



**Racine County Food Bank**  
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Redevelopment Authority  
c/o City Development  
Brian Oconnell  
730 Washington Avenue  
Racine, WI 53403

Dear Brian,

The purpose of this letter is twofold, the first is to request permission from the City of Racine (the "City") Redevelopment Authority to allow us to use City owned property located to the north of the Racine County Food Bank ("RCFB") property as a community garden. The second is to formally request that the City Redevelopment Authority allow the relocation of certain soil on City-owned property located to the north and east of the RCFB property.

As you know, the RCFB, is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to efficiently distribute food and other commodities to low-income families within our community. One way in which RCFB supplements this mission is through the creation and maintenance of a community garden. The community garden provides opportunities for public participation, while providing a source of fresh produce to low-income families.

RCFB recently had to vacate its previous garden, and has been discussing the establishment of a new community garden behind our existing facility at 2000 DeKoven Avenue (the "Site"). The proposed garden location is on a part of a larger parcel owned by the City. This Site is ideal for many reasons, including its size and its proximity to RCFB's existing facilities such as bathrooms for the volunteers, secure indoor storage for tools and other materials and the availability of water. With the recent addition of the fence installed by the City and the gate installed by RCFB, the site is now secure as well. In order to establish the community garden, RCFB would like to remove approximately 2 to 3 feet of the current soil and replace it with new topsoil. This new topsoil will be more suitable for growing vegetables, and will have a higher organic content than the existing soil on the Site.

The process of setting up the community garden is a costly endeavor, particularly for a non-profit entity with limited resources. In order to mitigate some of these costs, RCFB requests that the City allow approximately 2 to 3 feet of soil (approximately 1000 cubic yards) to be excavated from the location of the garden and relocated on the City property. The soil on the proposed garden site is the same as the soil on the relocation site, as a building once occupied both parcels. Also, the appearance of the relocation site would benefit from additional fill to level off the site and fill low areas that have been collecting and retaining water. In addition, this would all be accomplished at no cost to the City.

By agreeing to partner with RCFB in the relocation of this soil, the City will help reduce the costs associated with establishing the community garden and facilitate the creation of this important community space. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. RCFB looks forward to working cooperatively with the City on this project, and in the future.

Sincerely,

Dan Taivalkoski  
Executive Director