

Neil and Maureen Gebhart
9443 Briar Haven Drive
Verona, WI 53593

August 5, 2011

City Clerk
City of Madison
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703

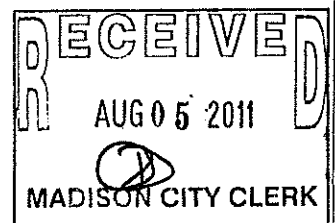
VIA HAND DELIVERY

Dear Clerk:

This letter is to appeal the abatement order issued by the City Building Division on July 22, 2011, regarding certain landscaping on the border of Cardinal Glenn Park at 9443 Briar Haven Drive.

The reasons why we believe the order was issued in error are as follows:

- The garden in no way interferes with the City's or public use of the park. It connects several trees that were planted on the park border, so the area could not be used for an athletic field, trail or any other use.
- The City does not maintain the strip of land where the plantings are located. The weeds that grow on this strip are not mowed. Unless maintained by neighboring landowners, this strip of land is dominated by tall weeds, which attract and harbor ticks, mosquitos, other insects, and vermin. The CDC recommends children avoid areas with tall weeds due to the threat of Lyme Disease. Rather than serving as a haven for biting insects, the plants we have chosen instead attract butterflies.
- The garden is consistent with the use of the adjoining area of the park as a soccer field. We erected an arbor with a bench facing out toward the field, and planned to put in park benches facing the same direction.
- The mulching in the garden and watering has improved the health of the trees planted by the City. Other trees planted in the park strip are choked with weeds and are not healthy. The City does not water, mulch or otherwise take care of the trees.
- The garden beautifies the park and neighborhood. It consists of an attractive mix of perennial flowering plants, along with fruits and vegetables.

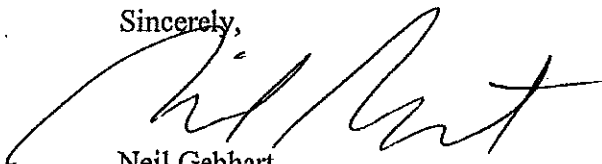


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Finally, please confirm in writing that the current deadline for removal of the garden under the abatement order, now August 21, will be stayed pending the Parks Commission's consideration of our appeal. Please send written confirmation of this via first class mail to the above address or via email to mjmgebhart@gmail.com. Please send confirmation no later than August 12.

Thank you very much for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Neil Gebhart". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Neil Gebhart