

## **Community Gardens Committee Background Information for Mission Discussion Legistar #42601 , April 2016**

In 2015, the City of Madison's Community Gardens Committee undertook a review of its mission in light of changes in the program occasioned by the refocusing of the Community Action Coalition's efforts to pantry gardens instead of community gardens in 2014. The three "grids" attached were created to organize information and keep the process moving.

The committee began by collecting information on the various "Garden-Related Entities" in Dane County, public and private, volunteer and paid. **Grid #1** was created to compare their missions, goals and objectives, and includes links to online resources.

The committee also reviewed the 1999 Report and Recommendations of the Advisory Committee first appointed to analyze the community gardens situation in Madison. Its "[Growing a Stronger Community with Community Gardens](#)" report contained over 40 recommendations that were analyzed to determine their current status and whether any ongoing issues remain to be dealt with 15 years later; this information is presented in **Grid #2**.

Taking into account the mission and goals of the various garden-related entities and the "ongoing issues", the committee created **Grid #3** to consider which entities might be in the best position to take responsibility for progress on those issues that still need to be addressed. The committee also made a list of Accomplishments, many of which implement 1999 Recommendations although not always in precisely the ways envisioned by the Advisory Committee at the time.

In March 2016, a letter was sent to representatives of local garden-related entities, inviting them to attend a Community Gardens Committee meeting to discuss their willingness and ability to take responsibility for several priority issues; a Summary of Ongoing Issues and the list of Accomplishments were also provided. This discussion will begin at the April meeting; it is expected to help these entities and the committee, determine their most effective roles going forward to provide the support needed for community gardens in Dane County.

## Dane County Garden-Related Entities (Grid #1)

In 2015, the City of Madison’s Committee on Community Gardens reviewed the *Action Plan Recommendations* as set forth in the 1999 report “[Growing a Stronger Community with Community Gardens](#)” with the goal of identifying those issues that were still outstanding. All the issues were compiled in a document called “1999 Community Gardens Report – Policies and Recommendations” (a/k/a Grid #2). A list of Dane County garden-related entities, along with their mission and vision statements, was drafted by the Committee (this document, a/k/a Grid #1) in anticipation of identifying which entities would be best suited to address the outstanding issues. A third document was then produced called “Ongoing Community Garden Issues and Which Groups Could Take Responsibility” (a/k/a Grid #3) that lists the outstanding issues from Grid #2 and the corresponding garden-related entity that may be best suited to address each issue.

Organization Date Founded	Vision Statement	Mission Statement	Goals or Other
<p><b>City of Madison Committee on Community Gardens</b></p> <p>Began as the Advisory Committee on Community Gardens in 1997, became the Committee on Community Gardens in 2005.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p><i>From the Committee on Community Gardens’ web page under the Mayor’s web page <a href="http://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/programs/committee-community-gardens">http://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/programs/committee-community-gardens</a></i></p> <p>Act as a sounding board on garden issues and on implementation of Action Plan recommendations.</p> <p><i>Mission Statement for original Advisory Committee as stated in “Growing a Stronger community with Community Gardens: An Action Plan for Madison”:</i></p> <p>In recognition that community gardening improves the quality of life for residents of Madison, we seek to create a permanent system of long lasting, well managed community gardens throughout the City of Madison, with strong government/public support.</p>	<p><i>From Madison General Ordinance Sec. 33.12:</i></p> <p>The Committee on Community Gardens shall act in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Common Council in identifying the potential roles for community gardens in neighborhood improvement efforts; in identifying possible City actions that can facilitate such efforts; recommending actions for the implementation of the November 30, 1999 "Growing a Stronger Community with Community Gardens: An Action Plan for Madison," (Action Plan); and acting as a sounding board for citizen concerns regarding community garden issues and/or the implementation of the Action Plan recommendations.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The Action Plan is described as being from November 30, 1999. However, it is from July 1999 and was approved by Common Council in November 1999. <a href="http://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/documents/AdvCommCommunityGardensRpt1999.pdf">http://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/documents/AdvCommCommunityGardensRpt1999.pdf</a>.</p> <p>Links to Madison Community Gardens Committee Activities and Official Records can be found on the City’s Food Page: <a href="https://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/priorities/food">https://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/priorities/food</a></p>

## Dane County Garden-Related Entities (Grid #1)

Organization Date Founded	Vision Statement	Mission Statement	Goals or Other
<p><b>City of Madison Madison Food Policy Council</b></p> <p>Founded: 2012</p>	None	<p>The Madison Food Policy Council (FPC) shall act in an advisory role to the Mayor and Common Council, developing and making recommendations on food policy changes and monitoring implementation relative to reducing hunger thru providing community-wide access to food; enhancing the local and regional food economy; creating an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable local food system; and improving the health and nutrition of the community through local, healthy food options.</p> <p><a href="https://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/priorities/food/madison-food-policy-council">https://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/priorities/food/madison-food-policy-council</a></p>	
<p><b>Community Action Coalition (CAC)</b></p>		<p>To develop economic and social capacities of individuals, families and communities to reduce poverty in Dane, Jefferson and Waukesha Counties.</p> <p><a href="http://www.cacscw.org/mission.php">http://www.cacscw.org/mission.php</a></p>	<p>Starting in 2015 CAC provides support to pantry gardens only.</p> <p><a href="http://www.cacscw.org/food_distribution.php">http://www.cacscw.org/food_distribution.php</a></p>
<p><b>Dane County Food Coalition</b></p> <p>A coalition of partners interested in food systems, sharing events, resources and opportunities</p> <p>Founded: 2012</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To meet and network with people working in the Dane County food system</li> <li>2. To share food system related activities happening in Dane County</li> <li>3. To develop a shared vision and plan the future for the Dane County food system</li> </ol> <p>From <a href="http://danecountyfoodcoalition.com/">http://danecountyfoodcoalition.com/</a></p>	

## Dane County Garden-Related Entities (Grid #1)

Organization Date Founded	Vision Statement	Mission Statement	Goals or Other
<p><b>Dane County Food Council</b></p> <p>Founded: 2005</p>	<p>See founding Resolution.  <a href="https://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/pdf/foodcouncil/resolution_90.pdf">https://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/pdf/foodcouncil/resolution_90.pdf</a></p>	<p>DCFC is a dynamic citizen committee of the Dane county board that explores issues and develops recommendations to create an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable local food system for the Dane county region. The council has recently been highlighted by the National Association of Counties as a model for other county governments. <a href="#">Learn more.</a>  <a href="https://www.countyofdane.com/foodcouncil/">https://www.countyofdane.com/foodcouncil/</a></p>	<p>More information available at <a href="https://www.countyofdane.com/foodcouncil/about.aspx">https://www.countyofdane.com/foodcouncil/about.aspx</a>, including Accomplishments and Annual Reports</p>
<p><b>Gardens Coalition</b></p> <p>A coalition of local garden leaders</p> <p>Founded: 2015</p>	<p>Gardens growing healthy communities</p>	<p>The mission of the Gardens Coalition is to provide Dane County gardeners with a unified voice to advocate for the preservation and expansion of gardening opportunities for all citizens. The Coalition works to create physical spaces and public policies that allow gardeners to grow food for themselves and their neighbors and to contribute to the social and environmental health of their communities.</p> <p>From <a href="http://gardenscoalition.com">http://gardenscoalition.com</a></p>	

## Dane County Garden-Related Entities (Grid #1)

Organization Date Founded	Vision Statement	Mission Statement	Goals or Other
<p><b>Gardens Network</b> (partnership between City of Madison, Dane County UW Extension and Community GroundWorks)</p> <p>Founded: 2015</p>	<p>We envision diverse, productive, self-sustaining gardens that have strong leaders and communities connected by a shared purpose, by a sense of belonging and by a deep socio-cultural understanding.</p>	<p>We connect people in Dane County with access to the space, education and resources to create and sustain gardens that foster food, engagement and opportunity.</p>	<p>Goals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Greater access to healthy food</li> <li>2. Community engagement and empowerment</li> <li>3. Neighborhood development</li> <li>4. Placemaking</li> <li>5. Leadership development</li> <li>6. Sustainable land management and stewardship</li> <li>7. Youth development and employment</li> </ol> <p>Our Guiding Principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equitable access to gardening</li> <li>• Land Tenure</li> <li>• Leadership development</li> <li>• Welcoming community</li> <li>• Sustainable growing practices</li> <li>• Social engagement</li> <li>• Participatory processes</li> <li>• Environmental stewardship (pollinators, etc)</li> <li>• Safe environment</li> <li>• Cultural expression</li> <li>• Intergenerational and multicultural connections</li> <li>• Placemaking</li> </ul> <p>More information available at <a href="http://www.danegardens.net">www.danegardens.net</a></p>

## Dane County Garden-Related Entities (Grid #1)

Organization Date Founded	Vision Statement	Mission Statement	Goals or Other
<p><b>Madison Area Master Gardeners Association</b></p> <p>Founded: 1986</p>	<p>Dedicated gardeners promoting responsible gardening through education, volunteer service and fellowship.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>The Madison Area Master Gardeners Association (MAMGA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization whose members are graduates or students of Master Gardener Volunteer training through the University of Wisconsin Extension or in other states.</p> <p>MAMGA was founded in 1986 as a forum for Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) in south-central Wisconsin to continue professional improvement and provide service to the community. The Madison Area Master Gardeners Association is one of about 50 local Wisconsin Master Gardener Associations (MGAs) whose members are students or alumni of University of Wisconsin-Extension Master Gardener Volunteer training.</p> <p>MAMGA provides continuing education programs, fellowship projects and programs, volunteer opportunities, and other benefits to its members. It is an organization separate from, but works together with, the Dane County UW-Extension staff  <a href="http://www.mamgawi.org/aboutus.htm">http://www.mamgawi.org/aboutus.htm</a></p>

## Dane County Garden-Related Entities (Grid #1)

Organization Date Founded	Vision Statement	Mission Statement	Goals or Other
<p><b>Public Health Madison and Dane County</b></p> <p>Joint City/County Agency</p>	<p>Healthy People. Healthy Places.</p>	<p>Working with the community to enhance, protect, and promote the health of the environment and the well being of all people.</p> <p>Core Values from website:</p> <p><b>Collaboration.</b> We nurture our partnerships and encourage cooperation at every level, across boundaries. We create a mutually supportive environment, remove obstacles to success, and enable people to get involved in making decisions about their work.</p> <p><b>Public Accountability.</b> We are accountable to each other and our community. We are approachable and receptive to constructive feedback or suggestions from all sources. We are stewards of public funds, and we take that responsibility very seriously. (continued in next column)</p>	<p><b>Equity and Inclusion.</b> We create an inclusive workforce through openness, collaborative learning, and intentionality. We are committed to identifying and eliminating ways our policies, programs, and practices are structural barriers to achieving equity and racial justice. We value the strengths, perspectives, and contributions of a diverse workforce and community.</p> <p><b>Excellence.</b> We demonstrate competence and hold high standards for our work, relying on evidence and data to help guide decisions whenever possible. We create a workplace where team members can flourish and achieve their greatest potential as public health professionals.</p> <p><b>Integrity.</b> We cultivate trust and build strong relationships through our commitment to ethical action, compassion, and transparency. We assume good intent, practice active listening, and use our words responsibly.</p> <p><b>Creativity and Innovation.</b> We encourage fresh ideas, unique experiences, and new perspectives. We support an environment of problem-solving and learning from mistakes.</p> <p><b>Bring Our Best Selves to Work.</b> We maintain our emotional and physical health as individuals and as an organization</p> <p>From <a href="https://www.publichealthmdc.com/about/">https://www.publichealthmdc.com/about/</a></p>

**1999 Community Gardens Report – Policies and Recommendations  
(Grid #2)**

This document lists each recommendation or issue identified in the 1999 report “[Growing a Stronger Community with Community Gardens](#).” The City of Madison Committee on Community Gardens reviewed these issues with the goal of identifying those which have not been addressed. City staff and others familiar with community gardens issues over the last 15 years were consulted to determine to what degree the recommendations have been addressed or to offer input on how the recommendations could be framed in today’s environment. That input is documented in the “Current Status” column. The “Ongoing? (Yes/No)” column identifies the issues which have not been addressed. These ongoing issues are compiled in a document entitled “Ongoing Community Garden Issues and Which Groups Could Take Responsibility” (a/k/a Grid #3).

<b>Recommendation/Issue</b>	<b>Policy or Advocacy ?</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Ongoing ? (Yes/No)</b>
<p><b>Policy 1: Land Security is critical to the sustainability of community gardens.</b></p> <p>Most community gardens in Madison operate on an annual lease. A significant number of the City's community gardens have been lost in the past ten years because of their tenuous lease status. Longer-term leases will allow existing gardens to become permanent features of our urban environment. Tenure security will protect the investment of time and energy and the economic and emotional contributions of neighborhood residents in community gardens. At least five years are needed to enhance soils, establish perennial plants, and for individual gardeners to connect with the land and each other.</p>			
<p>a. The City of Madison Community Development Authority and the Community Economic Development Unit will adopt a policy in support of existing community gardens on leased land having their leases extended five years or longer.</p>	<p>Policy</p>	<p>Starting in 2015, leases for gardens on city-owned lands are for 5 years. Consider advocating for longer terms.</p> <p>Leases on private land are not standardized.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>b. Assessor's Office should consider rewriting the assessments of private landholders who lease their land for community gardens on the basis of new use, length of the lease, and possible restrictions on use of the land.</p>	<p>Policy</p>	<p>No action to date. Needs to be researched.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>c. City departments and agencies that lease land for community gardens will extend those leases to a minimum of five years. Leases should provide for evaluation in the fourth year for renewal after the following year.</p>	<p>Policy</p>	<p>Leases for gardens on city-owned land are under one lease with a term of 5 years. Every garden on city-owned land (with the exception of Community Development Authority land) is under one master five-year lease with automatic renewal. There is only re-evaluation of the lease if there is a specific issue with a garden. Otherwise, standard procedure is to renew the lease.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>d. Private and nonprofit landholders that extend garden leases to a minimum of five years should be given public recognition with a City of Madison Community Gardens Award.</p>	<p>Policy</p>	<p>City has no record of such awards having been given since 1999.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>e. Leases for community gardens will be given flexibility for amenities that enhance their use as civic spaces. Lease provisions should allow beautification areas, perennial plantings and other amenities.</p>	<p>Policy</p>	<p>The new master lease allows for minor alterations to the gardens, including, but not limited to fences, sheds, general beautification, art installations to be signed off on by the department head that controls the land. This should allow for much more flexibility by easing the approval process.</p>	<p>No</p>



Policy 2: Community gardens are to be developed as permanent public assets.			
Community gardening is a way for people who lack access to land to grow flowers, fruits, vegetables and herbs. Gardens help "grow" neighborhoods by creating conditions for people to gather, work and play in a local setting. To sustain this sense of community, neighbors must be able to count on their garden as a permanent fixture. The actions in this report are designed to show support and help facilitate neighborhoods that want gardens in their neighborhood. Community garden success is based on grassroot support.			
a. City government will institute a gardens acquisition program that will create at least one new site every year for the next ten years or until a balance has been reached between the demand for and supply of community garden plots. City government will establish an annual set-aside fund of \$60,000 for the purchase of land or acquiring land by park dedication for community gardens that have been identified as needing them. The City will also pursue funds for the purchase of land for community gardens from other sources, such as State Stewardship funds, Federal funds, Dane County Open Space Initiative and private foundations.	Policy	No action to date as far as creating a gardens acquisition program, budgeting for purchase of land or pursuing funds for the purchase of lands from other sources.	Yes
b. Parks Division will consider crediting land or easements dedicated to the public or to a community land trust toward the developer's public parkland dedication requirement. This would allow land designated for community gardens to be privately owned by a land trust with a reversion or easement to the city, and would be subject to conditions and approvals by the Parks Commission, Plan Commission, and Common Council, to ensure the compatibility of the gardens with their neighborhoods.	Policy	This is an excellent recommendation that would benefit from discussion.	Yes
c. Recognizing that the development and management of a community garden is a private and public initiative, the City will establish support/operational funds that will be made available to community garden groups as a grant program to assist the improvements of their gardens. Grants would be awarded on the assessment of needs of each neighborhood garden group that requests funds.	Policy	The City has made a number of investments in community gardens, including a 2004 grant to CAC to develop what would become the New Garden Fund; contributions of \$6,500 and \$4,696 in 2004 and 2006 respectively to bolster the New Garden Fund and annual CDBG/CSBG funding to CAC and now Community GroundWorks to provide technical assistance and support to new and emerging gardens in income eligible communities. The New Garden Fund has functioned as a granting entity of the kind envisioned by the crafters of the 1999 recommendation.	Yes
d. Assist in acquiring land for a community garden in the Isthmus within the next two years. The Isthmus was identified as an area with high need and little accessible land.	Advocacy	In 2011, the Community Gardens Committee provided the Central Park Design and Implementation Task Force a letter supporting the inclusion of community gardens and edible landscaping in Madison's Central Park Plan and encouraging the Task Force to consider allocating additional space for community gardens. In 2013, the Committee supported the creation of a community garden in Brittingham Park.  Beginning in 2015, establishing new gardens is within the purview and mission of the Gardens Network. The establishment of a new garden, and the involvement of the Gardens Network, will vary by location & demand.	Yes
e. The City will fund nonprofit organizations to acquire and hold lands for community gardens and arrange for the management of gardens and otherwise steward the land. A model for this type of program is the Troy Garden Coalition, in which the Madison Area Community Land Trust owns the land and the Urban Open Space Foundation restricts its use through a conservation easement on a permanent basis. This model, or similar models, should be strongly considered for use in other parts of the City.	Policy	This is an excellent recommendation, and starting in 2015, could involve supporting the Gardens Network.	Yes
f. City government will continue to review policies to ensure support to organizations like Community Action Coalition (CAC) that are responsible for managing gardens. In addition, the City should provide support for similar nonprofit groups to help develop and sustain community gardens.	Policy	In 2015, the City contribution to the Gardens network, a non-profit partner is \$74,000/yr. Additional staff time is committed through city departments, including Mayor's Office, Parks Dept., PHMDC, Streets, Engineering, and CDD.	Yes
g. The Mayor of the City of Madison should advocate for an amendment to the Dane County Park and Open Space Plan so that the plan sets community gardens as a county priority. Once the plan is amended, money from the county's \$30 million conservation fund could be used for	Advocacy	The Dane County created the state's first Food Council in 2005. Its current Park and Open Space Plan (2012-2017) affirmatively references gardens on page 104.	No

garden acquisition.			
h. Will support community gardens as a valuable asset at city-owned housing sites.	Advocacy	There are community gardens on CDA at its Truax and Triangle locations, also in the Baird Fisher location near Penn Park. It also actively supported the creation of the garden in Brittingham Park, across the street from the Triangle location. CDA does not employ its own garden managers, but encourages residents to take responsibility and supports their efforts.	No
<p><b>Policy 3: City government can support community gardens through planning and zoning actions.</b></p> <p>Too often, community gardens are lost because gardening is seen as an interim use of land that is ultimately marked for other purposes. Starting new community gardens and securing existing ones are difficult, and sometimes impossible in this circumstance. Supportive City planning policies and zoning ordinances can help to secure permanent community garden spaces by establishing them as a high priority use of land and as an important element of neighborhood plans.</p> <p>The City's Common Council, departments of government and their staff, boards and commissions should support and implement the following actions:</p>			
a. will establish, in the city-wide land use plan, an appropriate service standard for community gardens	Policy	No established service standard as part of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan, but there are guidelines specified in the Master Lease for gardens on city-owned lands. No information on gardens on private land.	Yes
b. include community gardens in the city-wide land use plan as recommended civic space	Policy	The Zoning Code adopted in 2012 allows community gardens by right in virtually all zoning districts.	No
c. include community gardens in the city-wide land use plan in areas that are underserved by community gardens	Policy	At the request of the Food Policy Council, created in 2012, areas of the city experiencing food access issues are being identified, and the presence or absence of community gardens is a factor being considered. These issues will also be addressed when the Comprehensive Plan is updated in 2016.	Yes
d. support community gardens as a valuable asset in all neighborhood plans, with priority being given to community gardening associated with neighborhood centers	Advocacy?	Gardens are being included in both Neighborhood Development Plans (for areas of the city that will be developed in the future) as well as Neighborhood Plans (that reflect the goals and objectives of existing neighborhoods). A list of nearly 20 such plans is available.	Yes
e. Parks Division should amend the 1997 Parks and Open Space Plan to include the provision of the 1991 Parks and Open Space Plan, which recommends that the Parks Division be capital funded to acquire suitable sites for as many as 2,000 City-owned, permanent garden plots of 200-800 square feet in size each. The City should encourage community gardens in City parks, especially in community and area parks, to aid in accomplishing the goal stated above.	Policy	No such provision is included in the current (2012) City Parks and Open Space Plan (POSP).  Since 1997 gardens have been maintained or established in the following parks: Marlborough (1976) Reindahl (2000) Waunona (2000) Quann (2002) Lucy Lincoln Hiestand Park (Prairie Hills) (2007) Meadowood (2008) Hammersley (2010) McCormick (2010) Leopold (2012) Elvehjem (2013) Brittingham (2014) Rennebohm Park (2016)	Yes
f. Parks Division will amend the 1997 Parks and Open Space Plan to include the existing Parks Division practices with neighborhood initiatives and adequate support of assisting development of community garden sites in city area, community, and regional parks (parks of 10 acres or larger) as a cost-effective method of providing additional garden space throughout the City.	Policy	Although there is no such language in the 2012 Parks and Open Space Plan, the direction recommended in that document—to continue working with partnering organizations to find additional locations for community gardens as appropriate in existing parks and in new parks – seems consistent with the action item in the 1999 Advisory Report.	Yes
g. Parks Division will consider using impact fees to secure land for community gardening.	Policy	Under the impact fees ordinance, impact fees may be used to acquire parkland. Community gardens are an amenity that can be located on parkland acquired with impact fees, but impact fees may not be used to acquire land for community gardening. See Adm. Code Chap. 20, Chap. 16, sec. 16.23(8)(f). The 2012 POSP recommends that the Parks Division continue to work with partnering organizations to find additional locations for community gardens, and that could include on parkland acquired with impact fees.	Yes
h. The City should also give priority to Planned Urban Developments (PUDs) that incorporate gardens as an accepted use of open/civic space.	Policy	There doesn't seem to have been a specific priority or incentive awarded to private developments that propose incorporating gardens in the past or any provision at the present time. Many of	Yes

(Note: PUDs are no longer an option under the Zoning Code adopted in 2012. They were replaced by Planned Developments that are intended to be rare, and the Zoning Code now permits community gardens in all residential districts as a matter of right.)		our community gardens are located in public parks, or on lands owned by public entities (schools, county, etc) or church properties, but there are recent examples of gardens being created on private sites and recommendations to include them in the open space plans of large private developments (e.g. Royster Clark Special Area Plan). Staff says it helps to mention community gardens (or gardens for exclusive use of residents) during early meetings with developers, as a creative way to utilize open spaces.	
i. The City should also amend relevant zoning ordinances to include community gardens as a permitted use in all zoning districts.	Policy	Done.	No
j. The City should also ensure that the use of adjacent land parcels will be compatible with community gardens and their needs; e.g., protecting the gardens' solar access and managing stormwater so that it does not damage the plots.	Policy	Difficult to enforce on private property unless its zoned appropriately (e.g., in an Ag district), but it is standard operating procedure for Staff to carefully review development proposals to determine potential adverse impacts on adjacent property.	No
k. The City should also support the efforts of neighborhood groups to develop community gardens within City-owned subsidized and unsubsidized housing projects.	Advocacy	As of 2015, the CDA/Housing Authority has community gardens on three of its properties, has supported the establishment of the garden in Brittingham Park, and expressed a willingness to include gardens when residents are supportive.	No
l. The City should also support existing policy to use terraces to cultivate plants as long as safety standards are met.	Policy	2013 – Amended City ordinance 10.25 to allow terrace plantings.	No
m. The Community Gardens Advisory Committee also requests that the Parks Division, in cooperation with Olbrich Botanical Society, consider developing a demonstration community garden in the planned expansion of Olbrich Botanical Gardens.	Policy	There is a Children's Kitchen Garden at Olbrich that is used for programs, but its lack of signage limits its usefulness as a demonstration garden. There is no space within Olbrich's existing footprint (2015) to create a demonstration community garden, and the public garden area covered in Olbrich's 2008 Land Use Plan has not been master-planned. When that area is master-planned in the future, Olbrich would look at community needs as well as Olbrich's own programming needs and go through a public planning process. The contiguous Garver Feed Mill development includes community gardens.	Yes

**Policy 4: Community gardens require a strong organizational structure and public support to ensure their continuity.**

Community gardens remain an essential part of the urban landscape when there is strong public and private advocacy for their existence. Municipal support in the form of staff, budget allocations and grant opportunities reflects the important role that gardens perform in maintaining a healthy community.

a. Mayor's Office should create an ongoing position of Coordinator for community gardening issues. The Coordinator, who could be a City staff member, should serve as a liaison between existing community gardens organizations and City departments working on behalf of new or existing community gardens.	Policy	In 2012, the Mayor's Office created the Madison Food Policy Council and a position for a Food Policy Director – this individual serves as the City's liaison between departmental staff and the Gardens Network that oversees the community gardens program since its establishment in 2015.	No
b. The Mayor's Office will take the lead in creating the position of Community Gardens Coordinator, which will be essential to the successful implementation of the Committee's report.	Policy	The Mayor's Office transitioned the AdHoc Committee that wrote these recommendations into the Community Gardens Committee in 2005; it has since established the Madison Food Policy Council and Food Policy Director staff position in 2012.	Yes
c. The garden coordinator should: organize a Community Gardens Council comprising members of all local groups involved in community gardening, including land trusts and City staff. The Gardens Council will be given primary responsibility for organizing, detailing and advising the acquisition for community gardening sites and obtaining necessary resources; and	Policy	The Gardens Network was established in 2015 to bring together community gardens, City staff, Dane County-UW Extension resources and a knowledgeable non-profit partner to manage operations.  Need more information on the role of land trusts. Funding and land acquisition are ongoing challenges.	Yes
d. The garden coordinator should: Work with the Council and the City's neighborhood coordinator to find opportunities for neighborhood gardening sites.		Given the role of the Gardens Network, we might consider this done. But finding and pursuing sites will take more advocacy.	Yes
e. City government should: Provide office space and equipment support for the Gardens Coordinator to find opportunities for neighborhood gardening sites.		Between the Food Policy Director position in the Mayor's Office and the Gardens Network, we might consider this done.	No
f. City government should: Give standing to the community gardening initiatives of neighborhood groups. Grants for this purpose could be applied for through the	Policy	The successor to the Community Enhancement Program is probably the Neighborhood Improvement Grants program. The SEED Grant Program was established by the Madison Food Policy Council in 2013 (see (g) below), and the Gardens Network	No

new City of Madison Community Enhancement Program. This would encourage local garden groups to provide in-kind services and supplies as a match.		transitioned the New Garden Fund to a micro-grant program in 2015.	
g. City government should: Provide grant opportunities as needed to develop new methods for garden organizations to use public monies to leverage private, nonprofit and foundation grants in support of local community gardening initiatives.	Policy	In 2013, the City established the SEED Grant Program for food access improvement projects; several grants each year since have been used for garden establishment/expansion. The Gardens Network's micro-grant program will be more flexible than its predecessor New Garden Fund to support expansions and improvements. Funds from both grant programs can be available to leverage other monies.	No
h. City government should: The City, through the Parks Division, will also support land acquisition and revenue development for gardens at the State and County levels with the DNR Stewardship Fund and Open Space Initiative, respectively.	Policy	The DNR's application form asks what activities will be carried on in the land to be acquired with Stewardship funds and includes a specific list of possible activities that are recreational in nature. The form allows for "Other Activities," so it's conceivable that community gardens could be listed. If Stewardship funds are used for the acquisition, however, Parks cannot lease the land without the Secretary of the DNR's written approval. As this can be an arduous process—and approval of the lease is uncertain given that the list of acceptable uses is strictly recreational—Parks tries to avoid locating community gardens on properties subject to Stewardship restrictions.	No
<p><b>Policy 5: To achieve maximum environmental and social benefits, a partnership is required of the City, community gardening organizations and individual gardeners.</b></p> <p><b>Community gardens work best when they are neighborhood-based and managed by leaders arising from each garden who are supported by community gardening groups and the City.</b></p>			
a. Gardeners are responsible for: Physical maintenance of garden sites, including such tasks as plot layout, site design and maintenance of above-ground watering systems; and	Policy	With the exception of watering systems, most gardens handle the other operational tasks. The Gardens Network is available for operational support, too.	No
b. Gardeners are responsible for: Care of their garden sites in such a manner that gives consideration to neighboring homes and businesses and creates an aesthetically pleasing landscape.	Policy	Yes, general maintenance language is in lease.	No
c. Community gardening organizations are responsible for: Regular communication with the City to provide such information as numbers of registered gardeners, physical condition of the gardening sites and projected demand for plots.	Policy	Starting in 2015, the Gardens Network will be collecting this information	No
d. City departments and staff should: Parks Division should consider budgeting for the construction and maintenance of permanent watering systems at each community gardening site in City parks.	Policy	In 2015, the City of Madison entered into an agreement with Community GroundWorks to manage the community gardens located on City property. As part of this agreement the City is providing funding to Community GroundWorks for this effort. Under the lease agreement, all utility costs are to be borne by Community GroundWorks. This would include utility bills as well as any new infrastructure costs. The City will work with Community GroundWorks to support this program.	No
e. City departments and staff should: Deliver compost and other commonly available soil amendments (e.g. mulch, topsoil, lake weeds) to the garden sites, when trucks and material are available.	Policy	As of 2015, the City currently delivers wood mulch and leaves as needed, but compost remains an ongoing issue. The Streets Department is committed to continued services to CGs across the city; improving delivery services and expanding the composting program are ongoing efforts.	Yes
f. City departments and staff should: Pick up refuse from the garden sites on the same schedule as adjacent residential properties.	Policy	Unwritten policy is once in the spring and one in the fall. Most gardens would appreciate a regular pick up on same schedule as residential properties if not more often (once a month, perhaps). Formal policy should be established, but it's a matter of resources. Request that Gardens Network look at this for 2016 and beyond.	Yes
g. City departments and staff should: Support local garden groups' efforts to write letters of support or proclamations to help with fund raising, provide educational programs for community gardening, and related needs.	Policy	Community Gardens Committee has written letters in the past, the Madison Food Policy Council has endorsed them, and the Gardens Network can be expected to provide these services in the future.	No
h. City departments and staff should: The City also will consider the request for the use of city equipment and operators for site clearing and other garden needs.	Policy	The City's insurance (and concerns about liability) will not allow its machinery to be operated on privately owned land. If its equipment was used on city-owned land, that work for 13 out of over 50 garden sites in the city and county. The Gardens Network, through Community GroundWorks, is working on obtaining equipment to assist gardens for the occasional large task. The till/no-till policies of individual gardens is a factor in how many gardens need large machinery.	Yes

**Ongoing Community Garden Issues  
and  
Which Groups Could Take Responsibility (Grid #3)**

To continue advancing the values of community gardens, ongoing engagement will be needed from a variety of groups involved in these issues. Grid #3 is an effort to match “ongoing issues” identified in the recommendations listed in Grid #2 with the potential “garden-related entities” described in Grid #1 whose missions, vision and goals may position them to move forward on these topics. Further discussion by and among these groups will be needed on how best to move forward beyond 2015. The final page is a list of Issues identified in the 1999 report that have since been addressed.

**1. Land Security**

Critical to the sustainability of community gardens, the recommendations for this policy focused primarily on the need for long-term leases. In 2015, the City executed a Master Lease with all community gardens located on city-owned lands (including the CDA) for 5 years, generally assumed to be renewable and allowing for various improvements, but there is no standard for lands owned by private or non-profit entities.

<b>Ongoing Issue</b>	<b>Garden-Related Group(s) whose Mission, Vision and/or Goals Suggest Responsibility for All or Part of the Issue</b>
Recommendations (a), (c) and (e) are addressed by the City’s “master lease” for terms of 5 years on City-owned lands. Groups may want to consider extending the time before renewal is necessary and leases on privately owned lands.	Gardens Network
b: Explore the use of easements or long-term ground leases on private lands as a means to reduce assessed value and do so in collaboration with the City Assessor’s Office.	Community Gardens Committee Madison Food Policy Council Gardens Network
Recommendation (d) suggests public recognition for private and non-profit landowners holding long-term leases with community gardens.	Gardens Network (primary) Dane County Food Council (approval) Madison Food Policy Council (approval)

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<b>2. Planning for Gardens and Land Acquisition</b>	
Note that most of these issues have funding needs, and distinctions between public and private lands.	
<b>Ongoing Issue</b>	<b>Garden-Related Group(s) whose Mission, Vision and/or Goals Suggest Responsibility for All or Part of the Issue</b>
a & d: The City, in collaboration with the County, should develop a plan to increase the number of community garden sites.	Gardens Network (primary) Madison Food Policy Council Dane County Food Council Dane County Real Estate Division of the Land and Water Resources Department
b. Parks Division should pursue various strategies for increasing city-owned land, including using a land trust if needed to hold private land for a public purpose like gardens. The City's Planning Division should consider community gardens when new development proposals come forward.	Community Gardens Committee Madison Food Policy Council Gardens Network
c. City should provide grant support for gardens.	Gardens Network
e & f: The City will explore funding options for nonprofit organizations to acquire and hold lands for community gardens, arrange for the management of gardens, and otherwise steward the land.	Community Gardens Committee Gardens Network
g. Dane County Park & Open Space Plan should prioritize community gardens, and the use of county conservation funds could be used for land acquisition.	Dane County Food Council
h. Support community gardens on city-owned housing sites.	Gardens Network (can help manage if necessary)

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### 3. Land Use Planning and Zoning

Community gardens are now routinely included in planning documents (d), and the updated Zoning Code, adopted in 2012, allows for community gardens in virtually all districts; it also supports market gardens, and envisions the creation of urban agriculture districts. These changes address recommendation (b), (d), (i) and (k), but zoning on adjacent parcels cannot be controlled to the level requested by (j) and PUDs have been replaced by Planned Developments which should be rarely needed (h). A 2014 ordinance allows for gardening on the public street terraces in residential districts in response to recommendation (l), another new ordinance permits the planting of edible landscapes on city-owned lands.

<b>Ongoing Issue</b>	<b>Garden-Related Group(s) whose Mission, Vision and/or Goals Suggest Responsibility for All or Part of the Issue</b>
a. Establish appropriate service standards for community gardens on City-owned lands.	Gardens Network
c. Add community gardens in areas of the City that are under-served.	Madison Food Policy Council Public Health Department Gardens Network
e & f: City Parks Division should recognize gardening as a priority in Parks and Open Space Plan(s) and acknowledge the need for more community gardens on permanently city-owned land, especially in community and area parks.	Community Gardens Committee (through Parks Commission representative) Madison Food Policy Council
g. City Parks Division should consider including community gardens in parks created using the appropriate impact fees.	Community Gardens Committee (through Parks Commission representative) Madison Food Policy Council (ordinance change if needed) Gardens Network
h. Encourage incentives to private developments to include community gardens.	Madison Food Policy Council Dane County Food Council
m. Consider expanding the locations at which demonstration gardens might be established beyond Olbrich Gardens.	Gardens Network

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#### 4. Organizational Structure

With the creation of the Madison Food Policy Council and the staff position of Food Policy Director in 2012, followed by the establishment of the Gardens Network in 2015, many of the goals that might have been achieved by creating a “coordinator” for community gardens (as envisioned in the 1999 Recommendations) have been achieved. Additional information would be helpful on the role that land trusts might play (see Policy 2 (b) and (e) above), and there is an ongoing need for additional garden sites and the funding to support these efforts (c). DNR Stewardship Funds (h) are not seen as a viable option; they come with too many strings attached, and the Parks Division avoids them for this reason.

<b>Ongoing Issue</b>	<b>Garden-Related Group(s) whose Mission, Vision and/or Goals Suggest Responsibility for All or Part of the Issue</b>
c. The management and support of community gardens requires the collaboration of multiple stakeholders. An entity should be identified that can convene stakeholders as needed.	Community Gardens Committee Gardens Network
f & g. Support grant programs and encourage local garden groups to provide in-kind services and supplies as a match, or otherwise leverage private, nonprofit and foundation grants in support of local community gardening initiatives.	Madison Food Policy Council Gardens Network

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<b>5. Operations</b>	
The Gardens Network established an “operations committee” that oversees many of these issues starting in 2015, meeting the goals of recommendations (a), (b) and (c). There are, however, some critical issues yet to be resolved.	
<b>Ongoing Issue</b>	<b>Garden-Related Group(s) whose Mission, Vision and/or Goals Suggest Responsibility for All or Part of the Issue</b>
d. The City Parks Division should invest in permanent garden infrastructure on City-owned land, including the installation of water systems.	Gardens Network Community Gardens Committee (through Parks Commission representative)
e. Provide compost and other commonly available soil amendments (e.g, mulch, topsoil, lake weeds) to the garden sites.	Gardens Network Madison Food Policy Council Dane County Food Council
f. Pick up refuse from City garden sites.	Gardens Network
g. Support garden efforts to fundraise, provide educational programs and other needs.	Gardens Coalition
h. Consider utilizing city equipment and operators for site clearing and other garden needs.	Gardens Network (working to acquire equipment/contract for equipment)

<b>Additional Ongoing Issues (not mentioned in the 1999 Report)</b>	
Grant writing assistance to garden groups	Dane County/UW Extension
Assessment of ongoing need	
Monitoring	
Review	
Who oversees progress going forward?	

Note: The next page lists recommendations made in 1999 that have been implemented in the years since.

In the 15 years since the City of Madison Advisory Committee on Community Gardens made over forty recommendations to support community gardens, much progress has been made.

- Community Gardens Committee was created in 2005.
- Dane County Food Council was created in 2005.
- Madison Food Policy Council was created in 2012.
- Madison Food Policy Director position was created in 2012.
- Gardens Coalition was re-energized in 2015.
- Gardens Network was created in 2015.
- City supports new community gardens on City-owned lands.
- Community Development Authority/Housing supports gardens at its locations.
- Gardens on City-owned lands have 5 year leases, assumed to be renewable.
- Dane County Park & Open Space plan accounts for gardens 2012-2017.
- City's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code encourage and permit community gardens in residential districts, provide for urban agriculture districts, but can't restrict activities on properties adjacent to gardens.
- Community gardens are routinely included in Neighborhood Development Plans (for areas of the city that will be developed in the future) as well as Neighborhood Plans (that reflect the goals and objectives of existing neighborhoods); a list of over 20 such plans is available.
- City permits planting on public street terraces in residential districts.
- City permits planting of edible landscapes on public lands.
- The Gardens Network is responsible for the kinds of activities envisioned for a "gardens coordinator" in the 1999 recommendations to work with neighborhoods, gardening groups, and city departments, support the development of new gardens.
- City's Food Policy Director serves as the liaison between city departments and the Gardens Network for the community gardens program starting in 2015.
- The Madison Food Policy Council includes representatives from the City's Community Gardens Committee, the Dane County Food Council, and Dane County/UW Extension that all support the efforts of the Gardens Network, has working groups on issues of food access, and makes both policy changes and budget requests.
- Grants for garden projects are available from the New Garden Fund and the Madison Food Policy Council's SEED program.
- Parks Department avoids DNR Stewardship grants for the purchase of additional land because there are significant restrictions that make their use for acquiring garden sites cumbersome; impact fees and parkland dedication strategies may be possible.
- Guidelines and support for garden operations are available from the Gardens Network.
- The City is working with Community GroundWorks on water systems in parks.
- Gardens Network will be collecting demographic and other information on all participating gardens.
- Letters in support of gardens have been provided by the Community Gardens Committee and, starting in 2012, the Madison Food Policy Council. The Gardens Network will also do this.