

2024 PCMGA Grants & Scholarships Recipients

Scholarships:

Alyssa Suprenant was our scholarship recipient last year. She is a senior chemistry/environmental science major at Valparaiso University. She has done research projects on purple loosestrife and the effects of nano plastics on plants. She hopes to go on to graduate school and eventually work for the National Park Service.

Audrey Smith is a freshman in Environmental Science at Cedarville University who has worked on the maintenance crew for a golf course and on a local farm, both in the fields and at a farmers' market. She hopes to work in a field where she can "teach about soil, plants, and the outdoors."

Grants:

Repeat recipients:

Bonner Senior Center, Portage– They produced over 200 lbs. of food last year. They need additional deer fencing and want to increase their pollinator garden.

St. Agnes Adult Day Care, Valparaiso – Their large garden is used for horticulture therapy with clients. They need vegetable plants and general upkeep items such as mulch.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust – They are starting a mobile garden bed project. They will be taking these beds to various educational events from Gary to South Bend to foster greater awareness of gardening, food systems and conservation.

St. John's United Church, Chesterton – They have had a community garden for the last 11 years. The food goes to several Westchester Neighbors Food Pantry and 2 churches for their free community meals.

Hilltop Neighborhood House, Valparaiso – They use their community garden to educate the children. They want to add several raised beds with trellises for vining crops.

VNA Hospice, Valparaiso – This ongoing project provided horticulture therapy to everyone at the Hospice Center. The grant will help with plants for 5 urns and additional plants for the courtyard garden.

New projects:

Hageman Library Native Pollinator Garden, Porter – This applicant is hoping to have a Pollinator Garden Trail in the town of Porter. She is starting with an area on the Hageman Library property.

Indiana Dunes State Park, Chesterton – Volunteers at the State Park have been renovating the beds to focus on native plants. They would like to plant Serviceberry by the Nature Center.

Izaak Walton League, Porter County Chapter – They are doing prairie restoration on old farm land along the Little Calumet River to benefit wildlife and pollinators. They are using funds for seeding 10 acres.

First United Methodist , Valparaiso, Children's Ministry – They have started a Monarch Way Station with a very detailed education plan. Their funds will go for plants and supplies.