



Community Gardens Committee

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RE: SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS

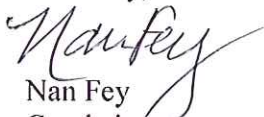
TO: Paul Soglin, Mayor
Eric Knepp, Interim Superintendent of Parks
Brad Wirtz, Human Resources Department

On behalf of the City of Madison Community Gardens Committee, we would like to express our gratitude to the Parks Division for all it has done to support gardens in parks thus far, and thank Kevin Briski for his leadership these past 6 years. We would also like to express our hope that whoever becomes the next Superintendent of Madison Parks will embrace the value of community gardens, and welcome the community's interest in finding more opportunities for urban gardening in Madison.

While we would not expect to be directly involved in the official search or hiring process for the next Superintendent of Parks, we want to share with you the widely expressed hope that potential candidates will embrace community gardens as an appropriate use of parkland and will respond favorably to the need for more locations. Although not listed in the original job posting, also within the policy direction of the Parks Superintendent are community gardens; there are already hundreds of garden plots in our parks, and there is need for more. We hope that during the recruiting process, interviewers will explore the applicants' openness to community input and their experience working with community groups on specific issues like garden projects. We look forward to continuing our work on community gardens in Parks, and will welcome supportive leadership from the new Superintendent.

Thank you for considering our input, and if we can be of any help in this process, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,


Nan Fey
Co-chair


Jill Schneider
Co-chair