Thank You

This garden would not be possible without the assistance of the following groups and individuals:

- Immanuel Bible Foundation
  - Elizabeth Weir
  - President Wilson
  - Provost Green
  - Carl Teichman
  - Mrs. Monica Casey
- McLean County Wellness Coalition
  - Student Senate
  - Alpha Phi Omega
  - Student Sierra Coalition
  - Sodexo Dining Services
  - Action Research Center
- All Our Volunteers, including Faculty, Staff, and Students

Volunteer Day at the Peace Garden

Thank You All So Much! Your support is so appreciated and we hope to continue to see you at the garden!

“IWU Peace Garden

“When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

-Aldo Leopold

Contact Us

E-mail: iwupeacegarden@gmail.com
Facebook: “Like” our “IWU Peace Garden” page
Blog: http://blogs.iwu.edu/iwupeacegarden/

The IWU Peace Garden is located North of Illinois Wesleyan’s campus at the corner of Fell Ave and Francis St next to Advocate BroMenn Medical Center.
IWU Peace Garden

Mission
The Peace Garden at Illinois Wesleyan University exists to serve the curricular and culinary needs of IWU students and the Bloomington-Normal community. It is intended to be a tool of civic engagement with the surrounding community, the state, the nation, and the globe.

History
After attending a conference on sustainable gardens, peace fellow Jessica Meyer ‘11 decided that Illinois Wesleyan could and should have its own garden. After working with other peace fellows and Professor William Munro, Jessica presented the idea to campus administration.

The stated goals of the garden were to: exemplify sustainable principles through practice; to educate the IWU and Bloomington-Normal Community on sustainable food production practices and health; to give students the opportunity to make connections from the classroom in terms of health, sustainability, environment, social justice, and other subjects through practical means; to provide a nonviolent space for IWU students to reflect and socialize while engaging in a respectful relationship with the environment.

After the presentation, Carl Teitchman, Director of Government and Community Relations, began the search for suitable land, a search which found success in the Fall of 2011. Negotiations with the Immanuel Bible Foundation began in January of 2012. Around the same time, Weir Fellows Ryan Dyar ‘14 and Danny Kenny ‘13 along with Peace Fellow Alex Monzon ‘13, under the guidance of Professor James Simeone, began to plan for the garden and raise campus and community support.

With the help of students, faculty, staff, and the community, the IWU Peace Garden broke ground on April 17, 2012 and has been growing ever since. Thanks to everyone who has been a part of this incredible journey thus far!

What we’re Growing and How We’re Growing It
During the winter months, we were able to successfully grow bok choy, lettuce, and spinach in the warmth of our hoop house. This Spring, we will be digging more rows to double the size of the garden. In addition to re-planting last year’s successful varieties (potatoes, herbs, tomatoes, tomatillos, peppers, carrots, Swiss chard, squash, beans, peas, and cucumbers), we plan to fill the freshly tilled rows with a few new items (eggplant, onions, green beans, radishes, zucchini, garlic, cabbage, mushrooms, and wheat).

All of our crops are grown organically, meaning no unnatural chemicals are used—no synthetic fertilizers and no synthetic pesticides. Any pests are dealt with using natural techniques. To conserve water, we also harvest rain water and implement it into our drip-line irrigation system as often as the weather allows.

Most importantly, the preservation and improvement of our soil is of top priority, and we employ several methods to ensure we maintain the integrity of the soil; these methods include using natural fertilizers, mulching, and composting. It is our hope to grow hearty produce while maintaining a minimal impact on Earth’s natural resources.

Future Plans
Our goals are ambitious and there are many opportunities before us. Some of our plans have already started while others are still in their infancy, but we are excited for all of them.

• Partnering with the Bloomington community to actively promote food security and further food and health justice
• Donating to local food pantries like Clare House and Western Avenue Community Center
• Starting a campus Farmer’s Market
• Providing produce for campus Dining Services
• Working with local K-12 schools to teach about sustainability and food justice
• Serving as a Source of Produce for the Veggie Oasis Van and Veggie Bike to distribute produce in the West Bloomington Food Desert
• Creating Gardening Plots for faculty, students, and community members

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