



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOOKWORM GARDENS EXPANDS LEASE WITH SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

Bookworm Gardens is excited to announce the expansion of their lease with the County of Sheboygan. The non-profit botanic garden currently sits on 7.5 acres adjacent to the UW Green Bay Sheboygan Campus. The expanded property will include 23.5 additional acres located to the north/northwest of the current Bookworm site, along the Sheboygan River. Elizabeth Wieland, Executive Director, explains that, "the success on our existing site, since opening in 2010, has been remarkable. But space and capacity has been one of our persistent challenges! When the opportunity to grow our physical space presented itself, we knew it was the right step to advance our mission and continue our work in the community."

Partnership with the County has been vital to Bookworm since the beginning. Adam Payne, Sheboygan County Administrator, commended the Gardens for all their hard work at Tuesday's County Board of Directors meeting, calling Bookworm a jewel of Sheboygan County. He is "astounded at what the Gardens have accomplished in such a short period of time and looks forward to further development and further achievement."

In the immediate future, staff will work as stewards of the land, maintaining the trails and removing invasive species. As Bookworm's master planning process advances, the organization will continue to welcome visitors to their current site and use the new land for additional garden spaces inspired by children's literature, expanded hiking trails, and likely an educational building. Sandy Livermore, Garden Founder, is thrilled for the next chapter of Bookworm's story to begin. She shared that "with the generosity of Sheboygan County and our donors, and the ongoing commitment of our amazing volunteers and staff, this next step promises to be an exciting continuation of the whimsical magic of the Gardens!"

Bookworm Gardens (Sheboygan, WI) is a non-profit botanic garden whose mission is to inspire the love of books and nature in the young and young at heart. Open to the general public May 1 - October 31, Bookworm saw approximately 50,000 general visitors in 2021, with thousands more coming for field trips and special event experiences. The organization is located at 1415 Campus Drive in Sheboygan, adjacent to UW Green Bay Sheboygan Campus. Questions regarding the expanded lease can be directed to info@bookwormgardens.org