



## Valuing Landscapes

*served by Fulton County Extension and MGEVs*

[gamastergardener.org](http://gamastergardener.org)

Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program

UGA Extension, Fulton County and Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEVs) overcome the geographical obstacle of a large county and logistical obstacle of Atlanta traffic to maintain community connectivity through collaborative projects that support community pride in valuing landscapes. In 2017, Fulton County MGEVs volunteered more than 7,500 hours on projects that benefit all age groups of the community and help to not only cultivate an appreciation for home and community gardening, but to also grow the cultural landscape of Fulton County communities.

Fulton County MGEVs achieve this through their involvement in projects like restoring Camp Fulton/Truitt 4-H Center to an educational outdoor center that can be used for the youth development program, Project G.R.O.W.L (Growing Real Opportunities in Work and Life in Agriculture), which benefits 7th-9th graders.



Through this program urban youth learn how to grow, harvest, and prepare food, while grasping the importance of agriculture to the urban environment and urban economy. High school students have even assisted MGEVs in rejuvenating the old camp and constructing raised garden beds for a new educational garden to be installed in 2018. Extension and MGEVs in Fulton County are working hard to restore the property to its former vibrancy with the goal of creating a space to host horticulture outreach programming. Camp Fulton/Truitt 4-H Center holds many memories for past generations, and community members are excited about their grandchildren having the opportunity to learn, grow, and have fun at the camp center just like they did.

In addition, free monthly classes conducted at Farm Chastain in the Chastain Park Conservancy by Fulton County MGEVs benefit youth and adult audiences. These classes cover topics like greenhouse gardening, composting, vegetable gardening, canning, container gardening, and proper pruning techniques. The urban farm is used to host this hands-on horticulture education and produce food donations to Good Samaritans in Atlanta. Once a month, 4-H programming is led by MGEVs at Farm Chastain. Youth are engaged in activities like yoga, making smoothies, and fall vegetable

container gardening. MGEVs stretch their reach to adult populations outside of this outdoor classroom by providing classes to senior citizens on topics like arranging cut flowers.

MGEVs are valued as educators, architects, and artists. They help to grow communities who take pride in local landscapes and develop an appreciation for home and community gardening through the education provided by MGEVs. Through their training, MGEVs are equipped with the tools to teach urban gardening while supporting Fulton County Extension's multi-generational approach to its healthy living initiative.

**7,500**

volunteer service hours in 2017

**152**

MGEVs contributing to projects

*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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