



The Master Gardener Program in Racine County started in 1994. Over 455 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 88 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Jeanne Hilinske-Christensen.

### Education at Tomatomania

A local garden center in Racine hosts a one-day event called *Tomatomania* where they celebrate everything tomato! They allow customers to sample numerous varieties of tomatoes and then rate them. With the focus being tomatoes, there are booths selling foods containing tomatoes, beverages made with tomatoes, and informational booths about tomatoes. MGVs staffed a booth at this annual event, assisting with 54 inquiries during the 4 hour event.

### Ridgewood Care Center Plantings

For many years, high profile areas around the Ridgewood Care Center campus have been planted and maintained by MGVs for the benefit of the 200 residents, 300 employees, and the many visitors to the facility. The annual plantings add color to the entrance while attractive perennial beds edge outdoor seating areas. The Ridgewood Care Center has recently been sold and will no longer be owned by a non-profit agency, therefore this MG project will end in 2017.

### Wind Point Lighthouse Gardens Highlight History

Gardens containing plant material with historical significance to the Wind Point Lighthouse located in Racine are planted and maintained by MGVs on the lighthouse property. An herb garden greets visitors at the entrance of the property while lavish, manicured gardens border the edge of the beach along Lake Michigan. Tours of the lighthouse and adjacent grounds are offered on specific days throughout the growing season, allowing people to learn about plants that were grown there in the past and their uses.

## The Master Gardener Program in Racine County

Racine County UWEX Office  
209 North Main Street  
Burlington, WI 53105  
racine.uwex.edu

### Volunteer Service in 2017

Youth Ed	492	hours
Adult Ed	358	hours
Support	3,183	hours
Total	4,033	hours
Value*	\$93,001	

Since 2000: 78,521 hours at a value of over \$1,466,878

\* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of \$23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.



### Where you can find activities by MGVs in Racine Co.

- Racine County Fair
- Botany in the Classroom
- The Garden of Giving
- Gardens of DeKoven Center
- The Teaching Garden
- Wind Point Lighthouse
- WI Veteran's Home, Union Grove
- Real Racine

