

COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2025

33030 Van Born, Wayne, MI 48184
(734) 721-6576

With the Support of Warren C. Evans,
Wayne County Executive and
Wayne County Commissioners



Message from the District Director

During the most recent reporting year, Michigan State University Extension programs in Wayne County continued to expand their reach and strengthen community engagement. Overall participation increased compared to the prior year, reflecting sustained interest in MSU Extension services and the organization's ability to meet evolving community needs.

Youth programs showed particularly strong momentum. Participation in 4-H programs increased, supported by growth in volunteer involvement. In addition, MSU Extension reached more young people across all youth-focused initiatives, indicating broader program visibility and deeper engagement with families, schools, and community partners. These gains highlight MSU Extension's ongoing commitment to youth development, leadership, and education throughout Wayne County.

The Master Gardener program also experienced positive growth in volunteer participation, demonstrating continued enthusiasm for horticulture education and community service. While total volunteer service time declined slightly, the expanding volunteer base reflects a strong foundation for outreach and education as the program adapts to changing schedules and service opportunities.

Collectively, these trends underscore MSU Extension's continued progress in broadening its impact, cultivating volunteer leadership, and delivering high-quality educational programs. Growth in participation across multiple program areas positions MSU Extension to remain a vital community resource and to build on this momentum in the coming year.

Richard Wooten, AICP

Overall Impact



26 community coalitions within the county that MSU Extension employees are members of



104 policy, systems, and environmental changes with those PSE sites



23,626 participants from the county attending programs



1,259 client consultations
53 product center clients



1,647 programs (across the state) attended by participants from this county



206,346,096 contacts through social media, web activity, e-newsletters, and handouts



52 Nutrition and Physical Activity Policy System and Environmental sites receiving PSE education within the county

Economic Development, Environmental Conservation, and Agricultural Productivity



72,517 participants in community, food, and environment programs from across Michigan



476 virtual programs related to Financial Education, Food Systems, Water and Environmental Quality, Government and Businesses



\$244.2 Billion annual impact of food and agriculture on Michigan's economy



298 participants in county agriculture programs



4-H members who participated in 4-H's "Rolling into Summer" Event.

Program Descriptions

- **Nutrition and Physical Activity Education** are a means to prevent obesity and decrease chronic diseases among residents. We deliver high-quality, no-cost education to serve the needs of low-income adults, children, families, and senior citizens through fun, interactive classes.
- **Food Safety** classes teach participants how to reduce chances of foodborne illness; information about the MI Cottage Food Law; how to preserve food by water-bath canning, pressure canning, freezing or drying using researched based information and safe techniques; classes on food safety related to emergency preparedness and clean drinking water; and classes for participants to earn their ServSafe® Manager Certification.
- **Money Management and Financial Literacy** programs provide sessions that focus on helping consumers gain confidence and skills related to their personal finances. Participants attend classes to understand their money values; how to communicate about money; how to develop spending plans; SMART goals; manage debt; improve credit and how to create plans for saving and investing.
- **Social-Emotional Health and Well-being** programs strive to increase personal competencies such as emotional resilience, self-esteem and interpersonal skills. These skills help to protect against risks relating to exposure to toxic stress stemming from social and economic disadvantage, poor parenting, abuse, family disruption, relationship violence and other adversities in life. Our programs target people who are at risk for a wide range of physical, psychological, social, emotional, cognitive, financial and spiritual health challenges.
- **MSU Detroit Partnership for Food, Learning and Innovation (DPFLI)** focuses on programs and research that support urban agriculture through fruit crop management, food systems education and food preservation. The center also provides neighborhood-based Extension programs in Northwest Detroit.
- **MSU Extension 4-H** programs allow youth participants to learn life skills that prepare them for the workforce – especially for highly sought after jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Extension programs help children develop early literacy skills that support school readiness. Participating youth learn leadership and decision-making skills in 4-H that will increase their likelihood of becoming civically active.
- **MSU Extension Michigan Sea Grant** facilitates or assists with numerous projects in Wayne County including Aquatic Invasive Species Education, which centers on education and outreach programs at various locations throughout the county. Safe & Sustainable Fisheries – workshops that are intended to bring together anglers with fisheries managers and other subject matter experts to provide information about the status and trends of fishing in the Great Lakes and connecting waters. Also, Harmful Algal Bloom Education providing annual webinars about how to recognize, report, and stay safe around blooms.
- **Consumer Horticulture** serves home-gardeners, community gardens, non-profits, and community groups, seeking information to improve gardening practices. To become a **Certified Extension Master Gardener**, trainees must first complete the “Foundations of Gardening” ten-week class to learn about horticulture and research-based practices, volunteer onboarding and 40 hours of educationally focused volunteer service to the community.
- **MSU Product Center** fosters strong and successful community food-based businesses by providing one-on-one food business support with Innovation Counselors, processing authority review for shelf stable products, as well as other services, such as nutrition facts and analysis, business development, strategic planning and marketing analytical insights.

Partnerships

- 21 Century IPA
- A Place of Our Own Clubhouse
- Above and Beyond Child Care Center/ Learning Academy
- Academy of the Americas
- Access Dearborn
- ACCESS Detroit
- Adams Middle School
- Advantage Health
- Allen Park Community Center
- Allendale Elementary School
- Alternatives for Girls
- Annapolis High
- Ansam Moussa Childcare
- Apple Academy Detroit
- Arukah
- Bacon Memorial District Library
- Bagley Elementary School
- Barson Greenhouse
- Belle Isle Nature Center
- Belleville High School
- Belvidere Community Block Club
- Bennett Elementary School
- Bethany Lutheran Church Food Bank
- Bethel Community Transformation Center
- Blair Moody Elementary
- Bowen Branch Library
- Bright Futures
- Brightmoor Alliance Inc.
- Brightmoor Artisans Collective
- Brilliant Detroit
- Bunche Elementary School
- Cadillac Urban Gardens
- Canton Place
- Carstens Elementary/Middle
- Chapel Hill Early Childhood Education
- Charles Wright Academy of Arts and Science
- CHASS
- Code 313
- Coleman Young Elementary School
- Community Center at A.B Ford
- Corewell Health
- Cornerstone Academy
- Covenant School
- Creative Learning Children's College
- Creative Montessori Academy
- Curvy Girl Project
- Dawn Farm Stony Creek
- Dearborn Heights Library
- Dearborn High School
- Dearborn Senior Center
- Detroit Hives
- Detroit International Academy for Girls
- Detroit Leadership Academy
- Detroit Phoenix Center
- Detroit Public Library – Main/Douglass/Edison/ Sherwood Forest Branch
- Detroit River Festival
- Detroit Riverfront Conservancy
- Detroit Zoological Society
- Dickerson School
- Dixon Educational Learning Academy
- Downriver Co-op
- Downriver Family YMCA
- Dr. Brenda Hague Early Learning Village
- Duke Ellington
- Early Learning Prep
- Eastern Market
- Eastern Market EMG Outreach Booth
- Ecorse Parks and Recreation
- Ecorse Public Library
- Elmhurst House
- Elmwood Library
- EMU Bright Futures Afterschool Program
- ESCOT Youth Development
- Ferndale Upper Elementary
- Flat Rock Towers
- Foreign Language Immersion and Cultural Studies School
- Fostering Leadership Academy
- Franklin Middle School Bright Futures Program
- Fraser Woods Senior Apartments
- Friends of Parkside
- Friends of the Detroit River
- Full & Fabulous
- Gateway Family Worship Center
- Gathering Place Clubhouse
- Genesis House III
- Gilda's Club Metro Detroit
- Grandparents on the Move
- Greenwood Villa Apartments
- Grosse Pointe Library
- Growing Pontiac
- Harper Woods School District
- Hartford Village
- Hegira Health Inc.
- Heilmann Recreation Center
- Hooked on Books Childcare
- Hoover Middle
- Hope Village
- Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church
- Horizon High School
- Inkster Preparatory Academy
- International Child Care Center
- J.E. Clark Preparatory Academy
- Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center
- JOHN-GLENN High School
- Joy Baptist Church
- Keep Growing Detroit
- Kemeny Recreation Center
- LaBelle Towers
- LACC Child Care Academy
- Lafayette Elementary School
- Lennon Pregnancy Center
- Lincoln Behavior Services
- Lincoln Library FY25
- Lincoln Park Farmers Market
- Little Stinkers LLC
- Livonia Parks and Recreation
- Long Elementary School
- Love 'N Labor Botanicals
- Marygrove High School
- McGivney Apartments
- Methodist Children Home Society
- Melvindale High School
- Melvindale Public Library
- Metro Detroit Flower Growers Association
- Metro Youth
- MiSide
- Michigan Humane Society
- Michigan Invention Convention
- Mission Point Rehabilitation and Nursing Home
- Munger School
- Naomi's Nest
- New Directions Clubhouse
- New Light Recovery Center
- New Paradigm Glazer Academy
- New St Paul Head start
- Nichols School
- Noble Elementary School
- Northville Parks and Recreation
- Northwest Detroit Farmers Market
- Nowlin Elementary
- Oak Park Farmers Market
- Oak Park High School
- Oak Village Square Apartments
- Oakman Elementary
- Palmer Park Prep Academy
- Parkman Library
- Parkview Place
- Pasteur Elementary School
- Pathways Academy
- Patton Recreation Center
- Plymouth District Library
- Positive Images II
- Pregnancy Aid
- Preparing Youth For Success
- Priority Health
- Racquet Up Detroit
- Ralph J Bunche School
- Raupp Elementary School
- Raising Awareness with Students
- Redford Township District Library
- Regent Park Early Learning
- Rhema Church of The Living God
- Rio Vista Co-op
- River Rouge Public Library
- Riverview Veterans Memorial Library
- Roberto Clemente Recreation Center
- Romulus Bright Futures Program
- Romulus Garden Club
- RYSE Med - Henry Ford Hospital
- Salvation Army Conner Creek Corps
- Salvation Army Respite
- Sampson Webber Academy
- Schulze Academy
- Second Ebenezer Church
- Sister Friends Detroit
- Snow Elementary School
- Soar Tutoring
- Southeastern High
- Southwest Childcare Resources
- Spain Elementary School
- Spirit of Grace Church Food Pantry
- St. Clements Manor
- St. Paul Headstart Recruitment Fair
- Stallworth AFC Home
- Strong Middle School
- Sumby Senior Living
- Sure Care Adult Day Programs
- Taylor Community Library
- Taylor Parks
- Taylor Post High School
- THE ARC
- The Children's Center
- The Guidance Center
- The Helm at Boll Life Center
- The Henry Ford
- The Konnection Klub
- The Michigan International Entrepreneurs Optimist Club
- The School at Marygrove
- The U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
- Theresa Maxis Apartments
- Third New Hope Baptist Church Community Help Fair
- Thirkell Elementary Middle School
- TOPS Garden City
- Trenton High School
- Trenton Veterans Memorial Library
- Tweatie Bird Child Care & Development Center
- U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
- United African Women Organization of Michigan
- United Children/Family Head Start
- University Prep Math and Science
- Warren Plaza FY25
- Warren Public Library
- Wayne County Community College District,Ted Scott Campus
- Wayne County Fair Association
- Wayne County Farm Bureau
- Wayne County Third Circuit Court
- Wayne Memorial High School
- Wayne Metro Community Action Agency
- Wayne State University
- Wellspring
- West Village Academy
- Westland Public Library
- Woodbridge Estates Senior Homes
- Woodhaven High School
- YMMN - Diaper Days
- Zaman International

Program Highlights

Empowering Communities to Recognize and Respond to Harmful Algal Blooms

Focus groups led by the Great Lakes Center for Freshwaters and Human Health revealed that lake association members had many questions about Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and lacked clear, trustworthy resources. In response, Michigan Sea Grant and the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) partnered to create a targeted communication tool for communities around Ford and Belleville lakes, where blooms often appear differently and can be mistaken for grass clippings.



Michigan Sea Grant Extension educators collaborated with HRWC staff to design a photo-rich rack card with essential HAB information and a QR code for further learning. HRWC printed 500 copies and distributed them at major community events, with plans to continue outreach and expand distribution through municipal partners. The rack card was also built as a flexible template that can be adapted for other Michigan lakes. By improving access to clear, localized HAB information, this project is helping residents recognize blooms, reduce health risks, and report concerns to protect their communities and waterways.

4-H STEM-Tastic Spring Break Day Camp



The 2025 4-H STEM-Tastic Spring Break Day Camp brought 19 youth together for a full day of hands-on STEM exploration, supported by two teen leaders who gained valuable leadership experience. Thanks to a partnership with the Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center, families enjoyed a completely free camp experience, including lunch, helping remove barriers for many in the Wayne-Westland community. Youth engaged in activities such as paper circuits, butter-making, owl pellet dissection, budgeting with M&Ms, AgBot robotics, and mindfulness jars—each designed to build problem-solving skills and spark curiosity. Post-program evaluations showed increased confidence and interest in science, highlighting the camp's strong impact on both learning and youth development.

Wayne County 2025 Programs

- 4-H Cloverbuds: Wool Spinning and Tie Dye
- 4-H Club - Spring Dog Program
- 4-H Club: Intro to Horses
- 4-H Crafts Around the World
- 4-H Dog Days of Summer Mini Day Camp
- 4-H Jr. MANRRS
- 4-H Leader Training
- 4-H Livestock Clinic
- 4-H Power Hour STEM Activities
- 4-H Series: ESCOT Explore
- 4-H STEM-Tastic Spring Break Day Camp
- 4-H Urban Ag Embryology
- 4-H Urban Ag Program
- ACCESS
- ACEs & Trauma Presentation
- Adult Immunization Update
- Advantage
- Alternatives for Girls
- Alumni Volunteer Day
- Art of Aging Successfully Conference
- Arts and Crafts
- Basic Plant Propagation Techniques
- Bee-Friendly Spring Cleanup
- Begin with a Breath
- Beginning Farmers "Train the Trainer" Workshop
- Behavioral Health Home Program
- Budgeting
- Calm Under Pressure American Youth Leader Training
- Camine Con Gusto
- Career Counselor Training on Pay Stubs, Taxes, etc.
- Choose Health: Food, Fun, and Fitness
- Click it Time: How to be an Informed Driver or Passenger
- Comic Making Series
- Cooking for One
- Cooking Matters
- Cottage Food Law Presentation
- Credit/Financial Products
- Decrease Fat Sugar Salt
- Detroit River Story Lab: Sturgeon Program
- Detroit River Water Festival
- Diabetes Simplified
- DPFLI Harvest Fest
- D-Town BioBlitz
- Employment Workshop
- Engaged Detroit
- Environmental Science
- Extension Master Gardener Onboarding
- Family Medicine Case Studies
- Family Medicine Immunization Update
- Farm Bureau Outreach
- Farm Field Day with Fisheye Farm
- Farm to Table
- Fat Sugar Salt
- Food Forest Presentation
- Foundations of Gardening
- Free Plants 101: Easy and Effective Propagation Techniques
- Freezing, Drying, Dehydrating
- Fruit and Veggies
- Fruit Tree Brigade
- Fruit Tree Production Class
- Full & Fabulous
- Garden Club
- Garden Pests
- Gardening Basics
- Gather and Grow
- General Wellness PATH
- Green Task Force Bike Tour
- Healthy Choices for Everyone
- Holiday Budgeting
- Holidays Around the World
- Home Affordability
- Hydration
- Intro to Urban Birding
- Invasive Species
- Jump Into Food and Fitness
- Kayak Safety Program
- Keys to Embracing Aging
- Leadership Program
- Let's Talk - Parent/Provider Communication
- Making a Spending Plan
- Mental Health First Aid
- MI Paddle Stewards
- Money Management
- MyPlate
- Native Plant Learning Session
- Nigerian Cooking Class
- Organic Farmer Training Program
- Pediatric Immunization Update
- Positioning Your Food Business for Licensing
- Positive Discipline
- Preparing Your Garden for Winter
- Promoting Vaccine Confidence
- RELAX
- Repair the World Volunteer Day
- RTPL Kids Club Spicy
- Savvy Tips for starting a small business
- Seed Packing
- Seed Starting for Beginners
- Serve and Preserve Workshops
- ServSafe®
- Show Me Nutrition
- SLEEP
- Smart Snacking
- SMILES
- STEM
- Strawberry Freezer Jam
- Summer Reading
- Supporting & Protecting Pollinators
- Teen Sewing
- U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
- Warm Season Seed Starting for Beginners
- Water Bath and Pressure Canning Presentation
- Water Conservation Program
- Wayne County Commissioner Killeen's Health Fair
- Wayne County Farm Bureau Pesticide Safety Seminar
- Wellness Wednesday
- Winter Seed Starting for Beginners
- Workforce Readiness



Highlights



Youth from the Charles A. Wright Academy participating in Choose Health Food, Fitness, and Fun.



Youth from the 4-H Club at Oakland Avenue Urban Farm showcasing what they learned.



Students from Cornerstone Jefferson Douglas Academy participating in making wood-fired pizza at DPFLI.



Youth with 4-H educator participating in Holidays Around the World: Christmas in Norway.



Youth from The Konnection Club Summer Camp attending a hands-on gardening field trip at DPFLI.



Residents from Naomi's Nest working with MSU Extension CNI on building an on-site garden to allow access to fresh produce.



Youth participants at the first ever 4-H Dogs Days of Summer Mini Day Camp.

Contact Us

**MSU Extension Western
Wayne**
33030 Van Born
Wayne, MI 48184
734-721-6576

MSU Extension Detroit
1360 Oakman Blvd, Floor 2
Detroit MI 48238
313-494-4883

**MSU – Detroit Partnership for
Food, Learning and Innovation
(DPFLI)**
16745 Lamphere St.
Detroit, MI 48219

msue.wayne@msu.edu

Administration

Richard Wooten, District 11 Director - 734-727-7435
Sheryl Michilli, District Support - 313-494-4883

Agriculture, Agribusiness & Horticulture

Lindsey Kerr, Consumer Horticulture Educator - 734-467-3324

Community Stability, Finance & Housing, Community Food Systems

Laura Wood-Romito, Product Center Innovation Counselor - 313-494-4884
Naim Edwards, Director, Detroit Partnership for Food, Learning & Innovation - 313-494-4787
Stathis Pauls, DPFLI Program Instructor - 313-494-4787

Early Childhood Development & Youth

Laurie Rivetto, Extension Educator, 4-H Career Exploration/Preparation - 734-727-7234
Diane Wisniewski, Supervising Educator, 4-H Team Leader - 248-858-0529
Ashleigh Klein, Program Coordinator, 4-H Youth Development - 734-727-7408
LaToya Cain-Jones, Program Coordinator, 4-H Youth Development - 313-494-4716
Holly Sysol, Program Instructor, 4-H Youth Development - 734-727-7407

Natural Resources & Sea Grant

Erica Anculle, Extension Educator, Michigan Sea Grant - 313-494-4678
Lisa Perez, USDA Forest Service - 248-514-8607

Nutrition, Emotional & Social Wellbeing

RayShawnda Temple, Supervising Educator, Health and Nutrition - 313-494-4779
Gigi Broughton, Community Nutrition Instructor, Health and Nutrition - 313-494-4971
Madeline Dillon, Community Nutrition Instructor, Health and Nutrition - 313-494-4977
Grace Henry, Community Nutrition Instructor, Health and Nutrition - 313-494-4928
Gerrylynn McNeal, Community Nutrition Instructor, Health and Nutrition - 313-494-4975
Lisa Tams, Extension Educator, Social, Emotional Health & Wellbeing - 734-727-7236
Sophia Zollner, Food Safety Educator - 586-994-2383

Lawn and Garden Hotline 1-888-678-3464
www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert



MSU Extension at the
Code 313 and Detroit
Pistons STEAM Science
Fair Event.



Youth presenters
at the 4-H
Recognition
Awards.



Youth dressed as a
4-H Clover at the 4-H
Rolling into Summer
event.

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