



---

**December Board Cycle**

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

Date: November 12, 2020  
To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors  
From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks  
Subject: **Agricultural Lease Agreements (ACTION)**

**Issue**

Authorizing Milwaukee County Parks to enter into Agricultural Lease Agreements with farmers for the benefit of Milwaukee County land.

**Background**

Milwaukee County Parks manages 708 acres of agricultural land for the purpose of growing and harvesting agricultural row-crops, vegetable crops, and hay. The agricultural lands held by the county 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.” The majority 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.

Milwaukee County Parks leases this land to both farmers and non-profit community-based organizations. Each lessee is responsible for working with Milwaukee County 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. Milwaukee County Parks’ Natural Areas section 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 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. Leases are subject to Milwaukee



pg. 2

County's Agricultural Land Lease Policy as adopted by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors on September 29, 1994, and revised in January 2010, and again in December 2019.

The following leases are under consideration:

<b>Lessee</b>	<b>Annual Rent</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Lease Term</b>
D&S Farms	\$ 1,168.50	9.5	5 Years
Joseph Holterman	\$ 5,451.60	46.2	3 Years
Darrell Schaefer	\$3,271.60	25.2	3 Years

**Recommendation**

Authorize Milwaukee County Parks to execute Agricultural Lease Agreements with D&S Farms, Joseph Holterman, and Darrell Schaefer.

Prepared by: Erica Hayden, Contracts Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

Approved By: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks *Guy Smith*

**Attachments**

- Resolution
- Fiscal Note
- D&S Ag Lease
- Joseph Holterman Ag Lease
- Darrell Schaefer Ag Lease
- Agricultural Land Lease Policy

**Copy**

- David Crowley, County Executive
- Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
- Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 3
- Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 8
- Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7
- Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 12
- Liz Sumner, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 1
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
- Julie Landry, Director, Department of Administrative Services



pg. 3

- Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS
- Vince Masterson, Fiscal & Strategic Asset Coordinator, DAS
- Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller's Office
- Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller's Office
- Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
- Lindsey Peterson, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB

