

# Parks, Energy and Environment Committee on 2021-10-26 9:00 AM - VIRTUAL MEETING

This meeting will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center:

<https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Meeting Time: 10-26-21 09:00

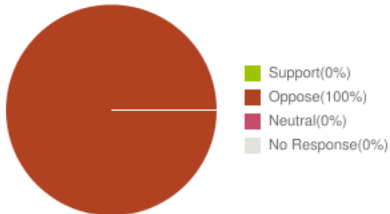
## eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Parks, Energy and Environment Committee on 2021-10-26 9:00 AM - VIRTUAL MEETING This meeting will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center: <a href="https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx">https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx</a>	10-26-21 09:00	28	1	0	1	0

### Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment



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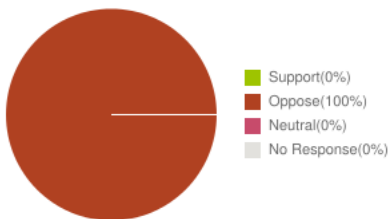
10-26-21 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
6 21-745 A resolution/ordinance amending Chapter 47.08 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances to permit foraging for edible fruits, nuts, and mushrooms on designated Milwaukee County park land if it is for personal use and not for resale (09/14/21: Laid Over for One Meeting)	1	0	1	0

### Sentiments for All Agenda Items

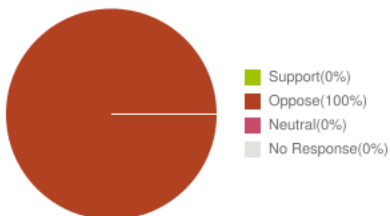
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#### Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for 6 21-745 A resolution/ordinance amending Chapter 47.08 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances to permit foraging for edible fruits, nuts, and mushrooms on designated Milwaukee County park land if it is for personal use and not for resale (09/14/21: Laid Over for One Meeting)

#### Overall Sentiment



### RoseMary Oliveira

Location:

Submitted At: 6:46am 10-25-21

Date: 10/25/2021

To: Members of the Parks, Energy and Environment Committee

Re: Item 6 File no: 21-745

Dear County Board Supervisors,

We are aware of and oppose Resolution/Ordinance Change 21-745 to promote foraging in Milwaukee County Parks. There are important and critical reasons foraging is currently illegal in County Parks. We urge you to vote NO on this resolution.

As you know, Milwaukee County has beautiful and precious parks, with many rare plants and fungi with ecologically important and still intact in natural areas. It is the role of the County Board to preserve and protect these spaces.

It is a fiction that foraging can be sustainable in parks in densely populated urban areas such as Milwaukee County. Some have described foraging as looting of our public domains. Nationally, foragers themselves are raising the alarm and firmly oppose foraging in urban parks.

It is not true that harvesting wild mushrooms is less of a concern as has been claimed. Fungi play a critical ecological role, are a vital part of a functioning ecosystem, and are key to decomposition and recycling nutrients. They provide food and resources to many organisms which are dependent on fungi.

Singling out mushrooms for legal foraging will declare an open season for foraging all plants in our park system. Over foraging and trampling of habitat and the spread of invasive species is currently ongoing in our parks today. Foraging is taking from the public commons for personal use. The vision for Milwaukee County Parks was for the good of all our citizens, not the foraging few. Non-foraging visitors to our parks and natural areas deserve the right to enjoy the sight of native plants and mushrooms.

No County ordinance is effective without enforcement. Considering our previous concerns about illegal foraging, it is clear the County has not made an effort to enforce the prohibition of foraging already on the books.

Instead, we should actively work to preserve the gems that are our parks. We can begin with serious discussion about carrying capacity of our woodlands and fragile natural areas. Rather than allow more potential harm, the County must ensure the preservation and beauty of our wildspaces and natural areas. There are currently too many harmful activities stripping these areas of their beauty.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Milwaukee River Advocates, Board of Directors

David Press, Chair

Petra Press, Secretary

Quinn Cory

RoseMary Oliveira, Co-chair

Kristine Stein, Treasurer

Sura Faraj