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

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.

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.

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

**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.

**Wapsipinicon Mill Prairie Garden**

This project has 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.

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.

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