

# Train the Trainer:

## Empowering Master Gardener Volunteers to Expand Educational Outreach

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### Program Overview

To equip volunteers with the skills needed to lead educational programs, three specialized training initiatives were implemented:

- Vegetable Garden Teacher Training – Focused on preparing volunteers to deliver vegetable gardening classes.
- Garden Guide Training – Transitioned Extension-led garden tours to volunteer-led sessions.
- Community Educator Training – Developed technical presentation skills, including PowerPoint, Canva, accessibility, and copyright compliance.

A longstanding HeadStart preschool gardening curriculum further demonstrates the sustainability of this model. Originally a Train the Trainer program, veteran MGVs now teach and mentor new volunteers, ensuring program continuity.

The demand for horticultural education exceeds the capacity of individual Extension Agents. Training Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) to serve as educators allows Extension to increase its outreach, ensuring broader access to science-based gardening education.



### Impacts & Results

Program	# of Volunteer Trainings	Classes Taught	Participants Reached
Vegetable Garden Training (2024-25)	3	6	69
Garden Guide Training 2025	4	2	18
General Public Classes (2022-25)	7	77	1,385
HeadStart Preschool Program	N/A	224	8,923
<b>Total Reach</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>10,395</b>

Through structured training and mentorship, MGVs have significantly expanded the program's reach, with 334 classes delivered to 10,762 participants.

### Key Takeaways

- Structured training empowers MGVs to serve as effective educators.
- The Train the Trainer model fosters program sustainability.
- By increasing volunteer-led programming, Extension maximizes its educational impact.