

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
113 EAST MAIN STREET - NORRISTOWN, PA 19401

Phone: (610) 277-6363
Toll Free: 1- (877) 223-2662



Fax: (610) 277-7399
Fax: (610) 277-2123
www.cadcom.org

February 18, 2016

Re: Community Supported Agriculture at Farm Park

Dear Mr. Stein,

Last October I wrote a letter in support of the Sweet Fields project to create a community supported farm at the Norristown Farm Park. The importance of this project was outlined in my original support letter which I have included on the second page below

Today I was concerned to learn that the project may not receive the necessary approvals in time to begin this season. This would jeopardize the project. Just a few years ago, Greener Partners seemed to be about to develop a similar project that was abandoned and it is something that many people have wanted to develop for many years.

Now we have a group that is fired up and ready to go. That is a very valuable consideration. Community farms are complex organizations unlike commercial farms, as I know from having been part of the creation of Pennypack Farm & Education Center. I feel strongly that we should not allow this opportunity to slip through our fingers. Sweet Fields has already developed the resources and sunk the considerable expense and time into the project that would have been necessary to respond to an RFP successfully. Now that is jeopardized.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help this project along, including assistance from a new program coordinator at CADCOM who has community farm experience.

Patrick Druhan
Director, Food Resource Center

"Helping People. Changing Lives."



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
113 EAST MAIN STREET - NORRISTOWN, PA 19401

Phone: (610) 277-6363
Toll Free: 1- (877) 223-2662



Fax: (610) 277-7399
Fax: (610) 277-2123
www.cadcom.org

October 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to support Sweet Fields effort to develop a Community Supported Agriculture project at Norristown Farm Park. The Food Resources Center (FRC) at CADCOM has long had an interest in this area. We have supported the development of Pennypack Farm & Education Center and other projects in the county that help bring fresh produce to low-income consumers and raise awareness of environmental principles. The mission of CADCOM is, "to mobilize the human and financial resources of Montgomery County by initiating, developing and administering community and economic development programs designed to provide the tools needed to achieve self-sufficiency." We understand that the goals of Sweet Fields correspond to this mission such as:

1. Developing a source of fresh, local produce for Norristown Area residents.
2. Offering the opportunity to work in exchange for food (workshares).
3. Adding to a sustainable food systems model by teaching skills like gardening and cooking with fresh produce.
4. Designing educational opportunities for local school children, particularly about sustainable living, sustainable agriculture and nutrition.
5. Creating local jobs.
6. Helping to revitalize the farming infrastructure of Farm Park.
7. Increasing visitors to the Farm Park and engaging in activities that enhance the public view of Norristown in general.

We fully support the efforts of Sweet Fields as they seek external funding and a sub-lease for this program designed for high community involvement, and preserving open space. We look forward to working with them to help make this necessary project a reality that serves the Norristown community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Patrick Druhan, director of food resources and nutrition.

"Helping People. Changing Lives."

