

Needham Community Farm

For a Sustainable Future

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www.needhamfarm.org

Today's Talk

In the beginning...

The present

A look at the future

Questions

ONE MORE - 'THOU SHALT
PROTECT THE EARTH'...
OH, FORGET IT.

SLIPPER



Needham Community Farm

How we got started

Recognized a need for environmental action

Why a farm-based education center?

Most effective way to strengthen our connection with nature, the source of our food and other resources.

Needham Community Farm Mission Statement

To create a center for environmental education for the Needham community, with a focus on teaching organic farming methods and sustainable living practices.

Needham Community Farm

The Present

Committee

Needham Community Farm

The Committee

Over 60 committee members

Over 30 regular volunteers

Monthly meetings

Seasonal garden volunteers

Visibility and fairs

Fairs

501c3 status in process

Needham Community Farm

The Present

Committee

Pilot Program

Needham Community Farm Pilot Program

Newman School

Student Involvement:

Grow seedlings in class, plant and help harvest

Hands on learning

Volunteers care for gardens in summer

Financed through private donations

Produce donated to the Needham Food Pantry



Needham Community Farm Pilot Program

Community Partnerships

Needham School Department

Needham Historical Society

Needham Garden Center

Needham RTS

Needham Community Council



Needham Community Farm

The Present

Committee

Pilot Program

Nike Site

Needham Community Farm Nike Site

Located off Pine Street

3 acres surrounded by conservation land and trails

Space for gardens and education center

Under School Committee jurisdiction

Other proposed use is Sports fields

Needham Community Farm

The Future

What could be in Needham's future?

Fresh locally grown produce

Commitment to sustainable living

Hands-on educational experiences

Classes that inspire for all ages

Events that bring the community together

Needham Community Farm

Environmental Benefits

Reconnect with the soil and nature

- Organic farming and lawn care

- Hands-on programs

Reduce energy use, CO₂ emissions, and preserve natural resources

- Passive solar design

- Bio fuels

- Composting

- Rainwater collection

- Latest methods of irrigation/Biochar

Needham Community Farm Health Benefits

Nutrition - Diet

Fresh, local, organic
produce

Nutrient dense soil

Promoting a non-toxic home
environment

Organic lawn care

Reduce use of toxic
cleaning products

Physical exercise and fresh air



"Why, yes, my dear—it is organic."

Needham Community Farm Community Benefits

Building Community Spirit

Volunteerism

Multi-generational opportunities

Community events and fairs

Support for neighbors in need

Donations to food pantry

Opportunities for at-risk teens

Strengthening Community Partnerships

COA, Youth Commission, Veterans Groups

Needham Community Farm

Educational Benefits

Youth

- Appreciation of our natural resources
- Learning about the growing cycle
- Work ethic
- Science and math
- Value of community

Adult Classes

- Organic gardening and lawn care
- Composting
- Cooking
- Non-toxic home care

Needham Community Farm

*“In the end we will conserve only what we love.
We will love only what we understand. We will
understand only what we are taught.”*

- Baba Dioum, a Senegalese ecologist



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