



June Board Cycle

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

Date: May 18, 2018
To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
From: Guy Smith, CPRP, Interim Parks Director
Subject: **Update on the Victory Garden Initiative (INFORMATION)**

Issue

Per File No. 18-151, Milwaukee County Parks is providing an update on the status of the Victory Garden Initiative.

Background

Upon Growing Power's dissolution in December 2017, the Victory Garden Initiative expressed interest in continuing the fruit orchard trees established as part of the SEED initiative. With the termination of Growing Power's lease, Parks was authorized and directed by the Board to work with Victory Garden Initiative, Inc. to assess the current state and future needs of the fruit orchard trees.

Parks staff recently met with Victory Garden staff to assess the current orchard conditions. Both parties discussed and agreed upon the need to remove unwanted vegetation from the planting beds. This is a transition period working towards remedying any challenges. The Victory Garden will be providing Parks with potential solutions for removing unwanted vegetation and replacing it with seeded clover. It is hopeful that a dense planting of clover will out compete other unwanted vegetation, provide nitrogen to the fruit trees, and a nectar source for pollinators. At this time the majority of the trees in the orchard are healthy and blooming. This year's focus will be to reduce unwanted vegetation and maintain the health of the existing fruit trees.

Recommendation

No action requested. Informational item unless further action required.

Prepared By: Brian Russart, Natural Areas Coordinator, Milwaukee County Parks



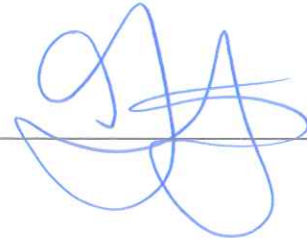
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Approved By: Guy Smith, CPRP, Interim Parks Director



Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Resolution File No. 18-151

Copy:

- Chris Abele, County Executive
- Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
- Jason Haas, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 14
- Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 3
- Sequanna Taylor, Supervisor District 2
- Marina Dimitrijevic, Supervisor District 4
- Marcelia Nicholson, Supervisor District 5
- James Luigi Schmitt, Supervisor District 6
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- Steven Shea, Supervisor District 8
- Patti Lodgson, Supervisor District 9
- Supreme Moore Omokunde, Supervisor District 10
- Dan Sebring, Supervisor District 11
- Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Supervisor District 12
- Willie Johnson, Jr., Supervisor District 13
- Eddie Cullen, Supervisor District 15
- John Weishan, Jr., Supervisor District 16
- Tony Staskunas, Supervisor District 17
- Deanna Alexander, Supervisor District 18
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
- Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Erica Hayden, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
- Jeremy Lucas, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS

