



“Kids playing in nature with nature.”

Deb Sluss
Englewood Nature
Playspace & Gardens,
Indianapolis

Soil Health Advocate

As an all-volunteer effort, the Englewood Nature & Playspace has grown from a single lot to three city

lots since its inception in 1998. It was started by the Englewood Community Development Organization and is used by the children at Daystar Daycare, those living in nearby apartments and others for community gatherings. Over the years, it has been the volunteer efforts that have helped the gardens sustain and grow. They are working with the Marion County SWCD on improving soils through cover crops like rye and wheat, and want to move to lasagna gardening in order to reduce weeds and maintain moisture in the soil.



Englewood maintains many varieties of fruit and vegetable plants, including apple and cherry trees and raspberry bushes. In the raised beds, they grow strawberries, peas, rhubarb, tomatoes, peppers, and many others.



Englewood has many perennial flowers varieties and clover that provides nectar to the honey bees they keep in hives on the roof of a nearby building.

Nature Playspace & Gardens

Size: 12 20' x 5' raised bed garden plots (total space is approximately ½ acre.)

Type: Urban community garden

Operations: All volunteer, working with the community, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and other service and business groups

Practices: Reduced-tillage, rain capture

Benefits: Able to increase types and quantity of crops over time.



Daystar students taste asparagus freshly picked from the garden. The preschool kids explore the gardens as part of their daily education and play activities.

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