statue

The Independence Public Library Board President, Craig Ankerstjern, reached out to the Buchanan County Master Gardeners to help improve the visual appeal of the Independence Public Library.

The planters were purchased and are designed and planted each year with bright and showy annual plants, by local Master Gardeners and Master Gardener Coordinator, Ashley Sherrets. The statue on the library grounds, which was designed by Kurt Barker, also has flowers planted to add aesthetic value.



The Presbyterian Sharing Gardens

In the spring of 2015, five members of the Presbyterian Church in Independence, lead by Pastor John Hougen, decided to plant five Sharing Gardens.

The Heartland Acres Agribition Center provided the space near the country school and the Buchanan County Community Foundation gave a grant. A member of the church built the raised beds and committee members acquired the tools, seeds and soil components.

On May 25 eighteen members of the church, preschoolers through retirees, mixed the soil and planted many different vegetables in the first garden. The next week Girl Scout Troop #6079, lead by Catherine Smith, planted a 'salsa' garden and another group from the church filled the three remaining raised beds with plants.



Each week a family from the church or the Girl Scouts,

with the help of Master Gardeners, Shirley Rozendaal and Rosalind Gibbs, Denise Hawker and Cindy Walton, water and weed the beds and take the produce (radishes, onions, beans, peppers, potatoes, and tomatoes) to the Food Pantry; fulfilling the goal of the project.

Rowley Community Center

The plantings in front of the Rowley Community Center were completed in 2009. Master Gardeners, Denise Glew and the late Kenny Harms, designed and planted the flowers. Master Gardener, JoAnn Crain, maintains the garden bed by weeding, pruning and watering.



Rowley Rock

The idea for the Rowley Rock Garden took shape with the closing of South Elementary School; as the community wanted a special place to put the cornerstones from the school building.

Mayor Rita Knutson selected the rock, Tony Schwarting set the pavers, Jason Krueger engraved the rock and Master Gardener, Pam Bergman, designed and planted the garden.



The group is looking to add more plants to the garden next year. Pruning, watering and weeding is done by Master Gardener, JoAnn Crain.

Wapsipinicon Mill Prairie Garden

This project had two goals. First, the Master Gardeners wanted to show what was in a tall grass prairie. Second, the group wanted to be able to teach the public how to incorporate these prairie plants in their present gardens. This would help explain the benefits of using natives.

The Wapsipinicon Mill Historical Site gets many visitors each year; in addition to school groups, the Mill is also a stop on many Iowa and National bus tours.



The Master Gardeners have submitted the garden to be certified as a Monarch Waystation. This will enable the Master Gardeners to talk about the importance of building up the populations of all insects through plants that were here before all the farming practices.