



CITY OF RAPID CITY

Department of Parks and Recreation

515 West Boulevard
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 394-4175

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of City Council

From: Melissa Petersen

Date: 1/4/2023

RE: Structure and Equipment Purchase for Parks Greenhouse Project
Project No. PR23-6191

Today, the Parks Division operates a greenhouse onto which the newest addition was built in the 1980s. A former City forester estimated that it also spends about \$10,000 per year on upkeep of this greenhouse, and that did not include the heating and cooling costs associated with the outdated 1970s HVAC system. The greenhouse specialist and his crew raise tens of thousands of annuals and perennials to plant around the City's gardens as well as trees, shrubs, and exotic plants like the locally famous banana trees. Nurturing seedlings or bare root stock until they are developed enough to withstand the outside takes time and effort, but ultimately, it's a cost-saving measure and a source of pride for our City. As Rapid City grows, so too must our greenhouse output grow.

The new commercial greenhouse will have greater square footage than the existing building and be anchored to a new concrete slab with floor drains. The gable topped, steel-frame greenhouse enclosed with rigid polycarbonate will be able to hold up to hail and easily shed water after a rain or snow event. Inside the building, operations will become more efficient by allowing staff to remotely monitor and change the greenhouse's environmental conditions and by more consistently maintaining internal temperatures using a specialized HVAC system and retractable sun shade.

ClearSpan and our staff have worked to put together a greenhouse package that will function well under our current operating procedures and will offer room to expand output in the coming years.

For any questions, please reach out to Scott Anderson or myself.

Thank you,


Melissa Petersen