

Pima County Master Gardener Partnerships

The Pima County Master Gardener program provides technical assistance to a wide range of educational organizations and institutions. Below is a brief description of current partnerships.

Tumacacori Mission Gardens - The Pima County Master Gardener program works in conjunction with the National Historic Park staff and interpreters of the Tumacacori Mission to maintain a five-acre Kino Heritage orchard consisting of 64 quince, pomegranate and fig trees. Work in the orchard consists of planting, pruning, composting, fertilizing and pest management. The committee also works with Park personnel to maintain the Visitor Center Courtyard Garden. In addition to maintaining the heritage plants at the site, Master Gardeners work with Park personnel to develop interpretative and educational opportunities around these plants for the public.

Juvenile Courtyard Garden - Located inside the detention facility at Pima County Juvenile Court is a courtyard garden with raised beds and potted plants. This garden was developed for the enjoyment and education of children who are detained. Pima County Master Gardeners provide an interactive, hands-on environment for children to educate them about gardening, including planting, growing, and harvesting fruits and vegetables, as well as learning about insects and the nutritional benefits of eating the foods the children have grown. Master Gardeners work with Pima County Juvenile Detention to develop the Courtyard Garden into a welcoming and inviting green space for children in an otherwise sterile environment.

Tucson Village Farm - TVF is a working urban farm built by and for the youth of the Tucson community. It is a 4-H program through the University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Pima County Cooperative Extension. The goal of TVF is to reconnect young people to a healthy food system, teach them how to grow and prepare fresh food, and empower them to make healthy life choices. The Pima County Master Gardeners assist with educational programming efforts of delivering a seed-to-table curriculum. TVF offers year-round instructional hands-on programs for youth of all ages, as well as programs for the community and families. TVF serves urban youth from all socio-economic backgrounds; however, they focus on low-income, at-risk populations. The farm serves as a safe urban location where youth can come to be outdoors and engage in physical activity while contributing to and participating in local food production, preparation, and consumption.

The Haven Project – The Haven Project consists of a small group of Master Gardeners working in conjunction with The Haven Rehabilitation Center and the University of Arizona School of Nutrition. Master Gardeners teach a gardening class at the center two mornings a month. Class time runs about 1 ½ hours. The class is casual, yet informative, where the teaching method is hands-on and the atmosphere is very relaxed. The focus is on planting vegetables and herbs, with an emphasis on growing and preparing healthy foods. The Haven is one of the oldest and largest residential treatment centers for drug and alcohol rehabilitation in Pima County, designed specifically to meet the needs of women. Classes support the health and nutritional information the women are being taught by University instructors.

Tucson Audubon Society - In 2017, the Master Gardener Wildlife Habitat committee began partnering with Tucson's Audubon Society to deliver informative library talks and event presentations on creating wildlife habitat in residential landscapes. The synergy of this relationship benefits the community in many ways, including raising its awareness of both programs and improving the environment. Everybody wins.

The University of Arizona Campus Arboretum - The UA Campus Arboretum is a living laboratory promoting stewardship and conservation of urban trees through research, education and outreach. The University of Arizona campus has over 400 different tree species from around the world, and a comparable number of shrubs. The 125-year-old collection is valuable for its breadth, its age and the rarity of dozens of individual species. The grounds are used for instruction, research and outreach. The University of Arizona Arboretum comprises all space on which the University has developed facilities. All plantings adjoining UA buildings or defining University open space, in Pima County, Arizona, may be considered as a part of the University of Arizona Arboretum. Pima County Master Gardeners provide guided walking tours of the Arboretum during the fall and spring semesters.

Pima County Libraries – The Library Talks Program is a partnership between Pima County Master Gardeners and the Pima County Libraries. Master Gardeners share horticultural information and answer questions at several libraries throughout the city of Tucson from September through May. The talks are free and open to the public. No pre-registration necessary, just come in and learn about gardening in the desert. A schedule of topics, times and locations is available on the PCMG website.

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