

Growers Help to Fulfill the Mission of Silverwood Park

Three features of Grower Program at Silverwood Park are important to consider:

- Grower Partners at Silverwood Park help to fulfill the mission of sustainable agriculture education by assisting FOSP with public education. Growers currently commit to participate in eight (8) hours of on-site events conducted by FOSP each year.
- Collaboration is a central element of the Grower Program at Silverwood. It provides participants an opportunity to share not only equipment and storage at the Park, but also technical and business expertise, and, possibly, labor. Grower Partners are asked to be available for up to 24 hours of collaboration and coordination each year.
- Silverwood's focus on sustainable practice also places importance on care for the soil. Dane County and FOSP have committed to organic conversion of the Park's 225 tillable acres. As the conversion occurs, Grower Partners are expected to follow organic practices, and assist in the improvement of Silverwood's long-term sustainability.

Grower Partners play an important role in helping to fulfill Irene Silverwood's vision and the FOSP mission.



A New Hub for Agricultural Innovation

Silverwood's land has been tilled for decades, but its recent conversion to a public park makes it a unique site for farming. The Park's dedication to sustainable agricultural education will make it a special hub for learning, innovation and production.

The Friends of Silverwood Park (FOSP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in 2013. FOSP supports the development and maintenance of the Park which includes being an advocate for the mission of regenerative, forward-thinking agriculture education, and managing a portion of its lands.

Growers who lease the acreage at Silverwood benefit not only from use of the soil but also from the opportunity to educate themselves and others in an environment designed to support a unique vision and a better future.

Silverwood's future may include an education center (*see representation at left*), an orchard, an area for permaculture and silviculture, and long-term programming for public benefit. Our Grower Partners may help FOSP realize this vision.

Silverwood Vision Statements

Provide educational facilities, job training, and resources for the public, farmers, and youth to learn how food, fuel and fiber are grown processed and distributed.

Provide access to a demonstration farm which offer opportunities for agriculture research to grow crops that have cultural, historical and economic significance.

Support the production of food, fuel and fiber to demonstrate environmental health, economic profitability, and social and economic equity.

How to Apply to Be a Park Grower Partner

The application to use agricultural lands is a three step process as follows:

- Take a park tour and see the facilities
- Fill out the Grower Partner application
- Discuss the Grower Program and your potential needs and expectations with other Silverwood Growers and an FOSP Board member

If the application is approved, a contract between the applicant and FOSP is negotiated and signed. After the applicant makes a deposit and pays the annual rental fee, they may begin growing at Silverwood Park.



Resources for Growers

As Silverwood Park programming develops, FOSP will make technical and business resources available to Growers. Some entities who may provide help for Grower Partners are:

- Dane County UW Extension staff
- Wisconsin USDA/NRCS staff
- Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC) regional staff
- Other Grower Partners & collaborators

Provision of educational opportunities, including research and innovative practices, is an important part of the Silverwood Grower Partner Program.



There's More to Silverwood

Silverwood Park is also a recreational destination. The park has 60 wooded acres with hiking trails, and a western shoreline on Rice Lake, used by canoeists, fishermen and kayakers. The Edgerton Cross Country teams run at Silverwood, and local horse enthusiasts ride on its equestrian trails.

The park is also home for summer school classes for Edgerton School District, and summer reading programs for the Edgerton Public Library. The historic Silverwood farmstead, in the center of the park, has farm buildings and a visitor center. This original Silverwood homestead - a stone house built before the Civil War - is available for community meetings and education events.

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