



*Strengthens access to fresh, local
sustainably-grown organic food
for people in need*

The DeKalb County Community Gardens organization is an innovative approach to end hunger at the local level through community involvement, education, and a commitment to the environment.

DeKalb County Community Gardens Today

- Nearly 40 garden sites County Wide (14 schools and 25 community sites)
- Over 200 5' by 10' raised garden beds
- Over 15 Acres of Food Growing Area
- 2013 DCCG donated over 16,000 pounds of food up from 2,500 in 2012.
- DCCG has developed over 60 community partnerships & sponsors; including businesses, organizations, agencies, and municipalities.
- Over 300 volunteers throughout the growing season!

DCCG Gardens

DeKalb Schools

- Brooks Elementary
- Lincoln School
- Malta Grade School
- Tyler Elementary
- Littlejohn
- Cortland
- Founders
- Clinton Rosette Middle School

Sycamore Schools

- West
- North
- North Grove
- South
- Southeast

DeKalb Community Locations

- Conexion Comunidad
- Mayor's Community Garden
- DeKalb County Annie Glidden Outreach Garden
- Children's Learning Center & The Growing Place
- DeKalb Adult Day Care Center
- Golden Years' Plaza
- HUD Housing location
- Kishwaukee Family YMCA
- Dolce Vita Hair Salon & Day Spa
- Kish Health Systems
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- Voluntary Action Center

More DCCG Garden Locations

Sycamore Locations

- Sycamore Civic Apartments
- Kish Health Family Center
- Sycamore United Methodist
- Kish Health Behavioral Services
- Ideal Acres (Ideal Industries Partnership)

Town of Cortland

- Cortland Park Community Gardens
- North Ave Garden Acres

County Locations

- Ellwood Miller Cabin
- Genoa Community Gardens
- Valley West Medical Center Gardens
- Somonauk Christen School Gardens
- KEC

New Projects for 2014

- Community Orchard out at The Annie Glidden Outreach Garden
- Old State Forest Garden Farm

Awards

DeKalb County Community Gardens was selected by America In Bloom as the best and the most “dynamic” community garden project in North America in 2013.

Partnerships

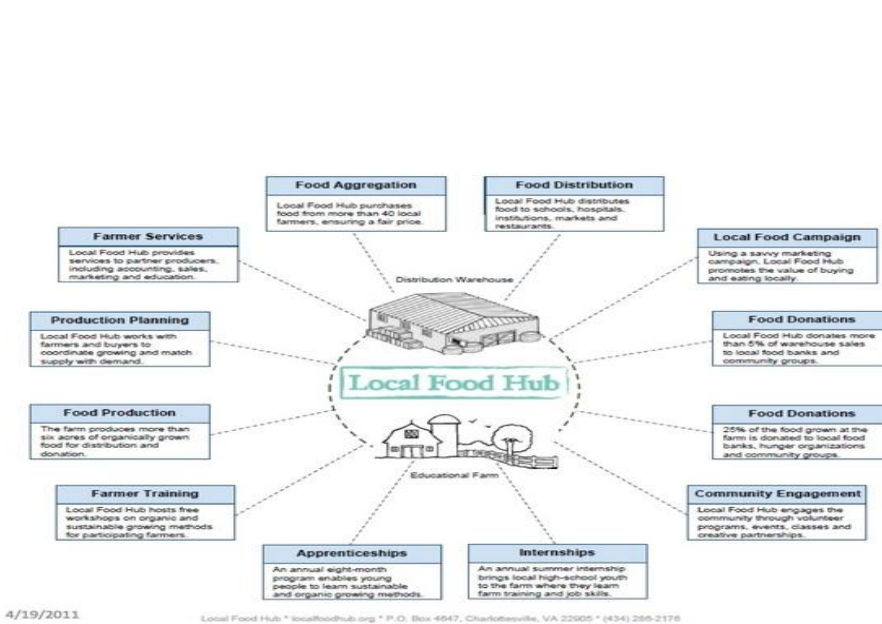
DeKalb County Community Gardens: Community Partners and Sponsors

1. Kishwaukee Family YMCA
2. Live Healthy DeKalb County
3. Kishwaukee Hospital
4. Kishwaukee Health Systems
5. DeKalb County Community Services
6. DeKalb County Health Department
7. DeKalb County
8. Kishwaukee Education Consortium
9. DeKalb County Forest Preserve District
10. Kishwaukee College
11. University of Illinois Extension Program
12. Feed'em Soup
13. DeKalb Youth Service Bureau
14. DeKalb School District 428
15. Sycamore School District 427
16. Somonauk Christian School & Baptist Church
17. Sycamore Chamber of Commerce
18. DeKalb County Community Foundation
19. Doug and Lynn Roberts Family Foundation
20. Bethlehem Lutheran Church
21. Sycamore United Methodist Church
22. Salem Lutheran Church
23. Northern Illinois Food Bank
24. St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry St. Mary's Church
25. New Hope Baptist Church
26. Salvation Army Food Pantry
27. DeKalb Senior Day Center
28. Voluntary Action Center
29. DeKalb Kiwanis
30. DeKalb Park District
31. DeKalb Chamber of Commerce
32. Genoa Township Park District
33. Genoa Chamber of Commerce
34. Resource Bank
35. NB & T Bank

36. DeKalb Area Garden Club
37. Northern Illinois University Environmental Studies Program
38. Illinois Stewardship Alliance
39. DeKalb County Housing Authority
40. DeKalb Public Library
41. Sycamore Public Library
42. American Community Garden Association
43. Conexion Comunidad
44. Art Bigham Farms
45. DeKalb County Corn and Soybean Growers Association
46. Dolce Vita
47. Lowe's
48. Blumen Gardens
49. Kar-Free Flowers of Sycamore
50. Ozzie's Greenhouse
51. Ollies Frozen Custard
52. Tapa La Luna
53. Seed Savers Exchange
54. DeKalb High School FFA
55. Illinois Farms to Schools Network
56. Suter Foods Company
57. Ideal Industries
58. Unitarian Universalist Church of DeKalb
59. St. Paul's Episcopal Church-Thrive Group
60. Welcome Café & Community Kitchen
61. DeKalb Economic Development Corp.
62. 4C's Coordinated Child Care of DeKalb County
63. Children's Learning Center
64. Growing Place Learning Center

Food Insecurity and DeKalb County

- **13,920** or 13.4% Residents are facing food insecurity
- 5,986 are ineligible for public benefits
- **4,560 or 19.7% children** facing food insecurity.
- Nearly 2,189 of these children are not eligible for free/reduced price lunch because their family income is too high

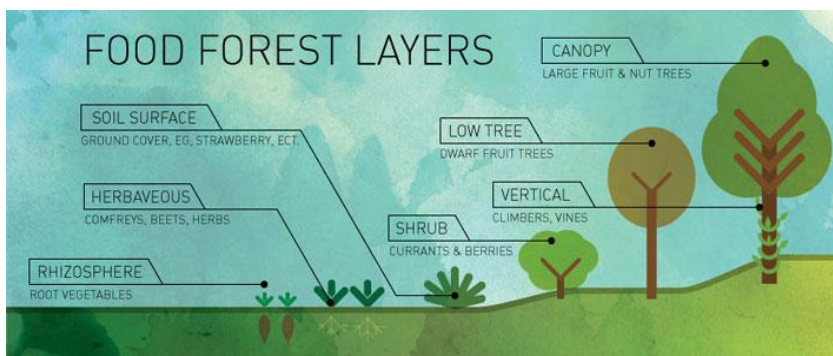


Northern Illinois Food Hub & Processing Center



DeKalb Community Gardens Community Orchard and Forest Garden Projects

DCCG, in partnership with the DeKalb County Forest Preserve District, is installing a community orchard at the DeKalb County government outreach campus and the Old State Forest Garden at Old State and Five Points.



Employment and Job Skills Training

DeKalb County Community Gardens is working to expand into providing more employment for residents of DeKalb County. DCCG is also uniquely positioned to offer job training skills to area residents of various ages. Through the partnerships with Hope Haven, the County homeless shelter, the Youth Service Bureau, and their work with youth at risk, and with Northern Illinois University, DCCG is offering many valuable job skill training opportunities, as well as valuable community service experiences.

Education

DeKalb County Community Gardens is involved in community education. In partnership with the University of Illinois Extension, Kishwaukee Health Systems, and others, DCCG is teaching citizens about how to grow, prepare, and preserve wholesome fresh foods. In addition to providing educational opportunities related to food, DCCG is also increasing awareness about natural, sustainable growing methods to preserve local eco-systems, and increase biodiversity.

Communiversy Gardens

DCCG is also entering into a partnership with Northern Illinois University to create the first communiversy garden. This will join the community with the university in working together to provide access to fresh food, international foods, education, environmental awareness, and social entrepreneurial opportunities and training. This is a new exciting project for the 2014 growing season.

Art in the Gardens

DeKalb County Community Gardens is also involved with the promotion of the arts through the Art in the Gardens Program. DCCG has partnered with the Sycamore Art Attack to have an art projects related to nature in the gardens. In the first year of the program young people created murals for the gardens.



Contact Information

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