



Hyde Farm Community Garden *served by Cobb County Extension and MGEVs*

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Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program

UGA Extension, Cobb County and Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEVs) partnered with Cobb County Parks and Recreation Services to establish a community garden at Hyde Farm, the first one located in East Cobb. Gardening for most citizens in surrounding neighborhoods is limited by homeowner association regulations and mature landscapes with much shade. Therefore, locals were excited for the opportunity to have a location for growing their own food, and the initial plans to install forty garden beds was increased to fifty as all beds were rented and a waiting list was started in less than a month!



50
garden beds
built by MGEVs

375
volunteer service
hours in 2017



Cobb County MGEVs sought grant funds to support the establishment of the community garden. To help with the grant writing process, a Cobb County MGEV attended a grant writing workshop hosted by Emory. MGEVs were successful in obtaining \$16,000 in grant support for the project, in addition to \$8,000 raised by Master Gardener Volunteers of Cobb County (MGVOCC).

In 2017, Master Gardeners volunteered more than 375 hours at the community garden, including building the garden beds and installing the perimeter fencing. Each month, MGEVs provided educational programming on topics, like basic gardening, seed starting, and seed saving. In addition, MGEVs have been planning pollinator beds that will surround the perimeter of the community garden, to be installed in March 2018. They have put together a list of pollinator plants for the garden beds, including native varieties. Plants were carefully selected, and some were donated from other Cobb County MGEV projects, while a few were purchased from the Cobb County 4-H plant sale. Honey bee hives will be added to the community garden along with the pollinator beds.

Over **2,000** hours were
volunteered at Cobb County
community gardens in 2017.



Currently, greens and herbs are occupying the beds, with preparations being made to install spring and summer crops. Community members are looking forward to spending time in the garden and enjoying the fruits of their labor as they work alongside and learn from Cobb County MGEVs. In May 2018, the Hyde Farm Community garden will be featured on the Annual Cobb Garden Tour, with garden-to-table cooking demonstrations taking place in the garden throughout the day.



Community garden beds are planted with herbs and vegetables.

Pollinator beds will include native plants.



All Cobb County community gardens have pollinator beds to support native bee populations.

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.

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