

NORTH DEKALB MALL

North DeKalb Mall – Community Garden:

Mission Statement

The Story: The North DeKalb Mall Community Garden had a successful pioneer year, as the Timsinas family, Bhutanese refugees, have turned an idle floodplain field into a productive garden filled with flowers, fruits and veggies. The garden not only creates an asset for the mall and surrounding community, but also provides an opportunity for the growing and significant refugee population in the area to grow produce for sale at market and do productive work with their farming experience that wouldn't ordinarily be put to use. The garden has grown mix of flowers (marigolds, African daisies, others) and fruits (watermelon, tomatoes, others) and veggies (okra, beans, peppers, eggplant, cucumber) and basil, and is currently growing mustard greens, kale, Swiss chard, radishes, broccoli and more. The North DeKalb Mall Community Garden has found dedicated volunteer leaders to create a framework and plan that will allow the growth in number of refugee families involved with the larger "market plots", as well as the participation in by any community group or individual in the smaller sized "community plots". Our partners will also ensure that our refugee and community farmers work toward an increased productivity as a sustainable urban garden, and volunteer groups will help ensure this community asset stays maintained and utilized by everyone interested and involved. Please contact us for information on available plots and how to get signed up, and let's see what an incredible community garden we can create together!

Purpose: Utilize available land for productive farming and to offer an opportunity for empowerment and economic benefit, through farming, primarily to refugee families in the community, but also to include other traditional community groups to allow for shared ideas and cultural diversity amongst the participating farmers.

Decisions: Taylor Dozier, General Manager of North DeKalb Mall has executive power in the decision making process for the NDM-CG and all related activities on the mall property, but will seek advice from the informal Leadership Board in all significant decisions.

Vision: A productive farm allowing significant economic benefits and psychological benefits to the refugee farmers and full participation from our "market" plots in the sale of produce and finished products, at the mall produce stand and market location. We strive for an interactive community garden where gardeners of all types can have a space to plan crops or flowers, and learn more about different cultures existing within the community, through the cooperative efforts of farming. Our partners and leadership board will play a significant role in furthering education on farming and marketing/sales of the finished products, as well as securing