



**24 Sustainability Success Stories in 2024**  
Story 11 of 24: Grounds Keeping and Gardens

**From Farm to Hospital with UPMC Pinnacle Foundation at UPMC Memorial**

What was once a golf course has been transformed into the UPMC Memorial Hospital campus, and the outdoor space features woodlands, meadows, streams, ponds, and 3 miles of paved walking trails.

Under the leadership of **Dr. KimberLee Mudge, a breast surgeon**, and with the support of hospital leadership, funding from the UPMC Pinnacle Foundation and early support from the Powder Mill Foundation, York Excavating Co., and the Memorial Health Fund, the UPMC Memorial campus is a model of wellness and sustainability as it helps shift paradigms with farm-to-hospital concepts and initiatives to promote healthy living.

Her own experiences inspired Dr. Mudge, as a hobby farmer, to envision a hospital not just as a place of treatment but as a place to promote physical, nutritional, and spiritual wellness.

The campus is a setting for all to connect with nature as herons, turkeys, and turtles live among native trees. The UPMC Pinnacle Foundation Breast Cancer Garden of Hope, designed in collaboration with the Garden Club of York's master gardeners and featuring an art installation by renowned local artist Lorann Jacobs, is a place where patients and visitors can find solace and reflection amidst the beauty of nature.

UPMC Memorial campus and the UPMC Pinnacle Foundation recognized the importance of food as medicine and have partnered with York Fresh Food Farms and the York Water Company to establish and maintain three hoop houses on the hospital grounds this year. Each hoop house is solar-powered and about 50 yards long. Temperature control and drip irrigation help create a microenvironment that allows for year-round growing of fresh produce.

An estimated 10,000 pounds of food will be harvested annually. The harvest finds its way into the hospital café to incorporate more fresh produce options into the menu, and a farmers' market where staff, patients, and visitors can purchase items to take home. Surplus food is sent to York Fresh Food Farms for redistribution to the community, helping areas considered food deserts.

Through this symbiotic relationship between health care, nature, sustainability, and community, UPMC Memorial Hospital is leading by example, creating new paths for healthy living, healing, and thriving.