

## **OLI GARDENS AND THE NAPER SETTLEMENT JOIN FORCES TO CREATE A PERMACULTURE GARDEN**

[Naper Settlement](#), a 13-acre outdoor history museum in Naperville, Illinois, has received a \$21,000 grant from the DuPage Foundation to develop a sustainable permaculture garden on its campus. This initiative aims to educate visitors about regenerative agriculture, environmental science, and sustainability, with the garden expected to be operational by May.

The permaculture garden will highlight traditional Indigenous farming techniques, notably the "Three Sisters" method, which involves cultivating corn, beans, and squash together. This method promotes a symbiotic relationship among the plants, enhancing soil health and deterring pests without the need for pesticides.

The DuPage Foundation's grant will cover the majority of the project's \$30,000 cost, funding site excavation, materials, plant and soil purchases, irrigation installation, and the engagement of an Indigenous expert for design consultation.

Naper Settlement will contribute additional resources, partnering with [OLI Gardens](#), a Naperville-based nonprofit dedicated to sustainable solutions for food insecurity. [OLI Gardens](#) will donate viable crop yields from the garden to local food banks.

This project is part of Naper Settlement's broader vision to establish an agricultural hub on its campus, complementing the recent opening of a 3,600-square-foot agricultural center in April 2023. The new garden will also be integrated into the museum's educational programming, offering hands-on learning experiences for visitors.

The DuPage Foundation's fall grant program awarded nearly \$580,000 to 56 nonprofit organizations across DuPage County in 2024, including several in the Naperville area. Since its inception in 1986, the foundation has distributed over \$100 million in grant funding.

Read more at <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2024/12/31/naperville-naper-settlement-dupage-foundation-grant-garden/>