

Madison Community Garden Water Billing Inequities

Gardens Charged Non-Consumption Fees Year-Round

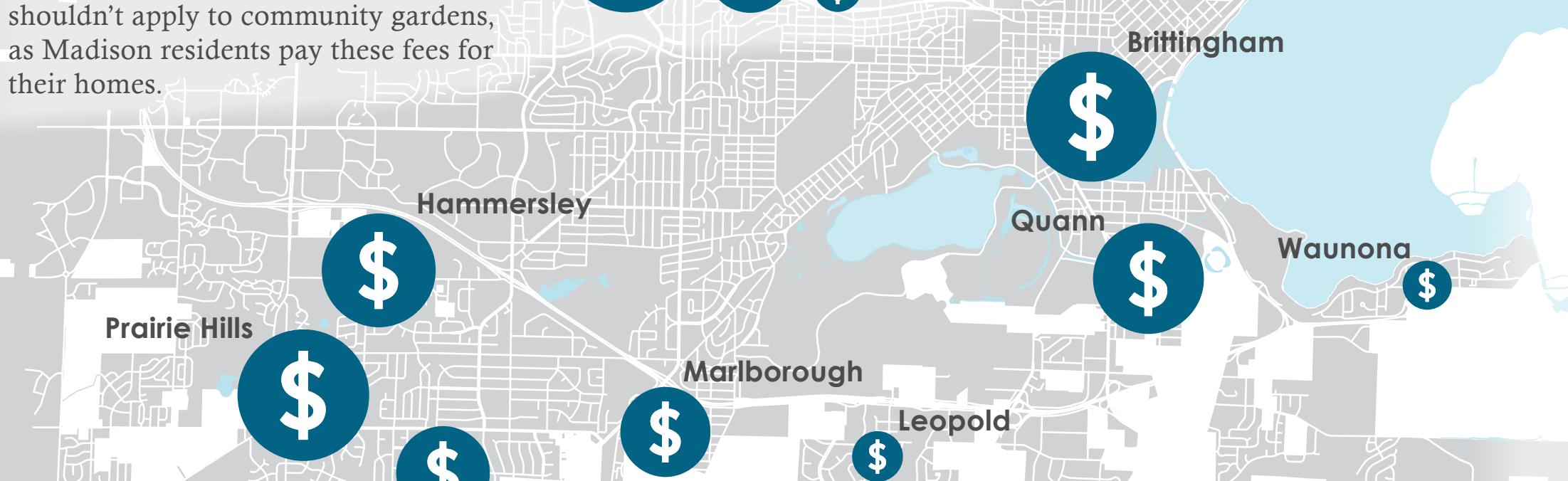
Community gardens are a vibrant part of the City of Madison, and have been proven to increase food access, provide ecosystem services, enhance the sustainability of local food systems, and unite communities.

Economic barriers make developing and maintaining community gardens challenging, however. Non-consumption fees have been tacked on to many gardens' water bills, creating a persistent economic barrier to the success of Madison community gardens.

What are non-consumption fees?

Non-consumption fees are charges that are not for the use of water. These fees include Sewer, Stormwater, Urban Forestry, and Fire Protection. These fees shouldn't apply to community gardens, as Madison residents pay these fees for their homes.

Total Monthly Water Bills

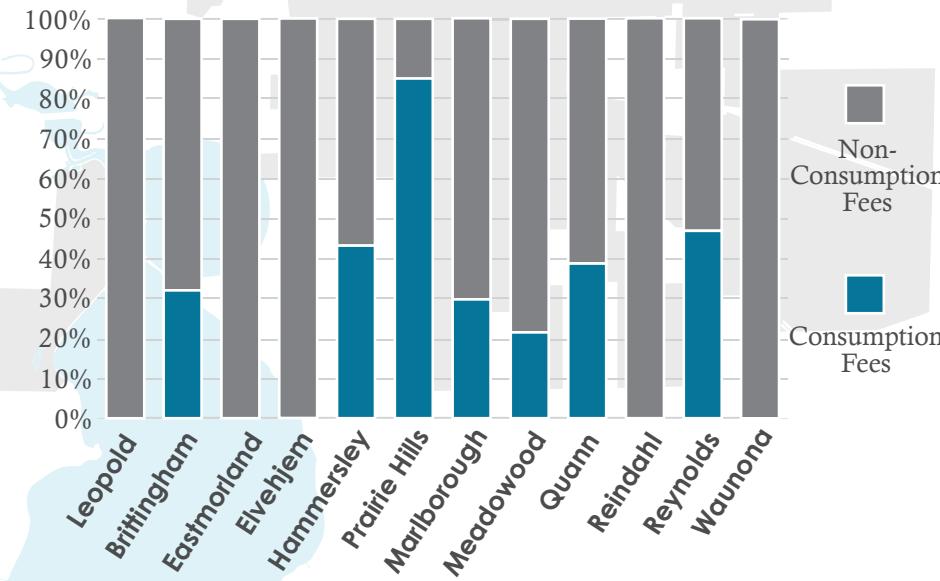


Why does this matter?

The increase in garden's water bills due to non-consumption fees has led to financial hardship for many of Madison's community gardens, especially those which have lower incomes. Non-consumption fees add up to an average of 75% of these gardens' water bills each month, and gardens are billed year-round, despite only operating during the growing season.

The 12 gardens featured in this map hold leases with and pay their water bills through the City of Madison. These gardens are part of a much wider network of 50+ gardens throughout the city limits.

Water Consumption & Non-consumption Fees as Percentage of Monthly Water Bills



Cartographer: Ally Magnin

Projection: USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic

Sources: City of Madison Open Data, Morgan Worachek - Garden's Network Water Bills, danegardens.net, Kris Prepiakova & Graphic Nehar - Noun Project

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Scale: 1:80,000