



Lee County Master Gardeners Association Community Grants

Since 2006 the Lee County Master Gardeners Association has been hosting a biennial garden tour showcasing beautiful and exemplary gardens throughout the community. Thanks to many people and organizations, our tour has grown from year to year. We have been able to give back to the community in the form of monetary grants that support and extend the LCMGA goal to promote horticultural education. We invite you to share in the benefits brought to our community by each of these organizations and their creative projects.

2017-2018 Grants

Auburn University Arboretum—The Davis Arboretum, located on Auburn University’s campus, provides visitors a place to enjoy a natural setting and experience the native plants and habitats of Alabama. Our grant funded an artist to research and render an original display to illustrate the concentration and diversity of oak trees found in Alabama.

Harvest for Health—Harvest for Health uses a backyard garden to teach new, healthy habits to cancer survivors. Extension-trained Master Gardeners mentor the cancer survivor to learn vegetable gardening. Our grant provided funding to purchase gardening kits that include plants, seeds, garden boxes, soil, and compost for Lee County participants who are cancer survivors.

Opelika Grows—O Grows is a partnership among Opelika City Schools, the Food Bank of East Alabama, Keep Opelika Beautiful and Auburn University. O Grows has installed and maintains the Opelika Community Garden and garden spaces at six Opelika schools. Production from the school gardens exceeds 500 pounds each year and is donated to the Community Market of the Food Bank of East Alabama. Our grant funded additional greenhouse tables expanding greenhouse space for use by additional students for their hands-on learning experiences.

2018-2019 Grants

Opelika High School FFA—FFA is a student organization for high school students interested in agriculture and education. Our grant has helped start an outdoor agricultural education teaching facility by funding the purchase of a greenhouse kit/high tunnel and materials for a nursery area. The greenhouse will be used to grow vegetable transplants, early and late season vegetable crops. Students will learn how a farm is run, how food is grown, and how to grow and propagate crops and plants.

Kreher Preserve and Nature Center—The mission of the Kreher Preserve and Nature Center (KPNC) is to provide programs, experiences, nature trails and natural habitats for education, study and relaxation for students and citizens of all ages, while creating an atmosphere of discovery and stewardship toward our natural world. Our grant adds another element to KPNC by funding a Sensory Garden comprised of three planter boxes—one with plants demonstrating smell and touch, another demonstrating smell and taste, and a third demonstrating sight and hearing. Through carefully selected plants and design this garden will heighten the experience of all the senses.