



MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

URBAN GREENS PROGRAM UPDATE

URBAN GREENS

Mission Statement: Growing food, growing community. Together we are working to develop and support urban agriculture projects in Muskingum County.



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2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD), with financial support from our Board of Supervisors and the Muskingum County Farm Bureau Dinner on the Farm event, employed Kristen Baughman as the part-time Urban Agricultural Technician.
- Volunteer Summer Interns Allie Murphy and Ben Phillips worked in Urban Greens and volunteered 109 hours assisting Kristen with the Urban Greens program. In appreciation, the MSWCD Board provided a \$1000 scholarship to each to use towards their continued college educations.
- Urban Greens hosted a Community Garden Information Day in February.
- Due to the pandemic all planned events, including the “Kids Dig It” program, were canceled.
- Over 150 families received free garden seed and plants through the Plant and Seed Giveaway in partnership with Eastside Community Ministry; it was a drive-thru event and lasted until the plants and seeds were gone (the demand exceeded the supply).
- Helped The Shelly Company’s Wildlife Preserve with several pollinator garden sites.
- Established pollinator garden sites at Brighton Grows Garden.
- Worked in partnership with the Muskingum County Veterans’ Clinic at the Brighton Grows Garden. The entire garden was planted by Urban Greens and several staff and clients of the clinic. The produce harvested from that garden was given away at the clinic to veterans and their families and other organizations.
- At the end of the growing season, fences were built around the garden plots at Brighton Grows. Tarps were placed on the garden plots so that next spring the plots could be easily planted without tillage.
- The Farm to School garden at Zanesville Community High School continued to produce, however the Zanesville City School Summer Lunch Program was unable to take the produce this year (due to it having to be handled and it not being pre-packaged).
- Between Brighton Grows and the Zanesville Community High School Farm to School Garden, a total of 911.5 pounds of produce was donated to various agencies, including Christ’s Table, Salvation Army, the Veterans’ clinic, AllWell Crisis Center, Transition, and garden volunteers.
- Assisted a group starting a community garden in Dresden.

- All in all, despite the craziness of 2020, it was still a good year for Urban Greens! If anything, the pandemic pushed more people to plant their own food. Hopefully 2021 will be a more normal year!
- Kristen Baughman left the District on November 30. The Board is in the process of advertising the position and hiring a replacement.
- Interns Allie Murphy and Ben Phillips created a 30-minute video, which was shown at the National Association of Conservation District's (virtual) 75th Annual Meeting in February 2021.

Urban Greens: growing food, growing community.



2021 GOALS

- Hire and train Kristen Baughman's replacement. Again, this will be a part-time, intermittent employee.
- Continue to support the existing community gardens and provide assistance to any new gardens established in 2021. Assist the Girl Scout Council with getting the rest of their raised beds repaired and restored.
- Establish one completely new community garden within Zanesville City limits, potentially working with the Muskingum County Library System.
- Possibly establish a garden at Naomi House, a residence recovery house for women with young children.
- Continue to identify and train volunteers to oversee gardens, including a volunteer summer intern to assist in 2021.
- Continue the Farm to School Project with Zanesville City Schools, including maintaining the garden at the Zanesville Community High School, and offering in-class and outdoor programs centered on urban agriculture and healthy eating.
- Grow another 900+ pounds of produce for the Summer Lunch Program (if they are able to take it in 2021), and other community organizations that fight hunger.
- Bring back the "Kids Dig It" program for Lifewell Ministries and Zanesville Civic League. If possible, work with OSU Extension and Master Gardeners at the Farm to School garden



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