

# MACOMB COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Main office: 21885 Dunham Rd, VerKuilen Bldg #12, Clinton Twp, MI 48036 | 586-469-5180

Thompson Community Center: 11370 Hupp Ave, Warren, MI 48089 | 586-469-7614



## Message from the District Director



**Kristi Evans**  
District 11 North Director  
[evanskr1@msu.edu](mailto:evanskr1@msu.edu)  
586-469-5180

At MSU Extension, we empower individuals, families and communities through education that transforms lives. With over 600 staff across Michigan, we deliver trusted, research-based knowledge—both in person and online—meeting people where they are. In 2024, we stood with families facing financial challenges, improved community health outcomes and supported youth development through 4-H and other programs. Rooted in strong partnerships and local connections, we continue a legacy of service that began before the national Cooperative Extension System was founded in 1914. Together, we’re building a stronger Michigan—and a stronger Macomb. Thank you for being part of our story.

## Impact



**8,058** reached through community events & fairs



**6,340** participants from Macomb County attended **849** programs across the state



**364** volunteers



**2,482** youth reached through programming



**252** answered Ask Extension questions



**3,012** participants in health and nutrition classes



**\$864,681.48** volunteer hour value



**353** financial education clients



## Ecological restoration in the Clinton River Spillway



2024 MSU Extension Conservation Stewards Program Macomb Cohort learned about science-based ecosystem management principles on an educational kayak trip on the **Clinton River Spillway** in Harrison Township.

Kayaking was a new addition to the program. When asked “what was the most enjoyable aspect of today’s session,” many replied **“kayaking!”**

Other responses included:

**“Being on the water and seeing so much wildlife and diverse areas.”**

**“Seeing the turtles, kingfishers, egrets, great blue heron and cormorants.”**

**“Enjoying the wetland perspective from the water.”**



One participant shared the most important thing they learned:

**“People of southeast Michigan shouldn’t have to go up north to experience the outdoors. It’s right here in our backyard if we can take care of and invest in it.”**

Participants also spent time inland getting to know aquatic ecosystems in streams and wetlands and terrestrial ecosystems in forests and grasslands.





## Extension Master Gardener is hands-on gardening



**145** Extension Master Gardener Volunteers in Macomb County



**~8,904** volunteer hours in 2024



Over **40** Southeast Michigan gardeners joined a free hands-on workshop on dividing perennials and bulbs, thanks to USDA grant support. Participants gained practical skills through demos, classroom practice, and one-on-one guidance from Macomb County Demo Garden volunteers—learning how to manage plant health and relocate garden plants effectively.

**"Great information presented well. Loved the tool information and demonstrations."**

**"Loved having hands on opportunities and practice. So helpful!"**



Find tip sheets on: choosing plants, using garden chemicals, fertilizer, or applying water, gardeners need to understand the long-term impacts on their communities ->



## Addressing erosion

Professional landscape, natural resource, and marine contractors in the Michigan Certified Natural Shoreline Professional Training and Certification Program at **Stony Creek Metropark** learned how to install natural shorelines to address erosion.



## Summer Discovery Cruises

In partnership with the **Huron-Clinton Metroparks, Summer Discovery Cruises** returned for an expanded 2024 season—offering 22 cruises over 2.5 weeks, a **59% increase** from 2023. Participation nearly tripled, jumping from **152 to 441 attendees**.

- **100%** of post-cruise respondents said the program met or exceeded expectations
- **21.5%** had never been on a boat before
- **97%** reported increased knowledge of the Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair
- **70%** committed to taking protective actions, such as conserving water, planting natives and reducing fertilizer use



## Adult - Financial empowerment for Macomb residents

A total of **45 money management** programs were offered, covering a range of topics—from homeownership essentials like foreclosure basics, informed renting, and assessing how much home you can afford, to financial literacy sessions on credit tips and creating a workable spending plan.

**127 reached through 1-on-1 counseling**

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**226 homebuyer education participants**



## Youth building personal finance life skills

Since 2016, Macomb 4-H has partnered with **Junior Leadership Macomb** to support their weeklong camp. In 2024, we connected them with MSU Extension educators to lead *Real Colors*, strengthening team cohesion. We enhanced activities with iPads and the Goosechase app for a tech-based scavenger hunt. On Career Readiness Day, we served as mock interviewers and helped run the *Real Life, Real Choices* financial simulation.

**“We appreciate the work you do to educate people about such an important topic! Plus, you are so much fun to work with!”**

-Karen Smith, Executive Director of Leadership Macomb



## Healing through Mindfulness

At the **Shelby Township Senior Center**, a Mindfulness for Well-Being workshop on Forgiving and Letting Go helped participants manage stress and explore forgiveness. One attendee shared that the session was life-changing—helping him reconnect with his brother after 40 years of estrangement.



**"This class helped me heal my relationship with my brother."**

- Thankful Participant



## From Challenges to Contributions: Refugees Empowering Entrepreneurs

Through the Bundle program, refugee women gain skills in health, nutrition, budgeting and launching food businesses—empowering them to support their families and pursue entrepreneurship. Some have even used their tailoring talents to make aprons for fellow food entrepreneurs, giving back while showcasing their own skills.

## Enriching partnerships

Gianna House Pregnancy Center has been a long-time partner of Extension's health and nutrition programming. Through coordinated efforts, Gianna House applied for and received a SNAP-Ed mini grant to fund four raised garden beds, gardening tools, starts and watering cans. In addition to health and nutrition, the partnership now includes gardening and food safety education.







2,979, 4-H youth participants



428 enrolled 4-H members



171 4-H volunteers



~18,468 volunteer hours

## Working together to support Macomb County youth

In partnership with the **Recreational Authority of Roseville/East Pointe**, ten youth aged 8 to 12 participated in **Code and Conquer-Sphero Adventure**. Interactive activities included:

- Code the teacher
- Coding scavenger hunt
- Coding puzzles using swift playgrounds
- Coding Sphero robots in golf, bowling, soccer, target practice and through mazes.

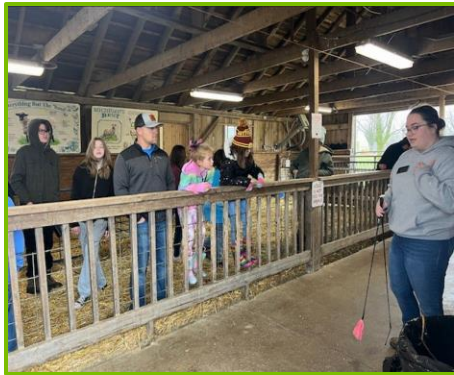


## Growing new skills



**Apple** has partnered with MSU Extension since 2022 in Macomb County to provide iPads and other technology for the 4-H Clovers CODE program. This program helps youth explore coding, creative arts and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) careers.

Students in K-2 at **Atwood Elementary** have a one-to-one Apple iPad initiative in which they learn about technology through having fun creating Emojis and coding them to jump, bounce, follow a path, and more.



## Introducing youth to agriculture

More than 85 youth learned about the inner workings of farm life and proper caring of animals at **Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center** in Ray Township.

Over the course of an eight-week series, youth explored animal agriculture topics through introductions to swine, poultry, rabbits, sheep, goats, equine exploration and dairy cattle/milk production.

## Youth learn, cook and connect in Mount Clemens

At the **Mount Clemens Library**, youth explored cultural foods and built cooking skills through a hands-on tortilla-making session. Starting with five kids, the group grew as the aroma spread. They made pico de gallo, quesadillas and sopapillas—learning teamwork, kitchen basics and gaining confidence along the way. Their excitement sparked plans for a full cooking series.

**"This is good! Can we do it again?"**



## Growing more than gardens at Emma Lobbestael Elementary



Now in its 5th year, the **Junior Master Gardener** program at Emma Lobbestael Elementary continues to spark excitement and learning for hundreds of youth. Kicking off the fall session with a popular popcorn lesson, students took home dried cobs and returned with excited reports:

**"It worked! The popcorn popped!"**

Through gardening, healthy eating, sustainability and creativity, students gain hands-on experiences that stick with them. The program continues to plant seeds of curiosity, confidence and lifelong learning.

# Thank you to all our partners who share our mission of helping people improve lives through education

37<sup>th</sup> District Court Warren Division  
Academy of Warren  
Academy of Warren Parents Group  
AHEPA 371 Senior Apartments  
Armada Fairgrounds  
Big Red Orchard  
Blake Farms  
Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center  
Cairnes Community Center  
Chaldean Community Foundation  
Chesterfield Township  
Clintondale Coalition  
The Discovery Center of Macomb  
Eastpointe Public Library  
Extra Credit Union  
Fitzgerald Public Schools  
Fraser Public Schools  
Fraser Woods Apartments  
Gianna House  
Huron-Clinton Metroparks  
Jewish Family Services  
Lake Trust Credit Union  
L'Anse Creuse Public Schools  
Life Enrichment Academy  
Live Right Structured Recovery Corp  
Macomb Academy  
Macomb Area Communities for Regional Opportunities  
Macomb Community College  
Macomb County Breastfeeding Coalition  
Macomb County Community Health Improvement Plan Lifestyles Subcommittee  
Macomb County Health Department; Planning & Economic Development  
Macomb Family YMCA  
Macomb Foster Parent Group  
Macomb Intermediate School District  
Macomb Township Senior Center  
MyCare Health Center

## A special thank you to Macomb County and their continued support

Northern Farm Market  
Peace Village  
Presbyterian Village Warren Glen  
Purchase of Developmental Rights Committee  
Recreational Authority of Roseville & Eastpointe  
Reigny Dayz Kidz Den  
Romeo Community Schools  
Romeo District Library  
Roseville Public Library  
Salvation Army  
Shelby Township Senior Center  
Soroptimist International of Greater Macomb  
St. Augustine Catholic School  
Sterling Heights Nature Center  
UCONNECT  
Warren/Centerline Prevention Coalition  
Warren Community Center  
Warren Public Library  
Westview Orchard & Winery  
Youth Livestock Committee  
Youngblood Vineyard

### Ask an Expert:

[Ask2.extension.org](https://ask2.extension.org)

### Food Safety Hotline:

1-877-643-9882

### Gardening Hotline:

1-888-678-3464

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