

**RAPID CITY AREA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 51/4**

Central High School/Agriscience

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BUILDING/DEPARTMENT

433 Mt. Rushmore Rd.

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STREET ADDRESS

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701



April 20, 2015

Jeff Biegler

Director; Rapid City Parks and Recreation

515 West Blvd.

Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Jeff Biegler and Parks and Recreation Board of Directors;

I am writing today to request permission to use a small section of the Parks and Recreation land south of Central High school to build a school garden. Central students have worked this year to create a professional design for raised garden beds that will be used to increase hands on education through multiple classes, and will generate proceeds to assist students experiencing homelessness at Central High School. Late in the year – the district found that the particular land we identified to use for the garden, is not our property, but is under Parks Department control.

The garden space we are requesting is just south of the teacher parking lot. We are requesting a 35 foot by 50 foot section of space for the garden and the space needed to install a ramp from the parking lot to the garden space to ensure that is easily accessible for all students. The garden space will be managed by Central students as part of curriculum in the spring, summer, and fall. The Rapid City Parks department will have no responsibility for the garden space. The garden will be used each year through the life of the garden. If the garden falls into disuse Rapid City Central High school will remove the materials from the property or release the use of the garden space to a community manager. Removal of two trees will be necessary to provide appropriate light for the garden. We would like to consult with you and the city arborist/urban forester to identify, prune and remove any trees as appropriate.

We hope to have all necessary permits and permissions to allow the fall 2015 Landscape Horticulture classes to begin construction in September. Thank you for your time and consideration of this project. We look forward to receiving your decision. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the project.

Sincerely,

Lisa Steinken

Agriscience Teacher/ FFA Instructor

Enclosures: Teacher Letter, Garden Design, Student Support Letters

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JAN 25 2016

Rapid City Community Planning  
& Development Services

### Cobbler Caring Garden Project

**Description:** Central students have worked to design a garden to build on campus that will meet academic goals, provide food for the Central community, and will support ongoing civil discourse within the school building. The garden has been designed to meet ADA accessibility standards throughout.

**Details:** The garden has been designed and will be built and maintained almost entirely by Central students and teachers. Please see the following information and attachments to determine the division of labor on the project.

Laborers	Jobs to be Completed	Important Notes
Students and Teachers of Central High School	Construction and Maintenance of garden beds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Beds will be constructed from rail road ties, commercially available raised bed systems, and stacked cement block.</li> <li>*Students will lay weed block, fill with top soil, and add compost and mulches as appropriate for growing season.</li> <li>*Students will provide care and ongoing maintenance of beds for spring bed preparation and planting, summer watering and weeding, fall harvest, and overwintering maintenance of beds.</li> </ul>
	Construct and maintain garden pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Students will lay and rake leveling sand for flagstone pathways.</li> <li>* Students will break and lay leveling stone for flagstone pathways.</li> <li>*Students will rake and distribute gravel through remaining pathways.</li> <li>* With guidance from teachers students will perform ongoing maintenance (raking, leveling, and fixes) to pathways in subsequent years of garden use.</li> </ul>
Donated Assistance from Community members	Skid Steers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Skid steers will remove grass and provide basic leveling of ground throughout the garden footprint.</li> <li>*Skid steers will return after construction of beds to assist in distribution of soil to beds, and gravel to pathways.</li> <li>* Skid steers have been donated by families of FFA members and will be driven by the adult family members who own the machines.</li> </ul>
	Master Gardener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Master Gardener's will help with building and maintenance of the garden space. They will share expertise and labor through the life of the garden.</li> </ul>
Contracted Assistance	Habitat for Humanity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Will work with students to build an 8'x8' shed according to Habitat for Humanity plans to serve as a tool shed for the garden site.</li> </ul>
	Cement Contractor: TBD when bid is approved by district personnel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Build 4'0" reinforced cement ramp to city code leading from the teacher parking lot to the garden entrance.</li> <li>*Provide curb cut and appropriate yellow detectable panel at ramp entrance.</li> <li>* Install gate in existing parking lot fence.</li> </ul>
District Personnel	Facilities Office Staff – Kumar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Coordinate with district plumbers to plan and install or add plumb points to provide water access for the garden site.</li> <li>*Present final plans for approval at the district facilities meeting.</li> <li>*Assist in securing necessary building permits for garden site construction.</li> <li>* Have water and electrical lines marked to ensure safe construction on the site.</li> </ul>
	Building Facilities Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Blow out water access in the fall for overwintering.</li> <li>*Turn water access on in the spring.</li> </ul> <p>Note: The garden will be closed during the winter months and will not require sidewalk clearing. Building staff are under no obligation to assist beyond normal job duties in the construction and maintenance of the garden space. Building staff have no obligation to water or provide care for the garden during summer months.</p>

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