

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



## Grand Challenges

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- Water
- Health
- Community Vitality
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## Grand Challenge: Global Food Systems, Health & Water

**Title:** Interchangeable QR Code Program Enhances Garden Education



### Why is this issue important?

The Shawnee County Extension Master Gardeners maintain nine demonstration gardens, each with their own educational objective. Using grant money from the Stanley Smith Horticultural funds, our organization added interchangeable QR codes to two of our gardens to allow our visitors to learn about plants and their care during each visit to our gardens.

### How did Extension address this issue?

In the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden and the Prairie Pollinator Demonstration Garden separate signs were added to showcase QR codes alongside the title signs for the gardens themselves. Each QR code sign includes information about the Shawnee County Extension Master Gardener program, featured plants in that garden and selected gardening practices, like pruning.

The plant material signs link to the Missouri Botanical Garden's Plant Finder website while the informational signs link to either the Shawnee County website or a K-State publication.

Each sign was designed with accessibility, use and garden design in mind. We placed the signs near sidewalks and are working to re-landscape those areas around the signs. Our hope by centralizing the signs is that the garden can remain uncluttered by numerous small signs but also keeping in mind that the single sign is most accessible to anyone with mobility issues.

### What was the impact?

In addition to the QR codes with information, we also included a code for a short survey to help us measure who has visited our gardens and gain feedback from that experience. By the end of the growing season we hope to have enough feedback that we can make any needed changes to the signs or the process before expanding the program to additional gardens.

Our goal with this program is to ensure that no matter the time or day someone visits our gardens, they are given the same, quality, research-based information as if an Extension Master Gardener was in the garden with them!

