

Village of Orland Park and University of Illinois Extension in Cook County Partnership

University of Illinois Extension in Cook County would like to partner with the Village of Orland Park to expand access to research based information through the Master Gardener Volunteer program. We are requesting use of office space located at the Cultural Center for a nominal monthly rate.

In the beginning 2-3 Master Gardener Volunteers will be housed at the facility to answer homeowners gardening questions on Tuesday and Wednesdays (9am-3pm). We are currently answering questions on Fridays during the Farmer's Market. Our plan is to expand the service throughout the workweek drawing from the 140 trained Master Gardener Volunteers in the south suburbs. Below are ways that this partnership can benefit Orland Park and its residents:

- Increase residents access to horticulture research and resources
- Potential Workshops for residents
- Access to U of I publications
- Contribute 2-3 times a year to Village Newsletter
- Bring additional U of I Extension Programs to the community
- Provide information/training to Adaptive Gardening Program
- Collaboration with the Greening Committee
- Increased exposure beyond residents of Orland Park

About Extension

University of Illinois Extension is the flagship outreach effort of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, offering educational programs to residents of all of Illinois' 102 counties – and far beyond. Through learning partnerships that put knowledge to work, U of I Extension's programs are aimed at making life better, healthier, safer and more profitable for individuals and their communities. U of I Extension offers educational programs in five broad areas:

- Healthy society
- Food security and safety
- Environmental stewardship
- Sustainable and profitable food production and marketing systems
- Enhancing youth, family and community well-being

About the Master Gardeners

Master Gardener volunteers have received extensive training from U of I Extension and are supervised by a horticulture educator. These volunteers share their knowledge and expertise in gardening with individuals and community groups. Last year over 200 groups were served in over 50 zip codes in south suburban Cook County. From school groups to special need audiences to homeowners. U of I Master Gardeners help people find environmentally friendly, research based answers to questions. Ask the Master Gardener clinics including one at the Orland Park Farmers Market, is an example of our many projects.

For more information on University of Illinois Extension and the Master Gardener Program, please contact Yvonne Brown (708)-449-4320 or Nancy Pollard at (708)720-7500.