

Oct. 8, 2004

Message to Common Council
Budget and Finance Committee
Concerning Boulevards and the
Merging of City/County Greenhouse
Operations

Now that you've listened to the Environmental Services Superintendant and the Environmental Services manager, please consider listening to the thoughts of us. We are the crew of people who work at the Milwaukee Municipal Nursery, live in the city neighborhoods and support the city in various ways.

I Boulevards around City Hall and premier areas vs. city neighborhoods

A) When flower bed reduction is complete, where will the few remaining annual beds exist?

B) Why should tax paying citizens lose the annual beds that beautify their neighborhood and enhance their property values?

I Annuals vs. Perennials

A) Perennials are much more expensive initially and much more labor intensive

B) Perennials have a short season of bloom and can look like weeds when not flowering

- 2)
- C) Annuals bloom all season and provide a much desired display of color
 - D) Annual beds are easier to keep weed free
 - E) Perennial beds have much less impact on motorists travelling by at 30 mph as well as on pedestrians
 - F) There are no long-term savings with perennials which will require meticulous weeding, removal of dead blooms, dividing overgrown plants and of course replacement of dead plants
 - G) Finally, by selling so called "surplus" annuals to the suburbs, we make them look better at the expense of the city neighborhoods, thus chasing away our present and potential citizens