

Operation Weed and Seed is foremost a strategy – rather than a grant program – which aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in targeted high-crime neighborhoods across the country. The strategy involves a two-pronged approach: law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" criminals, especially those who participate in violent or drug crimes, attempting to prevent their return to the targeted area; and "seeding" brings human services to the area, encompassing prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood revitalization. A community-orientated policing component bridges weeding and seeding strategies. Officers obtain helpful information from area residents for weeding efforts while they aid residents in obtaining information about community revitalization and seeding resources.

Key Elements in the Weed and Seed strategies are (1) Law Enforcement, (2) Community Policing, (3) Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment, and (4) Neighborhood Restoration.

The mission and purpose of the Central Cedar Rapids Weed and Seed is to unite civic, community and other organizations, residents, and law enforcement organizations; promote the strategic plan, programs, goals, and objectives of our Weed and Seed strategy; encourage members to render services that are beneficial to our community and cooperate with other organizations performing similar services of benefit within our community.

The purpose of the Weed and Seed Steering Committee is to actively participate in and promote Weed and Seed activities in the target area; assist the site coordinator with raising funds; represent the needs and resources of the community and bring forth issues, concerns, feedback and recommendations for programs, policy, and overall direction consistent with the Weed and Seed program; and meet as required with the complete Steering Committee. Members are expected to attend monthly or bi-monthly Steering Committee meetings and volunteer for Weed and Seed related projects as their schedules permit.

Neighborhoods Included

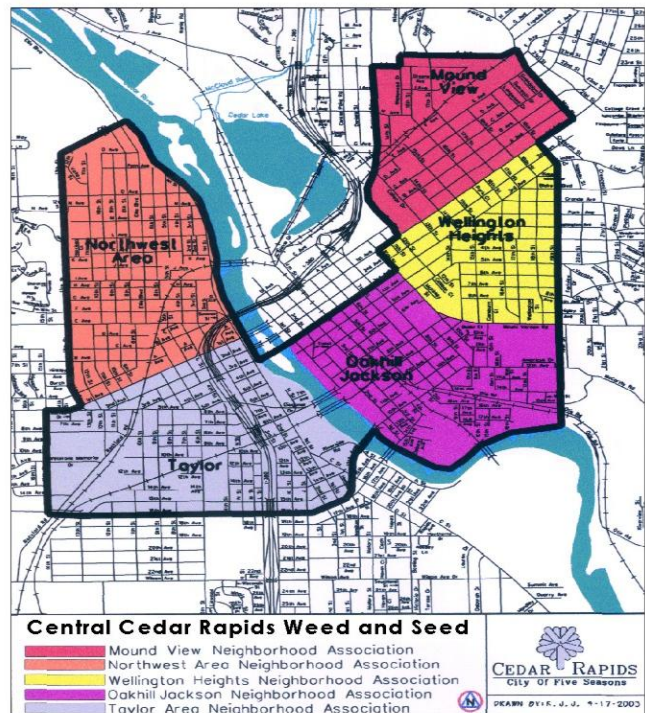
The Central Cedar Rapids Weed and Seed site encompasses neighborhoods that surround downtown Cedar Rapids.

- Mound View
- Wellington Heights
- Oakhill Jackson
- Taylor Area
- Northwest Area

Partners Involved

The Neighborhood Associations in each of those areas is instrumental in making Weed and Seed work. Other partners include:

- City of Cedar Rapids
- Partnership for Safe Families
- United Way of East Central Iowa
- Cedar Rapids Schools
- Juvenile Court Services
- Linn County Attorney's Office
- Cedar Rapids Police Department
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- United States Attorney's Office
- Sixth Judicial District Department of Correctional Services
- And other concerned groups and citizens in the community



Please get involved!

If interested please contact Bruce Vander Sanden, Site Coordinator, 319-398-3675, bruce.vandersanden@iowa.gov or visit the Central Cedar Rapids Weed and Seed website, www.crweedandseed.com.

For more information on the National Weed and Seed program go to www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo.