



Community Garden Project Survey

January 2016

For thirty-five years, the **Sheboygan Community Garden** was located at 4802 Sheboygan Avenue on the Hill Farms Department of Transportation property owned by the State of Wisconsin. In 2015 the garden supported more than 100 gardening plots. In October 2015 the garden was removed to make way for redevelopment construction.

The garden is planning to move to Rennebohm Park, 115 North Eau Claire Avenue, in the University Hill Farms neighborhood; most of the gardeners live within one mile of Sheboygan Avenue, many in multi-family and elderly housing with limited transportation options.

Rennebohm Park is owned and controlled by the City of Madison. Securing a site for the community garden has involved discussions with the District Alder Schmidt and City staff from the Parks and Engineering Divisions; representatives of the University Hill Farms Neighborhood Association and the City of Madison's Community Gardens Committee. Garden principles include the following:

- Garden bylaws do not allow food grown in the garden to be sold
- Aesthetic standards will be enforced to enhance the park setting
- Plots will be open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis

The Sheboygan Community Garden has always provided a setting where neighbors of diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds work together to increase cultural understanding, provide social support, nurture healthfulness, and build trust for the benefit of the entire community. Demographics of the garden community vary with 20-30% turnover each season, but typically there are representatives of more than 10 ethnic groups, one-third of gardeners are over 55 years of age and 40% are low income. The garden is ADA accessible with multiple raised beds, and access for lower income households is provided through a sliding scale of plot fees. Educational sessions to gardeners and K12 schools encourage community engagement and promote healthfulness through gardening. Undergraduate and graduate research studies have also been conducted at the Sheboygan Community Garden. Safe, healthy, and culturally appropriate food is provided using organic gardening practices.

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As a neighbor we would like you to know about this project, and we welcome your feedback and/or participation; it is also a part of the application process to show that we have spoken with our neighbors. The following questions will help organizers and other residents think about keeping the garden in our neighborhood.

1. Please give us your name and address. (This information will not be shared outside of the application process.)

2. Would you be interested in having a garden plot? Please circle: Yes No

If yes, please provide your phone number or an email address where you can be reached.

3. Do you have any concerns or suggestions regarding a community garden at this site?

If you have any questions please contact:

Cindy Statz, Garden Coordinator

PO Box 5011, Madison, WI 53705

Phone (no later than 8:00 PM please): (608) 576-5332 or (608) 233-9181

E-mail: coordinator@sheboygancommunitygarden.org

We would appreciate getting this form back from you by January 29, 2016. Thank you for taking the time to communicate with us about this project and we look forward to a productive and successful community garden.

Sincerely,

The Community Garden Committee