

W(orking)E(ducating)E(mpowering) D(eveloping) by S(erving)

Mission: The mission of WEEDS is to leverage the passions, experiences, interests, and network of our group members in order to create positive change in Johnson County. By relying on the unique strengths of each member, WEEDS will effectively serve the community and develop innovative solutions to a common problem facing Johnson County residents (hunger and nutrition).

Background: Our group came together with the idea of starting a multi-purpose community garden. Through leveraging our own personal contacts we found that there was an overgrown garden at Needham Elementary/Webb Elementary that was available to repurpose. Needham PTO, through Alicia Geesey, had a plan but needed resources to get the project off the ground. Once the site was selected our goals became to offer new learning opportunities for students, provide healthy foods for the schools' cafeterias distribute fresh produce to Johnson County food pantries/programs.

Results: Plot of ground behind Webb and Needham Elementary in Franklin [90' x 45'] to grow fresh fruits and vegetables consisting of 8-10 raised beds. Pavilion for outdoor learning, pathways to access the garden, both schools and the Old Schoolhouse.

Future Plans: Organized an Advisory Board of 7 members representing both schools, the community and our LJC group. Their role will be to guide the direction of garden, implement fundraising efforts, organize volunteers, assist teachers in incorporating the garden in their curriculum and disperse funds from the \$2500.00 grant received for appropriate maintenance and future growth.

Advisory Board: Jayme Abel, David Bedwell, Christina Collins, Alicia Geesey, Cindy King, Cheryl Moran, Dylan Purlee, Representative from Recycling District

LJC Group Members:

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