



For followers and supporters of the Food Shed Co-op - May 3, 2023

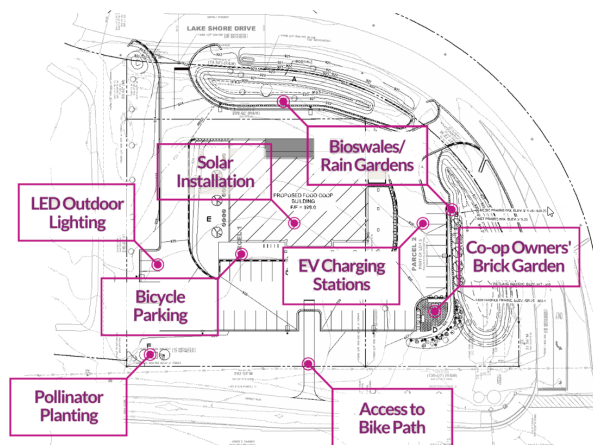
**1664 OWNERS AND COUNTING!**

Click [HERE](#) or on any *Become an Owner* button!

## We Will Strive to Be a Model for McHenry County

Last month the Food Shed Co-op team had the opportunity to attend two Earth Day Events in McHenry County: Earth Day at Prairieview Education Center and the Green Living Fair at Ridgefield Presbyterian Church. We are grateful to community leaders for coordinating the events and spotlighting environmental responsibility and best practices.

The Food Shed Co-op intends to be a model for McHenry County businesses. Among our core values is to champion environmentally responsible practices. So far, our business environmental initiatives include solar panels, car charging stations, bioswales, bike path, native pollinating gardens, in-store recycling, in-store composting, strict single-use plastic restrictions, and package-free Bulk Food categories. In addition, every department will have reclamation tactics and procedures to reduce food waste.



We are thrilled that over 1660 local residents believed in us enough to become Food Shed Co-op owners. Many of those owners have gone beyond and become investors, as well. To learn more or to become an owner yourself, please visit the [Food Shed Coop website](#).

## Collaborating with Local Farmers

The Food Shed Co-op is looking forward to working with and developing new relationships with local farmers and producers. That is going to be the heart of our store. We have such richness of soil, growers, talent and diversity here in McHenry County.

We are already working with a handful of dedicated and passionate farmers through a variety of fundraising efforts to support the Food Shed Co-op. One of those is Ramshackle Farm, a queer and trans owned anti-capitalist, punk rock farm that has been in operation since 2021. They operate a year round farm, growing hydroponically, in high tunnels, and in a diversified no-till market garden to offer local, pesticide free food to our community throughout the year. They are excited about building community, and supporting a resilient, accessible local food system. They prioritize queer joy on their farm and aim to craft a safe space for LGBTQIA+ folks within the landscape of rural agriculture.



You can support them and their mission by signing up for their seasonal CSA (<https://ramshackle-farm.square.site/product/weekly-summer-veggie-box/70>), visiting them at the Woodstock Farmer's Market on Saturdays and at the Farmer's Market at the Dole on Sundays throughout the Summer.



## We Would Love to Speak to Your Group

We, as the Food Shed Co-op, continue sharing information about the unique mission of our grocery store every chance we get. Co-op staff and volunteers get out into the public at Farmers Markets and a variety of community events to share information and answer questions. Our General Manager, Peter Waldmann, and Outreach Director, Sue Jensen, have spoken to small groups throughout the county describing features that will set the Food Shed Co-op apart from other grocery stores. The biggest difference is that our store will help keep money circulating within our community rather than it going off to shareholders of a big corporation. Other unique qualities of the store will be its focus on stocking healthy, locally sourced goods and produce items, having a fantastic prepared foods kitchen and our commitment to sustainable practices.

Are you a part of an organization or group that would enjoy learning more about the Food Shed Co-op in a casual setting and getting ALL of your questions answered? We would love to share our in person, engaging presentation with you. We can make it 10 minutes, an hour or anything in between. Please contact us at [Outreach@foodshed.coop](mailto:Outreach@foodshed.coop) to set something up!



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## Events

### In the Woodstock Area

#### [Woodstock Farmers Market](#)

##### [Historic Woodstock Square in Woodstock, IL](#)

**Saturday, May 6 - 9am to 1pm**

The Woodstock Farmer's Market has vendors surrounding the Square on all four sides as well as throughout the park. We will be there sharing information about the co-op. This is a Producers Only Market, meaning everything you purchase is grown or produced directly by the vendor you are purchasing from, but we can direct visitors to our website to sign up.

#### [Woodstock Pridefest](#)

##### [Historic Woodstock Square in Woodstock, IL](#)

**Sunday, June 11 - Noon to 5pm**

We will have an information table in the Woodstock Square for this day of entertainment, vendors, food, and more. The parade will kick off at 11 am and the festival starts at noon. Come say hi, learn about the co-op, check out our merchandise and even sign up to be an owner of a grocery store on the spot! Then visit all the other great vendors and information tables!

#### [Boone-Dutch Creeks Watershed Alliance Pollinator Safari](#)

##### [TREK](#)

### Various locations

**Saturday, June 24 - 9am to Noon**

Multiple organizations are collaborating to host a family friendly discovery event in McHenry County within the Boone Creek Watershed. Come explore

and learn with them. Three different sites will be set up offering nature hikes, native gardens, displays, activities, expert talks, giveaways, and prizes!

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## In the Crystal Lake Area

### [Farmers Market at the Dole](#)

#### [Dole Mansion in Crystal Lake, IL](#)

The Food Shed Co-op is proud to be joining local farmers at the Farmers Market at the Dole! We will be there with a table sharing information with the public about our up-and-coming store, selling cool merchandise and signing up new owners.

**Sunday, May 28 - 10am to 2pm**

**Sunday, June 18 - 10am to 2pm**

**Saturday, July 16 - 10am to 2pm**

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We need your support. Please join the residents and families who believed in the vision of opening a community-owned grocery store!



We need your support - please click [HERE](#) to join our mission.



*Help us spread the word about our community owned grocery store by sharing our posts with your followers on social media. And why not [BECOME AN OWNER](#) now?*



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### Mission

*Our mission is to build a LOCAL food COOPERATIVE promoting*

a HEALTHY, ETHICAL *and* RESILIENT COMMUNITY.

### Core Values

- *Promote and foster better food choices*
  - *Cultivate and strengthen our local economy*
  - *Inspire and empower community*
  - *Champion environmentally responsible practices*
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Cooperatively yours,  
Food Shed Co-op Board



Food Shed Co-op · PO Box 1663, Woodstock, IL 60098 · 815.315.1541  
info@foodshed.coop · <http://www.foodshed.coop/>



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