

Current Land Situation for the Friends at Silverwood Park

- The Friends of Silverwood Park (FOSP) currently leases 16 acres, at no cost, from Dane County at Silverwood Park. Two acres are wooded, next to 14 that are tillable.
- Four FOSP "Grower Partners" currently sub-lease most of that land, and FOSP is installing a pollinator prairie for its Pollinator Education Project on part of it.
- FOSP holds most of its events in the adjacent North Shed, on the farmstead and near the parking area, including summer school, a barn dance and high school cross country meets.

Immediate Goals - the Benefit to Dane County

In 2018, FOSP would like to lease an additional 37.8 acres, also at no cost, directly to the north of the current 16 acres. FOSP would like to manage the entire, contiguous 54 acres to do three things:

1. Oversee the conversion of all tillable acreage at the park to certified organic soils
2. Install other agricultural education components outlined in the Silverwood Master Plan
3. Begin to provide a value-added education program component in a public space

The "Cost" to Dane County

$\$84.00/\text{acre} \times 37.8 \text{ acres} = \3176.00 annually

$7 \text{ years} \times \$3176.00 = \$22,232$

What's the Difference?

Either way, the rent paid by farmers to lease growing land at Silverwood will stay at Silverwood.

If the County collects the rent, through the Friends, it will presumably be spent on mowing, trail maintenance or other general park needs. If the County manages the transition of land in this area, then the Friends will be working through County staff to plan, negotiate and manage the implementation of growing areas for education.

If the Friends group collects the rent, it will be spent on agricultural land needs in the 54-acre area. If FOSP manages the Master Plan transition, the process will be between the Friends and participating growers, FOSP volunteers and neighbors. The \$3,176 in annual rent (which may diminish as educational components are installed in the 54 acres) will be augmented by other funds raised by FOSP, and in-kind donations.

Let's Move to a New Phase

Dane County has expressed interest in the Friends managing Silverwood Park in various ways. This effort, concentrated in a specific, contiguous area, is a good place to start the experiment.

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Dane County Committee
FOSP

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To whom It May Concern:

I look forward to transitioning this 38.9 acre parcel at Silverwood into certified organic production. I would like to assist FOSP by helping them implement the master plan while being mutually beneficial.

I think FOSP has the vision, leadership and financial support to now put this master plan into action as a positive environmental working farm example becoming a gem of Dane County.

Sincerely,



Mark Doudlah
Doudlah Farms

