

Community Greenhouse Takes Root in Region 4

The Pelican Rapids Food Shelf is moving forward with plans for a community greenhouse at the Pelican Rapids Community Gardens, thanks to nearly \$20,000 in funding secured by CEDA consultant, Katie Gehring, through partnerships with organizations including- Ag Country Farm Credit Services, Lake Region Electric Cooperative, and Arvig.



Community Garden Greenhouse Project

The project received a \$10,000 Working Here Grant from AgCountry, providing a strong foundation for the greenhouse initiative. Located on city property near the water tower, the Community Gardens are managed by the Pelican Rapids Food Shelf and have served residents for 20 years, offering 47 plots for growing fresh produce and flowers.

The proposed greenhouse will expand the gardens' impact by extending Minnesota's growing season, increasing access to fresh, healthy food, and creating opportunities for education and community involvement. Plans also include educational workshops, opportunities to learn about gardening and healthy cooking, and rentable bench space for residents to start seedlings for their own gardens.

A project steering committee—including representatives from University of Minnesota Extension,

Partnership4Health, local Master Gardeners, city staff, and community members—will meet November 19 to advance planning and move the project into the construction phase, with the goal of preparing for spring.

This collaborative effort demonstrates how partnerships and community investment can turn ideas into lasting resources. The greenhouse will build on the success of the Community Gardens while creating new opportunities for residents to grow food, learn new skills, and connect with their community.