

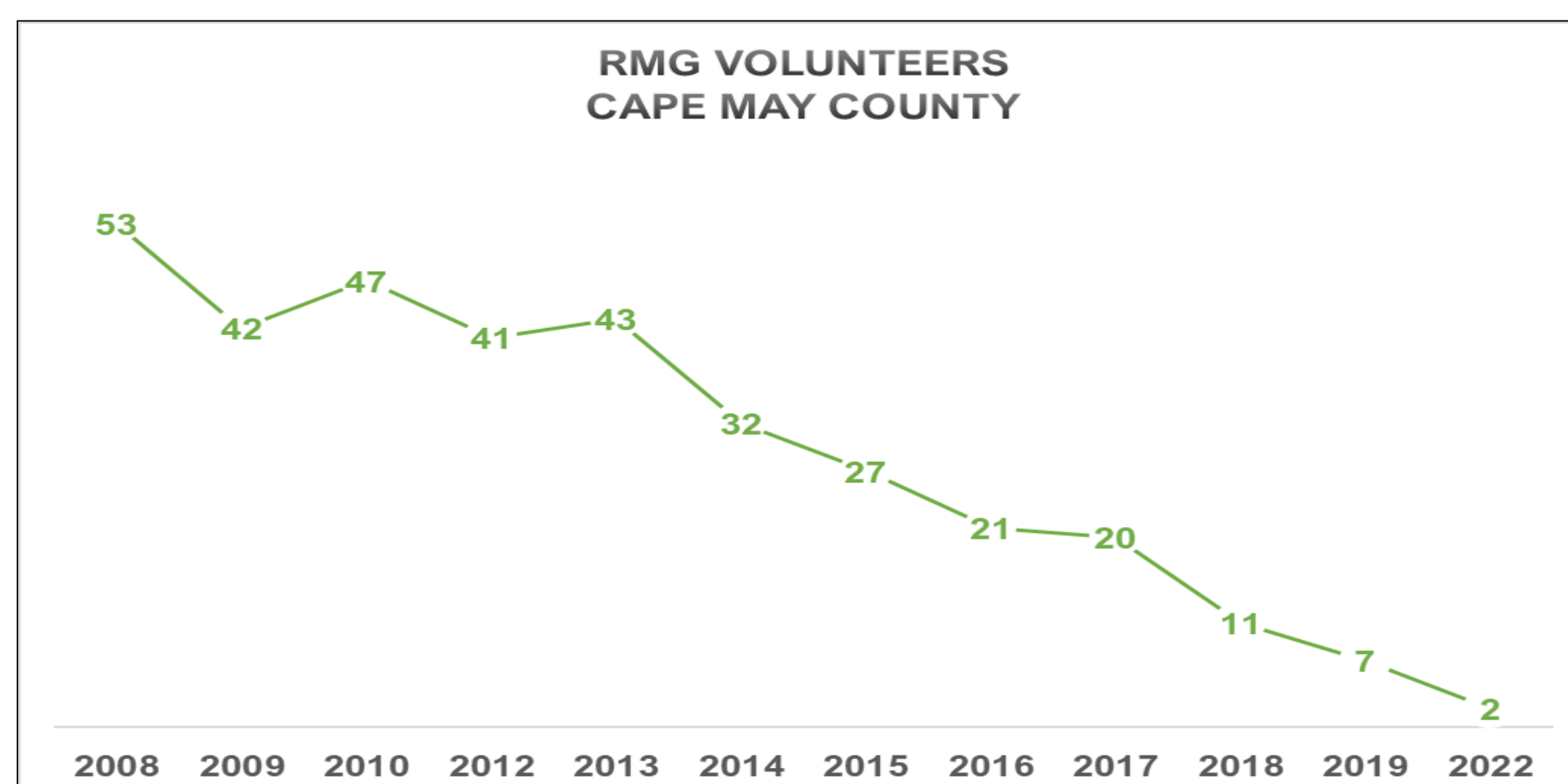
# BRINGING BACK MASTER GARDENERS TO CAPE MAY COUNTY

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## WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM?

- ❑ Dwindling number of volunteers, from 53 to 2 in 14 years.
- ❑ Program stopped being offered in 2014
- ❑ Challenges: Aging population, organizational issues, COVID-19 pandemic



## WHAT DID WE NEED TO DO?

- ❑ Identify potential volunteers interested in horticulture and gardening
- ❑ Encourage participation in volunteer program
- ❑ Identify volunteering opportunities in the county



## HOW DID WE DO IT?



Program overhaul:

- ❑ Update content
- ❑ Change learning modes
- ❑ Create new volunteering opportunities
- ❑ Restore partnerships

## HOW DID WE DO IT?

Include existing gardening education webinar series as core training

Offer training to become RMG at no additional cost

Complement webinars with in-person sessions and workshops



Field trips to local horticulture related businesses and sites

Participation in events by garden clubs and other garden related groups

## WHAT DID WE ACCOMPLISH?

- ❑ Over 50% of gardening education series participants completed additional training to become Rutgers Master Gardeners in 2023
- ❑ Volunteer participation in horticulture hotline, answering over 100 inquiries over email, phone and in person.
- ❑ Volunteer participation in gardening projects in the county.
- ❑ Development of gardening and horticulture education spaces.

