

# OSU Extension In the City

## News

March 2015

### WELCOME

#### The Future of Urban Extension in Ohio

Welcome to the March edition of the OSU Extension in the City newsletter. Want more frequent news, visit <http://u.osu.edu/cityextension>. This spring, OSU Extension's Administrative Cabinet and the Extension Advisory Committee will be reviewing data related to the history and emerging opportunities with urban Extension. Share your thoughts on the future of urban Extension by contacting Julie [fox.264@osu.edu](mailto:fox.264@osu.edu).

### NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE



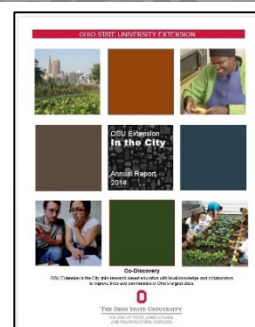
**OSU Extension serves on the steering committee of the National Urban Extension Leaders (NUEL)** to

help advance a national agenda for Extension to be more relevant and resilient in our urban and suburban communities. NUEL is an emerging national urban Extension network for faculty and staff to share ideas and resources aimed at solving our nation's pressing urban issues, <http://www.nuelaction.org>. NUEL invites you to the 2015 National Urban Extension Conference and to a meeting to set the national agenda on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 from 4:30-6:00 p.m., <http://urbanextension2015.com>.

### STATE HIGHLIGHTS

#### Annual Highlights

OSU Extension has a rich history in Ohio cities and continues to address today's priorities, while engaging in research to prepare for the future. As part of the OSU College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, OSU Extension's focus on the city engages people through **co-discovery for collective impact**. For full report: [cityextension.osu.edu/2014highlights](http://cityextension.osu.edu/2014highlights).



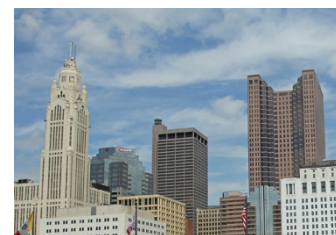
### CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

#### Environment and Natural Resources

Many Ohio State professors not only teach and conduct research, they make engaged scholarship a priority. Faculty, staff, and students in OSU's School of Environment and Natural Resources, are involved in a number of projects in Ohio's largest cities. Topics include:

- Urban Food Systems
- Urban Forestry
- Urban Wildlife
- Urban Ecosystems
- Urban Environmental Sustainability
- Connecting Urban Youth with Nature

SENR is part of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, <http://senr.osu.edu>.



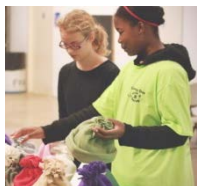
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

OSU Extension In the City  
[cityextension.osu.edu](http://cityextension.osu.edu)

## FEATURED CITY

### Columbus

Franklin County is the second largest county in Ohio, and Columbus is the largest city in the state. Recent highlights include:



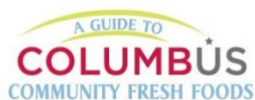
#### Preparing Youth For Success: City Service

Thanks to funding from the Columbus Foundation, Franklin County 4-H hosted the second annual Central Ohio Walk and Serve-A-Palooza. This hands-on service project was offered by 16 community organizations that partnered with area 4-H clubs. Event results included:

- 1,710 community service projects completed through 225 participants
- 722 lbs. of food donated to MidOhio Food Bank
- 742 blankets and other items donated for various community needs

#### Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

Urban agriculture continues to grow at a rapid pace. Research, education, and development activities include an Urban Master Farmer program, a faith-based community garden workshop, a new network for urban farmers, and a Community Fresh Food Guide.



#### Strengthening Families and Communities: Making choices for a healthy lifestyle

The Franklin County team provides nutrition education for diverse audiences throughout the county. More than 12,000 individuals learned about health and wellness through various programs funded through federal, state, and local investment.

#### Advancing Employment and Income

To assist local businesses in achieving their objectives and to improve the overall business environment, OSU Extension partnered with residents and leaders in the University District to conduct a Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) program. More than half of respondents plan to increase investment and nearly 75 percent expect to grow.

A new advisory group met in March to help guide development of the many emerging opportunities. To learn more or get involved, visit [franklin.osu.edu](http://franklin.osu.edu).

## TEAM UPDATES

### 4-H Youth Development in the City



In Ohio's 10 most populated counties, OSU Extension works with more than 1,500 adult volunteers to serve more than

32,000 youth through 4-H clubs, camps, school enrichment and other programs. The 4-H Youth Development in the City working group is exploring innovative ways to reach new audiences by:

- Investigating 4-H in other U.S. cities
- Hosting a focus group at the Ohio 4-H Volunteer Conference
- Participating in the North Central Region's First Generation Retreat
- Reviewing historical resources on urban 4-H
- Networking at the National Urban Extension Conference

Beth Boomershine leads the working group, boomershine.10@osu.edu.

## TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Patrice Powers-Barker

Certified Family Life Educator



As a Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) educator and Local Foods Signature Program co-leader, Patrice is one of 12 professionals on the OSU **Lucas County Extension team**. Her areas of expertise help Ohioans improve health, as well as food safety, security, and policy. Lucas County Educational FCS programs include:

- Local foods, edible gardening, food preservation
- An adolescent obesity prevention project
- EFNEP and SNAP-Ed
- Live Smart Ohio Mind and Body blog, [livesmartohio.osu.edu/category/mind-and-body](http://livesmartohio.osu.edu/category/mind-and-body)
- *Live Healthy, Live Well* online challenges
- Mindful Extension

The Lucas County team is also involved with the Northwest Ohio Food Council and Ohio Local Foods Week, August 9-15, 2015 – a celebration in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

#### OSU Extension in the City

<http://cityextension.osu.edu>; fox.264@osu.edu