

From: [Nan Fey](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Agenda #40 Public Comment
Date: Monday, February 23, 2026 9:00:40 AM
Attachments: [Fey Comments on Council Agenda #40 2-24-26.pdf](#)

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Greetings,

I have been actively involved in Agenda Item #40, but I will be traveling on Tuesday and unable to attend your meeting. The attached comments should be attached to Legislative File ID #91125.

Thank you for your attention and support of the Substitute Resolution so we can move on the next step in this process.

Nan Fey
Madison Food Policy Council current member, former chair

TO: Common Council

FROM: Nan Fey

Current Member and Former Chair , Madison Food Policy Council
Chair, Farmland Preservation Task Force

RE: Documenting Policies for Food Production on City-Owned Land
Legistar #91152, Agenda Item #40 on 2/24/26

DATE: February 23, 2026

I'm writing to support Adoption of the Substitute Resolution to develop a city-wide policy for gardening on city-owned lands. Some background will be helpful.

In its 2023 report, accepted by the Common Council, the Farmland Preservation Task Force recommended the City adopt a policy to provide guidelines for growing food on city-owned lands. Last spring, the Mayor's office began staff-level discussions on this topic exploring ways to expand food production that could take the form of community gardens, edible landscapes, market gardens, and other forms of urban agriculture. Some of the barriers to increasing production of food could include assessing the demand for new garden or agricultural space by community members, identifying possible soil contamination, and other site suitability factors like slope or shade.

Resolution # 91152 engaged staff to compile existing resources from departments that control land, national best practices on food production, and with the goal of ultimately creating a process that all City of Madison departments can use to manage requests from interested parties. The Substitute clarifies that the next step in the process will be developing a comprehensive city-wide policy for review by the appropriate boards, committees and commissions and presented for approval by the Common Council in the coming months. Drafting will be done by the Madison Food Policy Council and its Work Groups based on existing department processes, best practices and peer city experience to provide clear guidance for making decisions about appropriate locations for growing food on city-owned lands.

Please vote to **ADOPT** the Substitute Resolution. Thank you.