

GEORGIA MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Learn

Serve

Grow



Spotlight: Home Food Production

Since 2006, Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEVs) of Gwinnett County have worked within McDaniel Farm Park. This property is considered a passive park of 132 acres that Gwinnett County purchased from the Archie McDaniel family. The park boasts a 1930s farm homestead with many walking and bicycling trails running through the property. When the park opened, MGEVs began "Archie's Vegetable Garden" to demonstrate various types of vegetables that were typically grown in the 1930s as a food source for the family, as well as to trial new vegetable varieties. The working vegetable demonstration garden generates produce that is donated to local food banks and to Annandale Village in Suwanee, a key donation site through the Plant-a-Row for the Hungry program. Impressively, the vegetable garden averages more than 1,000 pounds of produce each year.

MGEVs and Gwinnett County Extension work with the Gwinnett County Environmental and Heritage Center to provide historic programs and summer camps. Children learn about how farms were run, discover the source of their food, and watch Civil War re-enactments. The County Parks Department helps with the beautification of the park by replacing existing plants with plants appropriate to this time in history. The garden is supported by MGEVs' hard work and grants provided by the Gwinnett County Master Gardener Association, Georgia Master Gardener Association (GMGA), and various donations from the volunteers.

Gwinnett MGEVs were recognized as the 2015 "Georgia Recreation & Parks Association's Volunteer of the Year" for this garden and two other parks where MGEVs actively volunteer. The project is also recognized by Annandale Village for the produce donated each year.

McDaniel Farm Park Demonstration Garden
Duluth, GA
Served by MGEVs from Gwinnett County



2015 Project Contributions:

Volunteer Hours: 764

MGEV work shifts: 40

Harvest Days and Work Days with
the Public: 8

Special thanks to MGEVs working at McDaniel Farm Park!

MGEVs have honed their vegetable-growing knowledge and have learned more about the historic value of the site and the McDaniel family. They enjoy working on the site and answering questions as the public comes through to enjoy the park and gardens.



The Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program prepares volunteers to support UGA Cooperative Extension in delivering gardening information to Georgia's citizens and communities. Since 1979, Master Gardeners and UGA Extension have helped Georgians become healthier, more productive, financially independent and environmentally responsible.