

Farm Park Preservation Association, Inc.

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February 18, 2016

Dear Josh,

I am writing on behalf of the Farm Park Preservation Association (FPPA) in support of the Sweet Fields organic farm project for the Norristown Farm Park and urge you to do everything you can to facilitate this project going forward. You can do that by having the County let them skip the RFP or by issuing one immediately.

Barb Donnini and the others at Sweet Fields have worked so hard to get this project off the ground as quickly as possible. They have found an organic farmer who is so enthusiastic about the project that he is willing to work within the horrible lease the county offers. Everything is geared up to start this April because Sweet Fields was told that it was possible to start in April. So many organizations and individuals including students have donated innumerable hours and funds to make the April start possible.

Having an organic farm with community-supported agriculture and a farm market at the Park is such a boon to our communities that we can't believe the County would let this project slip away. It is exactly the kind of thing that the County has advocated in their Montco 2040 Comprehensive Plan. What is even more amazing is that this whole thing was put together by an organization of young people who believe in helping their communities. This effort should be encouraged and not thwarted by the usual bureaucratic mess.

There is no guarantee that Sweet Fields can set this up again next year. All those involved are on board for this year. We can't let all this work and preparation go to waste. The members of the FPPA know about this project and would definitely mobilize to advocate for it if you need us to. Keep in mind that we prevented two golf courses from being built at the Park. We are very effective.

Thank you for all the work you have done to facilitate this project.

Sincerely yours,

Diana L. Cassel,
Vice President FPPA