

From: Nan Fey <nanfey2@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 10:21 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Public Comment for 2/11/26 Agenda Item #11

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Please submit the attached comments to all members of the Board of Park Commissioners in advance of the 2/11/26 meeting and post them in Legistar File ID# 91152. Thank you.

Nan Fey

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

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 #11 on 2/11/26

DATE: February 9, 2026

I'm writing to support your review and approval of this Council 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.

On 12/19/2025, Resolution # 91152 was introduced at the Common Council directing staff to compile existing resources from departments that control land, national best practices on food production, and ultimately create a process that all City departments can use to manage requests from interested parties. This Resolution has already been approved by the Board of Public Works, Water Utility Board and the Sustainable Madison Committee; it will return to the Madison Food Policy Council for input then sent back to the Common Council for final approval. Adoption of this Resolution will enable City staff to develop and document policies for growing food on city-owned land and communicate them to the public.

Please vote to **recommend approval** of this Resolution, noting any comments or questions you may have, so the Madison Food Policy Council can take them into account as this process moves forward. Thank you.