

“Our youth are learning that when we take care of the soil, it will take care of us.”

Phyllis Boyd, Executive Director
Groundwork Indy Garden, Indianapolis

Soil Health Advocate



Groundwork Indy is a non-profit organization focused on community revitalization. Their Green Team program employs youth ages 14 – 18 to learn about environmental stewardship and local food through community improvement projects including gardening. Phyllis has worked with MCSWCD for the past year to begin incorporating soil health techniques, including crop rotation and mulching. In 2017, Groundwork Indy took the next step towards soil health by planting cover crops.



In 2015, Phyllis initiated crop rotation, an important first step to soil health and maintaining nutrients in the soil. In 2016, she added mulching, which has significantly reduced the weeds and increased moisture retention. All of these soil health measures reduce maintenance from weeding and watering for the non-profit gardening program.

www.marionswcd.org



Groundwork Indy Garden

Size: 11 raised beds (4' x 4'), 15 in-ground beds (3' x 12'), 5 circular in-ground beds (15' diameter)

Type: Youth garden program

Operations: 32 paid gardeners; 2 volunteers; 60 person hours a week

Practices: Mulch and crop rotation

Benefits: Moisture retention and weed suppression



Green Team members plant seeds in planters made from newspaper;



Green Team members getting raised beds ready for planting;



Green Team members planting trees to improve their community.