

## Juneau District Grant P-3791

Our club wanted to do a project that meet a couple of goals:

1. Primarily be outside due to COVID, so that as many members could participate as wanted to
2. Did something positive for the community, primarily youth who are struggling.

Juneau had recently opened The Spruce Root House – designed to be transitional housing for youth who were runaways or kicked out of their homes. The goal of the facility is to keep these kids out of state child services system and provide them and their families with the tools to be reunited. The Spruce Root House was dreary looking and so in talking to the manager – we decided we could go a bit of cleaning a painting of the trim. We had anticipated that this would cost a lot more than it did. So by spring of 2022 we were looking for something else we could do to improve the facility. Garden boxes so the kids could have something to do – ie weed, water and harvest some of their own food.

Part 2 – the garden boxes was a hands-on, get down and dirty project. We 1<sup>st</sup> went to one of oldest members and renowned Master Gardener for advice on materials, dimensions and dirt. The 1<sup>st</sup> weekend was spent removing old, decayed garden boxes, digging up sod and saving as much “good” soil as possible.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend was spent constructing. Again, our Master Gardener Sandy came out to supervisor and run a few errands for supplies we had forgotten. By the time we were done – The spruce root house had 3 gorgeous garden beds, with hoops and plastic to keep too much moisture and out and heat in. We filled one box with lettuce, zucchini, and bean starts as well as carrot and pea seeds. Finally, we left them with a hose and few garden tools so they could tend the garden.

While we used top notch materials for the garden project – we still had not spent all the funds. The Spruce Root House now has a lovely stand-up freezer to store their bounty and to keep food organized and accessible reducing the problem of food falling to the bottom of a chest freezer.