

Engineering Division of the Public Works Department

To: Chairperson Kneser and Commission Members

From: Andrew Beyer, P.E., Public Works Director

Date: March 12, 2026

Subject: Park, Recreation, and Forestry Commission Meeting of March 16, 2026

Review and take possible action: 1514 Oconomowoc Avenue Lease Agreement

Background

A resident adjacent to City owned property at 1514 Oconomowoc Avenue (Kolata Park) has requested permission to utilize a portion of the property for vegetable cultivation. The request involves the use of an open field area within the approximately 10 acre parcel.

The proposed lease area is approximately one acre in size and is located within the field portion of the property, set back roughly 15 feet from the property line. A map delineating the lease area is included as Exhibit A to the agreement.

Through discussions with City staff, the resident indicated that the area would be used for gardening and vegetable cultivation. As part of the arrangement, the lessee would maintain the leased area, which would reduce the need for routine mowing by City staff in that portion of the park property.

The City Attorney's Office has prepared a lease agreement outlining the terms and conditions for the use of the property, including insurance requirements and limitations on use. The potential lessee has indicated that they are able to meet the insurance coverage limits required under the agreement and would obtain the necessary coverage once the lease agreement has been finalized through the Committee and Common Council approval process.

The Park, Recreation, and Forestry Commission is asked to review the proposed lease agreement and provide a recommendation to the Finance Committee & Common Council regarding approval.

Budget Goal

2. Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure to ensure safety, quality, and equity
4. Fosters community growth by assessing opportunities, stakeholder input, environmental needs, and modern code and policy priorities

Financial Impact

The proposed lease would allow a portion of the field at Kolata Park to be maintained by the lessee for gardening and vegetable cultivation. As a result, the City would see a minor reduction in operational costs associated with routine mowing and maintenance of that portion of the property. No City funds are required to implement the agreement, and the lease does not obligate the City to provide improvements or ongoing maintenance within the leased area.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Park, Recreation, and Forestry Commission review the proposed lease agreement for the use of a portion of the property at 1514 Oconomowoc Avenue for vegetable cultivation and provide a recommendation to the Finance Committee & Common Council regarding approval of the agreement.

Attachments:

- Draft Lease Agreement