

TO: Sustainable Madison Committee
FROM: Community Gardens Committee
RE: University Hill Farms Neighborhood Plan
DATE: November 16, 2015

At its meeting on October 27, 2015, the Community Gardens Committee unanimously recommended approval of the University Hill Farms Neighborhood Plan with the following changes regarding alternative locations for the Sheboygan Community Gardens that, after 35 years on property leased from the State's Department of Transportation, was removed from its location on October 15, 2015.

Page 43 – Add to the second Recommendation in the **Karen Arms Site** section so it reads as follows:

“Additional park space including usable area for community gardens.”

Page 55 – Add to the first Recommendation in the **Natural and Agricultural Resources** section on Community Gardens so it reads as follows:

- Identify potential additional locations for community gardens in Garner and Rennebohm Parks, the Vernon Boulevard median, and explore other locations on public lands in the planning area.

More specific additions could be made to each named location

- Garner Park recommendations include this on page 57 (#8)
- Rennebohm Park could be added on page 60 in a final bullet point
- Vernon Boulevard on page 41, first bullet point would read “Vernon Boulevard converted to community garden space”

Page 57 – Regarding **Garner Park**, community gardens (#8) should be considered a higher priority than prairie restoration (#3).

Page 60 – Add a **Rennebohm Park** Recommendation that reads as follows:

“Interim space for Sheboygan Community Garden should be provided for the 2016 and 2017 growing seasons while the potential for permanent space is found on public land within a walkable distance of its current location.”

Hill Farms Neighborhood Association Board Meeting: Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden Relocation November 14, 2015

The Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden (Garden) has been located at 4802 Sheboygan Avenue on the Hill Farms Department of Transportation (DOT) site for 35 gardening seasons. The WI Department of Administration notified the Garden to vacate the site by October 16, 2015 to make way for redevelopment construction. Temporary winter storage of garden assets has been secured but will be lost in spring 2016.

The Garden respectfully requests the participation of Hill Farms Neighborhood Association as a key stakeholder in the process to select a new garden site as follows:

- *Identify Hill Farms Neighborhood Association representatives to participate in the process to identify, evaluate, and select a new community garden site prior to the 2016 gardening season, and*
- *Reach consensus with multiple stakeholders to establish the Garden on City of Madison public space located within walk able distance and/or minimal bus transit for Sheboygan Avenue and Segoe Road multi-family housing residents, and*
- *Discuss the need for and means to achieve integration of multi-purpose green space into Hill Farms Redevelopment plans as Hill Farms Neighborhood housing and employment densities increase, and*
- *Schedule time at the Hill Farms Neighborhood Association Board meeting in February 2016 to take appropriate action on the community garden relocation*

GARDEN ATTRIBUTES

- ✓ Land required – approximately one acre, negotiable
- ✓ Interim or permanent site – negotiable, with non-binding permit
- ✓ Non-profit with 501(c)3 fiscal agent – REAP Food Group or Community GroundWorks
- ✓ Liability insurance by (Gardens Network) Community GroundWorks
- ✓ Experienced leadership and infrastructure to support over 100 households
- ✓ Public benefit, non-profit garden – bylaws do not allow food to be sold
- ✓ ADA accessible

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Approximately 40% of gardeners live in multi-family housing along Sheboygan Avenue
- Approximately 80% of gardeners are Hill Farms Neighborhood residents
- Cultural diversity and awareness – more than 10 ethnic groups
- Means of independence - 40% low income
- Community and social connection - 30% over 55 years of age

MISSION

- ❖ Provide a means for safe, healthy and culturally appropriate food regardless of age or income with sliding fee scale (as low as \$5) based on household income
- ❖ Provide educational outreach to promote community and healthfulness. Teach and practice organic gardening methods, energy-saving and sustainable land management, and harvest preservation techniques
- ❖ Practice intergenerational team building, leadership training, social networking and support through organized work activities

Please contact: Cindy Statz, Garden Coordinator, coordinator@sheboygancommunitygarden.org
Jack Kloppenburg, Garden Preservation Chair, jrkloppe@wisc.edu
Jim Baumann, Garden Preservation Committee, kayakerJB@gmail.com
Pat Soderholm, Past Coordinator, pm.sode@gmail.com

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 denotes 5 families
- Pink denotes 1-3 families
- Not displayed 8

