



Wyoming State Forestry Division

Office of State Lands and Investments

*Wyoming State Forestry Division
Urban and Community Forestry Program
5500 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82002*

*Jacob Mares
Program Manager*

From:
Wyoming State Forestry Division
Urban and Community Forestry Program

Re: Letter of Support for the Laramie County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden

Dear Mayor Collins and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the Wyoming State Forestry Division's Urban and Community Forestry Program, I am writing to express our strong support for the Laramie County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden and associated geodesic dome greenhouse project. This initiative represents an exceptional example of community driven investment in education, sustainability, and long-term environmental stewardship, and it aligns closely with both state and municipal goals related to resilient community development.

The Wyoming State Forestry Division is actively supporting this project through Urban and Community Forestry grant funding to assist with tree planting and site development. In addition, our program intends to remain a long term partner as the Demonstration Garden continues to grow and serve the Cheyenne community. We view this site as a model for how thoughtful collaboration between local organizations, state agencies, and volunteers can create lasting public benefit.

The Demonstration Garden plays an important role in advancing urban forestry and green infrastructure in Cheyenne. Through the integration of climate appropriate trees, native and drought tolerant plantings, pollinator habitat, and water wise design, the site demonstrates best practices that are directly applicable to communities across Wyoming. These efforts support canopy resilience, reduced water demand, improved soil health, and increased biodiversity while helping residents better understand how to care for trees and landscapes in a high elevation environment.

Equally important is the project's role in education and community access. The Demonstration Garden functions as a living classroom that provides hands on learning opportunities for youth, families, volunteers, and professionals. Through partnerships with Laramie County 4 H, the Cent\$ible Nutrition Program, and other local organizations, the site supports STEM education, workforce development, and food system literacy in a highly accessible and community centered setting. These benefits extend well beyond the physical footprint of the garden and contribute to long term community resilience.

The geodesic dome structures proposed as part of this project are a key component of its educational mission. These structures have a long history of successful use across Wyoming and are well suited to local conditions due to their engineered strength, wind resistance, and ability to perform under heavy snow loads and wide temperature fluctuations. Their purpose is educational and community focused, providing year round space for learning, demonstration, and food production.

From the perspective of the Wyoming State Forestry Division, the Laramie County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden represents a valuable investment in public education, environmental stewardship, and community well being. It reflects the type of locally driven, collaborative project that strengthens communities while advancing statewide goals related to urban forestry, sustainability, and climate resilience.

We appreciate the City of Cheyenne's continued support of projects that enhance quality of life and foster long term community benefit. The Wyoming State Forestry Division is proud to partner with the Laramie County Master Gardeners on this effort and looks forward to the positive impact this project will have for years to come.

Sincerely,

Jacob Mares
Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager
Wyoming State Forestry Division