

Lester Public Library of Rome

The Lester Public Library of Rome garden was begun as a WCMGA project in 2002. Rome-area MGs work with retired MGs in the area to maintain the gardens. They also work in tandem with members of the Rome Area Garden Club in the gardens. The two groups collaborate to present educational gardening topics on a monthly basis in the summer for adults and children. Check the library for the yearly schedule of sessions

All areas of the property are intended to be teaching gardens. Check out these garden areas:



This prairie garden is located behind the library . It's fascinating to watch its transition throughout the course of the summer and over the span of the past few years.

In addition to being lower maintenance, it is pollinator friendly, drought tolerant, and deer resistant. Our prairie gardens include native plants, such as rudbeckia, liatris, Joe Pye weed, false indigo, cup plant, ox-eye daisies, brown-eyed Susans, asters, a wide variety of native grasses and many other plants.





Included in the raised garden bed are chard, peppers, radishes, spinach, and different types of lettuce. The covering over the bed was made by bending underground sprinkler hoses a size smaller than the PVC pipe into which they'll be inserted. The hoses are then covered with bird netting to protect the plants from wildlife damage.

The elevated herb garden was made by stacking the boards as shown in the photo to allow easier access for planting and weeding the herbs, along with snipping the herbs as needed. This design also allows gardeners to grow a variety of herbs in a small space. A mailbox on the back side of the herb garden holds a pair of scissors for snipping herbs, along with information sheets on how to use herbs.





The butterfly garden is always filled with bees and butterflies! We use a mix of perennials and annuals to attract pollinators from early in the spring to late in the fall. Early bloomers include hyacinths and daffodils, while the irises, day lilies, liatris, rudbeckia, verbena and daisies bloom later in the spring through much of the summer. Late-blooming perennials include asters, brown-eyed Susans and goldenrod.

Our rain garden in the back yard is planted with perennials that like the moist environment made by rain runoff from the library. The fenced-in children's garden is used for planting vegetables using the straw bale technique. Produce is shared with the kids and other library patrons. At the end of the growing season, we added the straw bales to our compost pile.