



March Board Cycle

Milwaukee County Parks
9480 Watertown Plank Rd.
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
(414) 257-PARK

Date: February 16, 2018
To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
From: Jim Sullivan, Interim Director
Subject: **Agricultural Lease Agreements (ACTION)**

Policy

Parks requests authorization to enter agricultural leases with individual local farmers.

Background

Milwaukee County Parks (Parks) manages 881 acres of agricultural land for growing and harvesting agricultural row-crops, vegetable crops and hay. The agricultural lands held by Parks are located within designated primary environmental corridors as defined by Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). A primary environmental corridor is defined as "concentrations of significant natural resources at least 400 acres in area, at least two miles in length, and at least 200 feet in width." Most of these sites are located along the Oak Creek, Ryan Creek, and Root River and are prone to high water tables or seasonal flooding. In addition, keeping these lands in production deters invasive plant species from overtaking the land.

Parks leases this land to both individual farmers and non-profit community-based organizations. Each lessee is responsible for working with the Parks on the development of a Conservation Plan specific to their parcel(s) to reduce soil loss, achieve water quality goals and protect the natural resource base. The Parks' Natural Areas section in combination with Milwaukee County Parks Contract Manager manages all agricultural leases for the department.

The term of each lease is selected based on factors such as the conservation method, the crop rotation cycle, and the likelihood that the parcel may cease to be available for farming. Rent payments vary due to the size of



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the parcel and were developed based on United States Department of Agriculture and State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection fair market value rates for southeastern Wisconsin.

The following leases are under consideration beginning March 1, 2018:

Lessee	Annual Rent	Acreage	Lease Term
Shorty Acres, LLC	\$1085.00	14.9	2 Years
James Crayton	\$1720.00	17.2	2 Years
Joseph Holterman	\$2,835.00	37.8	3 Years

Recommendation

Authorize Parks to enter into agricultural leases with Shorty Acres d/b/a Cheryl Holterman, James Crayton, and Joseph Holterman and to prepare, execute, record all documents and take all actions as required to execute and implement the 2018 Agricultural Lease Program.

Prepared By: Megan Haeger, Contract and Project Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

Approved By: Jim Sullivan, Interim Parks Director



Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Fiscal Note
- Attachment 2 – Resolution
- Attachment 3 – Shorty Acres, LLC Lease
- Attachment 4 – James Crayton Lease
- Attachment 5 – Joseph Holterman Lease

Copy:

- Chris Abele, County Executive
- Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
- Jason Haas, Chairman, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee
- Marcelia Nicholson, Vice-Chair, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors



- Steve Taylor, Supervisor District 9
- Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Jeremy Lucas, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS



