



Eric Knepp, Parks Superintendent
City-County Building, Suite 104
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Madison, WI 53703

February 12, 2016

Dear Superintendent Knepp:

I write today on behalf of the Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden to respectfully request Parks Commission's consideration and approval of the attached application to relocate a portion of the community garden to an identified site located within Rennebohm Park in time for the 2016 gardening season. The site was identified through a process convened by Alder Chris Schmidt involving City of Madison Parks, Planning and Engineering divisions, City of Madison Community Gardens Committee, Community GroundWorks, and University Hill Farms Neighborhood Association; relocation options were presented for comment at Alder Schmidt's public meeting held on January 21, 2016.

For thirty-five years, this public community garden was located nearby at 4802 Sheboygan Avenue on the Hill Farms Department of Transportation property owned by the State of Wisconsin. In 2015 gardening plots supported more than 100 individuals and families. In October 2015, the garden was removed to make way for redevelopment of the property. Garden assets are stored for the winter but must be moved in spring 2016.

The mission of the Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden is to increase equitable access to the multiple social, environmental and health resources brought by a community garden environment in an urban setting for individuals, families, neighborhood and city. The garden provides focused access to lower income households through a sliding scale plot fee structure. Access to safe, healthy, and culturally appropriate food is provided through the garden's organic gardening practices. The garden is a non-profit, public benefit organization – open to all on a first-come, first-served basis. The fruits, herbs, and vegetables grown in the garden are for family and food pantry consumption only; bylaws do not allow food to be sold.

Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden is financially sound with liability insurance and 501c3 fiscal sponsorship. Garden assets include experienced leadership and infrastructure to support more than 100 gardeners. Madison Community Foundation's Community Impact grant program recently approved \$5000 to match \$5000 garden funds for the garden relocation. Similar grant proposals have been submitted to Fiskars Project Orange Thumb (\$3500 and tools) and Home Depot Community Impact (\$5000) grant programs; award results are expected shortly. A grant application will also be submitted to Evjue Foundation in March 2016.

The cumulative efforts of community stakeholders are reflected in the attached garden proposal which will establish needed gardening space in time for the 2016 gardening season to support the elderly and other multi-family housing occupants surrounding Rennebohm Park. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this application request.

Sincerely,


Cindy Statz (Garden Coordinator) and Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden

xc: Chris Schmidt, Mark Woulf, Karen von Huene, Nan Fey, Jill Schneider

Attachments: Garden Application, Alder Schmidt Public Input – Meeting Summary

**APPLICATION FOR NEW GARDEN LOCATION in RENNEBOHM PARK
SHEBOYGAN AVENUE COMMUNITY GARDEN
February 12, 2016**

For thirty-five years, the **Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden** was located at 4802 Sheboygan Avenue on the Hill Farms Department of Transportation property owned by the State of Wisconsin. In 2015 gardening plots were provided to more than 100 individuals and families. In October 2015, the garden was removed to make way for redevelopment of the property. Garden assets are stored for the winter but must be moved in spring 2016.

The mission of the Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden is to increase equitable access to the multiple social, environmental and health resources brought by a community garden environment in an urban setting for individuals, families, neighborhood and city. The garden provides focused access to lower income households through a sliding scale plot fee structure (as low as \$5). Access to safe, healthy, and culturally appropriate food is provided through the garden's organic gardening practices.

In addition, the garden provides educational sessions of organic gardening methods, sustainable food management, and harvest preservation techniques. Garden activities include intergenerational team building and leadership training through organized work activities in public spaces. Garden tours and educational events are provided to K12 schools to encourage community engagement and promote healthfulness through gardening. Research studies are also conducted at the garden.

This public, community garden requests space to garden in Rennebohm Park, 115 North Eau Claire Avenue, in the University Hill Farms neighborhood; most of the gardeners live within one mile of Rennebohm Park, many in multi-family and elderly housing with limited transportation options.

Contact Person: Cindy Statz, Garden Coordinator
PO Box 5011
Madison, WI 53705

Phone (before 8:00 PM please): (608) 576-5332 or (608) 233-9181
E-mail: coordinator@sheboygancommunitygarden.org

OBJECTIVES:

- Reach consensus with stakeholders
- Relocate onto city-owned public land
- Provide adequate sun, soil, water, and accessibility
- Locate within walking distance of Sheboygan Avenue and Segoe Road multi-family housing
- Prepare site for planting in the spring of 2016

GARDEN ATTRIBUTES:

- Multiple raised beds available for accessible gardening
- Experienced leadership and infrastructure to support over 100 households
- Public benefit non-profit status with fiscal agent and liability insurance
- Garden bylaws do not allow food to be sold
- Aesthetic controls in and around plots will sustain park setting and visual appeal
- Plots open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis

ACCESS and INDEPENDENCE:

The Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden has thrived for thirty-five years, providing a setting where neighbors of diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds work together to increase cultural understanding, provide social support, nurture healthfulness, and build trust for the benefit of the entire community.

Demographics of the garden community vary with 20-30% turnover each season, but typically there are representatives of more than 10 ethnic groups, one-third of gardeners are over 55 years of age and 40% are low income. The garden is ADA accessible with multiple raised beds, and access for lower income households is provided through a sliding scale of plot fees.

Educational sessions to gardeners and K12 schools encourage community engagement and promote healthfulness through gardening. Undergraduate and graduate research studies have also been conducted at the Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden. Safe, healthy, and culturally appropriate food is provided using organic gardening practices.

PROPERTY INFORMATION:

- Rennebohm Park is owned and controlled by the City of Madison
- Securing a site for the community garden has involved discussions with the District 11 Alder, Chris Schmidt, and City staff from the Parks and Engineering Divisions; representatives of the University Hill Farms Neighborhood Association and the City of Madison's Community Gardens Committee.
- The community garden in Rennebohm Park would be included in the "master lease" with Community GroundWorks that governs all community gardens on city-owned lands
- Heavy metals screening indicates acceptable levels of Cadmium, Copper, Nickel, Lead, Zinc, and Arsenic

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: Knowing how important it is to make connections between our garden and the community, we have been contacting potential partners including, but not limited to the following:

- The Gardens Network
- REAP Food Group
- Community GroundWorks
- Madison Community Foundation

COMMUNITY SUPPORT: We have been gathering support for our garden's relocation effort by contacting neighborhood leaders and community members including, but not limited to the following:

- District 11 Alder
- City of Madison Community Gardens Committee
- The Gardens Network
- Community GroundWorks
- University Hill Farms Neighborhood Association

The Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden is a non-profit, public benefit organization open to the general public on a first-come, first-served basis. The fruits, herbs, and vegetables grown in the garden are for family and food pantry consumption only; bylaws do not allow food to be sold.

Visitors are always welcome at the garden!

GARDEN PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

- Cindy Statz, Garden Coordinator
- Pat Soderholm, Past Coordinator
- Leann Tigges, Registrar
- Ruth Cadoret, Plot Monitor
- Jim Baumann, Preservation Committee
- Jack Kloppenburg, Preservation Committee
- Dawn Springer, Preservation Committee
- Other Garden board members

WHAT IS THE EXACT ADDRESS OF THE GARDEN?

Rennebohm Park - 115 North Eau Claire Avenue, Madison, WI 53705

The immediate, near-term goal is to establish Option A gardening space in time for the 2016 growing season to primarily support the elderly and multi-family housing occupants living near Sheboygan Avenue and Rennebohm Park. The process to identify and evaluate additional space in the neighborhood is underway to fully restore the community garden space lost to redevelopment. Both near term and long term goals seek to continue the community garden mission as follows:

- ❖ Provide access to safe, healthy, and culturally appropriate food regardless of income
- ❖ Provide ADA accessibility and age-related transition assistance
- ❖ Provide sustainable food options to area residents with limited transportation means
- ❖ Provide intergenerational team building and leadership training

WHAT ARE THE DIMENSIONS OF THE SITE?

Option A is located east of the tennis courts with approximately 6,000 square feet of space. The proposed garden site has proper drainage with no unusual slopes. Underground utilities are mapped; if soil is not disturbed garden functions may be allowed to take place over utilities. See utilities maps below.

The standard unit of measurement for a community garden plot is 400 square feet (SF) per Gardens Network. However, in order to include as many neighbors as possible in the community garden, only the following plot sizes will be offered to the public:

- 100 square feet = 10' wide x 10' long
- Raised bed = 4' wide x 8' long

PROPOSED SITE---WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

How long has this site been vacant?	Farm land prior to current use
What used to be on the site?	Farm land
Was it ever a factory or a gas station?	No
Are the adjacent houses occupied?	Yes
Is the garden near a busy street or a factory?	No
Which side of the garden faces most neighbors?	North side
Is the garden visible (for safety and publicity)?	Somewhat
What is the level of crime in the area?	Low

BUDGET WORKSHEET

Revenue/Income	2014	2015	Option A east of Tennis Courts	Potential Phase 2
Donations & hay/straw purchases	830	562		
Madison Community Foundation grant award			5,000	
Plot fees (60-400SF includes 6 raised)	2,315	2,672		
Plot fees (40-100SF + 3 raised)			710	710
Plot fees (60-100SF + 3 raised)				1,050
Balance from previous year	6,866	8,005	8,188	7,081
Total Income	\$10,011	\$11,239	\$13,898	\$8,841
Expenses/Costs				
Lease fee	permit	permit	1	1
Meeting room expenses	110	170	170	170
Compost, hay, straw, tools	772	1,378	100	220
Printing, supplies, social	499	553	250	500
Water bill - from previous year	393	311	100	220
New Garden Fund (10% registration fees)	232	267	71	176
Total Annual Expenses	\$2,006	\$2,679	\$692	\$1,287
Decommission garden from Hill Farms DOT		372		
New garden site prep (trees, fill, etc.)			500	750
New garden till/augment for garden plots			1,075	1,290
New garden install new water system			600	720
New garden install new fencing			2,300	2,700
New garden install new raised beds			1,500	1,500
New garden - return equipment and shed			150	
Total One-time Expenses	\$0	\$372	\$6,125	\$6,960
Balance	\$8,005	\$8,188	\$7,081	\$594

Based on average 100SF plot fees in 2015 (\$17/plot + \$10 raised bed)

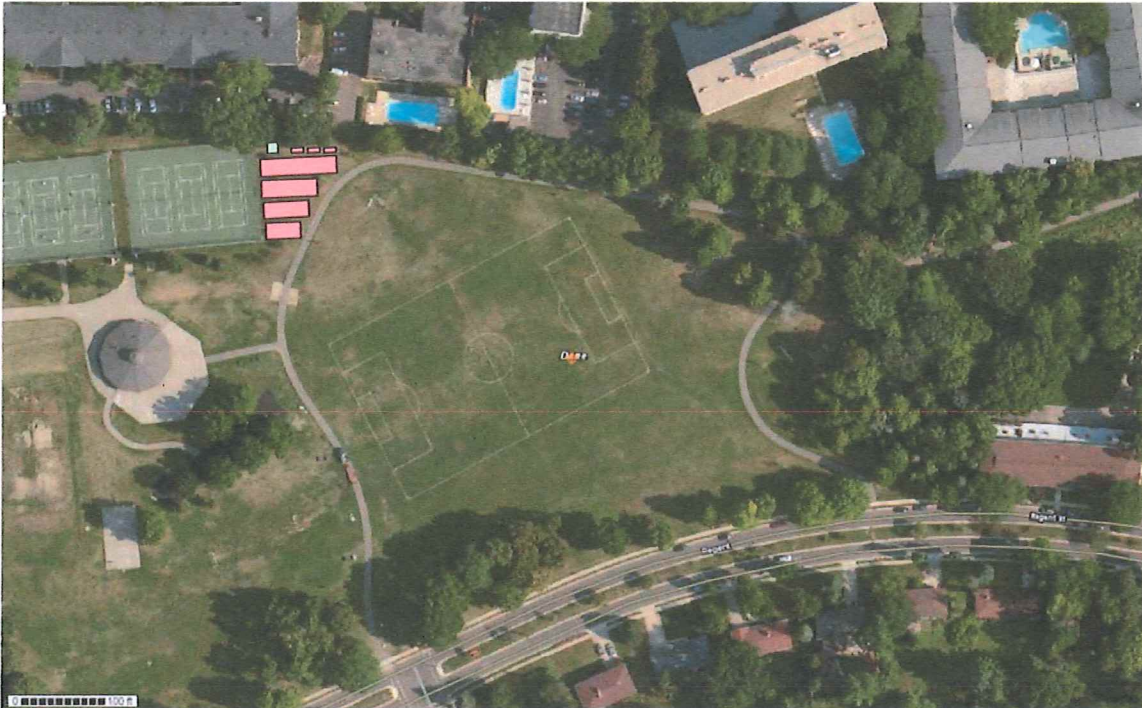
FUNDING:

Sheboygan Community Garden is pursuing funding to supplement its \$5000 garden funds and Madison Community Foundation's Community Impact grant award from sources including, but not limited to, the following:

- ❖ Fiskars Project Orange Thumb (\$3500 and tools) submitted 2/1/16, awards announced 3/2/16
- ❖ Home Depot Community Impact Grant (\$5K) submitted 2/9/16; award announced in <6 weeks
- ❖ Evjue Foundation (\$5K) due 3/11/16 for May 2016 consideration

Proposed Option A for 2016: East of Tennis Courts

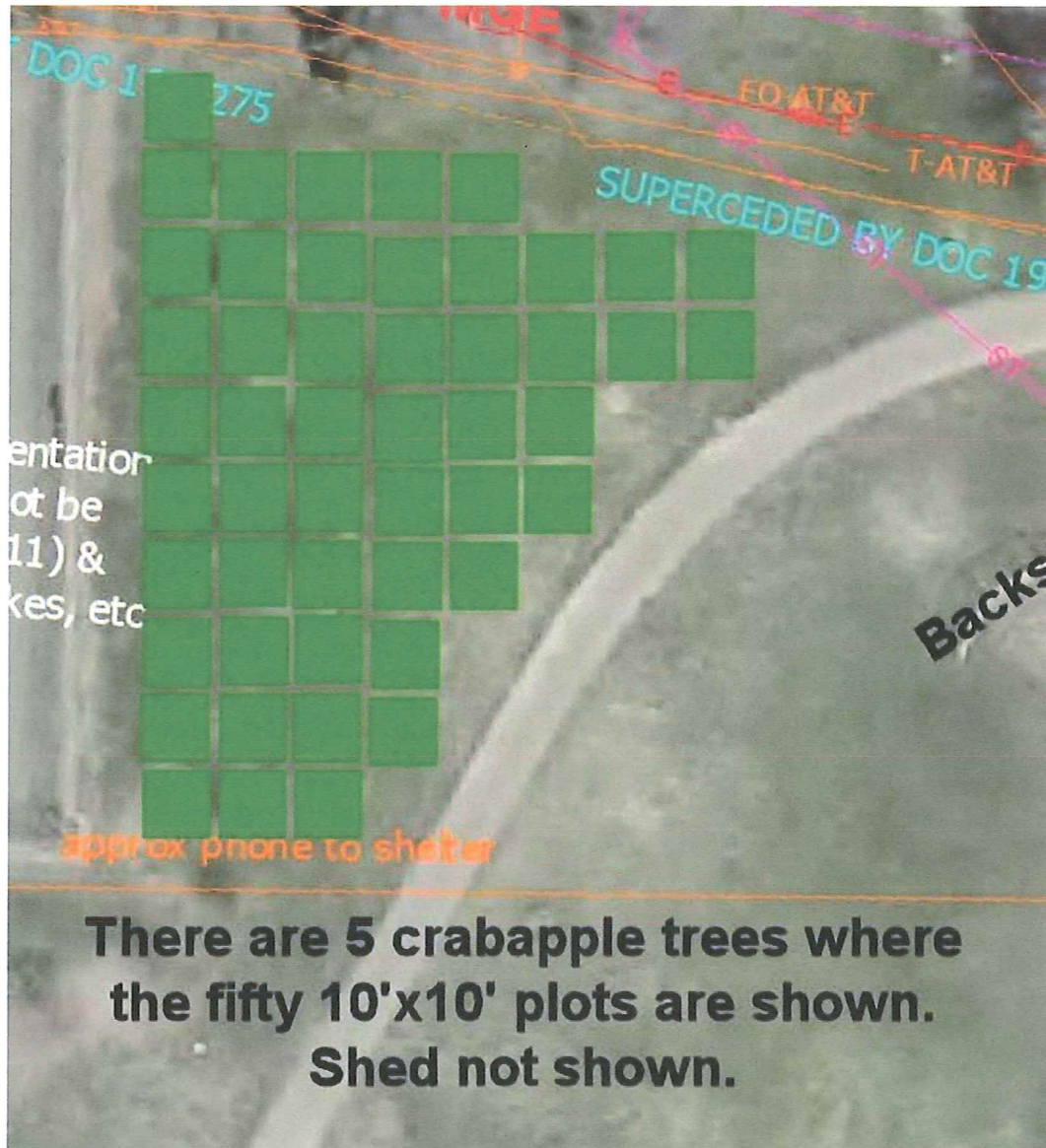
Rennebohm Park Option for Discussion - east of Tennis Courts



Proposed Option A for 2016: East of Tennis Courts – Attributes and Considerations:

- Proposed Option would allow approximately forty (40)-100SF plots and three (3)-raised beds
- The garden site has full sun – at least 8 hours of direct sun each day
- Water will most likely be provided by metered access from park shelter
- Garden will provide any required water distribution
- Site surface is essentially flat and rainwater runs off from the site
- Five relatively young crabapples would likely need to be removed
- An aesthetically pleasing perimeter fence would control access to rabbits, raccoons, etc.
- Site location minimizes impact on existing uses
- Site location is close to multi-family housing and those who might be transportation limited
- Location of equipment shed is not defined and other details would need to be developed
- New garden design with assistance from UW-Madison Landscape Architecture
- This option would provide enough space to replace approximately 20% of the lost garden space

Proposed Option A for 2016: East of Tennis Courts



WHAT IS THE SOIL LIKE?

Soil sample screening revealed no soil pH adjustment is recommended, Phosphorous and Potassium were slightly low at 33ppm and 113ppm respectively, organic matter totaled 4.4%, and needed Nitrogen would be supplied as Phosphorous and Potassium are augmented; screening revealed no issues with heavy metals.

HEAVY METALS SCREENING

Re: Screening of soil samples for toxic metal content

Samples Submitted by: Cindy Statz, Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden

Analysis Date: January 15, 2013

The following soil samples were screened for toxic metal content using an Olympus X-ray fluorescence detector (XRF) at the UW Madison Department of Soil Science. Each sample ID consists of trowel samples gathered and combined as per UW Extension sampling guidelines – <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/A2166.pdf>.

Results in milligrams/ kilogram or part per million (ppm).

Sample ID	As ppm	Cd ppm	Cr ppm	Cu ppm	Ni ppm	Pb ppm	Zn ppm
Rennebohm Park Tennis Court & Backstop	ND	ND	ND	ND	20	11.8	39
Rennebohm Park Southeast	ND	ND	ND	ND	14	13.5	31
Rennebohm Park East	ND	ND	ND	ND	16	13.9	33
Garner Park South	ND	ND	ND	23	15	15.2	43

While XRF analysis is a USEPA approved method and one frequently used by Soil Science Department researchers, these results do not constitute a legal test of the samples.

Background Concentrations of Target Analytes in Wisconsin Soils¹

Element	WI Background (ppm)
Arsenic	8.3
Cadmium	1.07
Chromium	43.5
Copper	35.4
Lead	51.6
Nickel	30.8
Zinc	150

¹ Distribution and Variation of Arsenic in Wisconsin Surface Soils, With Data on Other Trace Elements. USGS Scientific Investigations Report 2011-5202, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA 2012

See attached soil sampling results for nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, and organic matter provided by University of Wisconsin Soils and Forage Lab.

RENNEBOHMPARK UTILITIES: Orange and red lines are telephone and electrical, respectively. Storm sewer is magenta. Water is light blue. Conflicts appear minimal.

Rennebohm Park – Map 1



Rennebohm Park Utilities – Map 2



Samples Analyzed By:
Soil & Forage Analysis Lab
2611 Yellowstone Dr
Marshfield, WI 54449
(715) 387-2523

SOIL TEST REPORT

GARDEN SOIL

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
University of Wisconsin-Extension
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Soil Science

Lab Number: 7161

Access Code: aicq

Date received: 12/30/2015

County: Dane

Date processed: 1/6/2016

Send to:

Cindy Statz
PO Box 5011
Madison WI 53705

Area Type
Garden/Vegetable

Area Designation
TC Rennebohm Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Lime to Apply

No soil pH adjustment is recommended.

Fertilizer to Apply

The following summary specifies the actual amount of nutrients needed based on the results of your soil analysis. Most plants require at least an annual nitrogen application, but recommended phosphate should only be applied once and potassium should be split over two years and soils retested in 2-3 years to determine if more is needed.

Actual Nutrient Need (lbs/100 ft ²)		
Nitrogen (N)	Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅)	Potassium (K ₂ O)
0.30	0.1	1.0

These nutrients can be applied using many different commercial fertilizers. The following suggestions are provided for your reference.

Nitrogen: Needed nitrogen will be supplied with the phosphate and/or potassium recommendations below.

Phosphate: Apply 0.5 lbs of high phosphorus fertilizer per 100 sq-ft to meet plant phosphate needs.

Potassium: Apply 2.5 lbs of high potassium fertilizer per 100 sq-ft annually for 2 years to meet plant potassium needs.

Use of high phosphorus and high potassium fertilizers will increase available phosphorus and potassium to levels optimum for plant growth and supply some needed nitrogen. For a description of fertilizer grades please see <http://uwlab.soils.wisc.edu/pubs/grades.pdf>

For more information on how to customize your vegetable garden fertilizer applications please see http://uwlab.soils.wisc.edu/pubs/custom_fertilizer.pdf

Environmental Tips

Soil tests indicate that phosphate and potassium fertilizers are needed. Broadcast and incorporate recommended materials into the upper 6-8 inches prior to planting or topdress to previously established areas and water in thoroughly.

Leafy vegetables, sweet corn, tomatoes, and vine crops may require additional nitrogen at flowering. Place about 1 oz (2 Tbl) urea or 4 Tbl of a high nitrogen fertilizer in a band at least 3 inches from the plant. Use 1.5 lbs (3 cups) urea or 3 lbs (6 cups high nitrogen fertilizer) for every 100 ft or row.

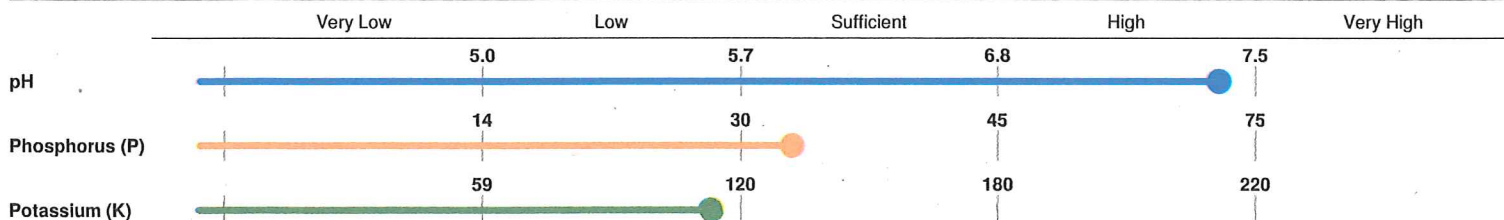
If growing a scab susceptible variety of potato a lower pH is desired.

References and Resources

For additional information on garden fertilization please see <http://uwlab.soils.wisc.edu/gardens.htm>

For further explanation please contact your County Extension Office. Locations can be found at <http://www.uwex.edu/locations/>.

LABORATORY ANALYSIS INTERPRETATIONS



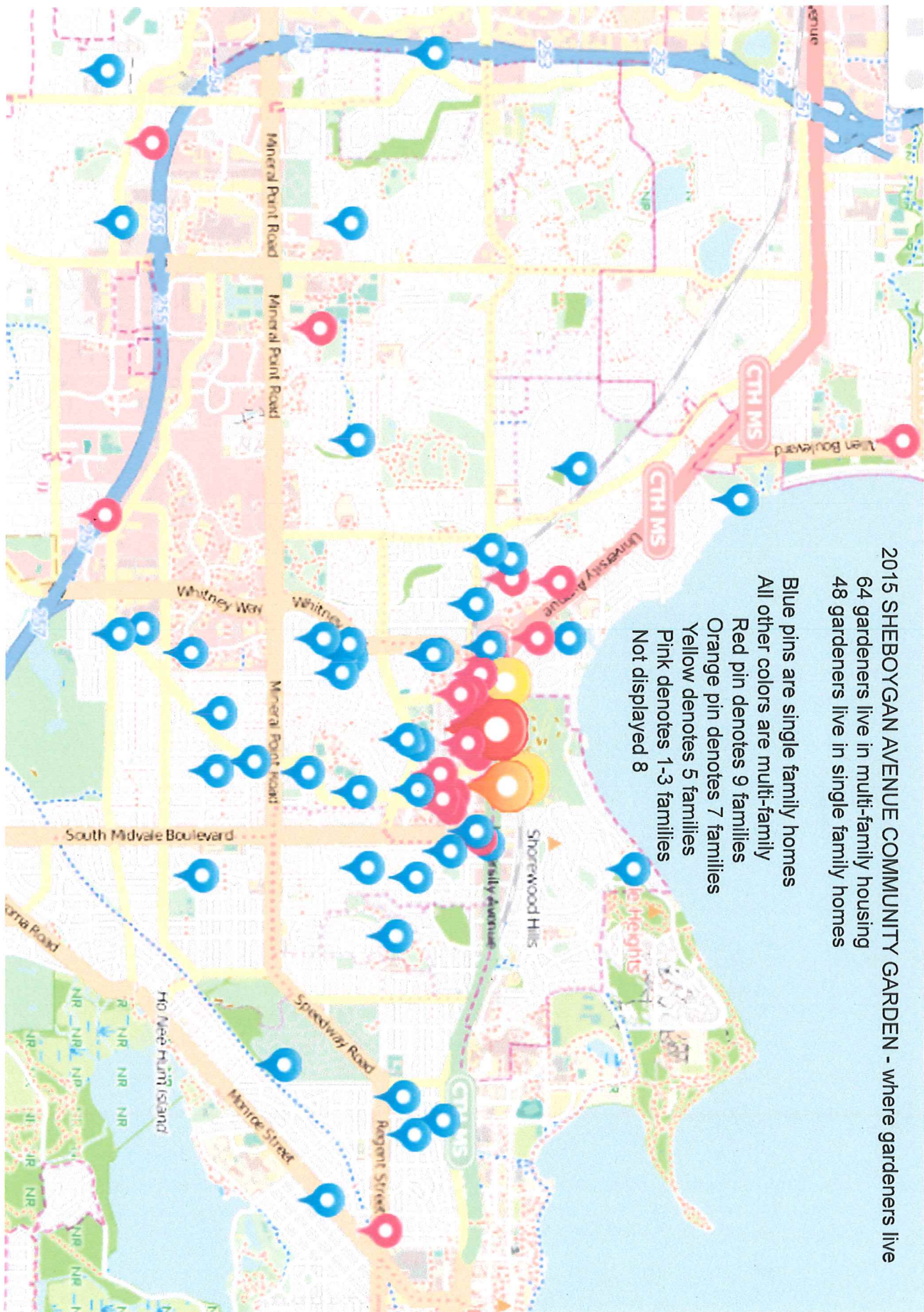
LABORATORY ANALYSIS

Sample	pH	Phosphorus [P] (ppm)	Potassium [K] (ppm)	Organic Matter %
3	7.4	33	113	4.4

2015 SHEBOYGAN AVENUE COMMUNITY GARDEN - where gardeners live

64 gardeners live in multi-family housing
48 gardeners live in single family homes

- Blue pins are single family homes
- All other colors are multi-family
- Red pin denotes 9 families
- Orange pin denotes 7 families
- Yellow pin denotes 5 families
- Pink denotes 1-3 families
- Not displayed 8



MEETING NOTES AND COMMENT SHEET COMPILATION

Community Meeting: Community Gardens in Rennebohm Park
Thursday, January 21 2016

OVERVIEW

Approximately 75 people attended the community input session organized by Alder Schmidt at the Covenant Presbyterian Church. The meeting began with a presentation on, process issues involved in placing a garden in parks, history of the Sheboygan Gardens, a short-term solution to garden placement for 2016 and possible long-term ideas for 2017 and beyond. Attendees were able to ask questions of the presenters regarding the short and long-term solutions, garden placement process and timeframes.

Comment sheets were circulated and collected. Below is a compilation of the questions and some consolidations of general comments under each question. Actual comment sheets were forwarded on to Parks planning, along with 9 written email comments (7 for, 2 against), 1 paper on garden benefits and 12 garden group surveys.

COMPILATION

1. If the community gardens are located in Rennebohm Park, please describe what is important to you about their design, location, or maintenance.

Most comments related to putting the garden close to where gardeners live (Sheboygan Ave Apts., particularly), neatness, adequate light, water, signage, access and safety for users. Security from theft of the food was also a concern, as well as, concerns that the drainage from the garden should not impact the neighboring apartments.

2. Would you want a garden plot in Rennebohm Park?

Yes	42
No	16
Don't Know	7

3. On a scale of 1 to 5, mark your level of support for community gardens to be located in Rennebohm Park near the tennis courts.

1. Don't support	12
3. Somewhat	3
5. Strongly support	48

4. If you do not support the community gardens in Rennebohm Park, please describe why not?

Most negative comments on placing the garden in park related to it taking up too much space in an already crowded, fully recreationally programmed park, future park space needs with increased housing being developed.

A deed restriction on the use of land in Garner Park generated some concern about whether gardens are an appropriate or legal park use; this deed restriction does not apply in Rennebohm Park.