

Dear Bridgeport Library Board,

Fourteen Bridgeport organizations have come together to form the Bridgeport Green Space Coalition over our shared concern for the future of Reservoir Community Farm. This is a grassroots organization of groups that support the farm and is independent from Green Village Initiative and all of its staff. Our request is that the farm's lease be written in a way that gives the farm long-term protection to continue in its present location and size.

In the lease agreement as of Friday, February 25, 2022, the "Development Rights" clause allows the city to break the lease to develop the land at any point with one year's notice. Reservoir Community Farm should be granted a lease allowing the farm to continue the excellent work it does without imminent threat of displacement.

The farm is a bright spot in a city that has suffered under environmental racism and toxic pollution that contributes to the drastic health disparities plaguing Black, Brown and poor people. At Reservoir Community Farm people have access to clean, affordable fresh produce and a space to support mental, physical, spiritual, and community health. It is the only educational farm in Bridgeport and part of what makes our city unique. It must be protected in its entirety.

Considering this, we propose a lease agreement which grants GVI a ninety-nine year lease term, with no early termination clauses. As for the library project, we support a task force to research alternative locations, such as revitalizing the blighted property across the street from Reservoir Farm. We, the coalition representing the community, would like to be able to see the new lease revisions to assure they adequately reflect our proposals.

A petition in support of our requests can be found at www.change.org/save_bpt_farm. It currently has over four hundred seventy signatures and counting. We invite you to join us this Saturday March 5, 2022 at 10AM at 1469 Reservoir Ave as we gather the community in support of the passage of a revised lease protecting our farm now and in the future. You can reach us at the contact information provided below.

Please protect this symbol of the beauty, creativity, and potential of Bridgeport. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

The Bridgeport Green Space Coalition
P. (475) 273-2737
bptgreenspaces@gmail.com



Park City Harvest
Garden of Sisterly Love
A Pinch of Salt
Herban Bridge Allies
Fridgeport
Bridgeport Mutual Aid
Peace In The Streets (PITS)

Bridgeport DSA
Justice for Jayson
WPKN Radio
Digging in the Dirt
Black Rock Pollinator Partners
Iglesia Cristiana El Refugio
Source Coffee House

