

TO: Plan Commission
FROM: Community Gardens Committee
RE: Legistar #39335 – University Hill Farms Neighborhood Plan
DATE: December 1, 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 Avenue Community Gardens that, after 35 years on property leased from the State's Department of Transportation, was removed 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).

– 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.”

REQUESTED ACTION: Recommend including the Community Gardens Committee's suggested changes when forwarding to the Common Council for Adoption as a Supplement to the City of Madison's Comprehensive Plan.

The Sustainable Madison Committee endorsed the Community Gardens Committee's suggested changes during its discussion on November 16th, although there's some question about whether the Neighborhood Plan had been properly referred there.

The Pedestrian/Bike/Motor Vehicle Commission accepted the Neighborhood Plan with suggestions about a crossing guard, several bike improvements and support for "locating the gardens as close as possible to the current gardeners to limit the transportation challenges that they would be faced with" at its meeting on November 24, 2015.