

Articles of Incorporation

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- Enhance WSU Master Gardener program through Education and information.
- Raise Funds to enhance the Master Gardener program.
- Exchange Ideas and information between members.

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles:

Act Respectfully
Lead Supportively
Adaptability
Work Together
Always Learning
Emphasize Quality
Communicate Effectively
Be Honest
Take Responsibility

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES - GOALS 1-3 YEAR;
ACTIONS 3-6 Months; 6-12 Months; 1-3 Years.

Strategic Priority One: **Identify and Develop Reserve Fund**

2024 Goal: By 2027 MGY will build a reserve fund to cover one year’s operating costs based on current economic conditions and activities of the Foundation. The target would be \$80,000 (\$10-\$15K of direct program support; \$10K Foundation activities; and \$60K Greenhouse.)

Action Steps: 3 – 6 Months – Form and recruit an investment Advisory Committee (IAC) . Committee members will be required to be Foundation members. The Treasurer will lead this committee and report to the Board.

Action Steps 6 – 12 Months – The IAC will develop and present a cash and investment management policy, which will be presented to the full foundation membership for formal adoption.

Action Steps 1 – 3 Years – The IAC will monitor, assess, and revise the cash and investment management policy as needed to meet current needs.

Mission

The Mission of the Master Gardener Foundation of Yakima

The Master Gardener Foundation of Yakima County’s Mission is to fund and grow our county program, which values gardening education and environmental stewardship for all ages.

VISION

The Vision of the Master Gardener Foundation of Yakima:

To be good stewards of funds to support our Washington State University Master Gardener Program whose focus is to extend horticultural education for all.

STRATEGIC PLAN - Master Gardener Foundation of Yakima County

2024 Goal: By July 2024 the Foundation Leadership will meet with the Yakima Arboretum Executive Director to determine possible interests in future partnerships for education and training facilities.

Action Steps: 3 – 6 Months – Reach out to arboretum and schedule a meeting.

Action Steps 6 – 12 Months – Determine basis of partnership and take back to the Foundation membership.

Action Steps 1 – 3 Years – Implement the agreement made with the Yakima Arboretum.

Strategic Priority 3: Long-Term Strategy for a single location

2024 Goal: By 2034, the Master Gardeners of Yakima County will acquire and build a multi-purpose facility to include clinic, training, and growing areas located on MGY owned property.

Action Steps 3 – 6 Months – Define specific size, technology, usage requirements and identify potential partners.

Action Steps 6 – 12 Months – Identify financial need to complete the project; create a budget to achieve the need; complete a feasibility study and marketing plan for partners and potential funders; Identify potential grants for grant writing and apply for grants.

Action Steps 1 – 3 Years – Apply for grants; begin design work on the project.

Strategic Priority 4: Expand to Annual Fundraising sources beyond our current single-source plant sale.

2024 Goal: By 2027, the Master Gardeners of Yakima County will have conducted three annual September Family Tomato Festival Events at the Red Barn for the public and raise funds by serving tomato themed foods, while providing education and entertainment.

Action Steps 3 – 6 Months – Refresh knowledge of food handling; reserve the location; review fund raising restrictions and bylaws; identify volunteer chair and committee; develop a marketing plan.

Action Steps 6 – 12 Months – Encourage Master Gardeners to grow various varieties of tomatoes in volume; Execute marketing plan;

March 2024

Solicit sponsors to donate money for the event and include these sponsors in our advertising materials.

Action Steps 1 – 3 Years – After the initial event, review successes and challenges and make adjustments for the next annual event to be held in September 2025; create a recipe book to sell at the 2025 event.

Strategic Priority 5: Analyze Foundation infrastructure for status, needs, and safety.

2024 Goal: By March 2025, the Master Gardeners of Yakima County will ensure that team members and public are safe at all facilities during activities. This will be an annual Goal.

Action Steps 3 – 6 Months – Create a facilities team (3-5 people) to identify infrastructures and assess for safety, problem areas, structural integrity, and ADA compliance.

Action Steps 6 – 12 Months – Conduct an analysis of infrastructure and develop a plan for addressing deficiencies and identify budgetary requirements for corrective action, and create a budget for all necessary corrective action.

Action Steps 1 – 3 Years – Implement annual inspections to ensure all assets meet compliance for safety, problem areas, structural integrity, and ADA compliance.

Other Strategies to Consider: Develop Endowments; Expand Symposia on Different topics and charge a participation fee; and Create a Recipe Book to sell to the public.