

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION REQUEST

Please email requests to the Mayor's Legislative Team
at MileHighOrdinance@DenverGov.org by 9 a.m. Friday. Contact the Mayor's Legislative team with questions

Date of Request: 2/5/2026

Please mark one: Bill Request or Resolution Request

Please mark one: The request directly impacts developments, projects, contracts, resolutions, or bills that involve property and impact within .5 miles of the South Platte River from Denver's northern to southern boundary? (Check map [HERE](#))

Yes No

1. Type of Request:

Contract/Grant Agreement Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Rezoning/Text Amendment

Dedication/Vacation Appropriation/Supplemental DRMC Change

Other:

2. Title:

Amends a contract with Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc. to add \$200,000.87 for a new contract total of \$689,832.00 and two years for a new end date of 5-6-2028 for the establishment and ongoing stewardship of the Solar Garden Project, citywide (CASR-202683119-01/CASR-202578862-01).

3. Requesting Agency: Climate Action Sustainability and Resilience (CASR)

4. Contact Person:

Contact person with knowledge of proposed ordinance/resolution (e.g., subject matter expert)	Contact person for council members or mayor-council
Name: Michelle Graham	Name: Michelle Graham
Email: michelle.graham@denvergov.org	Email: michelle.graham@denvergov.org

5. General description or background of proposed request. Attach executive summary if more space needed:

This request will add funding and time to achieve the following:

Serve a public purpose to advance food and climate justice in Denver by investing in local food production and programs that foster a resilient and vibrant food system, with the establishment and ongoing stewardship of the Solar Garden project, a 5-acre mixed Agrivoltaic, vegetable production site. Further, this project will support system change approaches that help address the root causes of food and climate insecurity through investment in innovative food systems infrastructure, food environment, and community connectivity. This project shall:

- Increase access to fresh, nutritious food for residents in vulnerable neighborhoods.
- Enhanced community knowledge and awareness of nutrition, healthy eating, and sustainable agriculture methods coupled with clean energy production.
- Support stronger partnerships between agrivoltaics, community organizations, and residents.
- Reduce food insecurity and improve overall community health.

6. City Attorney assigned to this request (if applicable): Kristin Brainerd

7. City Council District: Citywide

8. ****For all contracts, fill out and submit accompanying Key Contract Terms worksheet****

Key Contract Terms

To be completed by Mayor's Legislative Team:

Resolution/Bill Number: _____

Date Entered: _____

Type of Contract: Professional Services > \$500K

Vendor/Contractor Name (including any dba's): Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc.

Contract control number (legacy and new): CASR-202683119-01/CASR-202578862-01

Location: 1007 York St, Denver, CO 80206

Is this a new contract? Yes No **Is this an Amendment?** Yes No **If yes, how many?** 1st

Contract Term/Duration (for amended contracts, include existing term dates and amended dates): Existing: 05/07/2025 – 05/07/2026 **Amended:** 05/07/2025 – 05/06/2028

Contract Amount (indicate existing amount, amended amount and new contract total):

<i>Current Contract Amount</i> (A)	<i>Additional Funds</i> (B)	<i>Total Contract Amount</i> (A+B)
\$489,831.13	\$200,000.87	\$689,832.00

<i>Current Contract Term</i>	<i>Added Time</i>	<i>New Ending Date</i>
05/07/2025 – 05/06/2026	2 years	05/06/2028

Scope of work:

This amendment does not alter the tasks or deliverables defined in the original contract. It updates the Scope of Work solely to add more specific and detailed language regarding Cost Principles, Allowable and Unallowable Costs, and Receipt and Invoicing Requirements. See below for original Scope of Work.

The Contractor is advancing food and climate justice through local food production and programs that foster a resilient and vibrant food system with the establishment of the Solar Garden project. Through the Renewable Denver Community Solar (RDSC) program, the City and County of Denver's Climate, Action, Sustainability and Resilience Office (CASR) supported the installation of 1.2MW of solar photovoltaic panels, designed to accommodate the co-location of crops and enhance sustainability in agriculture on site. With CASR's continued support, the Contractor will develop, implement and manage the horticultural operations, food distribution, research, workforce training, and education programs associated with approximately 5-acre agrivoltaics operations to compliment the RDSC solar program. The Contractor will distribute produce from the solar garden site in collaboration with community partners, through no-cost grocery, CSA, pantry models, or similar to food insecure neighborhoods throughout Denver. The site and project will showcase innovative local food production coupled with clean energy production, EV technology, and green workforce training, while promoting improved land stewardship, resource management, community engagement and food security.

Objectives:

- Invest in sustainable and resilient local food production methods and increase the number of acres utilized for horticulture production to support Denver's local food system.
- Increase access and distribution of healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food for all people in Denver, prioritizing disproportionately impacted communities.
- Support the research and potential of coupling solar and agriculture to improve crop yields and crop resistance in extreme weather, such as droughts, heat, and hail, as well as decreased evaporation of water from soil and potential reduced irrigation requirements.
- Farmers, youth, and community members are educated, trained and/or exposed to agrivoltaics techniques, opening opportunities to competitive career pathways in the fields of research, renewable energy, and natural resource management to support Denver's just transition into a climate-resilient city for all.

Was this contractor selected by competitive process? No **If not, why not?**

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Contractor was selected via Sole Source, Bidding Exception Justification – Sec. 20-64 (a)(1)

Justification:

The service described is available from only one source, Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms is uniquely positioned with the equipment and experience necessary to implement the contract in a successful and timely manner. Specifically, Chatfield Farms has 1.2MW of solar photovoltaic panels and irrigation already installed, and the equipment is specifically designed to accommodate approximately 5 acres of Agrivoltaic farming operations. At this time, there are no other Denver based organizations that have capital equipment, land, expertise, and capacity required to operate an Agrivoltaic Operation designed for education, training, research, and food distribution.

An operation of this type and size costs approximately \$4 – \$5 million dollars to install and can take up to 2+ years from development to construction completion, making it largely time and cost prohibitive for an alternative vendor/contractor to be considered.

Has this contractor provided these services to the City before? Yes No

Source of funds: Climate Protection Fund

Is this contract subject to: W/MBE DBE SBE XO101 ACDBE N/A

WBE/MBE/DBE commitments (construction, design, Airport concession contracts):

Who are the subcontractors to this contract? None

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